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The **TIMBERJAY**



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989

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ENERGY INVESTMENT

Area power suppliers finalists for major federal funding

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Two regional power suppliers serving electric customers in northern St. Louis County are finalists for a federal funding package that could substantially ease the cost of reducing the region’s carbon footprint.

In a release issued Sept. 5, the USDA’s Rural Development announced that both Great River Energy and Minnkota Power are

finalists for funding under the recently approved Empowering Rural America program. Lake Country Power, which serves much of east central and northeastern Minnesota, is one of Great River’s 27 member cooperatives, while North Star Electric, which serves far northern St. Louis County and points west, is served by Minnkota.

The details of the two power suppliers’ proposal aren’t being released at this point, since the announced finalists go through a period of

technical and financial review before the final go-ahead for funding. Even so, last week’s announcement was a major win for the power suppliers involved. “We’re thrilled we’ve been announced as finalists,” said Trevor Roy, media spokesperson for Great River Energy.

How much money the power producers might actually receive isn’t being released yet, said Roy, although the nonprofit *Energy News Network* pegged Great River’s overall request at \$970 million in a

report last month.

“When we actually get the money, we’ll shout it so loud you’ll hear it all the way to Ely,” said Roy. “It’s a significant amount of money.”

A USDA summary of the two proposals shows both power suppliers hope to use the funding to procure significant additional wind energy along with other innovative plans.

Great River is seeking to add an additional 1,275 megawatts of wind power across North Dakota and western Minnesota. According to the

USDA, the proposed investments are estimated to create over 1,600 short and long-term jobs and save members \$30 million annually on average over business as usual. The plan, proposed by Great River along with a consortium of its member cooperatives, will also reduce carbon dioxide emissions by over 5.49 million tons annually, avoiding the equivalent pollution of 1.3 million gasoline-powered cars each year. “Our consortium laid out

See...**FUNDING** pg. 9



MAIN BREAK

Where’s the water?

Ely residents were facing boil order issued in wake of hours-long outage

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- Residents of Ely were facing a boil order for their drinking water this week in the wake of a catastrophic collapse of an ancient water valve that left most of the city without running water for several hours on Tuesday.

When the order might be lifted was unknown when the *Timberjay* went to press Wednesday afternoon, but the decision to lift will be made by the Minnesota Department of Health, which had already taken initial samples. Residents are advised to turn to the city of Ely website at

ely.mn.us for updates.

Aging infrastructure

Losing a city’s water supply is a scenario guaranteed to give any city official nightmares. In Ely, the nightmare became a reality on Tuesday afternoon when an ancient underground valve disintegrated near an ongoing pipe repair, leaving the city high and dry for hours.

“The valve just fell apart,” said Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski. “These old iron pipes are from the 1920s or earlier. The pipe joints are just jammed together and sealed with oakum.”

As the valve gave way, water pressure fell drastically

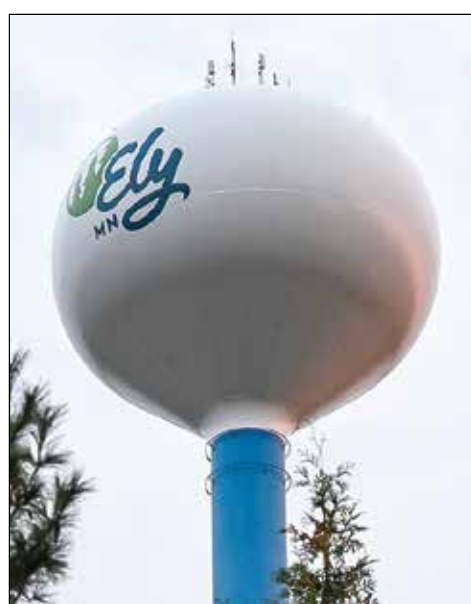
Above: Ely workers endeavored to install a new key water valve after the unexpected collapse of the existing one.

Right: Ely’s water tower was full, but city taps ran dry in the wake of the valve collapse.

photos by C. Clark

throughout the city almost immediately. Some residents at lower levels in the city reported limited water pressure while those living higher on the hill saw none at all. The outage impacted businesses throughout the community as well. Restaurants in town were

See...**WATER** pg. 11



CITY OF TOWER

Council OKs five-percent preliminary levy increase

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER— Balancing priorities was the focus Monday as the city council here approved a preliminary levy increase of five percent for 2025 after a relatively brief discussion.

The decision came less than an hour after the city’s auditor, Devin Ceglar, recommended that the council work to rebuild the city’s financial reserves, which have been on a slow recovery since hitting rock bottom in 2019. At the same time, Ceglar noted the city’s ongoing deficit in the city’s sewer fund and urged the city to adjust rates to address the shortfall.

At the same time, council members made clear that they were reluctant to boost the city’s levy, which can be a tough way to generate additional funds

See...**LEVY** pg. 10

LAKE COUNTY

Silver Rapids proposal gets the green light

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

TWO HARBORS- In an action that surprised no one, the Lake County Planning Commission granted both a preliminary plat and a conditional use permit, or CUP, on Sept. 4 to the developers of the Silver Rapids resort, located near Ely.

The decision is certain to anger neighbors of the development who have turned out in large numbers at recent meetings to express their concerns about

See...**SILVER RAPIDS** pg. 9



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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 candidate forum on Sept. 17



ELY - The public is invited to a candidate forum on Tuesday, Sept. 17, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., in the theater at Minnesota North College-Vermillion Campus. This forum will feature the candidates for MN House District 3A and is hosted by American Association of University Women (AAUW) Ely Branch and the Ely Rotary Club.

Three candidates, Incumbent Republican Roger Skraba and challengers Harley Droba, Democrat, and Rich Tru, Independent, will face off for the two-year term. They will answer questions that have been submitted by community members.

For those unable to attend in person, the forum will be available to view afterward on YouTube, entitled "Ely MN House District 3A Candidate Forum 2024." It can also be viewed later on Ely TV Midco Channel 11.



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FARMING

Farm to school field day on Sept. 20

EMBARRASS- Join with area food producers and food-buyers at Early Frost Farms on Friday, Sept. 20 from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. to explore the intricacies of growing food for schools and institutions. The day will include a farm tour, learning about school-specific planting and harvesting calendars, working directly with food service providers, post-harvest food safety, and best practices. There will be time to speak one-on-one with UMN Extension specialists, and a light lunch will be provided. Early Frost Farms is owned by Jack and Ericka LaMar.

This is a free event, made possible by our sponsors, Iron Range Partnership for Sustainability and St. Louis County Minnesota Farmers Union. Preregistration is requested by visiting <https://extension.umn.edu/event/growing4farm2school-field-day>. For more information contact Freya Thurmer, extension agriculture educator, at fjt@umn.edu or 507-841-1920. Early Frost Farms is located at 7273 Palo Tia Rd., Embarrass.



Right: Jack LaMar was busy harvesting sweet peppers at Early Frost Farms this week. submitted

EMBARRASS

Local 4-H members win ribbons at state fair

ST. PAUL – Members of 4-H from across Minnesota again showcased their learning in the 4-H Building at the Minnesota State Fair. Over 155 demonstrations were delivered and over 1,900 general exhibits were on display. In a continuation of the virtual state showcase format developed in 2020, over 100 of the general exhibits were judged virtually this year.

Throughout the year, 4-H youth select project areas that reflect personal areas of interest and pursue hands-on learning in both self-directed and guided environments. The results of their learning are exhibited at county fairs and other showcase events across the state. A collection of the best exhibits from each fair and showcase are brought to presentations in the 4-H Building at the Minnesota



Above: Aubrey Olson-Stoltenberg, of Orr, with one of her projects at the county fair. She also won a blue ribbon at the state fair.



Right: Borget Hainey, of Embarrass, with State Fair.

