



Lake skating...See /4B

Holiday Deadlines:

Dec. 22 issue: Ads/articles due by 10 a.m. on Dec. 20

Dec. 29 issue: Ads/articles due by 10 a.m. on Dec. 22

The Timberjay office will be closed Dec. 25 - Jan. 5.

No paper will be published on Jan. 5.

the TIMBERJAY



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989

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\$1⁵⁰

WELL BEING DEVELOPMENT

Group eyeing transitional housing in Ely

Staff seeking community input on plan to help those recovering from substance abuse

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY — The local nonprofit Well Being Development is hoping to turn class action lawsuit settlement funds into transitional housing for local residents recovering from the effects of substance abuse. The group, which has served the Ely area since 2010, received \$134,000 from an opioid settlement received by St. Louis County.

The group currently operates the Northern Lights Clubhouse and the Pathways to Wellness care facilitator program, but this would be the

group's first venture into transitional housing in Ely. Since receiving the funds in March, the group has been researching a number of options for best directing the funds to serve the unaddressed mental health needs in the community. WBD employees Deanna Swenson, Beth Chapman, and Emily Ferguson set a goal of identifying evidence-based and cost-effective interventions that could make a real difference in the lives of those served by the organization.

The three identified several needs in Ely for clients in recovery from substance use



disorder (SUD), but ultimately settled on addressing the need for transitional housing for individuals working on reintegrating into the local community following substance abuse treatment. The group is currently looking at a four-bedroom residence on

See...HOUSING pg. 9

Above: Deanna Swenson, co-director of Well Being Development's Ely Recovery Project spoke to the Ely City Council recently while fellow staffer Beth Chapman looks on. The group was there to discuss their proposal for new transitional housing.

photo by C. Clark

CITY OF TOWER

Council OKs two-percent levy increase

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER — The city council here, on Monday, approved a surplus 2024 budget that calls for spending of \$2.055 million with anticipated revenue of \$2.102 million. The revenue forecast includes a local tax levy of \$414,736, a two-percent increase over last year, which the council approved as well as part of its budget actions.

The city's improving budget picture comes in part thanks to a slew of additional municipal funding approved by the Legislature during the most recent session, which will add about \$90,000 to the city's coffers in the coming year. Clerk-Treasurer Michael Schultz outlined some of the new revenue sources for 2024, including a \$21,678 payment for small cities assistance and \$18,642 in public safety

See...COUNCIL pg. 11

TOWNSHIPS

Owens seeks to rebuild in wake of resignations

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

COOK - After a tumultuous November meeting at which the town board chair and town clerk resigned and attendees were abruptly ejected from the meeting with the assistance of a sheriff's deputy, the Owens Township board met Tuesday to put the pieces of a functioning government back together.

The town board was left with only two supervisors, Mike Christensen and Doyle Svedberg, and no chairman after the resignation of chairman Wally Refsdahl in response to ongoing controversy over the status of a portion of Derusha Rd. Longtime town clerk Shirley Woods also resigned over the

See...OWENS pg. 9

WORKING TOGETHER

EMS woes top joint powers meeting

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY - How to sustain rural emergency medical services topped the agenda on Monday during the annual meeting of the Community Economic Development Joint Powers Board here. The influential board is comprised of local units of government, including the cities of Ely and Winton, Morse and Fall Lake townships and the Ely School District and their annual meeting regularly draws both state and federal officials to the area to hear, and frequently act, on local

concerns.

Morse Town Supervisor Bob Berrini presided over Monday's meeting and kept the sometimes ungainly meeting focused on its agenda.

Rural EMS funding has been at the top of mind for local officials for the past two years so it was no surprise it topped Monday's agenda. "Rural EMS — we are at a crisis level," said Peter Makowski, from U.S. Sen. Tina Smith's office, summing up the situation.

Berrini followed up Makowski's observation, noting his so-far

unsuccessful efforts as a member of the board of the nonprofit Ely Area Ambulance Service to gain additional funding sources to keep the service afloat. He noted that the EAAS service area includes portions of the federally owned and managed Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

"I've been working for years with Rep. Pete Stauber," Berrini said, "on getting more money for [serving] the Boundary Waters with EMTs, ambulances, and everything

See...JOINT POWERS pg. 9

Above: Participants in Monday's Community Development Joint Powers Board assembled at the Grand Ely Lodge for the annual meeting to discuss a wide range of local issues and concerns.

photo by C. Clark

WOLF VS DEER

Hunters' group takes aim: at wolves

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

AURORA — A crowd of over 300 packed the gymnasium at the Loon Lake Community Center south of Aurora last Thursday to show their support for a new hunter's advocacy group, Hunters4Hunters, and their quest to address what they

say is the problem of wolves decimating the deer population in Minnesota.

The group's claims are at odds with analyses done by the Department of Natural Resources, Voyageurs Wolf Project and others, which have identified recent hard winters as the primary

cause of a decrease in deer numbers and the resulting decline in hunter success in northeastern Minnesota. Instead, the group's leaders insist that gray wolves are to blame. Hunters4Hunters wants the DNR to establish a wolf hunting season to decrease the number of wolves and allow the deer

population to recover.

"My starting slide here, you see the wolf in the background chasing that deer? You see this deer here with the chunk of flesh hanging off its hind quarters? You see the wolf behind this one here? This is happening 24

See...WOLVES pg. 10



About 300 people concerned about wolves turned out to a recent public meeting on the subject near Aurora. photo by D. Colburn



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Community notices



Embarrass to hold holiday gathering Dec. 16

EMBARRASS – All are invited to come and enjoy the holiday spirit in Embarrass and the beauty of ice candles. The Embarrass Cemetery will be aglow Saturday, Dec. 16 with the annual display of candles in memory of loved ones. Also, on Saturday is the holiday gathering at the town hall from 4-6 p.m. Christmas goodies will be served along with crafts and movies for the kids.

Donations of Christmas cookies or bars for the ice candle and holiday gathering are being accepted. If you can donate a dozen cookies or a pan of bars to this worthy event it will be greatly appreciated by all who attend. Volunteers are also needed to help place ice candles at the cemetery that afternoon.

Call the clerk's office at 218-984-2084 with any questions or for more information on how to volunteer.

Form 1099-MISC being issued for Direct Tax Rebate payment recipients

STATEWIDE - The Minnesota Department of Revenue will mail federal Form 1099-MISC to all Minnesota Direct Tax Rebate recipients to use when filing their 2023 federal income tax returns in 2024. Recipients should expect their Form 1099-MISC by the end of January.

While Direct Tax Rebates are not taxable for Minnesota purposes, the IRS has determined that they are taxable on the federal return. Recipients will report the Form 1099-MISC amount on line 8 of federal Schedule 1 (Form 1040).

The payment is not taxable on Minnesota returns. If recipients include this payment in their federal adjusted gross income, they should subtract it from their Minnesota taxable income on line 33 of their Schedule MIM, Income Additions and Subtractions. Recipients who file Form M1PR, Homestead Credit Refund (for Homeowners) and Renter's Property Tax Refund, should subtract the payment from their household income on line 10 of the form.

For general questions and information about the payment, visit our Direct Tax Rebate Payments webpage. For questions about filing your federal return and reporting Form 1099-MISC income, call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040.

History Happy Hour set for Dec. 20 at 5 p.m.

ELY- History Happy Hour scratches the surface on a different Ely Area history topic each month, the third Wednesday at 5 p.m. The December program is Iconic Holiday Foods (With a Few Samples) on Wednesday, Dec. 20 at 5 p.m. The Boathouse has offered the use of its Lookout Lounge (upstairs) and provides bartenders/servers for the length of the program (upstairs closes at 5:45pm).

Tower-Soudan Area Singers

Joy & Peace & FUN

A Festive Holiday Choral Concert

Sunday, December 17

2:00 PM

Tower Elementary School Gym

Free Will Donation

Refreshments Following The Performance!

Seven Maada'ookiing grants awarded to Native American individuals in fall 2023 funding round

Diversity of creative, grassroots work receives \$16,529 in funding support

REGIONAL - The Northland Foundation is pleased to feature the individuals and projects receiving the most recent round of Maada'ookiing grants.

Maada'ookiing ("the distribution" in Ojibwe) is a Native-led program of the Northland Foundation. The program is designed to strengthen relationships with and offer support to Native American community members doing individual or small group work related to:

- Supporting Native American youth
- Strengthening use of or access to Native American language (including also digital apps, dictionaries, video, and other creative projects)
- Sharing Native American culture/spiritual practices and activities
- Sustaining tribal civic engagement, sovereignty, and self-determination (including non-partisan Get-Out-the-Vote or civic education)

➤ Shifting the narrative and increasing visibility of contemporary Native American communities

➤ Promoting Native American leadership and experiences (projects that provide training, networking, and education opportunities)

➤ Engaging in Native American grassroots organizing (projects that strengthen community well-being and/or respond to Native American community issues)

Grants of up to \$2,500 each are offered three times per year to applicants who are tribal citizens, descendants, or who have kinship ties or affiliation to Native American communities within the Foundation's geographic service area. Since the program started in May 2021, 74 grants totaling more than \$180,000 have been given.

The Maada'ookiing Advisory Board reviewed and approved the follow-



ing fall 2023 grant awards.

➤ La Vonne Cloud, Deer River: \$2,500 - To support a beading class on the Leech Lake Reservation.

➤ Annette Humphrey, Deer River: \$2,500 - To support data collection for improving housing access on the Leech Lake Reservation.

Wendy Jourdain, Cass Lake: \$2,500 - To support community building and cultural connection through weekly sewing sessions on the Leech Lake Reservation

➤ Stacy Palmer, Orr: \$2,500 - To support an afterschool regalia making class for youth at Bois Forte Reservation.

➤ Elizabeth Jaakola, Cloquet: \$2,500 - To support the creation of an album of original mu-

sic by Fond du Lac youth.

➤ Victoria McMullen, Cloquet: \$2,500 - To support cultural leatherworking classes on the Fond du Lac Reservation

➤ Olivia Allen, Duluth: \$1,529 - To support the creation of solar-powered wild rice processors for use at a Native American youth summer camp.

Grant applications are accepted anytime using an online grant portal. The next application deadline is February 15, 2024. Those who are interested in applying for a grant are encouraged to visit the Northland Foundation's website and contact Cayla Bellanger DeGroat by email at cayla@northlandfdn.org or phone at (218) 730-3387 with questions.

THEATER

Mesabi Musical Theatre seeks two actresses for Patsy Cline musical

MT. IRON- — Mesabi Musical Theatre (MMT) is holding auditions Dec. 19 – 20 for a unique show about a country music legend and her biggest fan. "Always...Patsy Cline" is based on Cline's real-life friendship with Texas housewife Louise Seger before the singer died in a 1963 plane crash at age 30. Seger relives how she and Cline became friends and pen pals, a story that includes dozens of classic country and western hits.

Patsy Cline was the first woman inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame and influenced artists such as Loretta Lynn, Reba McEntire, Linda Ronstadt, Cyndi Lauper, and Kasey Musgraves.

"Always...Patsy Cline" is a sweet and moving homage to Patsy Cline—a show that enchanted me several years ago at the Chanhassen Dinner Theatre," said MMT board member Jack Gritzmacher. "MMT is now proud to produce this entertaining show, not just for all those Patsy Cline fans out there but all those people in the community who may love to take a nostalgic, heartfelt journey to an out-of-the-way

road house where Patsy shared her music and made a life-long friend."

Publisher Ted Swindley Productions says, "The musical play, complete with down home country humor, true emotion and even some audience participation, includes many of Patsy's unforgettable hits such as "Crazy," "I Fall to Pieces," "Sweet Dreams" and "Walking After Midnight"...27 songs in all. The show's title was inspired by Cline's letters to Seger, which were consistently signed 'Love ALWAYS... Patsy Cline.'"

The musical will be directed by Susan Nelson, who holds a Master of Arts degree in theater. She has directed plays and musicals for Hibbing High School, Mesabi Musical Theatre, and the Lyric Center for the Arts. She will also lend her talents as a costume designer for the 1950s and '60s outfits Patsy Cline and Louis Seger wear in "Always... Patsy Cline."

"I am so excited to direct this show. I read the script several years ago and fell in love with the story," Nelson said. "This musical not only show-

cases the music of Patsy Cline, it also explores the deep bond and friendship between the two characters. The women live very different lives but despite that form a wonderful, heartfelt friendship that both women need to carry on. I look forward to directing such a phenomenal piece."

Auditions are scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 19 and Wednesday, Dec. 20 at Mt. Iron-Buhl Public Schools' Merritt Auditorium located at 8659 Unity Dr. Singing and acting auditions begin at 6 p.m. both nights. Those wishing to audition may attend either night and should expect to be present for about an hour and a half. The actress who plays Louise need not be an experienced singer. A list of scheduling conflicts through Feb. 25 is requested.

MMT is also seeking musicians to fill remaining spots in the show's band. Instruments required are keyboard, bass, lead guitar, steel guitar, drums, and fiddle. Musicians should be able to read sheet music and follow a score. Email mesabimusical@gmail.com or call

producer Tucker Nelson at 218-780-4594 for details.

Performances of "Always...Patsy Cline" will be presented at Merritt Auditorium Feb. 23 at 7 p.m. and Feb. 25 at 2 p.m., with the possibility of an added third performance. Tickets will be available in late January.

Mesabi Musical Theatre started in 2002 to provide Iron Range high school students opportunities to participate in musical theater, but shows now include performers of all ages.

The group became a 501(c)(3) organization in 2014 and continues its mission of "bringing the best of Broadway to the Iron Range." MMT has presented 14 musicals (including "The Sound of Music," "Chicago," and "Footloose") and three showtunes revues. To learn more about the organization and its upcoming production of "Always... Patsy Cline", visit www.mesabimusicaltheater.com.

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Tower Fire Hall rehab gets \$290,000 from IRRR

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Tower and Breitung Township received good news last week when the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Advisory Board awarded projects in those communities totaling \$365,000.

The city of Tower will receive \$290,000 for the ongoing historic Tower Fire Hall rehabilitation project being undertaken by the Tower-Soudan Historical Society. These funds will provide for a new HVAC system and electrical upgrades to the museum. The overall project is intended to improve the building's appearance, quality, and functionality as a historic resource as it is readied for public use. The project is expected to create five construction jobs.

The IRRR also awarded \$75,000 to Breitung Township for a project to improve the sanitary and storm sewer system on First Avenue and Church Street.

Breitung sewer, road projects receive \$75,000

The need for a new sewer line, storm sewer and road reconstruction was identified through cleaning and camera inspections and road surface runoff. The project, which is expected to create two construction jobs, will help reduce high inflow and infiltration issues.

Mining grants

Six regional mining companies will receive \$8.6 million in rebates of their payments of the Taconite Production Tax for projects designed to improve working conditions and productivity in the mines.

This annual disbursement from the Taconite Economic Development Fund is based on the amount of tonnage plus chips and fines produced by each company and is mandated by law. Companies must match the rebates they receive dollar for dollar and may only use the funds for purposes specified in statute.

Minorca is eligible for a \$695,929 rebate to apply toward a \$3.2 million project to add wet cleanup systems to reduce the risk of dust exposure from airborne particles. The phased project will begin with improvements to the fine crusher grade floor, the coarse ore reclaim and the primary crusher buildings. Fine material generated during cleanup activities will be removed from the crushing circuit and delivered in a slurry directly to a concentrator. The project will also increase crushing efficiencies.

Northshore Mining Company will invest nearly \$2 million to replace both its North Screen House Scrubber and Hearth Layer Baghouse located in the pellet plant, with \$695,929 coming from the rebate award. The baghouse will be upgraded in both volume and cloth area to capture more fugitive dust. It will exhaust the clean air in-

side the building while keeping building pressure neutral. The new scrubber will have ductwork designed for better flow of material and less plugging.

