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# The **TIMBERJAY**



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989

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## FESTIVALS

# Harvest Moon among *USA Today's* top-20 best fall festivals

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

Public can vote on national paper's top-ten list

ELY — It's been 30 years since the founding of Ely's Harvest Moon Festival and the early autumn event has recently been getting some of the recognition it deserves. For the second year in a row, the Harvest Moon Festival is one of the top 20 finalists for this year's *USA Today* ten-best fall festivals list.

Voting for the top-ten-

best fall festivals runs through Monday, Sept. 9, at 1 p.m. Cast your vote at [10best.usatoday.com/awards/travel/best-fall-festival-2024](https://10best.usatoday.com/awards/travel/best-fall-festival-2024) or use the QR code on the signs posted throughout Whiteside Park during this weekend's festival.

"The public can help by scanning the QR codes around the park and voting," said Kristen Switajewski, festival

coordinator. "In addition, we have an option for the public to select their favorite food vendor using QR code voting. Food vendor voting closes on Saturday, Sept. 7 at 5 p.m., and awards are announced on Sunday morning."

This year's festival hours are Friday and Saturday, Sept. 6-7, from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Sunday, Sept. 8 from 10 a.m. - 3

p.m. in Whiteside Park. Maps for the layout of vendors and food trucks is printed on 1B of this week's paper and will be posted on the [ely.org](https://ely.org) website.

The 2024 Harvest Moon Festival features many long-time favorites, including Burly Babe, Smokey Photo, Waters Edge Art, and Leather

See...**HARVEST** pg. 9



## BACK-TO-SCHOOL

# First day fun



Top left: Third-grader Bristol Glass is all smiles for the first day of classes at North Woods.

Top: Members of the Tower-Soudan first grade charge out of the building for a morning "walk."

Right: Tower-Soudan first grader Brooks Anderson shows off his new front teeth.

Left: Students at Washington Elementary in Ely check out their new lockers.

photos by Timberjay staff



## PUBLIC SAFETY

# ISD 2142 bus driver arrested for DUI while with students

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- A bus driver for the St. Louis County Schools was arrested early Wednesday for driving while intoxicated with students on board, authorities said.

Deputies arrested South Ridge School bus driver Anthony Israelson, 44, after receiving a tip from a concerned citizen just after midnight, the sheriff's office said. They were concerned that Israelson was highly intoxicated and would not be sober by morning when he would likely begin his route.

Deputies contacted Israelson at his home around 6 a.m. He told them he was not working that day, according to authorities. However, shortly after 7 a.m., the school district notified deputies that Israelson had started his route. Deputies located the bus on Independence Rd., north of Seville Rd., and pulled it over without incident. A preliminary breath test showed a blood alcohol concentration of 0.16, authorities said. That's twice the current

See...**ARREST** pg. 9

## STORM DAMAGE

# Forest road repair going slowly on the Superior

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Nearly two dozen forest roads within the Superior National Forest remained closed as of this week, and those closures could impact access to many parts of the forest as the fall hunting season gets underway.

The road closures remain in effect in the wake of the June 18

storm which brought torrential rains to the region, causing flooding and severe damage to many roads and trails in the region. While the forest service has made some progress in repairing access roads, the number of closed roads has actually increased since the closures were first announced on June 21.

"It can seem kind of mindboggling that we had 21 roads closed in June and 23 now," acknowledged

Superior National Forest spokesperson Tyce Velde. He said forest service staff recently completed a field audit of the road system to better assess the condition of the extensive forest road system on the three-million-acre national forest and said that effort helped to refine the extent of the damage. He said the new roads added to the list had effectively been closed due to their condition, but simply hadn't been

Right: A major washout along Forest Road 113 on the Laurentian District was one of many experienced on the Superior National Forest from the June 18 rainstorm.

photo courtesy USFS

officially listed.

While a handful of roads have been reopened since the June storm,

See...**DAMAGE** pg. 10



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## Community notices

### Timber Hall upcoming events

**EMBARRASS-** Volunteers are needed for two upcoming work days at Timber Hall, on Sept. 15 and 29 at 10 a.m. Any additional help is appreciated for many little projects at the property.

Karate North will be resuming classes at Timber Hall starting on Sept. 16. Beginner classes are on Mondays and Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. at Timber Hall. Contact William at 218-750-3484 for information.

Outdoor movie night set for Saturday, Sept. 21 at dusk. Snacks will be available for purchase. Bring your chair, blankets, and pillows to enjoy a nostalgic movie outdoors at Timber Hall.

Pancake breakfasts will resume starting the first Saturday in October. Cost is \$7 for adults and \$4 for children 6-10, with children 5 and under free. Breakfast is served from 8 – 11 a.m.

Plan ahead for the fall jigsaw puzzle competition on Saturday, Oct. 5 at 11:30 a.m. Teams of four compete to complete a 500 piece puzzle in the fastest time. All teams are given the same puzzle (part of the registration fee). Pre-registration is required, must be 13 or older. Cost is \$5 per person or \$20 for a team of four. Contact Sue at 218-750-2718 prior to the event to register. Participants can bring gently-used puzzles for a puzzle swap.

### AAUW/Rotary to host District 3A and Ely City Council candidate forums



ELY –The public is invited to two candidate forums, the first on Tuesday, Sept. 17, from 7 to 8:30 pm, and the second on Tuesday, Sept. 24, from 7 to 8:30 pm, in the theater at Minnesota North College-Vermilion Campus. The first will feature the candidates for MN House

District 3A and the second the candidates running for Ely City Council. The events are hosted by American Association of University Women (AAUW) Ely Branch and the Ely Rotary Club.

On Sept. 17, three candidates, incumbent Republican Roger Skraba and challengers Harley Droba, Democrat, and Rich Tru, Independent, will face off for the two-year term.

On Sept. 24, four candidates, two incumbents, Jerome DeBeltz and Paul Kess, and challengers Frederica Musgrave and Emily Roose will contend for the opportunity to serve one of the three available Council positions. The third challenger, John Lahtonen, declined to participate.

The questions that will be asked of the candidates in both forums have been solicited from voters in the city of Ely and MN House District 3A.

The general election takes place on Nov. 5, 2024. Mail-in voting begins on Oct. 15. Anyone seeking an absentee ballot should go to <https://mnvotes.gov>.

In addition to the live forum, the event will be available to view later on Ely TV Midco Channel 11.

### Healthy Aging Month info in September

REGIONAL – The population of older adults in the U.S. is steadily increasing, and people are living longer than ever before. September is Healthy Aging Month, a time to celebrate the positive aspects of aging and explore ways to enhance the wellbeing of older individuals. Healthy aging encompasses maintaining and improving physical, mental, spiritual, financial and social health.

The University of Minnesota Extension Department of Family, Health and Wellbeing invites anyone who is aging and those who support older adults to visit [z.umn.edu/HealthyAgingMonth](http://z.umn.edu/HealthyAgingMonth) to access resources and register for free webinars covering topics such as:

- ▶ Health care directives
- ▶ Transferring non-titled property
- ▶ Preventing financial exploitation
- ▶ Medicine cabinet safety
- ▶ Scams targeted at older adults

Our minds and bodies undergo countless changes as we age, but embracing a healthy lifestyle can help us navigate through these transformations with grace and vigor.

### Mesabi Community Band Announces 2024-25 Season

EVELETH- The Mesabi Community Band, under the direction of Bill Lavato and Larry Baker, announces the 50th season of performing concerts in the Iron Range area. The band is inviting all area musicians to join us for our first rehearsal on Thursday, Sept. 12, at 6:30 p.m., at the historic Eveleth City Auditorium. Please show up with your instrument, and a music stand, to join in the fun. If you have any questions, please call Holly at 218-780-0980.

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## LIVE MUSIC

# Portageland Music Festival this weekend



ELY- Ely's vibrant arts scene is about to get even more electrifying with the inaugural Portageland Music Festival arriving in Ely this weekend. The locally sponsored event will run concurrently with the Harvest Moon Festival.

The festival boasts a diverse lineup of some of the finest musical acts the region has to offer. The music kicks off on Friday, Sept. 6, at Ely's Historic State Theater, with performances by:

- ▶ Marshmallow Chaos at 6 p.m.
  - ▶ Christopher David Hanson Band at 7 p.m.
  - ▶ Mallrats with their "MTV Unplugged 90's Tribute" at 8 p.m.
- On Saturday, the music continues in Whiteside Park with acts by:
- ▶ The Chick-A-Dee-Dee-Dees at 10 a.m.
  - ▶ Van and the Free Candies at noon.
  - ▶ The Roe Family Singers at 2 p.m.
  - ▶ Morning Bird at 4 p.m.
  - ▶ Salty Dog at 6 p.m.
  - ▶ Duluth Transit Authority at 8 p.m. at the Ely State Theater.

The festival will then return to Ely's Historic State Theater at 8 p.m. on Saturday for an evening finale by the ever-popular Duluth Transit Authority.

"We're incredibly excited to bring this festival to Ely," said Ian Francis

Lah, executive artistic director of the Northern Lakes Arts Association. "It's a fantastic opportunity to showcase the amazing talent we have in the North Country, and to bring our community together for a weekend of great music and fun."

The Portageland Music Festival was organized by the Northern Lakes Arts Association in collaboration with Ely's Historic State Theater and Boundary Waters Connect.

### Tickets

A full festival pass is \$90 for access to all performances, which, given the number of acts, is just \$10 per concert. "This is an unbeatable value!" commented Lah.

A festival pass for just Friday at Ely's Historic State Theater is \$35. For Saturday's lineup, at both Whiteside Park and Ely's Historic State Theater, a day two pass is \$65. Tickets for the Saturday music at Whiteside Park are \$12. Tickets for the Duluth Transit Authority concert at the State Theater are

\$20. Kids under 12 enter free with a passholder.

For more information and to secure your passes in advance, visit [northernlakesarts.org/portageland-music-festival](http://northernlakesarts.org/portageland-music-festival).

The Northern Lakes Arts Association believes that arts jobs are real jobs and compensates performing artists as the professionals they are. The ticket prices for the Portageland Music Festival reflect this dedication to fair compensation. Every band and artist performing is paid at a rate that recognizes their talent, hard work, and the vital role they play in the community.

Festival passes will be available at the door at both Ely's Historic State Theater and Whiteside Park. Festival attendees are encouraged to bring their own seating for Whiteside Park. While outside in the park, snacks and beverages are welcome, but alcoholic beverages are prohibited. Also, dogs are not allowed in Whiteside Park.

"Portageland is not just about the music," Lah commented. "We're part of the Harvest Moon Festival, which means there will be plenty of food trucks, vendors, and artisans for everyone to enjoy. It's going to be a great weekend for the whole family."

## EMBARRASS

# Community Night Out set for Sunday, Sept. 8

EMBARRASS- Sisu Heritage of Embarrass is celebrating their annual Community Night Out on Sunday, Sept. 8 from 4-6:30 p.m. at the historic Seitaniemi Homestead. Come for a free outdoor concert and a tour of the restored house-

barn at this family-friendly event. Music will be provided by Bill Maxwell and Cowboy Angel Blue. Bring your own blanket or lawn chair. Chili, cornbread, pie and coffee will be available.

This concert is hosted by Sisu Heritage, Inc. and generously sponsored

by Embarrass-Vermilion Credit Union, Dirty Dog Manufacturing, C&C Winger Construction, Lakehead Constructors and Trapline Convenience Store.

Freewill donations are gladly accepted. Proceeds go to Sisu's restoration projects in Embarrass and the surrounding area. The Seitaniemi Homestead is located on Comet Road in Waasa, between Embarrass and Babbitt. Watch for signs on Hwy 21. Call 218-984-3012 or visit [sisuheritage.org](http://sisuheritage.org) for more information.



## WILDERNESS

# U.S. Forest Service and Aldo Leopold Foundation to celebrate land ethics and conservation

ELY - The Aldo Leopold Foundation and the U.S. Forest Service-Superior National Forest are presenting a public symposium to celebrate and advance the evolution of land ethics and conservation on Sept. 19-20 in Ely.

This event will launch a newly expanded collaboration between the organizations to explore the use of traditional knowledge to inform and inspire actions that benefit future generations.

This two-day event is open to the public and will be held on Thursday, Sept. 19, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Minnesota North College-Vermilion Campus Fine Arts Auditorium, located at 1900 E. Camp St., and Friday, Sept. 20, noon to 4 p.m., at Ely's Historic State Theater, 238 E. Sheridan St. Doors open at 11 a.m. There is no cost for Thursday's program and tickets for Friday will be available through the State Theater for \$10 online or at the door.

For further information, please contact the Aldo Leopold Foundation at [mail@aldoleopold.org](mailto:mail@aldoleopold.org) or 608-355-0279.

