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**VCS at Ely Film Festival... See /3**

**Greenwood touts low levy... See /12**

**Right on target... See /1B**

**Ely skiers head to state... See /1B**

# The **TIMBERJAY**



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989

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\$1<sup>50</sup>

## CITY OF TOWER

# Council approves purchase of county public works building

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

TOWER — It appears the city of Tower will be the next owner of the public works facility currently owned by St. Louis County. The city council here voted 3-0 here on Monday to authorize the purchase of the facility, located on the city's west end, for the appraised value of \$260,000, plus any financing and legal expenses. Councilors Josh Zika and Bob Anderson were not in attendance.

The decision to purchase the facility began with infor-

**Right: The city of Tower is expected to soon be the new owner of the county public works facility located on Marina Drive on the city's west end.**

mal discussion three years ago and was ultimately made possible by the county's decision to consolidate its public works staff into a new facility built in Kugler Township last year.

An ad hoc committee of city officials had investigated the issue recently and recommended that the city purchase the 31-acre site, which includes a 3.6-acre parking lot, a 4,700-



sq. ft. office and maintenance garage, a 3,500-sq. ft. cold storage building, and a 10,200-sq. ft. salt dome with thousands of yards of salted gravel. The maintenance facility includes

a built-in crane and a long list of other equipment which the county plans to leave.

In authorizing the pur-

See...PURCHASE pg. 9



**Matt Hinrichs, of Lundgren Motors was on hand with a Mustang Mach-E for test drives.**

## ON DISPLAY

# EVs make a showing at Ely festival

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- The Ely Winter Festival had a new event on the schedule this year as the community offered the first-in-the-nation wintertime ride and drive event highlighting electric vehicles or EVs, held Saturday, Feb. 3, in the parking lot next to the Dairy Queen.

"We did some research—we looked and looked and looked—and we believe this is the first winter electric vehicle ride-and-drive in the country," said Diana McKeown from the Great Plains Institute, which helped organize the event.

Ely was the perfect location for the ride-and-drive, according to McKeown. "Our goal was for people to drive and experience electric vehicles in the winter and see that the battery

See...ELECTRIC pg. 9

## DRINKING WATER

# Latest plant bid offers little savings

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

TOWER-SOUDAN — Officials here were hopeful this week that a Tuesday bid opening for a long-planned drinking water treatment facility shared by both communities here would help bridge a funding gap that has kept this project on hold for more than three years.

It wasn't to be. Instead, the lone contractor, Lakehead Construction, which submitted a \$9.1 million bid for the project last year, offered the sole bid this year, at an only marginally improved price tag of \$9.05 million.

Tower clerk-treasurer Michael Schultz and Breitung wastewater manager Matt Tichel, who were both on hand for the 1 p.m. bid opening, both expressed disappointment at the number of bidders as well as the price tag. They had worked extensively answering questions and touring the

See...BID pg. 10



## CAREGIVER AND ELDER EXPO

# Creating healthier lives

Many service providers on hand for first-time event at Fortune Bay

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

VERMILION RESERVATION- Cecilia Connor was probably the oldest attendee at the Bois Forte Caregiver and Elder Expo on Feb. 6 at Fortune Bay. The 95-year-old elder had taken the Big Woods bus from Nett Lake, and she was busy visiting all the booths set up in the exhibit area outside of the large ballroom, where a series of speakers, talked a series of speakers, talked on topics like assistive technology for those living with low vision, preventing online elder fraud, legal services and health care directives,

**Above: 95-year-old Cecilia Connor samples a healthy snack based on chia seeds.**

**Right: Erin Danielson (right) and Jannalee Porter manned one of the informational booths.**

photos by J. Summit

and information on medical insurance options.

The first annual event was sponsored by Bois Forte Health Services, with grant funding from the Northland Foundation and the Minnesota Department of Health Services.

See...HEALTHY pg. 10



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Community notices

**Embarrass Winter Festival on Saturday**

EMBARRASS - The Embarrass Winter Festival will be held on Saturday, 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.

**County seeks nominations for Public Health Achievement Awards**

REGIONAL - St. Louis County Public Health is seeking nominations from the public to recognize individuals or groups who have made a significant effort to improve the health of residents or communities in St. Louis County. The Public Health Achievement Awards will be presented during the St. Louis County Board meeting on Tuesday, April 2.

Winners will be selected based on their leadership, Public Health contributions, community health improvement outcomes, collaboration and advocacy. The deadline to submit a nomination is Friday, March 8.

Previous winners include:  
 ▶2023: Ely Community Health Center, Rural Aids Action Network (RAAN), First Ladies of the Hillside, and Duluth City Councilor Terese Tomanek  
 ▶2020: Rachel Doherty and Barbara Hinsz (Mesabi East Environmental Education Center), Dr. Jennifer Jones and Dr. Jordan Blessing; and the South St. Louis County Veterans Treatment Court  
 ▶2019: Dr. Laura Palombi, the Ely Community Care Team, Dementia Friendly Duluth, and Ashley Grimm  
 ▶2018: The Rutabaga Project, and Heather Hemphill Keely  
 ▶2017: Verne Wagner, and the Diabetes Prevention Program partners (Duluth Area and Mesabi Family YMCAs and Essentia Health in Duluth and Virginia)

▶2016: Ruby's Pantry, and Eversmiles Pediatric Dentistry  
 More information, including a nomination form and instructions, are available online at [stlouiscountymn.gov/phaward](http://stlouiscountymn.gov/phaward) or by calling (218) 725-5214.

**Peewee hockey tournament Feb. 16-18**

ELY- This year the Ely Blue Line Club is hosting the annual District 12 Peewee Hockey Tournament at the Ely Ice Arena, Friday, Feb. 16 - 18. Along with more hockey than you can shake a stick at, there will also be raffles and concessions. Game schedules and team brackets TBD, check [www.elyhockey.org](http://www.elyhockey.org) for updates.

Come show your support for Ely Youth Hockey. Gate/entry fees are \$5 per person/day, \$10 weekend pass, 12 and under are free, rostered players, coaches & managers are free.

**Ely Alliance of Braver Angels to meet Feb. 29**

ELY - The Ely Alliance of Braver Angels will meet at the Ely Senior Center Thursday, Feb. 29 at 6:30 p.m.

There is no charge to attend. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

**ERFA hosting blood drive on March 2**

EMBARRASS- The Embarrass Region Fair Association is hosting a blood drive on Saturday, March 2 from 8:30 a.m. - noon at Timber Hall. This is in conjunction with the fair's monthly pancake breakfasts. The March breakfast will be honoring health care workers.

Sign up for the blood drive online at [www.mbc.org/searchdrives](http://www.mbc.org/searchdrives), with sponsor code 5046, or contact Bonnie Overton at [bonnie\\_overton@yahoo.com](mailto:bonnie_overton@yahoo.com) or call at 218-780-3058.

The Memorial Blood Center's bloodmobile will be at Timber Hall. Those donating need to bring their ID, and have no cold or flu symptoms for 72 hours prior to donating.

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IT'S BEEN A YEAR ALREADY

**Meteorologist Dave Anderson to speak at Sisu Heritage annual meeting Feb. 25**

EMBARRASS- Sisu Heritage, Inc. will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, Feb. 25 at 2 p.m. at Embarrass Town Hall. The guest speaker will be Dave Anderson.

Dave is the longest-serving broadcast meteorologist in the Northland with 31 years of experience on the air and five more behind the scenes at Northern News Now which comprises channels 3 and 6. He's a native of Ely with family roots in Babbitt and Tower-Soudan. Dave is a proud Northland native and feels his Finnish roots from the Marttila family in Tower give him the sisu needed to make semi-accurate forecasts for the greatest region in the world, the Embarrass Valley.

The public is cordially invited to join Sisu members for the afternoon. A short business meeting will include committee reports, election

of board members, and presentation of the 2024 budget. Coffee and an' will be served and door prizes awarded.

Sisu Heritage, Inc. is a non-profit organization affiliated with the St. Louis County Historical Society. Its mission is "to enhance the Embarrass region by preserving and sharing its unique culture, climate, and history." Memberships are \$10/year and can be renewed or purchased at the meeting, or by mail to Sisu Heritage, PO Box 71, Embarrass, MN 55732. Embarrass Town Hall is located at 7503 Levanter Rd. Please call 218-984-3402 with any questions.

**Dave Anderson, pictured here speaking at a previous event, has been a household name in the Northland for more than 30 years.**



LEARN ONLINE

**Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging introduces next webinar series**

DULUTH - Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging is excited to announce the launch of a series of webinars aimed at providing valuable information and resources for community members and professionals.

▶Age-Friendly Arrowhead Tuesday, Feb. 27, 12-1:30 p.m. Presented by Georgia Lane, Aging Services Planner, AAAA

Learn about Minnesota's Multi-sector Plan on aging, insights from the Age-Friendly Exchange, and how you can take action. We'll showcase the Age-Friendly work happening throughout the Arrowhead, and spotlight projects funded through Age-Friendly Minnesota investments.

▶Paying for Long-Term Care Thursday, Feb. 29, 10-11:30 a.m. Presented by Kristin Parendo, Elder Law Lead Attorney, Justice North

Are you worried about how to pay for long-term care, either for yourself or a loved one? It's a common concern, but there are many ways to manage these costs. Join us for an informative webinar where we'll explore the different strategies to fund long-term care.

We won't just talk theory; we'll walk through real-life situations.

Hear stories from people who've navigated the complex world of long-term care financing. We'll share their experiences with the tough decisions they had to make and the solutions they found.

Whether you're planning ahead or facing immediate needs, this webinar will give you the knowledge to make informed decisions. Don't miss out on learning how to secure the care you or your loved ones deserve.

▶Paying Family Caregivers to Provide Care Tuesday, March 19, 10-11:30 a.m. Presented by Kristin Parendo, Elder Law Lead Attorney, Justice North

Are you taking care of an older family member or a close friend at home? Did you know that you might be able to receive payment for this important and loving work? Join us for an informative webinar where we'll explore the steps you need to take to arrange compensation for providing in-home care services.

This webinar is perfect for anyone who is currently providing care to an older adult or considering taking on this role.

Each webinar will feature knowledgeable speakers with experience in their respective topic, ensuring that participants receive

accurate and up-to-date information. Attendees will also have the opportunity to ask questions and engage in interactive discussions.

"We are thrilled to launch this webinar series and provide valuable resources to older adults and caregivers in our community," said Kristi Kane, Director of the Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging. "By offering these webinars, we aim to empower individuals with knowledge and support, ultimately enhancing their overall well-being."

The webinars are held year-round on a wide variety of topics. Registration is free and open to all. Registration information can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/arrowheadaaa>.

All presentations are free and open to the public, but registration is required.

The State of Minnesota does not endorse this product/service. The series is paid for in part by the Minnesota Board on Aging and/or Minnesota Department of Human Services.

The Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging (AAAA) is a division of the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission. The AAAA's vision is that all people 60+ in the Arrowhead have access to supportive services and the choice to be independent, active and stay in their own homes as long as possible.

SECOND CHANCES

**Arrowhead Regional Consortium for Healthcare Staffing announces educational webinar on second-chance hiring**

REGIONAL- The Arrowhead Regional Consortium for Healthcare Staffing is excited to announce an upcoming webinar entitled "Unlocking Potential: Second-Chance Hiring in Healthcare." This informative event aims to shed light on the benefits and opportunities associated with sec-

ond-chance hiring in the health care industry.

The webinar will provide attendees with an understanding of second-chance hiring and its positive impact on the workplace. Participants will have the opportunity to learn about various aspects of this hiring practice, including legal con-

siderations, training and support programs, success stories, and an engaging Q&A session with a panel of industry experts.

"Every area of health care is facing shortages of skilled workers. By tapping into the talent pool of second-chance workers organizations can not only fill critical roles and alle-

viated staffing challenges, but this workforce often brings diverse perspectives and life experiences to the table, which can enrich the work environment," said Shayla Drake, NE MN Workforce Strategy Consultant, Minnesota Department of Employment Economic Development.

"The re-entry program at SOAR has individuals looking for a second chance to rebuild their career. We are always searching for more opportunities with compassionate employers who are willing to give those second chances. The partnership with ARCHS will increase opportunity and allow more of our clients to enter into sustainable careers that will allow them to remain in the community and reduce their risk of going back into the system. All the evidence shows that a sustainable job is the cornerstone of a successful re-entry plan," said Jason Beckman, Program Director, SOAR Career Solutions.

This online event is Tuesday, March 5, 10-11:30 a.m. Registration: To secure a spot at the webinar, visit <https://bit.ly/3Sulg1b> Registration is free.

You are invited to the inaugural  
**Sled Dog Soiree**

Presented by the Ely Folk School and Northern Lakes Arts Association

Experience an unparalleled collaboration between the Northern Lakes Arts Association and the Ely Folk School. Sponsored by the incredible Curious Elixirs, Essentia Health, Lake Country Power, and the Pebble Spa, this sober adult formal guarantees an unforgettable night!

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 Savor non-alcoholic cocktails  
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 Dive into the warmth of community as we revitalize the tradition of winter formals in an inclusive and fresh manner.

Join us in crafting an innovative event, creating a safe, enjoyable, and memorable experience for Ely residents and beyond. Your presence is key to the success of this transformative celebration, fostering connections and joy.

Purchase your tickets at:  
[Northernlakesarts.org](http://Northernlakesarts.org)  
 or  
[Elyfolkschool.org](http://Elyfolkschool.org)

## VERMILION COUNTRY SCHOOL

## VCS student film shown at the Ely Film Festival

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- The start of the Ely Film Festival on Friday, Feb. 9, was 20 minutes late because of projection problems, and that nearly prevented the showing of a film short that a group of local student film makers had come to see. They breathed a sigh of relief when the festival director decided the show, including the short ones, must go on.

The short began, delivering a perfect parody of the plot memes and "found footage" style of the famous 1999 Blair Witch Project. The audience in the sold-out theater loved it, roaring in laughter at the well-done parody and excellent timing. The short was "Haunting at the Mines." It was created by four students at Vermilion Country School in Tower.

"They went off on their own and filmed the entire thing on their cell phones," said Karin Schmidt, the VCS teacher who accompanied the four film makers and seven other students, grades 7 through 10, for the Indigenous Student Day programming on Feb. 9 at the Ely Film Festival.



Eleven Vermilion Country School students attended the Indigenous Student Day at the Ely Film Festival, on Friday, Feb. 9. From left-to-right: Jaymes Scholz, Remington McDonough, Bryce Williamson, Logan Kainz, Bentley Crego, Landon Wellander, Elspeth O'Brien, Marcus Drake, Elliott Koschak, Theo Pratt, Cole Schuster, and teacher Karin Schmidt. Crego, Drake, Kainz, and Wellander made a short which was shown as part of the programming before the first feature film of the day. photo by C. Clark

The short takes place in the Soudan Mine State Park. "It took one day to make it," said Landon Wellander, one of the four film makers. "It's about what happens in this abandoned mine with paranormal activity."

"The students then met with Jacob White," Schmidt ex-

plained. "Jacob helped with the editing and putting it together."

White is a professional film maker who taught a class during the first quarter of the 2023-24 school year at VCS. White is also the festival director and founder of the Ely Film Festival.

The other three film mak-

ers of "Haunting at the Mines" are Bentley Crego, Logan Kainz, and Marcus Drake. All four were part of the class that White taught this fall.

The short is indeed short. "It's only a few minutes," Drake said, "like a minute and 40 seconds or something close to that

... It was fun to make."

"I took the class because it was an opportunity I might not have otherwise," said Wellander.

The short was one of two shown before the sold-out "One with the Whale," which was part of the designated programming for the Indigenous Student Day, a day of films by or about Native Americans. "Haunting at the Mines" was also included in the "Sinister Shorts" at the film festival, according to Drake. The other short which followed "Haunting at the Mine" on Friday morning was also made by local students, as part of the video production club of the Ely Community Resource. That short is covered on page 7 of this edition.

Six schools, including Vermilion Country School, were part of the second annual Indigenous Student Day, which was organized by educator and Ely Film Festival Program Director Ryan Bajan. The students viewed several films and were treated to a catered lunch.

## STATE GOVERNMENT

## Legislators expecting a more modest session this year

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— As lawmakers settled into the 2024 legislative session this week, it was clear that this year's goals will be more modest than last year's transformational session.

"It's a policy year," said Third District Sen. Grant Hauschild, DFL-Hermantown, during an interview this week with the *Timberjay*. "We did the big stuff last year."

Instead, Hauschild expects fellow lawmakers to focus on more modest objectives to address some of the issues that didn't quite make the final cut last year.

Hauschild's take on the session is in line with others in his party, including Gov. Walz who told *Minnpost* this week that he's happy to focus on implementation of some of the major programs enacted last year.