Other rebates awarded include:

► Hibbing Taconite Mining Company, \$1,549,876.

► U.S. Steel – Keetac, \$1,076,262.

► U.S. Steel – Minntac, \$3,173,541.

► United Taconite Mining Company, \$1,226,395.

Aurora Eco Development

Meanwhile, the IRRR board placed a \$15 million bet on the economic future of the city of Aurora, the poorest community in Minnesota according to the latest American Community Survey, by providing \$9 million for the development of an industrial park and a \$6 mil-

lion loan for construction of a 30,000-square-foot spec building to be leased to a future manufacturing tenant.

The loss of LTV Steel Company in Hoyt Lakes in 2001 and the accompanying loss of 1,400 jobs hit the city hard, and other business development projects have not come to fruition. The typical household annual income in Aurora is \$32,287, which is 58 percent less than the statewide median household income.

The Aurora industrial park will be located at the intersection of state Hwy. 135 and County Road 100. The \$9 million grant will pay for development of infrastructure and utilities to serve about 80 acres. The \$6 million spec building with a flexible design will be owned by a future Aurora Economic Development Authority and leased to a manufacturer, with the revenue going to pay off the zero-interest loan. The project is estimated to create 98 construction jobs.

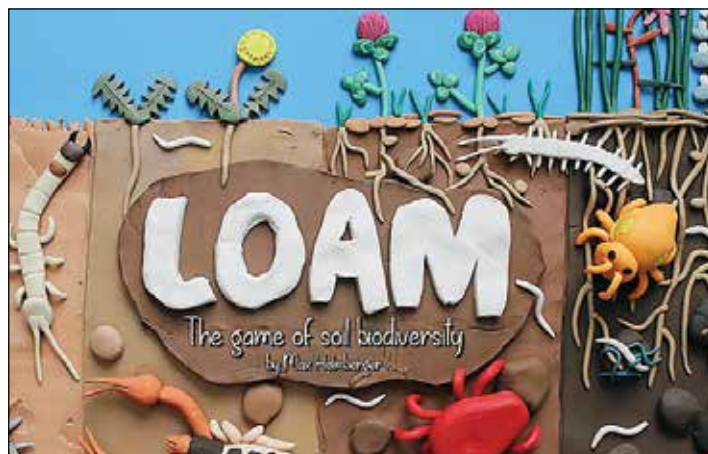
SOIL SCIENCE

Loam game now available at the Timberjay

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- Did you know there are more living things in a spoonful of soil than there are people on this planet? Soil biologist Max Helmberger, of Tower, has been fascinated by the tiny creatures that live in soil since he was a child. Now, he has just released a new strategy game to introduce others to the amazing world that lies in the soil beneath our feet.

Helmberger is currently a post-doctoral fellow and lecturer at Boston University and he developed the game, named "Loam," as an educational tool for students learning soil ecology. It's a strategy card-matching game with an objective of building healthy soil by competing with other players to obtain the right mix of organisms. Players explore the soil's weird and wonderful biodiversity through a variety of cards, each with Helmberger's anatomically accurate illustrations and informa-



tion about each organism.

The game can be played by one to four players and is aimed at ages 10 to adult.

Packed into a small box, the game features 120 "creature cards." Players take turns to

grow the health of their soil by assembling communities of organisms, invertebrates, and insects that work together to create healthy soils. The game also includes an instruction book, playing pieces, and a quick start



guide. Instructions for the game are also available in an online video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gXbY2cYIysE>, or search YouTube for "How to Play Loam." The game also includes instructions for solo play, and some more advanced game modes once players have mastered the basic strategies. Playing time can be as short as 15 minutes but will vary depending on how many are playing.

A few copies of Loam are now available for sale at the Timberjay office in Tower. The game retails for \$39.99, and there are only a limited number available. Since it was financed

through crowd funding, the initial production run was limited to the number of pre-orders, which included orders from some retail outlets, including the online site gamesandstuffonline.com.

The game was funded through a website that specializes in game startups and it reached its funding goal in less than 10 days, eventually raising over \$20,000 to produce Loam. An employee-owned printing facility in California manufactured the game.

Max is the son of Timberjay owners Jodi Summit and Marshall Helmberger. He graduated from Tower-Soudan High School in 2011, earned his BS degree from UMD, a Masters from Cornell, and a PhD in Entomology from Michigan State University. He is currently teaching classes on soil ecology as well as educational game design.

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OPINION

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The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

Editorial

Minnesota Power

Customers have a role in paying for the company's energy transition

No one likes to see higher prices for anything, particularly something as basic to our everyday lives as electricity. And that's one reason that most states in the U.S., including Minnesota, have agencies in place that are tasked with the job of determining whether rate increases by privately-owned utilities are justified.

Because of the nature of power distribution, the opportunity for competition is limited. While we may have multiple choices for internet or cell phone providers, or where to shop for household goods or refuel our vehicles, most of us have only one provider of electricity.

What our electricity market lacks in competition, is made up for through regulation, either by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC), or by members in the case of electric cooperatives.

Companies file rate increase requests regularly. The MPUC typically allows the company to charge a portion of their proposed increase on an interim basis while the MPUC allows the company to make their case for a permanent rate increase.

That's what happened late last week when the MPUC voted last Thursday, Dec. 7, to allow Duluth-based Minnesota Power to charge an interim 8.6 percent rate hike, starting in January, while it reviews the company's request for a 12-percent final increase. The interim increase is expected to add about eight bucks to a residential customer's monthly bill.

If Minnesota Power's rate increase was just a bid for bigger profits, it wouldn't pass muster. As part of life as a regulated monopoly, the company is allowed an annual return on investment of just under ten percent. But Minnesota Power's recent request for higher rates comes at a time that the company is making major changes in the sources of the power that it provides to customers as it works to comply with state laws intended to reduce Minnesota's reliance on polluting sources of energy, particularly coal. Coal-burning power plants have long contributed significantly to a wide range of air pollutants, including mercury, which has been added to our lakes through deposition in rain and snow. Most critically, CO2 emissions from coal plants have been a major contributor to climate change.

State law has set mandatory targets for the phase-out of coal and other fossil fuels in the production of electricity and Minnesota Power has been a leader among the state's utilities in making this energy transition, having already shuttered seven of its

nine coal-burning plants, in favor of wind and solar as well as energy conservation. As we reported last April, the company has exceeded the state's energy conservation goal for the 13th year in a row by offering assistance to its customers who wish to keep their electric bills in check through conservation measures. Just last year, the company's efforts saved 76.4 million kilowatt-hours, or enough to power nearly 8,500 homes for a year. Saving energy, of course, means less revenue for a power company, so getting a bit more for the power that the company does sell to customers would seem reasonable.

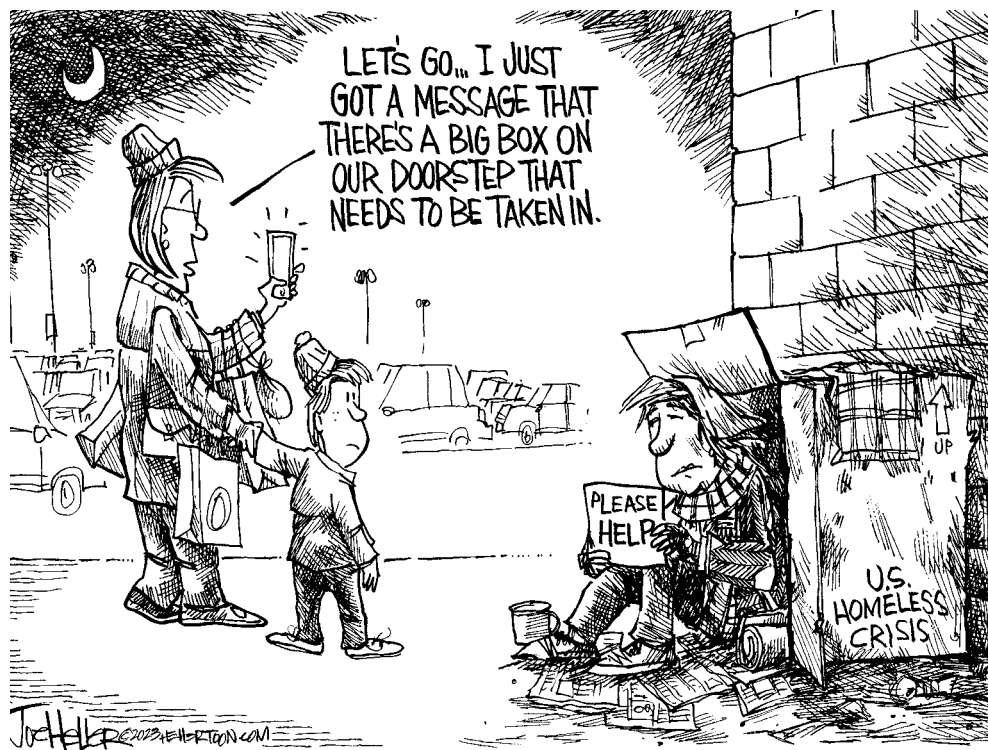
At the same time, the company's investments in renewable energy as well as the cost of decommissioning coal-fired power plants, can't be ignored. These are investments that both improve the region's air quality and fight climate change and are clearly in the public interest. Minnesota Power acknowledges it will take advantage of federal grants now available under the Inflation Reduction Act, which will provide financial incentives that will help fund a portion of these investments. But grants won't cover all the costs, and it's not unreasonable to expect customers to pay a bit more to gain significant long-term benefits.

We recognize that even a small rate increase can be onerous for those on fixed incomes, which is why the MPUC should insist that Minnesota Power continue to do all it can to ensure that its programs to assist low-income customers remain well funded.

At the same time, the MPUC should be asking why it is that Minnesota Power has seen a greater increase in rates in recent years than have other utilities in the state. The cost of renewable forms of energy have fallen so dramatically in recent years that the shift to renewables has allowed some power suppliers, like Great River Energy, to actually reduce their rates.

Renewable sources of power aren't only cleaner, they don't require the purchase of trainloads of coal or vast quantities of natural gas and those savings should eventually be passed along to customers.

If these rate adjustments are designed to finance the company's transition to cheaper, renewable sources of power over the next 15 years, then customers have a right to eventually expect lower, or at least stable, rates in the future. Minnesota Power deserves credit, and compensation, for its currently aggressive efforts to reduce its emissions. It shouldn't, however, get a blank check.



Letters from Readers

You can help preserve the Boundary Waters

Minnesota is known as the land of ten thousand lakes. About 1,175 of them are contained within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, "Wilderness offers freedom to those who wish to pursue an experience of expansive solitude, challenge and personal integration with nature." In other words, the Boundary Waters offer an incredible nature experience.

Unfortunately, not everyone would like to preserve that experience. Twin Metals Minnesota, a company owned by Chilean mining conglomerate Antofagasta, has recently begun exploratory drilling to search for minerals in the headwaters of the Boundary Waters. These events, along with the Minnesota DNR's reasoning for allowing this drilling were covered in the recent *Timberjay* article "DNR approves Franconia drilling plan"

This form of mining, unfortunately, has extremely negative effects on local ecosystems, leaking dangerous minerals into the water supply. According to Save the Boundary Waters, an organization committed to protecting the boundary waters' natural ecosystems, "A copper mine in the Boundary Waters watershed will pollute the wilderness for generations to come, causing irreversible harm to water quality, wildlife, public health, and a sustainable outdoor recreation-based economy."

There is currently a recently issued 20-year federal ban on mining near the boundary waters, and environmental protection organi-

zations like Save the Boundary Waters are pushing to extend the ban indefinitely on a state and federal level. To help save the Boundary Waters, consider civic action, such as sending letters to your congresspeople, or attending Save the Boundary Waters rallies.

**Cameron Smith
Blake School Soph.
Long Lake**

Reality holds more challenge than belief

Life, reality, and matter are mysteries that elude scientific explanation. Sixty-five percent of the Earth is unexplored, dark energy (68 percent) and dark matter (27 percent) make up 95 percent of the universe leaving less than 5 percent explained. When belief turns into anti-science bigotry, human intelligence and imagination becomes the first casualty to ignorance.

Reason is more elegant and eloquent than magical thinking. Pythagoras reasoned that the square of the hypotenuse of a right-triangle equals the sum of the squares of the two shorter sides. Magical thinking, the cotton candy of thought, is a lot of fluff and fuzz without evidence. Superstition blindly accepts belief as truth.

Real spirituality is found in skepticism, not blind faith. Spirituality embraces wholeness without boundary. Spiritualism, as belief, establishes a boundary of unquestioned authority. As skeptics challenge assumptions that consciousness emerges from matter, non-physical reality finally gains some serious scientific attention.

Evolution reveals miracles more compelling than creationism. To Einstein, the miracle is that the in-

comprehensible world is comprehensible. Evolution explains how complex life forms emerge from physical activities. Creation stories as supernatural dogma, taken literally, suppresses scientific inquiry for understanding.

The grandeur of the natural far exceeds the supernatural. In nature, we are one with the world and the supernatural is not of this world. Our senses feast on the physical world to dazzle our perception to doubt and question versions of reality. Imagination and interrogation drives our search to discover truth while beliefs are "inventions of truth."

Truth is far more phenomenal than fiction. Noumenon, a thing itself, cannot be experienced, therefore remains unknown. Phenomena is the sensory appearance or result of observation of things perceived while the thing itself remains a mystery. Humans only see visible light which makes up .0035 percent of the electromagnetic spectrum.

**Harold Honkola
Stillwater**

We welcome your letters

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

We ask that letters be limited to 300 words.

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

COMMENTARY

Do you know anyone confined to an iron lung?

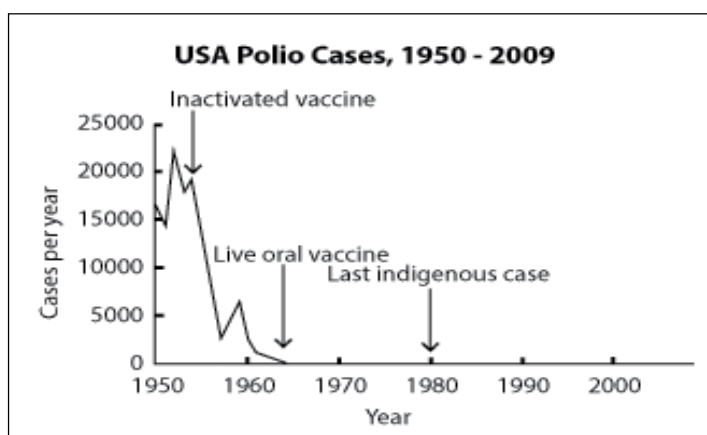
A picture is often worth 1,000 words. Here's one that I drafted for a blog during the measles outbreak of 2019, using data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The whole point of this little graph is that vaccines work. It's a stunning illustration of what happens when you follow practices recommended by evidence-based science.

We've eliminated several diseases through vaccines, diseases

that killed millions. I grew up on stories from my mother of how many families of Marshall, Minn. would be devastated every year after visiting the super-spreader event of the state fair, when polio would ravage entire communities in its wake. This was everyday life in Minnesota in the 1940s.

Then Dr. Sauk's polio vaccine arrived, and this little graph shows what happened next. Polio is no longer a scourge. These days, kids don't even know what an iron lung is, whereas I



grew up knowing someone exiled to living with one just to breathe in the aftermath of a polio outbreak in the 1950s. Did

you know the curves for the incidence of measles and rubella look almost the same? Vaccines work if herd immunity can be

achieved through the public health initiatives of an enlightened society, which we used to be.

