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The **TIMBERJAY**



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989

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\$1⁵⁰

BACK IN BUSINESS

Smiles aplenty as Tower Café opens its doors

Main Street eatery had been closed since COVID

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- The place was buzzing as Jen and Bob McDonough officially opened the doors to their next adventure, owning and operating the Tower Café, a longtime mainstay on Main Street that has been closed since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic nearly four years ago.

Excitement in the community had been building for weeks and there wasn't an empty table in the house on their opening weekend this past Saturday and Sunday. Plates piled high with pancakes, French toast, eggs, and more were coming out of the kitchen two at a time to satisfy hungry diners.

Bob was cooking pancakes

See...SMILES pg. 10



Six-year-old William Meehan, of Esko, gets some help from his grandmother Diane as he attempts to finish the large plate of chocolate chip pancakes.

photo by J. Summit

LAND USE

Black Bay campground suit dismissed

Zoning and CUP delays mandated by state law, judge determines

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

LAKE VERMILION- Christine Wyrobek, owner of the partially developed Rough-N-It campground for disabled veterans on Lake Vermilion's Black Bay, and Lance and Kari Kuhn have reached a voluntary agreement to dismiss their lawsuit against St. Louis County over missteps in the zoning and conditional use permit processes. That decision comes after a judge determined last month that the arguments presented in the suit lacked "legally sufficient grounds for relief."

Wyrobek, who initially filed rezoning and conditional use permits for the property last February but then withdrew and re-filed them on March 3, contended that both should be automatically approved under state law because the county failed to act on them within the 60-day time period specified in statute. The lawsuit also sought relief on the grounds that the Planning Commission's decision to deny the applications on May 11

See...LAWSUIT pg. 10

GREENWOOD

Board cool to request for ambulance reassignments

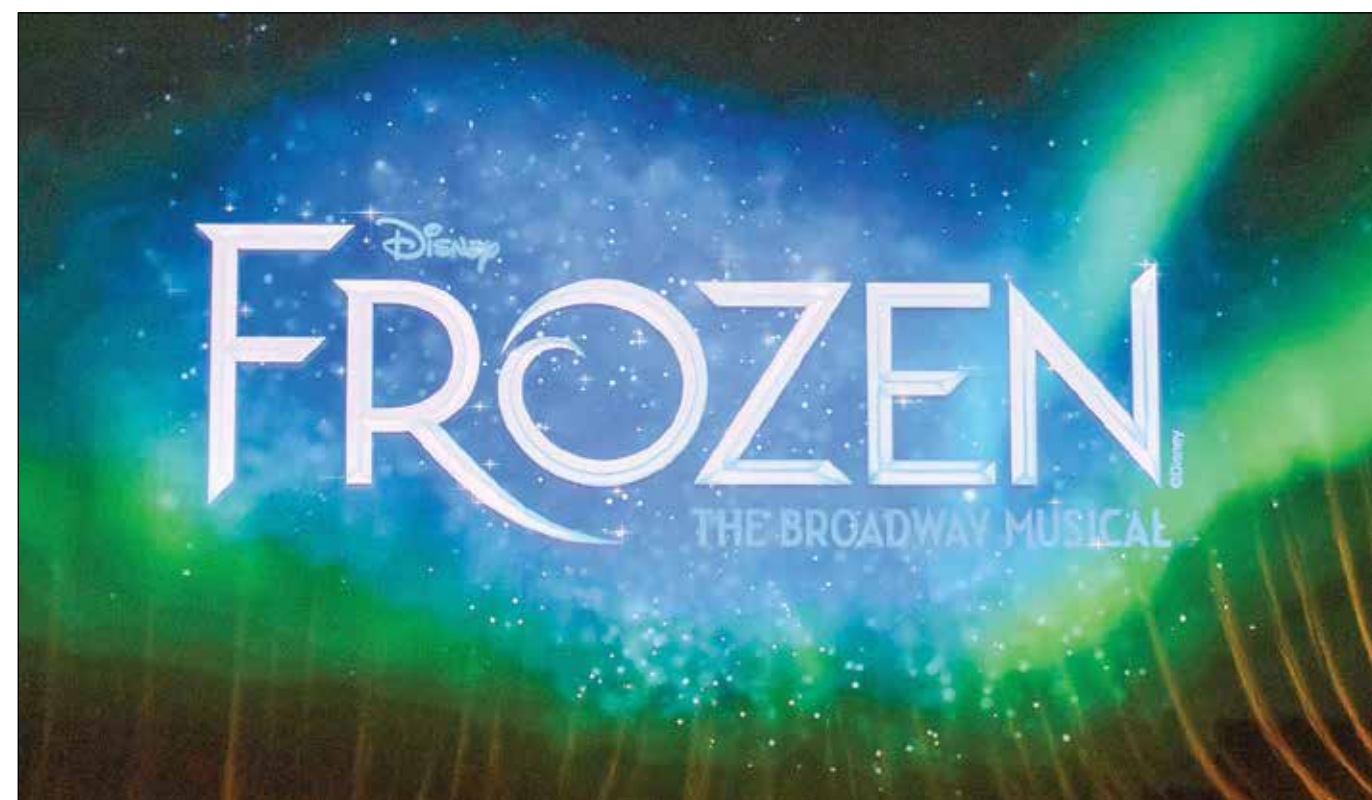
by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP— A proposal to reassign most of Greenwood Township to the Cook Ambulance Service's coverage territory drew a mixed reaction from the town board here on Tuesday.

The proposal came from Greenwood resident Lee Peterson, who has been a persistent critic of the Tower Area Ambulance Service (TAAS). Peterson wants all of the township, with the exception of the Vermilion Reservation and the Pike Bay area, to be served by Cook.

"I believe Greenwood has to be working on solutions right now," said Peterson, noting that rural services across the state are all facing issues with funding and staffing. Peterson said the new statewide legislative task force will release their report in August, but that is after the state Legislature adjourns for the year. There is a chance the Legislature will designate some one-time funding for rural ambulance services this session, he said.

See...GREENWOOD pg. 9



ELY THEATER

ELY PREPS FOR BIG PRODUCTION

Tech wizardry should make its mark

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- One of the biggest stars in the Ely Memorial High School production of "Disney's Frozen - The Broadway Musical" has no lines and sings no songs, but has a part in every scene. This performer is the stage technology for the musical, provided by Dodd Technology Inc., a nationally prominent lighting and production tech company based out of Pendleton, Ind.

Dodd Technologies provides lighting, audio, rigging, set design, and other production services for big-name clients like the NBA All-Stars and Mandalay Casino Arena. Now the company is providing these same professional services for the production of "Frozen" here in Ely.

What's the cost of all



this state-of-the-art stage tech? Absolutely nothing. It's a donation from Mark Dodd, the owner of Dodd Technologies.

Connections

Sometimes it's who you know. Mark Dodd was a

See...TECH pg. 9

Top: A test projection on the scrim for the Ely Memorial High School production of "Disney's Frozen - The Broadway Musical," set to be performed later this month.

Above: Robert Gough of Dodd Technologies (right) and other production staff work on preparations at the Ely Memorial Auditorium.

Ely changes its name to Arendelle

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- Heidi Omerza, the Mayor of Ely, issued a proclamation at the beginning of the first city council meeting of the year, changing the name of the city to Arendelle as the council members looked on in approval. The new city name will only be in effect from Jan. 19-21. The name change is to honor the Ely Memorial High School musical, which will be performed on those dates.

The school won a national Disney competition held

See...COUNCIL pg. 9



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Community notices

Embarrass Timber Hall collecting books, games and puzzles to beat the winter blues

EMBARRASS - Timber Hall Event Center is once again collecting gently used books, puzzles, and games during the month of January. Drop donations in the red tote at the Embarrass Vermilion Federal Credit Union in Aurora, Tower, and Embarrass and then join us on Feb. 3 for the "Cuddle Up with a Book" pancake breakfast at Timber Hall from 8 to 11 a.m. to browse the assortment. The cost for adults is \$7, kids ages 6-10 \$4 and kids 5 and under eat free. For more information on upcoming activities and events please call Sue Beaton at 218-750-2718 or suebeaton922@gmail.com.

Embarrass Winter Festival rescheduled

EMBARRASS - The Winter Festival, originally scheduled for Jan.20, has been postponed until Feb. 17 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Timber Hall Event Center. Festival activities will include making igloos, sledding, skating, games, bonfires, s'mores and more. For more information on upcoming activities and events please call Sue Beaton at 218-750-2718 or suebeaton922@gmail.com.

EMPOWER to hold annual meeting Jan. 22

ELY - EMPOWER, a progressive women's group will meet on Monday, Jan. 22 at 6 p.m. at the Ely Folk School, 209 E. Sheridan Street. You must be an EMPOWER member to attend the annual meeting. To become a member mail a \$25 check for annual dues, payable to EMPOWER PO Box 14, Ely, MN 55731 or contact Janine at pattenj82@gmail.com.

Lake County Announces 2024 Aquatic Invasive Species Grant Opportunity

TWO HARBORS - Lake County is seeking grant proposals to prevent the introduction or limit the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) in Lake County. Grant proposals should address goals in the Lake County AIS Plan which can be found at lake-countyais.org. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis from Jan. 1, 2024, through March 22, 2024. Grant proposals should request a minimum of \$100 and cannot exceed \$30,000.

- Eligible Applicants and Projects must:
- Be located in Lake County or service work areas or AIS concerns within Lake County.
 - Include but are not limited to organizations such as lake associations, management agencies, non-profit organizations and local government agencies.
 - Include individuals, such as for scholarships to attend AIS Detectors training.
 - Include equipment to reduce the risk of aquatic invasive species, such as hot water/high pressure systems for watercraft cleaning.
 - Include youth. Youth are required to submit with an adult mentor.

The grant application and all details can be found at lakecountyaais.org/pages/grant. The Lake County AIS Committee will review applications. 2024 application selection will focus on: education and outreach about aquatic invasive species; aquatic resource (lakes, reservoirs, streams, rivers, wetlands) protection and maintenance; tools, signs, or amenities at water accesses to facilitate best practices for lake users. Grant applicants for the first round of 2024 funding will be notified at latest by April 26, 2024.

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MDC offers winter snowshoe programming that connects with Iron Range History

CHISHOLM - The Minnesota Discovery Center (MDC) in Chisholm is a haven for outdoor enthusiasts of all ages this winter, especially for those who are fascinated with Iron Range history. With a range of snowshoeing experiences, MDC is set to provide some exciting adventures for kids and adults alike. Among the offerings are two full moon snowshoe hikes, a day-time snowshoe adventure hike, and a special kids discover snowshoeing family day.

According to MDC Visitor Services Manager and Snowshoe Program Coordinator, Erin Cullen, the anticipation is high as the fresh snow arrived just in time for the popular winter snowshoe programming at MDC. With exception to the kids discover snowshoeing family day, the special snowshoeing hikes require pre-paid reservations, every reservation includes a snowshoe rental, and each snowshoeing experience is complete with a bonfire, s'mores, and a warm cup of hot cocoa.

Regular admissions apply to the kids discover snowshoeing family day on February 3 (visitors receive 1 free youth snowshoe rental with purchase of 1 adult snowshoe rental) and includes a snowshoe scavenger hunt history hike in Heritage Park, educational activities and games, and much more.

"We are excited to offer a new snowshoeing experience for area youth and families this winter that encourages kids to get outside and explore Iron Range history," said Erin Cullen. Erin also noted, "For the special snowshoe hikes, we'll embark on a 3-mile (round trip) ad-



MDC offers snowshoe experiences for all ages both day and night.

venture to the Glen Location (a former mining location) with our trained snowshoe guides. Our guides will point out fun facts and historic artifacts along the way. After exploring, we will enjoy a cup of hot cocoa and roast the perfect s'more over a bonfire in front of the historic Thompson Homestead, an outdoor museum exhibit at MDC."

- Here are the upcoming snowshoeing events at MDC:
- Wolf Moon Snowshoe Hike on January 25 at 5:30 p.m.
 - KIDS Discover Snowshoeing Family Day on February 3 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. (admissions apply)
 - Snowshoe Adventure Day Hike on February 10 at 1 p.m.



► Snow Moon Adventure Hike on February 22 at 5:30 p.m.

In addition to these events, MDC also offers snowshoe rentals for youth, adults, and groups. Schools, clubs, and businesses can also inquire about fleet rentals for private events and programs. Snowshoe rentals are available for onsite and offsite self-guided use Tuesday through Saturday. For more information about rentals and upcoming events, visit www.mndiscoverycenter.com or call call 218-254-7959, or email info@mndiscoverycenter.com.

INNOVATION

Partner with U of MN Extension to bring deep winter greenhouse technology to your farm or community

DULUTH - Grant money is available to a limited number of Minnesota farmers to build winter greenhouses for growing fresh produce.

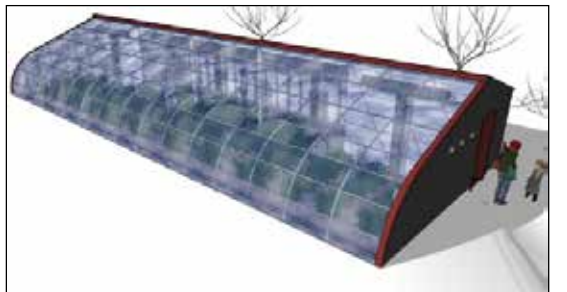
The opportunity, supported by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's AGREETT program, is available through University of Minnesota Extension's Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships (RSDP). RSDP seeks one specialty crop farmer in each of its five regions to partner on passive solar greenhouse research and education. Similar structures - called deep winter greenhouses - have been built in the program since 2016. To date, farmers have been able to profitably grow a variety of salad greens that are sold to direct market consumers.

"The new farm scale deep winter greenhouse design is optimal for farmers that want to ex-

pand their growing season to produce crops for their customers throughout the winter while limiting the use of fossil fuel heating. This is a great way to generate revenue for your farm in what is currently the off season," said U of MN's Greg Schweser

The greenhouses absorb heat from sunlight, providing a low-cost, low-carbon winter food production system. The structure is built with a south-facing, angled glazing wall that captures heat from the sun. Heat is stored in an underground thermal mass of soil or rock and dissipates into the above-ground planting area at night. By relying primarily on solar heat, the farm scale deep winter greenhouse enables farmers to grow crops using only minimal backup heating from delivered fuel or electric heat.

RSDP will provide \$25,000 of the expected



\$48,000 to \$58,000 cost to build a prototype greenhouse. In return, participants agree to share access to their structure for research projects, public workshops, and demonstrations for three years. Proposals are due Feb. 14.

"Farm-scale deep winter greenhouses have the potential to transform local food production here in Minnesota. The farmers who sell their crops at local markets or in local grocery stores will no longer be bound by the short growing season. With low-energy winter food production, growers will increase their revenues and Minnesotans will

have year-round access to fresh, locally grown healthy foods," said state Rep. Brad Tabke, D-Shakopee. Tabke is a member of the House Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee who has championed new approaches to growing produce.

For more information on deep winter greenhouses and the request for applications, visit: zumn.edu/deepwintergreenhouse. Descriptions of RSDP's regions are available on RSDP's website.



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CITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Should Tower buy the county public works facility?

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER— Should the city of Tower agree to purchase the county public works facility, now being vacated by St. Louis County? That's the question that the council has talked about for more than a year, but the potentially \$260,000 decision will need to be made in the next couple months or the city could lose the opportunity.

An ad hoc committee established by the council to examine the pros and cons was set to meet Wednesday, after the *Timberjay's* weekly presstime. The city had been waiting on information on utility costs and the county provided that information to the city last month. The 31-acre county site, developed mostly in the 1980s, includes a main office and large shop, a salt dome, a cold storage warehouse, a fueling tank, and a four-

acre, graveled grounds with room for considerable storage or new construction. In addition to the facilities and grounds, the county plans to leave a considerable amount of equipment and furnishings.

County officials are interested in selling the site to the city for the appraised price of \$260,000 and it's unclear how much room the city might have to negotiate.

The council took no action on the latest update from Clerk-Treasurer Michael Schultz, but the ad hoc committee will likely have a recommendation for the council for its February meeting.

In other business on Monday, the council, led by Acting Mayor Joe Morin in the absence of Mayor Dave Setterberg, took its first stab at its annual reorganization but postponed most decisions on appointments to city committees

until February when Setterberg and council member Kevin Norby, who was also absent Monday, could be in attendance. From discussion it appears there will be few changes from last year's assignments.

The council did reappoint Greg Buckley and Beth Debeltz to new six-year terms on the Tower Economic Development Authority.

The council also agreed to hire new staff for the ambulance, including Jen McDonough as an EMR and Barb Garrison as an EMT. Garrison works as an EMT at Ely-Bloomenson Hospital and her hiring may allow the Tower ambulance to assist the hospital with more transfers during hours when Garrison is on duty at the hospital. Patients in the Ely-Bloomenson ER have, at times, had to wait many hours or even days for transfers to larger hospitals due to the lack of available

ambulances. Monday's hirings are contingent on background checks.

In other business, the council:

► Approved a new housing study by Maxfield Research to assess demand and an initial market assessment for the creation of market rate rental housing in Tower. The city is currently working with the Minnesota Housing Partnership to develop a new project, either for seniors or workforce housing. While there is currently considerable funding available for new housing in Minnesota, Morin said an updated housing study is essential to any planned funding request.

TEDA will pay \$5,000 toward the \$7,200 cost of the study, with the city covering the rest.

► Approved a resolution allowing for the city to apply for culture and tourism grant funds from the Department of Iron Range

Resources and Rehabilitation later this month.

► Approved a supplemental letter from SEH authorizing rebidding of the drinking water treatment facility project, which initially came in millions of dollars over budget.

► Heard from Schultz that the city won't know the amount of its annual distribution from the Duluth-Superior Area Community Foundation until after July of this year. The foundation is now managing the city's Gunderson Trust funds and the city expects a significant increase in the annual distribution from the funds going forward.

► Opened two sealed bids for the purchase of the city's former airport courtesy car and approved the high bid of \$2,887 from Shawn Webster. The other bid for the 2004 VW Passat was less than the city's minimum of \$2,500.

► Approved seeking bids for the city's legal

publishing for 2024 without including any standards beyond the statutory requirements for official newspapers. Schultz had suggested that the council set some additional requirements for the bidding process this year. "From my professional standpoint, it is beneficial if there is an online presence and easily searchable notices," said Schultz.

Morin said he agreed that an online presence was valuable but said he doesn't utilize the Internet for much information himself. The *Timberjay* provides free online access to all of its public notices, which are easily searchable. The city's other newspaper maintains a website but fails to post the city's legal notices on its site, or on a statewide notices website, as required by state law for any official newspaper.

2142 board elects Hilde as chair, creates building committee

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

VIRGINIA- ISD 2142 District 5/Cherry school board member Lynn Hilde was selected by his peers as the 2024 board chair at Tuesday night's organizational meeting at the district office in Virginia.

Hilde replaces former board chair Pat Christensen.

Bob Larson was elected vice-chair, Chet Larson was picked for clerk, and Chris Koivisto was named treasurer.

During the discussion of committee assignments for the new year, board member Rob Marinaro generated some discussion by proposing two new committees, one for buildings and grounds and another for transportation.

"I think those are two we should have committees for, to keep communication going between the board and various people,"

Marinaro said. "I think we need to be at least involved in and aware of what's going on. There's big things that go on in there."

Chet Larson provided immediate pushback.

"I don't think any more committees are necessary," he said. "I think we get plenty of information for all of this. We don't need to be stepping in here."

"But it's nice to have a committee in there to be involved," Marinaro responded. "I've been in a lot of this stuff, so I don't need to argue. If that's not what the board wants, that's OK."

After some additional comments, agreement was reached that transportation could be handled just as readily by having transportation director Kay Cornelius give updates at board meetings. But the idea of a building and grounds committee received increasing support.