The governor also proposed a relatively modest \$928 million bonding proposal, far less than the \$2.6 billion in capital bonding approved by lawmakers last year.

"And I'm okay with it," said Hauschild. "Last year was the largest bonding bill ever in Minnesota, and we're making historic investments as a result," he said, adding that bond rating agencies have recommended the state take a smaller bite this year. "They're telling us that the governor's number is appropriate."

Hauschild said last year's bill helped make up for years of gridlock in St. Paul, including years when no bonding was approved.

Hauschild said he's looking now for projects that are truly needed. "I think the water infrastructure project in Tower is a perfect example of a big need rather than a want. It's one of my top priorities."

Tower's project, which includes the construction of a new drinking water treatment facility, has seen dramatic escalations in its projected price tag (see related story page 1), in part due to the impact of a significant amount of infrastructure spending approved at both the state and federal levels in the past couple years, which has created a large volume of work for a limited number of contractors. "This is the thing about making punctuated investments in infrastructure," said Hauschild. "It's the irony of divided government. It creates higher costs [when the spending all happens at once]. The flip side is, do you not make the investments? That's the balancing act."

## EMS stopgap

A fix to the ongoing budget shortfalls for area ambulance services is high on Hauschild's agenda as well. Hauschild had

called for the creation of the bipartisan EMS task force and the issue has consumed a lot of his time. "I just got back from D.C. to lobby on behalf of higher federal reimbursements," he said. "Next week, I plan to introduce a bill to plug the holes in some of the ambulance budgets, especially on the Iron Range." He said he'll be proposing \$125 million to address the issue statewide, although he acknowledges he's unlikely to get that much money. "I'm hoping it will raise awareness of the issue. Meanwhile, I'll work behind the scenes with leadership and the governor's office to figure out how to get the support they need, at least in the short term, then in 2025 I hope we can craft a longer-term solution."

Hauschild suggested a regional approach could make sense, although implementing it without increasing response times will be the challenge. He mentioned using what's been

dubbed a "fly car," which is a non-transporting EMS vehicle typically driven by a paramedic to respond quickly to medical needs, typically ahead of the arrival of an ambulance.

They're in use in several European countries but haven't seen widespread use in the U.S.

Hauschild acknowledged that any reform of ambulance services on the Iron Range will take time, whereas the need for additional funding is acute. "We're facing a crisis right now. We have to figure out how to plug the holes in the short term while reforming the system."

There's no way I can snap my fingers this session and solve it all at once."

Meanwhile, Hauschild said he's hoping to make progress on other issues developed out of his Northland Strong initiative. "We had a lot of great roundtables around the district,"

See GOV'T...pg. 5

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# OPINION

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The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

## Editorial

### Trump's minions

Stauber and other GOP House members prove they put Trump first, the country last

Republicans in Congress, including our Eighth District Rep. Pete Stauber, have helpfully clarified any illusions that may have existed about their loyalties to this country. It's Trump first, America last.

That's the only conclusion one can draw from the GOP's rejection of bipartisan legislation that had been carefully crafted for months in the Senate to address the ongoing flow of migrants at the border. The legislation amounted to a major compromise—some have called it capitulation—by the Biden administration, which agreed to most of the changes Republicans had sought, including tightening asylum rules and allowing for partial border shutdowns along with significant additional funding for border enforcement.

GOP leadership had insisted for months that the border policy changes had to be included as part of any funding package for Ukraine or Israel, and the Biden administration and most Democratic members of Congress had reluctantly agreed to that framework. The final bill not only had bipartisan support in the Senate, but also the backing of the union for the U.S. Border Patrol, which called the measure a major step forward.

Republicans had spent weeks crowing about how they had successfully leveraged Democrats' desire for aid to Ukraine to bring them into discussions on the most significant changes to immigration policy in decades. For a Republican-led House that even their own members have complained has accomplished next to nothing this session, it looked like a major policy win.

And then Donald Trump weighed in, putting his own desire to stay out of prison, ahead of the country. Trump, as usual, said the quiet part out loud, unabashedly acknowledging that he didn't want the troubles at the border resolved because he planned to campaign on the issue this fall. It was no different from his earlier expressed wish for an economic collapse in the U.S., which he hoped would help him politically. Given that the economy looks stronger today than at any time under the Trump administration, Trump will likely need to put border issues at the top of his campaign messaging. A legislative fix that would have allowed President Biden to effectively address the border issues, would have been as troublesome to Trump's bid as the booming stock market and record job creation under Biden.

So, the GOP members of the House and Senate, who apparently view their institutions as little more than subsidiaries

of the Trump Organization, have opted to ensure continued chaos at the border because they see it as good politics. Rather than solving the problem they employ cheap political games, like impeaching the director of Homeland Security for following the law. We don't need to point out the craven nature of that decision—it's self-evident.

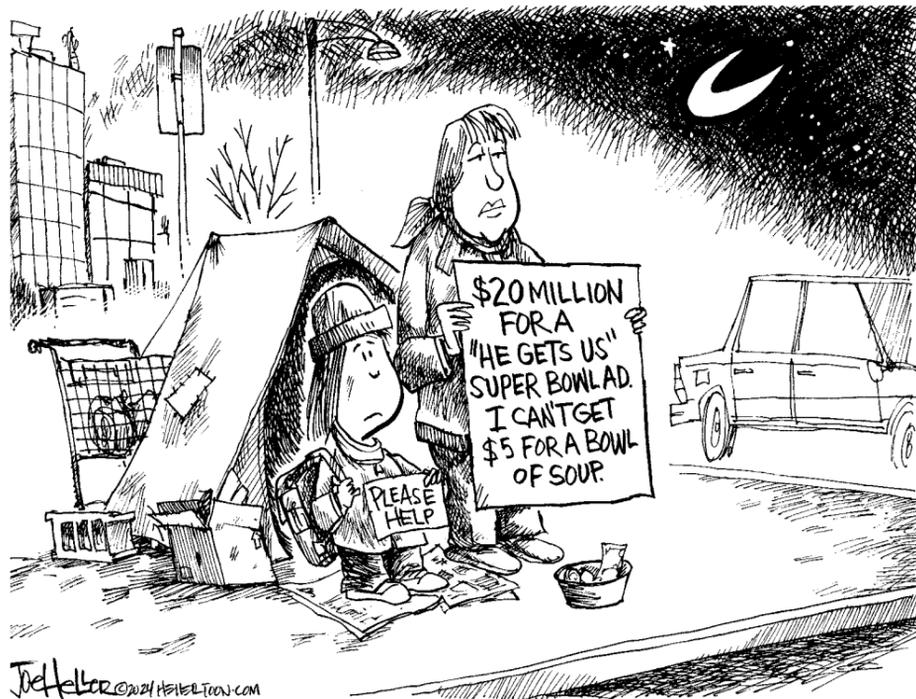
It's also self-defeating for those who would truly like to see a solution to the border situation. For supporters of border reform, this was the best opportunity for effective change because the politics of the border, as well as the Biden administration's desire to approve aid for Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan, provided a unique set of circumstances in which Democrats were willing to support changes that they would never back with someone like Donald Trump in the White House.

Whether the Republicans care to pretend otherwise, it is far more likely than not that Democrats will be back in the control of the U.S. House and will, at minimum, have sufficient members to filibuster any legislation in the Senate after this fall's elections.

Whether Trump is in the White House or not will have little bearing on border reform efforts in Congress if Democrats and Republicans don't agree on a bill to send to the president's desk. For all Trump's tough talk on the border, his administration had no more authority than Biden to address the increased flow of immigrants seeking asylum, which is allowed under current U.S. law. And the courts shut down some of Trump's more extreme attempts to address the border situation. COVID provided a temporary solution, one that no longer exists.

The U.S. has repeatedly failed to update its immigration laws in any meaningful way since the Reagan administration, despite repeated calls and promises by members of both parties to do so. The current circumstances, including Biden's willingness to buck his party's leftwing on the issue, created the first real opening for meaningful reform in a generation. That possibility is now almost certainly gone, and a president as polarizing as Donald Trump, who showed little ability to govern in his first term, will have virtually no chance to achieve the kind of border improvements that the GOP has now rejected.

It shows that GOP House members, including our Eighth District Rep. Pete Stauber, are less interested in solving problems than in ensuring their continuation for political gain.



Jeff Heller © 2024 HELLER TOON.COM

## Letters from Readers

### Our Constitution is a balance of interests and responsibilities

The people of this community, to remain a democratic community, need to focus upon the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the Declaration of Independence. We all need to refresh our memories about what our focus must be to maintain our democracy and freedom here and in our nation.

“The fundamental purpose of the United States is laid down in the Preamble to the Constitution: “to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, ensure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity.”

Our fundamental purpose as citizens is to assure the integrity and vitality of our free society, which is founded upon the dignity and worth of the individual. We are the most powerful nation on earth and are engaged in many wars, some of which conflict with our Constitution. I feel that “the common defense” can hardly be the reason for our part in the Middle East conflict, and in maintaining a military presence in many countries in the world. We live in a global society and our common defense means to assist other nations to maintain the values we cherish. Yet so much more is involved in our participation in other people's wars.

The key issue facing voters in this season of conflict is the behavior of the top Republican presidential candidate, Donald Trump. His power is based on his

economic ability to enforce his individual will on people, threatening to lead us to an unjust nation, wherein the general welfare and the blessings of liberty are taken from a large segment of our population.

An interesting, top-secret paper, written on June 26, 1951, by the FOREIGN RELATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES, NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS; FOREIGN ECONOMIC POLICY, VOLUME IPSS Files, Lot 64 D, 563, which was never published, includes the following words, which I find compelling: “Our national objectives, therefore, cannot be pursued in absolute terms, separately, without relation to one another. The strength and health of our Society demands a nice balance of emphases in our national actions. The measures necessary to provide for the common defense can lead in the direction of the garrison state unless we remain alert and devoted to the values we seek to defend. Measures to promote the general welfare can lead to a decadent preoccupation with material well-being unless we make use of our abundance and leisure to deepen and enrich the cultural and spiritual life of the community. Overemphasis on any one objective would jeopardize our fundamental purpose and would therefore be self-defeating.”

These words lead all citizens to be engaged in keeping this balance. As an individual I need to keep this balance. As a community we need this balance. It would be wonderful to have a public discussion of these basic constitutional issues, led by leaders of all political parties in our community.

Art Dale  
Soudan

### Passing laws to protect fossil fuels

What is ESG? It is an acronym for environment, social, and governance values. It is a non-financial analysis of a company's sustainability and ethical practices for a long-term evaluation. Some investors use these analyses as a guide for their investments. Among the environmental criteria for investments, is a commitment by a company to lower their greenhouse gas emissions.

The Texas Legislature recently passed laws to oppose investing any state or local governmental money in security funds endorsing ESG investments. ESG is considered a threat to Texas's oil-producing economy because the oil companies and their customers produce vast amount of CO2 fossil fuel emissions. The law prohibits state and municipal fund managers, including pension funds, from investing in 350 funds that embrace the concept of ESG.

A Federal Reserve economist found that Texas laws caused municipalities to incur \$300 million to \$500 million of additional interest expense on their borrowing in the eight months after the rules took effect.

The Texas state legislators also blacklisted Citigroup Inc. and Barclays Plc., banks that raise municipal bond funds for local governments' infrastructure projects.

We may not win the battle to stabilize our planet's environment unless company stakeholders and voters galvanize our corporate and government leaders to act decisively to reduce toxic emissions pouring into our atmosphere.

Gerry Snyder  
Ely

## COLUMNIST

# Summers with books, Brach's candy, and boys

From an early age, I became aware that I was more of a doer than a reader. As a child, growing up at our summer cabin on the Cook end of Lake Vermilion, I have vivid memories of my family sitting around indoors or outside reading books. This was an occurrence that happened at multiple times during any given summer day. I preferred action, like heading out in the 14-foot



SCARLET  
STONE

fishing boat to exploring the many alluring channels of water or ride the white capped waves in Wakemup Bay.

I always had my younger brother with me. If we weren't in the boat, we went on walks down the curvy gravel roads leading out to the blacktop highway beyond. We had forts in the woods, played with the neighbor

dog, Tanny, and fed the chipmunks corn. We were always busy with drawing, playing games, and there was no television to distract us from our creativity. My younger brother liked to read too, but did whatever I told him to and that meant ...action.

When dad wasn't working at the mine, he had a Louis L'Amour western by his big red naugahyde chair. My older brother has always been the most dedicated reader in our family of five. He was practically ingrown to the end of the couch with

a book in his left hand, while twirling the hair at the crown of his head with his right hand, to the point of developing a bald spot.

When the family needed groceries or supplies, it was always an adventure driving 24 miles to the small town of Cook in dad's blue Chevy truck. Back in those days us kids sat on the tail gate as the truck jostled down the dirt roads, but once we hit the black top we had to pull up the gate. Once in town, we scattered to our own destinations with the boys heading to the corner

drug store for a Mad Magazine and some candy no doubt. I'd usually go with mom into the Big Dollar grocery store. I remember standing in front of the paperback book rack searching for something to hold my attention, so that I would fit in and be a reading member of my family. It was a constant challenge.

One summer back in the 1970s, Mother got very excited when she discovered Irish writer, Maeve Binchy's book, “Firefly Summer,” a story of a small town in Ire-

land, a rollicking pub, and its lively characters in changing times. It sounded like a great read and must have been as Mother neglected all her rotating craft projects during this period I refer to as the, “Binchy binge.” The elaborate beaded macrame plant hangers, paper quilling, trapunto stuffed wall hangings, and mud art on burlap all ceased for one entire season as she consumed nearly all of Maeve's books. I on the other hand was con-

See SUMMER...pg. 5

## Letters from Readers

### I am running for Greenwood town board

I have filed for the Greenwood Township Board of Supervisors and am running against Sue Drobac in the township election to be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Greenwood Town Hall.

My previous work experience includes 35 years of dedicated service with the city of Virginia, where I worked my way to the city clerk position. After retirement, I worked for six years at the Range Association of Municipalities and Schools as their administrative assistant to perform financial and clerical duties for a 24-member board. I do not have a personal agenda, other than bringing open, honest and transparent discussions to Greenwood township. I feel my years of experience working in a government environment have brought me the experience needed to participate in township government in an honest and responsible way.

I became interested in Greenwood township after learning that the Greenwood Volunteer Fire Department had been drastically reduced from 23 to 8 members in a very tumultuous environment in early 2023. After reviewing the board

minutes, it was noted that the 15 employees retired, resigned, were terminated, dismissed or voluntarily quit. During a board meeting in the spring of 2023, one board supervisor actually screamed "You are fired" to the Fire Department members who were in attendance at the meeting. It is my opinion that the issue could have been resolved in a more professional manner. It appears there were several issues stemming from personalities, rather than levelheadedness. It is extremely important to have a significant number of trained professionals to respond to medical emergencies and fires in our remote location. Thank you to the employees that remained, despite the in-fighting, and to the new employees who have recently joined the department. I believe there are currently 10 members on the department. Our community needs you and more!

The ambulance issue with the city of Tower is also a concern of mine. A recent article in the *Timberjay* states the representatives from Greenwood Township and city of Tower "need to stop talking past one another and discuss the financial issues with the ambulance service". The article also referred to the Greenwood officials as being "simply combative" during the discussions. The city of Tower

ambulance service covers eight entities (Tower, Greenwood, Breitung, Bois Forte, Kugler, Fortune Bay, Eagle's Nest, and Vermilion Lake township). Greenwood Township has refused to pay their portion of the ambulance fees to the city of Tower for 2022 (\$13,500) and 2023 (\$13,500) but continues to utilize the ambulance service. The other seven entities in Tower's ambulance service area are up-to-date with their payments. The current Greenwood town board is hoping to bring a better ambulance service to Greenwood residents, but that is not an easy task. Ambulance service areas are determined by legislative action. Greenwood Township cannot just "seek a better" ambulance service without taking extensive steps to change the boundaries for an ambulance service area.

In a future letter to the editor, I will address the budget, levy, the significant reduction of the township's reserve fund balance from \$1.3 million to approximately \$650,000 and the lack of transparency within Greenwood Township.

Please take the time to vote in this very important Greenwood Township election. Absentee ballots are currently available at the Greenwood Town Hall. Office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 2

p.m. If you need to vote by mail, absentee ballot applications are available on the Greenwood Township website, at greenwood-townshipmn.com. I would appreciate your support in the election to be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024.

**Lois Roskoski**  
**Candidate for Greenwood Township Board of Supervisors**

### U.S. to blame for Middle East deaths

The three United States soldiers recently killed in Jordan were victims of Biden and the U.S. war machine. The U.S. has no honorable reason to be sending its soldiers there. The U.S. sends weapons to Israel knowing that Israel will continue its killing rampage which has destroyed Gaza and killed 30,000 Palestinians mostly women and children. This is genocide, already ruled upon by the International Court of Justice. It is Biden and his gang that has killed these 30,000 good people of Palestine where I have worked on four separate occasions.