The first day, Thursday, Sept. 19, will begin at the Minnesota North College-Vermilion Campus with a symposium on the "Past, Present and Future of

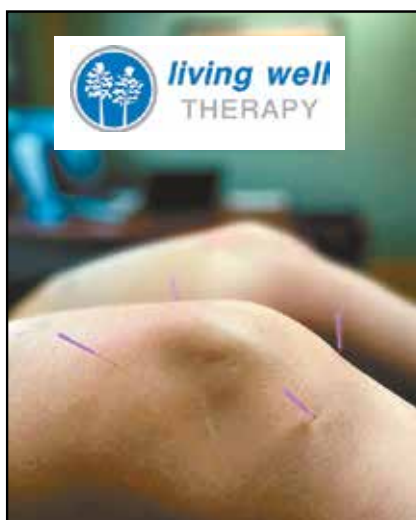
the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness." The program will draw upon Indigenous knowledge and western scientific understanding of the region as well as revisit the efforts of Sigurd Olson, commemorate the 75th anniversary of Aldo Leopold's "A Sand County Almanac," and the 60th anniversary of the passage of the 1964 Wilderness Act. This shared historical context will provide a forum for thoughtful points of view and discussion on wilderness and the future of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW), applying principles of land ethics and conservation.

The second day, Friday, Sept. 20, will focus on "Evolving Land Ethics: Advancing Conservation through Film, Words and Community" at Ely's Historic State Theater. The program is a community partnership with participants from the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, Aldo Leopold Foundation, Listening Point Foundation, Tofte Lake Center, Ely Film Festival, and Piragis Northwoods Company.

The day will feature an introduction to the Land Ethic Concept by Buddy Huffaker, executive director of the Aldo Leopold Foundation, followed by

a screening of "Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time," an Emmy award-winning film that challenges viewers to consider their relationship with the land and nature. Current short films by filmmakers selected for the Ely Film Festival will also be shown. The day concludes with a Drum Ceremony presented by artists of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa and a social hour at the State Theater.

The connection between the U.S. Forest Service and the Leopold legacy dates back to 1909, when Aldo Leopold joined the Forest Service as one of our country's first professionally trained foresters. Born in the Midwest, but assigned to the Southwest, Leopold was immediately struck by the biological diversity and wildness of that region. After surveying the Gila National Forest, he navigated and negotiated to secure the Gila Wilderness designation in 1924, two years before the first official protection of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in 1926. Both would serve as the model for the subsequent Wilderness Act passed forty years later in 1964. The Wilderness System now protects over 110 million acres across the country.



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HONORING THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED

# Lots of great memories created at Take a Vet Fishing event

TOWER—As a youngster growing up in Tower, Todd Beihoffer spent countless lazy summer days enjoying Lake Vermilion. Fast forward some 50 years, and the Navy Veteran was once again reconnecting to the lake that had brought him so much joy over the years.

“It’s awesome to be back,” said Beihoffer as he grabbed his fishing gear from his boat prior to the start of the 14th annual Take A Vet Fishing event. “I had to miss last year because I had open heart surgery, but I am so glad to be back. I love the camaraderie. It’s just a great fellowship.”

Beihoffer, a 1982 Tower-Soudan graduate, served in the Navy from 1983 to 1987. He was stationed in Maryland and Maine, and his sea time included stints in Iceland and Greenland.

“It was pretty rough last year as my heart was only functioning at 15 percent, but now it’s up to 26 percent — I can even make it to my mailbox now,” he said with a faint laugh. “I’m hoping to get better, but days like these are just very special to me. We appreciate all of the guides who help out and the other volunteers too—it’s great, and we appreciate all the effort put into this event.”

Bois Forte Tribal Chair Cathy Chavers had similar praise for the guides and volunteers who make the Take A Vet Fishing event so meaningful.

“I am really impressed and very honored to be here today,” said Chavers as she gave the welcome at Fortune Bay’s lakeside tent in front of 100 veterans and roughly 85 boat operators, guides, and other volunteers. “My parents were veterans of the Navy in World War II, and they are no longer with us, just as many other veterans are no longer with us. I just want to thank them all and you all for your service.”

Chavers said it is of the utmost importance to educate our younger people about our veterans. She said we must not forget our past because our veterans gave up



Above: This group of anglers get ready to hit Lake Vermilion at the 14th annual Take a Vet Fishing event, which took place last Thursday.



Left: Bois Forte Tribal Chair Cathy Chavers gave the welcome at the 14th annual Take A Vet Fishing event, which was hosted by Fortune Bay Resort Casino. Looking on is Phil Bakken, who plays an instrumental part in the event, which provides veterans with an opportunity to spend a day on Lake Vermilion fishing and enjoying the company of their fellow veterans and area guides. submitted photos

so much of their lives so that we could have the freedoms we have today.

“I always say that whenever you see a veteran, please tell them thank you for their service because they took the time away from their families and their loved ones,” said Chavers, who was recently elected to her third consecutive term for the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa. “They fought for this country. They fought for democracy and our freedom.”

Chavers said she relished visiting with the veterans, who were enjoying a cup of coffee, doughnuts, and fresh fruit before going out with a guide from the Lake Vermilion Guide’s League or a boat operator. She told those gathered that within tribes, they are known as very commu-

nal people, and she saw that same connection today.

“It’s a special thing you have,” said Chavers to the veterans. “I’m very pleased to be a part of this, and I enjoy seeing that connection you have with one another. Like I said last year, we call our veterans our Ogichidaas—that means warriors, and you are our warriors... Chi Miiigwech (thank you) to you all.”

After Chavers’ welcome, Take A Vet Fishing Chair Phil Bakken also recognized the volunteers for all their hard work in making the event a success. He said it’s not easy for the volunteers, many of whom are retired, to continue planning and executing such a large event. It not only entails working on the logistics of the event,

but it also includes securing sponsorships and many other tedious tasks.

“Cathy Rouleau and her crew put in countless hours,” said Bakken of Rouleau, Jean Wagenbach, Sue Van De Line, and Patti Papin. “We were helping them last night, and I said, ‘You know, we’re getting too old for this.’”

While the gesture was somewhat tongue-in-cheek, Bakken, Roleau, and others will continue to work on behalf of the veterans and show them admiration and respect for everything they have done for our country.

“This is such a wonderful event,” said Larry “Skip” Murray, who lives in Mt. Iron and served two years in Vietnam. “It is so well organized, and we appreciate everything they do for us.”

Meanwhile, Papin gets to look at the event from a unique perspective. She first got involved with it when she took her father, David Tibbetts, to the 9th annual Take a

Vet Fishing event. She found the day extra special because it gave her a chance to spend her 45th birthday with her father, who was a Vietnam Veteran. He was battling cancer at the time and unfortunately passed away just a couple of months after the 2019 event.

Five years later, the per-

sonable Papin was working the registration table as a volunteer. She smiled and thanked the veterans who would soon be hitting Lake Vermilion for another day of memories with their fellow brothers and sisters from the Armed Forces.

However, it was somewhat somber as Papin noticed the absence of veterans who had been at previous events but were no longer around.

“It’s tough not seeing the same ones come through,” said Papin. “But each year, I see new veterans taking part in this event, and that’s special because they are carrying on this tradition.”

Speaking of traditions, the 2024 event marked another milestone for Papin, one that Murray wasn’t about to let slip away.

“It’s her 50th birthday today,” said Murray to a Fortune Bay employee who was talking to Papin. “Here, let me take a picture of you two— you can hold up a five, and she can put up a zero.”

With that, Murray took out his phone and snapped a couple of pictures. The smile on his face was contagious and the gesture put an even bigger smile on Papin’s face.

“This is an event I look forward to because of the people I get to meet,” said Papin. “It continues to grow every year, and I am very lucky to be a part of something so special.”

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# OPINION

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## Editorial

### School trust lands

Lawmakers make disingenuous arguments opposed to sale of trust lands in BWCAW

For years, local lawmakers have strained credulity in their arguments opposing a sale of state school trust lands locked within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, and that is reflected once again in an Aug. 15 letter to DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen, issued by Rep. Roger Skraba and signed by Republican members of the Iron Range delegation.

For decades, this opposition has prevented the state of Minnesota from finally addressing the fact that the school trust currently derives no revenue on approximately 80,000 acres of land it owns within the wilderness, which it can no longer access for economic activity, such as logging. Back in July, the Department of Natural Resources announced that it was abandoning a decade-long effort to identify lands for a partial exchange of some of the school trust acreage for federal lands outside the wilderness. It was one of the largest land exchanges ever proposed in the U.S. and it had proven to be complex. Ten years into the effort, the two sides were still a long way from reaching any kind of agreement.

This is hardly a new issue. State officials have been proposing a sale of the school trust lands to the U.S. Forest Service since the 1980s. The state's legislative auditor recommended a sale in an analysis of the school trust program it issued back in 1998. But opposition from northeastern Minnesota legislators has continuously blocked the school trust from receiving compensation. In doing so, their intransigence has cost the school trust hundreds of millions of dollars in lost returns over the years.

In his recent letter, co-signed by Rep. Spencer Igo and Sens. Justin Eichorn and Robert Farnsworth, Skraba argues that a sale of the land is a violation of federal law, specifically a provision of the 1964 Wilderness Act that said that state-owned lands located within the wilderness boundaries "shall be exchanged for federally owned land in the same State of approximately equal value."

No one disputes the language of the 1964 law, but legal counsel for the U.S. Forest Service have pointed to other federal laws, such as the 1911 Weeks Act and the Organic Act, that give the forest service the authority to purchase lands as well. If Skraba and his fellow lawmakers want to challenge that opinion in court, they can have at it. Otherwise, it's probably best to leave the lawyering to the actual lawyers.

Skraba's arguments, un-

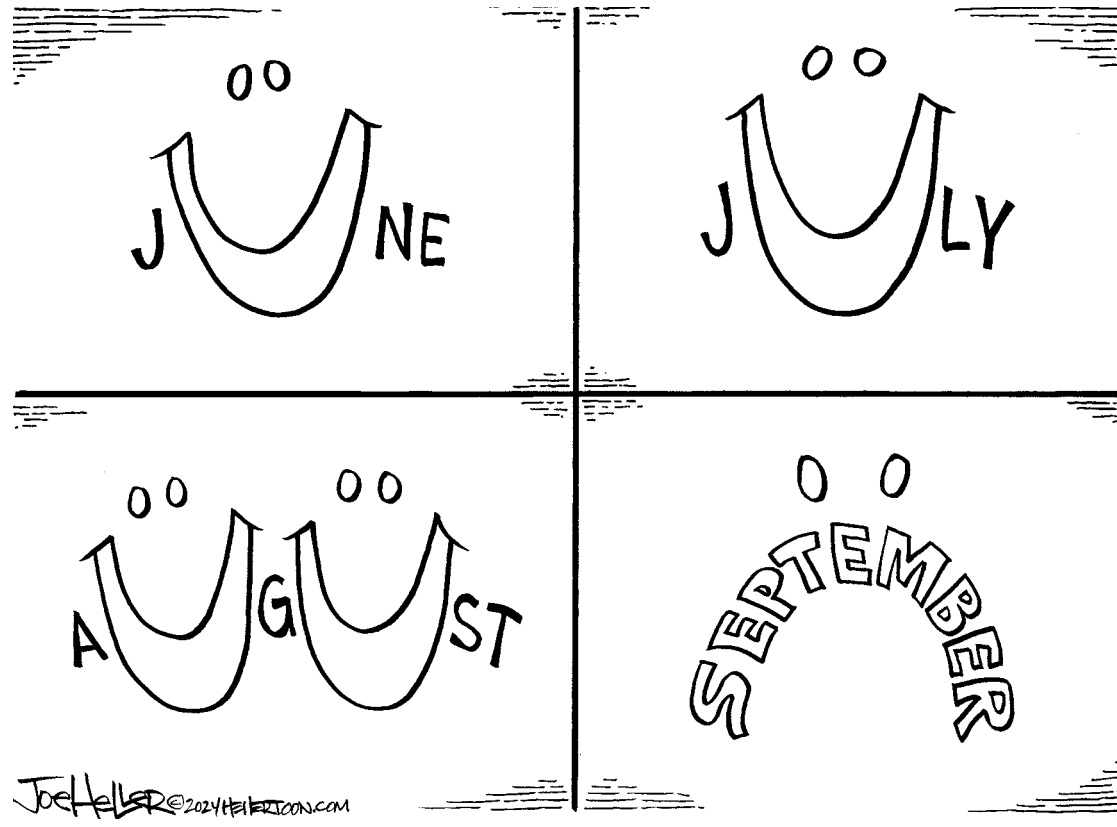
fortunately, go from legally dubious to downright false when he claims that "the value of a one-time payment pales in comparison to ongoing revenues that would be generated for the Permanent School Fund if these lands are exchanged for federally owned lands where economic activity may occur."

Skraba has it exactly reversed. Based on records and information we obtained from the DNR and the Office of School Trust Lands, which we reported last month, it would take 40 years for the school trust to generate the same amount of revenue from logging proceeds off exchanged lands as it could obtain in a single lump sum from a sale, potentially as early as next year. Managed by the state's investment fund, that lump sum sale price, estimated at about \$33 million, would likely be worth more than half a billion dollars within that same 40-year period. Skraba, in his letter, claims he's worried about the long-term viability of the Permanent School Fund. Denying it hundreds of millions of dollars in perpetual revenue is one way of showing such concern.