Exhibiting project work and delivering public presentations at the state fair provides youth an opportunity to showcase their achievements and continue

learning through interactive conference judging with project experts and team experiences.

The presentations, exhibits and presence of 4-H youth from diverse communities across Minnesota brought renewed and welcomed energy to the 4-H Building. See the full results and photos at <https://extension.umn.edu/4-h-minnesota-state-fair/4-h-minnesota-state-fair-results-news-releases-and-photos>.

St. Louis County had 21 youth participating including these youth from our coverage area:

- Aili Darland, Gilbert, Cheeseburger and fries out of cake- Blue
- Corbet Hainey, Embarrass, Thorium vs Uranium- Purple

► Amelia Niska, Mt. Iron, Chocolate cupcakes with buttercream frosting- Red

► Aubrey Olson-Stoltenberg, Orr, Knitted winter infinity scarf with upcycled yarn from the thrift store- Blue

► Anya Pearson, Angora, Diamond painting- Blue

► Lila Pearson, Angora, Creative Writing- Blue

► Cheyenne Schelde, Angora, Succulents- Blue

► Alice Sopoci, Angora, The Sun and the Star Collage- Blue

► Bella Wolf, Ely, Creative Writing- Purple and Community Impact Recognition Award

TURNING 65 SOON?

New to Medicare online virtual class on Sept. 19

REGIONAL - The Dancing Sky Area Agency on Aging and Arrowhead Area Agency has organized a "New to Medicare" online virtual class that will be presented on Thursday, Sept. 19, from 2 to 4 p.m. Learning what to do when you become eligible for Medicare can seem overwhelming. This class is for people who will be new to Medicare and would like to learn about Medicare Parts A, B, C and D. Topics will include a comprehensive introduction to Medicare, including what Medicare covers, supplemental insurance and Part D prescription coverage. During the class you will learn the Medicare enrollment details, how to get the most from your benefits and how to research your Medicare plan options using the Medicare.gov site.

Register online at [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2024-senior-linkage-line-new-to-medicare-tick-](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2024-senior-linkage-line-new-to-medicare-tick)

[ets-795572628147?aff=oddtcreator](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2024-senior-linkage-line-new-to-medicare-tick-ets-795572628147?aff=oddtcreator) or <https://tinyurl.com/vnmuv6jw>.

We are committed to accessibility. If you have an accommodation request that will allow you to participate in the class more fully, please contact Marjori at mbottila@ardc.org by Sept. 16.

The Senior LinkAge Line is a service of the Minnesota Board on Aging in partnership with Minnesota's local area agencies on aging. It is the state's federally designated State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) and Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP). Call the Senior LinkAge Line at 800-333-2433 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or visit www.MinnesotaHelp.info to chat with a specialist during business hours.

FREE FLU SHOTS

Friday, Sept. 20, 11-5pm Glow Run in Whiteside Park

Thursday, Oct. 3, 8am-Noon & 2-6pmGrand Ely Lodge

Wednesday, Oct. 9, 3-7pmISD 696 Parent/Teacher Conferences

Thursday, Oct. 10, 3-7pmISD 696 Parent/Teacher Conferences

Wednesday, Oct. 16, 7-9am..... The HUB on Miners Drive

Wednesday, Oct. 16, 11:30-1pm Ely Senior Center

Thursday, Oct. 24Business Wellness Days – Call 218-365-8739 to schedule an appointment for your business

Tuesday, Oct. 29.....Business Wellness Days – Call 218-365-8739 to schedule an appointment for your business

Thursday, Nov. 7, 9am-Noon Babbitt Municipal Gym

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WILDERNESS

District Ranger Kania talks about upcoming Leopold symposium

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- Kawishiwi District Ranger Aaron Kania had two objectives during his presentation to the Tuesday Group here last week— to promote the Aldo Leopold-themed conservation symposium coming to Ely Sept. 19-20 and convince those attending his talk to beta-test an app for audience interaction that could be used at the symposium.

The symposium, dubbed “A Celebration of Land Ethic and Conservation” is a collaborative endeavor of more than twelve organizations, hosted by the Superior National Forest and Aldo Leopold Foundation. The symposium kicks off Thursday with a day of talks from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Minnesota North College-Vermilion Campus.

Kania said the talks would examine the Boundary Waters in the past, present, and future from the perspectives of both European

settlers and the Indigenous peoples of the region.

On Friday, the symposium will be based at Ely’s Historic State Theater and focus on “Evolving land ethics: Advancing conservation through film, word, and community.”

“If Thursday is for the left, or science, side of your brain,” Kania said, “then Friday is for the right, or art, side of your brain.” Friday’s offerings will start at noon and run until 4 p.m. The program includes a showing of the film, “Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic of our Time.” A discussion session on the film, as well as the life and conservation work of Aldo Leopold, will follow the showing.

Friday’s programming will also include the viewing of selected Ely Film Festival short films with some of the filmmakers in attendance. The day also incorporates a drum ceremony featuring artists from the Bois Forte Band of Ojibwe.

The cost will be \$10.

Guinea pigs

Kania brought live audience interaction software, developed by a firm called Slido, that the forest service is testing for possible use during the symposium. Kania projected a QR code link for smart devices to link to the app as well as a URL address that users could type directly into their browsers on phones, tablets, or laptops.

Timberjay staff at Tuesday Group were not able to link with the QR code but did successfully bring the app up on a laptop. Other users at the meeting succeeded in linking through the QR code.

“I can just talk a little bit about why we’re doing this QR code,” Kania explained, noting that the attendance at Tuesday Group often generates more questions than speakers have the ability to field.

“Because there’s so many active, engaged people here, not everybody gets to ask their question. This is a way for almost everybody in



the room to be able to contribute, to ask a question, and to provide feedback. So, anybody interested in being a guinea pig today, thumbs up!”

Kania then immediately asked those online through the app to answer a test question: “The first question is, what comes to mind when you think of Aldo Leopold?”

Those of you that have your devices, you can type it into the chat.”

Kania was then able to display a “word cloud” of the answers on the meeting room screen in real-time. More than thirty short answers appeared on the screen, including words like “conservationist,” “Sand County Almanac,” “teacher,” “con-

servation writer,” “Gila Wilderness,” “Wisconsin cabin” and “green fire.”

One wit in the audience, however, wrote, “Aaron wants me to be a guinea pig.” Kania read the answer aloud to the room and then responded, “Yes, I do. Thanks for that one.”

Kania led the Tuesday Group audience through five more questions about what they would like to learn about the Boundary Waters’ history and about their concerns for the wilderness’s future.

Kania was pleased with the audience participation through the app. “Climate change, overuse, loving it to death,” he read off the answers on future concerns for the Boundary Waters. “This is great. You folks are really engaged. I am so jazzed,” Kania enthused. He promised that the app or some other software like it would be available at the symposium for attendees to use.

MEDICAL CARE

Cook dental clinic back in operation, losses could top \$500K

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- The Scenic Rivers Dental Clinic in Cook is back in partial operation again after suffering extensive damage from the June flood, but more work remains before the clinic is back at full capacity.

The clinic is operating with four of its original nine stations, according to Scenic Rivers Health Services CEO Keith Harvey, and both staff and patients are glad to be back.

“We’re real happy about that,” Harvey said. “That was huge to get that as quickly as we could. We don’t have doors on all the doorways, we still have a lot of flooring that needs to get put in, and we have some painting that still needs to be done, but we were able to get up and running.”

Bringing staff back from their alternate location assignments



With four dental stations back in operation, Scenic Rivers Dental Clinic in Cook is on its way to recovery from the June flood. photo courtesy Scenic Rivers

“It’s been a bit of a nightmare, actually, but it’s coming,” he said. “Geri Pylka is our receptionist, and she’s so good at doing the juggling and plugging people in and getting it going. There are a lot of people who got delayed and some people probably didn’t get the care when they needed it, but it’s moving forward pretty well right now.”