Now the U.S. is bombing Yemen. Yemen is trying to stop the ships from delivering more weapons to Israel to protect Palestine since the ICJ has ruled that what is happening is genocide against the Palestinian people. Yemen is an ally of Palestine

and we should support Yemen for trying to help.

America loves war. Doesn't matter if it's a Democrat or Republican president or those war makers in Congress. Washington does NOT represent the people. Washington does not care about the innocent lives it is always taking, doesn't care that it is bringing us closer to war with other nuclear powers, and doesn't care about global warming. The U.S. is a lying, killing machine. The U.S./Israeli genocide in Palestine is so blatant that many Americans are waking up to what has become an obvious genocide that has, in reality been going on since 1948. But can you imagine the horror that Gazans and all Palestinians are suffering now because of Washington and our tax money?

Many Americans have a short memory it seems, forgetting the million Iraqis and the three million Vietnamese that the U.S. killed, and the so many other countries that have lost their loved ones to U.S. imperialism.

The good news, or at least the hope, is that more Americans are waking up and could one day put a stop to the terror that the U.S. continues to cause the world.

We must stop trusting Washington. America is dictating what it will do with our tax money (we have no say in these mat-

ters), and it is currently being used to kill whole families and to destroy whole neighborhoods in Palestine (and Biden wants \$60 billion more to fund the war in Ukraine). Biden and Klobuchar are just two of the criminals that rule over us in Washington and must be voted out of office. They are war mongers. There is nothing more important than peace. They should be tried for treason and for war crimes, crimes against humanity. They represent Israel and the arms industry, not us.

**Steve Johnson**  
**Ely**

### We welcome your letters

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

We ask that letters be limited to 300 words.

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

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

### GOV'T...Cont. from page 3

he said. Out of those discussions, he's hoping to expand the eligibility cap for the Public Facilities Authority, which provides grant and loan funding to most water treatment projects in the state. Hauschild said he believes expand-

ing the cap would help a lot of rural communities fund water infrastructure.

He's also planning a bill to address e-waste, another to advance mine truck electrification, and another to increase funding for outdoor educa-

tion. "We're becoming so screen focused today that the best thing we can provide is outdoor experiences for our kids," he said.

He's also planning to continue to work on child care affordability. "That's been one of my top is-

suess," Hauschild said. "Last session, I worked on child care stabilization grants. Now, I'm introducing a bill that would try to make it so no family spends more than seven percent of their income on child care, a threshold

identified by the Department of Health." While such funding provides direct help to young families and child care centers, he said rural communities benefit more broadly by making it possible for young families to live and

work there. "This is about having young families in our communities, about creating vibrant communities for the long-term."

### SUMMER...Cont. from page 4

suming too many Brach's pick-a-mix candies while doing my best at being an avid reader-in-training, obsessed with some "bodice-ripper" paperback with an erotic cover and anxiously skimming pages to find the next hot spot. Well, when you are spending summers in an isolated bay on Lake Vermillion you need that sort of thing to liven up your puberty years.

I do recall a beginner's level bodice-ripper experience that electrified my hum-drum existence one summer. A tall, loose-haired teenage boy from Chicago was visiting relatives across the bay and stopped me one afternoon on his motorcycle while I was floating down the road, no doubt with a daisy in hand. He asked me to go for a ride. Wait, he asked ME to go for a ride...wow. After I awkwardly climbed onto the seat, he told me to wrap my arms around him which was such a forward command for my innocence that it nearly caused me to swoon off into the ferns in the nearest ditch as we sped away towards some sunset. Only in my teenage dreams. My trembling, sweaty little hands stayed fixed in one place while around his mid-

dle which most likely disappointed him as I was not invited again. Summers of innocence continued for years in the isolation of the northern woods.

The following year, with no boys on motorcycles around, I picked up "Firefly Summer" once again, stopping and starting until it became a running joke that one day I was going to finally read the thing...but Mother continued to say, "You still haven't read that book?" I felt so cheap. Other family members had piles of novels they'd read. These situations confirmed to me that I was an odd duck in my family. I thought that perhaps I was lacking in intelligence to not be able to get through that Maeve Binchy book. I decided in the end it wasn't something that interested me and that's fine.

I never have become a voracious reader but like to have a variety of books around in case that moment occurs. Now as an adult, I like Audible because I don't have to sit still as I absorb the story. This is a good fix for me, yet I am feeling like maybe I need to condense things so that I can fit more in the amount of time I have left on the planet. I should at least conquer

the classics. Yesterday, while scrolling through Facebook on my phone, I came upon an application called "Blinkist" that cuts to the chase of a book and gives you the meat rather than all the fluff and stuff that you don't necessarily need to spend time reading. I thought this could be a fabulously fun discovery and it seems like it's right up my alley.

What if we were actually able to use an app like this with people and conversations? So many times, I am listening to a person tell a story and they go on and on...while I bite the inside of my cheek, consider going to the bathroom, make a mental grocery list, and think about everything else I could be accomplishing while waiting for this person to get to the crux of the story. I personally am more aware of taking up people's time. I don't like to be what I term a "time-suck" and I will avoid people at an event or in a store, taking a different aisle just so that I do not fall victim. I think that it's quite selfish for people to hog conversations as if they were paid speakers entitled to an hour at the podium. So when I saw the app Blinkist, I really thought this could be a great thing

for me. I envy my brother, who has read all the classics and beyond, (except for "Firefly Summer"). I have not read many classics and even if I had, I'm sure that I would have forgotten large portions of them by now. I am just like that, I can likewise watch a movie and re-watch it at some point without realizing that I have seen it already. I suppose it's the popcorn and snacks that distract me and I have no regrets about that.

On the other hand, distractions aside...I accomplished graduating from high school, then about seven more years of various tech schools and colleges so I have had to pay attention to boring, dry lectures in order to pass these classes with a decent grade. I'm too hard on myself. At this point if something, or someone does not interest me in the least, I'd rather not have them suck up too much of my day, which adds up to weeks, months, and years. I think that's fair. At this point some of us clearly can say we have paid our dues and should be able to do whatever we feel like whether it's reading a book, eating Brach's candies or going for a motorcycle ride.



### the TIMBERJAY

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Week of Feb. 19

**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.

Vermilion Country School Board- Meetings posted online at [vermilioncountry.org](http://vermilioncountry.org).



**TSHS weekly winner**  
TOWER- The winner of the \$100 cash prize for Week 29 is Dave Mesojedec of Hermantown.  
**History Tidbit:** In 1893 the city of Tower issued 22 liquor licenses when Tower's population of 3,000 was growing due to the mining and timber industries.



**VCS Second Quarter Honor Roll**  
**A Honor Roll**  
Elliott Koschak  
Sam Favet  
Brody Anderson  
Elspeth O'Brien  
Bailey Pratt  
Hannah Johnson

**B Honor Roll**  
Remington  
McDonough  
Landon Wellander  
Logan Kainz  
Lochlain O'Brien  
Cyle Merhar  
Cassius Morrison  
Jaymes Scholz

**St. Martin's to hold Souper Bowl on Caring on Feb. 25**  
TOWER- St. Martin's annual fundraiser for the Tower Area Food Shelf, Souper Bowl of Caring, will be held on Sunday, Feb. 25. The church will be serving a Booyah Dinner from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. (or when we run out of booyah) in the church Social Hall. Those attending will have the option to eat-in or take-out. The cost is a free will offering with all proceeds being donated to the food shelf.

This event began as a youth project but has now evolved into a parish project; our youth still participate but the adults of the parish have joined in to assist. The work begins on Friday with vegetables, then on Saturday we make the booyah and the desserts; and finally on Sunday we serve the delicious meal. We hope that you will join us to lend support to the Tower Area Food Shelf.

CELEBRATION

Mardi Gras: Tower-Soudan style...



There were beads and feathers, great food, cribbage and bingo, raffles, silent auction, plus a pinata to end the evening as St. Martin's celebrated Mardi Gras. Pictured clockwise from top left: Gwen Lilya with a Mardi Gras mask. The cribbage players were quite serious. Ari Banks took a swing (and a perfect hit) to the pinata. The Schultz family picked up their nametags. Father Beau Braun started out bingo with a blessing. Matthew Zupancich took the

top prize in the final bingo game. Owen and Amelie Zak played children's bingo. Zoe Baumann had fun with the dauber, while her mother Beth played bingo. photos by J. Summit



Tournament of Books at Tower-Soudan Elementary



Pictured are: Back (from left) Silas Snyder, Harley Banks, Kayla Drift. Front: Harper Olson, Zaija Schroeder, Peyton Edwards, Seija Snyder. photo by J. Summit

TOWER- February is I Love to Read Month, and this year elementary students are voting on favorite books, grade-by-grade, in tournament fashion. Each classroom has selected 16 books, and each week students vote on their favorites to advance in the brackets. In keeping with the sports theme, many of the books are sports-related, and both fiction and non-fiction.

Also, each week the top readers in each class (determined by the minutes of reading done during class time) gets to wear a special Golden Eagles sports jersey on Friday as part of the school's All Star Reading Team. All the elementary students are earning tickets for minutes of reading, that will be exchanged for reading-related prizes.

The students will be celebrating the 100th day of school, along with Valentine's Day, on Feb. 14. The 100th day of school at Tower-Soudan Elementary has been celebrated for many years with pancakes, hundreds of them, that students get to eat as a mid-morning snack.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Vermilion Country School annual meeting set for Feb. 22

TOWER- The Vermilion Country School will hold their annual meeting and board election on Thursday, Feb. 22 at 4 p.m. at the school. At the annual meeting, school officials and board members will discuss the school's progress over the last year. The school is currently close to its maximum enrollment, and is in the process of applying

to expand its maximum enrollment from the current 55 to 75 students.

There are three seats up for election, with current board members Marit Kringstad (community member), Sarah Wallert-Ramponi (parent member), and Miranda Kainz (member) up for re-election. There is also an open community member seat due to the resignation of Sue Beaton at the last meeting. This seat can be filled at the election, or by appointment by the board. Only parents of current

students, staff members, and board members vote in a charter school board election.

Anyone with questions about the meeting or election can contact Board Chair Jodi Summit at 218-753-2950.

St. Martin's Mass Schedule for Lent

TOWER- St. Martin's Lent schedule:

**Lent services:** Stations of the Cross at St. Martin's on Fridays at 5 p.m. with a fish fry fol-

lowing except on March 22 since they will be working on the social hall floor that day; and on Wednesday's at 5 p.m. at St. Mary's with a soup supper following. Please sign up if you can make a soup, there is a sign-up sheet in the entrance of the church.

"Into the Deep, Finding Peace Through Prayer" is a five-week video and discussion retreat that will be held every Thursday after the 9 a.m. Mass at St. Mary's in the social hall beginning

the first Thursday of Lent, Feb. 22. All are welcome.

Lunch Bunch to meet on March 14

TOWER- The Lunch Bunch will not be meeting in February. They plan to meet next on Thursday, March 14, at 12:30 p.m., with the place yet to be determined. RSVP to Kathy at 218-753-2530. Everyone is welcome to attend.

## ELY FILM FESTIVAL

# Film by Ely students at the Ely Film Festival

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- A new look at the myth of Sisyphus, condemned to forever push an immense boulder up a hill, was the subject of a film short produced by local Ely students, shown twice as part of the Ely Film Festival. The film, "Positive Slope: A Retelling of the Sisyphus Myth," was produced by the Ely Community Resource (ECR) video production club and was one of two student-produced films leading off Indigenous Student Day programming this past Friday, Feb. 9.

The short begins with an animation of the Sisyphus myth, but this time, Sisyphus gets help from a kind stranger and the boulder vanishes when they get it to the top of the hill. Then the gods give Sisyphus a choice: to return to rolling his boulder or to enter into a new life.

The scene segues to a school, where a student spends day after day flunking his math class, in a scenario evocative of Sisyphus. The action is eventually overlain by the animation of Sisyphus and his boulder. Outstanding acting by the beleaguered student and the well-timed repetition of his math woes drew a lot of laugh-

ter from the audience at both showings of the film. Eventually, another student shows up and offers to help the first with his math problems.

The filmmakers included Brian Angelo, Audrey Swapinski, Starla Forsman, and Toivo Forsman, with help from Jacob White, Ryan Stewart, and Amanda Nelson. Nelson is an Ely Pub-

lic School teacher who played the math teacher in the film, while Stewart is the Family Resource Coordinator at ECR. White is a professional filmmaker who lives in Ely and is also the festival director of the Ely Film Festival. He played a cameo role in the short and helped the students make it.

At the end of the film's second showing, during the "Anima-

tion, Bots, and Chuckles" block on Feb. 10, Ely ninth-grader Starla Forsman was one of the filmmakers invited to speak at the post-showing filmmaker session, hosted by Ely Film Festival volunteer Hudson Kingston.

Forsman told the *Timberjay* that she did most of the editing of the short this fall. "It took three months," she said, "every Monday for two hours." Asked why she did it, Forsman said simply, "Because it was fun."

In addition to the "Positive Slope" short, the "Animation, Bots, and Chuckles" block included a short documentary about an all-girls robotic team from Cass Lake. The team was at the showing and brought this year's robot that they are building. Along with the robotics team robot, another robot appeared, at the end of the showing.

To the enjoyment of the audience, Olaf, the robot built by the Iron Mosquitos Robotics Team at Northeast Range School in Babbitt showed up in a cameo appearance, still spinning and waving his twiglike arms. Olaf made his stage debut last month in the Ely Memorial High School production of "Disney's Frozen, the Broadway Musical."



**Ely student Starla Forsman takes the mic during the filmmaker introductions after the "Animation, Bots, and Chuckles" block of film shorts on Saturday, Feb. 10, at the Ely Film Festival. Ninth-grader Forsman spoke on behalf of her group of four student filmmakers from the video club at Ely Community Resource. photo by C. Clark**

## AROUND TOWN



**Left: Cecilia Rolando (left, black jacket) looks at the wares of Megan Maxwell (white shirt, center) who was set up next to Rachel Pace (right) at the Northern Lakes Arts Association Down Town Arts Market on Saturday, Feb. 10 at the Ely Senior Center. Right: Olaf, the Northeast Range School Iron Mosquitos Robotics Team robot, who made his debut in last month's Ely Memorial High School production of "Disney's Frozen, the Broadway Musical," made a surprise appearance at the Ely Film Festival on Saturday, Feb. 10. 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 Ely Tuesday-Group@gmail.com or call her at 218-216-9141.

Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

►Feb. 20: Meet Cary Griffith, Author of "Gunflint Falling: Blowdown in the Boundary Waters"

►Feb. 27: No Tuesday Group Meeting

## Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2024



hearts and flowers flow  
with chocolates and love too  
tender second month

## 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

## COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

### Ely Public Library

ELY- The library will be closed on Monday, Feb. 19.

The library will hold a Kahoot online trivia game on Margaret Mitchell's best seller "Gone with the Wind," and the 1939 movie based on it. The Kahoot will start on Tuesday, Feb. 20 at 3 p.m. and will end on Monday, Feb. 26, at 8 a.m. Please register in advance with an email so the library can send the link to the Kahoot.

The library will hold another Kahoot on books 6-10 of the "Dog Man" series by Dav Pilkey. The Kahoot will start on Thursday, Feb. 29 at 3 p.m. and end on Monday, March 4 at 8 a.m. Please register in advance with an email so the library can send the link to the Kahoot.

The library will hold its popular Hogwarts House Cup Championship on Saturday, March 2, from 1:30-4 p.m. This event is for adults and teens, grades 9 and up. This year, the event will be a Hogwarts House Feud, which is a "Family Feud" done in a Harry Potter style. The ever-popular breakout boxes will also be part of the event. Register in advance for this program. This event has a limited number of opening for attendees and has filled up in past years so sign up early or it may be too late to participate.

The library board will meet on Wednesday,

March 6, from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

The Get Crafty Group will make DIY eucalyptus shower melts on Thursday, March 7, from 1-2 p.m. This is an activity for adults. Please register in advance so the library can order enough supplies for participants.

Preschool Storytime is held every Friday from 10:30-11 a.m. All library events are at the Ely Public Library at 224 E. Chapman St., unless otherwise noted.

### Babbitt Public Library

BABBITT- The library will be closed on Monday, Feb. 19.

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 started on Feb. 1 and will end on Feb. 29.

Local photographer and author Ken Hupila will discuss his books and work at the library on Friday, March 7 from 3-6 p.m. Copies of his books "Singing Waters" and

"Shore Lunch" will be available for purchase and signing.

Preschool Storytime is held every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. All library events are at the Babbitt Public Library at 71 South Drive unless otherwise noted.

