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The **TIMBERJAY**



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WEATHER AND THE ECONOMY

Little snow is wreaking havoc with winter economy

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— While most North Country residents are likely relieved by the warmer weather that settled in this week after ten days of arctic chill, the change isn't so welcome to area business owners who rely on winter traffic to keep the bills paid.

The mild conditions in

December and early January and the relative lack of snow put most winter activities on hold for weeks at a time when many businesses are normally ramping up for the winter season. Instead, many business owners are watching as week after week of bookings disappear from their books, and their bottom line.

"We've had over 30 cancellations so far," said Orlyn

Kringstad, who operates the eight-unit Marjo Motel in Tower. That's left his room sales down by two-thirds over last winter, when snow and consistent cold was ideal for winter recreation.

Kringstad's experience has been pretty typical of other hotels, motels, and resorts in the area so far this winter. Fortune Bay Resort

See...**WINTER** pg. 9



Left: The parking lot at the Marjo Motel in Tower has been largely empty in recent weeks as the lack of snow has kept snowmobilers away.

photo by D. Colburn



MAKING THE EFFORT

Talking to the other side

Ely's new Braver Angels chapter seeks to bridge the political divide

by **CATIE CLARK**
Ely Editor

ELY- There was a nearly full house last Thursday, Jan. 18, as the newly-formed Ely chapter of Braver Angels held its first workshop at the Ely Senior Center. Braver Angels is a national organization consisting of people from both sides of the political divide who are seeking to restore civility to both local and national political discourse.

Giving people the skills to talk about contentious political issues without alienating those with opposing views is a big part of the group's mission. Braver Angels recruits people of all political views because all views deserve to be heard with respect. Meetings are open to anyone who wishes to attend.

A Braver Angels workshop leader from the Twin Cities, Melissa Voss, conducted Ely

chapter's first workshop. Voss is a nationally prominent journalist and a co-founder of the Association of Health Care Journalists. Now retired, Voss is currently a full-time volunteer for Braver Angels and is a member of the Braver Angels Minnesota steering committee.

"This is an experiment," Voss told the group at the senior center,

See...**ANGELS** pg. 10

Above:MPR freelancer Erica Dischino (left) talking with Emily Roose (center) and Mike Banovetz (right) at the Jan. 18 Braver Angels meeting in Ely.

EMS

City makes the case for more ambulance support

by **JODI SUMMIT**
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- The city clerk-treasurer here told members of the Tower Ambulance Commission, Monday, that they can no longer count on the city to backfill the the Tower Ambulance Service's financial deficits in the future.

Based on documents that clerk-treasurer Michael Schultz provided to commission members this week, the city contributed \$41,833 from its general fund to cover ambulance expenses in 2023. That's substantially higher than the \$15,000 the city provided in stopgap funding the year before.

"The ambulance service is scrapping by, but it needs infusions," said Schultz.

Schultz noted the city also provides administrative support and oversight to the ambulance service out of its general fund.

Most of the township representatives on the commission, except for Greenwood, appeared to agree, but most said finding a solution will involve looking at both short-term

See...**AMBULANCE** pg. 9

VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK

Crane Lake Visitors Center could open by late summer

by **DAVID COLBURN**
Cook/Orr Editor

CRANE LAKE-It's taken literally decades for a Voyageurs National Park visitor center at Crane Lake to move from the dream world onto the path to reality, but with the basics of the building now constructed and sealed, the countdown to opening day has commenced.

That won't be quite as early

as locals had wished, as a hoped-for opening for early summer now looks like it will happen toward the end of this year's tourist season, according to Crane Lake Township Chairman Jerry Pohlman, who gave a brief update to the *Timberjay* on Tuesday.

But that's far, far closer than back in 1975 when VNP was established along with plans for a visitor center at Crane Lake to go along with the ones at Kabetogama, Ash

Right: Construction of the new Crane Lake Visitors Center is now well underway.

photo by D. Colburn

River, and Rainy Lake. While the latter three made it to fruition, the Crane Lake center didn't officially make it off the drawing board until Max Gray Construction was awarded the \$2.978 million contract to build it last June.

See...**CENTER** pg. 10



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Community notices

Timberjays office to be closed Friday, Feb. 2

TOWER- The Timberjays office in Tower will be closed Friday, Feb. 2 while staff are attending the annual Minnesota Newspaper Association convention in Minneapolis. The office will reopen as usual on Monday, Feb. 5. Regular winter office hours are Monday – Thursday from 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Friday from 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. Office may sometimes be closed during the day if staff is out covering a story, you can call 218-753-2950 to confirm hours for a specific day.

Embarrass Timber Hall to hold book, puzzle and game breakfast Feb. 3

EMBARRASS – The Timber Hall is excited to be bringing back by popular demand the book, puzzle, and game drive breakfast. Breakfast attendees will be able to peruse the selection of donated books, games and puzzles and take something home to help pass the dreary winter days.

The breakfast is Saturday, Feb. 3 from 8 – 11 a.m. and includes all-you-can-eat pancakes, choice of ham or sausage, fruit, juice, coffee. The cost of breakfast is adults \$7, kids ages 6-10 \$4, and kids 5 and under free.

Sons of Norway Haarfager Lodge #40 to meet Feb. 1

VIRGINIA – The Sons of Norway Haarfager Lodge #40 will meet at Thursday, Feb. 1 at 5:30 p.m. in the Virginia City Hall Club Room. Crazy Dice will be played, so members are asked to bring wrapped gifts. The evening’s serving committee includes Elaine Edwardson, Pat Sleeman and Sharon Crep. Anyone interested in Norwegian culture and heritage is welcome to attend.

Dr. Matthew Holmes to present “Colorectal cancer: Catch it early to reduce your risk” Feb. 15

COOK-Matthew Holmes, MD with Scenic Rivers Health Services, will provide information related to the importance of colorectal screenings and how it is an essential tool in preventing colorectal cancer. Those 45 or older, should start getting screened for colorectal cancer. The presentation is Thursday, Feb. 15 at the Cook Community Center from 6-7 p.m.

According to the American Cancer Society, “Colorectal cancer is one of the leading causes of cancer death in men and women, yet it can often be prevented or found at an early stage, when it’s small and may be easier to treat, with regular screening.”

The presentation is brought to you by Cook Hospital Needs Assessment-Education Workgroup. The education workgroup is a collaborative group of local agencies and community members that are interested in bringing educational opportunities to all members of the Cook area community related to health and wellbeing.

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.

CROSSING THE DIVIDE

Registration now open for TedX Silver Lake – Crossing the Divide

Event set for Friday, Feb. 24 at the Iron Trail Motors Event Center

VIRGINIA – Get ready for an immersive experience that will ignite your curiosity and inspire new ideas. TEDxSilver Lake will premiere on Friday, Feb. 23, at the Iron Trail Motors Event Center. Doors open for a reception at 4 p.m. with the main event running from 5 – 9 p.m. Tickets are \$40 per person and available now through the event website www.TEDxSilverLake.com. Appetizers and complimentary beverages will be served. A cash bar will be available.

The theme for TEDxSilver Lake is “Crossing the Divide.” This theme is meant to be broad and inclusive. It is open to the presenter’s interpretation on how their ideas bring us together or “cross the divide.” TEDxSilver Lake will create passion and spur curiosity rather than judgement. The theme also pays homage to the local landmark, the



Laurentian Divide, which lies just north of Virginia.

TEDxSilver Lake organizers are thrilled to welcome Paul Met-sa to speak and perform during the event. Other speakers and performers are being added to the website and will be speaking on topics ranging from climate change to strengthening communities.

TEDxSilver Lake co-chairs, Lorrie Janatopoulos and Betsy Olivanti are excited to bring great ideas to the Virginia TEDx stage.

“It is energizing and uplifting to be in a room where people are sharing great ideas. It is sure to be an

evening filled with captivating talks, thought-provoking discussions, and innovative ideas worth spreading,” said Janatopoulos.

Olivanti and Janatopoulos encourage all ages to attend this “event filled with entrepreneurial spirit, visionary leadership, and just plain fun.” Get your ticket today at www.TEDxSilverLake.com.

TEDxSilver Lake is an independently organized and licensed TEDx event organized by local volunteers thanks to a Boost Grant from the Blandin Foundation and support from local sponsors. Using TED’s unique 18-minute time limit, TEDxSilver Lake aims to provide the audience with talks on a variety of topics that are sure to inspire and educate.

RURAL HEALTH CARE

Cook Hospital earns ACR accreditation

COOK- The Cook Hospital has been awarded a three-year term of accreditation in mammography as the result of a recent review by the American College of Radiology (ACR). Mammography is a specific type of imaging test that uses a low-dose X-ray system to examine breasts. A mammography exam, called a mammogram, is used to aid in the early detection and diagnosis of breast diseases in women.

The ACR gold seal of accreditation represents the highest level of image quality and patient safety. It is awarded only to facilities meeting ACR Practice Parameters and Technical Standards after a peer-re-

view evaluation by board-certified physicians and medical physicists who are experts in the field. Image quality, personnel qualifications, adequacy of facility equipment, quality control procedures and quality assurance programs are assessed. The findings are reported to the ACR Committee on Accreditation, which subsequently provides the practice with a comprehensive report that can be used for continuous practice improvement.

The ACR, founded in 1924, is a professional medical society dedicated to serving patients and society by empowering radiology professionals to advance the practice, sci-



ence and professions of radiological care. The college serves more than 37,000 diagnostic/interventional radiologists, radiation oncologists, nuclear medicine physicians, and medical physicists with programs focusing on the practice of medical imaging and radiation oncology and the delivery of comprehensive health care services.

PUBLIC TRANSIT

Arrowhead Transit hires a new maintenance director

VIRGINIA - Tom Johnson of Aurora has assumed the role of Assistant Director of Maintenance at Arrowhead Transit, bringing a wealth of experience and a commitment to elevating the efficiency of transit maintenance operations.

A former Army electronics repair specialist, Tom transitioned into civilian life by working

with a staffing agency, focusing on heavy equipment for the mining industry around the Iron Range. Tom pursued a two-year degree in Automotive Technology at Hibbing Community College. This academic foundation laid the groundwork for his entry into the automotive industry, culminating in his attainment of the title of master technician with General Motors.

Arrowhead Transit welcomed Tom into its fold nine months ago, initially appointing him as the Maintenance Manager in the Gilbert location. In this capacity, his responsibilities included overseeing timely vehicle maintenance and repairs, with a particular emphasis on refining preventative maintenance strategies.

Tom’s professional journey, from military



Tom Johnson, Arrowhead Transit's new maintenance director.

service to a seasoned automotive professional, underscores his dedication to continuous learning. Currently pursuing a two-year degree in business operations management,

Tom seeks to elevate Arrowhead Transit’s maintenance team to new levels of efficiency and effectiveness.



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LAKE VERMILION

Treating employees like one of the family

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

Greg "Arch" Archibald celebrates his 25th year as owner of the Vermilion Club

LAKE VERMILION- When Greg "Arch" Archibald bought the Vermilion Club from Joanne and Ron Thibault 25 years ago, he brought his generous spirit and lifelong experience running pizza shops to Lake Vermilion's most popular and long-lived night spot. And "the VC" as it's known to regulars, was hopping Saturday night as folks gathered for a celebration of Arch's quarter century at the helm.

Adding on a pizza kitchen to the already busy bar and fine dining restaurant, his business strategy was to keep everything he had loved about the place since he was a kid, who recalls enjoying visits to the VC after fishing or snowmobiling on Vermilion.

"I never touched the main bar," he said, "but we added on space in the kitchen, and built the pizza shop." The bar décor leans towards Minnesota professional sports, especially hockey and football. And for Arch, a huge sports fan himself, signed photos and jerseys remind everyone of the joy of being a fan.

Archibald started working at Poor Gary's Pizza in Virginia when he was still in high school and had operated his own pizza shop since he was 20.

"Been doing pizzas for 50 years," he said. Poor Gary's pizzas at the VC are legendary, especially the Bamboozler, a 24-inch wide slab boasting three square feet of cheesy goodness which is advertised to feed six to nine adults, or in my experi-



Left: Arch and his team celebrated Halloween this past year as a team! Above: Arch hosted a visit from Iron Range native Matt Niskanen back in 2018. submitted and file photos

ence, three teenage boys.

"Arch is the best boss you could ever have," said Talia Miko, a longtime VC staffer. "He is kind and giving. He is so good to his employees. We all love each other."

Archibald oversees a staff of almost 30 in the summer and he credits his staff with the success of the business. But the feeling is clearly mutual and the proof is the dozens of staffers who have been working there year after year.

"If anyone says they don't love Arch, then they just don't know him," said staffer Brandie Heidenway. "He's absolutely one of the kindest people I've

ever known."

Heidenway said there are very few bosses that you'd rather have sitting there while you are working a shift.

"He just brings the good times and good vibes with him. He makes it fun, and he makes sure we all know how much he appreciates us."

"I'm there a lot," said Archibald, though he admits he is often just sitting at the bar and talking with customers. Always in the same spot, a bar corner with a clear view of who is coming in, and who is already seated and who's moving in and out of the large back room, with overflow tables and a stage for

live music. The bar at the VC is a spot for the regulars, who are often seen on the same bar stool every time you come in.

At this point, his workday focuses on doing the paperwork, and as with any small business, fixing all the small and larger things that break or go wrong in a week. He is able to delegate most of the day-to-day management to longtime employees Talia Miko, Autumn Jacobson, and Chef Levi Anderson. Even so, he said he is quick to step in, even washing dishes, when they are short-staffed.

His philosophy is simple. "Treat your employees nicely," he said. "There is no sense yell-

ing at people."

He has overseen generations of employees, some of which include three generations. "It's nice to keep employees who know what they are doing. I always tease them that I can't wait for their kids to come work for me, because I can tell them stories about their moms!"

Randy Johnson's daughters Courtney and Whitney both worked at the Vermilion Club when they were growing up, and Courtney stayed on part-time until she had her first child, who is now 12.