Skraba also argues that the public would have a greater say over the management of public lands owned by the DNR versus the forest service. In our experience, we've seen very little difference in the public responsiveness of the two agencies when it comes to forest management. The forest service does, however, have a more transparent process when it comes to timber sales.

If Skraba had legitimate concerns it would be one thing. But it looks more like he wants a continuing political issue that he can use to falsely pit local interests against the forest service, which has been standard practice by lawmakers in our region for far too long. We can understand that Skraba, who was convicted criminally for, among other things, breaking and entering a forest service shed and stealing a toilet, may have an ax to grind against the feds. But as a lawmaker, he's supposed to be representing state interests, not his personal grudges.

While Skraba portrays himself as standing up for his district, the opposite is true. In his letter, he is, in effect, asking for years of additional delay in addressing the school trust's inability to generate revenue from its holdings in the BWCAW. By threatening to block a sale, Skraba and his fellow lawmakers are asking for continuation of a failed status quo.



## Letters from Readers

### Trump's supporters choose willful ignorance

I recently got into a war of words on Facebook with a friend from high school, who is now a very pro-Trump Twin Cities pastor. And I find myself, once again, wondering what I've missed in trying to decipher this strange dynamic existing between Trump and his followers.

For the sake of comparison, in terms of corruption and malfeasance, the one who usually comes to mind is Richard Nixon. Until Trump, he was the poster child for devious, power-hungry presidential shenanigans. Nixon was a brilliant man in some ways whose personal demons always seemed to get in the way of whatever common decency he possessed.

Yet even Nixon had a public persona that came across as reasonable and reassuring – a facade to be sure, but that was the public perception. Donald Trump, on the other hand, hides nothing. His multitude of flaws are front-and-center, for all to see. He makes very little attempt to hide who he is, or what he is, because he doesn't think he has to. In his warped, deluded mind, he thinks it's OK to be a misogynist and a narcissistic bully because that's what makes him a real leader, a real man. He reaffirms this virtually every time he speaks, and it's mind-boggling to me that there are still so many who can't see this. It's as though we're looking at two different men.

The term that keeps coming to mind is "willful ignorance," seeing and hearing what you want to see and hear, despite what your eyes and ears are telling you – like those who viewed the Jan. 6 riot and saw only peaceful "tourists," as though they were viewing entirely different footage than everyone else.

But with his insistence on showing us his true self, no one can come back after the fact and say, "boy, he sure had me fooled." No one will EVER have that luxury, not with Donald Trump. What you

see is what you get, and if you fail to see the painful truth, then that's on you. And, if he's re-elected, unfortunately it'll be on the rest of us as well.

Lynn Scott  
Soudan

### Presidential immunity an invention of the current high court

We used to think in this country that no one is above the law, that includes the President of the United States. If the president can break the law, he or she becomes a dictator without the checks or balances of a Congress or a judicial branch of government. There is nothing in the Constitution or legal history for granting the former president immunity.

In fact, if Trump specifically was engaged in insurrection or rebellion on Jan. 6, 2021, using lies and misinformation to encourage the invasion of the United States Capitol, he can be held responsible. He would be the first president to be charged with an attempt to overturn a presidential election. The lower courts ruled that the president has no immunity and there are no precedents for immunity.

The concept of immunity is entirely the creation of this Supreme Court. The plurality of this court is made up of justices selected by the indicted defendant.

Gerry Snyder  
Ely

### Strength through joy a danger to democracy

Democrat voters did not want Harris and she dropped out of the 2020 primary early. But once it became obvious that Biden is a loser, the DNC disenfranchised 14 million primary voters and installed VP Harris. DNC wanted Biden's \$95 million bankroll and billionaires to start donating money again. Make no mistake, the Democrat party is the party of celebrity elitists, millionaires, and billionaires. VP Harris was the deciding

vote to significantly increase the number of IRS agents. Per a 2021 report from the GAO, "From fiscal years 2010 to 2021, the majority of the additional taxes IRS recommended from audits came from taxpayers with incomes below \$200,000." Despite the Biden administration's claims, it's almost certain that households making less than \$400,000 a year will face increased audits.

Biden conducted vote buying using taxpayer money to pay off college loans that the SCOTUS ruled unconstitutional. VP Harris is pandering for votes by promising to give \$25,000 in taxpayer money to people who can't afford to buy a home due to high mortgage rates. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports since the Biden/Harris administration, shelter costs went up 22.1 percent, groceries up 21.0 percent, electricity up 28.5 percent.

Walz was exposed for dishonestly embellishing his military service record for political gain. Regarding Walz's 96-mph DUI in a 55-mph zone, his campaign falsely told the press repeatedly that he had not been drinking that night, claiming that his failed field sobriety test was due to a misunderstanding related to hearing loss from his time in the National Guard. The campaign also claimed that Walz was allowed to drive himself to jail that night. It was dishonest of Walz to not correct his campaign.

Democrat party "Strength through Joy" is a danger to democracy and rule of law.

Mike Banovetz  
Winton

### 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.

## COMMENTARY

# What does your gut say? Intuition versus logic

I have the most intricate, interesting dreams when I'm too warm. I wake up, throwing off the covers, longing for some cool air, but thinking, "Boy, that was a good one" or "...a really weird one." Remember the hot, muggy days we had recently, when you would sweat if you just thought about mowing the lawn? One night I could not get comfortable, sleep-



BETTY FIRTH

ing with the fan blowing on me, tossing on and off covers. And I had this great dream about intuition.

In my dream, some friends of mine were looking at houses, and they had found one they really liked.

They asked my advice, because I had sold real estate in my deep past. (Yes, I know, didn't everyone?) The house was a nice one with a rather steep

price. We talked about the pros and cons, and I (wisely) just asked them questions rather than spouting my opinions. (Isn't it funny how we can be so much smarter in our dreams?) Did it have the spaces that they felt were important for each of them as well as communal space? How much fix-up would it need, and would they realistically want to do it? Would the payments be so high they would always feel strapped for cash?

I thought they had made their decision, and we

were gearing up for a celebration, but no, they had looked at another house which "felt more right" to the husband. Not one to get between a wife and her husband's intuition, I simply asked, how have those intuition-based decisions worked out in the past?

My dream friends, Anne and Nick, were conferring in the next room. It was late, and I imagined the realtor was eager for a decision, but she showed the depth of patience engendered by the possibility of a commission.

I'll never know what the dream couple decided unless I have another dream starring them, but at 4 a.m. in the morning, it got me thinking about how we use our intuition, perhaps when we're not even aware of it.

I have found that when I'm buying a toaster oven or a TV, I can spend hours comparing prices, asking friends their opinions, and checking reviews on the web, putting off a decision for weeks. When buying houses or cars and even moving to a new home, I do my research, but really

land on a decision because it 'feels right,' and I can identify the moment that happens.

Maybe all the practical questions and research are just a cover for intuition-based decisions. With many of my car purchases, it has felt a bit like giving up, because I didn't know all the questions I should be asking, and if I wait until I'm absolutely sure, I would be carless for a long time. My intuition

See GUT...pg. 5

# City of Ely moves public meetings around

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- The Ely Parks and Recreation Board decided it needed to get out of city hall to visit Ely's parks and facilities and reported the change to its meeting location to the Ely City Council Tuesday evening.

"The board normally meets the third Monday of the month at 5 p.m. here in the council chambers," reported city council member Adam Bisbee, who is the council's liaison to the board. "We have been making efforts to meet at some area parks in order to examine them and enlighten ourselves about their status ... So, our next meeting will be held at the Ely Recreation Center on the third Monday, Sept. 16, at 5 p.m."

Another public meeting change is for the Gardner

Humanities Trust, which has moved its regular meeting from the second Wednesday to the second Thursday of each month. The next meeting for the trust will be next Thursday, Sept. 12.

The Ely public safety open house will be on Wednesday, Sept. 25, from 3-6 p.m. at the fire hall portion of Ely City Hall.

## Bearing with bears

Police Chief Chad Houde reminded residents to avoid the bear family that has been wandering about town for the last two weeks.

"We do have some visitors in town," Houde said. "Obviously, they're wild animals. Stay away from them ... Bring your garbage in, shut that garage, and try not to leave anything out. If you do have an issue with bears, call us." The police department is working with Department of

Natural Resources conservation officers to manage the current bear nuisance.

In other business at its Sept. 3 meeting, the city council:

- Approved the vacation of the right of way on E. 10th Street S. between S. First Ave. E and S. Third Ave. E. This vacation will allow the owner of lots three, four, five, and six of Tower View Estates to reconfigure the lots to make them more buildable.

- Approved a recommendation from planning and zoning to apply zoning designations to a list of parcels in Ely which currently do not have them. Most of the parcels on the list have been annexed by the city or were undeveloped and never assigned a land use. Because this action requires a change to the city's ordinances, the council directed the city attorney

to draw up a prospective ordinance and arrange for the requisite readings and public hearing.

- Appointed Steven Toddie as a non-resident member of the parks and recreation board, with a term expiring on Jan. 31, 2027.

## August 27 meeting

The city council did not hold a meeting on its regular meeting date on the third Thursday of August because it lacked a quorum. The council reconvened the Aug. 20 meeting on Aug. 27. In the half hour meeting, the council:

- Approved new signs at the electric vehicle charging stations at the library stating a two-hour limit on parking and charging. Library director Rachel Heinrich researched the usage of the two chargers and found that they currently consume three times more

energy than the library's solar panels produce. She also noted that some electric vehicle users abuse the chargers, parking and charging all day.

- Approved paving of storm washed-out areas including Lakeview Ave., the alley between Central and First Aves. and James and Pattison Sts., the edge of the roadway on Washington St. between Fourth and Fifth Ave., and the Sheridan and Chapman Alley behind Brittons Café.

- Approved Low Impact Excavators to process the spoil material piled behind the Grahek Apartments for reuse. The firm will remove and dispose of any additional trash found in the material and will also grade the area when it is done.

- Discussed a recommendation from the Ely Projects Committee that the Ely

Fire Chief review a vacation of the alley between 17th Ave. and N. Savoy Rd. Fire Chief Dave Marshall remarked, "I appreciate the the projects committee welcoming the fire department's comments." He stated he has no objections to the vacation. Langowski assured the council that the vacation would not go forward without the consultation and acquiescence of all three affected property owners on the alley.

- Approved \$5,000 to repair the sprinkler system in the Miners Dry Building.

- Approved the appointment of Kristen Anthony as an Ely resident member to the Park and Recreation Board with a term expiring Jan. 31, 2027.

- Accepted Todd Crego's resignation from the parks and recreation and tree boards.

## GUT...Cont. from page 4

was jump-started by need as often my cars were not safe on the highway. Living in Ely, that made finding a replacement more complicated and a quick decision more desirable. In a way, it is giving up control when you trust your intuition, you're letting go of the illusion that you have all the facts and perhaps trusting the answer will come from a deeper well that calculates those things differently.

One definition of intuition is "unconscious intelligence, a non-conscious feeling that quickly motivates you to act. It doesn't lend itself to logic, reason, or even language, but rather is holistic and concrete, formed deep in our evolutionary history." Said to have developed more recently in our evolution, deliberation is rather the opposite: the slow work of careful analysis and logical argument. It can be a check

on too hasty intuition, but can also lead to overthinking a decision.

I have wondered about how we make decisions in the voting booth. Do we research candidates, check out their experiences and voting record? Do their actions match their words? Do we rely on friends to make our decisions? Or do we go with our gut? How is it possible there are still 'undecideds' on election day?

Nobel prize winner Daniel Kahneman contends that "people often act without knowing why they do what they do." He thinks that people do not choose their candidates based on issues nearly as much as is suggested in political writing. David Brooks of the *New York Times* says, "Many of our theories are bogus, based on the assumption that voters make cold, rational decisions about candidates. In reality,

we make emotional, intuitive decisions about who we prefer and then come up with rationalizations to explain the choices that were already made below conscious awareness." Aha! Just as I thought!

Until they have figured out their own minds, young people often just vote the way their parents did, lacking experience, knowledge, and trust in their own intuition. That's how I cast my most embarrassing vote ever in my first presidential election. Yes, I did it, I voted for Nixon. I've been recanting ever since.

How we assign value to things underlies how we make sense of the world and makes decision-making possible. Some of us respond to a candidate's intelligence, others to a friendly or sentimental personality. People may choose a candidate that they imagine they would feel comfortable with, which may lead

to faulty decision-making. People often said of Bush (George W.), "He'd be a good guy to have a beer with." My advice: go with that, have a beer, but don't elect him to an office with serious responsibilities.

Let's take a local example: Harley Droba is running for the Minnesota House. He has a solid history of working for his community, serving on the city council and as mayor, and he owns several successful businesses. I happen to think he's probably fun to have a beer with, as well, but that's not why I'm supporting him. My gut aligns with my experience and research.