The restart didn’t happen soon enough to bring in a pair of University of Minnesota dental students who were scheduled for short internships this summer, but Harvey

said it could be possible to accommodate them a few months from now.

When complete, the main operating area will have seven chairs, with specialty rooms for pediatric care and a lift for physically-challenged patients. “It’s our goal to get those up as soon as possible,” Harvey said.

Scenic Rivers had insurance that covered some of the damage to the building, and they burned through that quickly.

“We definitely had some insurance coverage, but it went really fast – with the flooring and the walls and the cleanup that got eaten up pretty quickly,” Harvey said.

Additional help has come from the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation, which provided \$25,000, and the Delta Dental Foundation of Minnesota, which gave \$20,000.

“And we have a couple of other things we’re looking at, like a Small Business Administration relief fund

loan in conjunction with FEMA but those are things that take time,” Harvey said. “We’ll just have to wait and see how that plays out. We also made application with an organization called Direct Relief that works very closely with federally qualified health centers in the country, and they may be able to provide something similar to the IRRRB or Delta Dental. We keep looking for places where we can get additional funding because otherwise it comes out of our operating budget, and we’re not rolling in money.”

As with other businesses, the damage to the building and equipment is only part of the challenge for Scenic Rivers— it has also a considerable amount of operating revenue from being closed. Harvey estimated the combined losses to be in the neighborhood of \$500,000.

Harvey did not provide an estimated date for when the clinic would be fully operational.

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OPINION

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The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial

The billionaire takeover

In the wake of the Citizens United ruling, billionaires increasingly dictate our politics

The takeover of America's politics by billionaires appears to have reached overdrive and the public is right to worry that our democracy is being corrupted as a result.

Concern over the power of big money in our politics has grown steadily ever since the U.S. Supreme Court issued its now infamous Citizens United decision, which found that money equals political speech and couldn't be regulated as Congress had intended.

The 2010 decision opened the floodgates of billionaire cash to political campaigns, and the billionaires have prospered as a result. Nearly 15 years after Citizens United, the billionaires are flexing their political muscles like never before, whether it be through massive political donations to candidates willing to do their bidding, or through controlling sources of information.

Perhaps the most heavy-handed in the current presidential race is Elon Musk, who is using X, formerly known as Twitter, to spread increasingly destructive disinformation to advance Donald Trump, who Musk has endorsed. Musk is not just allowing nefarious actors to spread false information on X... he's actively doing it himself.

As a reward, Trump is openly kowtowing to Musk and recently hinted he might appoint Musk to a government efficiency panel, an idea that Musk promoted to the highly impressionable former president. Given that Musk has billions of dollars in federal contracts, such a perch would give him the opportunity to further feather his nest or gather intel on competitors. Trump, who has long viewed government authority as a commodity to be horse-traded for his own benefit, would be putty in Musk's hands.

Musk will be looking for more influence here in the U.S. as a counter to the pushback he is receiving elsewhere in the world. His conversion of Twitter from a formerly moderated social media service to a haven for rightwing disinformation and conspiracy-mongering has put the company in the crosshairs of regulators in both Europe and Brazil, which rightfully see Musk's reckless use of X as a threat to democracy.

But it isn't just Musk and other Republican-supporting billionaires who are throwing their weight around. Democratic-leaning mega-donors have reportedly pressured Vice President Kamala Harris to abandon the "billionaire tax" from President Biden's tax plan, which would require the wealthiest

Americans, i.e. those with \$100 million or more in assets, to pre-pay capital gains taxes.

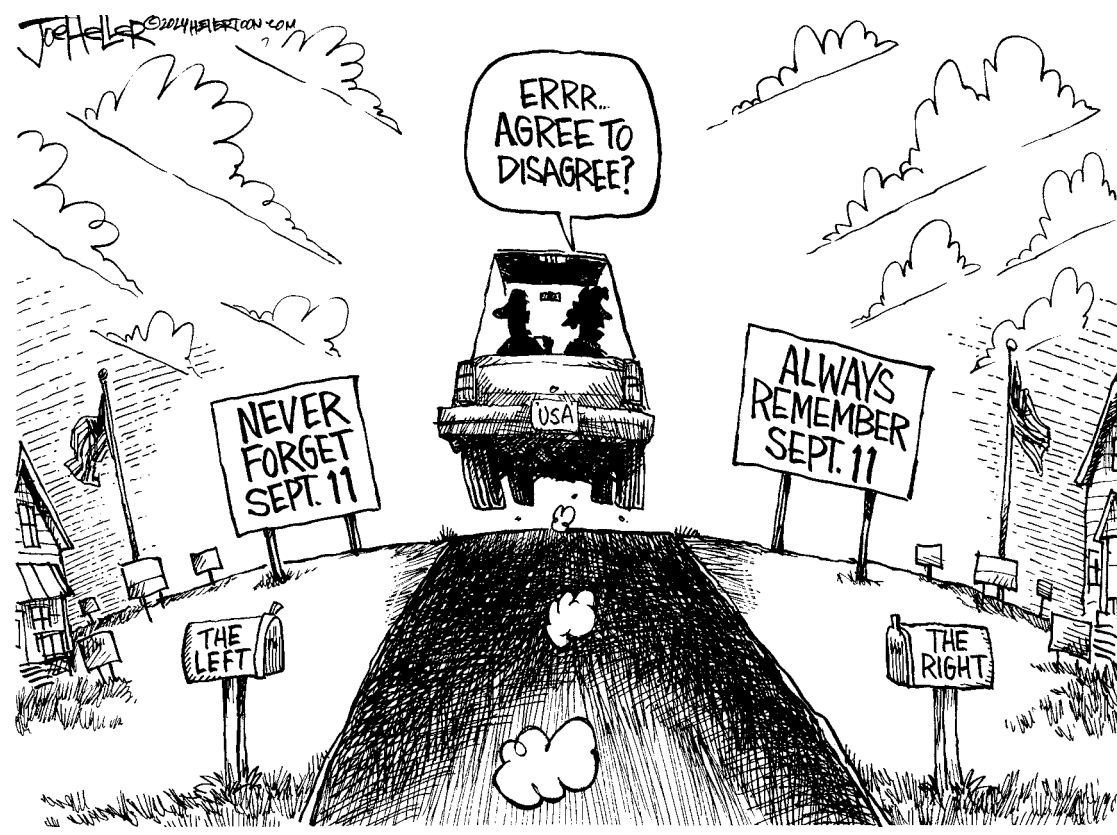
Harris announced last week that she would propose a lower top tax rate for those with over \$100 million in assets than Biden had proposed, 28 percent versus 39.6 percent. While Harris's proposal still represents a willingness to adopt the new tax, it's a troubling sign of the ways in which the mega-wealthy use their vast resources to constantly press their thumb on the political scale. In the end, it should surprise no one if the new wealth tax is never actually enacted into law, regardless of who sits in the White House next January. While the billionaires have enormous influence in presidential politics, they are even more influential in most cases when it comes to Congress, where their influence can often be wielded behind the scenes, with little public attention.

It used to be that political parties influenced the candidates. And while that wasn't always ideal, at least the major parties were a reflection of a much broader base of Americans, many of them of modest means. That input from the party faithful helped the major parties draft platforms that highlighted the party's principles and political objectives, and reflected to some degree the diversity of the country.

Imperfect as it is, that's still true to some degree in the Democratic Party, which is why their nominees may be influenced by the big donors, without completely capitulating to them. The GOP, by contrast, makes no bones about its fealty to those at the top. It's a party today that's literally in service to a billionaire focused on gaining power for himself to further his own wealth and to stay out of prison.

Rather than a party platform, the GOP's direction is determined not by Republican activists but by billionaires and their hangers-on, who use their money and their economic power to mislead voters into supporting their self-serving agenda, served cold with heaping helpings of division and misdirection. All they really want, of course, are more tax cuts.