"Arch has already offered See ARCH...pg. 5

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OPINION

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“CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO
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The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

Editorial

Judicial power grab?

By overturning the Chevron deference, justices seek power without accountability

The conservative activists on the U.S. Supreme Court appear eager to take an axe to one of the most important and widely-cited legal precedents in American jurisprudence using a case involving herring fisherman as pretext.

The case itself involves the relatively minor question of who should pay for federal inspectors who ride aboard fishing vessels to ensure compliance with regulations. But it appears the activists on the court are ready to use the case to go far beyond the question at hand to wipe away a much more consequential precedent, stemming from a case known as *Chevron USA v. Natural Resources Defense Council*.

Overturning the legal apple cart, unfortunately, has become a pattern with the current Supreme Court, and it's contrary to the longstanding tradition of what's known as judicial modesty, which calls for judges to limit their rulings to the narrow questions laid out in any particular case. The majority on the current high court has a clear political and policy agenda and it's been selecting cases for years as pretexts to overturn longstanding precedent and federal laws they oppose on ideological grounds. The case of the herring fishermen is just the latest example.

The *Chevron* ruling, which was the unanimous decision of a Republican-dominated court in 1984, held that courts should give executive branch agencies at least a modicum of deference when they make decisions or set regulations or policies based on their understanding of the sometimes ambiguous laws passed by Congress. Essentially, the court found that if federal agencies had based their actions on a reasonable reading of the language passed by Congress and signed by the President, the courts have no business second-guessing those decisions. That's judicial modesty.

Back in the 1980s, when federal agencies were run by Republican presidents whose decisions were often challenged by more liberal groups, conservatives loved the *Chevron* precedent, which has now been cited in more than 15,000 lower court decisions on a vast range of issues. But times have changed. A Republican has won the popular vote for president just once in the past 35 years and the federal agencies under Democratic presidents have become modestly more aggressive in trying to regulate the abuses of big business. Which means *Chevron* doesn't

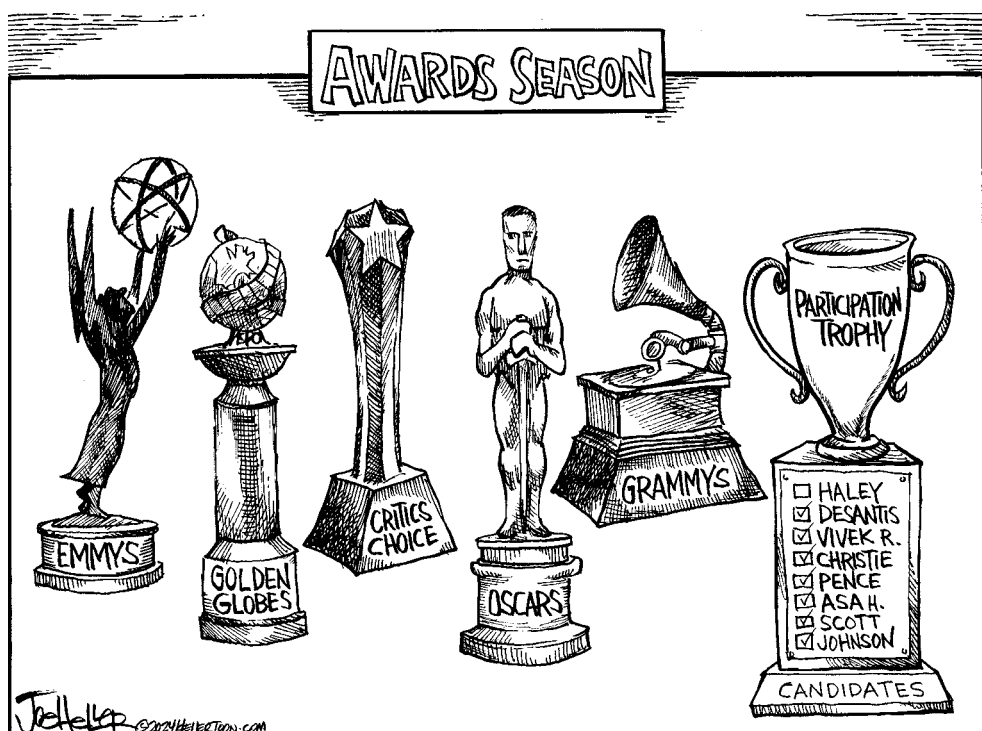
serve corporate interests like it used to.

The current high court has already taken some swipes at *Chevron* over a series of cases but based on questions and comments from several of the conservative justices in oral arguments last week, it appears they may be ready to throw the whole thing out. The only question is whether they can muster a majority to do so.

The current argument for undoing *Chevron*, which is that Congress, rather than federal bureaucrats, should determine the intricacies of federal regulations, is disingenuous at best. Congress can barely pass a budget much less craft the fine details of federal regulations. Since the nation's founding, Congress has passed legislation that set broad goals and delegated much of the detail of implementing those goals to the executive branch, which is expected to employ individuals with expertise in the subject matter at issue.

The reality is that wiping away *Chevron* won't restore authority to Congress, quite the opposite. Eliminating *Chevron* shifts power exactly where corporate America wants to see it today, to conservative federal judges, who could now have carte blanche to substitute their own views for those of federal agencies. Unlike the federal bureaucrats, the judges who may ultimately now be tasked with deciding complex regulatory cases, involving everything from nuclear power plants to food safety, may well have little or no knowledge or background in the subject matter at issue. And, unlike the bureaucrats, judges aren't subject to being hauled before Congress for grilling if members don't agree with how they're interpreting federal law. Agency officials, while they may not be elected, are accountable both to their executive branch supervisors, as well as members of Congress.

The justices who sit on the Supreme Court, by contrast, are accountable to no one. They're appointed for life and, as we've learned in recent months, they are happily accepting hundreds of thousands of dollars in gifts from wealthy benefactors, gifts that would land any Washington bureaucrat or member of Congress in a federal penitentiary for years. Unaccountable is the virtual definition of a Supreme Court justice. Which makes their potential power grab over *Chevron* all the more troubling.



Letters from Readers

Stauber takes credit for others' work

Pete Stauber opposed spending money to fix our roads, like the crumbling Blatnik bridge. Maybe he thought the bridge fairy would come and fix it along with the other unsafe bridges in the Eighth District, but I have my doubts. He then voted to shut down the government so it wouldn't be able to do things like fix our roads, and I put my finger on it: He doesn't care about us.

Is he willing to be honest about opposing road and bridge repairs? Well, that's a solid no because immediately, after the Biden administration announced it would be fixing the Blatnik bridge, there was Pete Stauber taking credit for another thing he not only didn't do, but actually tried to stop no less than two times. We've all worked with someone who sits around doing nothing and then when the boss is around takes credit for something you and your friends worked hard to finish. That is who Pete Stauber is: The do-nothing employee lying to the boss at the expense of his co-workers. Well, at work we may have to put up with that guy, but here, we're the boss. The taxpayers deserve better than an employee who smiles, takes credit for other people's work and treats us like we're stupid. Stauber needs to be fired asap.

Kelly Dahl
Linden Grove
Township

A shady legacy

The revelation in last week's *Timberjay* about the misuse of federal Fish and Wildlife Service grants by the Department Natural Resources, while shocking and likely criminal, should surprise no one. DNR Forestry has a shady legacy that goes back into the mists of time. In my experience in observing DNR timber policy as an interested citizen, timber extraction usually wins, money talks and sound science walks.

If it turns out that fees from hunting and fishing licenses were also misused in this scheme, that should make every sportsman angry.

If these allegations turn out to be true, there should indeed be consequences for managers and the department.

I'm interested to hear what our local state and federal representatives have to say in response to these allegations.

Tim McKenzie
Ely

Required radon testing would save lives

In St. Louis County, a home seller cannot sell and a buyer cannot buy a rural property that does not pass a septic inspection in order to provide a report showing the condition of the septic at the time of purchase. Should the septic come in failing then parties can decide who pays for it or cancel. In St. Louis County, a title company will not allow a seller to sell or a buyer to buy unless the septic system is either compliant or has a plan to become compliant agreed to by both parties. The law is necessary to

keep septic systems and people healthy. So, even though very few may die from exposure to a bad septic, sellers cannot sell and title companies will not close until there is a solution and a compliant system is in place.

Cut to Radon:

In St. Louis County, there is currently NO MANDATE for a seller or buyer to have a radon test done prior to closing even though known deaths every year occur in our state due to radon poisoning. The rule is that sellers must disclose any radon tests if they've had one but most have not and would rather not discuss a high level test result so they might not test ahead of selling.

The MDH has left it an option for buyers who lately, due to market conditions, are even sometimes discouraged from having a radon test taken in the home they're considering. Sellers could sell to others while the buyer waits for a test result. A large percentage of buyers over the last few years have opted for no test. Once buyers are in the new house, there's no smell, no indications of radon and any fear goes away. I believe a big reason radon deaths continue to occur is that no one is MANDATED to have a test done prior to closing.

There seems to be a simple solution: Require radon tests to be completed and radon levels detected PRIOR to closing. Either buyer or seller or both can pay, but don't leave it up to the buyers who "don't have a chance" against radon in a home.

Please share any thoughts as to why this should not be a new mandate for home sales.

I really believe lives will be saved.

Jerry Pfremer
Gilbert

COMMENTARY

Let's solve problems through dialogue

From an early age, I recognized that my family was better off than some others and was aware of inequality between groups of people, as well. I questioned why that was and why we weren't doing something about it.



BETTY FIRTH

were hungry, malnourished, and often sick. When I went home, I asked my parents if that were true.

When they confirmed it, I asked, "Then why aren't we sending them food?" which morphed into

my volunteering with hunger issues in later years: Coordinating Loaves and Fishes dinners for 500 people in Minneapolis with Quakers from various meetings, waitressing

for a free breakfast program near my inner city home sponsored by a suburban protestant church, helping out with free meals one Christmas in downtown Minneapolis, and, eventually, the helping out and then managing the Ely Area Food Shelf. I love an interesting variety of good food and have never known food scarcity, except when intentionally depriving myself for diets. I was empathetic about how hard it would be to have insufficient, poor quality food, knowing the detrimental effects on physical and mental

health, as well as on the human spirit.

I offer that background, because it seems that I was a Democrat before I had any idea what that meant. It just made sense that we need to care for the good of everyone and look out especially for those who are least able to take care of themselves. My parents were Eisenhower Republicans. Although there were very few overt political discussions in our house, knowing my parents' values and their chosen activities, I know they would be Democrats if they were alive

today, so the origins of my own leanings are less mysterious. The current national Democratic party platform states, "Healing the soul of America means facing up to the deepest inequities in our society, from structural racism to misogyny to discrimination against people with disabilities, and enacting ambitious measures to fix them." I'm all in with that.

In my late 30's, I was introduced to Quakerism, and felt like I had found a spiritual home after many years of alternately "trying on" churches and giving up the search. I

was definitely joining the concerned choir of voices speaking up for equality, social justice, peace, and non-violence. My values were affirmed, and my education expanded regarding political activism. Given their small numbers in the U.S. and the world, Quakers have been inordinately involved in and providing leadership for movements concerning human rights, so I was exposed to outstanding individual and organizational role models.

See TALK...pg. 5

Letters from Readers

Evangelicals baffling love affair with Trump

In light of the “God Made Trump” insanity floating around social media, where Donald Trump is actually being touted as the ‘chosen one’, almost a ‘second coming’, I’ve stumbled across yet another Facebook posting that says it all and needs to be shared. Again, with apologies to the originator of the post, I’ll repeat it here... “Satan’s best work was being able to convince evangelicals that a racist who makes fun of handicapped people and dead soldiers, calls POW’s ‘losers’, gropes women (and brags about it), incites violence, and almost NEVER tells the truth, was sent here by God.” In what alternate universe could that possibly be true? I defy the evangelicals, or anyone else, to point out even ONE Christian character trait in this man.

**Lynn Scott
Soudan**

Minnesota must have clean government for clean water

Without question, the growing scarcity of healthy drinking water will affect everyone. Ap-

proximately two thirds of the world’s population will face water shortages by 2025. Locally, the University of Minnesota in 2012 warned state leaders that demand will soon exceed supply and that “the state would need to reduce water consumption by 35 percent over the next 25 years just to stay at today’s level of use.”

Sadly, state government did nothing. And now, we are confronted with a serious crisis. Specifically, foreign mining conglomerates with highly questionable reputations are seeking to mine in northern Minnesota for valuable minerals including copper, nickel, titanium, and platinum.

However, this type of mining, known as sulfide mining, is highly risky because it involves a process that releases acids and toxic metals into water that remain there for hundreds of years. This includes mercury, arsenic, lead, and cadmium.

Current mining laws were designed for iron ore and are totally inadequate for sulfide mining. In July 2019, 18 DFL legislators led by Senator John Marty wrote a detailed letter to Governor Walz outlining their concerns with the PolyMet project.

The letter stated that the process was “flawed” and pos-

sibly, “rigged,” that the liability assigned to PolyMet was a “sham,” that Glencore was “irresponsible,” and that the storage basin designed to hold highly toxic waste to prevent it from flowing into the BWCA and Lake Superior was totally unacceptable. The legislators recommended a moratorium until new laws and standards could be imposed.

On Aug. 12, Gov. Walz, in an interview with *MinnPost*, gushed his agreement with the contents of the letter and gave his full assurance that he was fully onboard with their concerns and promised:

“The only way this gets built is if it gets built right” and added: “it’s my job to make sure we do.”

But, from this date forward nothing transpired: no legislative hearings, no updating of antiquated laws, no reforms.

Simply, our elected officials chose to ignore dire warnings including the findings of the DNR consultant who stated that the safety storage system was “inherently unstable and irresponsible and that it “will eventually fail.” He concludes by calling it a “Hail Mary.”

In addition, they ignored the warnings of their own legislative colleagues who wrote that Glencore has “structured

the financing so they would get their profits first from the mine and then wash their hands of the problem,” thereby leaving the Minnesota taxpayer on the hook.