When confronted with evidence like this, I often find it unfathomable that some people think their misinformed opinion against vaccines should take precedence over the health of an entire society. "Misinformed" is a polite way to express what really think.

Yes, this is a topic that's been beaten to death. It's likely impossible to convert true believers in myths, superstitions

See **VACCINES**, pg. 5



CATIE CLARK

Letters from Readers

An open letter to Sen. Klobuchar

Dear Senator Klobuchar:
I see that you have received money from AIPAC (an organization that supports genocide in Palestine) of over \$664,011. Do you realize that 20,000 Palestinians are dead, mostly children because of U.S. support for Israel?

Please send that money back to them and work for peace. No more aid to Israel.

It seems like you support war and genocide over peace, justice, and the rights of the Palestinian people.

Please start representing the People of the United States.

Thank you.
Steve Johnson
Ely

Hydrogen is the best alternative to fossil fuels

A stunning statement from the executive presiding over the recent two-week climate conference in Dubai, who stated there is no science behind the idea that fossil fuels must be phased out to keep global temperatures from rising above 1.5 degrees C. In addition, Saudi Arabia opposes any agreement that calls for the phase out of oil, gas, or coal. In contrast, there are scientists and a number of world leaders calling for dramatic reduction in fossil fuels believing that continuation of their use will create catastrophes, resulting from severe storms, heat, droughts, and fire.

Bank of America estimates that the cost to control climate change will be about \$75 trillion, but no action to curb fossil fuels

will result in disasters costing \$175 trillion.

It should be noted that two U.S. companies, Exxon and Chevron, recently paid out more than \$110 billion for added oil resources to assure their future oil production.

Despite all the lobbying, scientific analysis and the probability of catastrophe, the only realistic motivating factor for stopping fossil fuel production and usage is a superior competitive fuel without toxic emissions that costs less to produce and to distribute than gas, oil, or coal.

Hydrogen can be developed to fulfill those requirements. It does not produce greenhouse emissions. The emerging industry has already produced hydrogen powered cars, trucks, buses, trains, boats, and airplanes and a host of stationary power sources for industrial uses. Costs for production are decreasing every

year as the industry grows.

Hydrogen can be transported by boats, trains, pipelines, or trucks and does not degrade over time. It can be distributed through existing gas stations with new hydrogen pumps. The pumps are approximately the same size as existing gas pumps and can fill a hydrogen tank as fast as a gasoline pump.

Presently, the major cost for generating hydrogen is the processing of water through electrolysis that splits the hydrogen from water using an electric current. The cost of "creating" hydrogen is not presently competitive with fossil fuels, but costs are declining.

In the meantime, there is a recent discovery in Lorraine, France, of a very large underground reservoir of pure natural hydrogen, also known as white hydrogen and it's said to be the cleanest burning fuel in nature.

According to the U.S. Geo-

logical Survey, just a fraction of these deposits could provide enough clean energy for hundreds of years. Deposits are in the U.S., Australia, Africa, Russia, and elsewhere in Europe. Hydrogen obtained from natural earth deposits would significantly lower the costs for producing hydrogen as a power source, supplanting the use of fossil fuels. In addition, the use of hydrogen avoids the necessary expensive upgrade of the electrical grid and costs of thousands of charging stations.

Recently the administration established seven "hubs" to help replace fossil fuels with cleaner-burning hydrogen. It is hoped that they will focus on the goal to lower the cost so that hydrogen will become the obvious preferred fuel to replace fossil fuels.

Gerry Snyder
Ely

VACCINES...Continued from page 4

and conspiracy theories. For diseases that I've been immunized against, I will live if an outbreak happens and the Luddites who ignore the obvious science of my little graph will die or land in the modern equivalent of an iron lung.

In my family, my generation was raised on the lived experience of the older generation of living through horrifying epidemics that even COVID-19 couldn't approach for the terror they wreaked on the world. Rabies, smallpox, influenza, polio, measles: all of these have been mostly removed from modern societies and their memory has been lost.

My gut feeling is that the loss of that societal terror might be part of the problem with those refusing to vaccinate for reasons that have nothing

to do with evidence-based science. Knowing someone confined to an iron lung was likely a great motivator to get vaccinated against polio. I met someone in the 1970s who had to spend most of their time living in an iron lung after contracting polio in the 1950s. These days, I've met people younger than myself who don't even know what an iron lung is.

We've all heard of how whole villages were wiped out during the Black Death in the 1350s in Europe. In my research for a newspaper story in 2018, while still living in Idaho, I discovered an entire town was wiped out in southeastern Idaho during the Spanish Flu outbreak in the summer 1919. That's not that long ago. This is the world my grandparents lived in. Incidences like this form the

living memories my family shared with me as a child and they stayed with me.

Besides my mother's tales of polio in Marshall in the 1940s, the generational memory that stuck with me the most is from my grandmother. She was a nurse who went on to become a physician, back when it was difficult for a woman to become a doctor.

My grandmother was a nursing student in Philadelphia in 1918. In the fall of that year, Philadelphia became the worst hit city in the nation for Spanish Flu deaths, with 12,000 people dying in just four weeks. That number translates to roughly one person dying out of every 120 in one of the largest cities in the nation. With modern public health measures, not even COVID-19 comes close to numbers

like these. The Spanish Flu killed an estimated 50 million worldwide. That's the same as the number of people killed during WWII, which is still the deadliest war in history.

So many people died so quickly in Philadelphia that the city's ability to handle the corpses was overwhelmed. In response to the failure of the city to handle the dead, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia mobilized its seminarians, school-teacher nuns, and nursing school students. My grandmother was one of those nursing students.

The Archdiocese assembled horse-drawn wagons from farms surrounding the city and manned them with people like my grandmother. For weeks, they rode through the city collecting bodies. As they drove down the fear-infested streets,

they would call out—I kid you not—"Bring out your dead." Then they would take the bodies and bury them in unmarked grave pits.

Today, we know the Spanish Flu as the H1N1 influenza A virus. It's included in every flu shot for reasons that should be obvious. Without modern public health and vaccines, we would still be bringing out our dead for mass burials in unmarked graves in places like Mercyhurst Cemetery in Philadelphia.

Personally, this generational memory is all the motivation I need to get my flu shot every year, along with all my other vaccinations and boosters, including the ones for COVID-19. The COVID-19 vaccine is a miracle. I consider former President Trump's Operation Warp Speed, which

developed an effective vaccine in less than a year, as the greatest achievement of his presidential administration.

I consider it a tragedy that so many of his right wing-leaning fans have rejected the COVID-19 vaccines for reasons rooted in superstition, myths, and conspiracy theories. Because of these people, this great nation squandered the opportunity to achieve true herd immunity to a deadly disease, unlike our experiences with polio, mumps, pertussis, and rubella. Deaths from ignoring evidence-based science is not making America great again, folks. A picture really is worth a 1,000 words.

COVID-19, influenza, and RSV cases are going up rapidly right now. It's not too late to get immunized.

Obituaries and Death Notices

Rodney E. Loe

Rodney "Rod" Eugene Loe, 88, iconic Elyite and beloved and respected son, brother, soldier, businessman, husband, uncle, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and friend, passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2023, at Carefree Living in Ely. Visitation will be held from 4-7 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 14 at Kerntz Funeral Home in Ely. Visitation will continue from 10 a.m. until the 11 a.m. funeral service on Friday, Dec. 15 at Ely United Methodist Church. A graveside service will follow at the Ely Cemetery, followed by lunch at Grand Ely Lodge. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to Ely United Methodist Church. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

He is survived by his sister, Janice (Arvid) Behrens; children, Pamela Turnbull (Mike), Patrick (Brielle) and Michael (Leslie Kurre), all of Ely; grandchildren, Alexis Baack (Jeff), Blaine Turnbull (Alexandra), Morgan Loe and Logan Loe; great-grandchildren, Beckett Baack, Brexley and Hollis Turnbull; and numerous nieces and nephews.

John C. Lehti

John C. Lehti, 68, of Ely, left this world on Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2023. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. until the 11 a.m. memorial service on Friday, Dec. 15 at Grace and Truth Bible Church in

Virginia. Pastors Joe and Randy Reed will officiate. Family services are provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by his children, Alicia (Todd), Chris (Jenna), Jonathan (Allison), Hannah (Cheyenne), Emily (Brandon) and Andrew; stepdaughters, Angie and Rachel; grandchildren, Jakson, Ellie, Parker, Bryce, Matayah, Morgan, Emma, Ryan, Brynn, Hayden, Max, Liam, Tanner, Kai, Brody, River and Nora; the mother of his children and friend, Jeannine Adams (Norm) of Embarrass; sisters, Stella and Denise; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Tamara M. Duame

Tamara "Tammy" Marie Duame, 61, of Mt. Iron, passed away on Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023, after a

short illness. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 16 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service.

Marcella Skube

Marcella Skube, 52, lifelong resident of Ely, passed away on Sunday, Dec. 3, 2023. A memorial service will be announced at a later date.

She is survived by her lifelong partner, Jeffrey Mathews; son, Jon Mathews (Laura Schulze); mother, Patricia Skube; brother, Patrick (Patty) Skube; nephew, Jason Skube; and many other relatives.

Laverne A. Muehlen

Laverne A. Muehlen, 92, of Babbitt, passed away at Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital on Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2023. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

Michael Grembowski

Michael Grembowski, 61, of Ely, passed away at Boundary Waters Care Center in Ely on Saturday, Dec. 9, 2023. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

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Call the Tower office at (218) 753-2950.

Week of Dec. 18

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 Dec. 19.

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
TOWER- The Charlemagne's 52 Club Week 20 winner of a \$100 cash prize is Michelle Toutloff of Tower. Michelle is donating her winnings back to the TSHS.

History Tidbit: Before the Tower Cemetery Association was created and the Lakeview Cemetery was cleared and built, Tower had a cemetery on the south side of the East Two River, in a swampy area slightly uphill of the river. This was one of the few places around the area that wasn't immediately thought to have gold or iron, and wasn't suitable for farming, so was instead used to bury the dead.



Vermilion Country School Honor Roll

TOWER- The following students were named to the first quarter honor roll at Vermilion Country School.

A Honor Roll
Bentley Crego
Lochlainn O'Brien
Landon Wellander
Elspeth O'Brien
Bailey Pratt
Brody Anderson
Elliot Koschak

B Honor Roll
Marcus Drake
Remington
McDonough
Addison Myers
Kierra Deblek
Charlize
Lightfeather-Spears
Jaymes Scholz
Aaylah Myers
Samuel Favet
Asher Folz
Cassius Morrison



THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

Operation Santa toy drive almost ready

Last minute donations can still be dropped off at the Timberjay

TOWER- Donations are still needed for this year's Operation Santa toy drive. We already have over 180 children on our list, so it is looking like the need will be higher than in the past few years.

Gifts will be available for pickup at the Tower Food Shelf on Tuesday, Dec. 19 from 2:30-5 p.m., or by appointment by calling Jodi at 218-753-2950.

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.

The effort is organized by the Timberjay and the Tower-Soudan

Civic Club, with help from many area groups, churches, organizations, and individuals.

Lake Country Power 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.

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

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.

HOLIDAY MUSIC

Tower-Soudan Singers holiday concert set for Sunday, Dec. 17 at 2 p.m.

Concert is back at the Tower Elementary School gym

TOWER- Lots of fun holiday music is scheduled for this Sunday, Dec. 17 at 2 p.m. in the Tower Elementary School gym. The Tower-Soudan Area Singers will offer all kinds of sacred and secular holiday music. Listeners will hear favorites like "O Holy Night," "Santa Claus is Coming to Town," "Deck the Halls," and "Silent Night."

Some new tunes include "The Shep-

herd's Pipe Carol" with energetic flute obbligato played by Angie Gurius, and "Cold Snap," a finger-snapping, sneezing, fun song.

There's coffee and cookies after the concert and a free will donation will be taken. We hope to see you there!



COMMUNITY SOCIAL

Second Mondays at Tower's Gathering Gallery

TOWER- The second Monday of the month, from 8 – 10 a.m. at Tower's Gathering Gallery, has become a new tradition for many long-time Tower-Soudan residents, as well as those new to the area and summer visitors.

Shop owner Dianna Sundahl calls the event Monday Morning Mischief, but it really is a simple way to build community, and nurture friendships, both old and new.

"We will have anywhere between a half dozen and 15 people stop by," said Sundahl. "It's a chance to get together."

The coffee is on, and there is always cookies or bars or some other treats to go with it, some supplied by Sundahl, and others by those attending the gathering.

This past Monday, there was coffee and hot cider, plus plenty of holiday cookies and treats.

"It's so nice to interact with the locals, as well as to meet new friends," she said. "It's a different group each time."

The demographics, at least this month, skewed towards retirees, but all ages are welcome. People sat and visited, talked about the upcoming holidays, and updated friends about their plans, past and future.

Sundahl said she used to worry that no one would show up, and while there aren't usually any real early birds, the place fills up nicely by 8:30 a.m. She especially likes it when new folks stop by, including those new to the area and summer residents.

The gathering is also a chance for more people to see the room, part of the Pike River Products building, that is available for affordable short-term rentals.



Dianna Sundahl with some of her Monday Mischief regulars. The shop sets a sign out on the sidewalk as a reminder of the once a month get-togethers. photos by J. Summit

"People have used the space for parties, bridal showers, Bible study, and other community events," she said.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Lunch Bunch to hold Christmas Luncheon on Dec. 15 at the VC

GREENWOOD TWP- The Lunch Bunch will meet for Christmas Luncheon at the Vermilion Club on Friday, Dec. 15 at 12:30 p.m. Please RSVP to Kathy 218-753-2530. Please bring unwrapped gifts for all ages for the Operation Santa toy drive and a non-perishable donation for the Tower Food Shelf. Anyone that would like to join us is welcome to attend.

Tower Winter Market set for Friday Dec. 15

TOWER- The Tower Farmers Market is once

again sponsoring monthly indoor markets, featuring crafters and food vendors. The market will be held on Friday, Dec. 15 from 4 – 6 p.m. at Pike River Products.

Future winter markets are set for Jan. 12 and Feb. 9. If you are interested in setting up a table, contact the Tower Farmers Market on Facebook.

Free community meal on Dec. 27

TOWER- Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower will host their monthly free community meal on Wednesday, Dec. 27 from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., or until the food is gone. The meal this month is "Breakfast for Dinner." Come and

join in, all are welcome.

Tower man injured in car accident

PIKE TWP- On Monday, Dec. 11 a little after 8 a.m., a 2001 Ford F-150 driven by Douglas Lee Peterson, of Tower, was travelling southbound on Hwy. 169 when it left the road and crashed into trees, near the intersection of Hwy. 169 and Poirer Rd. Peterson was treated for non-life threatening injuries. He was wearing a seat belt. The road condition was reported as dry.

St. Louis County Sheriff's Department, Tower EMS, Virginia Fire/EMS, Greenwood and Pike Sandy all responded to the accident.

TOWER CEMETERY ASSOCIATION Please Donate! New Mower Needed!

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

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

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

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



Read us online at www.timberjay.com

A weekend of cookies, kids, and a beach party

COOKIE SALES IN ELY ALL WEEKEND!



The First Lutheran Church cookie sale is well known in Ely for selling cookies by the pound. Donna Esterberg makes change for Pastor Zachariah Burgdorf as he boxes his cookies at the Saturday, Dec. 9 cookie sale. All the proceeds from the cookie sale go to local charities.