It's the founding fathers' worst nightmare come true. James Madison talked of "an oligarchy founded on corruption" through which the wealthy dominate political decision-making. It's exactly what we are witnessing today. The only question is whether "We the People" stand for it.



Letters from Readers

Letter writer had me laughing

I got a good laugh with last week's letter about "strength through joy being a danger to democracy." Clearly the writer has never read the Republican play-book called Project 2025, because if there was ever a direct threat to our constitution and democracy, it is fully outlined within it.

First off, for the writer to declare that Democrats didn't want Harris, and then to outline the party being of celebrity elitists, millionaires, and billionaires... leaves me wondering if the writer has EVER paid attention to Donald Trump's elite, rich, and powerful tax break crowd. Trump has openly spoke of the next round of their tax breaks, if elected.

The greatest laugh was going after Tim Walz for his service record and his 1995 DUI. The writer somehow managed to overlook Donald Trump's 34 business fraud convictions, two convictions for sexual assault, his four-time draft dodging and, of course, his bone spurs while still playing college basketball...and not a word about the other filed cases and sentencing awaiting him. I will not bother with detailing his marital fails and cheating, because Trump is so centered on his religion(?).

It must be a "Braver Angels" thing, I guess. Or maybe too much Hannity/Watters/Carlson spew. But, for the record, I did enjoy the letter, and I'm enjoying something more upbeat other than the usual Donnie doom and gloom.

Barry W. Tungseth
Ely

Loyalty requires thinking before voting

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands..."

Most Americans have declared this, from an early age – often by rote. Now, however, is a time where we seriously need to consider that

declaration. A time where a decision is nigh. Are we pledging loyalty to our country or to a man who wishes to be king, whose cohorts would take over the trusted systems we have come to count on.

The Republican Party has offered us two candidates whose statements and actions raise questions about their values. For more evidence:

- ▶ Read the Project 2025 document.

- ▶ See how our highest court is ruling and acting.

- ▶ Observe the crippling of Congress by the right.

- ▶ Listen to the nonsense the former president and his VP choice spew daily.

Living in a tourist town we see thousands of people coming through with big boats, pulled by big trucks, or those who stay weeks at their cabins or local resorts. We see those who eat in our restaurants and drive new vehicles. Can those folks be complaining about Bidenomics? From the way the economy and the deficit looked after one term with the former president why do folks still use the economy as a reason to vote for DJT? Only the rich will benefit from a DJT victory.

Do you see all those filled seats weekly at national football games? How are all those fans across the country affording the pricey tickets and paying for parking at the games? Something must be right about the economy, as reports are showing. We've never had it so good, aside from the political mess we are confronted with daily.

The opposition to immigrants at the border, another prime topic. Big farmers are concerned they will not be able to supply us with oranges, grapefruit, tomatoes, etc., we're used to, without immigrants. They work hard for us and apparently appreciate FREEDOM more than most of the Right faction. The ways that we will be affected by of return of DJT to office is frightening, and yet many are convinced this is not so. Oppression of women is one of the biggest issues. Women, most of all, should want to protect their human rights, long

in coming. Do the former president and his VP sound supportive of women?

One has observed locals who did not support establishment of the BWCAW, who only wear pro-American products, who throw care to the wind regarding environmental issues. Somewhere along the line, theirs was a movement to the far-right, in a community which was strongly Democrat.

I am wondering if these independent thinkers 'back in the day,' know what they will be getting with Republican nominees should they be elected in November.

Anyone you know with federal jobs may be replaced by DJT loyalists. Power grabbing at the top with broad unquestioned jurisdiction and no safeguards of normal checks and balances, reinterpretations of the Constitution, deterioration of democracy, higher taxes for lower incomes, reduction of affordable health care, abolishment of the Department of Education...the list of ways that American life will be altered at the will of the 'King' goes on and on.

These candidates and their supporters are power hungry and greedy, with no care for the rest of us. They do not pledge their allegiance to the flag, or to the United States – they are committed to themselves in every selfish sense of the word.

Cecilia Rolando
Ely

We welcome your letters

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

We ask that letters be limited to 300 words.

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

COMMENTARY

To bee or not to bee, that is the question for AI

The holy grail for artificial intelligence computing would be to one day have computers that could think exactly like humans, but the complexities of the human brain exceed our current understanding of how it exactly works.

Modern day imaging processes have greatly expanded our knowledge of the inner workings



DAVID COLBURN

of the brain. Firing neurons need more oxygen than dormant ones, and an MRI-based scan can track blood flow to active regions of the brain, pinpointing areas involved in various activities such as movement and cognition. Positron emission tomography uses radioactive tracers to study brain metabolism and neurotransmitter activity, yield-

ing significant findings for brain functions in patients with Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases. Scanning the magnetic signatures of neuron electrical activity, using near-infrared light to measure changes in blood oxygenation, and mapping the diffusion of water molecules along neural pathways all provided fascinating and useful insight into how the brain works.

But with all of that, programming for artificial intelligence that can accurately mimic the brain's 82 million neurons, remains elusive,

likely for decades to come.

However, scientists in the world of AI are thinking smaller right now. A big human brain with all of its complexity may be too much to bite off, but what about tiny brains that do specific things really, really well?

Enter insects. Yep, that's right, bugs. In standard computer programming, bugs are things to avoid, but when it comes to AI, the next big steps are coming by trying to analyze the tiny brains of insects and mimic their remarkable skills in ways that will benefit human-focused

tasks.

Take bees. They've been navigating through complex environments far from home and returning with ease for millennia using brains about the size of a pinhead. Driverless cars need navigation systems that can do the same thing, so why not look at a reliable navigation system that's been around for millions of years that does what we need our navigation systems to do?

And that's what scientists have done. They've glued radar tags to bees' backs with tags to track and

analyze their flight patterns to develop algorithms that process optical data in a similar way. They've put bees in stationary harnesses and shown them movies simulating complex flight patterns while monitoring their tiny brain activity to understand how they process visual information and make mental maps based on environmental cues. Bees can accomplish their amazing feats of navigation without the use of GPS – can human-created

See AI...pg 5

Letters from Readers

All who served our country deserve our thanks

This is one of the reasons I try to stay off Facebook. When you pop on you have really no control over the first post you see. Well, one day I pop on and the first post I see is a derogatory/sur against one of the VP picks and his military service. So, of course, one of his buddies had posted a derogatory post related to the other VP pick and his military service, to which he responds to his friend with, "Anyone who serves is a hero."

Being who I am, I had to ask, if you truly feel this way why did you make the original post? To which he replies, "Those are my cop friends, they should know better!"

I say, I can understand their frustration. If you truly feel anyone who has served is a hero, why did you make the original post? To which he replies, "I know you love Trump!" To which I say, the question is, if you feel anyone who served is a hero, why did you make this post? Is it because his political view is not yours? To which he replied, "Enough, I know you love Trump/Vance."

First off, nowhere in this conversation did I state an endorsement of anyone. He was right about one thing. ENOUGH, if you truly believe anyone who has served is a hero don't make fun of them, no matter what political side you stand with or what color, race, etc. We all bleed the same, those who fought and all those who died were for the same cause: protecting us, this country and our freedoms!

Thank you to anyone who has served this country, you truly are the Heroes! God Bless!

**Pam Abrahamson
Tower**

Immigrants have brought blessings to America

Immigrants.

They came for freedom.

They founded our freedom in 1787.

They are still coming today to escape violent conditions and find a better world for their families.

They are taking lower-paying jobs.

As their income increases, their spending increases, which keeps money flowing and businesses growing.

They are a blessing to our society as they bring diversity to our nation.

We are who they created. We are their genes.

However, since we cannot take in all that are coming, it is our nation's humanity that requires us to help them find a safe and more diverse path in their search for a better world for their families.

**Jo Ann Halunen
Virginia**

Where have we seen Project 2025 before?