This is a far cry from “The only way this gets built is if it gets built right”.

Instead of protecting the public, legislative leaders directed the building of massive caucus fundraising machines that raised over \$26.5 million or some \$130,000 per incumbent for the 2020 legislative campaigns. This staggering sum did not come from neighborhood coffee parties but rather the monied interests who are granted very special favors by the Legislature, including being able to shape legislation. This is a finding of a University of Minnesota study released in May 2021. The report concluded: “Money matters at the Minnesota Legislature.”

This is popularly known as “influence peddling.” It is totally corrupt and it involves both parties.

And then consider this finding by the United States Department of Justice in May of 2022 following Glencore’s guilty plea and a fine of \$1.1 billion: “The scope of the criminal bribery scheme is staggering. Glencore paid bribes to secure oil

contracts. Glencore paid bribes to avoid government audits. Glencore bribed judges to make lawsuits disappear. At bottom, Glencore paid bribes to make money- hundreds of millions of dollars. And it did it with the approval, and even encouragement, of its executives.”

There is no wall of virtue protecting Minnesota. Our drinking water and so much of our land for fishing, hunting, camping, vacationing is at stake. The public is fully entitled to know why the silence, why the broken promises and inaction on vital reforms, and why are we doing business with a corrupt company? Gov. Walz and our elected officials must tell us: If it is not money, then what is it?

**Arne H. Carlson
Retired GOP Governor
Lake City**

**Tom Berkelman
Retired DFL legislator**

**Janet Entzel
Retired DFL legislator
Minneapolis**

**Duke Skorich
President, Zenith
Research Group, Duluth**

ARCH...Cont. from page 3

Courtney’s kids jobs,” Johnson said.

While some parents might have had qualms about their teenage daughters working at a bar, Johnson said they trusted Arch because of the way he treated his employees. And while they worked hard during their shifts, he would give them time to have fun after the customers had mostly left, especially if a band was playing on the weekend.

Danielle (Young) Rossini remembered how Arch was there when she was going through one of the toughest times in her life. “He was the first one to help,” she said. Rossini started working at the VC when she was 14, before Archibald took over. “And I’m glad I stayed,” she said.

Levi Anderson has overseen the kitchen for 16 years. This kind of longevity isn’t often seen in the dining business, but

Anderson echoed the sentiments of the rest of the staff. “He’s the best boss,” Anderson said. “That’s why I’m still here.”

Archibald has given Anderson control of the kitchen, letting him design a menu with offerings for all tastes with a focus on local favorites and house specialties. Anderson says their prime rib is some of the best you will see anywhere. And his teenage daughters have started taking some shifts washing dishes in the kitchen, because as you can tell, the VC is a place where families work together.

Line cook Josh Kesler has been working in the kitchen for eight years and loves being part of the VC team, as does his co-worker Ellie Frazee. They said Arch treats them like he was their father or grandfather.

Archibald is also known as a huge supporter of his community, which

stretches from Tower across Lake Vermilion to Cook. He is a generous supporter of area events, fundraisers, volunteer groups like the fire department and area snowmobile clubs, and community events.

“Our community is so important,” he said.

Celebrating

The VC was busier than usual on Saturday night as folks turned out to celebrate Arch’s milestone, and partake of the cupcakes, cookies, spaghetti and alfredo in the back room, along with drink specials all night.

Sheila Mosher was up snowmobiling with her husband. Growing up in Tower, the VC was the spot she went to meet friends, hear great music, and have a good time.

And while tourists and summer residents make up a good portion of the customers in the sum-

mer, it is the locals that give the place its personality.

“It feels like coming home here,” said Randy Johnson. “You know everybody.”



Above: Arch with Brandie Heidenway at the Tower Parade. Above right: John Aaron and Audrey enjoyed specially-decorated cupcakes at the party. Right: Arch with Autumn Jacobson and Talia Miko.

photos by J. Summit and submitted

TALK...Cont. from page 4

As the political divide has widened, polarization increased, and reasonable limits on rhetoric and untruthfulness have disappeared, the need for reasoned, thoughtful, respectful discussion has accelerated. How do we do that if the parties involved are not willing to come to the table? How do we move forward if there is only a one-sided discussion about possible change? The decades-long standoff between Israel and Palestine is a prime example, which has escalated into even more dreadful results recently.

Human dissension has hardly been newly-created in this political era. We humans have been arguing since we invented a language to do so, and no doubt argued nonverbally before that, using rude gestures and leaving angry pictographs on caves. We have fought others to protect our lives, families, and property. With our beliefs in individual rights, freedoms, and independence, we certainly are bound to argue or fight, even to the death, for that which we believe in. How can we manage to come together in civility, bringing our better selves to work together to build and maintain our country and

our communities?

A friend made the point that we do manage to do that in Ely when there is a need. When individuals or organizations need the community to step up their support during tough times, we are there. We are not asking who someone voted for or if they cheer for the same sports team when they are buried under medical bills. We have about 50 nonprofits in Ely, and we manage somehow to keep them all going with a commendable level of volunteerism and leadership. We know how to pull together, so what gets in our way when it comes to discussing differences in perspectives concerning issues dear to our hearts and minds? What are the obstacles preventing our listening to and learning from each other? What is going on in our town and our country that we feel we have to dig in our heels, determined to shout louder than those who dissent from our beliefs with our metaphorical fingers in our ears?

A newly-formed group in town, the Ely Alliance with Braver Angels, is seeking some answers to those questions. There are other trainings about improving communication, such as the

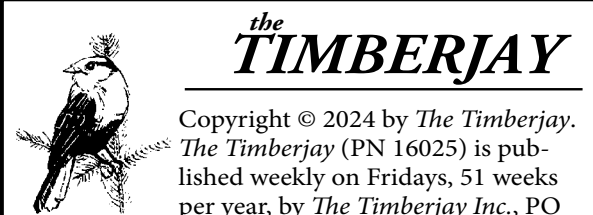
Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) and Compassionate Communication, but the national organization of Braver Angels (originally named Better Angels) has a specific mission to “bring Americans together to bridge the partisan divide and strengthen our democratic republic.” Their literature explains that the aim is to try to understand the other side’s point of view, even if we don’t agree with it. By engaging those we disagree with, we look for common ground and ways to work together rather than demonizing, dismissing, or stereotyping them. Activities can include workshops, skills training, debates, in-depth discussions about public policies, and socializing through potlucks, book clubs, etc.

So far in Ely, two gatherings have happened to explain the purpose and procedures of Braver Angels. The second meeting, held January 18th, was a workshop introducing specific skills for effective, open-minded listening. Effective communication requires good listening skills, as well as patience, and those skills can be practiced and learned. Genuine curiosity is another attribute that

makes the whole process more interesting and fruitful: “Tell me more about your thinking on that!” It doesn’t hurt to hone up these skills to use in our personal relationships!

Participants have identified themselves as more red-leaning or blue-leaning (or some shade of purple), and the hope is to have a good balance of people representing different sides of issues. At the Ely gatherings, there have been considerably more blue-leaning participants, and the invitation is wide open for red-leaning people (and everyone else) to join in with their views and their hopes for our community and our democracy.

Abraham Lincoln said during the heartbreak of the Civil War, when even members of some families were pitted against each other, “We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory...will yet swell the chorus of the Union when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature.”



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

Week of Jan. 29

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 Feb. 20.

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 Week 26 Charlemagne's 52 Club Winner of a \$100 cash prize is Shane Drift of Mt. Iron.

History Tidbit: Did you know the Coach Car 81 is the perfect backdrop for portraits, dinners, ceremonies, receptions, birthday parties, anniversary gatherings or business meetings. It's also a great venue for game nights, bridge clubs, lectures, club meetings, seminars, and more. Featuring a restored vintage interior with original woodwork and antiques, the Coach Car 81 maintains its original character while offering modern amenities such as air conditioning and special lighting. Capacity: 1-40 guests. Available to rent May 1 through Oct. 1.

Bookmobile stops

REGIONAL- The Arrowhead Bookmobile will be in the Tower-Soudan area on Wednesdays: Feb. 14, March 6 and 27, Apr 17, May 8 and 29, Jun 10 and 31, Aug 21, Sept. 11, Oct. 2 and 23, Nov. 13, and Dec. 4, 2024.

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.

Book donations needed for elementary school book swap event

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Elementary PTO is holding a book swap for students to celebrate "I Love to Read Month" in February. We want every child to go home with a book they love. The community is invited to donate gently-used children's books. Books may be dropped off in the school office during the week of Jan. 29 - Feb. 2 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Finlander bocce ball tournament set for Jan. 27

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- Get ready for some outdoor winter fun as part of the Finlander Bocce Ball tournament on Saturday, Jan. 27 starting at 9 a.m. The event will be held at Your Boat Club Lake Vermilion Marina.

The games will be played with wooden disks on lanes plowed on the ice of the East Two River.

All teams must be pre-registered by 5 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 25. All teams must be two



men and two women, 18 years of age or older. Sign up at Good Ol' Days, D'Erick's, Benchwarmers,

or Fuel and Food in Tower. You may also contact Jolene Mroszak 218-255-2131 or tseventsboard@gmail.com with your team information.

Cost to play is \$15/person, with cash payouts to the top four winning teams. Payment must be made before playing starts on the day of the event.

The Vermilion Weiner Cruiser will be on site serving from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The event is sponsored by the Tower-Soudan Events Board.

MORE FUN ON THE ICE



Above: Ethan and Harper Olson take a snack break after some time on the just-opened skating rink in Soudan.

Right: Ivy and Lilly Russell, along with Zaija Schroeder were among the first few kids to try out the ice this year.

The Soudan Skating Rink is now open for the season. The warming shack will be open, weather-permitting, after school and on weekends. Snacks and pizza will usually be available when the warming shack is open. photos by S. Ukkola



St. Martin's hosting Mardi Gras celebration on Feb. 9

TOWER- St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower is hosting a Mardi Gras celebration on Friday, Feb. 9. Fun for the whole family begins at 5 p.m. and goes until 8:30 p.m. It's an open house style event - come when you want and stay as long as you want! There will be an evening of fun for all ages.

For children there will be an activity area just for them:

games, art projects; kid's-only bingo at 6:30 p.m.; breaking of the pinata will be at 7:45 p.m. As always, no charge for kids to participate in these activities

For adults a Cribbage Tournament begins, at 5:45 p.m. You must sign up your team by Feb. 4. Cost is \$10 per participant and the winning team takes home half of the money collected; adult Bingo begins at 6 p.m. Cost is \$5

for 10 games and prizes include gift certificates/gift cards for local businesses.

The cash bar will be open from 5 - 7 p.m. There will be bucket raffles (with items for adults and kids), silent auction, a 50/50 cash drawing, and a meat raffle. Winners announced at 8 p.m.

You can't have a Mardi Gras celebration without food. There

will be much to choose from - jambalaya, chili, a variety of appetizers, and several desserts. The cost is a freewill offering. Everyone is welcome to attend this evening of fun and great food before the start of Lent.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Tower Ambulance ends year with 524 runs

TOWER- The Tower Area Ambulance Service (TAAS) had a total of 524 runs in 2023, which included 486 911-calls and 38 non-emergency transfers. This was comparable to the call numbers in 2021 with 489 911-calls and 37 transfers, and up from 2022 which had 439 911-calls and 61 transfers.

EMT Steve Freshour went on 425 of these calls, and ambulance service director EMT Dena Suihkonen did 214 calls. Other EMTs with over 10 calls were D. Boettcher with 42, Ari Picard with 13, Jake Schmidt with 19, Gabby Suihkonen with 45, and Matt Tuchel with 32.

Shawn Gawboy was the busiest EMR with 133 calls, Hemi Ranua had 45 calls, Terry Joki-Martin with 49, and ambulance assistant director Karin Schultz had 45. Other EMRs with at least 10 calls were Steve Burgess with 15, Robert Dicastmirro with 32, Olivia Haavisto with 16, Jessie Hinkel with 41, and Steve Peterson with 12. The service had 10 active EMTs and 14 active EMRs on the service in 2023.

The service had 59 ALS-intercept calls (average of 1.1 per week), where paramedics from



either Virginia or Ely provided advanced care, and 4 air medical transports. Essentia-Virginia was the destination for 161 calls, Cook Hospital for 59, Ely-Bloomenson for 42. There were 83 calls where the patient was treated in place and not transported, and 78 calls that were either canceled or required no treatment.

The city of Tower was the location for 125 calls, followed by 98 calls on the Bois Forte Reservation, 63 at Fortune Bay, 49 in Breitung, 45 in Greenwood, 18 in Embarrass, 25 in Vermilion Lake Township, 16 in Kugler, 20

in Eagles Nest, and others that originated at Essentia Virginia, Cook Hospital, Ely-Bloomenson, Scenic Rivers, and 18 mutual aid calls.

Injuries were the largest reasons for calls (102), followed by sickness (75), pain/bleeding (43), chest pain/cardiac (62), behavioral/psych (26), alcohol/drugs (25), respiratory issues (27), stroke (15), motor vehicle accident (34), and fewer than 10 calls each for diabetic issues, allergic reactions, STEMI, snowmobile accidents, water accidents, and fire injuries. There were 33 assist, 38 transfers, and 10 events

where the ambulance provided stand-by service.

The busiest months were June, July, September, and December. The slowest months were January, February, and November.

The ambulance service received on-site assistance from the Breitung Police, Tower Fire, Fortune Bay EMS, Eagles Nest Fire/EMS, Greenwood Fire/EMS, Ely Area Ambulance, Pike-Sandy Britt, St. Louis County Sheriff, Virginia Fire/Ambulance, Air Medical, Vermilion Lake Fire/EMS, Ely Fire Department, Bois Forte BIA, and other EMS and police agencies.