"A building and main-

tenance (committee would help) to get connected a little bit more on what some of our projects are," Koivisto said.

Marinaro said a committee would give the board more of a heads up about building projects.

"We hear it after the fact. We aren't on the ground floor of knowing what's going on," he said.

Marinaro gained enough support for the measure to pass. Marinaro, Koivisto, and Nathan Briggs volunteered to serve on the committee.

In other business, the board:

► Voted to keep their salaries and reimbursement rates the same as in 2023. Board members receive \$400 per month for regular and working sessions, regardless of attendance, plus \$15 an hour for attendance at special meetings, committee meetings, workshops and conference sessions. Mileage is reimbursed at the IRS-estab-

lished rate of \$0.67 per mile. They also receive per diem for meals of \$15 for breakfast, \$20 for lunch, and \$25 for dinner.

► Designated Frandsen Bank, North Star Credit Union, and Ely Area Credit Union as the district's official depositories.

► Retained Colisimo, Patchin and Kearney, Ltd. as the district's legal counsel.

► Designated the *Cook News Herald* as the district's official newspaper.

► Heard a report from Cornelius about the district's conversion to propane-fueled buses. Cornelius said that about 95 percent of the fleet is now powered by propane and that the district is "making a lot of money" from the savings in fuel costs.

► Heard a report from Superintendent Reggie Engebretson about a concern expressed by a South Ridge parent about the school's football team. The

parent believed students would be better served by changing from 11-man football to nine-man, as the team was winless this year and lost most of their games by wide margins. Engebretson said that according to Minnesota State

High School League procedures, South Ridge is locked in to 11-man competition for next season, but the district will submit an application to move to nine-man in 2025.



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OPINION

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

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

Editorial

Stauber's cowardice

By endorsing Trump, Stauber has signed onto criminality and deceit

During his five years as Minnesota's Eighth District Congressman, no one could possibly mistake Pete Stauber as a leader. He is a follower, a minion, who does what he's told, and that sad reality was made all the more apparent by his recent endorsement of former President Donald Trump in his bid to recapture the White House.

Consider for a moment what Stauber's endorsement says, not about Trump, but about Stauber himself. Stauber is a man who witnessed firsthand the assault on our nation's capitol building three years ago by a mob of the misled, who'd been fed lies about a stolen election by Donald Trump. Stauber is well aware that the man he has just endorsed for president incited that mob to attack Congress in hopes of stopping the counting of the electoral votes that would confirm Joe Biden's victory in the 2020 election.

Donald Trump was the first president in American history to refuse the peaceful transfer of power, even though he was well aware he had lost the election. His own White House and campaign legal and political advisors had told him so. Recounts in states like Arizona and Georgia had told him so. The attorney general had told him so. The courts had told him so. Even the CEO of the company Trump hired to prove election fraud had told him so after reviewing the election results.

Rather than concede, Trump lied and conspired with others to violate his oath of office and undermine the U.S. Constitution to remain in power. As has been revealed through legal filings and numerous guilty pleas by his accomplices, Donald Trump worked to create false slates of electors which he submitted to Congress and then pressured Vice President Mike Pence to illegally substitute those fake electors for the real ones certified by the states. These aren't politically motivated allegations, hatched by the Biden administration. These are facts, revealed in most cases by Trump's own staff about the events leading up to the attack on Washington.

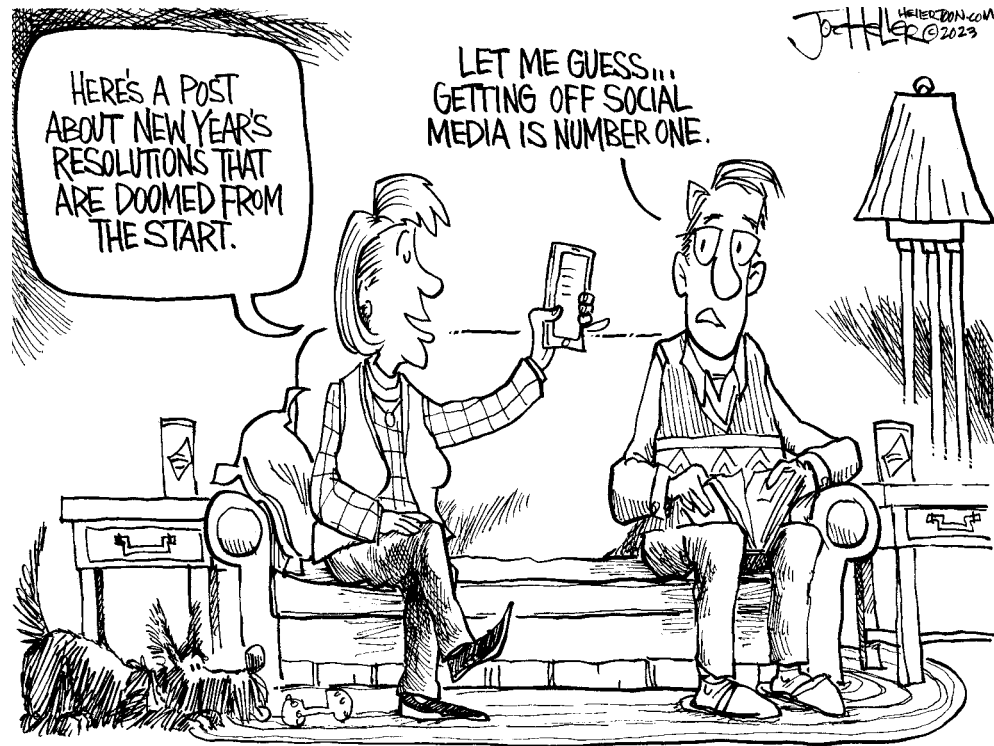
Pete Stauber knows all this. He is also well aware that Trump plans to do it all over again should he ever, somehow, regain the presidency. Stauber is well aware

that Trump says he plans to use the presidency to pardon those who attacked the capitol, including those who attacked police, and to seek retribution against his perceived political enemies, including summary execution of military men who took steps to block a Trump coup. Stauber doesn't just tolerate Trump's Big Lie, and these violent and hateful words, illegal actions, and violations of the Constitution. He doesn't just look the other way. He endorses it. All of it, because when you get in bed with Donald Trump, you end up carrying all his baggage.

Stauber is well aware that Donald Trump faces 91 felony counts from four different jurisdictions. He is well aware that Trump has already been found guilty of fraud, sexual assault, and defamation, and he recognizes full well that if Donald Trump regains the White House, he likely won't relinquish it the next time, particularly if doing so meant he could, again, face prosecution and imprisonment. He won't care that the Constitution limits a president to two terms. Trump intends to be the next Vladimir Putin and he'll do whatever it takes to hold power as long as it suits him. Trump has made it plain that he is a man unwilling to abide by the Constitution, by law, or by tradition, the three elements that sustain our democratic form of government.

Stauber's endorsement of such a man is incredibly revealing. It speaks most of all to Stauber's unwillingness to support the Constitution, despite the oath he has taken. It shows his absolute lack of principle and his willingness to do anything to maintain the power and privilege of a member of Congress.

Stauber can not endorse Donald Trump and claim to be a law-and-order candidate. By endorsing Trump, he is openly disrespecting the more than one hundred police officers injured during the Jan. 6 attack. Stauber can't claim that character or honesty are important to him since Trump lies about virtually everything. Stauber's endorsement reveals his true character, as a craven henchman to a would-be dictator. It is shameful beyond words.



Letters from Readers

Biden on the right track with support for hydrogen

It is welcome news from the Biden Administration announcing support of the clean hydrogen industry as an alternative for vehicle owners instead of only having electric transportation availability.

Toyota has 10,000 hydrogen-fueled cars on the road in the U.S. that provides proof of concept for the viability of hydrogen vehicles. Other car manufacturers also have hydrogen vehicles in the U.S. and other parts of the world.

The national electric grid system is unlikely to be able to support the replacement of the existing 291 million fossil fuel vehicles with electric vehicles dependent on the grid. Parts of the 50- to 60-year-old grid may be unable to provide that additional electricity capacity. Moreover, the expectation of further extreme weather conditions will raise the frequency and the length of blackouts during which time batteries cannot be recharged. As a result, some electric cars will be temporarily inoperable.

Just transferring the power for transportation from gasoline to the electric grid does not solve the greenhouse gas emission problem. The grid presently generates 60 percent of its electricity using fossil fuels. Transition to renewable fuels for the grid has been significantly

slow.

The administration's subsidy provides tax credits for ten years for clean hydrogen ranging from 60¢ to \$3 per kilogram of hydrogen based on the emissions of the hydrogen production process. Currently transportation is the largest source of greenhouse emissions in the U.S.

Gerry Snyder
Ely

Trump flips truth on its head

In the uncertain climate of this crucial election year, I recently stumbled upon a Facebook posting which struck me as particularly pertinent, and timely, not only as a sad commentary for our times, but also as a wake-up call to those still in the thrall of Donald Trump and his delusional madness. With apologies to the originator of the quote, and at the risk of being accused of plagiarism, I'll repeat it here: "How sad it must be, believing that scientists, scholars, historians, economists and journalists have devoted their entire lives to deceiving you, while a reality tv star, with decades of fraud and exhaustively documented lying, is your only beacon of truth and honesty."

How truly sad, and frightening, that so many of our fellow citizens continue to be willingly duped by this vile conman.

Lynn Scott
Soudan

Let's make 2024 the year of nonviolence

As we start the New Year, let's make a promise to ourselves, our families, and the people around us: to live without doing violent behavior. This means more than just not being physically aggressive. It's about being kind, understanding, and patient with each other every day.

Nonviolence isn't just for big movements or famous people. It starts with each of us. When we're angry, we can stop and take a deep breath. If we don't get what someone is saying, we can ask them to explain. If someone is mean to us, we can stay peaceful. It's all about the words we use, how we say them, and what we do in difficult situations.

This year let's promise to really listen to others, to talk civilly even when we don't agree, and to see the good in everyone we meet. By doing this, we're not just becoming better ourselves, we're also making our neighborhoods nicer places to live.

Does this seem too simple? Powerful ideas often are simple. What could the world be like if we all tried these simple ways of being?

Leonard Snyder, MA,
LPC, Bloomington

COMMENTARY

Speaking of New Year's resolutions...

It is the beginning of a new year. I just turned off my radio after the top of the hour's morning news. I try to keep abreast of what's happening in the big world out there without becoming too discouraged. It's amazing how little things seem to change from day to day. But I know that what I hear is but a tiny slice of reality. I've lived in my simple cabin near the end of this gravel road for several years now, shielded from much of the chaos engulfing so many fellow inhabitants of Planet Earth. Here, I'm sheltered from the worst of the storm. I know that I am very fortunate.



KATHLEEN
MCQUILLAN

is the nearly constant din of highway noise that emanates from the paved highway a mile away. After decades of intensive marketing, our state tourism department has succeeded in enticing more and more urban dwellers to partake in the natural beauty of Minnesota's northern lakes and forests. I, like many who live here, have worked hard to accept the inevitable changes brought by the influx. All that aside, it's a good day for a walk.

My boots scuff along the gravel road, muffled by the season's first skiff of snow. A single set of tire tracks mar the surface, laid down sometime overnight when the snow began to fall. Further along, I notice some

faint rabbit tracks near a popular deer crossing. Today, however, there are only signs of one small deer — strange for this place where deer tracks would frequently be mixed with those of a mink or weasel, a fisher or wolves — just some of the woodland creatures that also live here in the boreal forest. But all that has changed.

Not far from this crossing, I stop to glance beyond the beefy padlocked steel gate erected this past summer by a group of hunters. They purchased their property at the same time that two other hunting parties bought adjacent acreage. After forty years as the sole residents along this two-mile road, the presence of strangers camped across from my driveway has been a jarring experience. I've lost my privacy and the freedom to walk upon the hundreds of acres that sur-

round me. These three parcels went up for auction and sold quickly, leaving little time to adjust.

Come September, the armed cadres descended upon the territory in search of wild game. First grouse, then goose, then bear, then deer. Arriving every weekend and then, once November arrived, every day. By the amount of shooting, I imagined the terror for every creature that moved. Even I no longer felt safe.

"Adjust," I'd silently chant to myself in an effort to calm my nerves. "Accept that this is their way of enjoying their little piece of paradise." Then my inner voice would bark right back. "But, it's not my way!" Accepting change is difficult.

Now it's January. They've wrapped up their camp and returned home. I can put all that

behind me and indulge in the soothing sound of wind breathing through the Norway pine and the faint whisper from under a raven's wings as he flies overhead. With time, I begin to hear the deepening of my own breath as I hike the hill, carved long before my time here by torrents of snowmelt and spring rains surging through the creek bed. At the top of the hill, I pause to catch my breath. I sigh. All is not lost.

We're already moving toward the halfway mark of January 2024. Despite so much that's changing in the neighborhood, and in the world, I want to be hopeful. Even if it's challenging and sometimes overwhelming. I want to be open to the future and face it with optimism and courage. When the problems of

See NEW...pg. 5

We need economics for the people

Americans deserve an economic system “of the people, by the people, for the people.” Economics, a human contrivance run by humans, has been reified or “thingified” by turning subjects into objects. An ideology of things converts workers into commodities and consumers into objects to be manipulated. Economics is falsely explained as impersonal mechanical forces, independent and separate from human-directed motives, power and interests.

Supply and demand, an entity operating in a vacuum, free of human intervention determines price. Baloney! Corporate employers, few in number, exercise almost total power over resources, production, supply, price and distribution, by far more than any other players. Employers are positioned to control supply, set price increases and manipulate demand with corporate propaganda! Public interest, consumer and worker, the 99-percent, are dehumanized and excluded.

Inflation has been deceptively defined as too much money chasing too few goods and services. Overlooked is the fact that employers (CEO's and directors) make decisions to raise prices that outpace inflation. Capitalism, a self-serving system, currently pays CEO's more than 300 times the average earnings of their employees, compared to 20 times in 1965.

Torrents of “facts and figures,” flow charts and graphs, verbiage and gobbledegook fill the financial pages and airwaves to spew mind fog in serving one-sided interests of the rich. Free enterprise, free markets and free from regulation begs the question rarely asked, “free for whom?”

Economic citizens, “we the people” must

question assumptions to open new possibilities.

Magic aside, corporate hierarchy dominates and holds power over the subordinate and voiceless. Critique, question, opposition and alternatives are excluded in corporate media, universities and in political discourse. Few are positioned and empowered to serve themselves at another's expense. By human design, hidden in plain sight, the system bathes the self-serving few in luxury while the rest “take a bath.”

**Harold Honkola
Stillwater**

Try the carrot, not the stick

If the goal is bring forth more babies, shouldn't we be rewarding motherhood instead of requiring it? The typical person deciding to terminate their pregnancy is someone who already has one or more children, may want to have another sometime in future, but doesn't currently see a viable path to raising another child.

How do we change that calculation without providing real-world financial support? Anyone with experience in successfully raising or training anyone or anything knows that requiring behavior without rewarding it doesn't work very well.

**Dave Porter
Minneapolis**

U.S. supporting genocide in Palestine

Merry Christmas? Hardly. Bethlehem, where Jesus was born, as well as all of Palestine continue to be occupied (since 1948) by Israel, with American weapons and blessings. In just the last three months, Israel has made Gaza potentially unlivable, killing over 20,000 people, mostly women and children with thousands more still buried under the rubble of their homes and destroyed

hospitals. Even the UN buildings have been hit. The Islamic University of Gaza where I taught some years ago to my Palestinian students has been destroyed. And America (Biden et al) has vetoed the call for a cease fire that almost all of the United Nations has asked for. He wants Israeli murder to continue and he is our beloved President? These criminals in Washington want to continue the genocide, the killing of Palestinians.

I hope you folks know what's going on. May I recommend some honest websites-news sources: The Jewish Voice for Peace, The Electronic Intifada, Code Pink, Mondoweiss (also Jewish media that support Palestine), and the Answer Coalition to name some of them. Most major mass media support Israel and U.S. foreign policy because they are corporations that profit from, for example, the weapons industry. Hardly a free press and hardly democratic.

The majority of us do not support the genocide that Biden, et al are committing against our brothers and sisters in Palestine but many of us are not surprised because that is what America stands for. In Vietnam, America killed three million Vietnamese who were never enemies to the U.S. America killed about a million Iraqi's just so the U.S. could gain control over the oil from the region. In Nicaragua, the U.S. (Reagan/Bush) gave weapons to the Contras to try to overthrow the democratically elected Sandinista government killing over 50,000 Nicaraguans.

There are many examples where the U.S. has destroyed democratic governments (Chile-1973, Guatemala-1954)-the list is very long.

America is good at the one thing that Americans want the least, and that is killing and war. War is good for the arms industry and not good for the world

nor for us Americans. The U.S. government is a killing organization-organized at the highest level. A killing machine and very good at brainwashing its citizens.

Both parties are in it together. A good person has but a small chance of being our representative in Washington. They are almost all criminals and should be impeached and tried for their criminal activities currently the genocide that they started and refuse to stop in Palestine. Viva Palestine!!

**Steve Johnson
Ely**

Time to address the problem with wolves

With the past several winters being severe, the wolves have taken to decreasing the deer population greatly and have also attacked and dragged off peoples' pets in the surrounding communities. The DNR has mismanaged the deer population for years now. One only has to look at the winters of 1996-1997 to see that those winters also contributed to the declining deer population.

This year Babbitt hunters only managed to bag a total of nine deer. In speaking to the meat processor at Zup's in Tower, they only had processed seven deer all season. Residents in surrounding towns and townships complained about the loss of their family pets. Lots of people with trail cams put those cams up on their deer stands and they could see what was going on. You cannot expect people to get excited about hunting when there are no deer to hunt. I know a lot of hunters who have put their guns back in their cases who said they would not be taking them back out. Next year there will be more that do the same.

It seems to me that zones that have very few deer should be closed down over deer season.

Deer season could be decreased going from three weeks down to nine days, which is what Wisconsin has. There were many years that I can remember we had only a five-day season.

The DNR has to make a choice; either protect the wolves, which would bring significant loss to hunters statewide, or protect the deer population and do something about the wolves. In the last 30 years that I have hunted, it has been in the southeastern part of the state. The deer like the corn, soybeans and apples much better than cedar boughs.

It is my hope that the DNR would take a look at other ways to better the hunting situation by looking into and implementing plans to increase the deer population and decrease the wolves so that the Minnesota hunting season can interest the people again. It may be a short season, but some hunters start making plans for the next season right after the current season ends. Putting meat on the table brings joy to many hunters, young and old. Generations have looked forward to having venison to eat and the ability to teach young ones to hunt, handle a firearm and so much more. Families in the Northland sometimes hunt together, staying at a hunting shack and spending quality time together. Families in nearby communities would be less likely to lose a beloved pet. I pray that all of this will be food for thought for the DNR.

**Roland Fowler
Embarrass**

Do we need two RV parks in Ely?

We want people to come to Ely to enjoy our restaurants, shops and most of all, our proximity to the wilderness. In Ely, we have a pathway called the Trezona Trail. It is there for all to enjoy. Bik-

ers, roller bladers, moms pushing baby carriages, dog walkers, and in winter, cross country skiers all use this trail, which is accessible right here within the city limits. It's a treasure, a little replica of the bigger wilderness beyond. Not everyone can walk in the larger woods, due to age or other health problems. However, here is the Trezona Trail, a scenic walk by a small lake surrounded by bird song in the spring, glimpses of wildlife in winter, and mushroom viewing in the fall. It is easily traversed as it is paved. Above all, it is a haven for dog walkers.

Additionally, there also exists in Ely, an established RV park currently for sale. It is very near grocery shopping, closer to town, and close to Hidden Valley with its biking and walking trails. This site is currently for sale so my question is: why would we want to destroy the Trezona Trail? The initial construction noises from chainsaws, bulldozers, and gravel trucks which will later be followed by diminished tree cover and overall din from the proposed Miner's Lake RV park will greatly diminish the trail's current tranquility.