I think most voters would agree this is a very significant election, so dig deeply for your best decision-making skills. Do your research, trust your gut and VOTE.

## Letters from Readers

### Research, then vote for your beliefs

When I read last week's letter urging readers to "vote wisely-vote your beliefs," it was very clear the writer was not in support of the Democratic Party. But she also stated "that we must begin to take our responsibility and find out what is in each of the party platforms, and then vote for the candidate that most closely aligns with OUR BELIEFS."

Well, it was very clear to me, that she has not read or researched the Republican playbook called Project 2025. My advice would be for her to read it and understand why I mirror her statement about voting a platform on beliefs. And why as a country, we should NEVER allow that Republican platform to be implemented. Not ever.

Barry W. Tungseth  
Ely




**Fridays  
4-6 PM  
at the Train Depot**




*Keep it Clean,  
ST. LOUIS COUNTY*

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<b>EMBARRASS CANISTER SITE</b> 7530 Koski Rd, Embarrass	<b>HOURS</b> Thu: 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. Sat: 12:30 p.m.- 4:30 p.m.
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**the  
TIMBERJAY**

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Summer hours effective April 15 - September 30



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Week of Sept. 9

**Monday**  
Embarrass Al-Anon Family Group- Hope Lutheran Church, 5088 Hwy. 21, 6 p.m.

Tower City Council- 5:30 p.m. on Sept. 9

**Tuesday**  
Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5 p.m. New location in the old St. James Church building. Next food shelf day is Sept. 17.

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.

Greenwood Town Board- 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 12- note change from regular meeting date.

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

**St. Martin's Annual Pasties sale**

TOWER- St. Martin's is getting ready for their Annual Pasties Fundraiser. Orders are now being taken; the last day to order is Sunday, Sept. 15. To order, call the rectory office (218-753-4310), or stop by the rectory to see Maryann. Orders and money may also be mailed to St. Martin's, PO Box 757, Tower.

You will need to specify at the time of your order if you want rutabaga or not in your pasties. The cost of the pasties is \$7; and they must be paid at the time of the order. Pasties will be made during the week of Sept. 30 and will be available for pick up on Wednesday and Thursday, you will be called when your order is ready.

Proceeds from this fundraising go to Youth Activities, the Charity Fund, and for various projects at the church/rectory.

**Embarrass Farmers Market now underway**

EMBARRASS- The Embarrass Farmers Market started in August and runs through October. The market is held at the Embarrass Visitor Center near the intersection of Hwy. 135 and Hwy 21. The market is open the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month from 3-5 p.m. There has been a variety of items each week including handmade bags, soaps, baked goods, jewelry, hand-woven rugs, laser-engraved items, sourdough breads, cookies, fresh produce, locally grown flower arrangements, crafts, hay, and more added each week. As we head into fall, you will find pumpkins, fall-flavored food items, and fall decorations including sweater pumpkins.

LAKE VERMILION CULTURAL CENTER

**The Sectionals to perform in Tower on Sept. 12**

TOWER- The Lake Vermilion Cultural Center will host The Sectionals at St. Mary's Hall in Tower on Thursday, Sept. 12 from 7 – 8 p.m. The Sectionals is a group of eight singers of various ages and backgrounds from around the Iron Range. While performing together in larger ensembles the group was created around the interest of concentrated smaller vocal performance utilizing tight harmonies and jazz-inspired music. They enjoy the flexibility of performing in a wide array of venues across the range from Hoyt Lakes to Ely and across the state. In February 2024 they performed at the Angela Peralta Theater in downtown Mazatlan (see photo at

right). This will be their fourth time performing in St. Mary's Hall. They enjoy performing there because the acoustics are wonderful.

A freewill donation will be accepted and refreshments will be served following the concert. Invite your friends for what will be a fun evening but come early since it is often standing room only.

**Solkela Pokela Band on Sept. 19**

And save the date for another fun evening at the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center, the first Finntoberfest with the Solkela Pokela Band This concert is set for Thursday, Sept. 19 from 6 – 8 p.m. There will



be food for purchase and a freewill donation will be accepted. The cultural center is located at 705 Main Street in Tower.

BACK TO SCHOOL

**TS Elementary hosting Celebration Day on Sept. 26**

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- Tower-Soudan Elementary has some celebrating to do, and they are hoping that along with students and their families, community members will stop by to see the improvements at the school, including the gymnasium remodeling paid for by a grant from Lake Country Power, who will have some representatives at the event.

The event starts at the school at 3:30 p.m. when everyone will gather in the gym. There will be a few short speeches, and then time to check out the shiny, new gymnasium additions plus the new cafeteria seating (funded by the school district).

Principal John Jirik will also talk about the school forest and the beginnings of a few competitive sports games this year for the elementary students, giving them a chance to play against other area schools. The school is hoping to have someone from the DNR or school staff give a short walk in the school forest area. Jirik had hoped the renovations would be completed by the first day of school, but the installation of the new pads on the walls in the gym were delayed, but should be in place by the 26th.

The book fair will also be open at this time for parents, kids, and community members.

Then at 4:30 p.m., parents and their children are invited to go to Big Truck Night at the Breitung Skating Rink area. There will be lots of trucks to explore including heavy equipment, fire and ambulance vehicles, a police car, and more. A hot dog supper will be served. There will be a bus that will leave the T-S school around 4:45 p.m. and drop off attendees at the park in Soudan. The bus will leave Soudan at 6:20 p.m. and return to Tower.



Pictured clockwise from top left: Cecilia Majerle gives her friend Millie McGuire a big hug. Azayla Deegan gets some help tying her new Pokemon sneakers from her grandmother. Boys visit while eating breakfast. Zella Boshkaykin walks into the building with her mother Julia. Hazel Strong is not quite used to waking up early for school. photos by J. Summit



**Lots of new faces at Vermilion Country School**

TOWER- It was rather busy at Vermilion Country School's open house on Aug. 29 as families of returning and new students stopped by to meet the new and returning staff, complete school paperwork, and sign up for elective classes. Students had to complete a checklist of 10 items, which ensured everyone got all their paperwork completed, families got to meet the new and returning teachers and staff, students got their locker and chromebook assignments, picked out their two elective classes, got their transportation and van routes information, and everyone had time to get any questions answered.

Heglin, Karen Maxwell, and Katherine Nesteroff  
 > Community Liaison: Adrienne Whiteman  
 > School Social Worker: Catelin Vaida  
 > Other staff at the school include drivers Greg Dostert, Amy Heglin, Jordan Gawboy; and custodian Doug Workman.

Right: School director Sam O'Brien signs in students.  
 Below: Students get their paperwork completed.  
 Below right: Karen Maxwell and Marjory Wood give locker assignments to students.  
 photos by J. Summit



VCS staff for the new school year includes:  
 > School director: Sam O'Brien  
 > Science/Field Studies: Sam Magnuson  
 > Humanities: Nick "Gerri" Gerritson  
 > Lead teacher/Math: Amy Hendrickson  
 > Student Success Counselor: Jackie Ridings  
 > Culinary/Special Ed Para: Nikki Nappa  
 > Special Education: Tim Kulik, Benjamin Gertz-Blumenstock, and Marjory Wood  
 > Special Ed Paras: Amy



**KUGLER TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING**

The Kugler Town Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, September 11, 2024 at 5 p.m. at the Kugler Town Hall.

Christopher Suihkonen, Town Clerk

*Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 6, 2024*



COOK CITY COUNCIL

# Council hears from FEMA experts at meeting

Substantial damage assessments, flood insurance were primary topic covered in presentations

COOK- Flood damage assessment in Cook is now in the phase of determining whether or not individual buildings will be required to meet current rebuilding standards required by the city through its participation in the National Flood Insurance Program.

As a participant in the NFIP, the city of Cook agreed to adopt and enforce floodplain management regulations that meet or exceed Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) standards. Property owners are eligible to get flood insurance through NFIP, although they may also use commercial insurers. Cook's participation makes the city eligible for federal assistance in the wake of June's flood, but that aid is associated with reconstruction that aligns with required standards.

Brian Killen, senior floodplain manager for FEMA Region 5, was at last Thursday's Cook City Council meeting to explain the concept of substantial damage and what it means for residential and business owners in Cook when it comes to making property repairs or modifications that fall in line with the required

standards.

"As we look at flood-damaged structures specifically in your regulated floodplain, we have to look at how much (cost) is possible to repair that structure compared to what the fair market value is," Killen said. Killen explained that if repairs would cost more than 50 percent of a structure's fair market value, then the owner would be required to bring the structure in line with current standards.

"We would need to notify the property owners that they need to elevate or floodproof the structure," Killen said. "Typically, with residential you would need to elevate the structure at least above the floodplain, and if it was commercial floodproof it to prevent water from getting into the building."

Killen said he's been working with city officials to compile a list of buildings that may have suffered substantial damage, and after owners have been notified the next step would be to get an engineer to formally inspect those structures.

While commercial structures that are substantially damaged have the option to floodproof the building to

keep flood waters out, residential structures have to be elevated above the flood plain for safety reasons, Killen said.

"You have to elevate it above the flood waters to really reduce that risk," he said.

At the request of Mayor Harold Johnston, Killen emphasized that the rules aren't unique to Cook.

"This substantial damage rule has been in place for decades now, and it is in all the Minnesota communities that participate in the flood program," Killen said. "It's in their ordinances - this is one of the core things."

City Administrator Theresa Martinson said that individual meetings will be conducted with property owners about the substantial damage determinations.

"Every situation is different, so we plan to meet with them," she said. "We have instituted a flood plain ordinance - this just takes it to another level because of the floods. And we'd like to offer them additional information."

FEMA Region 5 Flood Insurance Liaison James Sink was present to talk about disaster assistance and

flood insurance.

Sink reminded meeting attendees that the federal disaster declaration was for all of St. Louis County.

"If you had damage to your home from the severe storms or flooding that happened between June 16 and July 4, you are eligible to apply for disaster assistance," Sink said.

He noted that in addition to assistance from FEMA, homeowners may qualify for assistance from the Small Business Administration.

"The Small Business Administration is not just about business," he said. "They also offer assistance to homeowners for damage to their home that is over and above the assistance that FEMA can offer."

Sink said recipients of flood disaster assistance should not expect an amount that would return a home to its pre-flood condition.

"Disaster assistance is not insurance," he said. "Disaster assistance from FEMA is intended to make a home safe, sanitary, and functional."

Flood insurance, however, can provide more extensive coverage and does not need a disaster declaration to

invoke, Sink said. And anyone is eligible to apply for flood insurance.

"There's been a lot of misinformation, and a lot of insurance agents in the area are confused, but I promise you that every single one of you who has a building in the city of Cook or in unincorporated St. Louis County, you can purchase flood insurance," Sink said. "That is because you have that floodplain management ordinance that Brian was talking about. And one more thing about flood insurance and FEMA and the National Flood Insurance Program is that you do not have to get it from us. You can buy flood insurance in the private sector. We just want people to have flood insurance. Less than one half of one percent of residential buildings in Minnesota are protected by a flood insurance policy. We just want people to have flood insurance."

Sink explained that homeowners in Cook whose property is in the floodplain and who receive either FEMA or SBA disaster assistance are required to get a flood insurance policy for their property. He noted that the amount of insurance nec-

essary is only enough to cover the amount of the disaster assistance provided.

"If you've got \$5,000 in disaster assistance, you only need to have a \$5,000 flood insurance policy," he said.

For those with income-based needs, Sink said, the necessary flood insurance can be obtained through FEMA and the amount of a three-year premium will be deducted up front from the disaster assistance award. They will have to maintain flood insurance at their own expense after the three years are up.

Sink also said that there is a common misperception that flood insurance premiums are outlandishly expensive.

"Flood insurance is not as expensive as people are led to believe," he said. "Here in St. Louis County, on average, it's \$723 for an entire year. I heard someone say \$900 a month, but no - \$723 a year." Sink said that FEMA will be working with the Minnesota Department of Commerce to canvas all of the insurance agents in counties with disaster declarations to provide one-on-one education about flood insurance.

## NORTH WOODS SCHOOL



### Back to school!!!

Top: Third graders Kamden Ableman, left, and Kaiden Kuhlmann wear determined looks as they head for their buses.

Center: Fifth grader Kendal Duame appears happy to get outside after her first day back.

Upper right: Fourth graders Bentley Frazer, left, and Rockie Jo Weston call it a day.

Lower right: Senior Aliya Ehrbright, left, takes advantage of the end of the day to check her cell phone on the first day that North Woods implemented new restrictions on cell phone use during instructional time. Sophomore Kaelyn Ehrbright walks beside her.

photos by D. Colburn



## Cook-Orr Calendar

### Author to speak at exhibit reception on Friday at gallery

COOK- Special guest author Katherina Johnson will be in Cook on Friday, Sept. 6 to keynote the opening reception for the September artists display at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery.