### Ely Ice Arena

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

### Babbitt Skating

BABBITT- The Ron Castellano Ice Arena is open for skating on Saturdays from 6-8 p.m. through April 27.

### Ice Fishing and Raffle

FALL LAKE- The Ely Winton Rod & Gun Club will hold an ice fishing contest and raffle on Feb. 17, from noon-4 p.m. Fishing will be at Longbranch Bay on Fall Lake only. Fish must be registered by 4:10 p.m. Raffle tickets are also the entry tickets for the fishing competition, available at Samz Place, Range Cenex Ely, D&D Accounting and the Longbranch on Fall Lake.

### History Happy Hour

ELY- The Ely Heritage Preservation Commission will hold its history happy hour talk upstairs at the Boathouse Brewpub & Restaurant, 47 E. Sheridan, on Wednesday, Feb. 21, starting at 5 p.m. This is a free event.

### Book Salvage Workshop

ELY- The Ely Public Library and the Dorothy Molter Museum will hold a wet salvage workshop on Thursday, Feb. 22, from 1-4 p.m. at the library, 224 E. Chapman St. The workshop will address planning and preparing for water damage events and saving water damaged books, photos, and print materials. Pre-registration is required for this event at the library, by calling 218-365-5140, or emailing [rachel.heinrich@alslib.info](mailto:rachel.heinrich@alslib.info). This is a no-cost event.

### Contented Critters

ELY- A Tupperware fund raiser for the Contented Critters Animal Shelter will be held at the Ely Senior Center, 27 S. 1st Ave. E., on Saturday, Feb. 24 from 1-4 p.m.

### WolfTrack Prance

ELY- The Ely Chamber of Commerce will hold its first annual WolfTrack Prance dinner and dance on Sunday, Feb. 25, from noon-3 p.m. at the Grand Ely Lodge, with polka music by Bernie

Palcher. Entry is free but RSVP at 218-365-6123 is required as attendance is limited to 50 people.

### Anishinaabe Storytelling

ELY- The first annual Anishinaabe Winter Storytelling Event will be on Wednesday, Feb. 28, at 2 p.m. at the Minnesota North College Vermillion Performing Arts Auditorium, 1900 E. Camp St.

### Braver Angels

ELY- The next meeting of the Ely Braver Angels will be on Thursday, Feb. 29, at the Ely Senior Center, 27 S. 1st Ave. E., from 6:30-8 p.m.

### 50th Anniversary skating show

BABBITT- The 50th Anniversary Figure Skating Show of the Babbitt Figure Skating Club will present two performances on Friday, March 1, at 6 p.m., and Saturday, March 2, at 1 p.m., at the Ron Castellano Ice Arena, 30 South Dr.

### List your event

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

## 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**

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test available. Call 218-

365-3359, or

1-800-662-5711.

**CAREGIVER**

**SUPPORT GROUPS:**

Babbitt: 3rd Monday of

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

Carefree Living.

Ely: 4th Monday of

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

Ely-Bloomenson Hospital.

Conference Room B.

## ORR CITY COUNCIL

# Purdy updates council on progress at Orr Center

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

ORR- Orr Center volunteer Wendy Purdy attended Monday's Orr City Council meeting to tell council members about the progress being made in reshaping the design and function of the former school building to better serve the community.

"We've made a lot of changes," Purdy said. "We're at about 7,000 square feet for our thrift store, we have a coffee bookstore, and we have expanded the medical closet and the food shelf - to a certain extent it's gotten a lot bigger."

Purdy invited council members to come take a look at what's being done at the center.

"I don't know that very many of the council members have even been to the Orr Center," she said. "We just felt that you folks need to know what we're doing to help promote the community. We want you to know what we're doing and where we're going forward and follow the progress we've made."

A key component to the strides being made at the center is a new crop of volunteer helpers, Purdy said.

"We have a huge new base of volunteers," Purdy said. "We're averaging ten people every single day that we're open, which is amazing. People can't even get people to work, let alone have volunteers come in. We've got quite a few from Cook, Crane Lake, even Littlefork, people are coming to volunteer."

Purdy said that a new flyer is being made to promote the center, and the website is being updated as well.

"Hopefully we'll get those going before early summer," she said.

She also expressed her thanks to the council for the furnace they received from the replacement of the one at the Old City Hall.

"It saved us because our main furnace burned up on Dec. 1. I mean literally burned up and we had no heat in the building for eight days. We got your old furnace and it's heating the building, so we're in good shape right now."

Council member Bruce Black asked how the library was progressing.

"We're redoing the library that was there, and we created a coffee bookstore with the extra books there in the main hallway.



The Orr Center is undergoing improvements to respond better to the community. file photo

The rest of the books will be up by tomorrow in the hallway, so it's going really, really well. We're very pleased with what's happening."

In other business, the council:

► Approved renewal of a short-term rental for Shane Halverson at 10711 Hwy. 23.

► Approved a building permit for Jim and Carol Raridon to replace an old trailer with a new trailer at 4499 Hwy. 53.

► Approved an invoice from O'Day Equipment, LLC for installation of a new airport fuel system in the amount of \$84,600. The cost of the system should be totally covered through reimbursement from the Minnesota Department of Transportation, which has

been applied for.

► Approved an invoice to the fire department from MacQueen Emergency Group in the amount of \$854.18 for a pump pressure transducer.

► Approved reinvestment of an expiring \$200,000 certificate of deposit with RBC. The city currently has \$324,724 in money markets at one-and-a-half percent interest. \$157,000 will mature in April and an additional \$200,000 will mature in October. The city can get five percent interest on the expired CD.

► Approved a request for a leave of absence from Sierra Sokoloski, if needed.

► Approved a request from Paul Koch to attend the Minnesota Rural Water Association Technical

Conference in St. Cloud on March 5-7 as part of his continuing education requirement.

► Approved minor updates to the fire department bylaws.

► Approved payment of \$3,694 to Illinois Casualty Company for renewal of insurance for the liquor store.

► Approved a request from Emily Koch to allow the use of the city's gambling license for a Bingo fundraiser for the youth fund at Holy Cross and St. Mary's Church. The fundraiser will take place at the community center on Sunday, May 5.

► Heard a report from ambulance director Donna Hoffer. She said the service made ten runs in January, with one being a mutual aide call. She not-

ed that the number was down significantly from the 26 runs the service did in January 2023. The ambulance service completed 180 runs in 2023. She also reminded the council of the first responder class that will be starting Feb. 26 at the community center.

► Heard a brief report from fire chief Jeremy Wright. The department made one run in January. He also said new lights have been installed in the fire hall. The lights that were taken out have been stored for possible future use.

► Mayor Robert Antikainen presented a brief maintenance report in the absence of maintenance supervisor Paul Koch.

## Juniors want you as a new recruit for Feb. 29 school talent show

FIELD TWP- Are you ready to dazzle, to amaze, to shine brighter than the stars in the sky? Have you been aching to let the world see your amazing, astounding talent?

Thanks to the Junior class at North Woods School, now is your time to shine at the Junior Jam talent show fundraiser at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 29 at the school. Once the exclusive realm for student talent, the class is throwing its arms wide to talented folk of all ages.

Step into the Grizzlies spotlight as part of the most spectacular,

electrifying, and utterly unforgettable community talent show within uncyclable distance of Gheen. Whether you're a singer with a voice that can make angels weep, a dancer who can twirl out a tornado, or a magician with tricks so mystifying you fool and amaze yourself, this is your chance for applause, adoration, and a not-so-big but totally awesome cash prize!

So don't hide that brilliance under a bushel; let it explode in a supernova of awe and wonder on the North Woods stage at Junior Jam!

Hustle on over to Cook Zup's, Cook Public Library, the Cook Short Stop or the Lucky Seven General Store to sign up and join the many talented students who each year make Junior Jam the most improbable and unbelievable talent show since Ed McMahon's Star Search. Acts must arrive at the school at 6 p.m., a half-hour before the competition begins. This must-see event will cost \$5 for an adult ticket and \$3 for a child ticket, with all proceeds going to help the junior class stage an equally spectacular prom.

## Cornelius scholarship chili cook off coming up Feb. 24 in Orr

ORR- It's nearly time to take your appetite and your friends to Orr for the third annual Tony Cornelius Chili Cook-Off, coming up on Saturday, Feb. 24 beginning at 4 p.m. at the Orr Community Center.

The event celebrates the life of Tony Cornelius, who died in October 2017 when a car going the wrong way struck his pickup truck head-on in eastern North Dakota. Money raised from the chili cook-off goes to support the Tony Cornelius scholarship fund, which provides scholar-

ships for North Woods School seniors.

"So far we've awarded \$6,000 in scholarship money, and we're looking at awarding a \$1,000 scholarship this year," said Kay Cornelius, Tony's mother. "We're looking for someone that is either going to do a trade or two-year degree that somehow relates to Tony as far as outdoors and things like that. They need to be an average student or above."

Cornelius said that this year's cook-off is shaping up to be the best one yet.

"People can expect great chili and a good time," Cornelius said. "We have new chili cooks this year, so there's different people that we normally have had mixed in there. We have a good mix of chilis, some red chilis, some chicken chilies, and some unique ones. We have probably more than 20 raffle items. We have a big Yeti cooler and there's a \$100 gift card from Waschke's."

Cornelius said as of last week she had room for two more teams. Contact her by calling 218-780-4690.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Wilenius to speak at library on Feb. 27

COOK- Local author Leo Wilenius will discuss his writing experience, the writing process and his books, "She Won't Mow the Daisies" and "The Cabin Experience," at the Cook Public Library on Tuesday, Feb. 27 at 11 a.m.

Leo is retired and resides locally in the North Country, which is the setting for many of the stories contained in his books. He continues to write articles for area print media and is preparing for a third book to be published this summer.

### Cook arts org lists upcoming events

COOK- Northwoods Friends of the Arts has several events on the horizon for cultural enrichment, beginning with photography and music on March 7.

Photo entries are currently being received through Saturday, Mar. 2 at 1 p.m. for the 14th annual NWEA Photo Contest entitled "A Closer Look". Enter the contest with 5x7 or 8x10 photos featuring portraits, flora, fauna or objects in detail. More information and entry forms can be found at the NWEA Gallery, 210 S

River St. from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturdays, by going online to [www.nwfamn.org](http://www.nwfamn.org), or emailing [nwfamn.org@gmail.com](mailto:nwfamn.org@gmail.com).

The exhibit will run from Thursday, March 7 to Friday, March 29, with winners to be selected by popular vote. Drop on by to make your selections during normal gallery hours.

Traveling world class performers from the Piatigorsky Foundation will perform classical music concerts on Thursday, March 7. Piatigorsky Foundation musicians are chosen for their artistry and ability to engage audiences through lively discussion. A 1 p.m. concert at North Woods School will be followed by a public concert that evening at Trinity Lutheran Church. More information will be upcoming.

Creatives should look forward to April when well-known local artist and popular NWEA instructor Jim DeVries will offer Ballpoint Pen Drawing for Beginners on Thursday, April 18 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the gallery. DeVries will lead students through the process of choosing a subject, developing composition and choosing the right tool, in

this case a ball point pen. All supplies provided. Registration is required for this class. Call Alberta at 218-666-2153.

Duluth-based watercolor artist Mary Beth Downs will return to Cook in May for the NWFA-sponsored workshop "Keeping it Simple." This two-day extensive workshop will focus on learning to work with a simple design and limited color to create a successful watercolor painting. There will be demonstrations to guide students, and the class is suited for all lev-

els. The class will meet from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Thursday, Mar. 9 and Friday, Mar. 10 at the Cook Community Center. Call Alberta at 218 666-2153 or stop by the gallery to register.

### Cook woman gets MSU-Mankato honors

COOK- Neiva Smith, of Cook, has been named to the Academic High Honors list for the past fall semester at Minnesota State University, Mankato. Students qualify for the high honors list by achiev-

ing a 4.0 GPA while being enrolled in a minimum of 12 credit hours.

### Aune lands MIAC academic honors

COOK- Former North Woods School student/athlete Erik Aune was named to the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference football academic all-conference team for the fall 2023 season. Aune, a sophomore starting safety for the Hamline Pipers, played in all ten games for the Pipers. Aune is studying busi-

ness analytics. Athletes must complete one full-time academic year before becoming eligible for all-conference academic honors and must maintain a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

### Church to serve meal on Feb. 22

COOK- Trinity Lutheran in Cook will be hosting a community meal on Thursday, Feb. 22 from 4-5:30 p.m. The menu will be chili, cornbread and dessert. The meal will be served dine in or drive through. All are welcome.

## NORTH WOODS ARCHERY



North Woods hosted bullseye and 3D target archery tournaments last Saturday and entered a large contingent of its own archers. Left: Lincoln Antikainen zeroes in on his target. Below: Blaze Markwardt prepares to shoot a 3D animal target. photos by D. Colburn



## PURCHASE...Continued from page 1

chase, the council also directed clerk-treasurer Michael Schultz to begin the process for issuing general obligation bonds to finance the acquisition.

The council's decision didn't come without some skepticism voiced by council member Kevin Norby, who questioned whether the city, which has been working to recover from its financial crisis of several years, could afford the purchase. Norby said he agreed that the city was getting good value, but he wondered if it was truly needed. "We currently spend about 32 percent of our levy on debt," he said.

But Mayor Dave Setterberg noted that the city will retire its debt to the League of Minnesota Cities when it makes its final \$50,000 payment later this year. He said under the various bonding proposals, the city would not have to make payments on the facility purchase until next year at the earliest, when the LMC debt will disappear.

Setterberg and Schultz outlined several other benefits of the purchase, including the fuel tanks and dispensing system that the county plans to leave. "That means we can buy our fuel in bulk and get the state bid pricing for all city vehicles.

That adds up to quite a bit."

He noted, as well, that the city's public works staff would now have the ability to undertake repairs of major equipment that they could not do in-house in the past due to the lack of a large enough facility and the equipment needed. Schultz noted that the purchase would allow the city to repurpose its existing public works buildings, which are scattered around the city and in varying states of repair and possibly generate revenue from the buildings by leasing for storage.

Setterberg said the city would also benefit from maintaining control of the site, which could prevent an unsightly commercial operation at the site that might clash with the planned residential development off the east side of Marina Drive.

Despite Norby's concerns, he eventually agreed to the purchase. "I was going to vote no, but the more people I talked to, most people urged that we get it," he said. "I vote yay," he concluded. He was joined by Setterberg and council member Joe Morin, who was under the weather but attended to ensure the council had a quorum.

In other action, the council approved an

updated ambulance donation agreement which was recently presented to the Tower Ambulance Commission for review by the participating local units of government. The new contract is seeking a \$25 per capita payment from donating units of government, potentially including Breitung, Eagles Nest, Greenwood, Kugler, and Vermilion Lake townships. The agreement also requests donations of \$6,500 from Fortune Bay and \$3,500 from the Bois Forte band. If approved by all parties, the agreement would generate \$75,925 this year, and each year through 2026 with the funds going to the ambulance replacement account. The agreement does not set any amount for payments from the Tower ambulance service to the ambulance replacement fund for transfer miles, a controversial charge assessed by the ambulance commission which has contributed to the ambulance service's recent operating deficits.

In related action, the council authorized the transfer of \$9,709.02 from the city's Hoodoo Point Campground account to pay the transfer mileage fee through the year-end 2023.

The council also

approved, after the fact, a recent transfer of \$16,833.56 from the city's general fund to cover the worker's comp insurance, which had to be paid in November. All told, the city paid out \$51,542 to cash flow 2023 ambulance expenses that could not be paid through ambulance revenues.

The council also authorized advertising for an assistant ambulance director after the recent resignation of Karen Schultz. Clerk-treasurer Schultz noted that Karen Schultz was involved with the Cook ambulance service as well and said she was increasingly busy with her duties there. Norby requested an exit interview be done.

In other business, the council:

► Directed the clerk-treasurer to continue exploring options for addressing the sunken floor at the historic train depot. Schultz said an initial examination found that a major beam under the depot had broken and may need to be repaired or replaced. An initial quote came in at around \$25,000, which is more than the city was hoping to pay for repairs. Schultz noted that the city still needs to address an issue with water runoff

from the depot, which may have contributed to the problem. "If we fix it without resolving the water issues, it will just be a band-aid," he said.

► Named the *Timberjay* the official newspaper for 2024. The only other sealed bid received, from the *Tower News*, was received three days after the bid deadline and could not be considered according to city attorney Mitch Brunfelt.

► Gave the first reading of a minor change to the city zoning ordinance, No. 82, to make single family dwellings an allowable use in the Harbor North zone district.

► Declined to accept a \$2,000/year lease amount from Midco for the tower it owns on the hill on the city's north side. The city had sought \$4,000 a year, plus an annual escalator, but Midco had rejected that proposal and had suggested that the city assume ownership of the tower. The council was cool to that suggestion and directed Schultz to contact American Tower, which owns the other tower on the hill to see if they might be interested in assuming ownership.