**Nan Snyder
Ely**

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.

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

The Year There Was No Winter

a poem by Betty Firth, Timberjay columnist

The year there was no winter
Minnesotans were befuddled.
They thought that Mother Nature
had all her seasons muddled.

How can you trust creation
with no snow in January?
Winter's supposed to follow fall.
It makes a person wary

to look outside and see the grass
instead of drifts knee deep.
What's left that you can count on?
It's enough to make you weep.

Greeting friends is difficult:
you meet someone out walking.
If you can't complain about
the snow,
what's the use of talking?

Even though the streets are bare,
winter blahs descend.
You can't go skiing on concrete.
Even though you might pretend.

What's up with Mother Nature?
Why can't she comprehend
that this just doesn't work for us?
Why won't she make amends?

If she'd just send some snow
right now
down on bare Minnesota,
we'd feel the world
was right again
once we got our quota.

Forecasters don't know
what to do.
The shortage strikes them dumb.
They start to make up weather
that they know will never come.

“30% chance of flurries”
they say, hopeful that reality
will heed and reassert itself,
but the skies maintain neutrality.

Snow blower sales have
bottomed out.
Snowplows sit and rust.
Ski areas have prayer meetings,
but the folks are losing trust.

Minnesotans' self-esteem
is wrapped up in our snow.
It takes courage and builds
character
to survive the wintry blow.

Folks who fled to Florida
were soft and couldn't take it.
Get with it, Mother Nature,
we're tough and won't forsake it.

Let storm clouds build and rumble
to blanket this bare earth.
Allow us Minnesotans to
rebuild our low self-worth.

*A poem by Betty Firth written in
1987 updated for 2023*

NEW...Cont. from page 4

the day seem too complex and the path forward blurred or dim, I want to stand with those who are shining a bright light.

I want to experience excitement for the start of a new year and joyful anticipation for the things yet to be discovered. I want to be strong and brave as we set goals and overcome the barriers that stand in the way of reaching them. I want to be an inspiration and a source of wisdom whenever possible for the next generation taking hold of life's baton. I want to face the future with resolve.

No one is saying that the year 2024 will be easy. In fact, signs suggest we may be entering one of the most critical periods in human history. Our mettle is sure to be tested.

If our ancestors could ring our phones, they might assure us that we will get through this if we pull together and hold fast to the core principles that guided human beings before us through their darkest of times. Acceptance, Respect, Cooperation, Honesty, Fairness, Patience, Perseverance, Understanding and Gratitude are just a few principle values that can sustain our hope and vision. They're worth a moment of serious reflection. If our children and grandchildren could find the words, they might tell us that we have no choice but to stay hopeful. They might beg us to tackle the tough stuff first, and act quickly and decisively for their protection and best interests before it's too late. Just imagine.

I pause on the road and take a long look around. The trees are covered in hoarfrost. The frozen creek catches rays from the rising sun. Everything sparkles. The beauty is breathtaking. I am filled with awe, thankful to be alive, convinced in this moment that there just is no other way to be.



the TIMBERJAY

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Week of Jan. 15

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 Jan. 16.

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.



TSHS weekly winner
TOWER- The Charlemagne's 52 Club \$100 cash winner for week 23 is Dave Mesojedec of Hermantown and Lake Vermilion. Dave has generously donated his \$100 cash prize to the Historic Fire Hall project.
The winner of the \$100 cash prize Charlemagne's 52 Club Week 24 is Ryan Hujanen of Mt. Iron.

History Tidbit:
The story of Mrs. Carrie Christina Bystrom is a testament to the resilience and courage of early pioneers who settled in the Iron Range area. As the first white woman to arrive in Tower in 1884 she faced numerous challenges in a largely unbroken wilderness. Walking for four days from Duluth, Mrs. Bystrom braved the journey on foot to join her husband and arrived in Tower to find only two houses in the town. Despite the difficult circumstances, she persevered and settled in the area with her husband Erik, who worked as a carpenter for the Minnesota Iron Company.

History Tidbit: The Mother's Day Fire of 1992 is a true story of personal heroism played out in the midst of the fire's fury. DNR and U.S. Forest Service fire crews, volunteer fire departments, and neighbors all pitched in to save most of the homes along Cty. Rd. 26 and Hwy. 169. It's a story that needs to be told as part of our city's historical record and can be found on our brand new, to-be-launched this month TSHS website <http://www.towersoudanhistory.com>.

Bookmobile stops REGIONAL- The Arrowhead Bookmobile will be in the Tower-Soudan area on Wednesday, Jan. 24.
Stops include: Britt (Sand Lake Storage): 9 - 9:30 a.m.; Bois Forte (Boys & Girls Club): 11 - 11:30 a.m.; Greenwood (Town Hall): 12 - 1 p.m.; Soudan (Post Office area): 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.; Tower (Civic Center): 3:45 - 4:30 p.m.; and Embarrass (Hwy 135 & Hwy 21): 5 - 6 p.m.
For more information on the Bookmobile or Mail-A-Book services, contact the Arrowhead Library System, 218-741-3840, email at als@alslib.info, or website at alslib.info.

ENJOYING THE SEASON

Club helps keep community active and outdoors

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- While the lack of snow meant no group snowshoeing or cross-county ski outings through early January, members of the Vermilion Area Activity Club just continued hiking, some weekends on snow-dusted trails, and then some Wednesday evenings around the Tower Ski Trail's lighted loop.

The group, organized on Facebook, boasts 236 members, though usually around a dozen or so show up for the weekly organized hikes. The hikes are recreational and designed for those of all abilities, including seasoned athletes and recreational walkers.

"Our primary focus will be getting together to enjoy the great outdoors through activities," group organizers write on their Facebook page.

The group's first real winter activity will be a snowshoeing get-together on Tower's Pine Ridges Trail at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 14. The route will follow the outer loop of this new trail system, which is relatively level and very suitable for snowshoeing. Pets are welcome to come along also. This new trail is well marked, with new maps installed at the trailhead and at trail intersections.

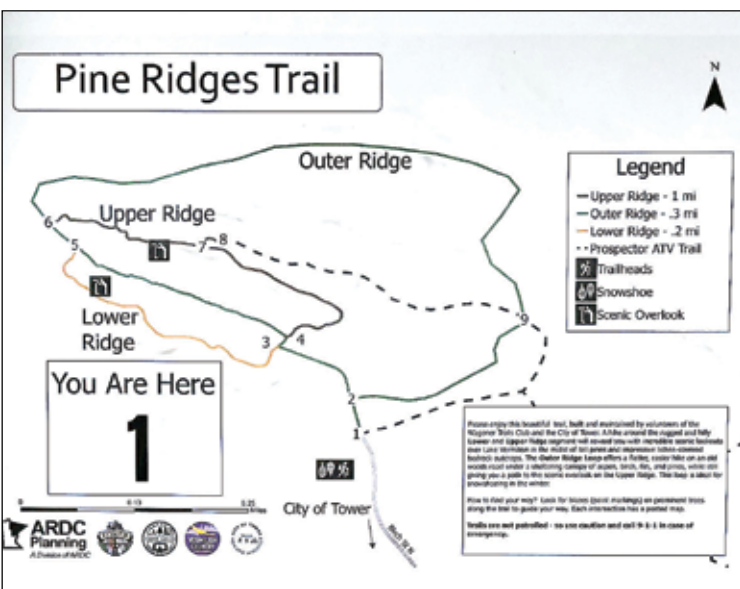
The Pine Ridges Trail is located on the north side of Tower, just past Vermilion Senior Living off of Birch St. N.

The ski trails are now off-limits for hiking and snowshoeing, to get a solid base ready for cross-country ski grooming.

Group member Aaron Kania said once there is enough snow for grooming, dogs are not allowed on the ski trails because they can damage the ski tracks.



Above: A group of hikers, not all pictured, got ready to hike the lighted ski trail loop earlier this month.



The city did mow the trails this summer, making them a nice dog-friendly hiking option.

The Pine Ridges Trail is a great alternative for winter hiking and snowshoeing options with dogs this winter, he said. Group members hope to keep a

snowshoe trail open on the lower loop this winter. The Ancient Cedars Trail, accessible off the Mesabi Trail in Tower, is also suitable for snowshoeing, though poles are recommended for the steeper sections.



The club's next outing is on Sunday, Jan. 14 at 12:30 p.m. at the Pine Ridges Trail, which is located at the end of Birch St., just past Vermilion Senior Living in Tower. The outer loop trail is relatively level and a good beginners snowshoe trail.
submitted photos

Café hosts service for St. Paul's

TOWER- St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church hosted their New Year's Eve Day Service at 8:30 a.m. at the Tower Cafe. St. Paul's sponsored the meal for all the 26 community members who attended the service. Michelle Anderson, the music teacher at Tower-Soudan Elementary, was the featured musician at the service.

Everyone enjoyed the delicious breakfast and the church would like to extend a special

thank you to the owners and staff of the newly-reopened Tower Café. The breakfast was delicious and service exceptional.

St. Paul's services are 8:30 a.m. on Sundays along with Sunday School and fellowship after, at the church, which is located in Soudan on Church St.

All are welcome and encouraged to come and see what we are about.



COMMUNITY NOTICES

Free community meal at Immanuel

TOWER- Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower will host a free community meal on Wednesday, Jan. 24 from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m., or until the food is gone. The meal this month is turkey gravy over mashed potatoes.

All are welcome. Dine-in or carry-out available.

Little Church to meet Jan. 13

VERMILION LAKE TWP- The Little Church will hold a special meeting on Saturday, Jan. 13 at 10 a.m. We always welcome anyone

and are looking for people interested in keeping The Little Church preserved and maintained in our community. The Little Church is located on Co. Rd. 26/Wahlsten Rd. Any questions contact Len Hujanen at 218-749-2014.

Indoor walking at the Timber Hall

EMBARRASS- This winter the Timber Hall will be open for indoor walking on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

Karate classes in Embarrass

EMBARRASS- Karate North Tae Kwon Do will be holding classes at the Timber Hall Event Center, 4855 Hwy. 21., on Mondays and Wednesdays. Beginner class is from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. and color belt students from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$20 per month per person.

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



Thank You to the Tower-Soudan Civic Club



Operation Santa would not happen without the volunteer and monetary support received from the Tower-Soudan Civic Club. We would like to thank the following people and organizations for their assistance this year!

Volunteers: Mary Oman, Corky Eloranta, Catherine Farley, Peter and Elaine McGillivray, and Jeff and Kathy Lovgren.

Donations: Lake Country Power Operation Roundup®, Tower-Soudan Civic Club, Corrine Hill, Mary Oman, Teresa Dolinar, Alberta Whitemack, Dianne Weinzierl, Tim Plimmer, Colleen and Jerry Lepper, Judy Politano, Diane Frerichs, Maggie Manion, Lois Garbish, Lois Nelson, Nancy Lindbeck, Noreen Saukko, Anni Knutson, Michelle Sherwood, Kathy Sacchetti, Barb Schmidt, Vickie Lange, and Marit Kringstad.

CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

Become a braver angel for Ely

ELY- A group of concerned citizens are organizing a chapter of a group called the Braver Angels Alliance. The chapter is part of a national movement consisting of people from both sides of the political divide. The aim of the alliance is to restore civility to both local and national political discourse.

After an encouraging first meeting in December, which drew over 50 people, the local chapter will hold its next meeting next week at the Ely Senior Center, 27 S. 1st Ave. E., on Thursday, Jan. 18, at 6:30 p.m. For now, the group plans to hold its meetings on the third Thursday of each month at this time and location.

The meeting next Thursday will discuss the

“Depolarizing Within” concept, which is about developing skills to converse with people with differing views. “Depolarizing Within” is also about interjecting depolarization into conversations with like-minded people. The goal is to explore and share experiences of polarization within the Ely community. According to one of the Ely chapter’s organizers, Johnnie Hyde, anyone interested in attending on Thursday will find it helpful — but not mandatory or necessary — to take the no-cost “Depolarizing Within” e-course at braverangels.org before the meeting.

Also on the agenda for Jan. 18 will be a discussion of where the group wants to go at future meetings.

Possibilities include conversations on issues relevant to the Ely community, learning more about skills for having depolarizing conversations with friends and family on controversial subjects, sharing about national Braver Angels podcasts or workshops. The discussion will welcome suggestions on activities to create more curiosity and less controversy in local civil interactions.

“We will also hold workshops with the Minnesota Braver Angels volunteers trained as moderators or facilitators. Depolarizing Within is one of those workshops that we had hoped could happen soon,” Hyde commented in a statement, “but it takes a month or two to come up with the volunteers be-

cause they have to come from Minneapolis.” The group hopes to hold its first workshops in February.

Hyde encourages those interested to join the national Braver Angels Alliance, which costs just \$12. Joining helps the Ely Alliance by showing there is broad local interest. This would allow the Minnesota chapter to help the local chapter find moderators and other volunteers needed to offer workshops, to list the Ely group on the national website, and perhaps obtain funding.

“But nothing we do will require a fee of any kind,” Hyde stated. She also encouraged people to join the chapter’s Facebook group, Ely Alliance Braver Angels, and to post and like comments there.

The group also needs volunteers to help with outreach, event and workshop planning, fundraising to pay for things like renting the senior center, printed materials, and ads. Even baking cookies for meetings is welcome.

“We need all perspectives,” Hyde said. “Invite those you know, and don’t be intimidated if they have strong opinions. If you are uncomfortable inviting someone who you think would be a good fit for the group, email us and we can do that.”

The local chapter can be contacted at Ely-BraverAngels@gmail.com. “Let us know your thoughts and suggestions. Ultimately, this is your group,” Hyde stated.

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. 16: Bio-Bugs for Iron for Sulfate Removal & Zebra Mussel Control with Jeff Hanson

►Jan. 23: Ely Film Festival: Stories We Build, Stories We Tell

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2024



inside warm windows
winter finally proceeds
the yard becomes white

WINDOWS INTO YESTERDAY

Up, up and away: Ely’s ski jumping legacy



An early ski jump in Ely, on the west side of Central Ave., at a former city gravel pit at the end of W. Pattison St. The remains of the gravel pit are still there to the south of the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital, though the jump is long gone. submitted photo

by DAVID KESS
Ely-Winton Historical Society Editor

ELY- Back in the 1920s, Ely cross-country and downhill skiers became interested in ski jumping. It’s not certain just when ski jumping began, but one of the first enthusiasts was Lenny Nappa. In 1923, a rather crude jump constructed of lumber was built just west of Central Ave., behind what is now the Oasis International Church. There was a hill and a substantial hollow below it, the result of a city gravel pit.

Once, Lenny Nappa’s skis

came off as he went off the jump. “Head over heels! All I could do was to tuck in my head!” But he survived with only a broken ankle.

The jump blew down the next year, but by 1927, it was rebuilt and stayed in use until the 1950s. Neighborhood kids like me dared one another to climb up the rickety slide in summer. Boards were either missing or loose, so some of us never did make it to the top.

A much better site for a jump was found at what later became Hidden Valley. It too bordered a gravel pit. In 1961 the Ely Ski Club was organized, and a steel jump and a heated chalet was

constructed. In 1983, a second ski jump of 70 meters was built.

Warren Nikkola was quoted, saying that as a skier lifted off the 70 meter slide, he was going at 53 mph. “You were 200 feet in the air, and the ground just faded away. If you were nervous, you’d better not be up there!”

Ely sent ski jumpers to the Junior National Championships in all but two years between 1959 and 1982. Jim Grahek qualified for the Lake Placid Olympics and Jim Williams finished fourth in Senior Ski Jumping. Others who went to Lake Placid were Al Wiinikainen, Mickey Tomsich, Bob Banovetz,

John Jeffrey, and Bill Rom.

The 1990s saw a waning of interest in jumping. In addition, the skyrocketing cost of liability insurance became prohibitive. Ski jumping was and is a risky business. The Hidden Valley chalet became idle. The 70-meter jump was sold to the Norge Ski Club of Fox River, Ill., where it was rebuilt. It is still in use today. The smaller jump was also sold and dismantled, but to whom and where is not recorded in the historical society files.

Skiing has now come full circle, going back to the days of Asarius Autio, a Finnish National Champion, who lived and skied in Ely in the early 1900s. He was a famous cross-country skier, which was the rage then.

And now it is again. Bob Carey and Bob Somers began the renovation of Hidden Valley by clearing and widening ski trails. The Ely Youth Ski League and the Wilderness Trek trails took the place of the ski jumps. Thanks go to people like Paul Pengal and Paula Anderson for this success.

The “up, up” still is the “away,” but now it is really something that is enjoyed by many skiers, if not jumpers.

Thanks to Johnnie Hyde for her 2006 Winter Times article on winter sports in Ely. Pictures of the three ski jumps, the skiers, and Hidden Valley are on display at the Vermilion Campus of Minnesota North College. Call the office of the Ely-Winton Historical Society at 218-365-3226 for more information.

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Ely Public Library

ELY- The library will be closed on Jan. 15 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

The Library Scientists group will meet on Thursday, Jan. 18, from 3-4 p.m. The topic this month will be meteorites. Participants will learn about meteors, meteorites, asteroids, and test scientists use on rocks to identify them. This program is for grades 4-6. Please register in advance so the library can order enough materials for all who attend.

The library will celebrate National Shelfie Day on Wednesday, Jan. 24, from 2-3 p.m. This program is for all ages. Learn about this library-centric holiday and have the library staff take your photo with your favorite shelf in the library. Please register in advance so the library can order enough materials for all who attend.

The library’s new program for adults, the Curiosity Cohort, will meet on Thursday, Feb. 1, from

1-2:30 p.m. The topic will be making homemade truffles. The program this month will be part demonstration, and part hands-on participation, on how to make chocolate truffles. Please register in advance so the library can order enough materials for all who attend.

Preschool Storytime is held every Friday from 10:30-11 a.m.

All library events are at the Ely Public Library at 224 E. Chapman St., unless otherwise noted.

Babbitt Public Library

BABBITT- The library now has new hours: Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Friday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

The Reading Wonderland Winter Reading Program is holding a coloring contest for adults. Entries will be accepted through Feb. 29. Pick up a coloring page at the library. Use colored pencils only. Prizes will be awarded for the best picture.

This month’s raffle at

the library is for applique stove towels and quilted book bags. Stop by and pick up raffle tickets at the circulation desk.

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 is now open. Depending on the weather, the rink will have an attendant and the bathrooms will be open Monday through Friday, 3-8 p.m.; Saturday, noon-8 p.m.; and Sunday, 1-6 p.m. Check the city’s Facebook page or ely.mn.us/reccenter for closures due to adverse weather.

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. To see an entire

schedule and to register for this no-cost activity, go to ely.k12.mn.us/community.

Auditions

ELY- General auditions for the March NLAA production of “Fiddler on the Roof” will be on Monday, Jan. 15, from 6-8 p.m. Auditions will be at the Vermilion Fine Arts Theater, 1900 E. Camp St. The performance dates for the musical are March 14-17 and 21-23.

Community Dance

ELY- The Ely Folk School will hold a community dance on Saturday, Jan. 13, starting at 7 p.m., at the Ely Senior Center. Cost is \$10 at the door, youths dance for free. All dances are taught live, so people of all ages and skill levels can participate.

Northern Lakes Concert Series

ELY- The inaugural concert of the Northern Lakes Arts Association’s concert series features the extraordinary percussion skills of Zack Bal-

tich, a phenomenal artist who attended school here in Ely, alongside author Alec Osthoff, another Ely Memorial High School graduate. The concert is scheduled for Jan. 27 at 6 p.m. at the Vermilion Fine Arts Theater, 1900 E. Camp St. Tickets are available at <https://www.northernlakesarts.org/programs> - then click the calendar for Jan. 27.

Polka Party!