Project 2025 is a 900-page document spelling out a functional takeover of the American government. There is nothing remotely "conservative" about it. Conservative means to retain what is and make minimal changes.

Project 2025, however, is a radically reactionary plan spelled out in micromanaged detail, placing 20,000 Trump loyalists in control of governance. The vast majority of the developers of this plan were former Trump administration staff.

JD Vance was chosen as vice-presidential nominee to be the enforcer of Project 2025 in a second Trump term. The need for Vance in the administration becomes clear when we look at Trump's weakening mind. Here is Trump's response to a question on religion in an interview in early June:

"Religion is such a great thing. It's so it keeps, you know, there's something to be good about, you want to be good, you wanna, it's so important, I don't know if it's explained right, I don't know if I'm explaining it right. You know you want to be good, you want to go to heaven, OK, so you want to go to heaven, so if we don't have heaven, OK, you almost say what's the reason, why do I have to be good, what difference does it make?"

Is this the person you want to be president so he can institute a massive overhaul of our constitutional rights and liberties and replace them with lock-step adherence to far right ideological purity? We've seen how that played out in the Third Reich, the Soviet Union, and Mussolini's Italy. Inform yourself. The non-partisan ACLU has developed a concise summary of Project 2025. You can access it at <https://www.aclu.org/project-2025-explained>

**Fred Schumacher
Gheen**

Be cautious with your donations

Citizens who donate to charities soon realize that their names are sold to other charities. We can tell by the sudden proliferation of appeals for donations in our emails or in our mailbox.

Our names are highly valuable, whether a person donates to a nonprofit or a political party. Too bad we cannot collect a commission on the number of times our names are sold.

A good way to validate a charity's honesty and responsibility in wisely using donated money is to check out Charity Navigator or Charity Watch online. Doctors Without Borders, for example, is apparently a highly approved organization, with a 98-percent approval rating by Charity Navigator. DWB claims to spend 83 percent of

their funds on core medical rescue programs and takes no government funding. Ninety-four percent of their donations come from individuals.

However, if one examines the salaries paid to the top five administrators of DWB, one's jaw might drop a bit. DWB's top administrator gets \$245,815 in "annual salary, cash, bonuses, and expense accounts." The fifth person down listed in the top tier gets \$195,117. The other three people in between get over \$200,000 a year. I am sure these are highly educated and talented men and women.

However, as a person who has mainly earned their dollars by the sweat of the brow," I have an issue with the salaries of these folks, who make great livings from donated dollars. I am sure most of us regular Americans who donate do not make these types of wages. Research I have seen in the past shows that the middle class and poor are the ones mainly donating to charities, because they have more empathy for those in need.

I am personally re-evaluating who I donate to. I know church-based organizations like the Salvation Army are usually very responsible in their spending, and their salaries certainly are not comparable to the larger organizations. The local food shelf gets some of my surplus produce. Outfits that work against human trafficking and drill water wells in arid countries or build medical clinics in poorer countries get some of my dollars, and their admin salaries are half of what is mentioned above. (Check out Child Impact, Maranatha, and ADRA).

United Service Organizations, Inc. is a congressionally chartered (but run privately) entity that helps military servicemen and women overseas. Highly rated for quality service, and a highly compensated staff. The CEO gets \$705,905 per year. Habitat for Humanity gets a high approval rating for service, and its CEO gets an annual salary of \$439,364.

All sources are from Charity Navigator, which claims it gets its data from IRS tax return forms.

**Mark Roalson
Hoyt Lakes**

The contrasts this election are stark

DEMONS vs. ANGELS. Trump and Vance appeal to the worst demons of their minions by feeding them a backward, dystopian and incoherent message of negativity, pessimism, anger and hate for exclusive rule by rich white men. Contrast couldn't be clearer, Harris and Walz appeal to our better angels by moving ahead in a positive, optimistic, empathetic and open manner for inclusion and "we're not going back!"

RETRIBUTION vs. JOY. Republicans take pleasure in putting others down

to artificially elevate themselves. Getting even, sowing chaos, "us against them" by smear and fear shapes their politics of retribution. Democrats take pleasure in the uplifting politics of joy by working together for the greater good.

DIVISION vs. UNITY. Republicans promote a patriotism of unquestioning loyalty to follow a "strong man." Division cultivates conflict through bigotry to stir up anger, instill fear, rancor and malice. Democrats offer a patriotism of, by and for people. Unity promotes progress through harmony among neighbors of good will, trust and strength for people power.

OLIGARCHY vs. DEMOCRACY. Oligarchy is a form of tyranny by a tiny minority who hold monopoly power in the economy. The law allows these wealthy individuals and corporations as persons to buy politicians. The essence of democracy encourages each individual to make a difference for the common good. Power and authority is shared among the people in selecting representatives through free and fair elections.

DARKNESS vs. LIGHT. A Native American proverb states there is a battle of two wolves inside each of us: "one represents anger, jealousy, greed, resentment, lies, inferiority and ego; the other wolf represents joy, peace, love, hope, humility, kindness, empathy and truth. The wolf that wins is the one you feed." May the light of freedom shine brightly on our inner dichotomy!

**Harold Honkola
Stillwater**

Take it from a real conservative

From one of the most conservative people to ever serve as vice president of the United States, Dick Cheney:

"In our nation's 248-year history, there has never been an individual who is a greater threat to our republic than Donald Trump. He tried to steal the last election using lies and violence to keep himself in power after the voters had rejected him. He can never be trusted with power again. As citizens, we each have a duty to put country above partisanship to defend our Constitution. That is why I will be casting my vote for Vice President Kamala Harris."

According to the BBC, "more than 200 Republicans, including Mike Pence, who served under previous presidents and party leaders have given their backing to Trump's rival, Kamala Harris." As have Evangelicals for Harris and Patriotic Millionaires.

I, too, will be voting for Kamala Harris and Tim Walz along with 'Republicans against Trump' and 'Republicans for Harris.' And I will vote against any candidate who bows and grovels for Trump. Although my voice is not as consequential as Dick Cheney's, every vote

is important. I, too, stand against partisanship and the falsehoods that have separated us the working class of Americans. I hope you will vote also.

**Richard Watson
Ely**

Silver Rapids decision will have impacts

On Sept. 4, the Lake County Planning and Zoning Commission approved the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for the Silver Rapids Resort Project. Here's what that means for our lakes, roads, and community.

► Docks and impact on lake boat population: 27 docks (45' L x 4' W), 13 for cabin owners, two for motel guests, ten for restaurant guests, and two for fueling/launching. Twenty-five docks (75-100 mooring spaces), an increase from the developers' claimed current number of 15 docks (13 with 26 mooring spaces.) This added boat capacity at a pinch point next to rapids, wetlands, and a narrow, mile long channel, is excessive. Thirty-to-forty mooring spaces for the restaurant is ridiculously high. The recently installed septic system allows for a 55-seat restaurant with 13 bar stools. Assuming resort residents are given priority seating, local access to the restaurant, whether driving or boating, will be limited. The ten restaurant docks will be used mostly for boat rentals, adding to the overall boats on the lakes. Twenty-five docks on the Farm Lake side, and boardwalks required to access them due to steep embankments, will stretch almost the entire length of the NE shoreline of the resort. The 27 docks could happen as soon as next summer.

► Boat traffic safety, shoreline impact, community impact: Twenty-five docks are planned on the Farm Lake channel, but the launching dock is located on the White Iron side adjacent to the bridge and new beach just above a rapids. Quarter-share owners of new

cabins will rotate weekly on weekends. (No condition for weekday staggering was placed in the CUP.) They will bring their own boats to fill the 45-60 moorings reserved for them, which means 90-120 boats will be waiting to be launched, or retrieved, and moved under the bridge on the one or two turn-over weekend days. There is safe passage for only one or two boats at a time under the bridge. At times the current makes this hazardous.