The service currently has two rigs. The newer 2019 GMC 4500 has been in service for four years and has a total of 77,793 miles, with 16,712 miles driven in 2023. This rig is rated as good condition. The older 2013 GMC 4500 has been in service for 10 years, and has 121,675 miles, with 3,502 driven in 2023. This rig is rated in less than fair condition. The service drove 6,748 in transfer miles in 2023 for 38 runs.

online at www.timberjay.com

CURTAIN CALLS



The cast and crew of Frozen, which wound up three standing-room only performances on Sunday, celebrated at a cast party at Grand Ely Lodge. Left: Ruby Milton, who played Elsa, presented a “Let It Go” sign, signed by the cast and crew to Mike and Billie Rouse, who produced the production. Susan Laine surprised the group with a custom Frozen-themed cake for the party, photos by C. Clark



In Brief

Tuesday Group schedule

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

Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

- Jan. 30: Meet New Elyites
- Feb. 6: Learning About Lynx with Taylor Brannock
- Feb. 13: Understanding and managing stress with Sharon Gilbert.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2024



the moon dropping temps and lighting up the night sky soon a warming trend

HEALTH CARE

Boundary Waters Care Center achieves 100-percent satisfaction rates

ELY— Ely’s skilled nursing home and rehabilitation facility continues to deliver great value to the local community. The residents residing at Boundary Waters Care Center (BWCC) and their families are highly satisfied, according to a recent survey.

BWCC brought Align to conduct a customer experience survey in November 2023. Align is an independent research firm that specializes in data gathering and surveys to help senior living and care organizations improve the quality of their services.

“I am so proud that Boundary Waters Care Center achieved a 100-percent resident satisfaction and family satisfaction rate,” said Adam Masloski, executive director of BWCC. “Both of these results far exceed the national average of 80%—I am grateful for our team members

who are so deeply dedicated to our residents’ and families’ holistic wellness.”

Align’s customer experience survey is key to BWCC’s success in understanding the needs and preferences of residents and their families, so expectations are met and exceeded. Satisfaction scores are determined based on responses to questions about six domains: dining experience, care quality, communication, environment, care responsiveness, and quality of life.

“Our Customer Experience Survey is a valuable tool that our team uses annually to gather feedback directly from the individuals and families we serve. Based on the outcomes, we’re able to continually improve in a way that provides our residents with personalized care and service that’s needed for them to

lead a safe, healthy and fulfilling lifestyle,” said Masloski.

BWCC is a vibrant, nonprofit care community in Ely. Its team members are focused on upholding the well-being, dignity, and individual capabilities of each resident. The community serves older adults and their families with short-term rehabilitation services and long-term care, including 24-hour skilled nursing, on-site physical, occupational, and speech therapy, as well as compassionate hospice care.

BWCC is managed by the Minneapolis-based Health Dimensions Group (HDG). This values-driven organization provides management and oversight for 48 senior living and care communities in eight states, serving more than 2,500 residents.

EBCH trustees complete training

REGIONAL - Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital trustees John Saw and Barb Soderberg were among the 16 hospital trustees across the state recognized by the Minnesota Hospital Association (MHA) for their successful completion of MHA’s rigorous and comprehensive trustee certification program. This certification underscores their unwavering commitment to the patients, care teams, and communities they serve.

“Hospitals and health systems are cornerstones for the communities they serve, and are facing a multitude of historic challenges,” said Dr. Rahul Koranne, MHA president and CEO. “MHA’s trustee certification program ensures that hospital and health system leaders are well-prepared for their roles.”

MHA’s trustee certification program provides hospital and health system

trustees with training on current health care trends, governance best practices, ethics, government regulations, and patient safety and quality. Participants undergo 30 hours of coursework, making Minnesota’s program the most comprehensive in the nation.

“We are so grateful that our Board Members John and Barb made the commitment to complete the trustee certification,” said Patty Banks, EBCH CEO. “In doing so, they have gained valuable insight into the complexities of the healthcare industry. This is a brand new program and they are among some of the first to go through the process. The MN Hospital Association has done a wonderful job in putting together the certification and we look forward to having additional Board members complete the training this year.”

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Ely Public Library

ELY- 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 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.

The library invites patrons to have a blind date with a book. Read a wrapped mystery date book, rate it on the provided scorecard, and return the scorecard to be entered into a drawing for prizes. The blind dates start on Feb. 1 and end on Feb. 29.

The library is holding a sealed bid auction as a fundraiser. Bidding starts on Friday, Jan. 26 and ends on Thursday, Feb. 8. If you want to bid on an item, write your bid amount, name, and phone number on a piece of paper. Place it in a sealed envelope and give it to the library staff. The library reserves the right to reject

any or all bids.

The library will host live entertainment featuring Gerry Mealey, on Thursday, Feb. 8, starting at 2 p.m.

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 Climate Group

ELY- If you missed the Jan. 9 meeting on heat pumps that work in Minnesota, the Ely Climate Group has posted the presentation on its new YouTube channel—search on “Ely Climate Group” to see the recording. Links to the recording and a pdf summary of the heat pump can also be found at the group’s webpage, at elyminnesota.com/elyclimate.

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/rec-center 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 Thursdays, 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/

communityed.

Northern Lakes Concert Series on Jan. 27

ELY- The inaugural concert of the Northern Lakes Arts Association’s concert series features the extraordinary percussion skills of Zack Baltich, 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 northernlakesarts.org/programs - then click the calendar for Jan. 27.

Polka Party!

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

Estate Planning

ELY- Ely Community Education is offering a class on Estate Planning on Wednesday, Jan. 31, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Ely Public School Media Center. Enter through the middle door (door No. 1), into the new addition and turn right after the double doors. The media center is on the right across from the new gym. The class is free. To register, go to ely.k12.mn.us/communityed and click on the red registration bar.

Jazz Concert

ELY- The second Northern

Lakes Arts Association’s concert is the Big Time Jazz Orchestra, on Friday, Feb. 2, from 7-9 p.m., in Washington Auditorium, 600 E. Harvey St., on the Ely School District Campus. Enter through the middle door (door No. 1), into the new addition and turn right after the double doors. The auditorium is at the end of the hallway. Tickets are \$25, \$20 for NLAA members, \$15 for students, \$10 for kids 12 and under.

Pierogies

ELY- Ely Community Education is offering a class on making pierogies on Saturday, Feb. 3, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Ely Senior Center. Cost is \$34. To register, go to ely.k12.mn.us/communityed and click on the red registration bar.

CPR/AED Training

WINTON- The Winton Community Center, 102 Main St., will be the site of two American Heart Association Heartsaver CPR-AED first-aid classes on Sunday, Feb. 4 and Saturday, March 23. Each class will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Class sizes are capped at 21 participants. The Heartsaver training includes basic first aid, CPR, automated external defibrillator use, and choking response for adults, children, and infants. Cost is \$75. Call 218-235-4016 to sign up for either class.

Film Festival

ELY-The Ely Film Festival returns to Ely’s Historic State Theater on Feb. 8-11. Buy tickets at elyfilmfest.com/buy-tickets.

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.

FRIENDS OF THE COOK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Show a little love for the Cook Public Library in February

COOK- Friends of the Cook Public Library have declared February to be "We Love Our Library Month" and a host of activities are planned to celebrate.

The community is invited to join in commemorating the 88th anniversary of the opening of the Cook Public Library in 1936. Festivities begin at 10 a.m. on Feb. 1 with a traditional birthday party and continue through the day until 5 p.m. Indulge yourself with a piece of birthday cake and take time to sign a birthday card and share what you love about the library.

Special activities are scheduled for the entire month to honor the many patrons, businesses and sponsors whose support has allowed our Cook Public Library to grow and thrive.

Saturday, Feb. 3 will be "Take Your Child to the Library Day." Children's make and take projects will be available. Everyone is invited to browse and check out items from the library's resources anytime between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Feb. 12-15 has been dubbed "We Love Our Library - Kid's Week." Events geared for elementary age children will include a variety of make and take activities such as: an "Emoji Book Titles" puzzle sheet, create a favorite book cover on a book template just waiting for your unique design



The Cook Public Library will celebrate the 88th anniversary of its opening during "Love our Library Month" in February. courtesy photo

joy. Reading tattoos will also be given out all week. Kids should be sure to join in for story time on Feb. 15 at 10:30 a.m.

February 26-29 is "We Love Our Library - Adults Week." Stop by to look at an antique book display and pick up a unique handmade laminated bookmark created with love by our "We Love Our Library Month" participants.

And all week, visitors are encouraged to jot down their memories of the Cook Public Library in by-gone days and leave them in the box, to be compiled

at a later date.

On Feb. 27 at 11 a.m., stop by to hear local writer Leo Wilenius talk about writing and his books. To wrap up the festivities, on Feb. 29, the winner of the Candy Hearts Estimation Jar will be awarded their prize.

There's a lot of fun to be had at the Cook Public Library, so plan on visiting more than once during the month of February.

All events will take place during regular library hours unless noted otherwise. Look for announcements and further details on the library website, www.cookpubliclibrary.org and Facebook page. You can also contact the library at 218-666-2210 or email cookpubliclibrary@alstlib.info.

INSTEAD OF JUST A WISHIN'



Top left: Linda Enquist-Vandenbranden smiles for the photographer.

Top middle: One pair was lucky, the other pair not so much.

Top right: Luke Gabrielson peeks out of his tent to show off a bucket full of fish.

Far left: Tim Cornelius shares his grandson Brecken's excitement over his catch.

Left: Paul, Melissa and a friend look less concerned about catching fish and more interested in having fun. photos by S. Koch

Biggest haul at ice fishing tournament was people

ELEPHANT LAKE- Steve and Carla Koch got more than they bargained for when they hosted the Wanna Catcha Lunker ice fishing contest at Mel George's Elephant Lake Lodge and Resort on Saturday, Jan. 13.

The tourney drew 120 eager anglers ready to try their luck, well more than past such events and clearly as many as the Kochs could handle.

"You could tell people

were itching to do something," Carla Koch said. "It was just fun for everybody to gather around. And ice conditions were great for it. The fish fry afterward went great. We brought in chairs and tables and did whatever we could. Next year we're going to have to cap it, at least for the dinner part."

The top anglers in each category were:

►Walleye - 1) Ellis Rudd, 3.27 lbs.; 2) Tara

Rudd, 3.10 lbs.; 3) Todd Robinson 1.98 lbs.

►Crappie - 1) Jeff Olesch, 1.74 lbs.; 2) Gage Blanchard, 1.47 lbs.; 3) Ryan Bobst, 1.44lbs.

►Bluegill - 1) Travis Carlson, .88 lbs.; 2) Riley Carlson, .72 lbs.; 3) Luke Masucci, .70 lbs.

►Perch - 1) Luke Masucci, .73 lbs.; 2) Lindsay Jones, .70 lbs.; 3) Lester Johnson, .69 lbs.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Buyck student makes dean's list

BUYCK- Carter Sorensen, of Buyck, a student at Iowa Lakes Community College, a five-campus system in northern Iowa, was named to the school's Dean's List for the 2023 fall semester. Students must take a minimum of 12 credit hours and attain a GPA of 3.25 or higher to qualify for the honor.

NWFA photo contest seeks entries for March exhibition

COOK- Northwoods Friends of the Arts in Cook announces its annual photo contest, with a theme of "A Closer Look."

The event is both a contest and a fun fundraiser for NWFA. The entry

fee is \$10 per photo and includes a display mat and sleeve. Students 18 years old or younger may enter three photos free. There is no limit on adult entries.

Photos sized 5x7 or 8x10 photos may feature portraits, flora, fauna or objects in detail.

The entry deadline is Saturday, March 2 at 1 p.m.

The contest exhibit will open at the NWFA Gallery on March 7 for viewing and voting by the public. Voting will continue through Friday, March 29, when two People's Choice Awards of \$100 and \$50 will be announced at a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. at the gallery at 210 S River St.

Enjoy visiting and shopping the nonprofit NWFA Gallery during regular hours of Thurs-

days and Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Photo contest entry forms and more information are available at the gallery or online at www.nwfamn.org, or by emailing nwfamn.org@gmail.com.

Gallery to offer dreamcatcher class on Feb. 10

COOK- Join American Indian educator Stacy Palmer to make your own contemporary dreamcatcher on Saturday, Feb. 10 at 1 p.m. at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook. In this class students will create a contemporary ten-inch diameter dreamcatcher.

Ethnographers believe dream catchers originated from the Ojib-

we Chippewa tribe, an Anishinaabe people from the area that is currently southern Canada and the northern Midwestern United States.

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

Authentic dream-

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

Palmer teaches Native culture at North Woods School. She is also a member of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa.

The gallery is located at 210 S River St.

Students must pre register for the class by calling Alberta at 218-666-2153.

Archery team selling pasties, pot pies for nationals

COOK- The North Woods Grizzlies archery team is selling Zup's pasties and pot pies to raise money for a trip to Nationals in Louisville, coming up in May. They are \$8 each,

arrive frozen, and are a hearty, quick meal. The team has plenty of freezer space to store lots of both, so stock up and they will make arrangements to get them to you.

Each archer is taking orders, but if you don't know an archer you can place an order by calling Jennifer Scofield at 218-780-0430. The last date to order is Feb. 9.

Read It
HERE

AMBULANCE...Continued from page 1

options and long-term funding issues.

"Understand this commission only cares about an ambulance," said Breitung representative Matt Tichel. "But without operations, there is no need for an ambulance."

Tichel noted it wasn't fair to have the city paying a significant portion of their levy just to keep the service operating.

Tichel noted that many area cities, including Ely, Virginia, Nashwauk, and Hoyt Lakes are seeing the same funding issues as Tower.

"When I first joined the service, we didn't get paid," Tichel said, "we just got a pension. I carried a pager for 20 years for no pay." But the reality of running an ambulance service since then has also changed. The call volume has increased greatly, Tichel said. "That's why we can't rely on volunteers anymore. The fire department might get two or three calls a month," he said, "but the ambulance gets two to three each day."

"One thing we are guaranteed is change," Tichel said, urging the commission to look towards the future, and not dwell on the past.