Amy Kromer and Hunter Halbakken selling cookies on Sunday, Dec. 10, at Grace Lutheran Church. The fundraiser to send the church's youth group to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans raised \$2,760. The church boxed 160 dozen cookies. Two dozen are still available for sale. Call or drop by the church to buy some.

IT'S GOOD TO BE A KID



Local Artist Dafne Caruso paints the face of Lilith Field at the Ely Chamber of Commerce's Mrs. Claus party on Saturday, Dec. 9. The chamber and its member businesses hold the party every year at the Grand Ely Lodge.



Freya Magnuson makes a Christmas tree ornament at the Mrs. Claus party while her parents Kirstin and Aaron look on.



Parker Salmela makes a Christmas tree ornament at the Grace Lutheran Church kids Christmas workshop on Sunday, Dec. 10.

AROUND TOWN



The Ely Folk School held their third December bonfire and beach party on Saturday, Dec. 9. The usual crowd of party goers, kids, and sled dogs were present, though the dog sleds rides didn't happen due to a lack of snow.



Lyla Holthaus launches a paper airplane as Emily Dunn looks on at the Ely Library Aeronautics workshop on Friday, Dec. 8.



While covering an event at Ely Memorial High School, the Timberjay spotted ISD Superintendent Anne Oelke playing basketball with student athletes in the new gym on Thursday, Dec. 7.

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Ely Public Library

ELY- The spice for December is allspice. Pick up a free allspice kit with a spice sample and recipes while supplies last.

The library will celebrate Games Day on Wednesday, Dec. 20, from 3-4 p.m. This is an activity for all ages. Board games, card games, and more will be set up and available to play.

The library will be closed on Dec. 25-26 and Jan. 1-2 during the winter holidays.

The library board will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

The first Kahoot trivia game of 2024 will be on three books by Mark Twain: "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer," "The Adventures of Huck Finn," and "The Prince and the Pauper." The Kahoot will begin on Thursday, Jan. 4, at 3 p.m. and run until Tuesday, Jan. 9, at 8 a.m. Pre-register in advance to provide an email address. The library will email the link to the game when it starts.

The library will host a new group called the Curiosity Cohort to explore quirky new crafts and skills. The first meeting will be on Friday, Jan. 5, from 1-2:30 p.m. to explore sewable circuits. The session is for adults

and will investigate using conductive thread to make a bookmark that will light up. A second project will be introduced if time permits. Preregister for this event so the library can order enough supplies for participants.

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 current art display is driftwood art.

The library currently has take-and-create art kits to make four handmade toys per kit, while supplies last. Created by 321 Art Studios, the kits include all the materials to make a yarn doll, a string-and-button spinner, and swing-and-catch cup, and a craft stick catapult. The kits are for patrons ages six and older.

The library will hold a holiday party on Tuesday, Dec. 19, from 6-7 p.m. There will be refreshments and music by Gerry Mealey on the accordion.

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.

Ely Ice Rink

ELY- The rec center ice rink will have a rink attendant and the bathrooms will be open during the following hours, depending on the weather: Monday - Friday from 3-8 p.m., Saturday from noon-8 p.m., and Sunday from 1-6 p.m. Over the winter holidays, the bathrooms and warming area will be open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Dec. 23, and Dec. 26-30. The bathrooms and warming area will be closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

For updates on weather related closures, check the City of Ely Facebook page or the rec center website at ely.mn.us/reccenter.

Ely Ice Arena

ELY- The Ely Ice Arena on the Ely School District campus is open for skating on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursday, from 1:30-2:30 p.m. through March 4, except when school is closed for holidays. There will be no skating Dec. 22 through Jan. 1. To see an entire schedule and to register for this no-cost activity, go to ely.k12.mn.us/communi-

tyed.

Skate with Santa

BABBITT- Come skate with Santa on Dec. 16 from 6-8 p.m. at the ice arena in Babbitt. This free event is open to the public.

Knights of Columbus Bingo

ELY- The Knights of Columbus will hold an evening of bingo on Sunday, Dec. 17, at 6 p.m., downstairs at St. Anthony's, 231 E. Camp St.

NLAA Art Show

ELY- The Northern Lakes Arts Association art show for December is "Emotions" by Rita Fortunato Sterling. The show runs from Dec. 18 through Dec. 31, in the lobby of Ely's Historic State Theater, 238 E. Sheridan St., whenever the theater is open.

Retirement Class

ELY- Ely Community Education offer a class on "Five keys to retiring fearlessly" on Wednesday, Dec. 20, from 5:30-6:30 p.m., in the Media Center on the school district campus, 600 E. Harvey St. Use the center door in the new addition (Door No. 1). This class is free. Sign up at ely-communi-

[ty-ed.jumbula.com/home](http://ely.k12.mn.us/communityed) or through the link on the school district's website at <https://www.ely.k12.mn.us/communityed>.

Polka!

BABBITT- The Friends of Babbitt Recreation will host the Solkela Polkela Band in a fundraiser on Sunday, Dec. 31, from noon-3 p.m., at the Municipal Gym, 71 South Drive. Advance tickets are \$35 at Z'Up North Realty, 33 Central Blvd., Suite 300, or by texting 218-742-4322. Tickets at the door will be \$45. Desserts and refreshments are included.

Woodworking Class

ELY- Ely Community Education will offer a woodworking class for beginning through advanced skill levels, taught by Steve Smrekar, on Wednesday evenings, from 6-8:30, starting on Jan. 3 and ending on March 6. The class will be in the new woodshop on the Ely School District campus, 600 E. Harvey. The cost is \$85, not including materials. Go to ely.k12.mn.us/communityed and click on the red bar for more details and to register.

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. Tuesday Group is now on winter holiday hiatus.

Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

► Jan. 2: Through Hiking the Appalachian Trail with Cory Kolodji

► Jan. 9: Capturing the Aurora Borealis with Alex Falconer

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2023



watch the temps dropping
rain water turning to ice

slippin' and sliding

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
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NEW BUSINESS

Dynamic duo provides creative outlet for local vendors

Mother-daughter team wants to help small businesses thrive with shop

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- When mother and daughter crafters get together, anything can happen and the sky's the limit for creativity, but Deanna Washek and Kaycee Danielson may have set a new bar with their latest creative endeavor, River Street Vendor Boutique in Cook.

Nestled into a storefront in the lower level of the BIC Realty building at 219 S River St., the boutique offers the opportunity of discovery to shoppers and sellers alike in a quaint and attractive setting that feels like a touch of home in the North Country as well as an extension of its owners.

"Mom and I are both local crafters and enjoy making stuff and bringing visions to life," Kaycee said. "I'd actually been asked to be a part of a store similar to this, but it was very far away, and I got to thinking, was there anything with this same concept locally. I couldn't think of anything, so I reached out to my mom and I said, 'We should open a store.'"

And while some parents might respond to such a thing by placing their hand on their child's forehead to check for a fever, apparently Deanna instead was all in from the get go.

"My mom has been an intricate part of stocking this place. She has more stuff in here than I do. I'm just like the frontman. It's been really great," Kaycee said. "We've had a lot of people who have come in and loved the idea and love what we're bringing, and just like the uniqueness of all this stuff.

We've been getting really good feedback."

The first order of business was finding a space where they could bring their vision to life and when they connected with building owner Mark Ludlow they hit paydirt – he had something coming open just a few months after Kaycee and Deanna started looking.

Getting settled in wasn't too much of a chore, either, Kaycee said.

"There wasn't a lot of hard labor that needed to be done with this space, it was in great shape, and Mr. Ludlow got it cleaned up for us really well," she said. "It was more like decorating and bringing our stuff in here and arranging it to make it how we wanted. We were lucky, we got a lot of shelving here and the wood on the walls brings out that rustic up north feel. There's still a little bit of cosmetic work we'd like to do, but we're in a good place right now with how it looks."

Different is good

Deanna and Kaycee have 15 vendors, including themselves, represented in the boutique, but you won't find each vendor's items in their own assigned space. That's part of the plan to foster discovery.

"I like to scatter things throughout the store," Kaycee said. "I don't want someone to walk in and see everything that a person has made and decide that they didn't see something they loved. Then that vendor has lost all opportunity for a sale. If your stuff is kind of throughout the store, they have more opportunity to see your items. Maybe they'll see your item in a

different light, and it'll catch their attention in a different way. And then you've established a sale."

Another difference from typical vendor-focused shops is that Kaycee and Deanna don't take a commission on any sales. Instead, they charge vendors a low monthly fee and ask that they work two days a month in the store to facilitate open hours. "Both my mother and I are nurses, and we work every other weekend," Kaycee said. "We were really trying to find some people to fill those gaps on the weekends that we work. So far it's been great."

Variety is the spice

Shoppers shouldn't try to pigeonhole River Street Vendor Boutique as strictly a craft shop or a "girly" store.

"There's a little bit of something for everybody," Kaycee said. "I don't want people to think, oh, this, they've only got girl stuff in here, because we don't just have girl stuff in here. I post and display ideas for gift giving for the men in your life, and even the kids in your life. We've got everything from clothing to décor, and more."

"The majority of our vendors are local," Kaycee continued. "We have three gals from the Grand Rapids area, and we have one of our local sheriff's deputies who does laser engraving, so he has a lot of intricate ornaments and some cutting boards. It's a store where people can bring things that they've made, things that they've fixed up and sell them. We have seamstresses, beautiful lighted decorative pieces that were made, hand knit hats, we've got



River Street Vendor Boutique owners Kaycee Danielson and Deanna Washek take a moment to pose in their new Cook shop last Saturday.
photo by D. Colburn

soaps, perfumes and jewelry. Our wind chimes here, the beadwork and silver was done by a local gal. We have people who have essentially found and fixed up antique stuff. We've got a little bit of everything in here."

And if you still can't find something that strikes your fancy, Kaycee and Deanna can hook you up with a vendor for a possible special order, Kaycee said.

River Street Vendor Boutique is open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 10 a.m.-2 p.m., except when their Sunday volunteers have church to attend.

"If we've got church, we've got church," Kaycee smiled. "We try to honor and respect that. So they come after church and open the shop at noon."

After a brisk start in November, the pace has

slowed a bit in December, and Kaycee said that based on conversations with other local merchants, they might adjust their open hours after the holidays.

To learn more about River Street Vendor Boutique and keep up on the hours, monthly special events and more, check their page on Facebook. They can also be reached via email at 105riverstreetvb@gmail.com.

Quilt show at NWFA Gallery kicks off with Saturday artist reception

COOK- On a chilly, dreary Saturday in Cook, perhaps the best place to be last weekend was at the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery, where you could have been comforted by the color and artistry of handmade quilts, the classic and beloved winter warmers that make up the December exhibit at the gallery.

A reception was held on Saturday in the gallery's Wolfe Den to celebrate the artists whose works are displayed in the show "Quilts: Art in Fabric Form," including JoAnn Anderson, Dede Doi, Lois Garbisch, Cheryl Harelstad, Vickie Lange, Kathy Lovgren, Kris Musto, Lyn Reed, Kathy Sacchetti, Barb Schmidt, Barb Schroeder and Alberta Whitenack. Quilts displayed on the walls of the Wolfe Den represent a wide array of quilting genres, including appliquéd quilts, scraps quilts, intricate 'paper pieced' quilts, twisted template quilts, row quilts and round robin 'friendship' quilts.

The *Timberjay* took a few minutes to talk with a familiar face from NWFA classes, exhibits, and activities, Kris Musto, who said quilting is a relatively new outlet for her artistic expression.

"I've been doing it for only a few years," Musto said. "I came to quilting as a painter, so it's the colors and patterns that are most interesting to me."

Musto has two quilts in the exhibit, one of which



Quilter Kris Musto displays one of two quilts she contributed to the NWFA show. photo by D. Colburn

she described as a "stay at home quilt" that she started during COVID-19 isolation.

"Being home and feeling like I was not able to go out and see other people, that's why there are two empty chairs in separate houses on this. Those are painted on, drawn on, but the rest is pieced fabric."

Musto talked about how quilters at NWFA have welcomed her in and taught her about quilting.

"This has been a great community at the gallery to help me learn about quilting, how to do it, how to put things together. It feels really good to be a part of this show with the seasoned quilters, people who are really good at this and have been doing it for so long. Everyone has

been so generous in sharing their ideas and patterns and magazines and fabric – it's pretty cool."

The December exhibit runs until Saturday, Dec. 23, and is open during regular gallery hours of 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturdays.

Smith gets degree, honors at MSM

COOK- Neiva Smith, a 2020 North Woods School graduate, participated in commencement ceremonies on the Minnesota State Mankato campus on Saturday. Smith was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education, and was one of only 176 students graduating magna cum laude, indicating a grade point average from 3.6 to 3.79.



EMPTY BOWLS

North Woods third graders were busy last week painting glaze on ceramic bowls, with some help from art teacher Rachel Betterley's students. The students are preparing the bowls for the annual Empty Bowl fundraiser at the school which will be coming up on Friday, Feb. 2.
Above: Charlotte Pascuzzi and Audrey Bryson share a tray of colored glaze as they work.



Left: It's a long reach, but Joe Schreengost is determined to get the right color of glaze for the bowl he's working on.

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HOUSING...Continued from page 1

Washington St., not too far from St. Anthony's Church. The zoning appears to be amenable to accommodating a transitional housing facility serving from two to four people who have successfully completed a treatment program. A mental health services facilitator will be part of the co-located services provided for the residents. People taking advantage of the home will be expected to pay rent to help support the facility.

"These won't be outsiders to the community,"

explained WBD executive Director Kap Wilkes. "These will be people who are already local residents or have strong connection to Ely."

Outreach

Wilkes stresses that her organization has taken a go-slow approach to their planning effort and have made an extensive effort to reach out to the community about their ideas. One of its first significant outreach efforts was at the Harvest Moon Festival and attracted attendees to take a survey

on the proposal in exchange for ice cream. The results were enlightening.

"There is not a person in Ely who has not been affected by [substance abuse]," wrote one survey respondent with lived-experience in the disease. Over 300 people filled out the survey, with over 180 identifying as local residents.

The results of the survey encouraged WBD to continue developing their proposal, with an eye towards bringing a residence online sometime in

2024 or later.

"We're not rushing into this," Wilkes told the *Timberjay*. WBD presented its current plans to the Ely City Council earlier this month and held another public forum this past Tuesday at the Ely Senior Center as part of their effort to inform the public and generate feedback.

Justification

According to the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 16.5 percent of the nation's

population is affected by a substance use disorder. That translates to one in every six Americans, so the problem affects almost everyone. Many of those with SUD acquired the disease through opioid prescriptions. WBD will help address a widespread problem that infects the community by focusing on a service to help SUD sufferers.

The WBD researchers also found that post-treatment residential programs significantly improve outcomes for those in recovery

from substance use disorders, including reducing their chances of future incarceration and relapse while increasing their odds of finding employment and reintegrating into the community. The economic benefit to the community is substantial, putting an estimated \$29,000 back into the local economy for every successful client who exits transitional recovery housing and re-enters the community.

JOINT POWERS...Continued from page 1

... It's costing a lot of money sending our people up there all the time. We are losing money. We cannot go back to the people all the time for money ... We need some money from the federal government [but there's been] nothing for six years."

As a nonprofit, the EAAS is not eligible to receive federal payments in lieu of taxes, or PILT. Those funds, which are designed to help pay for local services like fire, EMS, and roads, can only be disbursed to local governments.

Berrini listed other areas where the federal government provides too little help to local ambulance service, such as through its 26 cents per mile one-way-only reimbursement rate and inadequate Medicare payments which don't cover costs. "We need help up here," he said. Berrini did give credit where it was due. "I want to thank Sen. Klobuchar here. She worked with us over three years to help us get \$1.3

million for our ambulance building, so thank you."