► Resort occupants rotating weekly are likely to use their boats daily, while shoreline owners use their boats less frequently (Homeowners on the channel have only 32 boats). This one-mile-long channel averages 500-700 feet wide and will suffer from dramatically increased boat traffic without safety and shoreline erosion considered. Jet-skis also got a pass. A condition to the CUP requires the resort "to discourage the use of jet-skis." An effective condition would have been, "No launching, docking or fueling of jet-skis." Increased boat traffic in the channel, the only access to the BWCA for canoeists from White Iron and the Farm Lake channel, will at times drive canoes off the channel entirely.

► Road traffic and safety: The resort residential capacity is likely to be 440 persons, with turnover weekly. This is about double the historic/existing summer capacity. Imagine, the Kawishiwi Trail congestion near Silver Rapids when the resort empties and refills on weekends: Around 100 vehicles, most with boat trailers, will be arriving and launching boats and 100 retrieving boats and leaving the resort. Unfortunately, the commissioners rejected the county highway engineer's recommendation. He stated in his report "A traffic study and traffic calming alternatives investigation is highly recommended."

This is bad news for our lakes, roads, and community. The scale of the project should be reduced.

**Marilyn Marsden
Fall Lake Township**



the TIMBERJAY

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AI...Cont. from page 4

robots do the same?

The answer is yes, they can. Using the information gleaned from studying bee brains, specialized processing chips that mimic the function of bee brains have been developed, and coupled with machine learning, a form of artificial intelligence, we now have guidance systems for drones that don't need to depend on satellite location data to know where they are and to get around. This autonomous navigation ability has far more uses than simply getting your driverless Tesla safely from point A to point B.

Bees operate in swarms, and so, too, can autonomous drones operating with artificial intelligence. You've

likely already seen drone swarms in operation as entertaining replacements for fireworks displays. But AI drone swarms can be put to agricultural use, planting seeds, identifying disease outbreaks and applying crop treatments. They can be used to locate missing people or deliver emergency supplies in natural disasters or track and control the spread of wildfires. They're also being studied for use in security for large industrial complexes.

And because they're a human creation, drone swarms are also being developed for military use. Imagine a swarm of hundreds or even thousands of AI-driven military drones, some specialized for scouting, some

for attack, able to adapt their mission on the fly to assessed conditions. Drones are already an integral part of the Ukraine-Russia conflict, used for surveillance and to deliver small explosives cheaply and accurately, but nothing like what will soon be possible.

It may well be up to another insect, dragonflies, to develop effective counter measures, both for drone swarms and ballistic missiles. What's the specialized capability of dragonflies? Intercepting things in flight. Whether pursuing zooming fruit flies or mosquitoes, dragonflies have a 95 percent success rate in capturing their prey, making them one of the world's top predators.

A dragonfly's reaction time to flying prey is 50 milliseconds, six times faster than the blink of an eye. That's only enough time for about three neurons to fire. Creating algorithms and neural networks based on this simplified architecture, work currently being done at Sandia National Laboratories, could be the key to developing effective defense systems against the weapons of the future.

Given the immense power of the human mind, it is somewhat ironic to think that the simple minds of bugs may lead to our destruction or our salvation. Mosquitoes don't seem nearly as bad by comparison.

Week of Sept. 16

Monday

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

Tuesday

Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5 p.m. 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.

Vermilion Country School Board- Meetings posted online at vermilioncountry.org.

Vermilion Lake Township annual potluck gathering on Sept. 15

VERMILION LAKE TWP- Vermilion Lake Township is hosting their annual potluck get-together on Sunday, Sept. 15 from 4 – 7 p.m. at the town hall. The township will be grilling Polish brats, and hot dogs, and those attending always make sure there are plenty of side dishes, casseroles, and desserts. Tableware, coffee, and drinks will be provided. All township residents and friends are invited to attend.

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 hand-made 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.

**Read It
HERE**

TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY



Kindergarten teacher Kristi Smith (back right) and classroom para Heather Anderson (back center) posed with kindergarten students on their first day of school. The class this year is expected to have 11 students, but one was absent the first day. The students were having a busy day, learning their new schedule, reading books, dancing to music, and exploring all the fun educational toys in the classroom. photo by J. Summit

LAKE VERMILION CULTURAL CENTER

Finntoberfest set for Sept. 19 in Tower

TOWER- The Lake Vermilion Cultural Center in Tower will be hosting its first Finntoberfest on Sept. 19, beginning at 6 p.m. From 6 – 7 p.m. food will be served during a social time in the lobby with background music from the Solkela Polkela Band. Brats, hotdogs, chips and beverages will be offered. Dessert will be pies donated by Shelby the Tower Pie Lady. A donation to the Tower Food Shelf is suggested.

A musical and comedy performance by The Solkela Polkela Band will run from 7 – 8 p.m. in St. Mary's Hall. The Solkela Polkela Band was forged in the fires of necessity. In response to the relentless request by the masses for "more Polka Bands," Steve Solkela put together this wacky bunch of misfit Iron Rangers and Twin Portsians. Steve is an accomplished musician, comedian, stuntman, opera singer, actor, and composer known for his nonsensical sense of humor, creative

Solkela Polkela Band to perform Thursday at the cultural center



The Solkela Polkela Band in action: (from left) on tuba Dennis Jerrold, on accordion Steve Solkela and Gena Devaney. submitted

mind, and unpredictable musical combinations. The band members are Steve Solkela on accordion and

four-piece ensemble plays Classic Old Time music, as well as Polka Fusions of every genre. Get ready for endless comedy and fun while you move along with their tunes. They will knock your socks off. A freewill donation will be accepted at the door. The LVCC is located at 705 Main Street in Tower.

This will be the last event of the season at the LVCC. Plans are in motion for construction to begin later this fall on bathrooms and a heating and air-conditioning system. This project is made possible due to grants from the IRRR and the State of Minnesota, in addition to generous donors.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Rummage Sale to be held at Tower Food Shelf in October

TOWER- The Tower Food Shelf will be holding a fundraiser rummage sale on Tuesday, Oct. 15 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Donations can be dropped off at the food shelf on Tuesday, Sept. 17 from 2:30 – 5 p.m., or by appointment by calling Kate Smith at 763-528-5396.

Lunch Bunch to meet on Sept. 27

TOWER- The Lunch Bunch will meet on Friday, Sept. 27 at the Tower Café from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. RSVP to Kathy at 218-753-2530. Every is welcome to join the group for lunch and conversation.

LVCC seeks ideas for future fundraising event

TOWER- The Lake Vermilion Cultural Center board and committees will be meeting soon to plan our major fundraiser for next midsummer. We are considering a different format for this event. We would like the input from our Tower-Soudan-Lake Vermilion community. We are open to new and innovative ideas and welcome any and all suggestions. Please submit your ideas prior to Sept. 19 by email to lvcc001@outlook.com. (There are two zeros in the email address.) Thank you and we hope to hear any ideas community members may have.



Tower-Soudan Civic Club members (from left) Jaynee Yocum, LuAnn Zaudtke, Linda Haugen, and Brenda Winkelaar were some of the volunteers at the club's annual rummage sale, where items went for \$10 per bag, and shoppers found some really good bargains. The club raises money for projects that benefit the city and area youth, and will be starting their monthly meetings soon. Meetings alternate between Tower and Soudan, and usually feature a guest speaker. Watch for notices in the paper. New members are always welcome. photo by J. Summit

St. Martin's getting ready for Christmas Bazaar

TOWER- St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower will once again be hosting a Christmas Bazaar. The event

will be held on Saturday, Nov. 9 in the church social hall. The church is looking for local crafters to participate. The cost for a table is \$20. If you are interested, please contact Maryann at the rectory (218-753-4310)

by Oct. 16. Office hours are Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, from 9 a.m. – 12 noon.