► Authorized Schultz to apply for grant funding

from Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation for various projects, with repairs to a S. Second and S. Third sewer line as the top priority, with the depot as second on the list. Benchmark has been undertaking engineering for the sewer line project and would undertake project management for a nine percent fee, significantly less than the city has traditionally been charged by SEH.

► Authorized the purchase of a new outdoor bathroom facility near the civic center from Green Flush.

► Undertook a brief recap of the Pine Street reconstruction project, and approved the final pay estimate of \$49,979.35 for the project. State and federal grants paid for much of the work, but some of the early engineering costs were not covered by the grant funds, which left the city to cover a total \$221,108 of the project's cost, or about 20 percent of the \$1.007 million spent on the project.

## ELECTRIC...Continued from page 1

capacity is a little bit less, but that they still have plenty of mileage for most Minnesotans to get to work and do their daily errands."

The event was well attended even though the afternoon high temperature of 38 degrees didn't offer quite the cold weather test the organizers might have envisioned.

According to Hudson Kingston of CURE, one of the event's organizers, over a hundred people came to look at the EVs and hybrid vehicles on display. Over fifty signed up to take one of four EVs available out for a spin.

"We had two Teslas, a Model X and a Model Y, and two Fords, an F-150 Lightning, and a Mustang Mach-E," Kingston said, describing the vehicles available for test drives. The seven vehicles on display included a mix of EVs and hybrids, including the popular but discontinued Chevy Bolt EV, a Honda, a Mitsubishi, and Ely's only Rivian EV truck, owned by a local contractor who uses it for business.

The Ely EV ride-and-drive was a collaboration of several organizations including Drive Electric Minnesota, CURE, an environmental advocacy group out of the Twin Cities, the Great Plains Institute, and the Clean Energy Resource Teams of the University of Minnesota Extension. The Minnesota Dept. of Transportation was also represented at the event, asking attendees where they would like to see high-speed charging stations built along Minnesota's highways, and handing out information on Minnesota's new EV rebate program, which is in addition to the federal rebates.

### Test drive

The *Timberjay* opted to take the Ford Mustang Mach-E out for a test drive. Our host was Matt Hinrichs from Lundgren Ford in Eveleth. The 15-minute test drive took us down Camp St., right on Central and then east on Miners Drive.

Despite sitting behind the wheel of the sleek and sexy Mach-E, none of Ely's roads have speed

limits higher than 30 mph, which limited drivers' ability to test the powerful acceleration that the vehicle provides. "I wish it was a bit colder so you could experience how well the car performs even in subzero temperatures," Hinrichs said.

The Mach-E's braking highlighted one noticeable difference between an internal combustion engine and an EV. Unlike the gradual coasting effect of an automatic transmission engine once the accelerator pedal is released, the Mach-E provided a more aggressive engine braking effect, reminiscent of a manual transmission vehicle upon deceleration.

"That slowing-down effect is because this Mach-E has a high-performance package for racetracks," Hinrichs explained. "The effect is not as pronounced as other drive packages available for the Mach-E."

The lack of road noise was another notable quality inside the Mach-E. The lack of an internal combustion engine created an atmosphere inside the vehicle quieter than the local public library. All the displays were digital. Instead of a fuel tank reading, the display reported the number of estimated miles left on the battery.

### Hype?

With an event organized by groups in favor of putting people into EVs, it wasn't surprising that the vehicle owners and car dealers present gushed at times over the potential of electric vehicles. Most of the public appeared in favor of EVs or were pleasantly curious. Some came with doubts, over how well EVs really could perform in cold weather, over the range of EVs, and over difficulties in using and finding charging stations.

Some in attendance noted the EV charging snafu in Chicago this past January. The combination of the Chicago's frigid temperatures on Jan. 15, lowered battery efficiency in EVs, and long lines at Tesla charging stations made national news. The

event didn't leave a great impression regarding the availability of charging stations, and the performance of all EVs in cold weather.

"I've never had problems like that," said Kingston, who lives in Ely and drives a Chevy Bolt EV, "but I don't let my charge drop under 25 percent and I don't run my heater all the time."

According to AAA, running the car heater in an EV can drop the battery efficiency by 41 percent. Unlike internal combustion vehicles, which use the engine's heat to warm up an auto's interior, an EV must use the battery's power directly to run the heater. Having to bundle up to preserve the battery's charge in winter is one of the seldom-mentioned downsides to EV ownership in cold climates.

Besides lower battery efficiency in cold weather, and a perceived lack of sufficient charging stations, a third item on the minds of many attendees was sticker price, which still appeared to be considerably higher than similar internal combustion models.

### Fact checking

Because of the discussions at the EV ride-and-drive event and on social media afterward, the *Timberjay* researched the costs and environmental impacts of EVs vs. internal combustion vehicles.

"Consumer Reports" advised that the real costs of EVs vs. internal combustion was highly dependent on where a driver lives, depending on the relative prices of both gasoline and electricity.

To test costs, we used the vehicle cost comparison calculator at the DOE Alternative Fuels Data Center website, which accounts for regional variations in operating costs by state. Comparing a standard 2023 Mustang with a 2023 EV Mustang Mach-E in Minnesota, the calculator estimated an annual gas cost of \$2,228 vs. \$652 for the equivalent amount of electricity. Total annual operating costs, including insurance, registration, tires, maintenance, and fuel

was estimated at \$4,549 for the standard Mustang vs. \$2,806 for the Mustang Mach-E. The sticker price in the internal combustion model was \$32,920 but a painful \$48,995 for the Mach-E. The internal combustion Mustang had a shameful carbon footprint of 17,943 pounds of carbon dioxide annually vs. 4,470 pounds for the Mach-E. The carbon footprint cost for the EV accounts for the proportion of fossil fuel used to produce electricity in Minnesota.

We then compared one of the least expensive cars for both its internal combustion and EV versions: the Mini Cooper SE. The 1.5 Liter internal combustion Cooper vs. its EV version had sticker prices of \$23,400 and \$29,900 respectively. The calculator estimated an annual gas cost of \$1,182 for the standard Cooper and \$546 electricity cost for the EV version. Annual operating costs were \$3,503 for the standard model and \$2,699 for the EV. The standard Cooper had a carbon footprint of 9,522 pounds annually vs. 3,739 for the EV version.

For the truck lovers out there, we compared the basic Ford 4x4 2.7 liter F-150 with the base F-150 Lightning EV. We used 4x4s for the comparison because all the F-150 Lightnings are 4x4s. The sticker prices were \$39,600 for the internal combustion version vs. \$39,974 for the Lightning EV. Annual gas cost was estimated at \$1,989 vs. \$824 for electricity. The annual operating cost for the standard F-150 was estimated at \$4,309 vs. \$2,978 for the EV version.

Carbon footprint for the gas F-150 was 16,016 pounds vs. 5,648 pounds for the EV F-150.

Last, though there is no internal combustion equivalent for comparison, we looked at the bare bones Tesla Model 3, with a sticker of \$40,240. The electricity cost was \$451, annual operating cost was \$2,604, and the carbon footprint was 3,087 pounds.

For our assumptions, we used the average Minnesota gas price for January from AAA, which was \$2.98 a gallon. We used a 50-mile commute to Virginia for 50 weeks out of the year, based on working an IT job outside of Ely, which currently matches the work profile for this reporter's spouse, and an additional 6,000 miles of travel to our relatives and friends in Montana and Idaho. These will generate higher costs compared to someone with a local job.

Highway vs. local roads were estimated at a 1:1 ratio. The calculator accounts for local market conditions and electricity prices by state, so the estimate is Minnesota specific. Because the database for the calculator is incomplete for 2024 EVs, we used the data for 2023 instead.

We note that the DOE cost calculator does not adjust for decreases in battery efficiency in cold weather. We also observed that the sticker prices reported on the DOE calculator website were approx-

imately \$1,000 to \$10,000 lower than those reported by automotive publication like "Car and Driver" and "Motor Trend," although various options can make a significant difference in sticker prices for new vehicles.

The prices listed generally don't include the potential federal and upcoming Minnesota rebates that EV buyers can receive for the purchase of American-made vehicles. Those rebates can range up to several thousand dollars.



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Operating support is made possible in part by the voters of Minnesota through grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board and the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

THE LEGISLATURE

# Amendment seeks to clarify changes to student restraints

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- A proposed amendment aims to resolve uncertainties surrounding a 2023 Minnesota law, criticized for its vague language that some argue jeopardizes student safety. The law currently prohibits school

district employees, including school resource officers, from using physical restraints that could impede a student's breathing or ability to signal distress, or apply pressure to sensitive areas of the body.

Seeking to address concerns over the legality of specific restraints like chokeholds and

prone positions, the ambiguity has prompted over 40 law enforcement agencies across the state to withdraw their officers from schools, including the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office. That decision by Sheriff Gordon Ramsay, led to the withdrawal of school resource officers from the St. Louis County Schools,

among others.

Attorney General Keith Ellison clarified in late September that the original legislation did not alter the circumstances under which officers are permitted to use force, but Ellison's opinion has had only minor effect in allaying the concerns of agencies, most of whom continue to keep

officers out of the schools.

The amendment, HF3489, sponsored by Rep. Cedrick Frazier, DFL-New Hope, was passed 7-5 by the House Education Policy Committee on Monday, the first day of the new legislative session. The bill, which

See...RESTRAINTS pg.11

## HEALTHY...Continued from page 1

Laura Rosier, Long-Term Support Specialist with Bois Forte, organized the conference, recruiting 15 vendors to set up informational booths, as well as finding speakers and demonstrations for the day.

"We covered a lot of bases," she said.

The event attracted a good mix of elders and caregivers, she said, though attendance was lower than they had hoped for the first year.

"It might have been too close to State of the Band," she said, "which was held the week prior."

Exhibits covered a wide variety of health and basic living needs, with services available to elders and band members of all ages. Services such as heating assistance, low-cost internet, assistance with bills, rental assistance, legal and housing assistance, vehicle repairs, and more.

Activities included learning seated chair exercises, suitable for elders, as well as healthy snack options.

"I think everyone who was there took some important information home with them," Rosier said.

Both Lighthouse Center and Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging told Rosier they had gotten good feedback as well as referrals from attendees who would qualify for services.

Staff from many Bois Forte departments, as well as other area agencies, were on hand. Bois Forte Behavioral Health Acting Supervisor Erin Danielson said they provide services at Nett Lake and Vermilion, as well as outreach in several area schools.

"In the six years I have been here, we have seen referrals growing month to month," she said. "This is a statewide issue, with long wait times for services."

Right now, they have two therapists on staff, but need many more and are currently hiring.

"The need is growing," she said.

Jennalee Porter oversees the Cultural Healing Program.

"I want to get my community more exposed to our culture," she said, "and to promote healing and education."

Porter said that many who are not willing to try working with a therapist are more willing to be receptive to traditional cultural practices, which can also help with wellness.

"This is what I grew up doing," she said. "It is everything to me." Porter has been organizing classes and events focused on cultural practices, such as a recent class about traditional funeral protocols. They also sponsor meetings with elders to learn from them

and hear their stories.

"We need to keep our culture moving upwards," she said, noting the importance of preserving the Ojibwe language. "Our language is vast," she said.

Becca Adams, from Bois Forte Community Wellness, was offering tastes of easy-no-cook chia pudding with berries and popped wild rice toppings, a recipe adapted from "The Sioux Chef" cookbook by Sean Sherman.

Information on long term care options with programs such as adult day services, home health aides, companion services, and nursing visits available from Bois Forte Health and Human Resources.

Big Woods Transit provides transportation from the Nett Lake and Vermilion Reservations, along with free transportation to non-emergency

medical appointment using volunteer drivers. The group is seeking more volunteers to help elders and those with disabilities with trips for medical appointments, as well weekly trips to run errands. Volunteers are reimbursed with the federal mileage rate of 67 cents per mile. A handicap-accessible van is also available to serve elders and those with disabilities who would have a difficult time getting in and out of a regular vehicle. If anyone is interested in volunteering, please call 888-757-1540.

Lighthouse Center for Vital Living offers older adults and people with disabilities help to live more independently, be safer, connect to their families and community, and be more active. They specialize in helping people with limited vision. For information, call 218-624-4828 or visit LCFVL.org/referral.

### Resources for behavioral health include:

► Range Mental Health Center (RMHC) 24-hour crisis number: 1-800-450-2273

► RMHC Wellstone Center: 218-471-4327

► RMHC Mobile Crisis Program: 218-288-2100. Crisis lines offer text-based help with relationship issues, general mental health, and suicidal thoughts: Text MN to 741741

► Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-273-8255

► Trevor Project (LGBTQ Crisis and Suicide Hotline): 866-488-7386

► Veterans Crisis Line: 800-273-8255

► Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: Dial 988. No matter what problems you're dealing with, if you need someone to lean on for emotional support, call the 988 Lifeline. Calls are confidential and free.

## BID...Continued from page 1

site with a second contractor, Magney Construction, and had even extended the bid deadline by two weeks at their request. But the company ultimately backed out just minutes before the bid deadline.

The Tower-Breitung Waste Water Board, or TBWWB, which oversees the drinking and wastewater

treatment infrastructure for the two communities, has obtained a \$3.375 million federal grant from the Army Corps and appears to qualify for a combination of grants and loans from the state's Public Facilities Authority, or PFA, of potentially as much \$5 million, of which \$1.125 million would be a loan.

That leaves the TBWWB with a roughly \$675,000 funding gap, not including project management costs and potential overruns, which could easily add several hundred thousand dollars to the final price tag.

The continuing delay in the project hasn't been kind to the numbers. Original

estimates for the project, which date back to 2020, pegged the project at \$4.5 million, three-quarters of which was expected to be covered by the Army Corps grant. But delays due to the COVID pandemic and the rising cost of construction, pushed the engineer's estimates to \$5.5 million, which prompted officials

to look for additional ways to bridge that funding gap.

That funding gap became a canyon last year when Lakehead submitted the lone bid on the project, for \$9.1 million.

The communities will now have to face the tough decision of whether to reject the latest bid, which would likely delay the

project another year and potentially push the construction costs still higher. In the alternative, the communities could gamble that they'll find other sources of funding if they move forward with the project. If not, the extra cost could end up as a significant increase in water rates for customers of the TBWWB.

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### Correction

The *Timberjay's* Feb. 2 story on area ambulance services contained an error.

The Ely ambulance service provides part-time advanced life support, not full-time as reported. The story also needs clarification

regarding the pay for on-call staff at the Ely ambulance service. The Ely ambulance no longer has paid on-calls shifts, but only on-duty staff, which is maintained 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Therefore, there is no way to compare the wages of Ely ambulance staff with those of other area services that rely on paid on-call staffing.

The *Timberjay* regrets any confusion this may have caused.

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CITY OF ELY

# Council hears updates on area tourist outreach

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- The International Wolf Center and the Ely Tourism Bureau both reported successful outreach endeavors that have drawn people to Ely during separate presentations at the Feb. 6 meeting of the city council here.

The Ely Tourism Bureau executive director, Cindy Smyka, gave a recap of the bureau's 2023 efforts to market Ely and extend its brand awareness, using almost every advertising and outreach channel imaginable.

Smyka reported the bureau's specific marketing attack and results for:

- A collaborative endeavor with the U.S. Forest Service and the "Forest Service for All Project" which includes outreach to traditionally marginalized communities.
- Online and print guides to the Ely area for both summer, fall, and winter.
- A new quarterly email newsletter, which may become a monthly newsletter in the future.
- Facebook and Instagram outreach, including video and static postings.
- Real time coverage of Ely events like the 2023 Ely Film

Festival.

- EffectTV ads.
- Print ads.
- News media coverage.
- Three podcast programs

which the bureau will start to cross post to its YouTube Channel.

Smyka gave statistics on the success rate of the different advertising and outreach channels, most of which were impressive.

The EffectTV ad campaign for promoting Ely was so effective in generating interest for the area, said Smyka, that the EffectTV representative for Ely was asked to do a case study of the community as a success story for the EffectTV advertising product.

Smyka also reported on the tourism bureau's efforts to ensure that the Joint Powers Lodging Tax Board (JPLTB) was receiving its fair share of Ely Area Lodging Taxes collected by Lake County. Lodging taxes go to fund the tourism bureau whose efforts benefit not only Ely, but also surrounding communities.

"The JPLTB is working with our legal team to pursue the entirety of the lodging tax that Ely is entitled to," Smyka said, adding, "The taxes collected by Airbnbs are collected by Lake County, but are not getting out of Lake County to Ely."