ELY- The Ely Senior Center is throwing a Polka Party on Jan. 27, starting at noon. The cost is \$15 which includes a Polish-themed lunch and an afternoon of polka with live music.

List Your Event

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

Libraries

Ely library

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

Babbitt library

Monday	10 am-6 pm
Tuesday	10 am-6 pm
Wednesday	10 am-6 pm
Thursday	10 am-6 pm
Friday	10 am-2 pm

Support groups

AA - Alcoholics

Anonymous

OPEN AA - 7:30

p.m. Wednesdays and

Saturdays, in-person,

First Lutheran Church,

915 E. Camp St., Ely.

AA FRIDAYS - 7 p.m.

Fridays, First Presbyterian

Church, 262 E. Harvey

St., Ely.

ELY WOMEN’S OPEN

AA - Monday at noon at

Ledgerock Church, 1515

E. Camp St., Ely.

BABBITT AA - 7 p.m.

Thursdays, Woodland

Presbyterian Church.

AL-ANON - Sundays

8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony’s

Catholic Church in Ely.

BABBITT AL-ANON -

Thursdays, 7 p.m., at

Woodland Presbyterian.

CO-DEPENDENTS’

12-step support group,

4:00 p.m. Tuesdays,

Wellbeing Development,

St. Mary’s Episcopal

Church, 712 S. Central

Ave., Ely.

ADULT BASIC

EDUCATION GED

Study materials and pre-

test available. Call 218-

365-3359, or

1-800-662-5711.

CAREGIVER

SUPPORT GROUPS:

Babbitt: 3rd Monday of

Month: 6-7:30 p.m. at

Carefree Living.

Ely: 4th Monday of

Month: 10-11:30 a.m. at

Ely-Bloomenson Hospital.

Conference Room B.

ORR CITY COUNCIL

Orr council approves eight percent tax levy increase

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

ORR- Deferred to Monday from December's Orr City Council meeting, council members settled on a compromise for the 2024 property tax levy, coming in with an eight percent increase.

City clerk Angela Lindgren told the council that she had been able to balance the proposed city budget with a five percent increase, but the city's auditor, Bonnie Sterle, had recommended going with 10 percent to provide for future needs.

"Bonnie said that after last year, she didn't think it was a bad idea to keep it at ten percent," Lindgren said. "She just said the trend is that everything is going up, expenditures are going up. Even with the elimination of the (deputy clerk) position we're very dependent on the liquor store and what happens with their revenue. I'm looking at the budget and going through it we're slashing things. I don't know if that was to make the budget match before, I don't know why we're coming in lower than what expenditures

were previously, so I tired bringing them back up to where they were and came up with the five percent. Continuing forward with wages and three percent increase it may be difficult to maintain."

The levy increase will also allow the city to compensate for any decreased revenues due to closures and staffing as well as anticipated rises in expenses due to inflation and upkeep, maintenance, and operation of city utilities.

Council member Bruce Black asked if there were any outstanding expenses from December that the council needed to account for, but Lindgren said no.

"I'll stick my neck out there," Black said. "We OK the budget and we OK an eight percent increase. And we're going to have to figure out a way to tighten our belt quick."

"We're going to have to find out in each department what is going on, what the cost is like any other business," council member John Jirek added. "Where are we headed, where are we going? Some of the decisions are not going to be great. But once again, here we are

into this year and we have to make this decision. I agree with eight percent because it just give you a little bit of (room)."

The motion to approve the budget with an eight percent levy increase passed unanimously. The approved 2024 budget includes three general fund transfers to fire protection, the Tourist Information Center, and community center totaling \$19,123, a lodging tax transfer to the TIC of \$2,000, and three transfers from the liquor store to water, wastewater, and the airport totaling \$21,000.

The council's approval of the city's workers compensation and health insurance policies prompted another discussion about possible ways to save money with the health insurance benefit. The health insurance policy automatically renewed on Jan. 1, with employees covered at 100 percent for premiums, deductible and co-pays, Lindgren said.

It was suggested that the city could possibly go out for bids for a new plan, but Jirik said that with the auto-renewal the city should consider itself locked in to the

current plan for this year and should start planning ahead for 2025.

Lindgren suggested taking a look at what the city pays for employee coverage in light of the city's wage increases.

"One of the things we've been doing is having high coverage of insurance because the wages were lower," Lindgren said. "With making a swing to increase wages we should really be looking at changing insurance coverage."

While acknowledging looking at the city's contributions could be an option, Jirik firmly stressed that change should happen for the next plan year, not this one.

"We need to look into this, but we can't screw around the people who are here, period," he said. "I think we move forward with what we have for 2024. For following years, what's our budget, where are we at, we just have to do that. But we just can't do it in January."

Council member Hannah Manick agreed.

"I think we should just stick with what we have for now, and keep investigating to see what we

can do," she said.

In other business, the council:

► Accepted a \$500 donation for the ambulance service from Brian and Barbara Eggert, in recognition of Donna and Bill Hoffer; a \$5,025 donation to the ambulance service from Michael McCann, in memory of Diane McCann; and an anonymous \$200 donation to the fire department.

► Designated Bruce Black as acting mayor in the absence of the mayor.

► Appointed Mayor Robert Antikainen as noxious weed inspector.

► Designated the *Cook News Herald* as the city's official newspaper. The council traditionally rotates the designation between the *News Herald* and the *Timberjay*, which was the official newspaper in 2023.

► Appointed Sterle and Co. as the city's auditing firm.

► Appointed the Klun Law Firm as the city's attorney and Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith and Federick, P.A. as bond counsel.

► Appointed Benchmark Engineering as the city engineer, with Bollig, Inc. getting the nod for

airport task orders.

► Designated Park State Bank, the League of Minnesota Cities 4M Fund, RBC Wealth Management Investments, and First Horizon as the city's financial institutions and assigned signatories for each.

► Reviewed standing committee assignments and revised as needed.

► Approved the IRS standard mileage reimbursement rate of \$0.67.

► Heard a report from ambulance director Donna Hoffer. The service made 180 runs in 2023, 33 of which were mutual aid runs for Nett Lake and Cook. Eighteen medical transport runs were made. Hoffer said the service has recruited two more EMTs, and that an upcoming first responder training course has 17 people signed up for it.

► Approved an engineering task order for the airport runway crack seal project.

► Heard from Alan Johnson of Benchmark who offered the firm's assistance in locating alternative sources of funding for any proposed city projects.

NORTH WOODS SCHOOL

Donkeys rule the court at North Woods



Dairyland Donkey Ball invaded North Woods School on Tuesday, sponsored by Student Council and North Woods PTO. Photos clockwise from upper left: An unruly donkey plays dead; Mike Boone sets up for a classic hook shot; Beth Wilenius and Blake Scofield tug hard to get their obstinate donkeys to move as they try to retrieve the ball; Will Kleppe gracefully (or not) dismounts; Blake Scofield struggles to get on top of his ride so he can shoot the ball; North Woods Principal Kelly Engman puts up a shot in front of a jam packed set of bleachers.
photos by D. Colburn

COMMUNITY NOTES

Cook student gets academic honors at UW-Madison

COOK- Elsie Hyppa, of COOK, has been named to the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Dean's List at the University of Wisconsin-Madison for the fall semester of the 2023-24 academic year.

To be eligible for the Dean's List, students must complete a minimum of 12 credits in that semester. Each university school or college sets its own GPA requirements for students to be eligible to receive the distinction.



Art students prep for Feb. 2 Empty Bowl fundraiser

FIELD TWP- The countdown is on to the 11th annual Empty Bowl Event on Friday, Feb. 2 from 4:30-7 p.m. at North Woods School, a fundraiser for food shelves in Cook and Orr.

Buy a handmade bowl made by students for \$10 and get a hearty soup meal. Take a chance on the \$1 raffle baskets, face painting and enjoy wheel-throwing demonstrations. Come meet the current Miss Minnesota,

Angelina Amerigo.

In addition to this fundraiser, the art club will be raising funds to support the families of Travon Boshey and Matthew Goggeleye.

This event is open to the public and all are welcome.

SAINT LOUIS COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
BETTER WASTE SOLUTIONS

Area Solid Waste Facility site hours

Ash River Trail Canister Site 11391 Ash River Trail Winter Hours Sat: 12:30pm-4:30pm	Kabetogama Lake Canister Site 10150 Gamma Rd Winter Hours Wed: noon-4pm Sat: 8am-noon	County 77 Canister Site 2038 County Rd. 77 Winter Hours Thurs, Sun: noon-5pm
Orr Canister Site 4038 Hwy 53 Winter Hours Tue, Thu: 9am-noon Sat: 8am-noon	Portage Canister Site 6992 Crane Lake Rd. Winter Hours Tue, Sat: 1pm-4:30pm	Cook Transfer Station 2134 S. Beatty Rd. Hours Mon: 10am-6pm Tues thru Sat: 9am-3:30pm

Regional Landfill
5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia
Hours
Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30pm Sat: 8am-3:30pm

Household Hazardous Waste Facilities
5345 Regional Landfill Rd., Virginia 3994 Landfill Rd, Hibbing
Tue, Sat: 8am-1pm Sat: 8am-1pm

Winter hours effective October 1st through April 14th

St. Louis County Environmental Services Department
218-749-9703
Office hours 8-4:30
Monday through Friday
www.stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle

A Tradition of Trust

Mlaker FUNERAL HOME

www.mlakerfuneralhome.com

218.666.5298
Cell-218.240.5395

Cook, MN
24 Hours A Day

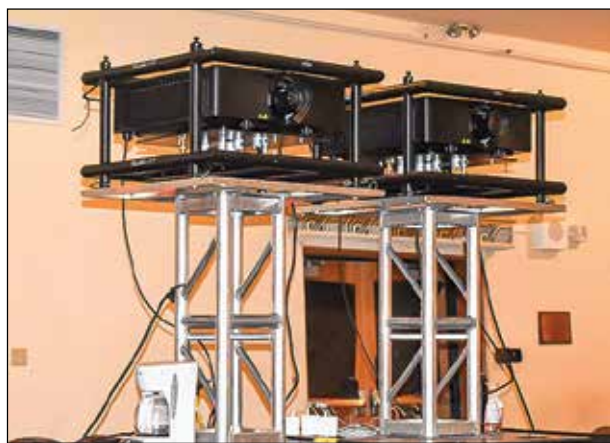
- Traditional Funerals
- Graveside Services
- Cremation
- Pre-Need Planning
- Monuments by Warren Mlaker

TECH...Continued from page 1

high school friend of Mike and Billie Rouse's. Mike is the K-12 vocal music teacher for the Ely School District and is the teacher in charge of the musical. Billie, Mike's wife, is one of the volunteers from the community, having taken on the role typical of a producer, i.e. coordinating the volunteer staff and arranging almost everything.

"I met Mark in high school, in 1971-72," Billie told the *Timberjay*. "We attended Hamilton Southeastern High School together, just outside of Fishers, Ind. When we started this project, I contacted Mark and asked, 'Can you help us with anything for the show?' and he said, 'You go ahead and dream as big as you can dream.'"

After consulting with the rest of the production



Projectors erected by Dodd Technologies for use in the upcoming performance of *Frozen*.

crew, Billie told Dodd that it would be great to have stage mics for the kids, good stage lighting, and several other wish-list items. Dodd said, "Sure, whatever you want."

Billie had to mention to Dodd at this point that Ely was a small school and the musical had a small budget.

Dodd told her it wouldn't cost anything.

"This isn't for a budget," Dodd said. "This is what you do for friends."

A gift from Dodd

Mark Dodd's donation to "Frozen" in Ely is substantial. "He's provided mics, lights, snow machines, a hazer, the pro-

jectors, the projector operator," Billie related. "He's provided two round-trip tickets from Indianapolis, the operator's salary, and anything that the operator may need while he's here."

The production equipment operator from Dodd Technologies, Robert Gough, has been with the firm for 26 years. "I've been there longer than anyone else, other than the Dodd family," Gough told the *Timberjay*.

Gough has worked on some mammoth production jobs over the years. "The biggest was at the Anaheim Hilton (Convention Center) in California. "It was two weeks long, used 13 semis, and a crew of 60," Gough recalled.

Gough traveled to Ely to set up the stage equipment during the first week in January. It took

him three days to assemble everything before he returned to Indiana. His work included dressing the proscenium arch with special paper so it could be used as part of the scenery and set projections. The projectors are monsters, taking up rows X, Y, and Z in the center section of Washington Auditorium. Their placement is why there are no seats for sale in the center section past row W.

The graphics used by the two huge projectors are either from Disney or designed by Gough. "The video on the back screen is provided by Disney," Gough explained. "The custom graphics around the stage proscenium is what I created to make it fit magically. For the opening and intermission, I wanted to represent images of and

around Ely."

Gough will return to Ely on Jan. 15 and will stay to operate the stage equipment for all four performances of "Frozen." Then he will break it down and pack it up for shipping back to Pendleton.

He told the *Timberjay* that his first trip last week to Ely was all business, and that he had no time to see the local sights. He added, "When I return on Jan. 15, I have several local spots I plan on visiting. Billie has been wonderful in pointing out what to see and do."

When asked what his impression was of the Ely area, he was impressed by Ely's "good-hearted people," adding that "I love the small-town feeling ... There is an unspoken and respectful (feeling) here that makes me want to return."

COUNCIL...Continued from page 1

during the 2022-23 school year to be the only high school in Minnesota with the rights to perform the full Broadway musical version of Disney's *Frozen*.

Signs proclaiming "Welcome to Arendelle" are scheduled to appear this week along Sheridan St. The Ely Chamber of Commerce has requested that area businesses leave their holiday decorations and lights up through Jan. 21 to help celebrate the musical.

Short-term rentals

In other business on Tuesday, the city council voted to reduce the number of short-term rental licenses in residential neighborhoods from 35 to 25. A short-term rental in Ely's city ordinances is defined as any rental of a residence lasting 30 days or less. There is no limit on short-term rentals in commercially zoned areas.

The council discussed this action in detail at its Dec. 5 meeting as covered in the Dec. 8 edition of the *Timberjay*, but opted to

give the public more time before enacting the change. At the time, the number of licensed short-term rentals in residential neighborhoods was 21. By the end of December, that number had increased to 24.

"This was reported on over the last couple of months, so those in the docket to get a rental license I believe have received a license," said Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski.

The maximum number of residential-zone short-term rental licenses the city issued was 31 in 2021, after the city passed its first short-term rental ordinance. The number of residential short-term licenses has dropped steadily since.

Councilors indicated they felt that evolving market conditions had led to the decline. "The marketplace has taken care of this in favor of lowering the number of licenses (issued)," said council member Paul Kess.

Gillson apologizes

Jason Gillson asked to

speak to the city council in open forum. Gillson, who was arrested on multiple felony charges in Ely in August and September, apologized to the city council for his actions. "I just wanted to make that clear to everybody that has been very apologetic for what has happened," Gillson said in a rambling statement.

According to Minnesota court records, Gillson has a settlement hearing on his charges on Feb. 12, indicating that a plea bargain may be in the works.

Gillson was charged with a felony on August 20 for allegedly discharging a firearm within city limits during an alleged altercation with his girlfriend.

Gillson was charged with multiple felony counts on Sept. 13, including arson, discharging a firearm within a municipality, and flight from a peace officer in a motor vehicle, in an incident that started with a high-volume altercation with his girlfriend that was

heard throughout the first block of E. Boundary and E. James Streets.

In other business, the council:

► Scheduled a public hearing to review plans for the Fire Apparatus Building and the Ely Area Ambulance Garage on Jan. 16 at 5 p.m.

► Approved the recommendation from Ely Utilities Commission (EUC) Customer Relations Committee to move forward with reimbursing an unnamed customer for their original \$2,500 water and sewer availability charge by direct payment because of a leaking curb stop.

► Approved a recommendation from the EUC to move forward with purchasing a \$14,793 replacement unit if the variable feed drive repair by Mielke Electric does not work at the water treatment plant.

► Approved a recommendation from the EUC to approve the \$387,608 payment of the EUC's November bills.

► Approved a recommendation from the EUC to move forward with the recommended 2024 EUC budget.

► Approved City of Ely and Ely Utilities Commission claims for payment for Jan. 2 for \$91,814.

► Approved a recommendation from the EUC to pay AMPTEK, \$1,064 for air compressor troubleshooting and repair at the water treatment plant.

► Approved a recommendation from the EUC to pay AE2S \$18,999 for the Waste Water Treatment Facility Improvements Project and \$1,675 for the WTP Improvements Project.

► Approved a recommendation from the EUC to pay Mick Shusta \$500 for A-Operator Services.

► Approved a recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission to have two meetings a month from January to May on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m.

► Approved the purchase of a mini-excavator for \$86,250.

► Denied the appeal of a failed sewer inspection at 535 E Boundary St.

► Heard the report by Police Chief Chad Houde that lifetime dog licenses are now available for sale at the police department.

► Approved the note and mortgage for the residential rehab loan for James and Brittney Thorstenson at 122 E. Harvey St. for \$10,000 for a new energy efficient propane furnace.

► Approved 2024 official city depositories of Frandsen Bank & Trust, Highland Bank and the 4M Fund. Mayor Heidi Omerza abstained from voting because she is married to an officer of Frandsen Bank and Trust.

► Approved Resolution 2024-002, "Adopting the 2024 City of Ely Fee Schedule."

GREENWOOD...Continued from page 1

Peterson said he'd like to see a taxing district based on parcels, not property value, and would like to see a district based out of Cook, which has a hospital. He also said, "my dream would be for Cook to consolidate with Virginia."

Peterson asked the board to appoint two supervisors to initiate discussions on ambulance-related issues with other governmental bodies.

Chairman John Bassing said he felt this approach was "a touch premature." Bassing noted that the Ely hospital is currently conducting a study looking at solutions for ambulance service in the region.

"I don't want to jump the shark," he said.

Bassing also noted that the Tower Ambulance Service would have to relinquish their license and then reapply for the smaller area, though Peterson disagreed with this reading of state law. The Legislature would most likely also need to be involved. Ambulance service areas are established and overseen by the state's Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board, or EMSRB.

Peterson said his request did not preclude working with Ely. On multiple occasions during the discussion, town board members were interrupted by Peterson.

Supervisor Barb Lofquist said the board needed to consult with Bois Forte before beginning any discussions with Cook.

Portions of far western Greenwood Township,

which is lightly populated, is already served by the Cook Ambulance.

On several occasions in past years, most recently in 2017, the township has rejected the idea of joining the Cook-Orr Healthcare District, which levies property owners in the district to help fund both the hospital and ambulance services in Cook and Orr, because of the tax implications for township residents.

Lofquist noted that the Tower Ambulance Service has been taking calls in Cook, because Cook is struggling with staffing and has not been available to respond. The Cook service also covers a large rural area and responds to calls in the Orr Ambulance Service area when they are unable to respond.

The board did approve appointing two supervisors, Rick Stoehr and Sue Drobac, to discuss ambulance issues for the township with area governmental bodies, but they did not set any immediate action.

Township Rd. 4136

Supervisor Drobac reported on initial discussions with the township attorney and St. Louis County Recorder's Office about Birch Point Extension, Twp. Rd. 4136.

Drobac said the recorder's office wasn't able to determine, at this point in time, if the road is technically a township road, because the required paperwork is not on file. She said they do have paperwork saying the road was transferred to the township, but the recorder

doesn't have "paper proof" that the township ever accepted the road.

The township had been paying the county for plowing and road maintenance for many years. The county recently declined to continue plowing the road because the condition of the road, both the blacktop surface and the narrow width made it unsafe with the current county plow truck fleet.

The road was platted back in 1921, but was never developed to the platted width of 66 feet.

Drobac said the township attorney advised that the township does have the authority to determine how to fix the road, and that the township can assess property owners for the work.

Drobac said the recorder's office suggested having the township attorney or a title company research the history of the road ownership.