Former Ely Mayor Chuck Novak, who serves on the EAAS board, said he had to leave early to attend back-to-back ambulance meetings because the service may not be able to make its payroll this month, an issue that the ambulance service has struggled with in recent years.

"This issue has been on the table for years," said Novak. "Politicians say, 'I know everything about it.' Well, if you knew everything about it, why wasn't there an apportionment of the \$17 billion surplus in the state last year? Why wasn't there something out of the federal government for local emergency services? ... It would have been nice to get some recognition last year. It's been talked about for over a decade. This year, it looks like we got some hope. But you know, we've learned in politics, talk is cheap sometimes."

Third District Sen. Grant Hauschild, DFL-Hermantown, who was

present at Monday's meeting responded, describing how EMS funding lost out to other priorities, such as help for nursing homes and police retention, in the last legislative session, but promised it was at the top of his priority list for the coming session. "I just kind of want to highlight for you that there are these other challenges. And the more we have backup (from other communities) to promote (EMS), the easier it's going to be for us," to get more EMS funding.

"Part of the problem is that I don't think the general public, very honestly, realizes the crisis in rural EMS," commented Makowski, noting that the lack of recognition by the public makes it difficult for lawmakers to fight for funding in the face of the issues-du-jour that grab the public's and lawmakers' attention.

IRRR Commissioner Ida Rukavina noted an implicit theme at Monday's meeting, namely the struggle of rural Minnesota in

general and the Iron Range specifically to compete for recognition and funding from state and federal lawmakers. Makowski noted that lawmakers are frequently swayed by the weight of emails, calls and testimony from the public on issues, but Rukavina noted that's a recipe for rural neglect. "You still have to have legislators realizing it's not about the numbers and quantity of calls—because if it is about that ... rural areas are going to lose, because we don't have the population to make the number of calls (to lawmakers), and our lives are at stake. There has to be some realization that we will never (generate) the volume of calls or emails to get the message across at the state and federal level that our lives matter."

Proposal for change

Newly elected Lake County Commissioner Joe Baltich, who is also a new member of the EAAS board, suggested using a different model statewide to

fund EMS services. "From a business standpoint, I just think maybe we should look at (EMS funding) a little differently."

He described two existing funding examples as possible templates to build what he called the Minnesota EMS Fund.

"The Schools Minerals Trust Fund. It's a trust that's been in operation since 1849. (For) any minerals mined in the state, a royalty is paid into that fund. It has over \$4 billion in it ... Another organization that's really good at managing money is the Public Employee Retirement Account ... So, they take money, they reinvest it very well for their employees over a quite a long period of time."

Baltich didn't suggest his proposed fund follow these exact models. He mentioned the two funds as examples of different business-like ways that already work and suggested something similar for helping Minnesota's ailing EMS system.

Baltich also took aim at some of the state's priorities, like funding stadiums in the Twin Cities that don't benefit rural residents. He also suggested using a royalty on non-ferrous mining, which doesn't currently exist in Minnesota, or using tax revenue from the sale of cannabis products, to fund EMS.

Hauschild thanked Baltich for his ideas and "for being proactive" in seeking better ways to fund the EMS system. Rep. Dave Lislegard agreed that some change in approach is clearly needed. "We can't continue to go down this trajectory" with losing EMS services because of broken funding models," he said.

Editor's Note: Monday's meeting also addressed concerns about wolves, housing, childcare, and the possible annexation of Fall Lake Township to the Ely School District. Those topics will be the subject of a story in the Dec. 22 edition of the Timberjay.

OWENS...Continued from page 1

controversy.

Filling positions was the first order of business at Tuesday's meeting.

To bring the board back to full strength, Dave Dundas, owner of a Hibbing-based construction company and co-owner with his wife Paula of Northwoods Bait and Tackle in Cook, was appointed to fill Refsdahl's unexpired supervisor term. Christensen was chosen to be the board chairman.

The board then appointed Cindy Caroon to the vacated clerk's position, and with her newly-granted authority Caroon named Linden Grove town clerk Rick Deatherage as deputy clerk. Deatherage said he agreed to accept the position to provide support to Caroon as she learns the ins and outs of the clerk position. Deatherage said it was his understanding that a deputy town clerk does not have to live in the township.

Back to the road

A discussion of the Derusha Rd. situation was added to the board's agenda for the meeting, and most of the landowners affected were present seeking clarification that was elusive during contentious conversation at the November meeting.

What they got, however, was basically more of the same, albeit in a more civil and lower-key exchange.

The primary issue involves a short portion of Derusha Rd. beginning at the driveway of property owners J.R. and Kim Koenck and extending west about 125 feet to the driveway of Dorothy Easterday. A third property involved is owned by Easterday's daughter, Lisa Ollikkala, and is adjacent to both

Easterday's property and a portion of the disputed road.

In 2019, the township attorney told the parties that the disputed road was private property, and any issues between them were to be settled by them and not the township. In essence, in the attorney's opinion, Derusha Rd. from the Koenck's driveway did not exist, and therefore the property lines extended to the middle of the road.

Believing the attorney to be correct and armed with a survey delineating the property line, the Koencks have subsequently built a fence out of junked vehicles and logs to mark their property, narrowing the segment of road to a single narrow lane. The county used to run its snowplow past Easterday's driveway but can no longer access the narrowed lane. Easterday contends this represents an undue hardship for her, as she has to hire a private contractor to plow the short stretch in the winter and encounters difficulty getting in and out of her driveway. The narrowed lane could also restrict the access of fire trucks or an ambulance in case of an emergency, Easterday says.

Also affected are owners of undeveloped properties beyond Easterday's house to the west that used an unmaintained extension of Derusha Rd. for access. Two of those plots, owned by Kit Olson, are pasture used for haying. Svedberg has said that he is purchasing the plots on contract from Olson, and that the narrowed road prevents any harvesting or transport equipment from getting through. Without a road, the properties are landlocked, a condition prohibited by state law.

Since coming on the town board, Christensen and Svedberg have contended that the former town board's inaction on Derusha Rd. was improper. Svedberg unearthed a 1925 township road order for Derusha Rd. which legally establishes its existence west to Olson Rd. Under that scenario, the disputed road segment would not be private property, but rather would belong to the township and could only be restricted and abandoned by a legally required public meeting, which has never occurred.

J.R. Koenck proposed a way to bring clarity to the situation.

"Can you do the paperwork with St. Louis County stating that it's been abandoned officially?" he said.

"I don't know about stating that," Christensen responded.

"Well, this could go on for years," Koenck replied. Christensen's response was one he would repeat in some form multiple times throughout the rest of the meeting.

"This is why everybody's got to have a lawyer," he said. "I am not a lawyer, and the township is not a lawyer."

Koenck reminded the board of statements made at the November meeting that the disputed portion of Derusha Rd. is legally a road as he sought to make his point that the board needs to provide clarity.

"Who owns the land?" he said. "You guys told us a month ago that it was a road. That was your understanding. We would like it to be officially abandoned or made into a road, whatever the township would like to do."

Christensen appeared

to switch direction in his response, nearly echoing the 2019 township attorney's opinion that he had previously claimed was in error.

"Well, the way it sounds right now is that there is not a road, but these people are landlocked," he said. "So, it's going to have to be coming down to the landowners getting together and working something out."

However, it appears St. Louis County has tossed a new wrinkle into the situation.

"We're running into a problem with the county here on the snow plowing," Christensen said. "We're going to have to change the turnaround. The county wants all the turnarounds going to the right."

Christensen tossed out multiple possibilities for turnarounds that would use land owned by Steve Fogelberg, Ollikkala, Easterday, or Dan Baumgartner, proceeding from east to west.

"I don't know if Steve Fogelberg would want us turning around in his field or if Lisa has enough land there. If that doesn't happen, then I guess we wouldn't have much choice but to go on past Dorothy's on that road and make a turnaround. Baumgartner has said that he will give up the land no problem for a turnaround there."

And the placement of the turnaround will have legal implications for the status of Derusha Rd.

"The township's interest is going to end where the turnaround is. I didn't make up the rules, I'm just relating what the attorney told me. What the lawyer told me was when he's looking on a map, he said it ends

where the turnaround is."

Using that guideline, should the turnaround end up being on Easterday's or Baumgartner's property, Derusha Rd. would officially extend to that point, which is beyond the narrowed road segment where the Koencks have established their property line.

J.R. Koenck renewed his plea for the township board to act.

"I think the township needs to do an official thing as to what has happened to that property," he said. "Did it get abandoned?"

"No, it didn't get abandoned," Christensen said.

"Well, the township has to do that before anybody can do any kind of easement, before anybody can make any agreement. Because I don't know if it's my property, I don't know if it's the township's. I thought it was my property."

"Abandoning that road would be a big deal because we will have to have a special meeting and the public has to come," Christensen said.

"It's not a big expense, though. It's another

meeting, but it would be the right thing to do one way or another, whether you decide to abandon it or not," Koenck said. "Whatever you decide, we would like something official done so that we know where we're at, and then the neighbors can go from there."

Koenck was asked if he'd be willing to move the vehicles and other items on the road, and his response reinforced his quest for some sort of resolution.

"I won't answer that question until we find out whose property it is," he said. "Is it the township's property or my property?"

The discussion strayed into related issues raised at the November meeting and it became clear that no definitive answers would be forthcoming at the meeting.

"We've got to move on," Christensen said. "We're not really discussing or getting anywhere. There are lawyers involved. Something we have to decide on is where the end of the road is going to be, and then that's going to be the end of it."

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WOLVES...Continued from page 1

hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year," said Hunters4Hunters organizer Steve Porter, a retired law enforcement officer. "We're in an emergency situation, and the Voyageurs Wolf Project wants to tell you that they (wolves) only eat berries and beavers."

Throughout the nearly two-hour long presentation, Porter variously cited government as the problem and government as the solution for the alleged wolf problem.

"I don't care about Democrats, I don't care about Republicans—I want to know who represents you," Porter said. "We're going to talk about that tonight, and we're going to talk about solutions. How can we control the wolves? We need Democrats and Republicans to get stuff done. We need bipartisan support."

Porter talked about the need for a two-pronged approach that begins with a grassroots effort like Hunters4Hunters "making noise" across the state and bringing attention to the need to control the wolf population.

A second needed initiative, Porter said, is to work at the federal level to get the gray wolf delisted under the Endangered Species Act in Minnesota, as it has been in several northern Rocky Mountain states. Under the Trump administration, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed completely delisting the gray wolf, contending the population had recovered and no longer needed protection. That rule was reversed by a court decision in 2022, and gray wolves remain protected as "threatened" in Minnesota under federal law.

Porter suggested that if the state had the same political will as it did with marijuana, Minnesota could have a wolf season despite the listing.

"Can the state of Minnesota sue the feds for us?" Porter said. "You bet they could. Could the state of Minnesota legislate a wolf season in opposition to

federal law? Could they just put their nose in the air and say you know what, we're having a wolf season? You guys are nodding yes, they can do it. If it's something important like marijuana then they can go against the government and pass it and legalize it, but it's got to be an important issue. They legalized marijuana because that was at the top of the list."

Porter suggested another avenue available to the DNR, its expedited emergency rulemaking authority, which it can use to bypass legislative approval in the event of an emergency.

"They don't need the Congress, all the senators and representatives to agree to a law," Porter said. "They can extend seasons, they can have extra seasons, they can do whatever they want in an emergency. Are you guys in an emergency right now?"

The crowd responded with a loud "yes."

"Yeah, you are. Do you think Minnesota would act as if it's an emergency?" Porter said.

This time a loud "no" was the response.

"They'll tell you we can't go against the feds," Porter said. "It seems to me we're picking and choosing which federal laws we appreciate and which ones we don't."

Response to comments from Porter and others at the meeting suggested a general consensus among attendees that the DNR is seen as an obstacle to overcome rather than a partner in the quest to strike an appropriate balance between wolves and deer. Porter read an excerpt from a letter from the Babbitt Sportsman's Club that illustrated the point. "The Babbitt Sportsman's Club said that through the years the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has done an excellent job of managing parks, historical areas, blah, blah, blah, and then it says however, when it comes to recent management efforts concerning the gray wolf,

deer and moose, the DNR gets a vote of no confidence," Porter said.

Legislative avenues

Porter devoted much of his presentation to more conventional means of legislative relief at both the state and federal levels.

Porter referred to a bill in the Minnesota Senate proposed by Sixth District Sen. Justin Eichorn, R-Grand Rapids, that would require the DNR to hold a wolf hunting season if the animal is delisted. A companion bill in the House was co-sponsored by District 3A Rep. Roger Skraba.

Porter showed a video of debate on the Senate floor where Eichorn's proposal was opposed by District 67 Sen. Foug Hawj, DFL-St. Paul.

"This is one of the number one things people talk to me about in my district," Eichorn said. "I can't go to Home Depot or the grocery store or to Anytime Fitness without somebody asking me about the wolf hunt. This isn't going to force a wolf hunt immediately, but when the wolf gets delisted the DNR should be ready and prepared."

Hawj said he was a hunter but opposed the wolf hunt because of the wolf's sacred status in Anishinaabe culture.

"I heard from my constituents, especially the Native community, to regard their sacred animal as the highest thing," Hawj said. "My highest regard is toward the Anishinaabe."

Porter encouraged attendees to look up the bills online to see who represents them. "I don't care about politics—we need to come together," Porter said. He then turned political, arguing that GOP lawmakers seem to be more supportive of a wolf hunt than their DFL counterparts. "I look where it says authors and status and I see who signed off on that bill in our House of Representatives, and it just so happens that every one of these guys has an R behind their name."

Porter emphasized that



Steve Porter

Hunters4Hunters wants to be and will be a strong advocate in St. Paul and encouraged people to become members to increase their clout.

"We can be your voice, but I need your email," Porter said. "I need you guys at the Capitol. We're going to rent a bus. We're going to fill several buses. I need your email to coordinate this thing. Can we keep this grassroots movement going?"

At the congressional level, Porter says he has forged a connection with Don Peay, co-founder of the group Hunter Nation and one of the key people behind the passage of federal legislation to delist the gray wolf in the northern Rocky Mountain states. Peay is going to lend his expertise and experience to the Minnesota cause.

"What matters is 100,000 pissed off hunters in Wisconsin and Michigan and Minnesota saying we're not taking it anymore," Peay said in a video message. "We're going to get behind you and fellow sportsmen, I just have to tell you that we did it. Everyone told us we could not beat the anti-hunter environmentalists and we did it, and now we're killing wolves in Idaho, Montana, Wyoming." With the current Republican majority in the House, passage of a bill out of that chamber could be accomplished quickly, Porter suggested. But it will take a bipartisan effort in the Senate, and Porter said Peay passed along some encouraging context for getting something done.

"He said 'You don't need to convince 200,000 liberals down in the Twin Cities, you need to convince about three

Congresspeople,'" Porter said. "We've got to get three Democrats in Congress to come on board. It can happen quick if we keep the movement going."

Johnny Eloranta, district director for Rep. Pete Stauber, addressed the crowd, indicating that the wolf issue is something Stauber hears about "almost constantly."

"People have been reaching out and we like to see it," Eloranta said. "I love to see this full gymnasium of people. We shouldn't have to do this, but this is where we're at."

Stauber supports delisting the gray wolf and is a co-author of Tiffany's legislation, Eloranta said. He also took aim at Minnesota's wolf management plan.

"Who here has read the governor's wolf management plan? It's a joke of a plan," he said. "Even if the feds do delist it, we need to change that plan."

Congress has been working on some revisions to the Endangered Species Act, and Eloranta said Sen. Amy Klobuchar should be lobbied as a possible swing vote.