As part of the meeting, Schultz presented a draft of a new three-year "Ambulance Vehicle Aid Donation Agreement" that city officials have developed in hopes of generating additional revenue to the service. The two-page

document is a simplified version of the previous agreement and asks for a \$25 per capita donation to the ambulance subsidy account, up from \$15 previously. It also seeks a \$6,500 donation from Fortune Bay Resort Casino and \$3,500 donation from the Bois Forte Band. This would total \$75,925 per year, though Greenwood Township has not contributed its share since 2021. Without Greenwood's participation which would total \$26,025 under the new agreement, the fund would receive \$49,900 a year. Schultz said initial estimates show that over a 10-year period with all the townships participating, the new agreement would raise enough to cover rebuilding the older ambulance rig and then purchasing or upgrading ambulances when needed.

Transfer mile payment

This draft agreement does not specify any payments on transfer miles and Schultz said the city would be asking for a change in that fee. The previous agreement required the city to contribute \$1.66 per transfer mile to the ambulance replacement fund, an unprecedented fee instituted by the commission in 2020 after concerns were raised about wear and tear on the ambulance from the large number of transfer runs being taken in the previous year as well as the

service's failure at the time to account for depreciation of its rigs. Since then, the number of transfer calls has fallen significantly and the ambulance service now accounts for depreciation, which comprises about half of its annual deficit.

The state's Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board, after an examination of Tower's service in 2021, recommended eliminating the fee.

Given the ambulance service's precarious financial situation, it has been unable to keep up-to-date on these payments, though Schultz said he would be asking the city council to make the final payment due for 2023.

If the commission opts to continue the fee, the city would like more flexibility for using the funds, including for maintenance and repairs on the rigs. City officials have also suggested that the city contribute for loaded miles only (the ambulance doesn't get reimbursed for ambulance mileage without a patient in the rig), or calculating the reimbursement as a percentage of the profit made on a transfer run, noting that some transfer runs do not make a profit. The service only took 38 transfer calls in 2023, which totaled 6,748 miles (an average of 178 miles per run).

The new draft agreement also does not include any type of indemnity clause, something that has been a sticking point with

Greenwood, which has sought to have all liability at ambulance scenes rest with the service, even if errors are caused by Greenwood Township employees who are not members of the ambulance service.

Greenwood representative John Bassing was not happy with these changes. He said that using the \$1.66 for maintenance would fundamentally change the purpose of the board, though this had only been in effect since 2020. Bassing also was upset with the changes to the agreement leaving out the indemnification clause though he said he wasn't willing to talk about the indemnification at this time. "There is not enough knowledge here [to understand it]," he said, in an apparent swipe at the commission members.

"We are asking for a donation," said Schultz. "This is not a contract... All we are saying is we want some money to support the ambulance purchases. You can agree to pay it or not. But if you do, you get a seat at this table and a vote."

Bassing said Greenwood residents, who tend to be older, have concerns about response times. Most of the Greenwood and Eagles Nest areas are on the outer edges of the ambulance's service area, though also far away from any other ambulance hall.

Bassing said the financial issues being faced by the ambulance were the result of "bad decisions."

He faulted the service for not adopting the recommendations of plans developed by consultant Betsy Olivanti, from Northland Small Business, or the EMSRB study which came shortly after.

Ambulance Supervisor Dena Suihkonen noted there were issues with both these studies, which were based on assumptions, not necessarily on actual data. Olivanti left before completing the study, and Northland Small Business did not have the background on ambulance service finances that the study should have required. The city then commissioned the EMSRB study which was completed in 2021. This study also projected the \$11 on-call wage as the highest in the region although there is some question whether that conclusion is still valid.

Ambulance income from calls is based on insurance and Medicare/Medicaid payments, something the service has no control over. "If the city is behind on its water and sewer fund, it can raise its rates," Suihkonen said. "If we are behind, we cannot."

Subsidy options

The idea of creating a per parcel tax, or a joint powers board, was also briefly discussed. The commission is waiting to see what options are discussed in the current study being funded by the Ely-Bloomenson Hospital,

as well as outcomes of a statewide ambulance task force. There is also a chance the state Legislature may approve some one-time funding for rural ambulance services this session, which would be a short-term fix. Any taxing option would need to get state and/or county approval.

Special meeting

The commission members were asked to bring the draft agreement to their respective boards in February and bring back any changes or ideas.

The board also discussed the new ambulance, which is not yet ready for delivery. The total cost will be \$253,000, and \$16,050 has been paid in advance. The service will owe \$237,000 at that point in time. Right now, there is only \$212,613 in the ambulance subsidy account, leaving the service \$24,336 short. Greenwood has not paid their per capita subsidy the past two years, which would total \$46,845.

The service is also hoping to accrue another \$150,000 in the subsidy account to have the older rig rebuilt in two years. The box on the rig can be reused, saving the service a substantial amount of money.

The commission will meet again on Monday, Feb. 26 at 5:30 p.m. at the Lamppa Civic Center.

WINTER...Continued from page 1

and Casino is typically kept hopping this time of year with snowmobilers, but sled traffic has been "extremely slow," according to Brian K. Anderson, director of public relations for Fortune Bay.

"We continue to see groups trim back on inventory or just cancel outright so it is very frustrating as we all know how important those groups are to winter tourism. In fact, just today, we had two of the larger groups scale back and cancel club dinners that we had in the books for many months."

The slow formation of lake ice this winter also impacted Fortune Bay's ice fishing business, and they recently had to cancel snowmobile races put on by the Straight Line Speed Association, that had been planned for the weekend of Jan. 13.

The impact to lodging facilities, in particular, has a ripple effect, notes Eva Sebesta, executive director of the Ely Chamber of Commerce, as visitors who cancel at a resort or hotel don't show up at area restaurants or shops, either. "Businesses are trying to work around it and be creative but it's tough for businesses that were planning on that income," said Sebesta.

Few have been hit harder in recent weeks than Lossing's Power Sports in Babbitt, which was ready for a strong season of Ski-doo sales and rentals. "We had an excellent fall with new unit sales," said Derek Lossing, but the busy showroom grew all too quiet as December temperatures set new records for warmth and rain over Christmas melted away what little snow had fallen.

"We've canceled a lot of rental reservations," said Lossing, whose first rental was finally going out the door last Friday. "Clothing, parts, oil sales are all down year on year. When it's not snowing, people aren't excited to come out and buy snowmobiles or clothing."

Lossing said he's

managed to keep his four mechanics reasonably busy so he's avoided any layoffs, at least so far.

Getting creative

When the snow disappeared ahead at Christmas, business shut down at Wintergreen's dog sledding operation on White Iron Lake. "It was pretty grim," said Paul Schurke. "Those four days of rain didn't help." But with the recent cold snap and several inches of snow in the middle of the month, he said the dogsledding trips are back in high gear, although they've modified their routes given the limited snowcover. He said his teams are sticking mostly to the lakes right now, which have sufficient snow for dog sleds. "We're not like the snowmobiles," said Schurke. "We can get by on a couple inches of snow."

Forest trails and lake portages are still pretty rough, however, and are likely to stay that way until considerably more snow falls, so Schurke said he and his guides have been adjusting routes to avoid those rough patches as much as possible. They also have dropped, for now, excursions into places like the Kawishiwi pines. Even with the changes in routes, he said most customers have been pleased with their experiences.

Lossing said he's been making similar efforts and has been connecting some of his rental customers with guided trips out on various lake chains given the poor condition of the area snowmobile trails.

It all rides on more snow

Based on the calendar, there is still plenty of potential winter weather ahead here in the North Country, and most folks are trying to remain optimistic even as the ten-day forecast holds little chance for significant snow and much-above-normal temperatures.

Some major events are scheduled in February and early March and, for now,

most have not yet been canceled. The WolfTrack Classic, currently scheduled to be run Sunday, Feb. 25, is looking questionable given the current conditions of the snowmobile trails typically used by the racers. "We're watching it closely," said Sebesta, on whether to hold the chamber-sponsored event or cancel. "We're ready to go in either direction. We're looking at early February to make a decision on it."

Canceling the event would be another major blow to Ely's winter economy. Sebesta notes that the race draws mushers

as well as a large cast of volunteers to Ely for the race weekend. "We've got probably a quarter of our volunteers who come from outside the area, places like Missouri and North Dakota. They're here the whole weekend, staying in hotels and eating in the restaurants."

That's why the decision to cancel is going to be a tough one, but the weather may well make it necessary. The lack of snow has already led to the cancellation of the 300-mile John Beargrease sled dog marathon, which had been scheduled to run

this Sunday, Jan. 28. "I'm wishing for about two feet of snow right now," said Sebesta.

Officials at Fortune Bay are keeping their fingers crossed for snow as well, in hopes of salvaging their biggest winter event, the Blackwoods Blizzard Tour, which is currently slated for dinner and overnight accommodations on Thursday, Feb. 8. The annual fundraiser to fight ALS and its effects draws hundreds of snowmobilers but trail conditions could throw a major wrench in the current plans.

Thursday, Feb 1 6:00 p.m. Loon Lake Community Center



Queen Coronation

Queen's Cake and Coffee an' to follow

Sat, FEBRUARY 3 AND Sun, FEBRUARY 4

2024

Finnish Sliding Festival



86th ANNUAL

Loon Lake Community Center Palo, MN

Saturday, February 3

- 7:30 am-11:00 am Ethnic Kropsu Breakfast
- 9:00 am-4:00 pm Artisans & Demonstrators in Laskiainen Tradition
Laskiainen Shoppe
Bakery (Finnish breads)
Museum
Old Co-op Theatre
- 12:00-3:00 pm Moijakka (Finnish stew)
- 10:00am-5:00pm Girls' and Boys' Youth Basketball Games
- 6:00 pm "Old Timers" Basketball Game
- 7:30 pm Laskiainen Lakers Basketball Game



Sliding Both Days!

NO SAUCERS OR SLEDS WITH RUNNERS ALLOWED. Slide at your own risk. Preferred Sleds - Toboggan Style (plastic or wood)

Sleigh/Carriage Rides & Dog Sled Rides

Monroe Crossing



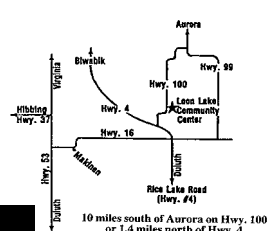
Sunday Feb 4 Only!

SUNDAY -1:00 PM
TICKETS - Adults - \$10.00 Students - \$5.00

Monroe Crossing is a world-class bluegrass band that dazzles audiences with an electrifying blend of classic bluegrass, bluegrass gospel, and heartfelt originals. Their airtight harmonies, razor sharp arrangements, and on-stage rapport make them audience favorites across the United States and Canada.

Sunday, February 4

- 7:30 am-9:30 am Piggies & Pancake Breakfast (Pancakes, sausage, juice & coffee)
- 9:30 am Ecumenical Church Service
- 9:00 am-4:00 pm Artisans & Demonstrators in Laskiainen Tradition
Laskiainen Shoppe
Bakery (Finnish breads)
Museum
Old Co-op Theatre
- 11:00 am-3:00 pm Pea Soup Dinner
- 1:00 pm Introduction of the Royal Court
"Monroe Crossing"



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CENTER...Continued from page 1

Casper Construction was awarded the \$2.1 million campground that will complement the facility.

Construction has gone relatively smoothly thus far, Pohlman said.

"There's been nothing that's any major complication," he said. "Most everything has been pretty easily settled out."

A new and improved Department of Natural Resources boat ramp nearby will come along later than the rest, as

planned improvements to Bayside Dr. have to be completed first.

"They're scheduled to start clearing trees and stuff for that in March," Pohlman said. "The road upgrade is going to start sometime this summer."

Meanwhile, it's possible that the campground might not open for business until the 2025 season, according to a note in the town board minutes from October.

"With the challenges of

landscaping, finalizing the details of each campsite, and costs of staffing it may be best for the town to plan on opening the campground in the Spring of 2025," the minutes stated.

And while the visitor center is likely to open toward the end of this summer, finishing touches will remain for the permanent exhibit space. Voyageurs Conservancy, the park's philanthropic partner, is working with the Park Service and the

Crane Lake community on the exhibit plans, which Executive Director Christina Hausman Rhode said will be completed this year.

"Depending on our fabrication timeline, it would be great to have those in the visitor center in 2025, a great way to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the park," Rhode said.

The Park Service will develop some temporary exhibits for the center to be used until the permanent

exhibits are ready, Rhode said.

Crane Lake will own the visitor center and Voyageurs National Park will lease space within it. VNP Superintendent Bob DeGross told the town board at its Jan. 9 meeting that he hopes the lease will be approved and in place by March.

But the floorplan has additional space beyond the needs of VNP, and Pohlman said contacts are underway to try to secure additional

tenants.

"We haven't gotten any commitments from anybody yet," Pohlman said. "We've reached out to different agencies that have things in the area. The township's going to have their meetings in there, and there will be town offices in there. There will probably be a desk for the Crane Lake Visitors Bureau in there."

ANGELS...Continued from page 1

"because this meeting is limited to 90 minutes so we're going to do this two-hour workshop in 90 minutes." Prof. Bill Doherty of the University of Minnesota created the workshop and the Ely chapter was the first to use it.

The workshop, titled "Skills for disagreeing better," was built around four skills: to listen, acknowledge, pivot, and apply perspective. The skills were designed to be used sequentially during a conversation with someone with a differing viewpoint.

The listening skill was nuanced. "Listen completely," Voss coached. "While you do that, avoid preparing your response. Try to determine what their values and concerns are. Look for something you can agree with."

The next skill was acknowledgement. "The idea behind this skill is to connect with the other person. Acknowledging means letting the other person know that you actually heard their viewpoint and the strength of the feelings, values and concerns behind it."

The pivot skill was the point where a person offered to share his or her own opinion. "If the other person seems open to lis-

tening to what you have to say, then continue," Voss advised. "If the other person just repeats their point, ignoring your pivot, or shows wariness about you taking your turn, then consider backing up. This might not be the right time to share your views."

The last skill was inserting a personal perspective while sharing an opinion. This included sharing personal experiences that help to explain why you hold an opinion, naming sources to create credibility, and finding something you agreed upon.