An author who grew up on a rocky farm on the Mesabi Iron Range, Johnson, from the Fond du Lac Reservation, is a teacher and writer of many books and poetry. She wrote "The Wind and The Drum," a well-known book about a girl named Tuuli who lived in the Arctic lands of the Midnight Sun where the winters are long and harsh. Johnson has a new book just coming out, "Belzi's Blizzard." Johnson will speak at 6 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

The reception will begin at 5 p.m. to honor the member artists whose work is featured in the gallery in September.

a collective of artists who gather at the gallery on Monday evenings to encourage each artist to explore their chosen art medium surrounded by other supportive and inspirational crators, created the works on display this month.

While admission to the exhibit is free, patrons will get two treats for the price of one this month. The Open Art group collaborated on one creation, combining their interpretation of Vincent Van Gogh's well-known "Starry Night" painting.

Participants in the "Starry Night" collaboration are: JoAnn Anderson, Jim DeVries, Jody Feist, Linda Freeman, Cheryl Harelstad, Mel Moschler and Kathy Sorgeafrel.

Group members also have created pieces celebrating the city of Cook.

The NWFA Gallery is located at 210 S River St. The gallery's open hours are Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

NWFA is a nonprofit membership arts organization with the goal of inspiring, nurturing and celebrating the arts in the region of Cook. For more information send an email to nwfamn.org@gmail.com, visit the NWFA website at www.nwfamn.org, or see their page on Facebook.

### Cook History Club to resume meetings next Wednesday

COOK- The Cook History Club will resume meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 11 at 10 a.m. at St Mary's Catholic Church social hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Do you have old pictures and stories about Cook and surrounding areas? Come join the fun of reminiscing and documenting local history. The group will compile pictures and stories that can be shared with future generations.

This event is sponsored by the Cook Lions Club.

## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



Crane Lake Chapel again hosted National Night Out on Aug. 6. Enough money was donated to give \$3,000 donations to both the Buyck and Crane Lake fire departments. This year the chapel raised twice as much as last year. Pictured is Pastor Steve Bergerson presenting a check for \$3,000 to Crane Lake Fire Chief Jeff Sandborn.

### Thank You

Thank you, Jerry Ohotto, for donating gravel 2 years in a row, Justin Nukala for donating the equipment, and Brad Simpson for donating the labor for a job well done. The parking lot is in much better condition because of your generosity. The Veterans greatly appreciate your gift and continued support.

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CANNABIS MANAGEMENT

# Three in area get spots in cannabis license lottery

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook/Orr Editor

**REGIONAL**— When Minnesota legislators passed sweeping cannabis reform legislation in 2023, a cornerstone of the proposal was providing “social equity” in the licensing process for groups that had been harmed by past enforcement of marijuana prohibition.

Revised in a 2024 update to the law, the social equity program aims to give a fair chance to those most affected by the war on drugs, including veterans, people with prior marijuana convictions, those from high-poverty areas, and small farmers. The goal is to ensure these groups can participate in the legal cannabis market.

The Minnesota Office of Cannabis Management conducted a pre-approval process for social equity applicants that ended on Aug. 12. Those who qualified will compete in a lottery for a limited number of licenses reserved specifically for social equity recipients and will have the opportunity to get a head start on their businesses prior to the issuance of a formal license.

Among 1,817 pre-ap-

provals are applicants from Cook, Tower, and Ely, who like other Minnesotans are competing against a field that is heavily inundated with out-of-state applicants for a piece of the action in what is expected to be a \$1.5 billion market by 2030.

Only 802 of the pre-approved applications —about 44 percent—came from Minnesota residents. The remainder came from across the country, with many applicants from California and Arizona. Legislators chose not to include a residency requirement in the cannabis legislation because court actions in other states have struck down residency provisions, including in Maine, where a federal judge deemed a residency requirement to be unconstitutional.

This out-of-state interest has created tension between those wanting to build a local industry and those seeking to capitalize on Minnesota’s emerging market, including well-funded, out-of-state entrepreneurs.

“We knew out-of-state parties were going to come in, so it didn’t take some of us by surprise,” said Carol Moss, a

cannabis industry attorney and member of the state Cannabis Advisory Council. “We knew we couldn’t keep out-of-state parties out because that has been deemed unconstitutional in other states.”

**Lottery chances**

The Office of Cannabis Management will award just 280 pre-approved licenses across nine different business license categories. The two most sought-after licenses in the lottery are for cannabis microbusinesses and cannabis mezzobusinesses.

Cannabis microbusinesses “can grow, make, sell, and buy cannabis (including plants and seedlings) and lower-potency hemp products. They can also have on-site lounges where customers can use cannabis,” according to the office’s website. Pre-approved applicants in Tower and Ely are in this category. With 586 applicants for 100 licenses to be awarded in the lottery, applicants have roughly a one-in-six chance of success.

The competition is even stiffer in the cannabis mezzobusiness category, which includes the applicant from

Cook. A mezzobusiness license allows an entrepreneur to operate up to three locations and allows for triple the square footage of cultivation space compared to a microbusiness. The Office of Cannabis Management received 372 requests for this type of license, but will award only 23 in the lottery, a one-in-16 chance.

Lottery winners will still have hurdles to clear before moving ahead with their business development. They will have to demonstrate to state regulators that they have a viable business location, local approvals, adequate funding, and that the primary investors meet social equity criteria.

A key revision in the law this year allows early cultivation for micro- and mezzobusinesses. This provision aims to ensure that there is product available for sale when dispensaries open in the spring of 2025.

Meanwhile, those who don’t win one of the pre-approved social equity licenses in the lottery will still be eligible for the regular cannabis licensing process. A second lottery for all applicants has yet to be scheduled, and the

state has placed temporary caps on certain licenses, such as microbusinesses, testing facilities, and delivery services, to manage the market’s rollout. These caps will be lifted once the industry is fully operational.

However, the social equity applicant mix may hold clues that the rollout of the industry could face some challenges. For example, cannabis products must be tested by independent labs before they can be sold, yet there were only five applicants for the 50 licenses available in the lottery. Cannabis transporters and wholesalers had only half of the applicants necessary to fill the lottery awards in those categories.

**Maintaining fairness**

The Office of Cannabis Management is taking steps to prevent large corporations and multi-state operators from exploiting the social equity system by partnering with applicants to secure licenses. This has been an issue in other states, such as Missouri, where regulators have had to revoke permits due to such practices.

“That helps us make sure that there aren’t any large

corporations or multi-state operators that might be trying to sort of get in and game the system through an ownership with a social equity applicant, sort of on the front end,” said Josh Collins, communications director for the office.

**Demographics**

A breakdown of the verified social equity applicant pool reveals that most are military veterans, making up 39 percent of the total. Originally, social equity provisions included only veterans with disabilities, members of the National Guard and veterans who were demoted because of cannabis-related offenses, but the Legislature changed that this year to make all veterans eligible.

Other groups that made up a significant percentage of the applicants include those with marijuana-related convictions (29 percent), individuals from high-poverty or high-enforcement areas (25 percent), individuals with dependents who have marijuana-related convictions (six percent), and small farmers (one percent).

## HARVEST...Continued from page 1

Eagle Customs. Some new vendors are Anja Parenteau Pottery, White Pine Artworks, B Friendly, and Rabuck Handmade Knives & Leather. These are just a few of the new and returning vendors.

Plan to spend the day and visit them all.

The food court features Curbside Crepes, Becky’s Oriental, SB Concessions, and many other favorites. It has delicious offerings, including

two new area trucks: Rose Cottage Baking Co. from Cook, with its wonderful baked goods, and Grilled Cheese Galore from Gilbert, with amazing grilled cheese everyone will love.

Of course, the Kiwanis are in the park pavilion, dishing out delicious pie, coffee, ice cream, and other treats.

In addition to the vendors in Whiteside Park, “Shop Harvest Days” for Ely’s

storefront businesses starts on Thursday, Sept. 5, and runs through Sunday, Sept. 8. It begins a day ahead of the festival, so visiting vendors at the park can have time to shop, and features featured products,

sales, and special events.

The Ely Chamber of Commerce will have a map at [ely.org/events](http://ely.org/events) on the Harvest Moon Festival page.

## ARREST...Continued from page 1

legal limit of 0.08 percent for most drivers. Under state law, however, school bus drivers are prohibited from having any

alcohol in their system while operating a bus.

Seventeen children were on the bus at the time of the

arrest, but no injuries were reported. School district staff took custody of the bus and students, and parents were

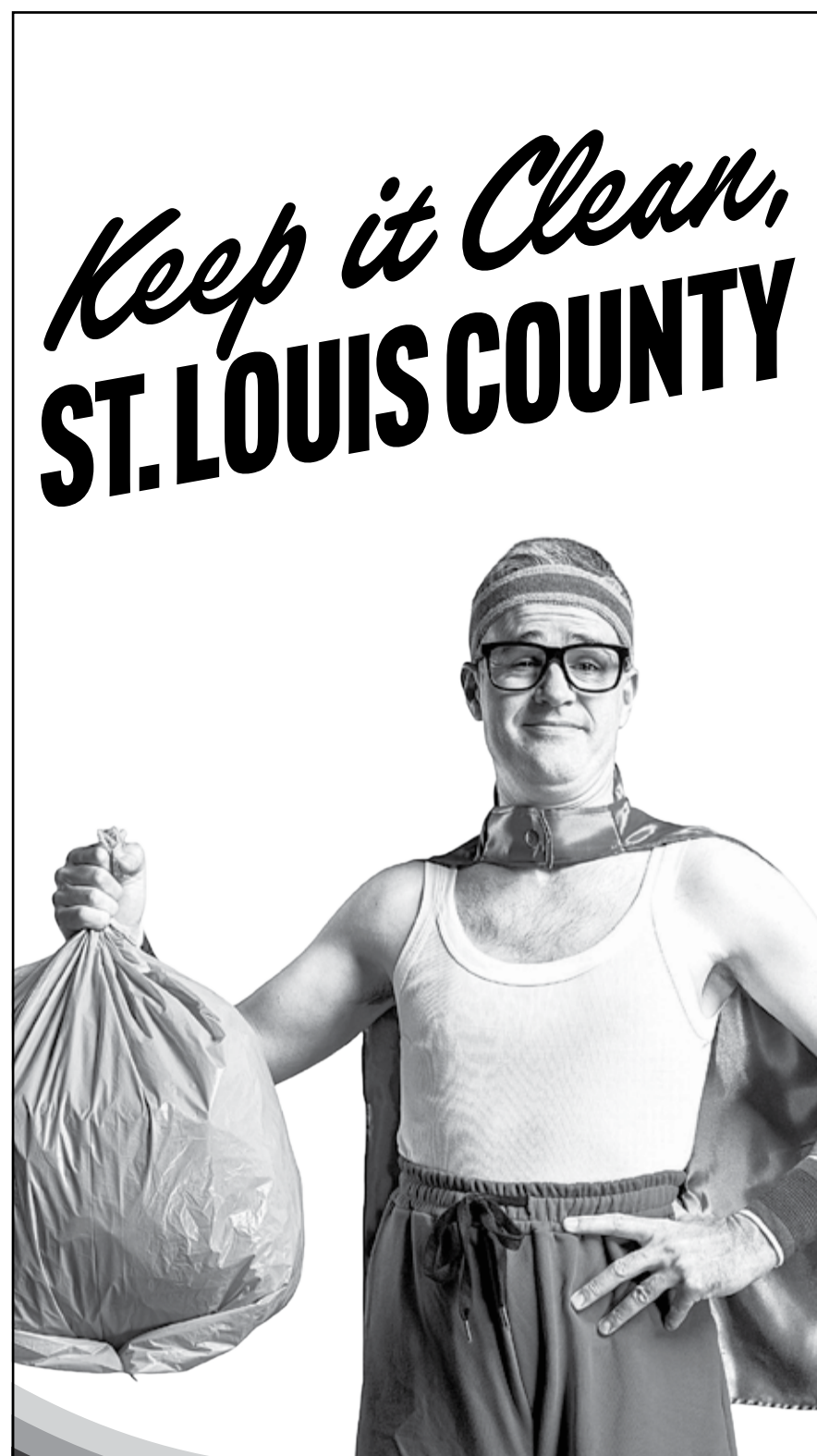
notified.

Israelson was arrested and booked into the St. Louis County Jail on preliminary

charges of second-degree DWI, a gross misdemeanor.

The St. Louis County Attorney’s Office will make

the official charging decision at a later point.