"You know exactly what the long-eared bat issue is and what that does to loggers," Eloranta said. "She voted the right way on that specific issue, she could do it again. You need to let your voice be heard."

Skraba targeted the Walz administration as the biggest roadblock to getting a wolf hunt in Minnesota.

"If you want change, I can tell you the best way to change is to vote for a different governor," Skraba said. "You have a governor who appointed a commissioner who doesn't want to do this. We have a lieutenant governor who is Native American and came out very publicly saying, 'I belong to the wolf clan and as long as I am the lieutenant governor there will not be a wolf season.' I'm just giving you the facts."

Hidden agendas?

Other speakers at the meeting had more conspiratorial notions, suggesting that the DNR might have ulterior motives for preserving the wolf population and letting the deer population decline.

Scott Collins, who arranged for Porter to bring Hunters4Hunters to the community center, expressed his doubts.

"Sometimes you wonder if there's a more sinister plan why they don't manage these wolves," he said. "Young kids today go ten years without seeing a deer, and maybe they'll quit hunting. Why did the DNR even have a season? They knew there was no deer out there." Another speaker picked up on the theme.

"Make no mistake, this is more than just a wolf problem," he said. "This is an agenda to keep the wolves high so hunting parties of 14 maybe get one deer and the kids quit hunting and the dads quit hunting. They're after our guns. Make no mistake. Governor Walz and Keith Ellison, our government, they want our guns and we're all under assault. This is the issue why we're here, it's more than wolves. They want to take our guns and that's what we've got to stand up for."

A woman in the crowd immediately chimed in.

"It's not just your guns, guys," she said. "They don't want us up here. They do not want people in northern Minnesota. They want this for their own elite, whatever you call it, playground. They want us out of here."

Porter responded.

"If you would have told me that five years ago I'd have said you were wrong," he said. "I wouldn't have believed that. But I believe it now. I think that in their perfect utopia there is a balance between wolves and deer and it does not include hunters, it does not include gun owners, and it does not include landowners."

Porter and other Hunters4Hunters board members have been paying to travel for meetings out of their own pockets, Porter said, noting that he was spending about \$800 just last week. A collection taken to defray expenses pulled in \$2,138.

The Hunters4Hunters website shows the organization has eight more scheduled public meetings through the end of January.



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

THE PRICE OF POWER

MPUC approves Minnesota Power interim rate hike

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— The state’s Public Utilities Commission, or MPUC, has approved an interim rate increase for Minnesota Power customers that is expected to increase the average residential electric bill by about eight bucks a month.

The new interim rate, which represents an 8.6 percent increase, will take effect in January and will remain in place until the MPUC rules on the company’s full rate request, submitted last month. The full rate hike, which will now be subject to review by the public, consumer groups, and several state agencies, would increase the typical customer’s residential power bill by approximately \$11 per month and raise an additional

\$89 million in revenue for the company. As a private, investor-owned utility, Minnesota Power’s rates are subject to regulation by the MPUC, which is expected to enforce state law that limits the rate of return on investment to just under ten percent. If the MPUC ultimately approves a rate hike that’s lower than the interim increase, Minnesota Power would be required to refund the difference, with interest, to customers. A final decision on Minnesota Power’s latest rate request is expected late next year or in early 2025.

“The rate adjustment supports the rising cost of producing and delivering 24/7 electric service,” said Jennifer Cady, Minnesota Power vice president of Regulatory and Legislative

Affairs. “It will also ensure the company is able to hire and retain the workforce necessary to execute innovative projects that reduce carbon, increase renewable resources, preserve reliable service to homes and businesses, and provide programs and services that help customers control their energy use and monthly bills.”

In a press statement, the company contends that the higher revenues are necessary to implement the company’s Energy Forward strategy, which calls for an aggressive transition to clean sources of power, including wind and solar. According to the company, Minnesota Power became the first utility in the state to deliver 50 percent renewable energy in 2020 and hit an all-time

high of nearly 60 percent renewable in 2022, with a goal of being more than 70 percent renewable by 2030, all while safeguarding reliable service to its 150,000 customers.

“Over the last decade, Minnesota Power has transitioned to become one of the nation’s clean-energy leaders, and we are doing this in a sustainable way that always keeps our customers at the forefront,” said Cady.

Minnesota Power has already retired seven of its nine coal units and plans to be coal-free by 2035. During that transition, the company plans to add up to 700 megawatts of wind and solar power and plans to invest in energy storage technologies as soon as they are ready for market. Several such technologies are

currently in development.

In the interim, the company says it is ensuring adequate supplies of backup energy through peaking plants run on natural gas.

“Not surprisingly, the transition to more renewable energy and a more reliable and resilient grid is transforming how energy is produced and delivered,” Cady said. “This proposal ensures we can make the investments needed to continue the clean-energy transition toward a carbon-free future while not losing sight of the importance of reliability and affordability. In this unique northern climate, delivering a reliable 24/7 supply of energy remains our highest priority and continues to be the state’s priority.”

COUNCIL...Continued from page 1

aid. Both of those payments are one-time only, at least under current law, but they’ll provide a boost for the city in 2024. The city is also anticipating a \$10,700 increase in its local government aid allotment, while lease increases approved by the council will raise a bit under \$12,000 more next year.

Schultz told the council that the budget includes \$120,000 in unallocated discretionary funds that the council will have available in 2024 to finance projects or cover unanticipated expenses. He recommended that the council track those funds if and when they do opt to use them over the course of the year. “That will create a little more work for the council, but it improves transparency,” he said.

The 2024 budget includes the city’s final \$53,000 payment on the \$250,000 emergency loan that the city took out from the League of Minnesota Cities back in 2019 to help pay bills in the midst of one of the city’s worst financial crises in decades.

Schultz said the city still has a way to go to fully restore its fiscal health. “But, overall, we’re con-

tinuing to move in the right direction,” he said.

In other budgetary action, the council approved a \$5 per quarter increase in the city’s sewer rate, which will help to bring the sewer fund more in line with expenses. The rate increase is expected to balance the books on the operating expenses, although it won’t cover the depreciation expense. The council also approved closing a fire department bank account that has been unused for years. The approximately \$26,000 left in the account will be transferred to the city’s general fund but will still be allocated for the fire department.

In other business, the council reviewed an updated inventory list from St. Louis County for the public works facility which the county is planning to finish vacating next month. Schultz said city maintenance supervisor Ben Velcheff had inspected the equipment that will be left behind at the site and determined that there is considerable value. Among the equipment to be left is an overhead crane, an arc welder, drill press, central air compressor, flamma-

bles cabinet, and newer overhead heaters.

The county has indicated that it is willing to sell the property to the city for the appraised price of \$260,000. Council member Bob Anderson said he’d like to see more information on the operating costs of the facility. Norby questioned whether the acquisition made sense for the city. “We’re a small town and getting smaller. Is this really the right move?” he asked.

Others on the council were more optimistic, citing some of the planned development that is expected to get underway along the riverfront and harbor in the next year or two.

Mayor Dave Setterberg agreed the council still needs more information before moving forward. “The first thing is negotiating a price and then mapping it all out,” he said.

In other business, the council:

- Took no action on a proposal by SEH to re-bid the planned drinking water treatment plant for \$4,500. Some on the council questioned the expense, given that the materials needed for the bid process were already

developed. The council opted to take no action until the Tower-Breitling Waste Water Board decides how it wishes to proceed. An earlier bid for the project came in at nearly twice the engineer’s estimate, leaving an enormous funding gap that the communities are not in a position to fill.

➤ Opted to put a pause on a proposal to add additional camping sites at Hoodoo Point Campground due primarily to the anticipated expense.

➤ Reported on the performance review of the clerk-treasurer and indicated mostly glowing reviews, while also receiving good feedback on things on areas for improvement. Setterberg recommended more training for the clerk, including training on Banyan, the city’s financial software, as well as attendance at the “clerk school” put on periodically by the League of Minnesota Cities. At the same time, the council approved a seven percent increase in his salary.

➤ Opted to put the airport’s courtesy car up for bid with a minimum bid of \$2,500. The vehicle is a 2004 Volkswagen Passat

with 84,679 miles on it, but a laundry list of issues, including old tires and non-functioning heating and air conditioning. The vehicle “blue booked” out at just under \$3,000 for a private sale.

➤ Unanimously approved a 2024 contract for up to \$8,000 grant writing services from Nancy Larson. A total of \$3,000 of that may be reimbursable through the IRRR.

➤ Briefly discussed the process for selection of the city’s official newspaper. Schultz said from his

perspective having ready access to all the city’s legal notices online is very helpful. The city’s current official newspaper does not maintain a working website and does not post current legal notices.

➤ Approved a reapplication to the CDBG program for utility projects on S. Second and S. Third Streets.

➤ Authorized the city to apply for a \$20,000 MPCA stormwater grant.



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GIRLS BASKETBALL

Ely delivers punishing back-to-back routs

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

SILVER BAY— Tuesday's game against the Mariners proved the team's second blowout of the week, this time by an even bigger margin than last Thursday's drubbing of International Falls. Playing at Silver Bay, Ely starters spent the second half on the bench as they racked up a 51-6 margin as of halftime enroute to a 89-25 win.

While Ely's defense

was punishing, its offense was even better as the team racked up an impressive 62-percent shooting percentage from two-point range. Twelve Ely players scored in the contest, with three players in double digits. Senior Grace LaTourell led the way with 17 points, while freshman Amelia Penke added 15 and junior Maija Mattson added 12. Seven players posted multiple assists as well.

The Wolves racked up 23 steals, led by senior Sarah

Visser with six.

Playing in Ely last Thursday, the Wolves showcased just how stingy they can be on defense, as Ely breezed to a 67-25 win over the Broncos.

Even when the Broncos managed to break Ely's swarming press, the Wolves created havoc with a stifling man-to-man that allowed I-Falls only five baskets from the field in the first half as they rolled to a 33-15 lead at the intermission. Ely clamped down even harder

Right: Ely junior Clare Thomas eyes the basket as she lines up a jump shot while under pressure from a Broncos' defender.

photo by D. Colburn

in the second half, giving up only one deuce and one Trey as they held the Broncos to just 10 points. Even more impressive was the Wolves' ability to apply such intense pressure without fouling

See **ELY GIRLS...**pg. 2B



BOYS BASKETBALL

Grizzlies trample Spartans

Big win comes after disappointing loss to Red Lake last Friday

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP— Coming off a Friday loss at Red Lake, the North Woods boys basketball team took out any lingering frustrations on a hapless Nashwauk-Keewatin five at home on Tuesday, winning 75-33 in a contest that wasn't as close as the final score suggests.

Stifling full-court pressure was the key as the Grizzlies scratched and clawed their way to a 17-0 lead before the Spartans finally connected on a hail Mary three-ball at the 11:54 mark. N-K wouldn't sink another shot from the field until the second half.

This was the same N-K lineup that beat North Woods by 39 points in summer league action, albeit without many of the Grizzlies' regulars on the floor, but still, the turnaround

Top: North Woods' Louie Panichi drives the lane against a Spartans defender.

Right: North Woods' Jonah Burnett floats along the baseline for a score against Nashwauk-Keewatin.

photos by D. Colburn

was stark and impressive. When the Grizzlies weren't scoring on fast breaks generated by steals and turnovers their offense was crisp. Whether it was Louie Panichi slashing down the lane, Talen Jarshaw scoring on the baseline, or Jonah Burnett ripping the net from beyond the arc, North Woods was nearly unstoppable. Burnett's three-ball at the 6:18 mark put the Grizzlies up 38-3, and he followed that with another

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



Ely's Deegan Richards takes the puck past two Moose Lake defenders

photo by C. Clark

HOCKEY

Wolves continue to win

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

ELY— The Timberwolves hockey team is off to its hottest start in years as they took three of four games over the past week to improve to 6-2 on the season.

Playing at home on Tuesday, Wolves' senior Deegan Richards lit the light twice as Ely topped International Falls 3-2. Richards put Ely on the board at the 15:27 mark of the first period on an unassisted goal, but that 1-0 lead lasted just 32 seconds when the Broncos' Zach Youso responded to even the score. Less than a minute later, Ely was back in the lead for good on an unassisted score by senior Wes Sandy.

After a scoreless second period, Richards added an insurance goal, with a Sandy assist, just 39 seconds into the third period. The Broncos would score for the second time with less than two minutes to play, but it was too little, too late.

The Broncos outshot Ely 34-25, but Ely goalie Ben Leeson's .941 save percentage made the difference.

In weekend action in Ely, junior Garrett Rohr notched a hat trick as the Wolves routed Moose Lake 7-1. The Wolves got on the board early as sophomore Jayden Zemke tripped the buzzer on a power play at the 1:24 mark of the first period, with an assist from senior Brecken Sandberg. Sandberg notched the team's second goal at the 5:03 mark with assists from Richards and Sandy.

See **HOCKEY...**pg. 2B

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BOYS BASKETBALL

Wolves survive late Broncos rally in 62-57 win

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

INTERNATIONAL FALLS — The Timberwolves hung on through a late-game scoring drought here to improve their record to 3-0 with a 62-57 win

over the Broncos last Thursday. “We were up by 18 with about three minutes to go and turned it over a few times and couldn’t hit free throws,” said Ely Head Coach Tom McDonald. “We let them back into the game.”

The Wolves had their opportunities to expand their winning margin, particularly from the charity stripe, where they connected on just 13 of 26 opportunities. “That will have to improve as the season progresses,” said McDonald.

Sophomore Jack Davies led the Wolves offensively with 22 points, while junior Cade Chittum notched a double-double with 12 points and 14 rebounds. Sophomore Drew Johnson had an impressive outing as well, posting eight boards, eight assists and five steals, while junior Wyatt Mattson

added 11 boards for the Wolves. After eight days off, Ely returns to action on Friday when they host Mesabi East. They’ll be on the road next Tuesday in Grand Marais.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Kiminski leads Floodwood over Grizzlies

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- The North Woods girls basketball team was hoping to carry momentum from last week’s big wins over Carlton-Wrenshall and Two Harbors into Tuesday’s home tilt against Floodwood, but the Polar Bears squashed that plan with a 71-60 victory.

It was too much of Floodwood’s Kenzie Kiminski for the Grizzlies to handle, as the lanky sophomore knocked down 34 points from all over the court while consistently causing problems for North Woods’ attempted press.

The Grizzlies played solid ball early, taking a 15-12 lead on a trey by Helen Koch with just under seven minutes elapsed in the game. But then the North Woods offense sputtered, with a pair of Tatum Barto free throws, their only points over the next six minutes as Floodwood forged a

27-17 advantage. Barto stopped the drought with a driving layup at the 4:48 mark, and the Grizzlies flipped the script and closed out the half on a 13-2 run with scores by Barto, Koch, and Corra Brodeen to reclaim the lead 30-29 going into the break.

Floodwood went back on top to start the second half, but the Grizzlies were still in position for a comeback at 44-38 with over 12 minutes remaining. But with Kiminski doing most of the damage, the Polar Bears took full control with a 21-6 run that gave them an insurmountable 65-44 lead with about three minutes left. North Woods shaved ten points off that deficit after Kiminski fouled out, but Floodwood held on for the 71-60 win.

With a more concerted effort to work the ball into the paint in the second half, River Cheney finished as the Grizzlies leading scorer with 24 points, followed by Koch with 14. The long dry spells pulled down the Grizzlies’

shooting percentage for the game to 29 percent, while Floodwood hit 42 percent. Floodwood held a slight edge rebounding at 55-50.

Head Coach Liz Cheney was at a bit of a loss trying to explain how Floodwood got away from them.

“I have no idea,” she said. “At halftime we talked about needing to pass the ball and move around offensively if we want the defense to get out of position. And they came out and they did not move. Things weren’t going our way. A different night, a different outcome.”