Parking lot paving

The board accepted the estimate of \$143,820 from Benchmark Engineering for a mill and overlay of the town hall parking lot. Benchmark will now need to call for bids on the work. The quote includes the cost of having a Benchmark employee on-site during the project to ensure it is done to standards. A blacktop mill will be operating nearby the town hall this coming summer, for shoulder-widening on Cty. Rd. 115.

Chairman John Bassing said the board will be asking the IRRR if grant dollars would be available for the portion of the parking lot

(approximately one-quarter of the total square footage) that is a designated helipad. The township will also be asking Benchmark the cost of paving a small area in front of the fire department storage building that is currently grass. This would make moving equipment in and out of the building easier.

The project would be funded from township reserves.

Pickleball

The Lake Vermilion Pickleball Association reported they now have a website and active Facebook page, are able to receive donations, are working on two grant applications, and will be sending out a donation request to all township property owners. The group has put in over 300 volunteer hours so far and has received several thousand dollars in donations.

In other business, the board:

► Heard from treasurer Jeff Maus that township finances are holding steady year to year, with a total of over \$666,000 at the end of January.

► Heard a question from a resident about the state of the township's website, and a request that meeting agendas are posted online prior to the meeting, as well as information on township election voting.

► Accepted a \$15,000 donation from Bois Forte for the fire department.

► Heard that current supervisors Drobac and Lofquist have both filed for their seats. Lois Roskoski also has filed for the seat

currently held by Drobac. No one has filed for the clerk seat at this time. Filings close on Jan. 16 at 5 p.m.

► Approved \$100 donations for the St. Louis County Fair and Cook Library.

► Approved contracting with internet provider CTC for telephone (VOIP) and fax service at a cost of \$119 per month plus a \$150 equipment/set-up fee. The township is currently paying \$260/month for Frontier telephone service.

► Approved annual bonus payments to the six EMRs who qualified based on meeting call response and training requirements. The township also has one new EMR, for a total of

seven.

► Fire Chief Jeff Maus said the department has outlined their training schedule for 2024 and has added an additional monthly EMR training night.

► Heard the township has received a new vote-counting machine and election workers will receive training. The board appointed the absentee ballot board.

► Heard that the fire department has received a case of Narcan and is looking at becoming a site where Narcan can be distributed to the public. They are also looking at installing an AED (automatic defibrillator) outdoors by the tennis court in the summer months.

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SMILES...Continued from page 1

and French toast on the griddle, and Jen was overseeing the dining room and manning the cash register. Thirteen-year-old Remy, the youngest of the new owners' four sons, was waiting tables like a pro. Jen's mother, 84-year old Marge Moser, was bussing dishes and resetting tables as they turned over. Son Rob, a recent graduate from VCC who is now working full-time for the DNR, was watching the cinnamon rolls bake in the convection oven, waiting to frost them with a big dab of icing.

The smell of the rolls, smoky bacon, and sweet syrup mingled alongside the conversation. Folks stopping in before and after church on Sunday, friends meeting up, families stopping by, and of course, the old regulars who had missed their favorite breakfast spot after the untimely death of the former business owner, due to complications from COVID.

But now the neon "open" sign was shining bright in the front window, and the community of Tower-Soudan was more than ready to have "its" café back in business.

"I haven't had French toast in ages," said Robin Majerle, as her granddaughter Cecilia was busy trying to finish up her kids' portion of pancakes.

"I got full before I finished them," said Cecilia, "but my dad finished them!"

Robin's late husband Sheldon was a café regular, stopping by for coffee on a regular basis. The café's regulars each had their own coffee cups, and those cups are still displayed on the wall. Growing up on Tower's Main Street, Robin has fond memories of the café, but said she was often working at her family's business the next block over, the Tower Bakery, so didn't spend as much time there as she would have wanted.

The Majerles were sharing the café's long table, often reserved for the



Left: A selfie of the café crew, including (l-r) Kathy Vraa, Bob McDonough, Marge Moser, Chris Glazer, and Jen McDonough and Remy McDonough in a photo on the café's Facebook page.

Above: Kathy Vraa (r) takes an order from a customer on Sunday morning.

photo by J. Summit

coffee regulars, with other locals in town, some who were back on Sunday after eating breakfast at the café on Saturday.

Marge said the opening day on Saturday was "incredible." And while the rather early wake-up call is something she will need to get used to, she said it's something she had been accustomed to in her earlier days, when her children had paper routes.

She was especially proud of grandson Remy.

"You'd think he's done this for years," she said. Remy, on the other hand, was excited about the tips he was receiving, over \$100 on the first day, but he added he was sharing them with the crew in the kitchen.

Dianna and Terry Sundahl were the first customers on Saturday morning, coming in shortly after the café opened at 6 a.m.

"We woo-hoo'ed," said Jen, who said they thought the overnight snow would be slowing people down.

"Between eight and nine we filled up," she said.

The opening weekend certainly fulfilled the family's major goal of connecting the community.

Customers ranged from young to old, with even some teenagers

and early-20-somethings coming in with friends.

"We tried to have a touchpoint with everyone who came in," she said. "Everyone had hot coffee right away."

"We were overwhelmed with how many people were happy," Jen said. "The amount of energy, enthusiasm, and excitement. People were giggling and snapping pictures. There were so many people."

Jen said they've been amazed at how welcoming the community has been, since they only recently moved to the area.

"We want to respect the history of the café," she said. "This is a place where people feel welcome." The café's new Facebook page now shares photos from relatives of the Joe and Margaret Mesojedec family, who opened the café back in 1950.

Jen said people, even strangers who ended up sitting at the same tables, were connecting, chatting and telling stories.

"They weren't just enjoying their meals," she said. "The fact they enjoyed the environment and each other made us so happy."

Family business

"Doing this as a family is very special," she said. "With our three genera-

tions, it's over the top!"

The family is working with some mentors and coaches.

"You don't know what you don't know," Jen said. "We are learning."

Jen, who works as a coach and consultant herself, understands the importance of finding people who do things better.

After each day wound down, the family and their new staff, including chef Chris Glazer and wait staff Kathy Vraa, talked about what went wrong, what they could improve, and what their favorite part of the morning had been.

Bob said he felt good, though tired, after his first weekend in the kitchen. He said cooking for a family of seven is kind of like cooking in a restaurant, but it certainly is different.

Bob is receiving on-the-job training in the kitchen from Chris Glazer. Glazer, who is the chef and a teacher at Vermilion Country School, has years of experience in restaurants, including fine dining. He said learning to do short-order cooking is harder than it seems, with the need to oversee orders cooking all at once, so they are working on putting systems in place to ensure the kitchen is running smoothly.

Glazer helped the

McDonough's finalize their menus, and he is looking forward to adding weekly specials and testing out new items. Glazer teaches culinary arts as well as social studies at VCS, and enjoys cooking foods from around the world, adding new flavors, and assembling meals that are "eye-catching."

The couple held several practice openings, inviting café regulars as well as area firefighters and emergency workers for free breakfasts in December. Jen is a member of the Vermilion Lake Fire Department. The café even opened for a church service and breakfast for St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church on New Year's Eve morning.

The current menu features all the classics: a variety of eggs, hashbrown patties, smoked bacon, sausage, pancakes, and French toast plates. The breakfast sandwiches, one on an English muffin, the other a tortilla wrap, are already proving popular. Pancake varieties include blueberry and chocolate chip. For those in the mood for pastries, be sure to get there early because the fresh-baked cinnamon rolls sold out both days. The breakfast portions are quite generous. And

those with smaller appetites can choose eggs and toast, or order off the sides menu. The children's menu includes plain or chocolate chip pancakes.

The McDonough's purchased the business last July, and the couple quickly began the long process of reopening the business: cleaning and sorting through all the kitchen equipment left in the building, getting the stove and ventilation up-to-date, installing safety systems, getting new coffee and pop machines, making sure they had all the needed permits and inspections, updating the heating system, and doing some serious deep cleaning. The upstairs of the building contains eight rooms, including a small apartment, and they plan to have four rooms for available short-term rentals in the future.

The Tower Café will be open Saturdays and Sundays from 6 - 11 a.m., and is hoping to expand winter hours to include Fridays in the future. Jen and Bob are both working pretty much full-time on weekdays at the moment.

LAWSUIT...Continued from page 1

was not based on legally sufficient grounds and was arbitrary, capricious and unreasonable. The properties in question are currently zoned as Residential-5 and Residential-7, which does not allow for commercial planned developments like the campground.

As recorded in court filings and Planning Commission minutes, the commission dropped the ball on two occasions. First, the commission did not act on a citizen's petition filed March 20 with the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board requesting an Environmental Assessment Worksheet be prepared for the proposed campground. Then, after denying Wyrobek's applications on May 11, the commission failed to pass their recommendation on for review and action by the county Board of Commissioners, which is the only body with the legal authority for making zoning map amendments under state law and county ordinance.

60-day ruling

In her responses to the county's motion for judgment filed with the court on Dec. 21, Sixth District Court Judge Jill Eichenwald found that the county had not violated the 60-day rule because the clock stopped ticking "at the precise moment" the petition for the EAW was filed on March 20. Eichenwald cited a statute that reads, "The time limit ... is extended if a state statute ... requires a process

to occur before the agency acts on the request." The EAW is required under the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), which also requires that the stoppage remain in place until "60 days after completion of the last process required." Eichenwald noted that no evidence was submitted showing the environmental review process has been completed.

In dismissing the first three counts of Wyrobek's lawsuit, Eichenwald stated that the county is "prohibited from granting the applications until the MEPA review is complete."

Eichenwald's ruling also undercuts the legal grounds for the other two counts in the lawsuit, finding that the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners is the final authority on zoning decisions, and not the Planning Commission, and the board has yet to review or act on the applications. Additionally, the board's deadline for action is paused due to the incomplete MEPA process.

Contacted by the *Timberjay* via email on Tuesday, Wyrobek provided a brief statement.

"The parties agreed to a voluntary dismissal while they work to resolve the dispute. The dismissal is without prejudice, meaning that the lawsuit could later be reinitiated," Wyrobek wrote.

The *Timberjay* also asked the county attorney's office for a statement, but had not received one by press time on Wednesday.

What lies ahead

While the matter of the lawsuit is settled, the status of the Rough-In-It campground is not.

One question to be resolved is the status of Wyrobek's rezoning and conditional use permit applications submitted in March. At its Nov. 9 meeting the Planning Commission voted to require an EAW for the project, and it was indicated that the rezoning request could be acted upon after that.

However, according to the meeting minutes, Wyrobek asserted that because the conditional use application was canceled on June 2 and a refund check was issued on June 8,

her request was effectively denied, meaning that there was no longer an active proposal for the commission to act on.

Wyrobek has also partially developed the campground, marketing camping availability on the Rough-N-It Facebook page beginning last August. A "glamping" tent site is also currently advertised on Airbnb. Wyrobek stated at the Nov. 9 meeting that the parcels she owns have been developed as individual residential dwelling sites under Residential Use-Class I zoning, which she said allows temporary or moveable shelters under the definition of dwelling sites. The sites Wyrobek has developed do not defy

any ruling by the Planning Commission, she said.

After Wyrobek began advertising the campsites, a citizen complaint was filed with the county Planning and Zoning Department. Senior planner Mark Lindhorst confirmed for the *Timberjay* that the department was following its standard complaint process and that "Resolution often does take some time." Once the complaint process is initiated, department personnel cannot comment on the matter until it is resolved.

However, a statement on the Planning and Zoning

Department's fact sheet for short-term rentals might be applicable to Wyrobek's sites and require that they be considered under a different classification. The statement reads as follows:

"If a property is used primarily for rental purposes, then it shall be deemed a Commercial Use-Class II as a commercial short-term rental and subject to ordinance requirements."

The *Timberjay* attempted to obtain additional information about the statement from the department but did not receive a reply prior to press time.

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PUBLIC HEALTH

Latest COVID variant is spreading rapidly in Minnesota

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- While health data reporting typically slows over the holidays, health officials are certain new numbers to be reported this week will show the continuing march of the COVID virus across the state.

St. Louis County and its affiliated health service area are tagged at medium levels of COVID activity in the Centers for Disease Control COVID map, along with 49 other Minnesota counties rated either medium or high. Hospital admissions in the county's health service area were up in the last week of December by 34 percent over the prior week, a rate running well ahead of the national increase of 20.4 percent. Minnesota Department of Health data reports eight confirmed deaths from COVID in St. Louis County in the past four weeks, although reporting for the most recent week is incomplete.

The state's most recent complete data set covers the period through Dec. 24 and shows a case rate of 116 per 100,000 people, up significantly from the case rate of 88.2 in the week following Thanksgiving. State case counts are considered to be abnormally low as they reflect lab-confirmed COVID cases but do not include cases confirmed by home testing.

Those 65 and over continue to account for

the primary share of the increase at more than triple the rate of the overall population.

Driving the increase in COVID activity is the JN.1 variant, which over the past month has become the dominant variant across the country and also in the Great Lakes region, including Minnesota, where it accounts for 58 percent of cases. The CDC notes that while JN.1 activity is high, infections are causing less severe disease than earlier in the pandemic.

Those looking for some more hopeful data may be encouraged by the latest wastewater testing results from the University of Minnesota. In the past two weeks the COVID viral load in the northeast region has dropped by 32.9 percent, which could be an indicator that COVID activity has peaked.

County Senior Public Health Nurse Rillie Eklund spoke with the *Timberjay* on Tuesday about current conditions and issues in the county.

"What we see this week on the MDH website, and then what we'll see when it updates on Thursday will probably look very different," Eklund said. "We're anticipating an upswing in respiratory illnesses just because people have been gathering and traveling and spending more time in close quarters."

Eklund described the CDC's designated level in terms of actions people are advised to take.

"We did bump up to that moderate level, so that means that people who were at greater risk of having severe COVID should wear a high-quality mask or respirator when they're out in public," Eklund said. "And people who visit people who are at higher risk of severe COVID should consider doing a COVID test before they visit that person and wear a mask when they visit."

The triple-demic

A new term, triple-demic, is being used in many health settings to

describe the possible combined impact of COVID, influenza, and RSV (respiratory syncytial virus), all of which have been on the rise, albeit at differing rates.

"We've seen kind of a slow increase in influenza cases, and RSV has just been kind of bubbling along - we didn't see too much increase this past week," Eklund said. "We'll probably see a larger uptick of RSV (and influenza) when the data comes out on Thursday."

"The good news about the triple-demic," Eklund continued, "is that there are vaccines to prevent illness in all three of those respiratory viruses. This is the first year we've had vaccines for RSV, so that's pretty exciting." All three can be taken in one office visit, if so desired, she said.

RSV infections are more likely to be severe in infants and older adults. Eklund said the vaccine is recommended for those 60 and over who have underlying heart or lung conditions. Pregnant women can also

be vaccinated between 32 and 36 weeks of pregnancy, and the immunity will be passed along to their baby when it's born, Eklund said. There's also a monoclonal antibody available for infants younger than nine months.

Monoclonal antibodies are also available to treat COVID infections, but must be administered within the first few days of the infection to be effective. Eklund said that makes it important to take a COVID test at the first sign of symptoms.

She also talked about a misconception that's become more common about COVID, that one has to lose their sense of taste or smell to have it.

"It comes up at least a couple of times a week here at the department," Eklund said. "It's just not true. The loss of taste and smell are just some of the COVID symptoms. If you have fever, cough, tiredness, are feeling short of breath, muscle aches, any of those other COVID symptoms,

you should test."

Getting the updated COVID vaccine and testing when needed can also help people avoid long COVID, the persistence of symptoms for months or even years beyond the initial infection, Eklund said.

Vaccine effectiveness

A study from the Netherlands reported last week provides strong evidence for the effectiveness of the newest COVID booster in older adults.

The study included over 2,000 adults, 14 percent of whom had received the updated vaccine. For those aged 60 and older, the vaccine was 70.7 percent effective against hospitalization and 73.3 percent effective against admission to an intensive care unit.

MDH data shows that 52 percent of those 65 and over are up-to-date with the new booster. The overall up-to-date vaccination rate is 17.7 percent in the state and 19.5 percent in St. Louis County.

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1/25 - Late Night In The Research Center 10 AM - 8 PM | Free
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Ely School Board re-elects Ray Marsnik as board chair

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- Ray Marsnik is known for running meetings that are tight, transparent, and fair.

It was no surprise, therefore, when his colleagues on the Ely school board elected him board chair once again, a position he has held for decades. Four times in a row, Marsnik asked for any other nominations at their reorganizational meeting on Monday, eliciting a few chuckles but no other suggestions, as the board re-elected him by acclamation.

The school board's 2023 clerk, Rochelle Sjoberg, and treasurer Tom Omerza, were both elected in similar vein, by acclamation.

In other business, the school board:

➤ Heard the report of Athletic Director Tom Coombe that 147 students participated in sports during the fall season. "That's a remarkable number considering the size of our enrollment," Coombe

stated. Volleyball drew the largest number, with 51 girls participating. Football, which is in its third year of hosting a cooperative team with Northeast Range School in Babbitt, involved 43 boys from both schools. Cross-country attracted 12 girls and 19 boys. Girls Swimming, another cooperative team with Northeast Range, had 17 Ely students participating, representing the vast majority of the team. Participant numbers include students in grades 7-12.

➤ Heard the report of District Superintendent Anne Oelke that the district would be issuing bids for the new windows to be installed this summer. "We're putting out bids for windows now," Oelke said, "because there is a 20-week lead time on ordering windows."

Oelke's submitted written report included an updated K-12 enrollment of 533 students, which is two more than the Dec. 6 report. The enrollment at the beginning of the school year (Sept. 7) was 529.

➤ Heard the report of Facilities Director Tim Leeson that the sewer pipe clog was cleared and that sewer repairs were on the schedule for this summer.

➤ Designated the second Monday of each month at 6 p.m. as the day and time of the regular school board meeting.

➤ Designated the fourth Monday of each month at 6 p.m. as the day and time for the monthly study session.

➤ Approved the *Ely Echo* as the official district newspaper for 2024. This was the only quote received.

➤ Approved the Klun Law Firm as the district legal counsel for 2024. The superintendent and school board chairperson were designated as the individuals authorized to contact legal counsel at \$125/hour, which is the same rate as 2023.

➤ Approved Highland Bank, U.S. Bank, Minnesota School Liquid Asset Fund, and PMA Financial Network as the district's financial institutions.

➤ Designated Spencer Aune, Finance Manager, and Jordan Huntbatch, Payroll, Benefits and Finance Coordinator, as the district staff approved to conduct electronic fund transfers.

➤ Approved the 2024 IRS standard mileage rate of 68 cents per mile as the reimbursement rate for school district travel during 2024.

➤ Approved the school board compensation levels for 2024 using the current rate of inflation of 3.1 percent at \$230 per month plus life insurance (\$30,000) for directors, \$296 per month plus life insurance (\$30,000) for the board chair, and an additional \$66 per board member for the monthly study session.

➤ Approved 2024 RAMS membership dues of \$1,500.

➤ Approved the December 2023 financial report, receipts of \$870,274, and disbursements of \$1,243,989.

➤ Approved the transfer of Stacy Hegfors from her position as Media

Clerk, effective Dec. 15, 2023, and to her position as the Washington Elementary School secretary, effective Dec. 18, 2023.

➤ Approved the hire of Anna-Lena Forsman for a paraprofessional position effective Dec. 18, 2023.

➤ Accepted the resignation of Tatiana Riabokin from her 2023-2024 Extra-Curricular assignment as the Musical Choreographer effective immediately, and approved the recommendation of Jeff Carey, Memorial 6-12 Principal,

and Mike Rouse, Musical Director, to appoint Wendy Lindsay as the Musical Choreographer.

➤ Approved the reduction of hours for the Media Clerk position from 32.5 hours/week to 15 hours/week, effective immediately.

➤ Approved a \$200 donation from the Ely Kiwanis for visiting Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center.