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<p><b>ASH RIVER TRAIL CANISTER SITE</b> 11391 Ash River Trail</p>	<p><b>SUMMER HOURS</b> Wed: 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Sat: 2:30 p.m. — 5:30 p.m.</p>
<p><b>COOK TRANSFER STATION</b> 2134 S. Beatty Rd. Cook</p>	<p><b>HOURS</b> Mon: 10 a.m.—6 p.m. Tues thru Sat: 9 a.m.—3:30 p.m.</p>
<p><b>COUNTY 77 CANISTER SITE</b> 2038 County Rd. 77 Greenwood Twp</p>	<p><b>SUMMER HOURS</b> Tue: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m. Thu: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Sat: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sun: Noon—6 p.m.</p>
<p><b>KABETOGAMA LAKE CANISTER SITE</b> 10150 Gamma Rd</p>	<p><b>SUMMER HOURS</b> Mon, Wed: 9 a.m. - Noon Sat: 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.</p>
<p><b>ORR CANISTER SITE</b> 4038 Hwy 53</p>	<p><b>SUMMER HOURS</b> Tue: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Thu: 2 p.m.— 7 p.m. Sat: 8 a.m.—noon Sun: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.</p>
<p><b>PORTAGE CANISTER SITE</b> 6992 Crane Lake Rd, Buyck</p>	<p><b>SUMMER HOURS</b> Tue: 2 p.m. - 6 p.m. Thu: 10 a.m.— 1 p.m. Sat: 1 p.m.—5 p.m. Sun: 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.</p>
<p><b>REGIONAL LANDFILL</b> 5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia</p>	<p><b>HOURS</b> Mon-Fri: 8 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Sat: 8 a.m.—3:30 p.m.</p>
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TRANSPORTATION

# Dueling construction an inconvenience for Cook-to-Tower drivers

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— The closure of Hwy. 1 on Tuesday, just west of the Y Store, created more than the usual inconvenience for travelers between the Cook and Tower areas this week.

For weeks this summer, most of the east-west traffic in the area has shifted onto Hwy. 1 to

avoid the traffic delays and rough conditions stemming from the ongoing mill and overlay project along County Rd. 115, the other east-west option between Tower and Cook.

But that option disappeared as of Tuesday this week for the replacement of a culvert about three miles west of the Y Store. Rather than work with vehicle

traffic, the contractors opted to close the road entirely, detouring the Hwy. 1 traffic onto County Rd. 115. While the surface milling on that project is complete, portions of the road remained unpaved as of Tuesday and work and traffic delays were continuing on the project.

According to MnDOT, work on the Hwy. 1 culvert project is

**Right: Hwy. 1 from Hwy. 53 nearly to the Y Store was closed this week for culvert replacement.**

photo by M. HelMBERGER

expected to last through next Wednesday, Sept. 11. It's unclear whether Hwy. 1 will be closed that entire time, but detour signs will be posted until the roadway is reopened.



## DAMAGE...Continued from page 1

Velde said progress has been slowed by the overwhelming nature of the damage and the limited road staff available to work on repairs. The forest service road system is almost entirely gravel and often minimal maintenance, which makes it particularly vulnerable to the kind of overland flooding experienced during the June 18 storm.

The damage wasn't just confined to roads. Velde said several bridges were also damaged or destroyed and replacement of those structures will take more time. He said some material shortages have also contributed to the delay on bridge repairs.

While the cost of repairing all the roads could be substantial, Velde said the forest service is not currently intending to abandon any roads at this point. "We don't want to leave roads permanently closed," he said. "None have been written off at this point."

The national forest has been seeking outside assis-

**Right: Portaging a canoe through the washout at the Mudro Lake access, north of Ely.** photo courtesy USFS

tance. "We have gotten some extra help from other forests," said Velde. "But we didn't budget for road maintenance at a level to cover all this additional stuff that was caused by the storm. It was an overwhelming amount of work for the staff we had aboard." Velde said the Superior has applied for some emergency funding but it remains uncertain how much may ultimately be made available.

He said uncertainty around the presidential election and potential future funding for the agency is keeping the budget strings pretty tight, a situation he doesn't expect to resolve itself until after the November election.

Velde said staff on the forest have been working hard to address the situation. "The one factor that is not contrib-



uting to the long timeline [for repairs] is the folks who work here on the forest. Engineers and trail crews have been doing a great job. Putting in extra hours, it's been a tremendous effort."

New road closures announced Aug. 29 on the Superior include:

➤FR 199 (Hunting Shack

Rd.), FR 487 (Gold Mine Rd.), and FR 487A (Gold Mine Impoundment Rd.), all on the LaCroix District.

➤FR 528, FR 721 and 721A (Pine Lane), and FR 1822 (Trigstad Road), all on the Laurentian District.

➤FR 388 (August Lake Road) on the Kawishiwi District.

## HEALTH CARE

# Nursing shortage eases statewide

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL – The nursing staffing shortage that reached crisis levels during the COVID-19 pandemic has eased statewide, according to a Minnesota Hospital Association (MHA) report, but challenges in health care staffing remain, particularly for rural areas of the state.

The MHA analysis, released Tuesday, paints a mixed picture of the status of nursing in the state's health care system.

The number of nurse job vacancies in 2023 declined for the first time since the onset of the COVID pandemic, with the number of working nurses increasing for a fifth consecutive year. Over that same five years, the number of registered nurses increased by 17.6 percent, driven in part by licensed practical nurses and certified nurse assistants

getting the additional education necessary to upgrade their licenses. On average, 3.8 percent of LPNs and 4.6 percent of CNAs became RNs in each of the past three years.

But while there may be more registered nurses in the workforce, over 60 percent of them are working less than 32 hours a week, an all-time low. And in rural Minnesota, the departure rate of nurses from health care facilities increased by 22 percent. Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital currently has openings for two registered nurses and one LPN, and the Cook Hospital is seeking one registered nurse for the hospital and another for the care center, as well as two nursing assistants for the care center.

Pay rates could affect recruitment of nurses in rural areas. According to the report, Minnesota nurses

See...NURSES pg. 11



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ELY SCHOOLS

# Progress made on new windows for Ely schools

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- The Ely School Board didn't need the construction update received on Aug. 27 to know that the unsightly orange window panels at the Washington Elementary School are finally gone. The school board cast its final "good riddance" at its study session last week as Facilities Director Tim Leeson caught board members up on the progress of the district's Phase II improvements project.

The ongoing construction project covers many items which were dropped from the 21st Century facilities project due to inflation-driven cost overruns and a costly unforeseen sewer repair. In addition to the windows, the elementary school bathrooms were renovated, with the additions of full-length doors on bathroom stalls and new automatic sinks.

While the exterior look of the elementary school has improved, the



Gaping holes in the front of Ely Memorial High School as workers continue to install windows at the school at 8:15 a.m. on the first day of school on Tuesday. photo by C. Clark

inside effect of the windows is a hit with teachers.

"Andrea Thomas's (class) room in the southeast corner had

no windows and now she has two and it makes a world of difference," Superintendent Anne Oelke told the board.

Kindergarten teacher Heidi Omerza raved about her new windows Tuesday morning before her students arrived. "I love this," she said. "The new windows are wonderful. It's so bright in here I don't need to turn on the lights."

Ely Memorial High School also is getting new windows, though work on that building is not yet complete. Window installation is ongoing on the north side of the building, which was in progress even as school started for the year on Tuesday.

The district has arranged spare classrooms to hold classes while their regular rooms wait for their new windows.

"Work on the high school windows, blinds, and sills will continue into November, but it will be completed this year," Leeson informed the board.

Completed in time for the start of school were the windows in the main, new keyed and fobbed doors, and a renovated art room and chemistry lab. In other business at the study

session:

Oelke informed the board that the school district is readying a survey in support of its strategic planning listening sessions which it will conduct this fall. Oelke reported that the link to the survey will be posted to the [ely.k12.mn.us](http://ely.k12.mn.us) website. The time window for school system stakeholders to fill out the survey will run through Friday, Oct. 4.

The school district has three open positions to fill during the upcoming general election in November; however, only two candidates filed to run for those seats on the school board. Eligible residents of the school district can be elected as write-in candidates. If there is more than one write-in candidate, the top write-in candidate wins. Write-in candidates can decline their election.

In the event there is no write-in candidate, the board can appoint a member for one year but most hold a special election to seat a member in the following year.

PUBLIC LANDS

# Forest Service extends public comment on school trust land sale

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — The Superior National Forest has extended the public comment period on the forest service's proposal to purchase approximately 80,000 acres of school trust lands located within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

"With only 43 comments received to date combined

with requests for an extension during our open houses we have extended the comment period through Sept. 17," said Tom Hall, Superior National Forest Supervisor. "We also now have a 27-minute video presentation on the project page to help the public better understand the project and the process." The scoping phase of NEPA is not a decision, it's an opportunity for the public

to give feedback prior to a decision.

The scoping period is an important step in the process established by the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA, as it allows the public to understand the purpose and need of the proposed action. The public is also encouraged to submit comments during this time as it allows the forest service to potentially refine

the proposed action through consideration of issues or potential impacts raised.

Originally, the scoping comment period was to close on Sept. 3. However, after receiving input and questions through recent public engagement, forest officials opted for the two-week extension that will allow more time for the public to submit feedback on the proposed purchase

of school trust and state tax forfeit land managed by St. Louis County within the BWCAW.

Importantly, the proposed action described in the scoping package has not changed. Comments should still be submitted by using the "Comment on Project" tab on the right-hand side of the project webpage. The project webpage remains the same

and can be found at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/superior/?project=66600>.

Hard copy comments may also be accepted by sending to: Thomas Hall, Forest Supervisor, ATTN School Trust, St. Louis County, and TCF Land Purchase Project, Forest Headquarters, 8901 Grand Avenue Place, Duluth, MN 55808.

## NURSES...Continued from page 1

have the highest rate of pay in the nation, as adjusted for the cost of living, averaging \$95,000 in 2023. That can work to increase retention but can also act as a draw to pull nurses from rural positions to more lucrative urban jobs. Minneapolis and St. Paul rank in the top 10 U.S. cities for nurse pay.

The report also highlights concern about the impact retirements will have on the

number of physicians in the state. Over 14 percent of general practitioners and 20 percent of specialty physicians are expected to retire in the next five years. The impact will have a disproportionate effect in rural areas, as overall physician employment in Greater Minnesota has declined in recent years.

A 2023 report from the Minnesota Department of Health sheds more light on

the looming rural physician shortage. The median age of physicians practicing in rural areas of the state is 59 years old, compared to 47 in urban areas. According to MDH, one in three rural physicians plan to retire by 2028.

The MHA report indicates that the development of new medical school campuses in Duluth and St. Cloud and a new nursing program at the University of St. Thomas

could help to shore up the Greater Minnesota health care workforce, as could increased internship possibil-

ities. Another key component to building the workforce is increasing health professional loan forgiveness, the report

suggests.

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Hans Olsen 13	Devin Chamberlin 6	Wendy Varey 1
Josh Sutter 11	Mel Vagel 5	Alex Maple 1
Paul Bloom 9	Sam Sutter 5	Deb Shenett 1
Tristen Tuura 9	Dan Myers 5	Aaron Holmsten 1
Deann Schatz 8	Colleen Durham 5	Jeremy Watson
Scott Sutter 8	Tammy Lasart 5	Jason Hughes
Jon Shenett 7	Jessica Hoffman 4	Kassidy O'Neal
Michael Thompson 7	Megan Arends 3	Krystal Bergstrom
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## REMEMBERING 9-11-01

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LAKE VERMILION

# Classic boats draw big crowds at annual show

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- The docks at The Landing on Lake Vermilion were crowded with people on Sunday as they surveyed the entries in the 32nd annual Lake Vermilion Antique and Classic Boat Show.

"The turnout seemed to be really good," said Sandy Jackson, one of the event's organizers. "It helps when it's not 95 degrees."

The Captain's Choice award winner was a 22-foot 1948 Hacker-Craft named "Miss Minnesota" from Lake Minnetonka, owned by Steve and Nancy Shoop.

"It was one of four transport boats to Big Island (on Lake Minnetonka) for the Excelsior amusement park," Jackson said. "Steve found it in a gas station garage in Excelsior. It had been sitting there for years and he offered the guy some money and got the boat."

The People's Choice award went to "Swan Song," a 1938 Chris-Craft custom runabout owned by Terry Hurley.

The show, sponsored by Land-O-Lakes Classic Boat Club, also serves as a benefit for the Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade and the Vermilion Lake Association. Jackson said they were able to present \$2,000 checks to each organization from the proceeds of this year's show.



Left: The Captain's Choice award winner was a 22-foot 1948 Hacker-Craft named "Miss Minnesota" from Lake Minnetonka, owned by Steve and Nancy Shoop

Below left: This 1974 Thistle sailboat "Yellow Feather" stood out from among the motored entries in the show, both for its mode of propulsion and its bright yellow color. The owners are Jim and Amy Andrews.

Below right: One of the larger boats in this year's show was "Sally Anne," a 26-foot 1947 Stancraft day cruiser owned by Mark and Sally Ludlow.

Bottom right: A trio of youngsters enjoys sitting and talking near the "Suzie Q," a familiar entry in the show. The 1926 Old Town canvas canoe has a canvas-wrapped exterior and canvas-wrapped sponsons, air-filled chambers, attached to each side that make the canoe unsinkable. The canoe is owned by Steve Young and Sandy Jackson.

photos by D. Colburn



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# 2024 Harvest Moon Festival

## From Outward Bound to full-time artist

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- Don't believe that art jobs are real jobs? You should talk to Nina Wray.