## International Wolf Center

The wolf center's executive director Grant Spickelmier and Krista Woerheide, the center's interpretive center director offered the council highlights from 2023, including the opening of a new exhibit in 2023 on the habitat for arctic wolves. Another new feature was a medical enclosure for the center's wolves and new security cameras, some of which can be viewed by the public on the center's webcam display on the internet. The new webcam coverage has gotten air time in both the Duluth and Twin Cities television markets, said Woerheide.

Woerheide also outlined the wolf center's educational outreach to schools around the country called the WolfLink Virtual Learning Program. She said the educational outreach has already brought people to Ely. "We had a family that called, just yesterday actually, and said their kid had seen the WolfLink program and had been so excited about it that they made the trek to Ely, stayed in Ely for a week, visited the wolf center, and had a great time."

Other notable highlights included the installation of a new

AC unit for the center along with improvements to the front garden of native plants and the installation of a new sign. Woerheide also reported on the center's accessibility efforts, including recording American Sign Language video for the center's media inhouse presentations and the donation of a scooter for those who are mobility impaired.

## A new roof

Spickelmier asked the council for its support in the wolf center's quest for a new roof. "We've asked the Legislature for a new roof for the last two years running," he said, explaining that the center's building, owned by the Minnesota DNR and leased by the wolf center is now 30 years old.

The wolf center's request to the Legislature is \$2.1 million to reroof its building. Spickelmier noted that he has the support of Rep. Roger Skraba and Sen. Grant Hauschild for the \$2.1 million project but he was asking for the city's backing as well.

"I just have to say," city council member Al Forsman remarked, "that it's hard not to get behind this." The city council voted unanimously to support the wolf center's funding request for

a new roof.

In other business, the city council:

➤ Approved the recommendation from Ely Utilities Commission (EUC) to purchase new lab equipment as recommended by the state Dept of Health at a maximum cost of \$17,473. "Some of the equipment we're using dates back to the 1970s, when the EPA built the tertiary (treatment) plant," said clerk-treasurer Harold Langowski. Al Forsman added, "We're the last (water treatment) lab in the state that's doing things the old (but still approved) way, and it's time to move forward."

➤ Approved the recommendation from EUC to move forward with posting the Water/Wastewater Operator II Position internally for 7 days.

➤ Approved the recommendation from EUC to increase Mick Shusta's contract by \$350 per month due to additional duties at the Water and Wastewater facilities.

➤ Approved the recommendation from EUC to move forward with the Solar Interconnection Agreement with Steve Piragis at 105 N Central Avenue.

## RESTRAINTS...Continued from page 10

now advances to the House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee for a hearing, aims to standardize use-of-force policies for school resource officers and remove ambiguous language concerning restraints used by contracted security personnel and school officers.

Frazier emphasized the bill's intention is to foster dialogue among stakeholders, aiming for statewide consistency and transparency in school safety protocols. By eliminating current misunderstandings,

the bill seeks to ensure all parties work together to safeguard students.

Frazier's bill would mandate the Peace Officer Standards and Training Board to collaborate with various community and governmental entities to establish uniform training standards for school resource officers. It allocates \$150,000 for 2024 and \$490,000 annually from 2025 to 2027 for these efforts. The board would be charged with:

- Outlining contract guidelines for school

resource officers, defining appropriate force usage on school premises, and recommending practices to reduce the necessity and duration of physical restraints, as well as alternative procedures that can be used to de-escalate conflicts in schools and students and others in crisis.

➤ Ensuring school resource officers are being utilized appropriately and not for school disciplinary purposes.

➤ Building constructive police relationships with students, adminis-

trators, and educational staff; proper procedures for protecting student data.

➤ Determine when a refresher training course is required.

"This SRO bill that's in front of the committee today represents a comprehensive proposal. It creates clear duties for SROs in schools," said Public Safety Commissioner Bob Jacobson. "It provides training requirements that are focused on school settings and working with students. The one that I believe is most important is focusing on building

constructive relationships between SROs, students and educators. This bill makes it clear that SROs are not allowed to be in school discipline."

Khulia Pringle, Minnesota manager of organizing and outreach of the National Parents Union, questioned why Minnesota restricts chokeholds and face-down restraint for adults but would let an SRO use these techniques on school children.

"The legislation passed last session was a no-brainer, and now we are playing politics with the lives of

children," she said. "We believe the language is clear in the current bill. We also support parts of the bill that does offer SRO specialized training and some accountability for SROs in schools."

"I think that all of us in the room, we have a common goal of working with kids and making sure kids are safe," said Rep. Ben Bakeberg, R-Jordan, who voted against the bill. "And we just have to start out from that foundation that we want kids to be safe no matter where they're at."

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## GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP

# Town board's oversight of fire department questioned

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

**GREENWOOD TWP-** The town board's 2022 decision to remove fire department officers Dave Fazio and Mike Indihar, was again questioned during Tuesday's meeting of the Greenwood Town Board.

Former board chair Mike Ralston, during public comments, again insisted on seeing a roster of department members, along with their qualifications. He was told there were currently ten active department members, although he said he wanted to see names and their training status.

"The board needs to take ownership of this," Ralston said. "They need to make sure fire department members are trained."

Current Fire Chief Jeff Maus has greatly increased training time for department members, both fire and EMS, with two-to-three-hour long fire trainings held twice a month, and EMS trainings once a month. The department has been slowly adding new members and is participating in joint training exercises with neighboring departments, especially Tower. The department currently has eight firefighters and two EMRs, while five of the current firefighters also serve as EMRs. The department also has an administrative assistant. Maus told the *Timberjay* that five of the firefighters are fully-trained, with three still working to complete their Firefighter I and

II classes and participating in the twice-monthly department-led trainings. After the meeting, Maus told the *Timberjay* that he had previously provided Ralston with the latest department roster, including the names of members.

## Election issue?

With township elections less than a month away, that split decision of the town board to dismiss the fire chief and assistant chief, was again in the spotlight.

Fire department member Craig Gilbert is running for a supervisor seat against Barb Lofquist, who also had supported the removal of the officers. Lois Roskoski is running against Sue Drobac, who as chair of the board in 2022, introduced the motion to remove the officers. Roskoski, in a letter she sent to township voters, said she was disappointed to "personally witness very unprofessional behavior towards the fire department members."

The board removed Fazio and Indihar from their leadership positions, for alleged failure to perform their duties as assigned in their job descriptions. They were not removed as members of the department itself but both opted to resign. Concerns raised at that meeting included issues with maintaining department equipment and trucks, issues regarding awarding of pension credit to members who did not meet the minimum participation requirements, and lack of responsiveness from leadership to town board con-

cerns.

In January 2023, the controversy snowballed after 10 fire department members sent a letter to Supervisor Ralston stating they would no longer respond to 911-calls unless the newly-appointed Fire Chief Jeff Maus was removed, leading to their removal from the department, in what town board members called a "voluntary quit." These members brought their gear to that meeting and left their gear in the town hall meeting room. These members were given the option of returning to the department after six months.

Since fire department members are paid on an hourly basis, they are legally employees of the township, serving at-will. They are also designated by the state as essential employees.

"When they decided to walk, they violated state statute," said supervisor Rick Stoehr.

The discussion started to get heated, but board chair John Bassing shut down the comments and moved on.

Last month, Maus reported the fire department responded to 14 EMS and two fire calls.

Maus also talked to the board about the importance of supporting their emergency personnel.

"We need these personnel," Maus said. "Everyone has busy lives."

Maus talked about some recent trainings where teams of two members did timed drills for hooking up hoses to the fire engine and getting water ready to spray in less than a minute. Six department members also participated in a burn trailer drill last Sunday, where they practiced fire suppression on actual flames.

The department will be purchasing a new gas meter that can detect carbon monoxide, sulfide, and oxygen levels. The seven-year-old meter did not pass its annual safety test, and the cost to purchase a new meter, at \$700, is only \$200 more than the cost to repair the old one.

## Birch Point Extension

With supervisor Sue Drobac participating via telephone, but not as a voting member at the meeting, the board removed discussion on the Twp. Rd. 4136 issue, due to lack of a quorum. But the issue was discussed during public comments.

Roskoski said she was hearing from a lot of frustrated people, and questioned why the board was not taking responsibility for the road, noting they had been receiving road aid of around \$3,500 annually from the county since at least 2015, and that these funds are supposed to go into a dedicated road account to be used for road improvements, not to subsidize plowing costs.

Nancy Eicholz said the road conditions were very poor and dangerous, and asked the board to see if they could find a contractor willing to sand the 1.5 mile section of road. She said she had talked to a contractor who said they could do it, but Stoehr said the township had contacted this person, who told him they were not interested. Stoehr said he would follow up.

## Pickleball

Lake Vermilion Pickleball Association President Paul Thompson reported on the group's fundraising efforts. They have currently raised over \$30,000, enough to qualify for the maximum IRRR matching grant for the project. Thompson said donations have come from both pickleball and non-pickleball playing residents. They are also seeing letters of support from area businesses and Fortune Bay Resort Casino. The group has received a \$7,500 grant from Essentia, and has two other grant requests out to Lake Country Power and AARP.

"This is a clear demonstration of the pickleball community willing to put skin in the game," he said. Thompson said they have recorded over 400 hours of volunteer time.

He did ask the town-

ship to consider donating \$25,000 to the project. The board declined to discuss the issue, saying they wanted to wait until the full board was present.

Thompson also discussed the maintenance work done on the site by their volunteers.

Thompson did note that the anticipated costs for the project have grown from \$25,000 per court to \$28,500 per court. The group is planning on constructing three courts by the pavilion area.

## 2025 budget

Chair Bassing presented a proposed budget for 2025, which showed spending at \$352,580, up slightly from the \$332,314 spent in 2023, and the \$332,980 budgeted for 2024. His figures showed township balances slowly decreasing to \$327,093 at the start of 2026 and suggested that the board ask residents to approve a levy of \$175,000 for 2025, instead of the \$150,000 levy set the last seven years. The township will be spending a little over \$150,000 to repair and repave the parking lot at the town hall in 2024, money that will come from the building fund.

Bassing pointed out that Greenwood has one of the lowest township tax rates in the state, working out to \$24 per \$100,000 of property value. He also noted the township's market value has greatly increased and projected it would reach \$800 million in the next year or two. The current market value is a little over \$657 million. This compares to approximately \$173 million in Breitung, \$142 million in Eagles Nest, and \$34 million in Tower. Tower has the highest tax rate per \$100,000 value at \$1,100.

Roskoski asked if the January 2026 balance would be adequate, and what the rules were for maintaining such a balance. Bassing said current guidance suggests reserves should be able to cover a year's worth of spending, but that there were no hard and fast rules.

The township had built up a very high fund balance in the past under

previous leadership—well over a million dollars—and over the last ten-plus years, boards have been slowly working on bringing it down to a more typical level by levying significantly less than budgeted spending.

The actual township levy is determined by township residents at the annual meeting, which is set for March 12.

The motion to set the suggested levy at \$175,000 passed 3-1 with supervisor Paul Skubic voting against.

## Ambulance

The board voted 4-0 to refuse to accept the new Tower Ambulance Subsidy Agreement.

"The new agreement is one page and there are a ton of differences," said Bassing. "There are no parameters on use of the donations, and no indemnification clause...I don't see anything in this agreement that is the least bit attractive."

"All we are trying to do is protect Greenwood Township," said Stoehr. "In the event of a lawsuit, they go after the biggest bank account. We have the right to impose conditions if they are asking for money. Go ahead and blame Greenwood if it makes you happy."

The board gave John Bassing permission to meet with Virginia Mayor Larry Cuffe about the ambulance service issue.

In other business, the board:

► Voted to donate \$100 to Lakeview Cemetery and \$100 to the Tower-Soudan Historical Society. The board also recognized a donation from the Greenwood Quilters.

► Approved submitting a grant to the IRRR for help with the costs of repaving the portion of the town hall parking lot that serves as a helipad. John and JoAnn Bassing will work on submitting the grant application. The entire cost of the repaving project will be a little over \$151,000, with the addition of adding pavement to a small new area in front of the fire department storage building to improve access to that building.

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## SECTION 7 NORDIC SKI MEET

# Ely boys headed to state

Sprint relay team finishes first, girls sprinters take second to qualify as well

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

**GIANTS RIDGE**—Where there's a will there's a way and the Timberwolves Nordic ski team found more than one way to qualify for the state ski meet at sectional competition last Wednesday, Feb. 7.

Both boys and girls skiers qualified to take part in the state ski meet, set for Feb.

14-15, again at Giants Ridge. Results of that contest won't be available until after this week's *Timberjay* presstime but will be available online at timberjay.com as well as in the Feb. 23 print edition.

### Outstanding Ely performances

The Ely boys pursuit team notched their best outing of the season at the Section 7 meet, finishing five skiers in

the top 15 to qualify for state as a team. Several Ely boys have been steadily improving all season and they continued to outperform expectations at the section meet. Junior Dylan Durkin finished in fourth place overall with a combined time of 27:57, cracking the Duluth East juggernaut that has dominated the top five in competitions leading up to sections.

Right behind was stand-out Ely freshman Oliver

**Right: Ely's Aksel Skustad, pictured here, and his relay partner Silas Solum, took first in the relay**

photo by M. HelMBERGER

Hohenstein, who powered to a sixth-place finish with a time of 28:06. Junior Milo McClelland, who has shown remarkable improvement in

See **NORDIC...**pg. 2B



## BOYS BASKETBALL

# Grizzlies improve to 15-4

Pound International Falls 92-47 to extend win streak to five games

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

**FIELD TWP**- The North Woods boys basketball team matched their longest winning streak of the season on Tuesday with a fifth consecutive win, beating International Falls 92-47.

After falling behind 3-1, a Talen Jarshaw three-ball gave the Grizzlies a lead they would never relinquish. Jonah Burnett scored on four consecutive Broncos turnovers against the press to put North Woods up 18-9. The Grizzlies struggled to put distance between them, however, as I-Falls figured out the press and was able to keep pace. Up 12 at 38-26 with five minutes left in the first half, North Woods finally got on a roll with a 19-6 run going into the break. Luke Will scored six points on three consecutive

**Top: The Grizzlies' Aidan Hartway drives the lane for a layup against the Broncos.**

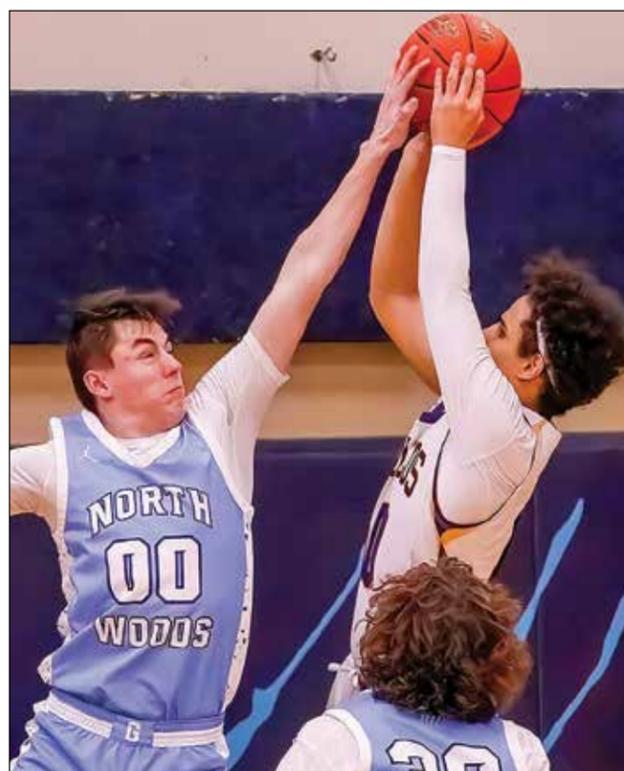
**Right: The Grizzlies' Evan Kajala executes a perfect block of a Broncos shot.**

photos by D. Colburn

possessions and Burnett added two more buckets before the buzzer for a more comfortable 57-32 lead.

North Woods opened the second half with a pair of deuces from Burnett and a trey and a two from Jarshaw to go up 66-32 before the Broncos scored their first point of the period on a free throw. The Broncos scored only three points through the first eight minutes of the half as the North Woods lead ballooned to 79-35. The scoring pace tapered off

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



## GIRLS BASKETBALL

# Ely nets big win at Chisholm

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

**CHISHOLM**—An awe-inspiring performance from Ely senior guard Grace LaTourell helped the Timberwolves rout the Bluestreaks on their home hardwood Monday night. LaTourell poured in a career-high 37 points, including four threes, and grabbed five steals as she led Ely to its 67-44 win. "It was a performance so dominant that if you were there you won't forget what you saw anytime soon," said Ely Head Coach Max Gantt.

Fellow senior Hannah Penke posted her own strong performance with 14 points and 13 rebounds for a double-double. Senior Sarah Visser just missed the double-double, with nine points and 16 boards on the night.