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- Alaskan Cruise
August 13-25, 2025

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Duluth | Mar 6
- The Lion King Musical
Minneapolis | Apr 14 (sold out)
- SIX The Musical
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St. Paul | Aug 26
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Chanhassen | Sep 7
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Bayfield | Oct 5

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Fishing report

Ely area

ELY- Excellent ice making weather has come to the Ely area and even better temps are coming. Ice roads have begun to pop up at popular access- es and permanent houses have returned to traditional fishing spots. 10-13" of clear ice is being reported just off the ice roads. Pockets of thin ice are still being reported, so if you plan on venturing off the ice roads be cautious. 4" of fresh snow has also caused slush to pop up in areas.

Lake trout lakes have been a different story. A handful of anglers have been out checking ice on Burntside Lake and have been reporting 3-7" of clear ice out there and growing. No reports of ice conditions on Snowbank has been reported to us yet and we are waiting to hear from Snowbank Lodge. Anglers looking to fish Snowbank should call Snowbank Lodge for

a current ice report at 218-365-6032.

Miners Lake: Reports from Miners Lake have been 8" of clear ice, but there are pockets of thin ice, as thin as 2-4".

Walleye fishing has settled into its classic mid January fishing with 4-6 p.m. as your window for the most activity. Jigging spoons or ripping raps call fish in, but a suspended minnow, under a bobber accounts for the majority

of bites and fish landed. Popular depths continue to be in that 18-23 feet of water.

Pike fishermen continue to have good reports of quality-size pike being landed. Sucker minnows fished in 10-15 feet of water, fished under a tip up, has been very effective. Flats and near river mouths has been the area to focus on for active pike.

Panfish: Crappies continue to be found lay-

ing on the bottom in 25-35 feet of water, on area lakes. Sunfish on the other hand have been more active and showing up in anglers catches. Jumbo perch have been active on a few area lakes. Perch up to 15" are being caught on walleyes spots, but mainly during the day.

Courtesy of Arrowhead Outdoors. See more at Arrowhead OutdoorsElyMN.com.

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GIRLS BASKETBALL

Ely subdues North Woods, 66-40

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- The Ely girls basketball team broke open a close game at North Woods with a strong second half that subdued the Grizzlies 66-40.

The Wolves grabbed an early 5-0 lead on a pair of Audrey Kallberg free throws and a Zoe Mackenzie three-ball before North Woods got on the board

with River Cheney dropping one in from the charity stripe. From that point forward the first half was a tight battle, with Ely holding onto the lead. The Wolves went up 25-18 on a pair of Sarah Visser charities, but North Woods got back to within two on a basket by Talise Goodsky and a deep trey by Helen Koch. The Wolves extended the lead to six, 29-23, at the half.

Ely got off to a fast start in the second stanza with Clare Thomas

Right: Ely's Sarah Visser reaches for the ball as the Grizzlies' Brynn Chosa heads down court.

photo by D. Colburn

connecting on a bucket and one to push the lead to 39-27. Solid defensive pressure by the Wolves kept the Grizzlies off-balance as Ely's lead continued to mount. A trey by Grace LaTourell and

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



BOYS BASKETBALL

Grizzlies maul Wolves

Big edge in rebounds, shooting lifts North Woods to 71-42 victory

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- Baseline to baseline pressure propelled the North Woods boys to a convincing 71-42 home win over Ely last Friday, with the Grizzlies' Jonah Burnett chalking up a double-double with 29 points and ten rebounds in the rivalry rout.

The Grizzlies never trailed as they took control of the game from the outset with opening buckets from Luke Will and Keenan Whitney, and a triple from Burnett gave North Woods a 9-4 edge. North Woods dictated the pace of the game with its swarming man-to-man defense, allowing Ely only two made baskets in the first seven minutes, with the Wolves' Jack Davies ending a four-and-a-half minute drought with a three-ball at the 11:09 mark. North Woods answered back with treys from Burnett and Louie Panichi for their first

Above: The Grizzlies' Talen Jarshaw keeps his eyes on the ball as he harasses an Ely ballhandler.

Right: The Wolves' Wyatt Tedrick draws attention from the Grizzlies' Talen Jarshaw, left, and Luke Will as he tries to find an opening in the North Woods defense.

photos by D. Colburn

double-digit lead of the night at 17-7. Ely had trouble getting good looks at the basket, and the taller Grizzlies were there to mop up the glass, holding a huge 48-28 edge in rebounds for the game. Panichi went on a ten-point tear in the final four minutes of the half in a 15-4 North Woods run that gave the Grizzlies a 37-19 halftime edge.

North Woods quickly crushed any hope for an Ely comeback in the second half by

See **BOYS...**pg. 2B



HOCKEY

T-Wolves now at 11-4

Have won four out of their last five games

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

ELY — The Timberwolves have been tough to topple on home ice in recent weeks and it's apparent as the team, now 11-4, has racked up its most impressive season in years. The team wasted little time here last Saturday as they scored three times within the first nine minutes of play enroute to a 6-2 shellacking of visiting Ashland.

Drew Marolt and Garrett Rohr both lit the light twice on the afternoon, but it was Deegan Richards who drew first blood for the Wolves at the 1:55 mark of the first period, with assists from Owen Marolt and Jayden Zemke.

Rohr notched Ely's second goal on a power play four minutes with an assist from Tommy Homer and he did it again at the 8:29 mark with an even strength

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NORDIC SKIING

Ely makes solid showing in statewide competition

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

GIANTS RIDGE — The largest high school ski meet in North America went off just fine here on Saturday despite the lack of snow that has hampered Nordic ski events and training in the region for weeks. Using an oval track with mostly man-made snow at the base of the alpine area, a total of 898 racers competed — and Ely skiers performed well in a very competitive field, according to Wolves Head Coach Todd Hohenstein. "Overall, it was a good showing by our team," he said.

The boys team finished in 19th place

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BOYS BASKETBALL

Grizzlies claim holiday tournament crown in Chisholm

CHISHOLM- While classmates were lounging around home during the North Woods winter break, the Grizzlies boys basketball team was busy winning games and a tournament crown at Chisholm on Dec. 29-30.

First up for North Woods was

a team they pummeled in their first game of the season, South Ridge.

The Panthers were without their leading scorer from that game, and the Grizzlies showed no mercy in rolling to a 99-65 beatdown. Jonah Burnett led the Grizzlies with 24 points, followed

by Louie Panichi with 20, Luke Will with 17, and Aidan Hartway with 11.

North Woods' Saturday opponent, the West Lutheran Warriors, came into the event at 4-2 and had beat Chisholm 54-51 in their first game.

But none of that meant much to a team hungry for a championship, and the Grizzlies asserted themselves from the outset, racing to a 12-2 lead and taking a 42-30 edge into the half. North Woods owned the second half, too, and coasted to a 70-52 win.

The Grizzlies hit a sizzling 49.1 percent of their shots and nailed 45.2 percent of their three-pointers. Burnett led all scorers with 27 points, and Panichi had 24.

Timberwolves struggle to contain Greenway in 58-39 loss

ELY—The Timberwolves struggled to contain Greenway's scoring leader here on Tuesday and his 29 points lifted the Raiders to a 58-39 win on Ely's home hardwood. "For the most

part I thought we competed well against them," said Head Coach Tom McDonald. "We just had a hard time containing their 6-foot, seven inch player who was just too tall and athletic for us. He

scored 29 and there wasn't much we could do about it with our lack of size."

The Wolves also struggled offensively, connecting on just three of twenty shots from beyond

the arc and managing just 32 percent from two-point range.

Sophomore Jack Davies posted the best offensive numbers for Ely on Tuesday, notching 16 points, while junior Caid

Chittum connected for eight points and grabbed five rebounds. Sophomores Drew Johnson and Otto Devine also added five boards apiece.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

LaTourell's scoring leads Wolves to latest wins

GREENWAY— Ely senior Grace LaTourell has cemented her place as the Timberwolves scoring leader in recent games and her prowess has the team sporting a six-game winning streak and an 11-3 record at mid-season.

LaTourell poured in 32 points here on Tuesday night as the Wolves routed the Raiders 50-26. "Grace dominated the game

as she outscored the entire Greenway team," said Head Coach Max Gantt.

Ely struggled a bit in the game's early going, but LaTourell found her rhythm in the second half, when the Wolves put it away. "We also played awesome defense," said Gantt. "Maija Mattson and Amelia Penke played great defense for us off the bench

and Sarah Visser contributed with 12 rebounds and five steals."

Tuesday's win came on the heels of the Wolves' convincing 51-36 win against visiting Cherry on Monday. "We really struggled on offense in the first half," said Gantt. "We got it going a little better in the second half, especially Grace."

LaTourell connected for 25

points on the night. "She really carried us offensively. She's such a great shooter, with both three-pointers and jump shots."

Junior Clare Thomas chipped in with 13 points for the Wolves. Senior Sarah Visser struggled offensively but worked the glass for 11 rebounds while adding eight steals.

Gantt credits the team's

success this season to solid defense. "Our offense is still improving and will for sure get better as the year goes. We want to keep improving so that by game 25 and 26 we are playing our absolute best basketball," he said.

The girls were set to travel to Two Harbors on Thursday and to host Duluth Marshall on Tuesday.

Grizzlies rebound with back-to-back victories

by DAVID COLBURN

Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- The North Woods girls rebounded from last Thursday's loss to Ely in quick fashion, picking up a solid road win against International Falls on Friday and thoroughly thumping Silver Bay at home on Monday.

With two seventh-graders holding down spots in the Silver Bay lineup and winless on the season, it's safe to say the Mariners are in a rebuilding year, and the taller, more experienced Grizzlies took full advantage of the situation on Monday. The Mariners kept it close for the

first five minutes, trailing just 10-8, but the Grizzlies cranked their game into high gear and left Silver Bay in the dust with a 40-11 run the rest of the half. River Cheney and Tatum Barto each had ten points at the half and eight Grizzlies knocked down buckets as North Woods exceeded its total game output against Ely to hold a commanding 50-19 lead at intermission.

North Woods shot out of the blocks fast in the second half, feeding Talise Goodsky and River Cheney down low for easy baskets. Cheney was on fire, knocking down 18 more points for a game-high total of 28. Had

Grizzlies Head Coach Liz Cheney not reached deep into her bench for long stretches of the second half, the Grizzlies would have been on pace to eclipse the century mark against the Mariners.

Cheney was pleased with the pace of play in the second half as the Grizzlies kept pouring it on.

"We talked about that at halftime, about how it would be fun to get some fast breaks and run the floor, and they came out and did that in the second half quite well," Cheney said.

In addition to Cheney's big game, the Grizzlies got double-digit scoring from Barto with 12, and Goodsky and Brynn Chosa with 11 each.

The Grizzlies expected and got a tougher test at I'Falls, as the Broncos came into the game having notched their first two wins of the season against Deer River and Nashwaak-Keewatin. The Grizzlies led by as many as six points in the first half and settled for a 35-32 halftime advantage. The Broncos came back to tie at 38-38 and then took the lead at 43-41, but the Grizzlies wouldn't buckle. Ramping up the defensive intensity, North Woods turned the tide and regained the momentum, closing out the game with a 32-19 blitz to secure the 73-62 win.

Turnovers were key, as the Grizzlies forced 22 while

giving up only 11. The Broncos shot a higher percentage than the Grizzlies, but North Woods took 83 shots to only 61 for the Broncos.

Helen Koch had the hot hand for North Woods, scoring 31 points with six trifectas. Koch had plenty of support in the scoring column, with Cheney hitting for 13, Barto 12, and Chosa 10.

"We redeemed ourselves against the Falls and got a really nice win," Cheney said. "With Helen, when she's on, when she's confident she'll shoot more and more. We didn't even realize she had that many points or that many three-pointers."

BOYS...Continued from page 1B

cranking up their running game, with Will, Burnett, and Talen Jarshaw scoring fast break buckets in a 13-1 run to put the Grizzlies ahead 50-20. Ely countered with scores by Wyatt Mattson, Trenton Bishop, Wyatt Tedrick, and Caid Chittum, but the Grizzlies matched the nine-point

rally with one of their own, reestablishing a 30-point advantage at 66-36. Both benches saw action in the game's final minutes, with the Grizzlies' Charlie Wipf putting the final exclamation point on the 71-42 victory.

The Grizzlies shot 45.2 percent for the game

while holding Ely to just 32.1 percent. North Woods had a big advantage in the running game, outscoring Ely 29-6 in transition points, and also dominated in the paint where they held a 40-18 edge.

Burnett's 29-point game led all scorers and kept him near the top of

the list of the state's leading scorers, ranking fourth as of Tuesday in total points and seventh in per game average at 31.5 points. Panichi wasn't far behind with 22 points, and Luke Will knocked down 14. Chittum was the only Ely player in double digits with 11 points.

"We knew that we had a size advantage and speed advantage from looking at film, but the boys had to execute," North Woods Head Coach Andrew Jugovich said. "The goal in the locker room at halftime was hey, we have a lead, don't let them even think about inching back.

The entire second half we really did put them down, we ran the fast break and played intense defense, and that's what we have to be known for."

GIRLS...Continued from page 1B

a deuce by Amelia Penke gave the Wolves an insurmountable 20-point advantage with just over three minutes to play, and with the reserves on the floor Ely's Maija Mattson tallied the Wolves' final basket in the 66-40 victory.

LaTourell provided the largest chunk of Ely's firepower, draining 24 points while dishing out six assists and collecting five steals.

Visser also reached double figures with 13 points, and Ely got scores from seven different players. Cheney was the lone Grizzly in double figures with 13 points.

"Once we started finishing, played a little better defense, and finally knocked down some shots from three and down the lane it was a cleaner half in the second half for us,"

Ely Head Coach Max Gantt said. "If we just move it and take care of it, good things happen."

Gantt said he was particularly pleased with the team's defensive effort.

"We will play multiple defenses, not just man-to-man, and while we work hard in the man we want to play other things," Gantt said. "They like defense – they get after each other in

practice which make them all better.

For North Woods Head Coach Liz Cheney, it was another disappointing loss in a losing streak to the Wolves that dates back to 2019.

"It was like the tale of two teams tonight," Cheney said. "We've come back from bigger deficits at halftime, but we just were a completely different team

in the second half than we were in the first. We just came out flat and even played slower than we did in the first half, and that made all the difference."

The first half demonstrated that the Grizzlies can play with the Wolves talent wise, but getting over the hump and winning has become a mental hurdle, Cheney said.

"Sometimes I think

we mentally beat ourselves against teams like Chisholm, Floodwood, and Ely," she said. "We have to get a win one of these times to convince the girls they can do it."

The Grizzlies will get another shot at notching a win against the Wolves this season when the teams square off again in Ely on Feb. 15.

SKIERS...Continued from page 1B

out of the 52 teams that took part in Saturday's contest, while the girls team took 25th in a 49-team field.

Senior Claire Blauch posted the top Ely finish among both teams, taking 31st in the morning's classic race, in a field of 113 racers, with a time of 15:29.2. Junior Dylan Durkin notched the team's best finish on the boys' side,

with a 35th place showing in the afternoon freestyle competition with a time of 11:44.8. Fellow junior Silas Solun wasn't far behind, finishing 42nd with a time of 12:00 even.

In the boys' classic competition, junior Eli Olson finished 41st in a field of 121 competitors, with a time of 13:42.6, while junior Milo McClelland

posted a 65th place showing with a time of 14:18.0.

For the girls, junior Anna Dunn finished 43rd in the classic race with a time of 15:59.9.

The girls team had somewhat less success in the skate competition, with Ava Skustad as the team's only top-half finisher, at 49th place with a time of 13:48.2.

Hohenstein was particularly pleased with the performances of his junior varsity skiers. Freshman Oliver Hohenstein finished third among 66 racers in the classic competition with a time of 13:21.0, while fellow freshman Aksel Skustad took sixth in a field of 75 in the freestyle race with a time of 11:48.5. Freshman George Sponholz finished 14th in

the freestyle event with a time of 12:40.3.

As a team, the boys junior varsity squad finished in fourth place among more than 40 teams in the competition.

"These younger guys will help build out our section team at the end of the season and it's great to see that they are competing at a high level with other teams from around the state,"

said Hohenstein. "We are looking forward to consistent skiing on our course at Hidden Valley. With the snowfall over the weekend and the little snow showers here and there, we should be good to go. However, this season has taught us not to count on anything snow related until it's on the ground."

HOCKEY...Continued from page 1B

goal with assists from Jace Huntbatch and Brecken Sandberg.

Sandberg, unassisted, made it 4-0 for the Wolves early in the second period. Ashland got on the board six minutes later, but Drew Marolt shut the door with back-to-back goals in the second half of the period. His first, at the 9:36 mark,

came as the Wolves were shorthanded with an assist from Richards. His second came at 15:49, with an assist from goalie Ben Leeson.

Leeson posted a strong performance in the net, fending off 40 of 42 shots on goal. Ely notched 32 shots, but made more of them count.

The game was penalty-filled, as Ely players were tagged for seven infractions, including a ten-minute unsportsmanlike conduct penalty for Sandberg in the second period. Ely's win was its eighth straight on home ice. It's only loss at home so far this season came on Dec. 1 when they lost 4-1

to Mora/Milaca.

Saturday's win was a nice rebound for Ely after a loss on the road the day before. Playing at Bagley, the Wolves fell behind 2-0 early in the second quarter after a scoreless first period. Richards put Ely on the scoreboard at the 3:20 mark of the third period with an assist from Drew Marolt.

Wes Sandy notched Ely's second goal 11 minutes later but it was too little too late as the Flyers added two more goals in the third period to hang on for the win.

Ely outshot the Flyers 41-21.

The Wolves dominated their holiday tournament over the break,

going undefeated in three close games. They topped Kittson County for the third time this season, 2-1, on Dec. 27. They downed St. Paul Johnson 4-3 the following day and beat Moose Lake 3-2 on day three of the tournament.

Obituaries and Death Notices



Hazel E. Quick

Hazel Eileen Quick, 89, of Tower, died on Thursday, Dec. 21, 2023, at Carefree Living Center in Aurora. The family would like to thank Essentia Hospice and Carefree Living for the excellent care they gave to her.

A memorial service was held on Friday, Dec. 29 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower. Pastor Joel Guttormson officiated. Private family interment will take place at a later date in Lakeview Cemetery in Tower.

Memorials are preferred and may be directed to Care Partners, PO Box 217, Eveleth, MN 55734 or Immanuel Lutheran Church, PO Box 466, Tower, MN 55790. Family services were provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.

Hazel was born on June 9, 1934, in Soudan, the daughter of Victor and Hazel (Verity) Wilson and was a graduate of Tower-Soudan High School. She married Harold Ernest Quick on July 11, 1953, and was a lifelong resident of Tower. Hazel was employed at Bayview, J.C. Penney Co., the Tower IGA, was a nurse's aide at the Soudan Hospital, and the Hoodoo Point Campground manager for two summers. She was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower, a member of the Tower-Soudan Women's Bowling League and the Tower-Soudan Athletic Association. She was an avid Vikings fan and avid Golden Eagles fan, and supported all of her grandkids' activities. Hazel enjoyed reading, Jeopardy, was an avid gardener, and cherished time spent at the family cabin. Hazel and Harold enjoyed their many travels across the U.S., Canada, Knife Lake and Las Vegas. Life is great and life is abundant!

Hazel is survived by her children, John (Debra) Quick of Tower, Paula (John) Novelan of Eveleth, Jamie (Patti) Quick of Tower, Jenifer (Mark) Krummi of Iron and Joel (Jenny Benson) Quick of Soudan; sister, Vickie Lombardy of Aurora; grandchildren, John Robert (Naomi) Quick and their children Chara, John Daniel, James, Grace, Noah, Caleb and Hannah; Joseph (Olivia Carlson) Quick; Janna Quick; Laura (Paul Nelson) Novelan; Leah (Steve Yapel) Novelan and their son John Richard; Joshua (Gina) Quick and their daughters Josie and Mila; Jesse (Katie) Quick and their sons Will and Troy; Jacob (Justine Prout) Quick; Alexander (Brenna) Krummi; Matthew Krummi, Ellie Krummi and Tyler Krummi; and extended family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Harold in 2009; daughter, Susan in 1960; and siblings, Jack, Joanne, Ernie and Audrey.