The workshop was built around simple exercises where small breakout groups practiced these skills. "I'm impressed by the level of thinking that the local participants show," Voss said by the time the entire workshop was finished.

Reactions

Opinions were positive after the meeting. "We had no idea how many would come... There must be 50 percent more people here tonight," said Nick Wognum, one of the founders of the Ely chapter. "It really is a testament to how people in Ely are involved."

"I think it was a nice turnout," agreed Ely Public School music teacher Karl Kubiak. "People were

receptive to seeing the other person's point of view."

I thought the meeting tonight went very well," said Ely Mayor, Heidi Omerza. "I was impressed with the turnout, the message, and how engaged people were on both sides of the aisle."

Radio presence

Among the media present to document the event was Catharine Richert and freelance photojournalist Erica Dischino of Minnesota Public Radio, who were in town to cover several Ely events last week, including the Braver Angels meeting. It was impossible not to notice them in action at the meeting, taking pictures and interviewing attendees.

MPR formed a partnership with the Minnesota Braver Angels last year called Talking Sense. The project aims "to teach Minnesotans how to have conversations with friends and family on opposite ends of the political spectrum." The coverage of the Ely meeting will be included as part of the Talking Sense project.

Richert also covered the staging of "Disney's Frozen— The Broadway Musical," on her trip last weekend to Ely, which is now available on the MPR website.

NORTHERN LAKES ARTS ASSOCIATION PRESENTS:

NORTHERN LAKES CONCERT SERIES

ZACK BALTICH FEATURING ALEC OSTHOFF

WHEN: JANUARY 27TH AT 6 PM

WHERE: THE VERMILION FINE ARTS THEATER

COST: \$25 GENERAL ADMISSION & \$20 NLAA MEMBERS

EMBARK ON A MESMERIZING JOURNEY AS DULUTH'S VISIONARY PERCUSSIONIST ZACK BALTICH AND AUTHOR ALEC OSTHOFF CONVERGE FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY EVENING. BALTICH'S GROUNDBREAKING COMPOSITIONS BLEND GENRES, COMPLEMENTED BY OSTHOFF'S UPCOMING NOVEL EXCERPTS.

BIG TIME JAZZ ORCHESTRA

WHEN: FEBRUARY 2ND AT 7 PM

WHERE: WASHINGTON AUDITORIUM

COST: \$25 GENERAL ADMISSION & \$20 NLAA MEMBERS

JOIN US FOR AN ELECTRIFYING NIGHT AS WE KICK OFF THE ELY WINTER FESTIVAL WITH THE SECOND INSTALLMENT OF OUR NORTHERN LAKES CONCERT SERIES. ON FEBRUARY 2ND AT 7 PM, THE WASHINGTON AUDITORIUM WILL COME ALIVE WITH THE SENSATIONAL SOUNDS OF THE BIG TIME JAZZ ORCHESTRA, STRAIGHT FROM DULUTH, MINNESOTA.

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR ON NORTHERNLAKESARTS.ORG OR BY SCANNING THE QR CODE!



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-PHOTO CONTEST -

A CLOSER LOOK

(MORE THAN A MAGNIFIED IMAGE)

MARCH 7-29, 2024

DEADLINE: MARCH 2

PRIZES!!! WINNER \$100, RUNNER UP \$50

\$10 PER ENTRY STUDENTS FREE

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HOURS THURSDAY, FRIDAY 10-4, SATURDAY 9-1
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<p>\$7.99 Sale</p> <p>Natures Truth Odorless Garlic 2400mg • 120 Softgels</p>	<p>\$25.99 Sale</p> <p>Natures Truth COQ-10 plus Black Pepper Extract 200mg • 50 Softgels</p>	<p>\$14.99 Sale</p> <p>Natures Truth Mega Strength L-Carnitine 1000mg • 60 capsules</p>

NORTHERN LAKES ARTS ASSOCIATION PRESENTS:

2024 Downtown Arts Market

FEBRUARY 10, 2024
10 AM TO 4 PM
AT THE ELY SENIOR CENTER

EIGHTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

DFLer Schultz announces a rematch with Stauber

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- A relatively late entry into the 2022 election, former DFL state Rep. Jen Schultz is going full throttle in 2024 in her attempt to unseat Republican U.S. Rep. Pete Stauber in the Eighth Congressional District, announcing her candidacy on Tuesday.

“At a time when families are struggling and international tensions are flaring, Pete Stauber and his Republican colleagues have led the least productive Congress in modern history,” said Schultz in a press release. “Instead of bringing people together on behalf of all Americans, Pete Stauber is contributing to and embracing the D.C. chaos and getting nothing done for our communities. Minnesotans deserve a representative who will work to improve our lives, and that’s why I’m running for Congress.”

Schultz lost to Stauber by 15 points in the 2022 race but believes entering the race early with a strong campaign organization can tip the scales in her favor in a sprawling formerly-DFL-dominated district that’s turned increasingly toward the GOP in recent years.

Schultz noted the success she had during her eight-year career in the Minnesota House, securing millions of dollars of investment for the Duluth area, including the Essentia hospital and medical district development, while also serving as a Great Lakes Commissioner, protecting and promoting the Great Lakes, as well as efforts to increase access to affordable health coverage, reduce the cost of health care and prescription drugs, protect older adults in long-term care facilities, and closing corporate tax loopholes.

“I have a long track record of achieving results as a state legislator only serving in divided government by working across the aisle to get the job done,” Schultz said during her campaign launch. I have a 100-percent pro-labor voting record. I am willing to work with Republicans, Democrats, anyone who wants to make lives of families better.”

Schultz wasted no time hammering Stauber for his paltry accomplishments for the district during her press conference at the Duluth Labor Temple, where she was joined by Gov. Tim Walz, former Congressman Rick Nolan, labor leaders, family, friends and supporters.

“Stauber has accomplished nothing,” Schultz said. “He passed two bills in five years – one named a building and the other one created a task force. But we do have a long history of strong representatives in Congress like John Blatnik, Jim Oberstar, and Rick Nolan. Their accomplish-



Jen Schultz, flanked by Gov. Tim Walz and former U.S. Rep. Rick Nolan, helped make the pitch for Schultz’s campaign to replace current Rep. Pete Stauber.

photo by O. Kringstad

ments fill books. Stauber’s fit on a Post-it note.”

Schultz also criticized Stauber for taking credit on Monday for securing \$1.05 billion in federal money to

replace the Blatnik Bridge connecting Duluth and Superior, Wis. Stauber voted against President Joe Biden’s bipartisan infrastructure plan that is

funding the new bridge.

Schultz outlined her priorities by listing issues Stauber has opposed, as well as others she supports.

“If you’re angry that

Stauber voted against unions, veterans, reproductive rights, free elections, against protecting Social Security and Medicare, against student debt relief, against funding education, against the largest infrastructure bill that’s benefiting our entire region, then this fight is for you,” she said. “If you care about flipping the U.S. House, if you care about global warming and our environment and funding schools, affordable child care and housing, then this fight is for you.”

Both candidates come into the race with substantial campaign war chests. As of early October, Stauber had \$776,000 in his campaign fund; Schultz had \$219,000, a sign she didn’t stop raising money since

her first campaign.

Stauber District Director John Eloranta released a statement in response to Schultz’s announcement.

“After getting soundly rejected by Minnesota voters in 2022 in a campaign few knew even existed, Jen Schultz is doubling down on her blind adoration of Joe Biden and we look forward to once again showing Minnesotans the stark differences between Jen and Joe’s failed record that has led to a skyrocketing cost of living, and Pete’s relentless mission of fighting for our way of life,” Eloranta said.

MPRNews contributed to this report.

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Hotel plans may be stymied by parking

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- Matt Stupnik and his \$3.5 million boutique hotel project is facing a squeeze from the lack of available parking space. When he bought the former Ely community center from the city for two dollars it required, among other things, that he finish his project by July 2025 and that he provide sufficient off-street parking for his future hotel guests. Those parking spaces are proving hard to find and the situation threatens to derail a major redevelopment project for the city.

Seller's market

Stupnik told the *Timberjay* that parking is critical to his project. "We want an adjacent parking lot, with an additional building for storage—but if people are not going to sell, my hands are tied." Stupnik has reached out to neighboring property owners, but he's been unable to reach any purchase agreements to date, in part because those property owners recognize that Stupnik is under pressure to buy, and that has prompted some to ask premium prices for their property. Stupnik confirmed that this happened to him. "I'm not going to play that game, and overpay, so good luck to them."

The way forward

At the P&Z meeting, commission member Emily Roose noted that the city could waive the off-street parking requirement as a way to resolve the impasse. Ely's city ordinances (§11.20) require that a "tourist accommodation"

must provide at least one parking space "per unit". Stupnik related to the *Timberjay* that on-street parking could be workable but wasn't "ideal."

P&Z commissioner Mauro Caruso noted that the parking lot across the street next to the Ely Senior Center was owned by the city. "Why not sell that lot to [Stupnik] ... or give him a 99-year lease?"

"Where will the members of the senior center park?" said Angela Campbell the city council liaison on the commission. Roose concluded the short discussion by asking that Campbell "bring up [to the council] that leasing the lot is an option they could explore," as one alternative to solving Stupnik's parking problem.

Ely City Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski weighed in on the debate after the meeting. "No one is suggesting we push folks from the senior center out of that lot... but it is a public lot that the city owns. It doesn't belong to the senior center. People besides those using the senior center can and do park there."

Langowski added, "It would be a shame if a \$3.5 million project got held up by a lack of parking... Stupnik is willing to work with neighbors to find other opportunities to address the parking issue."

Stupnik's own words appeared to back this up. "I have been in talks with a few homeowners that would be willing sell at a fair price," Stupnik said, "but the locations are not ideal ... If it isn't adjacent to the building, I am not totally against it, it would just have to be the right situation."

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
35 24					33 22					33 23					34 21					37 24				
Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
01/15	-4	-19	0.00		01/15	-1	-18	0.00		01/15	-4	-18	0.00		01/15	-8	-17	0.00		01/15	-4	-18	0.00	
01/16	-8	-18	0.01		01/16	-1	-19	0.02	0.1"	01/16	-7	-19	0.05	1.0"	01/16	-2	-9	0.01		01/16	-7	-19	0.00	
01/17	-3	-13	0.02	tr	01/17	-6	-15	0.03	0.1"	01/17	-6	-12	0.03	0.5"	01/17	1	-13	0.02	0.2"	01/17	-3	-20	0.00	
01/18	0	-14	0.00		01/18	-2	-24	0.00		01/18	2	-19	0.00		01/18	0	-20	0.00		01/18	3	-26	0.00	
01/19	2	-14	0.02	0.1"	01/19	3	-25	0.02	tr	01/19	-1	-19	0.02	0.3"	01/19	1	-17	0.05	0.5"	01/19	1	-24	0.00	
01/20	3	-20	0.00		01/20	1	-25	0.00		01/20	0	-20	0.00		01/20	10	-24	0.00		01/20	2	-25	0.00	
01/21	11	-18	0.00		01/21	10	-25	0.00		01/21	8	-22	0.00		01/21	19	5	0.00		01/21	10	-26	0.00	
YTD Total			0.46	22.7"	YTD Total			0.77	16.5"	YTD Total			0.92	31.7"	YTD Total			NA		YTD Total			0.79	23.0"

Hospital Connection Specialty Clinic

Q: Which Specialty Clinic Providers can I currently see at EBCH?
A: There are currently three Specialty Providers seeing patients monthly at EBCH. Dr. Harms and his staff from Orthopaedics Associates see patients twice monthly for all of their Orthopaedic needs. Podiatrist Dr. Katie Evans is on campus typically twice per month to see patients. She provides a full range of services to men, women and children for their feet and ankles. EBCH is also grateful to partner with Dr. John Bollins of Advances Surgical Associates of Northern Minnesota to supply expert surgical services using our da Vinci surgical robot. Dr. Bollins is typically on campus four days per month for consultations, performing surgery and seeing our patients for their follow-up.

Q: Do I need a referral?
A: It depends, some of our visiting providers can see you without a referral: however, you may want to be sure your insurance will cover the visit if you make the appointment on your own. We highly recommend that you talk with your Primary Care Provider and your insurance company if you would like to make an appointment with one of our Specialty Providers.

Q: How can I find out more information?
A: Call us at 218-365-8793 and our knowledgeable Specialty Clinic Team will answer your questions and get you started in the right direct. You can also visit our website at www.ebch.org for a full range of information on all the services offered here at Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital.

Hospital Connection is a new feature from Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital (EBCH) this winter. We are excited to share our most recent updates and information in a question-and-answer format featuring a new topic each week. Throughout the next several weeks, we will share exciting information about EBCH, our newest services, and how we are a partner in the communities we serve. You can also find more information about EBCH by visiting our website at www.ebch.org. Like our Facebook page to keep up with current events and announcements.

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BOYS BASKETBALL

Cherry downs Grizzlies

North Woods rolls to big win against Northome-Kelliher

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- A standing-room-only crowd turned out at North Woods School on Monday to watch the Grizzlies take on the top-ranked Tigers from Cherry, and they got to see a bit of history as Cherry showed

Left: The Grizzlies' Louie Panichi gets hammered as he drives toward the basket. photo by D. Colburn

why they're one of the favorites for this year's state crown with a 99-57 win.

Tigers fans were there in force to cheer on star guard Isaac Asuma as he eclipsed 3,000 career points midway through the first half. Play was stopped as the senior was awarded the milestone-breaking game ball, and the crowd roared its approval. Asuma was the third-ranked player in the state last year when he signed to play next season for the Minnesota Gophers, and his

performance on Monday vaulted him into 15th place among all-time Minnesota boys high school scorers, with the chance to move up several more spots by the end of the season.

The Grizzlies weren't about to let this one go without a fight, making Cherry scrape hard for their points early on. But the Grizzlies had a tough time getting on track offensively as

See NW BOYS...pg. 2B



GIRLS BASKETBALL

Wins lift Ely to 13-4

Visser sets new school single game steal record in Wolves' romp over Bigfork

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

ELY— The Timberwolves are in a sweet spot after back-to-back wins this past week, lifting their record to 13-4.