Wray, the owner of Moon Dog Studio, is a full-time ceramicist, living and working in Ely and is the *Timberjay's* featured artist for the Harvest Moon Festival.

While Wray was raised in the Twin Cities area, she was born in Hobart, Tasmania to an American mother and an Australian father. Her family moved to Minnesota from Australia when she was around one year old.

Wray credits her interest in ceramic arts to her experience at Plymouth's Wayzata High School and her art teacher. "Pottery was the thing that got me through school when I didn't want to go to school," Wray told the *Timberjay*. "My teacher, Nancy Hanily-Dolan, made students take art seriously."

Wray attended Colorado State University with the aim of making art a career but left after three semesters. "The big school and I just weren't a good fit." While she decided what to do and where to go next, she became an intern with the Voyageur Outward Bound School in 2010. She liked working for Outward Bound and stayed for the next ten years. Along the way, she married Brian Liggett, who she met at Outward Bound.

### Starting a business

Wray picked up a used potter's wheel and kiln in 2018 and started making ceramics again as a hobby. "At first, I was making stuff for family and friends. Then, I started looking over what I wanted to do for work and investigated if this was a viable career."

In 2019, Wray and Liggett bought a house in Ely across from the high school. Wray installed her



Above: Nina Wray in her basement studio. Below: A selection of cups that will be for sale at Harvest Moon. photos by C. Clark  
Right: The bottom stamp on Wray's pots made for United Airlines Mileage Plus Visa cardholders. photo by N. Wray



wheel in the basement. Wray produced pottery for sale part-time while working part-time with Outward Bound.

In 2021, she went fulltime with Moon Dog Studio, taking her wares to weekend craft fairs from May through December. She also sells her work at the Ely Farmers Market,

the Blueberry/Art and Harvest Moon festivals as well as online at moon-dogceramicstudio.com.

Wray has already developed a dedicated customer base, and she's recently expanded into wholesale and custom orders. She's also placed her ceramic pieces in the Meadows Gallery in Ely, the A.M.F. Gallery



in the Northrup King Building in Minneapolis, and the museum stores at the Minnesota History Center and the Mill City Museum.

The regular round of craft shows have paid off in more than just sales, said Wray. She's met contacts whose custom work or wholesale requests helped her to extend the business reach of Moon Dog Studio.

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**Sunday: 10-3**

Her extension into wholesale production stemmed from a conversation at a recent craft fair. "We met at my booth and we chatted. She was with the Minnesota Historical Society, and through her I was able to sell my work in the museum stores. She's also met others who came later with large custom requests, like the owners of Ember & Bean Roasting Co. The business has a pair of shops, in Hudson, Wis., and Oakdale, Minn., selling barista-made coffee drinks and coffee beans roasted on the premises. Ember & Bean ordered a coffee shop's worth of identical sets of dishes including cups, saucers, and bowls. Another order saw Wray producing corporate gifts: close to two hundred identical pots all stamped with the custom logo for United Airlines Mileage Plus Visa cardholders.

### Moon Dog

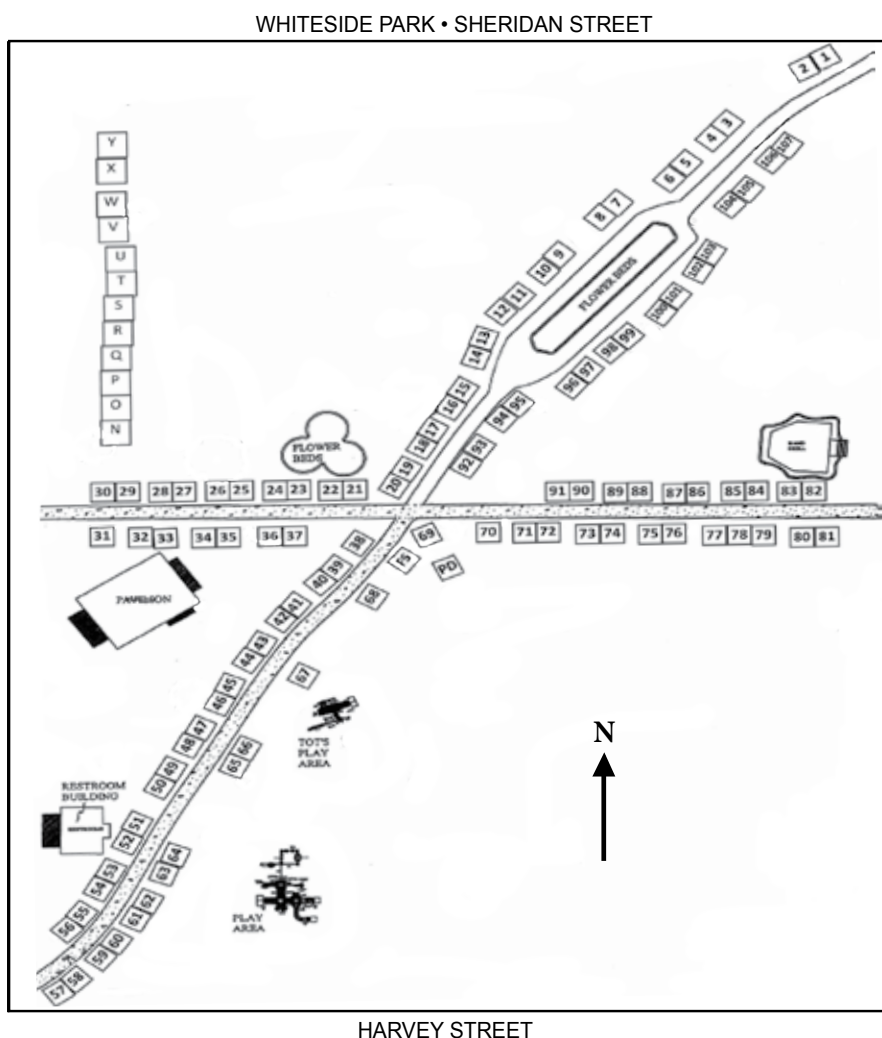
Wray named her business after the rare phenomenon of paraselene, commonly called moon dogs, where a halo or one or more bright spots appears around the moon. This atmospheric rarity is comparable to the equally uncommon occurrence of parhelion, or sun dogs.

"I have been lucky enough to see moon dogs on many of my trips into the wilderness. I chose the name to remember those times and my love of the outdoors," Wray said.

## Your guide to the 2024 Harvest Moon Festival

Use the map below to locate all your favorite artists and food booths

Organization	Booth#
Arkstone	16
Bear Island Art Factory LLC	74
Becky's Oriental Foods	A
Beverley's Jewels	67
Beyond Nuts	Q1
BoB-a-Q Smoke-house & Grill	K.L.M
Brian Dean Miller Glass	11
Burly Babe	103
Christian's Maple Syrup	38
Classic Creations	61.62
Coconut Dreams Skin Care	98.99
Community Caring for Community (Well Being Development)	55
Curbside Crepes	N.O
Dafne Caruso Artist & Jeweler	91
David Johnson Cabinet Maker	82
Debra Zubrod	107
DeerTshirts.com	59.60
Elizabeth x2	8
Ely Chamber of Commerce	69
Ely Hoop Club	32
Ely Kiwanis Club	Pavilion
Ely Northern Stitches	18
Fair Haven Honey Farm	37



Field of Dreams Gifts & Crafts	90	P.E.O.	65
Fiskur Leather	102	Permanent by Abigail	40
Fredrick's Forest	5	Pharr Thrown Pottery	75.76
Frozen Tundra	P	Prange's Fabric	
Gio Stay Alive	25	Pictures	52
Good Wolf Bowls	100	Raucous Jewelry	97
Hagar's Viking Seasoning	15	Raven Knives	71
Heavenly Designs Wood-working	14	Reduce, Reinvent, Relove	85
Heim-Made	80.81	Rusty Nail Woodcraft	23.24
Jenifer LeClair, Author	7	SB Concessions	C.D
Katie Bromme Watercolor	73	Schweiby's Concessions	H.I
Keepsakes	21.22	Sheyenne Paddle Co.	101
Kettle Mania	B	Smokey Photo	86.87
Leather Eagle Customs	3.4	Superior Currents	34
Ledge Wood Creations	53	Superior Photographs	104.105
Levandowski Pottery	13	Suz and Roo	26
LHR Images	27	Tanner Talbot Pottery	48
Linda's Luminaries	64	Terri's Treasures	50
Masterpieces	83.84	The Freezing Squirrel	70
MeeMa's Coffee LLC	F.G	The Studio Candle Co	77.78.79
Minnesota Mist	45	Timbers Edge Resources	89
Moon Dog Studio	35	True Vivid Stone LLC	72
Morning Glory Creations	17	Up North Trading Co.	41.42
Mr. G's Legacy	36	Walking Wood	10
Mystic Sparrow	93	Waters Edge Art	92
Naena Jewelry	12	WICOLA	66
Natural Expressions	47	Wild Fern Herbal Soaps	88
North Country Trail Association	46	Wood To Life	49

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**DETAILS 4 BD/1 BTH 2,080 SF**  
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## VOLLEYBALL

# Wolves remain flawless

## Dump Littlefork-Big Falls in straight sets to stay unbeaten

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

ELY — The Timberwolves remain flawless in early season varsity volleyball action as they made short work of Littlefork-Big Falls here on Tuesday. Ely extended its straight set victories to three this season, topping the Vikings 25-14, 25-19, and 25-8. Senior Lilli Rechichi led

Ely's well-balanced offensive attack with 13 kills, one of eight Ely players who notched at least one kill on the night. Rechichi also led in digs, with nine.

Sophomore middle hitter Audrey Kallberg had a strong night as well, posting seven kills and as many digs. Senior Clare Thomas added five kills and three digs, while sophomore Charlotte Hegman added four

kills and six digs. Sophomore setter Gretta Lowe posted 28 assists, four digs, and six ace serves, while junior Sadie Rechichi added three digs and four aces.

The Wolves were set to host Cherry on Thursday night and will face their biggest early season challenge on Saturday, when they take part in the Greenway tournament in

**Ely players Kenzi Huntington and Lilli Rechichi combine on a block during Tuesday's home contest with Littlefork-Big Falls.**

photo by J. Greeney

Coleraine. They'll stay on the road on Monday when they take on Chisholm and will be back home to host Mesabi East on Thursday, Sept. 12.



## FOOTBALL

# North Woods drops season opener 34-18

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

BERTHA- The road to Bertha for their first football game of the season was long for the North Woods Grizzlies, but the ride home was even longer after the Bertha-Hewitt Bears scored a solid 34-18 victory.

The Grizzlies were saddled with the 200-mile jaunt after several schools slated to play nine-man football this year decided not to field teams, with the subsequent need to reschedule creating the long-distance matchup.

"It looked like the first game of the year came with a long bus ride," Grizzlies Head Coach Joel Anderson said. "They're a good football team. I thought we played well, maybe closer than the score might have suggested."

The Bears scored first, but the Grizzlies responded with a second quarter scoring drive capped by a two-yard touchdown plunge by senior Kaden Gornick to tie the game at 6-6.

But while the Bears eventually figured out the Grizzlies defense, North Woods had trouble getting on track offensively until the fourth quarter.

"We had a couple of good drives in the first half, but kind of stymied ourselves with penalties at inopportune times," Anderson said. "We had some open guys but we missed on a couple of things. It really looked like first game jitters."

In the fourth quarter, senior Nick Abramson rushed the ball across the goal line from five yards out to close the gap to 27-12, and senior quarterback Louie Panichi scampered 31 yards for the Grizzlies' final score in the 34-18 loss.

"They were fantastic tacklers," Anderson said of the Bears. "We were one step away from breaking a lot of them, but we couldn't quite get away. They were big, they were strong, and they were fast."

Anderson switched up some things on offense from last season, sending former quarterback and senior Trajen Barto out to wide receiver to take better advantage of his speed and agility. Panichi stepped into the quarterback position, with senior Talen Jarshaw taking some

See **NORTH WOODS...** pg. 5B



## VOLLEYBALL

# Despite injury Grizzlies prevail

## North Woods bests Broncos 3-0

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- Last Thursday's home volleyball match between the North Woods Grizzlies and International Falls Broncos came to a sudden shocking halt when a North Woods player appeared to be seriously injured, filling the gym with an abundance of concern. Junior libero Brynn Chosa crashed to the floor while diving for a ball out of bounds, striking her head and crumpling motionless against the stage. Team personnel and others rushed to her aid as her teammates huddled nearby.

"I really relied on the captains and my assistant to help with the team while I attended to Brynn," Head Coach Kaileen Redmond said. "Without me even asking, Becky (Lappi), Lauren (Burnett) and Izzy (Pascuzzi) stepped up in keeping the girls calm and collected so I was able to maintain my focus on Brynn and the steps in handling that injury."

Cook Ambulance was called, and when EMS personnel arrived the Grizzlies players formed a line to shield their teammate from view as aid was rendered. Within moments the Grizzlies were joined by the Broncos players in a show of support.