David G. Wagner

David G. Wagner, 83, of Lake Vermilion, loving husband, father and grandfather, passed away peacefully on Christmas morning, Dec. 25, 2023, surrounded by his family. A celebration of life, Big Dave Style, will be announced at a later date.

David was born on Feb. 2, 1940. He had lived on Lake Vermilion for the past 21 years.

David is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Kate; sons, Lance and Christopher; daughter-in-law, Irene and three grandchildren, Andrick, Janik and Nalia Wagner, all of Lonsdale; and brothers, Jerry (Lorraine), Richard (Nancy) and George Wagner.

He was preceded in death by his parents, George and Margaret Wagner; and brothers, William, Robert and James Wagner.



Nathan Plunkett

Nathan Emmanuel Plunkett, 52, passed away on Dec. 19, 2023 at Essentia Health Virginia Hospital with his wife by his side. A Celebration of Nathan's Life will take place on Saturday, March 16, 2024, at the Elks Club at 2 p.m. in Virginia. Arrangements are with the Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

He was born on May 8, 1971, in Minneapolis, Minn. to Robert and Marilyn Plunkett and grew up in Angora, and graduated in 1989 from Cook High School.

Nathan married his high school sweetheart and life partner Ann Hilary Rautiola on March 22, 1991. They lived in Virginia and Britt before they settled in their dream home in Angora where they raised 2 children: Ethan Jacob, born in 1991, and Kimberlyn Norelle, born in 1996.

Nathan was a UPS driver for 31 years before retiring in 2021. He served as a Union Steward for about 10 years. Nathan was an active Angora Township supervisor, having served with the township since 2004 and was a member of the Northwoods Riders for several years.

Nathan and Ann enjoyed family vacations with their children, with cruises and road trips to California.

Nathan had a passion for the outdoors and snow. Nathan loved snowmobiling, motorcycling, ATV's, sailing, cooking, boating, family time at the cabin, and tinkering on tractors and cars with his brother-in-law Kelvin. Nathan especially enjoyed caring for his river acreage in Angora, grooming his

land into a little paradise at home.

Deepest and dearest to his heart was the loving care he took of his family, including being a loving husband to his soulmate Ann, an amazing supportive father to Ethan and Kimberlyn, and being a fun and lovable Papa to all his grandchildren.

Nathan is survived by his life partner and wife Ann, son Ethan Plunkett (Sandra), daughter Kimberlyn Thell (Michael). Grandchildren Morgan Plunkett, Norman Plunkett, and Emelia Thell, mother Marilyn Plunkett, sisters Diana Neumann and Leighann Rau, and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, aunt and uncles.

Nathan was preceded in death by his father Robert Plunkett, one brother Thomas Plunkett and grandparents.

Byron A. Moren

Byron Arthur Moren, 96, of Ely, passed away peacefully at his home on Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2023. Visitation will be from 9:30 a.m. until the 10:30 a.m. memorial service on Saturday, Jan. 20, 2024, at Grace Lutheran Church in Ely. A fellowship will follow at Grand Ely Lodge at noon. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

He is survived by his loving wife of 65 years, Alice Sundquist Moren; daughter, Peggy Stolley; sons, Jim (Cathy) Moren and Mike Moren; six grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Raymond M. Syrjanen

Raymond M. Syrjanen, 97, of Embarrass, died peacefully surrounded by loving family on Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2023. A special thank you to the staffs of Aurora Carefree Living and Northern Pines Hospital for the thoughtful care he received. Services will be held in the summer of 2024. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by his daughters, Caroline (Dennis) Johnson of Fridley and Ann Skraba of Cook; brother-in-law, John Milbridge of Tower; grandchildren, David (Shannon) Marchetti, Denise (Bob) Johnson Miller, Jeffrey Johnson, Christopher (Kathryn) Syrjanen, Addy (Josh) DeJoede, Holly (Jordan) Dalheimer and Young Jo Chung; eight great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; and many special nieces and nephews.

Paula Baltich

Paula Schager Baltich, 84, of Ely, passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2023, at Boundary Waters Care Center after a brief illness. Special thanks to all who visited Paula or sent greetings in the last two months. Thanks to the team at BWCC who took care of her during her time there. A Funeral Mass will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 12, 2024, at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely with visitation for one hour prior. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

She is survived by her children, Joe (Annette) Baltich, Bernie (Sally) Baltich and Susan (Fred) Kittams; grandchildren, Ben (Morgan) Baltich, Zack (Maggie) Baltich, Danny Baltich, Cullen Kittams and Regan Kittams; sister, Emmi (Richard) Ross; brother, Joe (Rose) Schager; and many nieces, nephews and friends.

Curtis Buskirk

Curtis Buskirk, 82, of Ely, passed away on Thursday, Dec. 7, 2023. There will be no service.

He is survived by his son, Ted Buskirk of Embarrass; and sister, Diane (Edward) Luukkonen of Ely.

Raymond W. Johnson

Raymond Walfred "Ray" Johnson, 80, of Embarrass, died peacefully on Sunday, Dec. 31, 2023, at Waterview Woods in Eveleth after a brave journey with prostate cancer. His family would like to thank the hospice staff for their kind and compassionate care. A celebration of life luncheon will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 13, 2024, at the Embarrass Town Hall. Memorial contributions may be made to a charity of donor's choice or the American Cancer Society. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by his sons, Blaine Johnson of Embarrass and Ryan (Molly) Johnson of Blaine; grandson, Aidan Johnson of Blaine; brothers, Alan Johnson of Embarrass and Marvin Johnson of River Falls, Wis.; sisters, Dorris Olson of Duluth, Violet Johnson of Minneapolis and Karen Grams of Iron; sister-in-law, Joanne Johnson of Duluth; several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Walter P. Hopkins

Walter Phillip Hopkins, 84, of Cook, passed away on Monday, Jan. 1, 2024. There will be a private family interment in the spring. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

He is survived by his son, David (Kristy) Hopkins; grandchildren, Emily and Eli; sister, Pamela (Paul) Hopkins Friesen; nieces, Suzanne Friesen and Andrea (Daniel) Friesen Drinkard; great-niece and great-nephew, Noelle and Cameron Drinkard; life partner, Roberta Work; bonus son, David (Pegalaina) Work; many bonus grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Terry A. Anderson

Terry Allen Anderson, 80, of Ely, passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024, at Carefree Living in Ely after a long fight with COPD. The family would like to thank the staffs of Ely-Bloomenson Hospital, Essentia Hospice and Carefree Living of Ely for giving him a few extra years as his health faded. Memorial services will likely be held in the spring for both Terry and his beloved spouse, Sharon, who died in October 2023. Friends are encouraged to make memorial donations to the American Lung Association, a local scholarship, or a charity of their choice. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

He is survived by his son, Dave (Lori) Anderson of Duluth; daughter, Cheryl (Ron) Groth of Baldwin, Wis.; grandson, Joe Anderson of Cotton; granddaughter, Shanna Anderson of Proctor; grandson, Dr. Ben Groth PhD of Columbia, Mo.; sister, Jill (Rick) Phillips; sister-in-law, Gail Anderson of the Twin Cities; brother-in-law, Gene Anderson of Bloomington; brother-in-law, Lowell (Kay) Anderson of Garfield; sister-in-law, Ginny Anderson of Ohio; sister-in-law, Marriane Anderson of the Twin Cities; and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

Michael W. Pelto

Michael W. Pelto, 77, of Ely, passed away on Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024, at Boundary Waters Care Center in Ely. The family wishes to thank the staffs of Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital, Boundary Waters Care Center and Essentia Health St. Mary's Hospice. The family is also grateful for the friendship

and assistance provided by many of his neighbors and managers at the Grahek Apartments in Ely where he lived for the past 11 years. Per his request, there will be no service. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

He is survived by his sister-in-law, Marian Pelto; nephew, Kevin Pelto; niece, Karla (Eric) Neshheim and their two children; and other nieces and nephews.

Carolyn A. McPeak

Carolyn A. Johnson McPeak, 85, of Embarrass, died on Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2024, at Essentia Health Virginia Regional Medical Center in Virginia. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Family services are provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her children, Glenice Bystrom of Soudan, Gail Mingo of Mt. Iron, Geoffry (Brenda) McPeak of Chisholm, Giselle (Donny) Mather of Ely and Gena (Michael) Partyka of Hibbing; brothers, Dennis "Butch" Johnson and Peter (Judy) Johnson, both of Cloquet, and Michael (Tana) Johnson of Embarrass; and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren.

Roberta E. Zbacnik

Roberta Elizabeth "Robbie" Pengal Zbacnik, 69, of Ely, passed away on Saturday, Jan. 6, 2024, at Essentia Health St. Mary's Hospital in Duluth surrounded by her family. A celebration of life will be held this spring at the Grand Ely Lodge in Ely. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

She is survived by her husband, Tom of Ely; children, Thomas (Amanda) of Esko and Robert (Amy) of Woodstock, Vt.; grandchildren, Brody, Maddux, Quinn, Russell and Gwen; brothers, Frank (Carol) Pengal of Hibbing and Paul (Carol) Pengal of Ely; sisters, Karen (Jeff) Copeman of Hibbing and Ruth Pengal of Ely; sisters-in-law, Laura (Dave) Chelesnik and Carol Norby, both of Ely, and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Mary Tome

Mary Tome, 71, of Ely, passed away at her residence on Saturday, Jan. 6, 2024. Funeral arrangements are entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

SAINT LOUIS COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES BETTER WASTE SOLUTIONS

Area Solid Waste Facility site hours

Northwoods Transfer Station 9384 Hwy 21 N., Ely/Babbitt Winter Hours Mon, Thu, Fri, Sat: 8am-3pm Tue: 9:30am-3pm Wed: 11am-5pm	Aurora Transfer Station 5910 Hwy 135 N., Aurora Hours Mon, Thurs, Fri: 8am-4pm Tue, Wed: 10am-4pm Sat: 8am-noon
Embarrass Canister Site 7530 Koski Rd., Embarrass Hours Thu: 10am-5pm Sat: 12:30-4:30pm	Soudan Canister Site 5160 Hwy 169, Soudan Hours Mon, Wed, Sat, Sun: 8am-5pm
Household Hazardous Waste Facility 5345 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Tues and Sat: 8am-1pm	Regional Landfill 5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30pm Sat: 8am-3:30pm

Winter hours effective October 1st through April 14th

St. Louis County Environmental Services Department
218-749-9703
Office hours 8-4:30 Monday through Friday
www.stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle

SAINT LOUIS COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES BETTER WASTE SOLUTIONS

Area Solid Waste Facility site hours

Northwoods Transfer Station 9384 Hwy 21 N., Ely/Babbitt Winter Hours Mon, Thu, Fri, Sat: 8am-3pm Tue: 9:30am-3pm Wed: 11am-5pm	Cook Transfer Station 2134 S. Beatty Rd., Cook Hours Mon: 10am-6pm Tues thru Sat: 9am-3:30pm
County 77 Canister Site 2038 County Rd. 77, Greenwood Twp Winter Hours Thurs, Sun: noon-5pm	Soudan Canister Site 5160 Hwy 169, Soudan Hours Mon, Wed, Sat, Sun 8am-5pm
Embarrass Canister Site 7530 Koski Rd., Embarrass Hours Sat: 12:30-4:30pm Thu: 10am-5pm	Aurora Transfer Station 5910 Hwy 135 N., Aurora Hours Mon, Thurs, Fri: 8am-4pm Tue, Wed: 10am-4pm Sat: 8am-noon
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Outdoors

Our lives in the
Northwoods

WHERE'S WINTER?

December was a month for the record books

Astonishing Christmas warmth puts the month as the warmest December ever recorded in the North Country

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — December of 2023 proved to be one for the meteorological record books. The jaw-dropping Christmas to New Year's warm spell capped a month that was already running much warmer than normal, quite literally blowing away previous records for the month.

In International Falls,

for example, last month's preliminary average monthly temperature of 27.6 degrees was a whopping 4.8 degrees above the previous warmest monthly record, set way back in 1913.

"We creamed it," said state climatologist Pete Boulay, of the border city's new warm temperature record, which came in 15.9 degrees above the monthly average. That preliminary reading could still be adjust-

ed should the state climatology office receive a single missing low temperature reading from Dec. 16, but Boulay it would be unlikely to change the monthly average by more than a tenth of the degree.

While most other northern Minnesota weather stations lack the long period of record available at International Falls, stations throughout the region all finished far above their

Right: Decaying ice on the north arm of Trout Lake in the BWCAW on Dec. 27. While this shallow bay of the lake was frozen, other parts of the big lake remained open as of New Year's

photo by M. HelMBERGER

available averages. Weather stations at Kabetogama, Orr, Embarrass, and east of

See RECORD...pg. 5B



HIKING THE WILDERNESS

Winter green

A late December hike in a snowless BWCAW was disorienting at times

Late December in the Boundary Waters is supposed to be a season laden in white. But in an unprecedented year it was the deep greens that stood out during a hike along the Norway Trail, north of Trout Lake.

After more than a week of rain, fog, drizzle, and above freezing temperatures, what little snow had fallen earlier in the month had disappeared. The ice had grown ruffly for skating, so four of us, along with two dogs, headed to the west end of the Echo Trail to check out the late-December wilderness. A hike through snowless terrain on December 27. In the Boundary Waters. It seemed unimaginable, which was part of the appeal.

I hadn't hiked the Norway Trail before and like most Boundary Waters trails it took a bit of hunting to find the trailheads. There's a north trailhead, which we opted against because it was 16 miles out and back, which was a bit more than we were up for, particularly given the limited daylight this time of year. So, we headed toward the south trailhead, which was supposed to be four miles round-trip. It wasn't terribly ambitious, I know, but by the time we factored in the wrong turns and detours, it turned into a nine-mile jaunt.

Our first wrong turn came

before we even made it to the trailhead. Somewhere along the road, about the area we were expecting, we found a sign that simply said "Trail," and pointed off into the woods. There was a slight pull-off and we figured this was what the Forest Service was calling a trailhead. We donned our backpacks, which were lightly loaded with a few survival items, dry socks, water, and snacks, and headed toward the trail. The woods were damp but not wet and the mosses were practically glowing after days of what could only be described as mossy weather. "It reminds me

of the Pacific Northwest," my sister commented as we passed through one particularly green stretch of blackjack forest. "Blackjack" is the term to describe the dominant species mix in the boreal forest—black spruce and jack pine, a type that extends from far northeastern Minnesota to the tree line. Here, on the southern edge of the boreal forest, the blackjack type is less common than in the heart of the taiga and the forest includes species like red and white pine and red maple, which fade out as you head north.

The trail was rugged at times,

See HIKING...pg. 5B

Top: Clair HelMBERGER, Jodi Summit, and Victoria Ranua (partially obscured) made their way recently along the Norway Trail on the edge of a then-snowless BWCAW.

Above: Wintergreen leaves were abundant along the route. Even in the coldest winter, the wintergreen leaves remain green and continue to photosynthesize when exposed to light, relying on a waxy coating to prevent dessication.

Below: Making our way up a rocky outcrop along the way to Trout Lake.

photos by M. HelMBERGER/V. Ranua



RECREATION

Free entry to Minnesota state parks on Monday

REGIONAL — In their continuing effort to encourage Minnesotans to get outdoors, the Department of Natural Resources is waiving vehicle permit fees at all 75 state parks and recreation areas on Monday, Jan. 15., which coincides with the MLK holiday.

With this year's unusual weather, it's good to know there are many winter park activities that don't require snow or ice, such as birding, winter hiking, nature photography, and having a campfire with hot chocolate and s'mores.

And, if sufficient snow arrives before Jan. 15, visitors can also partake in popular winter activities like sledding, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Most parks offer snowshoe rentals, and select parks offer ski rentals. Visitors looking for rental equipment or certain recreational opportunities can use the ParkFinder tool (mndnr.gov/parkfinder) to find the best park for their trip.

The DNR recommends visitors wear clothing appropriate for the weather, and bring water and snacks. If trails are icy, traction devices for footwear are useful.

This "Free Park Day" is one of four days each year on which the DNR waives the requirement for a vehicle permit at state parks and recreation areas. There is one fee-free day for each season of the year, giving Minnesotans a free of charge opportunity to experience the parks and recreation areas at different times of the year.

Four free park days are scheduled for Minnesota state parks and recreation areas in 2024 including:

- Monday, Jan. 15
- Saturday, April 27
- Saturday, June 8
- Friday, Nov. 29

"Minnesota state parks and recreation areas are open 365 days per year but some visitors only visit in summer," said Ann Pierce, director of the DNR Parks and Trails Division. "We hope having a free day in each season will encourage people to get out and visit a park at a time of year they might not normally visit."

Visitors are advised to check for updates in the visitor alert section of individual park webpages (mndnr.gov/parks) before leaving home. Visitors may also download free maps from park webpages, which can be used in the free Avenza maps app, available in the Apple App Store or Google Play.

The entrance fee waiver for fee-free days does not cover amenity or user fees for activities like camping or equipment rentals.



MARSHALL
HELMBERGER



HIKING...Continued from page 4B

and not particularly evident at one point as we negotiated our way through a beaver meadow complete with flowing water from the recent rains. It was a typical wilderness trail in other words.

We had hiked about two miles along the trail when the sun had peaked out at us just enough to leave me confused. We had assumed the trail was taking us to the south, where it was supposed to terminate at the north arm of Trout Lake, but I kept noticing my shadow ahead of me. I pulled out my phone's GPS app and immediately realized we had been heading north and would need to return the way we had come if we wanted to get to Trout Lake. It could have been deflating but the weather was mild and the clouds were parting into a beautifully clear day so we headed back to the car, had a snack, and then started walking down the road looking for the actual trailhead. A half mile later, we found a sign that indicated it was Entry Point #10 to the Boundary



This Boundary Waters trail was lined with green moss and trees during a Dec. 27 hike, a time of year when the wilderness is normally draped in deep snow. photo by M. Helmberger

Waters, next to which we found a path heading south. We assumed this was the trailhead and took the path, which proved a surprisingly level and easy trek most of the way, with a few interludes through some interesting rock outcrops. It turned out we were on the right path this time and after about an hour, we arrived at the lake. I had expected a typical Trout Lake shore-

line, a glorious pine-covered outcrop leading gently to the water, but it turns out it was low and swampy. We found a slight rise under a stubby white pine and sat down for a midday meal of hard-boiled eggs (thanks to our chickens!) and energy bars, while listening to the silence of the wilderness and enjoying the sunshine glistening across the mottled ice. It was after

2:30 p.m. by the time we started back and we knew that we'd be flirting with darkness if we didn't make our way quickly.

Along the way we had kicked up a few grouse, but on the way back bigger game crossed our path. About halfway back to the car, our dogs went on high alert, telegraphing that something large was nearby. It was the very

Superior National Forest - Norway Trail

Description
This trail passes through mature stands of red and white pine, over ledge rock and through some small wet areas.
North Trailhead: Park your vehicle and walk down the road behind the gate. The trail turns south at about 0.1 mile and traverses a cut area. You will cross Forest Road 471/H at 3 miles. Continue on the trail for 2 1/4 miles to Forest Road 471. Go left on the road for almost a mile to the south trailhead.
South Trailhead: There is limited parking here. From the trailhead, stay on the trail south for 2 miles to the North Arm of Trout Lake in the BWCAW.
Whenever you enter the BWCAW:
• A permit is required.
• Limit of 9 people in a group.
• No cans or bottles.
• Overnight hikers must camp at a campsite (see map) or at least 150 feet from the trail or lakeshore.
• Build fires, when allowed, only in the fire grates at campsites.