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THE ELY MURAL PROJECT

Ely artist Shawn Chosa's raven mural



by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- Despite the distractions of the back-to-back festivals, a small crowd gathered here last Friday in the alley behind Firefly Vintage & Goods for the unveiling of a 700-square-foot mural by Ely artist Shawn Chosa.

Chosa painted variations of raven heads on the mural's ten panels, in honor of the large black birds that seem to lord over the skies in Ely. The raven mural wraps around the side and back of the building at 230 E. Sheridan, which is the home of Firefly and of Keller Williams Realty. The mural, commissioned in February as part of Northern Lakes Arts Association's Ely Mural Project, was hung last Friday, Sept. 6, by NLAA's Ian Francis Lah and Vladimir Perez Vacalla. Chosa's work was supported by a grant

from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council.

Chosa executed all ten panels of the mural in eight days, in his home studio, which he described as "tiny." Laying down the black background took most of the time.

The layout of the mural's panels changed since the start of the project. "The original plan was to have a panel on both ends (of the back wall), but when Ian sent me the measurements for the back side, it was like, wow, we could just use the two panels I got ... it works wrapping around."

Chosa's career as a fine artist is only a few years old. Before 2020, art was a hobby.

But an art show opportunity in Duluth sent him down the path of doing art full-time.

"Up until that point, I was going to be done painting. I was done dabbling with it. I wanted to move on." That's when the Duluth Art

Institute offered him a show right before the outbreak of COVID-19. The show was native-themed and he made some sales from it.

"I consider that the re-launching of my career, to the point where now I consider myself in the fine art world."

Chosa has had several art shows, including several in Ely, since. The raven mural in Ely is Chosa's second. The first was commissioned by Medtronics, who hired Chosa and two other artists to do murals for the firm's cafeteria.

Chosa is a self-taught artist with a background in graphic design. He was raised by his single Native American mother, who was also a painter. Chosa is a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa.



Left: Ian Lah and Vladimir Perez Vacalla tidying up the mural site after installing Shawn Chosa's raven-themed mural on the side and back of 230 E. Sheridan. Above: Ian Lah (left), executive director of the Northern Lakes Arts Association, and Shawn Chosa (right), the artist who created the raven mural. photos by C. Clark

In Brief

Tuesday Group schedule

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

Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

► Sept. 17: The Accelerators: Brains, Braids, & Bots with Leah X. Rathe.

► Sept. 24: Spirits Dancing with Travis Novitsky

► Oct. 1: Pete Kero, author of Minescapes: Reclaiming Minnesota's Mined Lands

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2024



ravens dance in flight riding the high winds as one silhouettes above

Libraries

Ely library

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

Babbitt library

Monday 10 am-6 pm
Tuesday 10 am-6 pm
Wednesday 10 am-6 pm
Thursday 10 am-6 pm
Friday 10 am-6 pm
Phone: 218-827-3345

Support groups

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous OPEN AA - 7:30

p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, in-person, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St., Ely.

AA FRIDAYS - 7 p.m. Fridays, First Presbyterian Church, 262 E. Harvey St., Ely.

ELY WOMEN'S OPEN AA - Monday at noon at

Ledgerock Church, 1515 E. Camp St., Ely.

BABBITT AA - 7 p.m. Thursdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church.

AL-ANON - Sundays 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely.

BABBITT AL-ANON - Thursdays, 7 p.m., at Woodland Presbyterian.

CO-DEPENDENTS' 12-step support group, 4:00 p.m. Tuesdays, Wellbeing Development, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 712 S. Central Ave., Ely.

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION GED

Study materials and pre-test available. Call 218-365-3359, or 1-800-662-5711.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS: Babbitt: 3rd

Monday of Month: 6-7:30 p.m. at Carefree Living. Ely: 4th Monday of

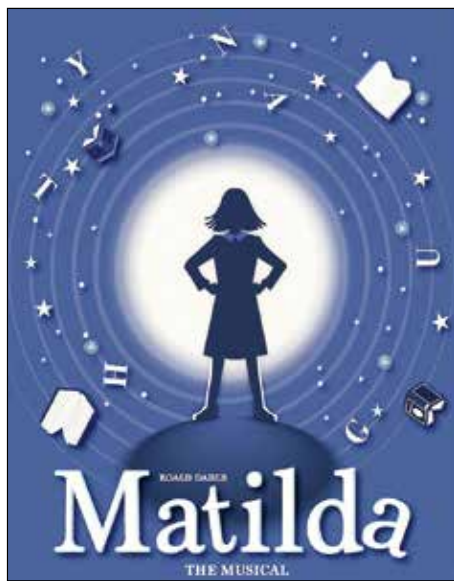
Month: 10-11:30 a.m. at Ely-Bloomenson Hospital. Conference Room B.

"Matilda the Musical"

ELY- The Northern Lakes Arts Association will be performing "Matilda the Musical" next spring. The association announced this week that the popular musical production will come to Ely March 27-April 6, 2025. Tickets will go on sale on Feb. 1.

Auditions will be held on the evening of Jan. 28 from 5-10 p.m.

"Matilda the Musical" is based on the 1988 novel "Matilda" by well-known British children's book author Roald Dahl. The prestigious Royal Shakespeare Company commissioned playwright British Dennis Kelly and Australian composer and lyricist Tim Minchin to produce the show. The musical premiered in Stratford-on-Avon in 2010, opened on London's West End in 2022, and on Broadway at the famous Shubert Theatre in 2013. A film version of the musical was released in 2022.



The Ely Senior Center received a \$4,000 grant from Lake Country Power to replace their chairs. The center put its old chairs and two tables out in its parking lot on Tuesday, and Ely's Historic State Theater snatched the chairs up. photo by C. Clark

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Babbitt Public Library

BABBITT- The library is now open on Fridays again.

The Friends of the Library will hold an afternoon of fundraising bingo at the city of Babbitt gym, 71 South Drive, on Sept. 14 from 1-3 p.m., with one intermission.

Bingo card pricing will be \$5 per card up to eight cards. Cards are cash only and must be purchased before games start. Prizes will be split between multiple winners.

The library will host musician Theresa Miller for an hour of guitar music on Monday, Sept. 18, starting at 2:30 p.m.

Preschool story time is every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. All library events are at the Babbitt Public Library, 71 South Dr., unless otherwise noted.

Ely Public Library

ELY- The spice for September is marjoram. Pick up a sample and recipes at the front desk while supplies last.

The Curiosity Cohort Program will meet on Wednesday, Sept. 18 at 1:30

p.m. for a hands-on introductory session about how to do computer coding. Please pre-register for this program the library has a limited number of computers for attendees to use.

The Library Scientists Group will hold a session about weather on Tuesday, Sept. 24 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Please preregister for this program so the library can order enough supplies for attendees to use.

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

Ely's Historic State Theater

ELY- Ely's Historic State Theater, 238 E. Sheridan St., will continue its free live music events through the end of September. All events will start at 5:30 p.m. Sara Thomsen will perform on Friday, Sept. 13, followed by Scottie Miller on Sept. 20.

Jam Session

ELY- the Ely Folk School, 209 E. Sheridan,

will host a jam session on Friday, Sept. 13 from 4-5 p.m. The jam session will be with the band for the folk school's community dance later in the evening. Bring a fiddle, banjo, guitar, mandolin, dulcimer, or bass to the jam session to play along.

Just showing up to listen is fine too. Everyone is welcome to play, regardless of skill level. The jam session emphasizes string instruments. Sheet music is not provided; rather, chords are called out.

Community Dance

ELY- The Ely Folk School is throwing another of their fun community dances with live music on Friday, Sept. 13, starting at 7 p.m., at the Ely Senior Center, 27 S. First Ave. E. All dances are taught live, so people of all ages and skill levels can participate. Cost is \$10 at the door; youths accompanied by an adult dance for free.