"All three seniors did exactly

See **WOLVES...**pg. 2B

# Grizzlies rally over Greenway

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

**COLERAINE**- The North Woods girls basketball team picked up a thrilling come-from-behind 63-60 road win over Greenway on Tuesday with some last minute heroics from senior Helen Koch and sophomore Brynn Chosa to seal the victory.

Trailing by as many as nine points in the second half, Koch hit a trey to get the Grizzlies started on the road back, and after another Koch triple pulled North Woods to within one, sophomore guard Tatum Barto hit two clutch free throws to give the Grizzlies a 55-54 lead with 2:06 remaining.

With under a minute remaining

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

## ARCHERY

# North Woods shines at home meet

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

**FIELDTWP**-Student archers from 18 schools descended on North Woods School last Saturday for the annual North Woods bullseye and 3D target meets,

**Left: Ely archer Mason Lee takes aiming seriously during the recent competition.**

photo by D. Colburn

# Ely posts strong showing as well

with students from both North Woods and Ely faring well in the competition.

The Grizzlies and the Wolves each had first place individual winners on the day. North Woods had four archers claim top spots in their divisions. Seventh grader Laurin Glass took first out of 48 competitors in the middle school

girls division for 3D. In bulls-eye competition, seventh grader Cooper Long placed first out of 87 middle school boys and first overall out of 212 male archers, seventh grader Michaela Brunner took top honors out of 72 middle school girls and third overall

See **ARCHERY...**pg. 2B



## NORDIC..Continued from page 1B

recent weeks, finished in ninth place with a time of 28:52. Junior Eli Olson finished 11th out of 44 racers, in a time of 28:56, while freshman Caleb Larson took 15th with a time of 30:15.

The boys pursuit team used a strong skate performance to boost their rankings in the wake of the classic race earlier in the day. The final pursuit time is a combination of the racers' classic and skate performances.

Meanwhile, Ely's dynamic duo in the sprint relay competition, Aksel Skustad and Silas Solum, notched Ely's top Nordic finish of the day, as they outpaced the Duluth East sprinters by 14 seconds to finish first in the competition with a time of 14:48. They'll be moving on as a relay team to the state competition as well.

On the girls side, senior



**Left: Dylan Durkin (on left) and Eli Olson in a recent competition. Durkin took fourth overall at the Section 7 meet held last week at Giants Ridge while Olson finished in 11th place. Both will ski for Ely at the state Nordic ski meet set for Feb. 14-15 at Giants Ridge.**

photo by M. Helmberger

group that takes the concept of team to its best outcome. That doesn't mean we don't have our ups and downs, but these guys are skiing for each other out there and when they do that, they ski fast."

Hohenstein used the same goal-oriented approach with the girls team. "We decided a couple weeks ago that our senior girls would have the best chance of qualifying for state as a relay team," he said, a premise that proved right on target. "They both

sprinters Ava Skustad and Claire Blauch finished second behind the Duluth East pair to qualify for state in the sprint relay competition.

Head Coach Todd Hohenstein said the girls relay finish was a nice surprise, but was consistent with the team's approach

to competition. "We have talked about having clear goals for both teams all throughout the season," said Hohenstein. "Knowing what you collectively want to achieve makes putting in the time training much easier."

That approach proved its value in last week's

sectional competition. "The boys team has had their sights on a second place finish at sections since last season," said Hohenstein. "This is a group of boys who wrote down on paper in November of 2022 what they wanted to accomplish in February of 2024. They're a special

made the transition to the relay seamlessly. We spent a few sessions working on handoffs, which neither of the girls had experience with, and in a short time they looked very comfortable. They were very happy with their second-place finish to one of the best relay teams in the state with Duluth East."

In the pursuit, Ely's girls team finished in the middle of pack, although three skiers made it into the top 25 among the 50 racers in the field. Junior Anna Dunn notched Ely's best performance, finishing 15th with a combined time of 35:54, about five and a half minutes back of first place finisher Della Bettendorf, a junior from Proctor-Hermantown. Ely junior Anna Larson came in 19th with a time of 36:58, while Junior Rena Johnston finished 21st with a time of 37:25.

## ARCHERY..Continued from page 1B

among 188, and fourth grader Bailey Brunner placed first out of 41 elementary girls.

Ely sophomore Sabra Hart finished atop the heap out of 75 high school girls in bullseye.

North Woods captured first in both the elementary and middle school divisions of the 3D competition. Fourth grader Bailey Brunner placed third out of 22 elementary girls. Medaling for the middle

schoolers were seventh grader Brady Swanson, third out of 55 boys, Long in fourth for the boys, and Brunner placed second out of 48 girls. Senior Cadence Nelson also placed second in the high school girls competition out of 46 competing.

Ely's elementary squad placed second in 3D, with fifth Grader Aspen McCoy placing fifth out of 22 girls in the competition. Eighth grader Talan Hart's

fifth place finish out of 55 middle school boys paced the Wolves to a third-place team finish.

In the bullseye competition, the North Woods middle school team captured first, with Brady Swanson capturing a third-place medal out of 87 boys competing. The senior high team took second, with Nelson taking fourth out of 75 girls and senior Riley Las placing third about 60 boys competing.

Ely sixth grader Hayden Weidemann and seventh grader Payson Kundlinger spurred the Wolves to a second-place finish in middle school bullseye. Weidemann finished fourth out of 87 boys and Kundlinger placed fourth out of 72 girls.

**Right: Buckley LaForte of North Woods takes a close-up look at the target to assess his performance.**

photo by D. Colburn



## WOLVES..Continued from page 1B

what we needed them to, to take care of a very good team in Chisholm," said Gantt.

It was one of the best performances of the year for the Wolves as they allowed just 11 turnovers in the game.

"We took care of the ball and got it to our best scorers, and good things happened," said Gantt. "On defense it was a complete team effort! Clare Thomas

did a great job locking up their best player, big Tresa Baumgard. Tresa barely touched the ball most of the game. We played smart defense and forced them into shots they didn't really want."

Baumgard is not only Chisholm's leading all-time scorer with more than 2,000 points, she holds the all-time state high school record for career rebounds.

Gantt lauded his squad

for a true team effort. "Amelia Penke, Maija Mattson, Audrey Kallberg, and Zoe Mackenzie all contributed to our great team defensive effort. Chisholm is a 17-win team, and we have not beaten them twice, so that feels pretty good. It was a really good night for us."

Monday's big win was a nice comeback after a hard-fought loss to another strong team — Mesabi

East. The Giants, who won 66-54 in Ely, lived up to their name. "They are tall and a tough match-up for us," said Gantt. "We played pretty well, but just didn't make enough shots, or get enough stops. Credit to Marta Forsline. She had 37 points and killed us posting up and she went four-out-of-five from three-point range."

Ely's three seniors again led in scoring. Visser

had a big night, notching the double-double with 16 points and 13 boards. LaTourell notched 16 points, while Penke added 14 and seven boards. "We played solid offensively and we took care of the ball," said Gantt, noting his team allowed fewer than a dozen turnovers. "We took almost 70 shots, but we just didn't make enough," he added. "If we keep generating good looks and taking

care of the ball, good things will be in store for us down the stretch of our season. It was a tough loss against a solid team but it will make us better."

Ely was set to host North Woods in a key matchup this Thursday and play Cherry in Chisholm on Tuesday. They finish out their regular season next Friday, Feb. 23, before heading into the Section 7A playoffs.

## NW GIRLS..Continued from page 1B

the Grizzlies found themselves down a point, but a rebound and kick-out pass to Koch set the senior up for the triple that gave North Woods a 60-58 lead with 30 seconds left. The Raiders pushed the ball downcourt to senior Hannah Fawcett, who scored and was fouled with 16 seconds on the clock. With the score tied at 60-60, Fawcett missed the free throw, with Grizzlies senior River Cheney grabbing the rebound.

The ball went to Chosa in the front court, and an errant pass sent Cheney scrambling to the corner to recover it. With time running down she got the ball back to Chosa, who immediately hoisted up a

three that hit nothing but net with 1.4 seconds to go for the 63-60 lead. Greenway was unable to get off a shot after inbounding the ball, giving the Grizzlies the win.

North Woods has made a habit of winning close games this season. In games decided by three points or less, the Grizzlies have won five of six.

Cheney's ten first-half points kept the Grizzlies within range at the break, and she hit for 12 more in the second stanza to lead the team with 22 points. Koch found the long-range shots in the second half that were elusive in the first, nailing four three-balls to go with four two-pointers for 20

points. Chosa dropped in 12 points including the big game winning triple.

### Mesabi East

Riding high on a five-game win streak, the Grizzlies abruptly plummeted back to earth on Monday with a 75-47 road loss in Aurora to Class AA Mesabi East. The Giants had a size advantage that they put to good use early, attacking the basket down low while making it hard for the Grizzlies to get off a good shot. Mesabi East was up 10-0 when Talise Goodsky notched the Grizzlies' first basket of the night at the 13:22 mark. It would be another three-and-a-half minutes before Chosa scored the

next North Woods bucket to make the score 20-4. The Grizzlies managed to get off the skids toward the end of the half, but went into the break trailing 43-17. The second half was more evenly matched with both benches seeing plenty of action, but the Grizzlies couldn't make any headway and fell 75-47.

Chosa was the only Grizzlies' player to score in double figures at 10, as North Woods shot only 27 percent from the field and 43 percent from the free throw line. Mesabi East hit 48 percent from the field, scoring 56 of their points inside the paint.

### Fond du Lac

It was almost the

exact opposite when North Woods hosted a young, undersized Fond du Lac squad last Thursday. North Woods did to the Ojibwe what the Giants did to the Grizzlies — ran away with the game in the first half. Winless Fond du Lac was hapless against the superior Grizzlies, turning the ball over 31 times and shooting only 16 percent. The Grizzlies led 45-7 at the half, and North Woods Head Coach Liz Cheney got to test out numerous lineup configurations in the second half as even with a running clock in the second half the Grizzlies scored a 52-point 73-21 victory.

Cheney led North Woods in scoring with 24,

Koch had 15, and Goodsky scored 12.

The Grizzlies were set to travel to Ely on Thursday to try to avenge an early season loss to the Wolves. The two teams have nearly identical per game scoring averages, Ely with 64.3 and North Woods at 63.4. The Wolves, however, have been playing better defense holding opponents to 43.4 points per game while the Grizzlies have allowed an average of 55.9 points per game. North Woods will close out the regular season next Tuesday on the road at Littlefork-Big Falls.

## GRIZZLIES..Continued from page 1B

from there, but the damage was done as the Grizzlies rolled to the dominating win.

While the home crowd was jubilant over the win, Grizzlies Head Coach Andrew Jugovich was less enthusiastic about his team's performance.

"It was ugly," he said. "I'm really not happy with our performance, especially in the first half. In the second half we played better defensively. In the first half we gave a lot of open shots and they broke our press down really easily. Those are things at this point in the year we can't have. But let this be the one time this week that we don't play up to par."

Burnett scored 22 of

his team-leading 28 points in the first half. Jarshaw knocked down three treys en route to a 22-point performance, and Will scored 14.

### Littlefork-Big Falls

The Grizzlies went on the road last Friday to take on Littlefork-Big Falls, and the Vikings gave the Grizzlies just the sort of test they needed heading into the home stretch of the regular season.

The Grizzlies had to come from behind to win this one, as the Vikings were an equal match for the Grizzlies' up tempo style of play. The lead swapped hands in the early going until the Vikings took at 21-20 advantage with 8:30 left in the first half. L-BF

went on a 9-0 run to lead 29-20, and canned a trey to take their biggest lead of the half at 37-27. The teams went into the locker room with the Grizzlies staring at a 47-40 deficit.

The Grizzlies quickly got back into it at the start of the second half with a deuce from Aidan Hartway, two free throws each by Will and Louie Panichi, and bucket by Burnett to pull withing 49-48. Jarshaw canned a corner trey on the next trip down the court to give North Woods its first lead since early in the first half, 51-49. The hotly contested battle swayed back and forth, with North Woods holding an 80-79 edge with 4:17 to play. That's when the Grizzlies

took control with a 9-2 run, getting another triple from Jarshaw and buckets from Hartway, Burnett and Panichi. North Woods sealed the win with six points in the final minute, getting fast break buckets from Jarshaw, Panichi and Burnett to win 101-89.

Jugovich was decidedly more upbeat about this win.

"Littlefork-Big Falls is a very good team — they're fast and might even put us to shame with their speed. But our boys persevered. The first half we lost by seven, the second half we won by 19. Jonah carried us through that first half through our shooting troubles and then Talen in the second — he played phenomenally. We

finally dug deep and got that good win. I was happy with them. I was proud of them."

The Grizzlies had a hot hand from the field, shooting 55 percent. They also had one of their best nights of the year at the charity stripe, going 25-of-35 for 71 percent. And the Grizzlies won despite having eight more turnovers than the Vikings, 21-13.

Burnett had a monster 40-point performance to lead the Grizzlies. But he had plenty of support, as North Woods had four more players in double figures, including Jarshaw with 19, Panichi with 17, Will with 12, and Hartway with 11.

The Grizzlies were set to close out the week with

a pair of home contests, taking on Fond du Lac on Thursday and hosting Mesabi East on Friday. The Grizzlies will be at home again next Tuesday against Hill City.



HOCKEY

# Ely hangs on for a win in regular season finale

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

MOOSE LAKE— The Timberwolves put another win on the board in their regular season finale here last Friday, hopefully taming the demons that had left them in a skid the past couple weeks. It was all Ely in the early going as the Wolves built a 4-0 lead they held until late in the second period.

Senior Wes Sandy, with assists from Garrett Rohr and Jayden Zemke, put the Wolves on the board at the 5:16 mark of the first to put Ely up 1-0. That was all the scoring until seven minutes into the second period, when sophomore Hunter Halbakken lit the lamp with an assist from Ty Walker. Three and a half minutes later, while on a power play, junior Jace Huntbatch put Ely up 3-0 with Deegan Richards on the assist. Again, on the power play just

over four minutes later, Richards made it 4-0 with Sandy on the assist.

The Rebels finally responded just seconds later to narrow the gap to 4-1, but less than two minutes later, freshman Owen Marolt punched it in for Ely, with an assist from Drew Marolt to put the Wolves back up by four.

Goaltending was one of the keys to Ely's victory as goalie Ben Leeson fended off a whop-

ping 48 of 52 shots on goal during the contest for a .923 save percentage. That was pivotal in the final period, as Ely's offense appeared spent, and the Rebels counterattacked for three straight goals to close the gap to one. But Ely, thanks in large part to Leeson's efforts, held on for the win.

Senior Brecken Sandberg spent a total of nine minutes in the box, including a five-minute major for head contact and a

two-minute charge for unsportsmanlike conduct. Sandberg drew 15 minutes for unsportsmanlike conduct a week earlier during a game with St. Paul Johnson.

The Section 7A playoffs get underway on Saturday, Feb. 17 at Amsoil Arena in Duluth. Bracket assignments weren't available as of the *Timberjay's* Wednesday presstime.

BOYS BASKETBALL

# Timberwolves edged in 57-54 heartbreaker

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

AURORA— The Timberwolves had their chances against the Giants but let a game they could have won fall through their fingers, 57-54, in the final two minutes of play here last Friday.

"We led most of the game until the last couple minutes," said Head Coach Tom McDonald. "We had a couple of bad possessions late and didn't score in the last three minutes."

It turns out, the Giants are aptly named this season as the team sports three players at 6'4". While Ely's hustle has

helped them all season, they lack height and that's proven a roadblock against taller teams, particularly on the boards. "We really struggled with rebounding which led to some easy baskets for them."

Despite the loss, Ely's junior guard Caid Chittum had a huge night, posting a ca-

reer-high 29 points while grabbing nine rebounds and seven steals. Sophomore guard Jack Davies added 21 points as the two players combined for all but four of Ely's points, while sophomore Drew Johnson posted eight assists. The rest of the team struggled to find the basket. "We just didn't shoot the

ball well enough to win the game," said McDonald.

The Wolves were set to visit Chisholm on Friday before hosting St. Augustine next Tuesday as the regular season enters the home stretch.

## Obituaries and Death Notices



**James K. Marttila**

James Konstantin Marttila, 75, of Rochester and Lake Vermilion-Tower, died on Thursday, Feb. 8, 2024, at Seasons Hospice House in Rochester from complications of lung cancer treatment. A family interment service will be held at a later date. Memorials can be made to the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center, Box 659, Tower, MN 55790. Online condolences are welcome at [www.mackfuneralhome.com](http://www.mackfuneralhome.com).