Playing on home hardwood Monday night, the Wolves took command of the Huskies as senior Grace LaTourell poured in 28 points and classmate Sarah Visser set a new school record for steals in a 61-24 romp.

The Wolves had a good first half, taking a 29-16 lead into the break, but it was the second frame that really told the tale as Ely outscored Bigfork 32-8. "Our man defense was electric," said Head Coach Max Gantt, who noted that none of Bigfork's heavy hitters made it to double digits. "There

Above: Ely junior Clare Thomas goes up high on a jumper against Bigfork on Tuesday night in Ely.

Right: Senior Grace LaTourell works around a Bigfork defender. LaTourell led the Wolves offensively with 28 points.

photos by J. Greeney

was great team communication, and we did a great job moving our feet. We did a great job of frustrating the other team and taking away the things that they do well."

With her 28 points, LaTourell outscored the entire Bigfork squad singlehandedly and she had plenty of help from the rest of her

See ELY GIRLS...pg. 2B



BOYS BASKETBALL

Timberwolves claw Raptors, 67-56

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

ELY — The Timberwolves played one of the best games of the season on Tuesday night as they downed a scrappy Carlton-Wrenshall squad, 67-56. "We shot the ball well and we defended well," said Ely Head Coach Tom McDonald. The Wolves built a 20-point lead in the second half, but the Raptors weren't ready to give up as they closed the gap to five at one point. "But we did enough to

Right: Ely sophomore Drew Johnson goes up for a jump shot against a Wrenshall defender.

photo by J. Greeney

pull away at the end," said McDonald.

Jack Davies and Caid Chittum posted 23 points apiece as they led Ely's offensive charge. Wyatt Tedrick added 11 and Drew Johnson had ten. Both Chittum

See WOLVES...pg. 2B



HOCKEY

Ely hits the skids

Lose three straight games to fall to 12-8

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

ELY— The once high-flying Wolves have hit a tough stretch on the ice in recent days, suffering three straight losses in a week they entered at 12-5.

Playing at home on Tuesday, the Wolves fell 9-1 to Proctor. As became a pattern this week, Ely senior Drew Marolt drew first blood, with a power play goal just shy of five minutes into the first period. Ely's lead quickly evaporated, however, as the Rails lit the light 18 seconds later and went on to add two more before the period ended. They scored five more, all unanswered, in the second period and finished the third with a late goal to pad their margin.

Sophomore Lewey Powell worked the net for the Wolves, allowing nine goals on 57 shots for a .842 save percentage. Ely managed just 11 shots on goal in the contest.

On Saturday, the Wolves looked eager to avenge their Friday night loss

See HOCKEY...pg. 2B

NORDIC SKIING

Ely boys post solid performance

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TWO HARBORS— The Ely boys Nordic ski team posted a strong performance at the Two Harbors Invitational on Tuesday as they finished five racers in the top 15 in a field of 52 competitors at the Korkki Nordic Ski Center north of Duluth to take second in the team competition.

Junior Dylan Durkin finished third overall with a time of 21:08, just 32 seconds behind first place finisher James Kyes of Duluth East.

Ely freshman Aksel Skustad finished ninth with a time of 21:55 while fellow freshman Oliver Hohenstein came in at 11th place with a time of 22:51. Junior Eli Olson finished 12th with a time of 22:57, while fellow junior

See NORDIC...pg. 2B

Correction

Last week's photos of the North Woods boys basketball team, which appeared on 1B, were inaccurately credited to David Colburn. The shots should have been attributed to Connie Stone. The Timberjay apologizes for the error.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Grizzlies cruise past Spartans 64-39

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

NASHWAUK- The North Woods girls picked up a big road win last Thursday over Nashwauk-Keewatin, 64-39.

After a slow start the Grizzlies took the lead on a pair of Tatum Barto charities and a two buckets down low by River Cheney for an 8-0

lead, and another Cheney score gave North Woods a double-digit lead at 12-2. The Grizzlies went flat from the field as the Spartans crawled back to within five, but a fast break bucket by Helen Koch broke the drought and gave North Woods a 19-12 edge. The Grizzlies boosted the lead to 30-18 at the half.

North Woods was never threatened in the second half,

with the period playing out much the same way as the first stanza, the Grizzlies rolling to the 64-39 win.

Defense keyed the Grizzlies' performance throughout the game, as they forced 29 turnovers, made 19 steals and limited the Spartans to just 22 percent shooting. The Grizzlies weren't much better from the floor at 31 percent, but they put up 30

more shots than the Spartans.

Cheney led the Grizzlies with 16 points, followed by Barto with 15 and Koch with 10.

An unusual midseason 11-day layoff has the Grizzlies idled until they host Barnum next Monday, kicking off a string of four games in five days.

Ely archers compete at Grand Rapids

GRAND RAPIDS- Multiple Ely archers scored medals at a tournament in Grand Rapids on Saturday.

Fifth-grader Aspen MacCoy won the elementary girls division in 3D competition over 21 other competitors. Cylvia DeBeltz place third in the high school girls 3D among 39 shooters.

DeBeltz also took third in the high school girls bullseye competition, shooting against 82 other archers. Sixth grader Hayden Weidemann finished first in his grade category and fifth overall among 92 middle school boys. MacCoy took fourth

NW BOYS...Continued from page 1B

Cherry slipped out to a 9-0 lead before Jonah Burnett got North Woods on the board with a spinning fast break layup. But that would be the only basket for the Grizzlies' leading scorer in the first half.

With Cherry keying defensively on Burnett, the Grizzlies had to find points elsewhere to try to hang with the Tigers. A triple by Keenan Whitney and a trey and a driving deuce by Louie Panichi gave the home fans something to cheer about as Cherry extended its lead to 28-15. Asuma hit the 3,000 mark shooting in a pair of free throws to give Cherry a 38-19 advantage. North Woods had a series of productive possessions late in the half with Panichi hitting another trey and a double and Luke Will scoring three buckets, but the Tigers still extended their lead to 62-38 at the break.

Any scant hope of a North Woods rally was snuffed out immediately in the second half as the Tigers exploded for 19 points before the Grizzlies finally tallied a Panichi free throw at the 14-minute mark. Cherry went up 96-46 with just over six minutes left, but the Grizzlies finished



The Grizzlies' Keenan Whitney eyes the bucket under heavy pressure from a Cherry defender. photo by D. Colburn

the game on an 11-3 run to account for the 99-57 final.

While Asuma's milestone was the highlight of the game for Cherry, the Tigers showed they aren't a one-trick pony this season, with three players scoring higher than Asuma's 15 points. Noah Asuma and Carson Brown tied for high score honors with 21 each, and Noah Sundquist dropped in 16.

Cherry Head Coach Jordan Christianson commented on Asuma's milestone.

"Three thousand, that's a ton of baskets," he said. "He's in elite company and he's an elite kid overall. It's a good milestone for him. He deserves it, he earned it."

Cherry is a dangerous opponent not only because they have multiple weapons, but also because of their team chemistry, Christianson said.

"We lost quite a few seniors, we added a couple, so the chemistry took a little bit to get going this year. They put in a lot of work

together in the summer and they practice hard together every day, and I would say the chemistry has greatly improved. All five of our guys and even our sixth and seventh guys off the bench know they're a threat when they're on the floor, and they're all confident in each other to make a play. So it could be anyone's night - we don't need 30 from Isaac or anything like that."

For the Grizzlies, Panichi was the scoring spark plug, hitting for 19, while Burnett was well

below his season average at 13 points. Will chipped in 10. Despite the loss, North Woods Head Coach Andrew Jugovich found some positive take aways, particularly from the first half.

"We knew that it wasn't going to necessarily go our way, but we wanted to see things that would propel us forward. Louie Panichi is an animal on offense, and Luke Will has been stepping up in a big way," Jugovich said. "They moved the ball insanely fast, but defensively we started to rotate better and we were keeping up with them and getting rebounds. Their coach had to call two timeouts and in our book that's a win. They're the number one team in the state for single A and top 75, maybe even top 50 for all four classes, so they're a phenomenal team."

Northome-Kelliher

Northome-Kelliher came calling at North Woods last Friday, and the Grizzlies were in top form as they ran the Mustangs out of the gym with a 104-65 win.

The Grizzlies held a slim 26-23 lead when they took control with an 11-2 spurt sparked by

a Panichi trey and four charities by Burnett. North Woods turned in one of its most impressive offensive streaks of the season to close out the half, scoring on 12 of its last 14 possessions to lead 67-46 at intermission.

With the Grizzlies cruising at 78-50, Talen Jarshaw got into the act with a trey and a pair of buckets sandwiched around a Burnett fast break to push the lead to 87-51. Trajan Barto canned the triple that put the Grizzlies over the century mark with a minute left to play, and a putback by TaySean Boshley-Wilkerson topped off the 104-65 smackdown.

The Grizzlies got big games out of Burnett and Panichi, with 33 and 31 points respectively, and picked up 16 from Will and 12 from Jarshaw.

"They're a very physical and big team, but we knew they couldn't keep up with us at the pace we play," Jugovich said. "We just had to get them tired first, and we took advantage of that."

The Grizzlies were scheduled to face off against Duluth Marshall on the road on Friday, then have a week off before traveling to Coleraine to take on

ELY GIRLS...Continued from page 1B

team. Hannah Penke, who is back in the lineup for the Wolves, added eight points while Clare Thomas posted seven points.

Visser notched an

impressive double-double, with 17 rebounds, including 11 on offense, and that record-setting 12 steals.

Playing at International Falls last Thursday, the

Wolves easily outpaced the Broncos 72-45. "It wasn't our best game but it was a solid win on the road," said Gantt. LaTourell again led the way offensively with

22 points, while Hannah Penke added 16 and Audrey Kallberg added 13. A total of nine Ely players put points on the board, making it an all-around strong per-

formance.

"We're right where we feel we should be," said Gantt. "We're still getting better, we're having fun and we're working really hard!"

The Wolves host Moose Lake on Saturday, with a 2:30 p.m. start and they'll stay home next week, hosting Nashwauk-Keewatin on Monday.

NORDIC...Continued from page 1B

Silas Solum came in 14th with a time of 23:09. Milo McClelland finished 20th with a time of 24:09.

Duluth East, a perennial Nordic ski powerhouse, took eight of the top 11 spots for a team total of 487,

while Ely skiers claimed the other three and took second with 459 points.

The girls struggled a

bit on Tuesday, finishing fourth among the five teams competing, with 410 points. Senior Claire Blauch was

Ely's top finisher, in 11th place with a time of 25:19. Senior Ava Skustad was right behind in 14th with a

time of 25:31 in a field of 47 racers. No other Ely racers made it into the top 20.

HOCKEY...Continued from page 1B

to Lake of the Woods as they came out gunning for net. Senior forward Drew Marolt made it look easy as he lit the light at the 1:52 mark on an assist from his younger brother Owen Marolt. He did it again 32 seconds later with an assist from junior defenseman Alex Merriman to put the Wolves on top 2-0.

But, again, that proved to be the extent of Ely's firepower for the afternoon as they went scoreless the rest of the way as the Panthers put up seven unanswered goals to take home a 7-2 win. Penalties didn't help Ely's cause, as the Wolves were tagged six times to

just once for the Panthers. And Park Rapids made that advantage count as they racked up three power play goals on the afternoon. When Wes Sandy was called for tripping at the 3:10 mark and Jayden Zemke made his own trip to the box 31 seconds later, the Panthers took advantage with a power play goal at the 4:41 mark to close the gap to 2-1. The Panthers did it again nine minutes later, tying the score at the 13:47 mark, while Sandy was back in the box for kneeing. They notched their final power play goal early in the third period while Chase Anderson was out

for roughing.

Park Rapids peppered Ely goalie Ben Leeson with 45 shots on goal and they made them count. Leeson had one of his poorest save percentages in recent weeks, which didn't help the cause. Ely managed a relatively anemic 25 shots on goal.

It was a similar story for the Wolves against Lake of the Woods on Friday as Ely jumped out to an early lead only to watch it evaporate. Drew Marolt again led the charge, with a quick unassisted goal at the 2:57 mark. Junior Garrett Rohr put Ely up 2-0 late in the first period with an assist from senior

Tommy Homer. But that's when the Bears went to work, notching six straight goals, two of them on power plays, to take it 6-2.

Leeson struggled again in the net, allowing four goals on 20 shots in 34 minutes of play. Sophomore Lewis Powell took over in the net for part of the game, allowing two goals on 14 shots in 17 minutes of action. The Bears outshot Ely 34-25.

Ely, now 12-8, hosts Bagley on Friday (6 p.m. start) and have a week off before visiting St. Paul Johnson on Friday, Feb. 2.

WOLVES...Continued from page 1B

and Johnson notched double-doubles on the night as Johnson added 11 rebounds while Chittum tallied ten.

The Wolves struggled on Saturday as Duluth

Marshall came to town, slipping 64-43. "I thought we played okay defensively but didn't shoot well the whole game," said McDonald. "They were

rather athletic and we had a hard time covering all of them with our defense."

Davies led the way offensively for Ely, pouring in 22 points, while Chittum

added 12 and eight boards.

The Wolves were set to host Littlefork-Big Falls on Friday and will head to Greenway on Tuesday.

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Obituaries and Death Notices



Ramon E. Berg

Ramon E. "Ray" Berg, 91, longtime resident of Soudan, passed away on Monday, Jan. 15, 2024, at Essentia Health-Virginia. A private family interment will be held. A celebration of life will be held in the spring or summer. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Ray was born at home in Tower, on March 28, 1932, to Christian and Virginia Bruneau Berg. His life revolved around family, and whenever you met Ray, he always greeted you with a smile; he had a kindness that would

warm your heart.

He is survived by his son, Michael Berg; daughter, Patricia (Kurt) Hujanen; grandchildren, Brian (Kelly) Hujanen and Sarah Hujanen; and four special great-grandchildren, Mackenzy, Avaya, Jameson and Taiger.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 55 years, Lorraine, in August 2009.