Cheney gave credit to Kiminski’s performance and to Floodwood for getting rebounds at critical times.

“At halftime our energy was just down in the dumps, and that made a big difference, too,” Cheney said.

Two Harbors

The Grizzlies traveled to Two Harbors last Friday and

overwhelmed the host Agates 81-30. North Woods’ defense was nearly impenetrable against the overmatched Agates, generating 36 turnovers that turned into 43 points.

Cheney routinely prefers to go deep into her bench to keep players fresh, and she had plenty of opportunity against the Agates to do so, with all but one of the Grizzlies logging more than ten minutes of playing time.

The Grizzlies had four players with double-digit scoring, led by Koch with 18. Talise Goodsky popped in 17, and Barto and Cheney had 14 each.

Last Thursday’s home game against Carlton-Wrenshaw was another romp in the park for the Grizzlies, as only one of the Raptors’ players scored more than one basket from the field. North Woods raced to a 16-0 advantage and led 37-16 at the break. The Grizzlies dominated inside the paint, scoring 36 points to the Raptors’ eight and winning

the rebound battle 43-26. North Woods turned over the Raptors 42 times, while committing 29 of their own. North Woods allowed only 11 second-half points in the 65-27 rout.

Cheney and Koch provided most of the scoring punch for the Grizzlies, each notching 20 points. Nine of the Grizzlies’ ten varsity players scored.

“Carlton-Wrenshall and Two Harbors just don’t have the numbers, and their teams are young,” Cheney said. “In Two Harbors on Friday we came out on fire because of our press. They were just on it fast and quick and reading the ball well.”

The girls were scheduled for a road trip to Moose Lake on Thursday, their final game before the winter holiday break. The Grizzlies will play Dec. 27-28 in the Aitkin Holiday Tournament.

ELY GIRLS..Continued from page 1B



Left: Ely freshman Amelia Penke works around an I-Falls defender during home action last Friday.

– Ely was whistled for infractions only 13 times the entire game.

Unsurprisingly, the Wolves had their transition game revved up, scoring seemingly at will on fast breaks and quick offensive plays before the Broncos

could get set on defense. The Wolves also had good success working the ball down low for scores.

Senior Hannah Penke took full advantage of her opportunities, cashing in for a game-high 27 points. Clare Thomas knocked down 12 and Audrey Kallberg dropped in ten as seven Ely players scored in the runaway win.

“We can play good defense when we want to,

there’s no doubt about it,” Head Coach Max Gantt said. “We played good man defense, and we pressed them a little bit. We gave up 10 points in the second half – that’s a quality effort.”

Gantt said fans can expect to see more out of the Wolves’ offense in the future.

“We will have better games finishing up at the rim and we’ll shoot threes better,” he said. “There’s even more offense to be

had. We didn’t turn it over a lot of times, and that was good, and we got open looks. Those threes will go in. I’m not too worried about that.”

Looking ahead, the Wolves are set to face tougher opponents in the coming days. They face Cromwell on Friday on the road and will be back home to host Chisholm on Monday. “Those teams will be good tests for us,” said Gantt.

HOCKEY..Continued from page 1B

Junior Garrett Rohr notched his first goal of the contest at the 13:48 mark with an assist from freshman Owen Marolt as the Wolves finished the period up 3-0.

Drew Marolt, with an assist from Richards, added to the lead in the first two minutes of the second period. Moose Lake scored its one and only goal at the 4:56 mark, but Richards and Rohr would add two more goals, with assists from Sandy, Owen Marolt and senior Ty Walker before the period was out.

Rohr notched his third goal unassisted at the 15:22 mark of the third period to close out scoring in the contest.

Ely peppered Moose Lake goalie Eli Gilbertson with 51 shots on goal and held the Rebels to just 24 shots on the afternoon, all but one of which was turned aside by Ely goalie Ben Leeson.

Ely’s Sandberg, Walker, and junior Jace Huntbatch each spent two minutes in the box on penalties, while Moose Lake skaters were out a total of

four minutes on penalties.

Playing in Ashland last Thursday, the Wolves rallied from a 3-2 deficit in the third period to outpace the Oredockers 7-5 on the strength of a Drew Marolt hat trick. Ely got on the board first at the 10:03 mark of the first period when Zemke swiped the net at the 10:03 mark with an assist from Drew Marolt.

The Oredockers responded with back-to-back goals to finish out the period.

Ely took advantage of another power play at the

2:01 mark of the second period as Drew Marolt evened the game unassisted. Ashland came back just over seven minutes later to retake the lead 3-2.

Ely tied it up at the 3:11 mark of the third period on an unassisted goal from Richards. A minute and a half later, Sandberg gave the Wolves the lead with help from Drew Marolt and Richards.

Ashland knotted the game at four less than a minute later, but Zemke put Ely back up 5-4 at the 7:40 mark. Drew Marolt scored

his second goal of the game two minutes later to put the Wolves up 6-4. Ashland hit the net once again just over a minute later, but Marolt added an insurance goal at the 16:59 mark to put the game away.

Working the net, Leeson notched 41 saves on 46 shots on goal, while the Wolves notched 54 shots against the Oredockers. Both teams spent considerable time in the box, as the Wolves were called for seven penalties, all minors. Ashland was called on five penalties.

In Dec. 5 action at Silver Bay, the Wolves fell to North Shore 4-1. Walker scored Ely’s only goal at the 1:30 mark of the second period. Ely outshot North Shore 27-23 in the game.

The Wolves were set to host the Burnett Blizzard on Friday, with a 6 p.m. start. They’ll travel to Greenway next Thursday to take on the Raiders.

GRIZZLIES..Continued from page 1B

trey and a breakaway dunk that brought roars from the home crowd. The only mercy the Spartans received was the halftime buzzer and time to lick their wounds from being pummeled 52-7 in the first half.

Evan Kajala got the Grizzlies rolling in the second half with a corner trey, but the Spartans answered right back with a deuce, a sign the second half wouldn’t be quite as dominating for North Woods. With Grizzlies Head Coach Andrew Jugovich substituting liberally, the defense was a bit more porous and the offense not as sharp. North Woods was up by 51 points, 71-20, when Jugovich emptied his bench, and the Spartans responded with a token run in the final four minutes to pull within 42 at the finish.

Burnett led the Grizzlies in scoring with 23 first-half points and 27 for the game, followed

by Jarshaw with 18 and Panichi with 11.

Jugovich was enthusiastic about the Grizzlies’ first half smackdown, but less so about the second half.

“We played really good defense the first half with plenty of steals and fast breaks,” he said. “In the second half I wanted them to be hungry, but it’s hard playing with a massive lead. To be great you have to be able to keep the intensity up no matter what, whether you’re down 50 or up 50.”

Red Lake wins 95-68

The Red Lake Warriors couldn’t have been much hotter from the field than they were when North Woods came calling last Friday, and the Grizzlies had no answers, falling 95-68.

The game stats weren’t all in the Warriors’ favor. North Woods had more rebounds, more steals, fewer turnovers and fouls, and took eight more shots

than the Warriors.

But it’s the shots that drop that count, and after North Woods took a 12-10 lead on a pair of Burnett free throws, Red Lake got hot while North Woods did not. The Warriors’ Gerald Kingbird Jr. brought the most heat, scorching the nets, shooting 15-of-24 with five three-pointers for 37 points. Red Lake knocked down 52.6 percent of their shots on the night overall as they slowly but surely put the squeeze on the Grizzlies, leading 40-26 at the half. North Woods couldn’t find the touch from the field, hitting just 31.4 percent, a performance hampered by a tough Red Lake defense that notched 13 blocked shots. The Grizzlies also had a subpar night at the charity stripe, going 9-of-20 for 45 percent.

Burnett had a strong game in a losing cause with 29 points, and Panichi and Luke Will had 13 each.

“They shot the lights out,” Jugovich said. “(Jack) Brown and Kingbird did not miss and a lot of them were contested shots, so I have to give it to them. If we make our shooting percentage and they’re not as hot, it’s a game.”

Jugovich did find a silver lining in the Grizzlies’ effort.

“We never gave up,” he said. “The fight was there, the diving on the floor, the hustle. The defense was there the entire time, no matter what. The boys never gave up.”

The Grizzlies were scheduled to be back on their home court Thursday against Moose Lake, followed by a Friday road tilt against Northland-Remer. North Woods will be on the road again on Monday against Carlton-Wrenshall, their last game before the holiday winter break. The Grizzlies are entered in the Chisholm Holiday Tourney on Dec. 29-30.

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ELY 'WOLVES

Keeping skiers motivated in a snowless winter

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

ELY— Motivating athletes in practice is always a challenge for a coach. But motivating Nordic skiers in the North Country's thus-far nearly snowless winter to date is providing an even bigger test for Ely Nordic Ski Head Coach Todd Hohenstein, now in his second year at the helm of Ely's always impressive team.

"It has been very different from last year," noted Hohenstein. "It's a great lesson in accepting what is not under our control and doing the most with what we do control."

The maintenance staff at Hidden Valley can often work miracles with even a few inches of snow, but in a winter featuring near record-warm temperatures for weeks and barely an inch or two of snow in the few weeks, there's just nothing to work with. Last year at this time, the area had nearly two feet of snow on the ground and trail conditions had been excellent for weeks, giving skiers a great start to the season.

This year, rather than skiing, team members are training through trail running, hiking with ski poles, bounding up hills, and building strength through a variety of other exercises. "It's all good training," said Hohenstein, "but over-use injuries, both the physical and mental, have increased. So, we've tried to be creative with keeping practice fresh."

Recently, the team took a break from the physical training and sat down at the Hidden Valley chalet to watch a replay of the women's World Cup racing from Finland. "There were snacks at the chalet, while our skiers took a break from their workout to think about skiing on snow," said Hohenstein.

This past week, the team did get its first opportunity to train on real snow during a visit to Giants Ridge. "There were plenty of logistics to make it happen, but I have never been at a prac-

tice for any sport that was as joyful and euphoric as those two hours on snow," said Hohenstein. "All the skiers were smiling as they finished the practice doing several intervals as if finishing their race. It was exactly what our team needed to get through to our first meet on Tuesday."

The practice at Giants Ridge was possible only because the ski area's snowmaking capabilities. The ski course in Duluth also has the ability to make snow, so that meet was able to go on despite the lack of snow generally. "Our next meet in December is on the 19th," said Hohenstein, so, hopefully by then we are

grooming natural snow, but Grand Rapids also has snowmaking capability."

While better than nothing, Hohenstein noted that skiing on man-made snow generally limits the courses to short oval loops. "Skiers end up doing multiple loops on courses that may only be 1.5 kilometers long," he said.

Skiers may end up with a break after the 19th, depending on the weather. "After the 19th, we'll take it one day at a time," said Hohenstein. "Another trip down to the Ridge for an afternoon is definitely a possibility."

Assuming the snow finally arrives, the Ely skiers have high hopes.

The boys' team, dominated by sophomores last year, is returning with all of last year's strong competitors. "Duluth East will be very hard to beat, but the boys are setting their sights on earning a state tournament entry by taking second at sections," said Hohenstein. "The girls will be rebuilding from last year as 4 members of the section team graduated. The younger skiers are excited about the opportunity to move up."

For now, they're all waiting on Mother Nature to deliver the white stuff.



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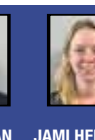
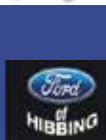
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Outdoors

Our lives in the
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WHERE'S WINTER?

Mild December unusual but not unprecedented

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — The extraordinarily mild weather so far this month is uncommon, but not unprecedented, according to state climatologist Pete Boulay. It was back in December of 1998, coming off one of the strongest el Niño events ever recorded, that the region saw temperatures even warmer

than this year, at least over the first two weeks of the month.

A very strong el Niño is currently in place in the Pacific Ocean and it appears to be significantly affecting our weather.

Back in 1998, temperatures reached the low 50s at many reporting weather stations in northeastern Minnesota as late as Dec. 15, including a 50-degree high in Tower and a 51-degree

reading near Cook on that date. Temperatures for the first two weeks of the month averaged 10-12 degrees F above average and, like this year, the ground was mostly bare. Many of the larger lakes in the region didn't freeze-up until mid-December that year. Lake Vermilion, for example, didn't fully freeze over until Dec. 13, the latest date on record.

This year, local reporting stations are running about

Right: Just a skiff of snow remains on top of the ice on the West Two River this week. The area has seen a remarkably warm and dry December so far this year.

photo by M. HelMBERGER

8-10 degrees above average to date, but this month is likely to finish significantly warmer overall than in

See WARM...pg. 5B



EXPLORATIONS

Adventures on ice

With so little snow, it's time to get out the blades

There are several ways to travel in the North Country wilderness in winter, but none is so fleeting or so rare as on skates. It takes that unusual alignment of November weather to allow for wild skating — cold, preferably below zero but not too far below zero, calm conditions, and a lack of snow.

In those early winters, like this one, when these conditions align to create the magic, it is impossible for me to resist. Yes, I've fallen through once before on my various adventures on frozen water, but that hasn't been enough to discourage me from touching blade to ice when the opportunity presents itself. I just go prepared.

It's been exceptionally mild so far this winter, with much-above average temperatures and a veritable drought of snow. But a brief cold snap just after Thanksgiving, with a couple below zero nights, gave us the gift of clear, smooth ice on many area lakes and rivers and I was intent to take advantage as long as the gods of weather allowed it.

For me, the holy grail of ice skating is being able to explore the Boundary Waters, traveling rivers and lakes, portaging where necessary. Since I use Nordic skates, long blades with a binding that clips to the bottom of a skate ski boot, portages are as simple as detaching your blades (which takes all of ten seconds), walking the portage, and

reattaching your blades on the other side (another ten seconds).

My most recent adventure took me and a friend up the Hunting Shack River from the Echo Trail, into Pauline Lake and over the portage to Nigh Lake. These two relatively small lakes are part of a cluster of a half dozen lakes tucked away south of the Echo Trail, and just west of the Jeanette Lake campground. They're located just outside of the Boundary Waters, which means they probably see fewer visitors than many lakes within the wilderness. I'd been meaning to visit them by canoe since Paul Schurke had recommended them a couple years ago, but I figured they'd make a good destination for an on-ice

adventure.

We weren't the only ones to see the advantage of a ribbon of ice. With about an inch of relatively fresh powder snow on top of the ice, the evidence of other travelers was readily apparent. We followed an otter trail most of the way to Pauline Lake before it disappeared into a small hole in the ice along the muskeg shore. A pack of wolves had also made use of the river in their own travels. Wolf tracks are easy to distinguish in fresh snow due to their large size and the telltale drag marks of their claws in the snow. Dogs tend to lift their feet higher,

See SKATING...pg. 5B

Above: Checking the ice on the Hunting Shack River, northeast of Buyck earlier this month. The brief cold snap just after Thanksgiving allowed for several inches of ice to form on many small lakes and rivers. For wilderness adventures on ice, be sure to go prepared. The backpack pictured here contains food, water, matches and other survival gear, as well as a complete change of clothes in a dry sack.

photo by V. Ranua

Below: The telltale signs of an otter traveling along the Hunting Shack River. Otter "tracks" include tracks from their feet frequently interspersed with their belly slides.

photo by M. HelMBERGER



ICE FISHING

New law has fines for trash on the ice

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — With sufficient ice on many North Country lakes, anglers are starting to move their fish houses out to their favorite honey holes. But they'll want to be aware of a new law that could cost them up to \$100 if they leave trash out on the ice.

The new law took effect July 1 and it requires all trash to be placed in a container that's secured to a fish house or your vehicle. That includes beer and pop cans, liquor bottles, cigarette butts and even fish remains.