Jim was born on Oct. 25, 1948, in Soudan, to Walter Konstantin and Verena Maud Oliver Marttila. He grew up in Tower, living above the family business, Marttila Drug, graduating from Tower High School in 1966, and earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Jim graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from the University of Minnesota in 1971 and was in the first U of M Doctor of Pharmacy class in 1973. He later obtained an MBA from the University of St. Thomas. Jim taught for 15 years at the U of M College of Pharmacy as well as partnering in operating several pharmacies and a pharmacy consulting business before moving to Rochester where he opened the first Mayo Clinic outpatient pharmacies, and directed the team that managed the Mayo Clinic drug formulary.

Retiring in 2020 after 32 years of service, Jim continued to consult. He participated in many professional organizations, holding leadership offices and serving on numerous committees at the state and national levels.

Jim loved his time spent in Tower and at the cabin on Lake Vermilion. He was a skilled woodworker, furniture restorer and all-around Mr. Fix-It. He and his wife had a passion for world travel, especially Great Britain where his mother was born. The only continent he didn't visit was Australia. He was a steadfast supporter, board member and past president of the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center in the former St. Mary's Episcopal church building where his family worshipped for many years.

Jim is survived by his wife of 43 years, Kathleen Meyerle; son, Andrew K. Marttila; sister, Anne (Charles) Wiermaa; father-in-law, Andy Meyerle; sister-in-law, Elaine (Robert) Shannon; brother-in-law, Gregory (Nancy) Meyerle; seven nieces and nephews; one great-niece and six great-nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; grandparents, Konstantin and Fannie Harma Marttila and James and Annie Oliver; and aunts, Martha Marttila and Ellen Pela Anderson.

**Jean M. Kidd-Lobes**

Jean Marie Kidd-Lobes, 70, of Howell, Mich., passed away on Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024. Arrangements are with Livingston Cremation and Funeral Care of Howell.

Jean was born on Jan. 1, 1954, in Winton, to Charles M. and Margaret Zorman Kidd. She graduated from Ely Memorial High School in 1972 and attended Hibbing Vo-Tech. She lived and worked in the Detroit area for many years.

Jean is survived by her husband, Gary Lobes; stepchildren, Jeff, Mike and Jodie; brothers, David (Marlene) Kidd of Elk Grove, Calif., and Charlie (Kris) Kidd of Ely; sister, Shirley Kidd-Maki (Leroy Peewee Maki) of Winton;

and nieces and nephew, Angela Rocha, Laura Galeon, Matt Kidd and Mireille Kidd.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

**Marjorie M. Menton**

Marjorie Mae Custer-Seinola Menton, 91, of Aurora, originally of Sturgeon, was reunited

with her departed loved ones on Sunday, Feb. 4, 2024, at Essentia Hospital in Duluth. Her daughters were by her side as she made this final journey. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 16 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the funer-

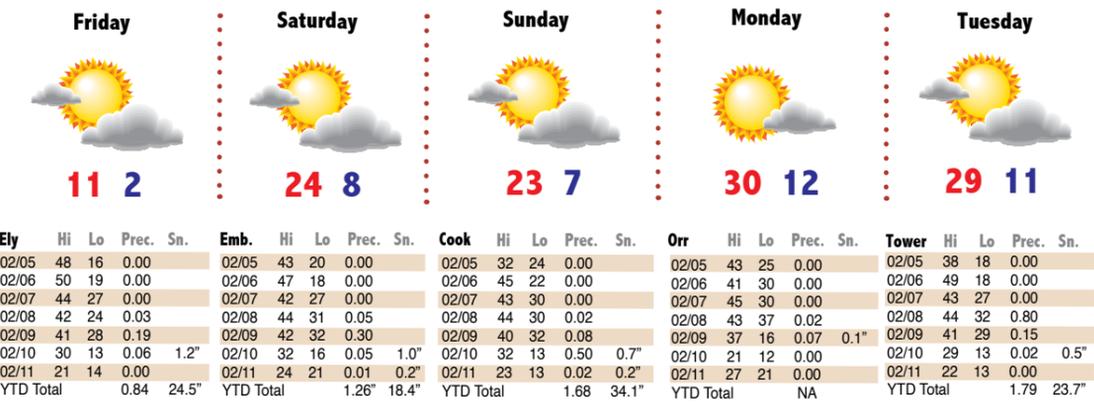
al home.

She is survived by her daughters, Terese (Mark) Persson and Gail (Dennis) Heruth; grandchildren, Raina (John) Heruth, Isaac (Anna) Heruth, Marcus (Karissa) Persson, Jesse Heruth, David Menton, Thomas (Mandi) Heruth, Lacey (Vance) Keenan, Joshua (Kylie) Persson,

Nathan Menton and Katie Heruth; 20 great-grandchildren; one great-great grandchild; and many nieces, nephews, in-laws and friends.

## LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather



**EBCH**  
Ely-Bloomenson  
Community Hospital

### Hospital Connection

Outpatient Services

**Q: What are Outpatient Services?**  
**A:** Outpatient care is a type of healthcare service that does not require an overnight stay at a hospital and is usually scheduled by appointment. These services are typically separate from your routine primary care visit. They can include procedures, treatments, and consultations such as lab work, radiology services, physical and occupational therapy, or a diagnostic colonoscopy in the Surgery Department.

For instance, suppose you visit a Clinic for your annual physical, and your provider orders a follow-up test for your bone density. In that case, you can schedule an appointment as an outpatient with the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital (EBCH) Radiology Department. Separate entities are working together to care for you.

**Q: Does EBCH offer Outpatient Services?**  
**A:** Yes, EBCH offers a wide variety of Outpatient Services. Some services include mammography, infusion therapy, chemotherapy, cardiopulmonary rehab, physical and occupational therapy services, and surgical procedures. For a complete list of what each EBCH department offers, visit our website at [www.ebch.org](http://www.ebch.org) or call us at 218-365-3271. We have knowledgeable Receptionists who answer the phones during regular business hours and can answer your questions or direct your call.

**Q: Do you need a referral for Outpatient Services?**  
**A:** You will need a provider referral for most procedures, such as colonoscopies or diagnostic imaging procedures. However, it is a patient's choice where they would like their referrals to be sent. You can have an open conversation with your provider and let them know if you would prefer to have your services close to home. Let your provider know if you have barriers such as transportation or taking time off of work so they can help make the best decisions about where to get your care and always check with your insurance company to ensure coverage.

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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](http://www.ebch.org). Like our Facebook page to keep up with current events and announcements.

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[ebch.org](http://ebch.org)

328 W. Conan St.  
Ely, MN 55731  
218-365-3271

*Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital is committed to caring for and enhancing the health and well being of the community it serves.*

**City of Little Falls**

The City of Little Falls, Minnesota, will be receiving sealed proposals to provide Clubhouse and Event Center Management services as a part of the Little Falls Country Club.

Sealed proposals (one original, four copies, and one digital USB flash drive) will be received by the City Administrator's Office, 100 Northeast Seventh Avenue, PO Box 244, Little Falls, MN, 56345-0244, until 12:00 noon central time on February 21, 2024. Any proposals received after the time specified will not be accepted and shall be returned unopened to the Proposer.

The Request for Proposals is open to inspection and may be obtained at City Hall, 100 Northeast Seventh Avenue, Little Falls, MN, 56345; or on the City's website at: [www.cityoflittlefalls.com](http://www.cityoflittlefalls.com).

The City of Little Falls reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to waive technicalities, and to readvertise. The award, if made, will be made to the most responsive Proposer whose proposal is determined by the City, in its sole discretion, to be the most advantageous to the City.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Notice of Public Hearing  
South Shore Sanitary Sewer  
District Members:**

Notice is hereby given that the Kabetogama Township Board will meet at the Kabetogama Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. on February 22, 2024, to consider the findings of the Facility Plan for the Kabetogama Collection and Treatment System. Such persons as desire to be heard with reference to the proposed improvements will be heard at this meeting.

The meeting will also be conducted virtually via Microsoft Teams:  
https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-teams/join-a-meeting?rtc=1  
Meeting ID: 229 386 345 415  
Passcode: 4McsGy

Or call in (audio only)  
+1 872-242-7640, 290520304# United States, Chicago  
Phone Conference ID: 290 520 304#

Or, you can email SEH Project Manager, Colin Marcusen, at: cmarcusen@sehinc.com, to be added to the meeting invitation.

Larry Kec, Township Chair

*Published in the Timberjay on Feb. 9 & 16, 2024*

**KUGLER TOWNSHIP  
NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING  
AND BOARD OF AUDIT**

The Kugler Town Board will hold their Kugler Board of Audit on February 20, 2024 at 5 p.m. The Town Board Meeting will follow the Board of Audit meeting.

Christopher Suihkonen, Town Clerk

*Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 16, 2024*

**MORCOM TOWNSHIP**

County of St. Louis, State of Minnesota

**Notice of Annual Meeting  
Notice of Election**

Notice is here by given to the qualified voters of Morcom Township, County of St. Louis, State of Minnesota that the Annual Election of Town Officers and Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024. In case of inclement weather, the meeting and election may be postponed until the third Tuesday in March, which is March 19, 2024.

The Election Poll hours will be open from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm, at which time the voters will elect:

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

The Board of Canvass will meet on Wednesday, March 13, at 5:30 pm to certify the election results.

The Annual Meeting of Morcom Township will commence at 8:15 PM following the closing of the Township Elections on Tuesday, March 12, 2024.

The Morcom Township Annual Meeting will be held at the Bear River School.

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

*Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 16 & 23, 2024*

**STATE OF MINNESOTA  
COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS  
SIXTH JUDICIAL  
DISTRICT  
DISTRICT COURT  
PROBATE DIVISION**

Estate of  
Peter Raymond Eij,  
Decedent

Court File No. 69VI-PR-24-7  
NOTICE AND ORDER OF  
HEARING ON PETITION FOR  
SUMMARY ASSIGNMENT  
OR DISTRIBUTION.  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS—  
NON-EXEMPT ESTATE.

Notice is given that a petition has been filed requesting that the Estate assets be summarily assigned.

Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper, and if no objections or claims are filed or raised, the Court may issue a decree distributing or assigning the Estate's assets. It is Ordered and Notice is now given that the Petition will be heard on March 4, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. by this Court at 300 S. 5th Ave., Virginia, MN 55792, Minnesota.

\* This hearing will be held remotely via Zoom Technology.

Notice is further given that (subject to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

Dated: January 16, 2024  
BY THE COURT

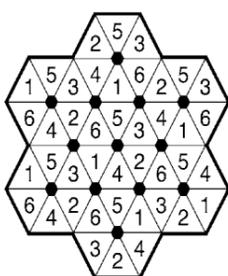
Robert Friday  
Judge of District Court  
Sara McDonld, Interim Court Administrator  
Chelsea Opdahl, Deputy

Attorney for Petitioner  
Angela E. Sipila  
Sipila Law Office, LLC  
412 1st St. S.  
Virginia, MN, 55792  
Attorney License No: 024501x  
Telephone: (218) 740-5000  
FAX: (218) 741-5000  
Email: ange@sipilaw.com

*Published in the Timberjay,  
Feb. 9 & 16, 2024*

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

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

**OPENINGS**



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

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

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

**Student Support and Community positions (no education license required)**

- Benefits Eligible**
- > Special Education Assistant /para(Special Education ) (Hourly \$17.50 - 24.50/HR +)
  - > Student Success Counselor (salary) (\$40K annual salary)
  - > Student Success Program Specialist (hourly \$24-30/hr+ DOE)

**Part Time:**

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

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**VERMILION LAKE TOWNSHIP  
NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING  
AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Vermilion Lake Township, County of St. Louis and State of Minnesota, that the Annual Election of Town Officers and Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024.

In case of inclement weather, the election and meeting will be postponed until Tuesday, March 19, 2024.

The election poll hours will be open from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at which time the voters will elect by ballot:

- One Supervisor for a term of 3 years
- One Clerk for a term of 2 years

The Annual Meeting will commence at 8:15 p.m. to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law.

The Annual Election and Meeting will be held at the following location:  
VERMILION LAKE TOWN HALL, 6703 WAHLSTEN ROAD

NOTE: Board of Canvass will meet following the Annual Meeting.

Crystal Alaspa, Vermilion Lake Town Clerk

*Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 16 & 23, 2024*

**BEARVILLE TOWNSHIP  
Annual Town Meeting  
Tuesday, March 12, 2024**

The Annual Town Meeting for Bearville Township will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, beginning at 6:30 pm at the Bearville Town Hall, to set the levies, and to conduct any and all other business proper to be conducted when the Annual Meeting is convened. Residents of Bearville Township that are eligible to vote in Bearville Township may vote at the Annual Meeting. All meetings are open to the public.

In case of inclement weather, the Annual Town Meeting will be held one week later on Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at the time and place stated.

Kathy Cressy, Bearville Town Clerk  
[bearvilletownship@gmail.com](mailto:bearvilletownship@gmail.com) 218-376-4495

*Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 16 & 23, 2024*

**BEARVILLE TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF AUDIT**

The Bearville Town Board of Audit will be held on Thursday February 22, 2024 at 6:30 pm at the Bearville Town Hall. This meeting will consist of auditing the books for the year ending December 31, 2023 and preparing proposed levies to submit to the Annual Town Meeting. All meetings are open to the public.

**Town Board Meeting Date Change**  
The Bearville Town Board of Supervisors' March meeting has been rescheduled to Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at 6:30 pm at the Bearville Town Hall.

Kathy Cressy, Bearville Town Clerk  
[bearvilletownship@gmail.com](mailto:bearvilletownship@gmail.com)  
218-376-4495

*Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 16, 2024*

[www.timberjay.com](http://www.timberjay.com)

**King Crossword**

**ACROSS**

- 1 "Kapow!"
- 4 React in horror
- 8 Pitcher Nolan
- 12 Flamenco cheer
- 13 Genesis shepherd
- 14 Spanish greeting
- 15 Squealer
- 16 Drive -- window
- 17 "-- the picture!"
- 18 2014 biopic about actress Kelly
- 21 Rowing tool
- 22 Expert
- 23 Japanese

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

- Jamaica
- 6 Lowly worker
- 29 Approves
- 26 Glutton
- 47 Hollywood's Thurman
- 31 Math statement
- 27 Ultramodernist
- 48 Country singer Jackson
- 8 Horned beast
- 32 Sub shop
- 30 Rhine feeder
- 9 Meditative practice
- 34 "My word!"
- 31 Golf prop
- 49 Gaelic
- 35 Waist-cinching garment
- 32 Basketball tactic
- 50 Fuel stat
- 10 Mr. Guinness
- 36 Tea biscuit
- 51 Partner
- 11 Post-WWII alliance
- 19 Pepsi rival
- 37 Unfettered
- 33 Tibetan beast
- 52 Bump into
- 20 URL ending
- 38 Baby carriage
- 34 4, on a phone
- 53 Sound from a hot wok
- 23 Stable diet?
- 39 "Damn Yankees" role
- 36 Observe
- DOWN**
- 24 Small battery
- 40 Latin 101 word
- 37 Texter's chuckle
- 1 McEnroe's rival
- 26 JFK Library architect
- 41 Blaze
- 38 Where something is created
- 2 Winged
- 27 Convent resident
- 42 Periodontist's concern
- 45 QB Tony
- 4 Fancy cake
- 28 Tolkien creature
- 43 Rapsallions
- 46 Ocho --,
- 5 Loathe
- 44 Kvetches

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**Weekly SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

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

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: ♦**

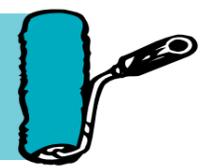
- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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## EMPLOYMENT

**mn**  
DEPARTMENT OF IRON RANGE RESOURCES & REHABILITATION

**AGENCY ENERGY AND CLIMATE POLICY ADVISOR**  
Agency Policy Specialist  
Permanent, Full-Time

The Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation is seeking to fill the permanent, full-time (1.0 FTE) position of Agency Energy and Climate Policy Advisor (Agency Policy Specialist). The Agency Energy and Climate Policy Advisor will build productive networks to develop and provide internal expertise and vision to the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation (IRRR) on energy, climate, and integrated industrial decarbonization-related issues; it will provide informed advice and recommendations to the IRRR Commissioner and IRRR business development and community development teams regarding energy and climate policy and industry challenges and opportunities; it will collaborate with state experts and leaders to develop and lead execution of the agency's strategic plan and goals as it relates to opportunities and challenges in economic development in the energy, climate, and integrated industrial decarbonization sectors, with a focus on opportunities involving integration across the regional natural resource-based economy (mining, timber, manufacturing). This position will also contribute to the creation of IRRR policies and strategies for programs and projects that serve the needs of the Taconite Assistance Area (TAA) communities; represent the IRRR at various industry, community and/or business meetings, committees and task forces; and work to communicate and enhance the IRRR's economic development mission and goals.

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](http://mn.gov/careers)  
Job ID: 73905

Application deadline: March 4, 2024

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**Super Crossword**

Answers

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

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