"The I-Falls coach and team were so kind throughout the whole night and seeing them nearly immediately join our team

**Above: North Woods players are joined by the I-Falls team in forming a wall to shield injured Grizzly Brynn Chosa from the crowd as emergency responders provide care.**

**Right: Brittin Lappi slams down a block for a point against the Broncos.**

photos by D. Colburn

"The Falls coach and team were so kind throughout the whole night."

NW Head Coach  
Kaileen Redmond

overwhelmed me with gratefulness," Redmond said. "They showed true sportsmanship in this moment and never once pushed us to move faster than we could." In updates posted by her parents to social media, it was reported that Chosa suffered a concussion and was treated and released. Play was stopped for about 30 minutes as Chosa was tended to, and then the teams had a brief warm-up period before the match resumed.

The Grizzlies were up 1-0 and leading 14-9 in the second game



when play was halted, and it took them a few points before regaining their stride. But a big kill by Burnett at 16-12 was the turning point, igniting a 9-2 run to close out a 25-14 win.

The third game was the most competitive of the match, with the Broncos knotting the score at 13-13. Burnett gave the Grizzlies the lead on a little popper over the net, and then Tessa Burnett came in to serve, sparking the team to a four-point run

and an 18-13 edge. It was all the cushion the Grizzlies would need as Brittin Lappi and Lauren Burnett sealed the 25-17 win with kills and claim the straight-set victory.

While North Woods got big hits all night long, Redmond gave credit to the team's defense for the win.

"After Monday's game against MIB we had all agreed that we

See **GRIZZLIES...** pg. 5B

## CROSS COUNTRY

# Grizzlies pace South Ridge runners

GRAND MARAIS- The South Ridge Panthers cross country team, again bolstered by top runners from North Woods School, place third in both the boys and girls divisions of the North Shore Challenge meet at Pincushion Trails in Grand Marais on Thursday, Aug. 29.

The Grizzlies' Alex Burckhardt got off to a good

start to his senior campaign with a second place finish in a time of 17:18.4 for the five-kilometer course, finishing five seconds behind winner Mark Goettel of Duluth East. Eighth-grader Kahlil Lightfeather-Spears came in 17th in the 63-man field with a time of 18:36.6. Lincoln Antikainen finished 29th with a time of 19:56.9.

North Woods' ninth-grader Zoey Burckhardt paced the girls' effort with a fifth-place finish in a time of 20:51.1. Senior Addison Burckhardt toured the course in 21:45.4, placing 14th.

The Panthers were scheduled to compete on Thursday in a meet hosted by Nashauk-Keewatin.

# Wolves kick off new season

VIRGINIA- Ely kicked off the 2024 cross country season on Wed. Aug. 28 in the Rock Ridge Invitational at the Virginia Public Golf Course.

Caid Chittum turned in the top performance of the day for the Wolves, leading the boys to a fifth-place finish in the ten-team field by placing 13th with a time of 18:15.5 for the 5K circuit. Other Ely athletes placing in the top third of the 105 runners included Brooks Brenny,

25th with a time of 18:52 and Mason Kurnava, 28th with a time of 19:03.

Eight schools competed in the girls race, with Ely placing seventh. Mattie Lindsay was the fastest Ely runner, completing the course in 22:02.8, good enough for 20th place. Molly Brophy cracked the top 30 by finishing 29th with a time of 22:38.1.

The Wolves were set to be back in action at Greenway on Thursday.



FOOTBALL

# Broncos crush Ely 54-0 in season opener

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

INTERNATIONAL FALLS—The Broncos bucked the Timberwolves here in the opener of the Section 7A high school football season last Friday, cruising to a 54-0 win.

“We just couldn’t get the ball moving,” said Ely Head Coach Louie Gerzin.

The Broncos scored nearly at will, racking up 27 points by the half, and adding 27 more in the second. Ely simply had no answer. “We never really had any momentum on offense,” said Gerzin. “We struggled to build any kind of drive. If we picked up five yards on a play, we’d lose two on the next.”

With seven seniors on the roster, the Wolves would seem to have the experience to compete this year, but Gerzin notes that many of the seniors have little previous football experience. Given the lopsided score, some of Ely’s younger players saw some playing time in their opening contest. “Some of the freshmen and sophomores got their first taste of varsity football,” said Gerzin. “I think

some were surprised at the intensity, but they settled into it.” The Wolves will be hoping to regroup when they host East Central in their home opener this Friday. Last year, the Wolves lost 16-0 to the Eagles but kept the contest close throughout. “We’re hoping to build on that,” said Gerzin.

“Our team energy has been high and continues to stay

North Woods won the hotly contested match 3-0, taking the first game 25-16 while edging out narrow 25-23 and 25-22 wins in the other games. The Grizzlies were sched-

## GRIZZLIES..Continued from page 4B

needed to focus in on our defense,” she said. “This game showed some serious improvement in that department and I’m pleased all the hard work is paying off.”

The Grizzlies moved to 2-0, and Redmond noted that team chemistry has been key to getting off to a strong start.

elevated as each day goes on,” she said. “We’ve been able to pick each other up after a long rally and errors and move through them together focusing on our long-term goals.”

### Bigfork

The Grizzlies were on the road at Bigfork on Tuesday, where they faced their toughest foe of the young season.

North Woods won the hotly contested match 3-0, taking the first game 25-16 while edging out narrow 25-23 and 25-22 wins in the other games. The Grizzlies were sched-

uled to remain on the road for a Thursday match at Mesabi East and contests on Monday and Tuesday at Deer River and South Ridge.

## NORTH WOODS..Continued from page 4B

snaps as well. Panichi went 4-of-13 passing for 42 yards and threw one interception. Barto caught two passes for 0 yards.

rush. Gornick led the way with 109 yards on 14 carries, while Abramson tallied 75 yards on 18 carries.

Linebackers Gornick and Abramson had six solo tackles each. Sophomore defensive end James Yernatch was the only defensive lineman to

record tackles, with two solos and two assists.

against Kelliher-Northome.

and a lot of our mistakes are correctable. We have a lot of talent. It’s my job to figure out how to use it.”

Anderson was eager to get back on the practice field to prep for Friday’s home opener

“Our guys played well – they’re vastly matured,” Anderson said. “There’s a lot of promising things there,



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**Q: What is a colonoscopy?**  
**A:** For many tests that screen for colorectal cancer, especially a colonoscopy, you’ll need to follow specific dietary restrictions and take a laxative to clear your colon before the procedure. During the procedure, which usually takes about 30-60 minutes, you will be sedated. A flexible tube with a camera is inserted into the rectum to view the colon. It can detect polyps and cancer and allow for their removal during the procedure. It’s typically recommended every ten years.

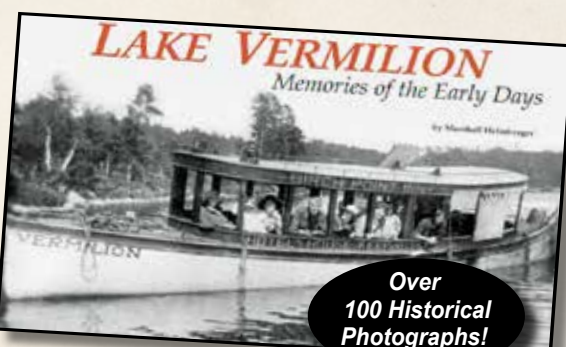
**Q: Where can I get my colonoscopy?**  
**A:** You can ask your primary care provider for a referral to Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital (EBCH). Our surgery team will be happy to help you schedule your colonoscopy with little travel or wait time to get an appointment. EBCH partners with Surgeons from various regional healthcare organizations to provide the experience that is right for you. For more information, call our team at 218-365-8724 or visit our website at [ebch.org](http://ebch.org).

Hospital Connection is an ongoing feature of Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital (EBCH). We are excited to share our most recent updates and information in a question-and-answer format featuring a new topic each week. We will share important information about healthcare at local, state, and national levels, along with exciting information about EBCH, our 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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**SUPPORT GROUPS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**Find It Here**

**SNOWFLAKES**  
 by Japheth Light

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

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

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**Weekly SUDOKU Answer**

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

**Super Crossword STITCHWORK**

**ACROSS**

1 Asteroid belt's largest body  
 6 Ooze  
 10 Lavish party  
 14 PC peripheral  
 19 "Halt!" at sea  
 20 Forearm bone  
 21 Nagging pain  
 22 Amtrak train  
 23 Part of a cylinder lock preventing motion  
 25 Lectures aided by blackboards  
 27 Concerning  
 28 Gigi's "yes"  
 29 Working stiff  
 30 "Bad Guy" singer Billie  
 31 Wrestler's leg lock  
 35 Pop rocker Turner  
 36 Co. big shot  
 37 Eye, to poets  
 38 — Dhabi  
 39 Egg-shaped  
 41 Instant lawn  
 44 Manor  
 46 Original name of the comic strip "Popeye"  
 49 French painter Camille

51 San Diego baseballer  
 52 Pulsate  
 53 Revered one  
 56 Arizona tribe  
 59 Burglarize  
 60 Twosome  
 62 Adhesive-roll containers  
 66 Study of light  
 67 Actor's signal  
 68 "Angel" singer Yoko  
 69 Simple chord  
 70 Flaky dessert  
 71 Bit of body art, informally  
 72 Being staked  
 74 Inoculation creation  
 77 Siblings' daughters  
 78 Noted coach Parseghian  
 79 Scientology's — Hubbard  
 80 With 84-Across, think piece in a newspaper  
 81 Lug along  
 82 — Taco (frozen treat)  
 84 See 80-Across  
 87 Edible fungus whose cap has not yet opened  
 92 Sunday paper extra

96 That, to Lucia since 1440  
 97 Forest, brush or desert  
 98 Pothole filler  
 99 Inclined (to)  
 100 "The Thinning" actress — Marie Johnson  
 101 — diagram (logic image)  
 102 Posting of off-topic replies on an internet forum  
 105 Wearable gift shop item  
 108 BLT spread  
 110 — -mo replay  
 111 Oklahoma tribe  
 112 Women's shoe parts that are wide at the top and bottom and narrower in the middle  
 114 Nine featured items in this puzzle may be found in these  
 117 Eyelike openings  
 118 Bill blocker  
 119 Omani, e.g.  
 120 Relative of largo  
 121 Clear kitchen wrap

122 British school  
 123 Skillets, e.g.  
 124 Lung or heart

**DOWN**

1 "Ya get it?"  
 2 Makes evident  
 3 Went hogwild  
 4 Eleanor of kiddie lit  
 5 Erwin of early films  
 6 District outside a city  
 7 Novelist Bret Easton —  
 8 Boise-to-Fargo dir.  
 9 Golf target  
 10 Confronted  
 11 Reverberate  
 12 Larger — life  
 13 Moray, e.g.  
 14 Day play, say  
 15 City near Orlando  
 16 Hoagie shop  
 17 Deer cousins  
 18 Make pulp of  
 24 Boxer Michael Richards  
 26 Rock guitarist  
 29 Chubby  
 32 Spain's Hernando de —  
 33 "I knew it!"

34 Kimono sash gallery  
 39 Like some strict Amish  
 40 "Come" and "go," e.g.  
 41 "Get the lead out!"  
 42 Tooth flossing, e.g.  
 43 Really hated target  
 46 Sporty car roof option  
 47 Tell everything  
 48 Be next to  
 50 Really, really  
 53 "No way!"  
 54 Wary  
 55 Light musical work for the stage  
 57 Baseballer with a record 4,256 hits  
 58 Close enough to get  
 60 Penny, e.g.  
 61 Intl. oil group  
 63 Medicine amount  
 64 Pen fluids  
 65 PBS' "Science Kid"  
 70 Many groaners  
 73 "Power" rapper

74 Biblical book after Micah  
 75 Work in verse  
 76 Playthings  
 82 "Get the lead out!"  
 83 Big name in lawn products  
 85 Draw off via a tube  
 86 Oppositionist  
 88 Ohio city or college  
 89 Jazz chord  
 90 Boating tool  
 91 Mine metal  
 93 Giving a thrill  
 94 Manicotti cheese  
 95 Confronts  
 99 Does improv  
 101 Cello cousin  
 102 Boxer Mike  
 103 Egypt's — High Dam  
 104 Jestling sort  
 105 General — chicken  
 106 Stray-rescuing gp.  
 107 Part of mph  
 108 Confront  
 109 Choir voice  
 113 Actress Arden  
 114 Devitalize  
 115 Bit of history  
 116 Day- — paint

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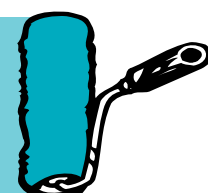
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 NOD NINERS  
 RADON CAGE  
 AMTIS EAGERLY  
 PAS TVSET VAM  
 THROATS DOLT  
 URNS CAMES  
 HISSES BAR  
 ICET THORNTON  
 DOME OUTLIERS  
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