Daniel E. Hackey

Daniel Earl Hackey, 75, of Porterville, Calif., and formerly of Tow-

er and Biwabik, died on Saturday, Jan. 20, 2024, in Bakersville Memorial Hospital in California. A celebration of life is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 30 at 5:30 p.m., along with a potluck style dinner, at the Vermilion Family Wellness Center on the Vermilion Reservation in Tower for anyone who wishes to attend.

Dan was born on May 3, 1948, in Alameda, Calif., the son of Margaret and Donald Hackey. He attended Biwabik High School and completed some courses at Mesabi Community College. In 1970, Dan enlisted with the U.S. Navy Submarine Division. After 20 years of service in the Navy, Dan retired in 1990. Dan was an enrolled member of the Bois Forte Band of Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, bonfires, golfing and working.

Dan is survived by his wife, Darlene of Porterville, Calif.; siblings, Pam and Vickie of Tower and Dawn of Virginia; sons, Daniel (April) of Embarrass and Craig (Maria) and grandchildren, Noah, Cora and Shea of Richmond, Va.; daughter, Leona Hackey (Chris) Crenshaw and grandchildren, Taylor, Matthew and Kelly of Richmond, Va.; bonus daughter, Shawntelle Weinberg (Keith Browder) and grandsons, Shane and Jaison Weinberg.

He was preceded in death by his son, Jesse Hackey; brother, Guy Hackey; stepdaughter, Tammy Dratz; nephew, Timothy Pepworth; and great-nephew, Starlin Strong.

Robert LaTourell

Robert "Jeep" LaTourell, 89, of Ely, a proud U.S. Army Veteran, passed

away on Sunday, Jan. 21, 2024, at Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital with his family by his side. Funeral arrangements are entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

Galen A. Holewa

Galen Anthony Holewa, 63, formerly of Ely and Babbitt, entered into God's Kingdom on Friday, Jan. 19, 2024. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 26 at Blessed Sacrament Church in Hibbing with visitation at 10 a.m. Lunch will follow the service at the church. Burial will be at 3 p.m. at the Lavell Cemetery in Meadowlands. In lieu of flowers, donations may be directed to the Pregnancy Health Center of Hibbing or Duluth. Arrangements are entrusted to Rupp Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Chisholm.

He is survived by his

wife, Lizbeth Haapala Holewa; children, Jedediah (Stephanie) and Nathan (Kari); grandchildren, Taylor, Mackenzie, Madison, Jakob, Lukas, Tristen and Adrien; and siblings, Evan and Gwendoline Holewa Webb.

Brian D. Jarvi

Brian Daniel Jarvi, 57, of Ely, passed away on Thursday, Jan. 11, 2024. A private family ceremony is planned to honor his life. The family appreciates the support and condolences received during this difficult time. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

He is survived by his loving son, Shane (Maisy) Jarvi; father, Gerald; mother, Carolyn (Bill) Surla; brother, Brett; and sister Joni (Billy) Hemming.

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITIES

Ely Chamber of Commerce award nominations now open

ELY- The Ely Chamber of Commerce wishes to honor the hardworking individuals, groups, and businesses whose contributions elevate our region and make it a better place for everyone to work, live, and visit. To do that, the chamber is now accepting nominations for four annual awards to recognize the extraordinary people and businesses of the Ely area. Award recipients will be recognized at this year's Celebrate Ely networking event on April 11.

Jackpine Bob Cary Community Spirit Award: Local legend Jackpine Bob Cary epitomized the spirit that is still alive in Ely today. Author, artist, photographer, wilderness guide, and ski racer Bob helped put Ely on the map when he ran for president on the Independent Fisherman's Party ticket. He is remembered for his passion for life and his ability to have fun.

Bob was an outspoken com-

munity representative. He loved Ely and constantly worked to promote it through his writings, artistic works, and the stories he shared with anyone who would listen. He was tremendously willing to serve and give time to support Ely and the surrounding area.

In 2009, the Ely Chamber of Commerce established an award in Cary's honor: Jackpine Bob Cary Community Spirit Award. This award aims to recognize an individual or group for their unselfish giving and promotion of Ely, who has positively impacted the Ely area and tourism. The award may or may not be given annually. Criteria for individuals, groups, or organizations include being an enthusiastic promoter of Ely, actively involved in projects and activities that significantly contribute to the quality of life and promotion of Ely.

Good Neighbor Business Award:

The Ely Chamber of Commerce wishes to recognize businesses that go above and beyond to foster an environment of community improvement and support. This award is for any for-profit business that demonstrates their commitment to the Ely community through activities such as financial contributions to community organizations or fund-raisers, sponsorships of events, volunteer work by owners or business staff, involvement in community organizations or activities, and donations of services, facilities, or other resources.

Membership in the Ely Chamber of Commerce is not required for this award, but the business should be actively involved through a time commitment or financial support of projects and activities that significantly contribute to the quality of life in the community.

Good Citizen Volunteer of the Year Award:

We all know someone who is always stepping forward to assist others. This person's work may include assisting neighbors, serving as an active member of area clubs and organizations, or just lending a hand no matter the situation. Please help us identify and recognize a community member for this person's ongoing commitment to Ely, as demonstrated through his or her volunteer efforts for our Good Citizen Volunteer of the Year Award.

Excellence in Customer Service Award:

Employees are the face of every business. Whether it is a service or retail business, employees make an impact on customer and guest experiences. The Chamber of Commerce wants to discover and honor an Ely employee who personifies excellence in customer service. This individual should be someone who will go

the extra distance to help find merchandise, always find the answer to all your questions, or customize services to meet your needs. The chamber invites you to share your top customer service employee pick for our Excellence in Customer Service Award.

Nominations for all these awards are due Feb. 20. Anyone may nominate an individual or business for these awards. Please include a short statement of 150-500 words explaining why you feel they deserve recognition, including specific, recent achievements that describe the nominee's work and impact on our community.

Send nominations to Ely Chamber of Commerce, 1600 E. Sheridan St, Ely, or to director@ely.org. Nominations are open through Feb.20.

EMPLOYMENT

OPENINGS



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

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

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> 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
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US: A small nonprofit focused on preserving and interpreting the history of the Ely and Winton area. A committed volunteer board of directors. A part-time colleague for you in the form of a bookkeeper. A museum and artifacts requiring caretaking, organizing and interpretation support.

PART-TIME (up to 20 hours/weekly), \$15-\$18/hour (depending on qualifications). Full job description available at <https://www.elywintonhistory.org> and preference given to cover letters and resumes received by Monday, February 12. 2/2

PUBLIC NOTICE

EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP MAIL BALLOT NOTICE

Notice to Voters residing in Eagles Nest Township, St. Louis County will vote by mail in statewide elections as authorized by Eagles Nest Township under MN Statute 204B.45.

Notice of State Presidential Primary Election: March 5, 2024. All persons **registered** to vote as of January 19, 2024, in MAIL BALLOT precincts will automatically be sent a ballot at least 14 days prior to the election. If you are registered to vote and do not receive a ballot by February 20, 2024, please contact the St. Louis County Auditor's Office at one of these locations Auditor, St. Louis County Courthouse 100 North 5th Avenue West, Room 214 Duluth, MN 55802, (218) 726-2385 or Virginia Government Services Building 201 South 3rd Ave West Virginia, MN 55792, (218) 749-7104. You may email questions to elections@stlouiscountymn.gov.

Published in the Timberjay, Jan. 26 & Feb. 2, 2024

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

AMENDMENT TO ASSUMED NAME Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333

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

List the exact assumed name under which the business is or will be conducted:
Jane Dough Baking Co.
Principal place of business: 2214 E 41st St., Hibbing, MN 55746

List the name and complete street address of all persons conducting business under the above Assumed Name, or if an entity, provide the legal corporate, LLC, or Limited Partnership name and registered office address: Ash & Sage Collective LLC, 2214 E 41st St., Hibbing, MN 55746. This certificate is an amendment of Certificate of

Assumed Name File Number: 142180900027, originally filed on 10/20/23. I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compli-

ance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.
Signed: Ashley S. Snyder 01/08/2024

Published in the Timberjay, Jan. 19 & 26, 2024

MEETING CHANGE NOTICE MORCOM TOWNSHIP

February Morcom Township Board Meeting has been changed to Thursday, February 15 at 6:00 pm.

Sasha Lehto, Clerk, Morcom Township
218-969-5812

Published in the Timberjay, Jan. 19 & 26, 2024

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Hot tub
- 4 Pack (down)
- 8 Honeycomb division
- 12 Joke
- 13 Teen fave
- 14 Celestial bear
- 15 Capote nickname
- 16 Difficult problem
- 18 Celery unit
- 20 Pantheon member
- 21 Morays
- 24 Twilight, poetically
- 28 "Bravo!"
- 32 Wry Bombeck
- 33 Raw rock
- 34 Begets
- 36 Melody
- 37 Actress Meg
- 39 Maintains
- 41 Wheel connectors
- 43 Bake sale orgs.
- 44 - Victor
- 46 Dugout seating
- 50 Sociable and lively
- 55 "Caught ya!"
- 56 Medicinal plant
- 57 Vogue rival
- 58 Singer Phair
- 59 Reporter's quest

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13					14		
15			16				17			
18		19		20						
		21	22	23	24		25	26	27	
28	29	30			31	32				
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37		38		39			40			
41			42	43						
		44	45		46		47	48	49	
50	51	52			53	54		55		
56				57				58		
59				60				61		

- 60 Workout count
- 61 Mimic
- 10 Baton Rouge sch.
- 11 Felon's flight
- 17 Eggy quaff
- 19 Triathlon segment
- 22 Secular
- 23 Razor sharpener
- 25 Algerian port
- 26 During
- 27 Red planet
- 28 Mrs. Dithers of "Blondie"
- 29 African antelope
- 30 "Hud" actress Patricia
- 31 Faxed
- 35 Equine homes
- 38 Butterflies
- 40 Language suffix
- 42 High school subj.
- 45 Declare
- 47 "The Lion King" lion
- 48 Intel product
- 49 Visibility hindrance
- 50 Fire
- 51 Flamenco cheer
- 52 At once
- 53 -de-France
- 54 Jungfrau, for one

DOWN

- 1 Boot camp
- 2 Section
- 3 Water, in Mexico
- 4 Hearts, slangily
- 5 Big fuss
- 6 Calendar abbr.
- 7 Advertise
- 8 Get cozy (with)
- 9 Blunder

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Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

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

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| 1. Center | __ I __ _ _ _ | Interfere | __ E __ _ _ _ |
| 2. Crowd | __ _ _ D __ | Seabiscuit or Trigger | __ _ _ S __ |
| 3. Oil transporter | __ _ N __ _ _ | Verbose one | __ _ L __ _ _ |
| 4. Sink | __ _ _ _ N | Pesto ingredient | __ _ _ _ L |
| 5. Drop-down lists | __ E __ _ _ | Subtraction sign | __ I __ _ _ |
| 6. Rocker or recliner | __ _ _ _ R | Series of links | __ _ _ _ N |
| 7. Ice skating season | __ _ _ T __ | Gold medalist | __ _ _ N __ |
| 8. Newborn canine | __ U __ _ _ | Perky and frisky | __ E __ _ _ |
| 9. Bed of flowers | G __ _ _ _ | Prison boss | W __ _ _ _ |
| 10. Mailbox item | __ E __ _ _ _ | Brood of kittens | __ I __ _ _ _ |

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CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR
is **LONGFELLOW**

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

YJU UCA QVHVDIV JSX ERQVJX
NBV FQVJNVEN FDLNE CL JOO -
OCIV JSX RVJHV LCQ NBV ZBCOV
ZCQOX.
- UCAQ RAMMOV LQDVSXE

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CryptoQuip

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

Clue: **X** equals **C**

GYN ZJT IFEMHDZ FJG RG GYN
ZTU IFJQD'G GRMN GYN GHUN
GF GRCM GF LNFLCN. YN YRQ
GFF URDT LENKKHDZ XFDXNEDK.

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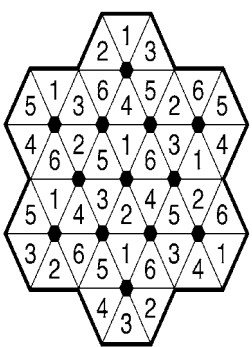
Super Crossword

Answers

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

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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.

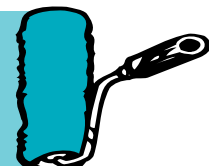
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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EMPLOYMENT



DEPARTMENT OF IRON RANGE RESOURCES & REHABILITATION

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The Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation is seeking to fill the permanent, full-time (1.0 FTE) position of Communications Director (Communications Manager 1).

The Communications Director provides leadership as an agency communications and marketing strategist for Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation. This position oversees development and execution of strategic communications and marketing including public relations, engagement and outreach efforts, media relations to advance agency objectives, inform stakeholders, protect and enhance the agency's reputation and lead crisis communication efforts. This position provides leadership in execution of agency strategic planning development, implementation, consultation, evaluation, and communications. This position serves as the agency spokesperson and liaison to the Governor's Office.

This position is located in Eveleth, MN with the eligibility for a mixture of in office and telework. Occasional travel to events is required.

Learn more and apply online at mn.gov/careers
Job ID: 73254

Application deadline: February 7, 2024

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CryptoQuip answer

The guy working out at the gym wouldn't take the time to talk to people. He had too many pressing concerns.

CryptoQuote answer

May you receive and spread the greatest gifts of all - love and peace for the whole world.

— Your Puzzle Friends

Even Exchange answers

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Middle, Meddle | 6. Chair, Chain |
| 2. Horde, Horse | 7. Winter, Winner |
| 3. Tanker, Talker | 8. Puppy, Peppy |
| 4. Basin, Basil | 9. Garden, Warden |
| 5. Menus, Minus | 10. Letter, Litter |

online 24/7 at www.timberjay.com