CAUTION: No signing on this trail. Use a topographic map and compass to guide you.

large and very fresh moose tracks, which hadn't been there during our first pass through, that identified the source of the dogs' alarm even though we never got a glimpse of the animal itself. We didn't linger long in hopes of spotting it given that our daylight was ebbing.

The sun was nearly set by the time we made it back to the car, and we were all happy to be off our feet for a while. It had been a great

way to spend a day, even though it was somewhat disorienting. The forest had the look and feel of late October, even though the calendar told a different story. Would we ever again be able to hike a snowless Boundary Waters on Dec. 27. I'd like to think not, but in a world where the climate is increasingly out of whack, I wouldn't bet against it.

RECORD...Continued from page 4B

Ely, all reported average monthly temperatures at least 15 degrees above average. The Hibbing airport and Tower stations both topped their monthly averages by 14.6 degrees.

The state climatology office is still waiting on data from smaller weather stations as well to determine if last month topped the all-time warmest December ever recorded statewide. That record, set back way in 1877, was recorded when there were few weather stations in northern Minnesota, so direct comparisons for the North Country aren't possible. But Boulay noted that weather records were kept at the Duluth harbor back in 1877 and he said this December was likely warmer than back then, at least at the harbor. That's because other weather stations located at more northerly locations along the North Shore, such as at Two Harbors and Grand Marais, recorded a monthly average this past December close to the 1877 mark at Duluth, when the monthly mean temperature was 32.7 degrees. Two Harbors, for example, reported an average December 2023 temperature of 31.8 degrees, while Grand Marais averaged 31.7 degrees for the month.

Official Duluth weather records are now kept at the airport, away from the lake, and are significantly colder, on average, than temperatures at the harbor, at least during winter months. The Duluth airport averaged 30.1 degrees this past month, which was 12.9 degrees above average.

"We likely would have set a new record had the recording still been done downtown," said Boulay.

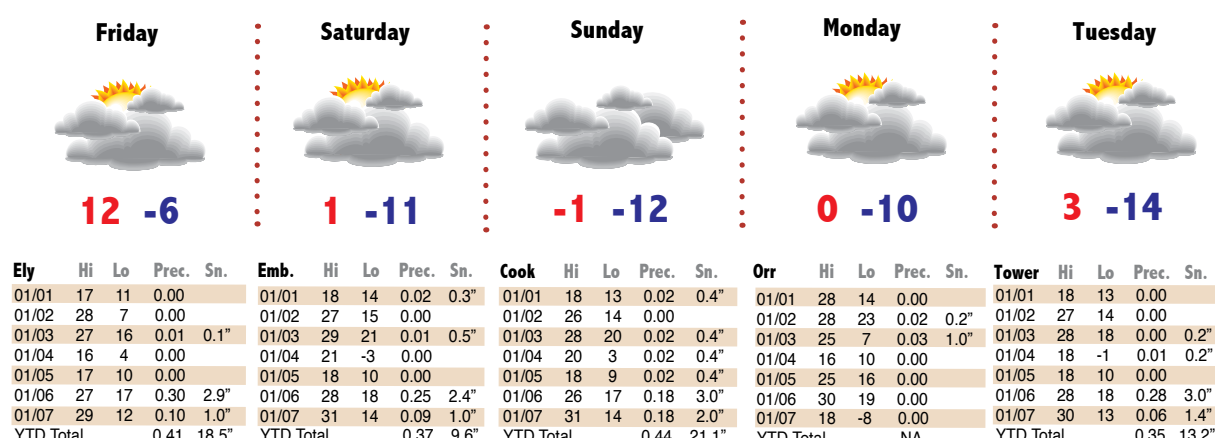
Astonishing Christmas warmth

The warm, moist air that descended on the state just ahead of Christmas was unprecedented according to the state climatology office, with temperatures reaching the 40s in northern Minnesota and the 50s in the southern part of the state, setting daily high-temperature records for both daytime highs and overnight lows. The warm air held levels of moisture previously unknown in Minnesota in late December. "Dew point temperatures surged into the 40s through the Boundary Waters and as far northwest as Crookston, with values reaching or exceeding 50 degrees F throughout eastern and southern Minnesota," according to the state climatology office. "For instance, the dew point of 45 degrees F recorded at International Falls at 2 p.m. on Dec. 24 is not only the highest on record for any date from early December into late February at that location, but also would have set a daily record at any of the much more humid southern Minnesota stations, including the Twin Cities and Rochester."

The mild air and rain brought something else heretofore unknown to many northeastern Minnesota reporting stations—a brown Christmas. It was the first Christmas ever without at least one inch of snow on the ground in places like Tower, Babbitt,

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather



Embarrass, Cook, Crane Lake, Virginia, Winton, and Isabella, according to records kept by the Department of Natural Resources.

This year's record-set-

ting December has also guaranteed records for the latest ice-in of major lakes in the state. As of Jan. 1, satellite images indicated large areas of open water remained on both Rainy

and Namakan lakes and a number of deeper lake trout lakes in the BWCAW were reported to be open water as of the Jan. 1 trout opener, an unprecedented situation.

READ
the Timberjay!



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\$18.99 Sale

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200 Tablets



\$12.99 Sale

Emergen-C Gummies
45 count



\$12.99 Sale

Vitafusion Gummy Vitamin D3
120 Count



\$12.99 Sale

Vitafusion Pre Natal Gummies
90 Count

CONGRATULATIONS
to Beth Debeltz



Recent graduate of
Grand Canyon University, Phoenix, AZ
Doctor of Education in
Organizational Leadership
with an emphasis in
Healthcare Administration

EMPLOYMENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Listening Point Foundation: Hiring Operations Manager

The Listening Point Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization located in Ely, Minnesota on the edge of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW), where author Sigurd F. Olson lived and worked.

The Foundation is dedicated to preserving the properties that inspired Olson and advancing his wilderness philosophy in order to foster people's connection to wild places and inspire them to find their own listening point. The Foundation's work focuses on providing opportunities to experience the wonder of Listening Point and carry forward the wilderness experiences exemplified by the life and works of Olson and preserving the natural and historic integrity of Listening Point, Olson's Writing Shack, and Gusty Island on Burntside Lake in Ely, MN.

The Listening Point Foundation is seeking an Operations Manager to help guide the organization through an exciting time of growth, transition, and opportunity for our organization, and to advance our mission to connect people with wild places and the work of Olson. We seek an energetic and organized individual who will work closely and collaboratively with our Executive Director to maintain efficient operations of the Foundation.

Location: Ely, MN
 Hours: 20 hours/week
 Wage: \$17.00/hour with opportunity to raise rate commensurate with experience

Application/Timeline
 Application information can be found on our website: listeningpointfoundation.org.

To apply, submit a cover letter and resume to board@listeningpointfoundation.org. Candidates invited for an interview will be asked to provide three professional references. Review of applications will begin on January 3, 2024, and will be ongoing until the position is filled. 1/12

POSITION OPENING

Ely Public Schools Head Girls' Track Coach

Ely Public School District is looking for a Head Girl's Track Coach for the 2024 spring season. Background check required.

Required Qualifications:
 > Bachelor's Degree.
 > Coaching licensure or ability to obtain (certification required to be an MSHSL head coach prior to the start of the 2023-2024 season).
 > Previous coaching experience preferred;
 > Must be available for several practices/games per week from mid-March through early June, including some weekends and during school break periods.

Preferred Qualifications:
 > Provide effective leadership for the program, including development of practice and participation plans and oversight of assistant coaches.
 > Demonstrate knowledge in all aspects of the sport and convey knowledge at an appropriate level to the athletes involved, running well organized and effective practices.
 > Work effectively with other programs and personnel, including effective communication with players, parents, administrators, faculty and school staff and the media.
 > Work in support of the department's and school's mission.
 > Represent the school in a positive manner among alumni, supporters and external agencies.
 > Maintain compliance with MSHSL requirements.
 > Manage budget effectively and manage administrative affairs in a timely fashion.
 > Enforce and model proper standards of sportsmanship.

Application available at: www.ely.k12.mn.us
 A complete application must include the following:
 > District Application
 > Resume
 > Copy of credentials declaring appropriate License (per M.S. 122A.22)
Return materials to: Ely Public Schools, Attn: Superintendent, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731 or email lwestruck@ely.12.mn.us
Stipend: \$4,280
Deadline to apply: January 30, 2024; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, Jan. 12 & 19, 2024

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

Now Hiring at the Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park

A trip 2,341 feet down to the 27th level of the Soudan Underground Mine is one of the most unique tour experiences available in Minnesota. Current openings include:
 (5) seasonal 90% Mine Interpreter positions (Job ID 71713).
 (3) Intermittent (on-call) Mine Interpreter positions (Job ID 71712). Salary Range: \$21.60-\$30.52/hourly

Minimum Qualifications: CANDIDATES MUST BE 18 YEARS OLD or older by start date, in compliance with applicable law. Six months experience in interpretation; OR one year experience in cultural history, geology, education, or natural history; OR equivalent experience. Applicants who meet this requirement must also pass a practical exercise that involves developing and giving a short presentation.
Preferred Qualifications: College degree in education, geology, interpretation, history, or related field.

Apply online now at <https://mn.gov/mmb/careers/>
 Closing Date: January 29, 2024
 Questions? Email Sarah Guy-Levar, Interpretive Supervisor, sarah.guy-levar@state.mn.us

An Equal Opportunity Employer: Minnesota state agencies are equal opportunity, affirmative action, and veteran-friendly employers. The State of Minnesota recognizes that a diverse workforce is essential and strongly encourages qualified women, minorities, individuals with disabilities, and veterans to apply. 1/12

Notice of Sale

This is legal notice of the sale of a 2020 Ram 1500 with a Possessory Lien, for mechanical work and storage, in the minimum amount of \$8,260.77.

Sale of this vehicle is on January 15, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at Hibbing Chrysler Center, 1321 E. 39th Street, Hibbing, MN. The owners and lienholder have been notified by certified mail.

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 22, 29, 2023 and Jan. 12, 2024

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Muscat's land
- 5 Droid
- 8 - Romeo
- 12 Squid dish
- 14 Crowd noise
- 15 Earring shape, often
- 16 Rock's Moetley -
- 17 Little louse
- 18 Great -
- 20 Spiral
- 23 Cannon of film
- 24 Sofa brand
- 25 Cake mixes
- 28 Links org.
- 29 Los -, California
- 30 Satisfied sigh
- 32 "Say something!"
- 34 "Alfred" composer
- 35 Flower part
- 36 Run-down
- 37 Sudden bursts
- 40 Aachen article
- 41 Dog's bowlful
- 42 Fly at a low altitude
- 47 Grate
- 48 Points of view
- 49 Pro votes
- 50 Bit of butter

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- 51 Regimen
- 10 Mythic man-goat
- 33 Prevents, legally
- 11 War god
- 34 Virgil epic
- 13 1509, to Cato
- 36 Billboard
- 19 Back muscles, for short
- 37 Poet Teasdale
- 20 Trendy
- 38 Theater production
- 21 Heart charts
- 39 Church section
- 22 Bound
- 40 Work on proofs
- 23 Fact
- 43 Clean air org.
- 25 Pastry store
- 44 - polloi
- 26 Scarce
- 45 Single
- 27 Hourglass
- 46 Calif. clock setting
- 29 Portal
- 31 "Psst!"

DOWN

- 1 Calendar abbr.
- 2 Actress West
- 3 Pie - mode
- 4 Land created by C.S. Lewis
- 5 Lisa's brother
- 6 Spanish gold
- 7 Apex
- 8 Esoteric
- 9 Chicago's Mayor
- Lightfoot

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PUBLIC NOTICE

BEARVILLE TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

The Bearville Town Board will meet for a Special Town Board meeting on January 30, 2024 at 6:30 pm at the Carpenter Town Hall in order to discuss the Carpenter Township Satellite Fire building rental. This is an open meeting. The Carpenter Town Hall is located at 18626 State Hwy 1, Togo, MN 55723.

Kathy Cressy, Bearville Town Clerk
bearvilletownship@gmail.com

Published in the Timberjay, Jan. 12, 2024

Public Hearing Notice for the Rainy Headwaters- Vermilion Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

Over the past year, local partners have worked together to create a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan also known as a One Watershed One Plan (1W1P). The partnership pulled from existing data, resource goals, and stakeholder input to develop local strategies to protect and in some cases restore this cherished watershed. The Rainy Headwaters-Vermilion Planning Area covers almost 4,000 square miles in 4 Counties (Cook, Lake, St. Louis, and Koochiching). It is located within the larger 1854 Ceded Territory and part of the Bois Forte Reservation is within the watershed on the shores of Onamuni Zaaga'iganiin (Lake Vermilion). The watershed is home to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and Voyageurs National Park. Waters within the watershed boundary flow to Rainy Lake and eventually Hudson Bay.

The Rainy Headwaters-Vermilion Watershed partners include Cook County, Lake County, St. Louis County, Cook County Soil and Water Conservation District, Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District, and North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District. An advisory committee of watershed stakeholders helped develop the plan that included federal, tribal, state, and local partners.

To view the plan, please visit the planning website: www.nslswcd.org/rrhwwr

A hybrid public hearing is scheduled for January 26, 2024, at 10 AM at Minnesota North College - Vermilion Campus-Fireside Lounge (1900 E Camp St, Ely, MN) or the Seagull Lake Community Center (12059 Gunflint Trail, Grand Marais, MN). You can also join virtually via Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89311461684>
 Meeting ID: 893 1146 1684
 +1 301 715 8592
 The link will also be posted on the website.

This is your opportunity to provide input to the plan. Contact Becca Reiss at the North St. Louis SWCD for more information: becca@nslswcd.org or 218-288-6143.

Published in the Timberjay, Jan. 12, 2024

Super Crossword

Answers

S	I	X		O	S	S	A		H	A	S	A	C	O	W		O	P	E	D				
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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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8	2		6			1		
6			5			3		
		2			7		9	
				6	1			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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VIRGIE HEGG HOSPICE PARTNERS can provide help for patients and their families in ways such as: comfort care, massages, last wishes and more. For more information, contact Program Director Becca Bundy at 218-780-5423 or vhhpdirector@gmail.com. This ad is paid for by Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners.

PET CREMATION

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AA MEN'S PRIMARY PURPOSE meeting, Tuesdays at 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 226 E Harvey St., Ely, 218-235-38191

King Crossword - Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.

OMAN BOT ALFA
CALAMARI ROAR
TEARDROP CRUE
NIT PLATINS
HELIX DYAN
IKEA BATTERS
PGA GATOS AAH
SPEAKUP ARNE
STEM SEEDY
SPATES EIN
ALPO HEDGEHOP
RASP OPINIONS
AYES PAT DIET

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Super Crossword

LEGAL THRILLERS

- ACROSS**
- 1 Highest roll of a single die
 - 4 Peak in Thessaly
 - 8 Freaks out
 - 15 Subjective paper piece
 - 19 Never dying
 - 21 Kind of cherry named for its shape
 - 22 — sci. (coll. major)
 - 23 Scaled-down symphony group [1994]
 - 25 Mallorca, por ejemplo
 - 26 "King" primate
 - 27 Writer Ferber
 - 28 Anti-bias job agcy.
 - 29 Gown fabric
 - 30 Program interacting with a remote server [1993]
 - 34 Bygone times
 - 38 Nurtured
 - 39 Kids' song with French lyrics
 - 40 — to go (gung-ho)
 - 41 "It's ch-chilly!"
 - 42 Whimpered like a baby
 - 44 Place to disclose sins [2010]
 - 48 Coinage for something with no name
 - 53 Beginning on "To — much is given ..."
 - 55 Nantes' river
 - 57 Sets of points on graphs
 - 58 Shallowest Great Lake
 - 60 Waltz or tango [1997]
 - 63 Itinerant band member, say
 - 66 State after wedlock
 - 68 Having more seepage
 - 69 Panels that may reverse decisions [2008]
 - 71 Melody
 - 72 Jungle roarer
 - 73 Ouzo flavorer
 - 74 Exact lookalike
 - 76 Brand of rodent killer
 - 80 Horse-man of myth
 - 83 Greeting act conveying confidence [1991]
 - 86 First-rate
 - 88 Flub it up
 - 89 Actress Shire
 - 90 Plant snugly
 - 94 — -cone
 - 95 Junk email sender
 - 97 Samoan peak famous for trapping clouds [1995]
 - 101 Italian port
 - 102 Exactly
 - 103 Money won in a game of dreidel
 - 104 Claudius I's successor
 - 108 Getting the job done
 - 109 What the first word of each of seven answers in this puzzle is, when preceded by "The"
 - 113 Stun with a charge
 - 114 Canceled by crossing off
 - 115 Revising, as text
 - 116 Bishops' jurisdictions
 - 117 Prescription amounts
 - 118 Berlin article
 - 119 Meadow
 - 4 Celestial ball
 - 5 Like a cold, hard gaze
 - 6 Manhattan eatery since 1927
 - 7 Isolated
 - 8 Ad — committee
 - 9 Hatchet part
 - 10 Ram or ewe
 - 11 "The Fox and the Crow" storyteller
 - 12 Tabby's scratcher
 - 13 Bobby of hockey
 - 14 Venus Williams' org.
 - 15 Sedative drug
 - 16 Sticky little sheet
 - 17 "Mama" Cass
 - 18 Actress Wiest
 - 20 Texter's "Yikes!"
 - 24 Bolted to escape
 - 29 Riyadh native
 - 30 Sugar source
 - 31 Shore flier
 - 32 "Not yet sure what my answer is"
 - 33 Director Joel or Ethan
 - 34 Killer whale
 - 35 Neighbor of Myanmar
 - 36 Early James Bond foe
 - 37 Not similar
 - 41 Dust jacket write-up
 - 42 Demi and Dudley
 - 43 Departs
 - 45 Cupcake flourish
 - 46 That lady
 - 47 Less spicy
 - 49 Honey-coated Easter entree
 - 50 Anderson of "WKRP in Cincinnati"
 - 51 Cicero's "Lo!"
 - 52 Cake layer
 - 56 ICU workers
 - 59 Actor Stephen
 - 60 Iran's former name
 - 61 Ball-shaped
 - 62 Put on, as an outfit
 - 63 After-bath powder
 - 64 Andy Taylor's boy
 - 65 Sitting atop
 - 66 Suffix with ball
 - 67 Innocent types
 - 70 President before Donald
 - 71 Shallow pan
 - 74 Swarms
 - 75 Huge conflict
 - 77 Sedate
 - 78 Steinbeck migrant
 - 79 Close
 - 81 In — (more than sleeping)
 - 82 Arm bone
 - 84 Eatery list
 - 85 Baseballer Musial
 - 87 Is really mad
 - 90 Grain fungi
 - 91 "Watch Me (Whip/—)" (2015 hit)
 - 92 "Apollo 13" actor Gary
 - 93 Bills worth 100 bucks
 - 94 "You got that right!"
 - 95 Meat in a sub
 - 96 Coal-mining guys
 - 98 MMA fighter Rousey
 - 99 Armageddon nation
 - 100 Little laugh
 - 104 Silent "yes"
 - 105 Like villains
 - 106 Russo of film
 - 107 Gymnast Korbut
 - 109 Elly May Clampett's pa
 - 110 Good Grips kitchen brand
 - 111 — a trap!
 - 112 Ark.-to-Ill. dir.

SNOWFLAKES
by Japheth Light

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦♦

♦ Easy ♦♦ Medium ♦♦♦ Difficult

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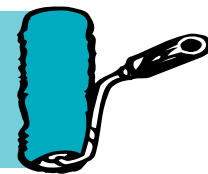
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Hibbing 263-3276
"Friends Helping Friends"

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18					
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53					54					55			56				57					
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101										102				103					104	105	106	107
108										109	110				111				112			
113										114												
116										117												
														118								119



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