"We don't want people leaving that directly on the ice," said Maj. Robert Gorecki, operations manager of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' enforcement division. "Number one, it can blow away. Number two, people tend to forget about that type of stuff."

Garbage left behind on the ice is one of the biggest complaints conservation officers, or COs, hear every year, Gorecki said, and it's what prompted the Legislature to pass the new law. COs report that they regularly find beverage containers, cardboard, and other trash left behind by thoughtless anglers. They also regularly find human waste, which is a public health concern as well as just, well... gross. Some of the newer high-end fish houses even have holding tanks for sewage and some users will just dump an entire season's accumulation on the ice when they leave, creating additional environmental

See TRASH...pg. 5B

Comment

Thanks for the thoughts on wolves, winter, and deer

We appreciated last week's column by Marshall HelMBERGER on the deer population and hunting. We had a good chat over coffee this morning. People are very slow to make the connections to that tough winter- maybe they didn't get out there to experience it themselves? And it is TOOBAD the DNR is making decisions based on hunting success.

We took a hike last weekend to a nearby lake that has about four-to-six inches of ice with a lot of springs. (Last winter we had a small group of wolves, but they left with the deer).

Coyotes caught a small spike buck out on the ice, devouring it was quick work, like overnight.

We saw two coyotes while walking up to the carcass.

Keep up the good work!

Julie Miedtke
Grand Rapids

SKATING...Continued from page 4B



whereas wolves, in what I suspect is an economy of motion, barely lift their feet as they walk.

While the skating conditions weren't perfect, the inch of powder snow that lay on top of the otherwise smooth ice, created no real

impediment to our skates and we made good time heading up the river, with occasional stops to check the ice thickness. It was invariably six inches deep or more, plenty safe for skating.

It was more of the same

on Pauline Lake, although occasional patches of slush or frozen slush under that inch of snow slowed our progress a bit. Nigh Lake had considerably less slush and the wind had blown a few patches clear of snow, leaving several inches of

clear black ice that was a joy to skate. Both lakes were small, Nigh checks in at 41 acres with a shoreline that is almost entirely coniferous, while Pauline is not much bigger, at just 63 acres, with a shoreline that's a bit more mixed.

I'm hoping it's not my last Boundary Waters trek this year. If the snow continues to fall elsewhere this month, I may well be off on another on-ice adventure soon. With conditions this ephemeral, there's no waiting for another day.

Above: A view of the shoreline on Nigh Lake, which is rocky and dominated by pine and spruce. Despite a slight snow cover, the skating was quite good.

photo by M. Helmberger

WARM...Continued from page 4B

1998. That warm start to the month in 1998 was followed by a brutal cold snap that set in just before Christmas, which led to one of the most dramatic temperature changes within the month of December ever recorded in our area.

Tower, which had reached 50 above in the middle of the month, bottomed out at minus-37 before the month was out, a variation within the month of 88 degrees F. The cold was so pronounced in the second half of the month that the month

overall averaged within a degree or two of normal despite the extraordinarily warm start.

That late December cold wave was likely facilitated by the rapid onset of a la Niña pattern, which cooled off much of the rest

of the winter. But there's no sign of that this year—a just a strong el Niño pattern. In fact, there's no sign of any significant change to our remarkably warm and dry December as of this week, with temperatures forecasted to continue warm with

little or no snow for the foreseeable future.

Indeed, the 8-14 day outlook from the Climate Prediction Center, shows the Upper Midwest, including all of Minnesota with an 80-90 percent probability of above-normal tempera-

tures. The average high for December 15 in Tower is 21.7 degrees, with an average low of 0.5 degrees F.

TRASH...Continued from page 4B

concerns.

Prior to the new law, conservation officers couldn't take enforcement action for trash or other waste left on the ice if a fish house was occupied.

The new law gives conservation officers the ability to educate people first, and take enforcement action as needed, according to Gorecki. Violating the law is a petty misdemeanor and could result in a \$100 fine.

"It really gives us some new tools in our tool belt to make sure the public is picking up after themselves," Gorecki said. "We can directly address that with them while we're out there on the ice talking to them about fishing or other activities, and make sure that they pick it up while we're there."

Minnesota Public Radio contributed to this story.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
36 23					35 26					35 19					32 22					35 21				
Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
12/04	32	28	0.00		12/04	34	30	0.00	12/04	34	30	0.00	12/04	34	30	0.00	12/04	34	29	0.00				
12/05	33	23	0.00		12/05	35	30	0.00	12/05	33	29	0.00	12/05	30	23	0.00	12/05	36	29	0.00				
12/06	27	21	0.00		12/06	30	21	0.00	12/06	29	22	0.00	12/06	39	23	0.00	12/06	30	21	0.00				
12/07	38	15	0.00		12/07	38	20	0.00	12/07	38	23	0.00	12/07	48	21	0.00	12/07	38	17	0.00				
12/08	50	12	0.00		12/08	48	17	0.00	12/08	43	23	0.00	12/08	37	34	0.00	12/08	51	20	0.00				
12/09	32	26	0.00		12/09	39	32	0.00	12/09	38	32	0.00	12/09	36	18	0.00	12/09	38	32	0.00				
12/10	29	17	0.09	0.7"	12/10	37	18	0.04	0.5"	12/10	34	18	0.06	1.2"	12/10	21	18	0.14	0.5"	12/10	35	18	0.11	1.0"
YTD Total			23.62	11.6"	YTD Total			25.03	5.4"	YTD Total			20.17	9.4"	YTD Total			NA		YTD Total			23.87	6.1"

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EMPLOYMENT

OPENINGS



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

Vermilion Country is a project based learning school seeking to expand our staffing. We are adding new positions! Currently open for interview on a rolling basis - call 218-248-2485 or email info@vermilioncountry.org for more information:

Licensed Teaching positions grades 7-12(B.A. or teaching license required):
 > Literature/Language Arts &/or Social Studies (Licensed) 40K-54K DOE
 > Science &/or Math Teacher (Licensed) 40K-54K DOE

Student Support and Community positions (no education license required) Benefits Eligible
 > Special Education Assistant /para(Special Education) (Hourly \$17.50 - 24.50/HR +)
 > Student Success Counselor (salary) (\$40K annual salary)
 > Student Success Program Specialist (hourly \$24-30/hr+ DOE)

Part Time:
 > American Indian Programs Liaison & Community Organizer (Hourly \$24-30/hr+ DOE) Part time 4-8 hours per week
 > Transportation Driver (Van) 5-20 hours per week. Hourly rate DOE
 > Transportation Driver (Class C School Bus) 5-20 hours per week. Hourly rate DOE

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

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.

Breitung Township

St. Louis County, Minnesota
Notice of Filing for Town Offices to be Elected

Notice is hereby given that a town election will be held in the Township of Breitung, St. Louis County, Minnesota, on Tuesday, the 12th day of March, 2024.

The first day for filing affidavits of candidacy will be Tuesday, January 2nd, 2024. The last day will be Tuesday, the 16th of January, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

Filings may be made with the Township Clerk, Dianna Sundahl. You can make an appointment by calling 218-753-6020, or visit our website for forms and mail them along with the filing fee to: Breitung Township, PO Box 56, Soudan, MN 55782

The following terms will be expiring:
 Supervisor Seat #2 for the term of 3 years
 Clerk for the term of 2 years

Filing fee is \$2.00

Dianna Sundahl, Township Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 8 & 15, 2023

CITY OF TOWER

Sealed Bid - 2004 Volkswagen Passat

1.8L Turbo, A/C and Heat Not Working.

Minimum Bid \$2,500

Contact City Hall at 218-753-4070

Bid Closing: 1/4/2024 at 4:00 PM.

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 15 & 22, 2023

CITY OF TOWER JOB POSTING

Seasonal Maintenance Worker

\$12-\$15/hr * Mowing, Snow Removal, Etc.

Must be able to lift 50 lbs

For full job description and to apply, visit www.cityoftower.com/positions-available.

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 15 & 22, 2023

FILING NOTICE GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP

MN 205.16, subd 4.

Affidavits of candidacy may be filed with the Town Clerk during regular office hours at the Town Hall from January 02, 2024 to January 16, 2024. These dates are the first day and the last day to file. Office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10 am to 2 pm. Filing fee is \$2.00

This March election will be for:
 Supervisor Position 3 – 3 year term
 Supervisor Position 5 – 3 year term
 Clerk Position – 2 year term

The Greenwood Town Hall office will have extended hours the last filing day – January 16, 2024 from 2 pm to 5 pm.

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 15 & 22, 2023

LEIDING TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF FILINGS

Filings for the following offices open on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, through Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 5 p.m. for the offices of:

1 Supervisor: 3-year term
 1 Clerk: 2-year term

Filing fee is \$2.

File the Affidavit of Candidacy at Clerk's Office. Please call 218-355-0163 (cell) for the clerk's office hours.

Marie Milan, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 15 & 22, 2023

FUNERAL SERVICES

Range Funeral Home



Virginia
 741-1481

Hibbing
 263-3276

"Friends Helping Friends"

Answers

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

KABETOGAMA TOWNSHIP

Notice of Filing for Town Offices to be Elected

Notice is hereby given that a town election will be held in the Kabetogama Township, St. Louis County, Minnesota, on Tuesday, the 12th day of March, 2024.

The first day for filing affidavits of candidacy will be Tuesday, January 2, 2024. The last day will be Tuesday, the 16th day of January, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

Filings may be made with Clerk Mary Manninen. You can either make an appointment by calling 240-9325 or the Town Hall at 875-2082 or emailing kabtown@frontier.com. You may file without appointment by coming into the Town Hall on Tuesday, January 16th, 2024, between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

The following terms will be expiring:
 Supervisor for the term of three years
 Clerk for the term of two years

Filing fee is \$2.00.

Mary Manninen, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 8 & 15, 2023

Up For Bids
 2015 GMC Sierra 1500
 SLT· 5.3 V-8 motor
 101,109 original miles
 · Crew cab · Moonroof
 · Leather Seats
 Bids will be accepted until Friday, December 29, 2023.

Vehicle can be viewed at Embarrass Vermillion FCU during normal business hours, 600 W 3rd Ave N, Aurora, MN.

We reserve the right to accept or reject any and all bids. Item is being sold "as-is" with no warranty, expressed or implied.

Bids can be submitted to any of our three branches in Aurora, Embarrass, or Tower.

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 15, 22 & 29, 2023

Subscribe to the **TIMBERJAY!**
 Call 218-753-2950



King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 North –
- 5 Green prefix
- 8 Oodles
- 12 Writer Kingsley
- 13 As well
- 14 Capri, e.g.
- 15 Souvenir seller
- 17 Move like a butterfly
- 18 Tours season
- 19 Snaky fish
- 20 Ceases
- 21 Solidify
- 22 Twitch
- 23 Shroud city
- 26 He can hold his head high
- 30 "Dream on!"
- 31 Zero-star review
- 32 Santa's runway
- 33 Old English Sheepdog feature
- 35 Skilled
- 36 Trilcar contents
- 37 "– the season ..."
- 38 Poker ploy
- 41 Fish propeller
- 42 Spa sounds
- 46 Decorative paper
- 48 "There!"
- 49 Santa's help-

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			

- er
- 9 Capital on a fjord
- 10 Radar image
- 11 Collections
- 16 Beheld
- 20 – Lancelot
- 21 Eloquent person's talent
- 22 Can metal
- 23 Indent key
- 24 GI entertainers
- 25 Tease
- 26 Cowboy's sweetie
- 27 Nemesis
- 28 Dandy guy
- 29 Newt
- 31 Bakery pur-
- chase
- 34 Canine cry
- 35 "–
- Misbehavin' "
- 37 Squabbles
- 38 Diner orders
- 39 Cash advance
- 40 Loosen
- 41 Motion picture
- 42 Folksinger Guthrie
- 43 Sainly ring
- 44 Bridge
- 46 "My word!"
- 47 Pallid

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PUBLIC NOTICE

FIELD TOWNSHIP FILING NOTICE

Affidavits of candidacy may be filed with the Field Town Clerk at 9998 East Lind Rd., Angora from Tuesday, January 2, 2024, through Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at 5 p.m. for the offices of:

1 Supervisor - 3-year term
 1 Clerk- 2-year term

Filing Fee \$2.00.

Please call the clerk to make an appointment to file your application, 218-780-7012. The clerk's office will be also be open Jan. 16 from 1-5 p.m. for filing.

Pat Chapman, Clerk, Field Township

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 15, 2023

CryptoQuip

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

Clue: X equals S

QRLM IBG ZVQZIX OLA ARL
 GMKBMAJBVVZNVL GJOL AB
 KVUTN TBGMZUMX, U'W XZI
 IBG'JL WJZQM AB XKZVL.

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CryptoQuote

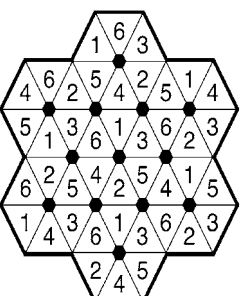
AXYDLBAAXR
 is LONGFELLOW

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

AOJ RJHQMR AN FJ TNBJR UC
 AOJ IYQAJCA NV QTT QYNIQMA
 KYJCZHKAUNMC.
 – VYUJRYUXO MUJADCXOJ

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solution



**SELL
 It
 HERE**

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

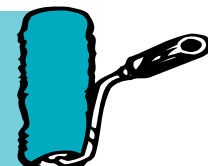
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
 ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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HOME IMPROVEMENT GUIDE



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Merry Christmas

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EMPLOYMENT

mn
 DEPARTMENT OF IRON RANGE RESOURCES & REHABILITATION
INFORMATION OFFICER II
 Permanent, Full-Time

This position will schedule, coordinate and plan special events and tradeshows for the agency; Attend and provide support for commissioner at public events. Administer agency communication activities to assist with the development, implementation and analysis of agency communication programs to include community outreach and public engagement. Assist with planning and implementation of agency's strategic plan and priorities including program evaluation and program guidelines.

Learn more and apply online at
mn.gov/careers
 Job ID: 71710

Application deadline: December 18, 2023

GREAT BENEFITS PACKAGE! Full time positions are eligible for low-cost medical and dental insurance, employer-paid life insurance, short- and long-term disability, pre-tax flexible spending accounts, retirement plan, tax-deferred compensation, sick leave, paid personal days.

AA/EOE, Veteran Friendly

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 8 & 15, 2023

mn
 DEPARTMENT OF IRON RANGE RESOURCES & REHABILITATION
Research Analysis Specialist
 Permanent, Full-Time

As the Research Analyst for the Community Development Division, the incumbent will have the opportunity to use critical thinking skills to connect small details with the big picture in their daily work and for the public. The incumbent in this position analyzes and interprets data, tracks trends and studies statistical and financial information to inform agency decisions on growing and sustaining communities and developing businesses in the Taconite Assistance Area. Analyses will include a variety of data and information to better understand the relationship between local and macro-economic trends, labor and workforce trends, emerging technologies and industries, transportation, and other key factors. Additionally, the incumbent will perform community, regional, programmatic, industry, economic and demographic research.

This position is located in Eveleth, MN with the eligibility for a mixture of in office and telework.

Learn more and apply online at
mn.gov/careers
 Job ID: 72076

Application deadline: January 3, 2024

GREAT BENEFITS PACKAGE! Full time positions are eligible for low-cost medical and dental insurance, employer-paid life insurance, short- and long-term disability, pre-tax flexible spending accounts, retirement plan, tax-deferred compensation, sick leave, paid personal days.

AA/EOE, Veteran Friendly

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 15, 22 & 29, 2023

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HOURS:
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