Candidate Forum

ELY- The Ely Rotary and American Association of University Women-Ely Branch will host a candidate

forum for the Minnesota House seat 3A on Sept. 17 and for Ely City Council on Sept. 24. Both forums will be from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Minnesota North College auditorium, 1900 E. Camp St.

New Neighbor Hike

ELY- Boundary Waters Connect will host their monthly new neighbor hike on Thursday, Sept. 19, from 1:30-3:30 p.m. This is a casual opportunity to make new social connections.

Though targeted toward new residents, everyone is welcome. Meet up at the trailhead parking lot on the Echo Trail.

Glow Run

ELY- The annual five-kilometer glow run will be on Friday, Sept. 20. The race starts at 7 p.m. in Whiteside Park. All race registration fees go to supporting the nonprofit Northern Lights Clubhouse, a safe place and outreach program for adults with behavioral health challenges. Register for the race at elymarathon.com/5k. Registration for adults is \$30, \$20 for students, and

\$10 for youth. Packet pickup and race day registration will begin at noon on Friday, Sept. 20 in Whiteside Park. New registrations are welcome from noon-5:45 p.m. Race day prices are \$35 for adults, \$25 for students and \$15 for youth.

Beaver Tales

ELY- Ely's Historic State Theater, 238 E. Sheridan, will host Beaver Tales: a Community Storytelling Event, in the theater's lounge on Saturday, Sept. 28. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m., with the main event at 6:30-9 p.m.

5K Fun Walk and Run

ELY- A benefit five-kilometer fun run and walk will be held on Sunday, Sept. 29, at 11 a.m. at the Trezona Trailhead, at the intersection of Pioneer Rd. and Miners Dr. No sign-ups are necessary. Donations to benefit Planned Parenthood cheerfully accepted. Email-Plannedparenthood5k@gmail.com with any questions.

ORR CITY COUNCIL

Orr council sets max levy increase at eight percent

Longtime Maintenance Supervisor Paul Koch submits resignation after nearly 30 years of city employment

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

ORR- Two items on the Orr City Council agenda on Monday loomed larger than the rest for their overall impact on the community – the setting of the maximum property tax levy for 2025 and the resignation of Maintenance Supervisor Paul Koch, though neither generated much discussion.

In a long-standing practice, the council adopted a proposed levy of eight per-

cent, which would bring in an additional \$11,782.24 to the city's coffers if left standing. However, typical budgeting practice in Minnesota is to set the levy high as a contingency plan and then work to reduce it by the time the annual budget is approved in December. City Clerk Angela Fabish said the goal of the council is to get the levy down below five percent, if possible. The council will look at all aspects of the budget to determine where savings in expenses might be

captured.

Koch was present at the meeting to deliver his regular report, and the council unanimously accepted his resignation. No reason was stated for Koch's resignation, but council members expressed sincere appreciation for his service to the community. Koch worked for the city for nearly three decades.

"I think we should thank Paul – he's been around as long as half the people living in Orr, I think," said council member Bruce Black. "He's

been around as long as I can remember."

Other business

In other business, the council:

➤Rescheduled the October regular council meeting to Tuesday, Oct. 15 at 6 p.m.

➤Denied submitting a sealed bid for a property in the county land auction that is adjacent to the airport.

➤Approved the hiring of Nicole VanOs as the new liquor store manager.

➤Denied a request from The Dam Supper Club to

release the restriction on off-sale liquor sales. Bobbi Malecha appeared at the August meeting to propose the action as a way to deal with the restricted and irregular hours of the Orr Muni due to staffing shortages. Council member Melissa Wright made the motion to deny the request, noting her concern that having off-sale at The Dam would take business away from the Muni.

➤Approved a salary increase for clerk Fabish for accepting additional man-

agement duties for the Orr Muni.

➤Approved notices of intent to certify delinquent utility accounts to the county auditor.

➤Approved the purchase of a sign for the Orr Fire Department station.

➤Approved the purchase of nine jackets for ambulance service personnel at a per item cost of \$118.

➤Approved the deposit of \$52,215.26 from the Cook Orr Healthcare District into the ambulance account.

NORTHWOODS FRIENDS OF THE ARTS

Author Katharine Johnson speaks at gallery exhibit reception

COOK- "Good things come to those who wait" was the unspoken catch phrase at a reception at the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook last Friday as accomplished author Katharine Johnson was the featured guest speaker for the event.

The author of "The Wind and The Drum," "Mukluk Ball," "Born in a Red Canoe," "Born of an Eclipse," and "Sylvie's Silence" was originally scheduled to speak at NWFA's annual meeting on June 18, a meeting that was canceled due to a severe thunderstorm and heavy rain.

Johnson shared her methods of writing with members and supporters attending the reception for artists featured in the September gallery dis-

play. Johnson and her husband Dale shared humorous anecdotes about her life surrounded by writing and how, when she was a child, she got out of doing dishes by telling her mother she was writing a book. As she grew older and retired from teaching, Katharine, plagued by guilt and prodded to publish by her husband, decided she owed her mother a that book. That was six books ago, and Johnson's most recent book, "Belzi's Blizzard," was just published.

The Johnsons, who live in rural Cloquet on the Fond du Lac Reservation, were both teachers. Katharine grew up on a rocky farm on the Mesabi Iron Range. Her grandparents emigrated from Finland. When writing, Katharine digs into a deep



As her husband Dale looks on, historical fiction author Katharine Johnson speaks to a group attending a reception on Friday at the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery. submitted

well of family stories, ethnic lore, and persistent night dreams. She writes mostly historical fiction. In the process of writing, she says she has discovered that fiction is often so entangled with the truth that it is impossible to separate the two. Her short stories and poems have been published in various anthologies and magazines.

Monthly exhibit

The reception served as a formal kickoff and celebration of the September exhibition by The Open Art Group. The exhibition in the Wolfe Den classroom features a collaborative creation of their interpretation of Vincent Van Gogh's "Starry Night" painting. Participants in this stunning "Starry Night" representation

are: JoAnn Anderson, Jim DeVries, Jody Feist, Linda Freeman, Cheryl Harelsstad, Wendy Jorden, Mel Moschler, Kathy Sorgeafrel and Alberta Whitenack.

Open Art Group members have also created pieces celebrating the city of Cook, both new and old. Each artist was also invited to show works created during the Open Arts sessions held each Monday.

The NWFA Gallery at 210 S River St. is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

The gallery is hosting a two-day drawing class on Sept. 20 and 27 from 1 p.m.-4 p.m.. Call Alberta at 218-666-2153 to register.

FLOOD RELIEF



The Cook Lions Club held its annual summer picnic on Aug. 20., and members were delighted to be visited by Dave Hampson of Timbuktu Marine, who presented the club with a \$5,000 check for flood recovery efforts along with a \$3,500 donation from Premier Pontoons. submitted

Small Business Administration loans can be increased for mitigation against future floods

REGIONAL- Minnesota residents and businesses approved for a disaster loan from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) as a result of the severe storms and flooding that occurred June 16-July 4, can get an increase in their approved loan amount to help with modifications that will help prevent future flood damage.

Recipients have two years from the date of their loan approval to request an increase to pay for mitigation measures to prevent or minimize damages from future disasters. Mitigation funds from the SBA are an affordable way for survivors to rebuild smarter, stronger, and pay for improvements that protect life and property.

"The opportunity to include measures to help prevent future damage from occurring is a significant benefit of SBA's disaster loan program," said Francisco Sánchez, Jr., associate administrator for the Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience at the Small Business Administration. "I encourage everyone to consult their contractors and emergency management mitigation specialists for ideas and apply for an SBA disaster loan increase for funding."

Businesses and homeowners may be eligible for a loan increase up to 20 percent of their physical damages, as verified by the SBA, to cover the cost of improvements. Examples of mitiga-

tion improvements may include sealing your roof deck, installing a French drain, regrading landscaping to improve drainage, installing storm doors and windows, or installing a safe room. To learn more about mitigation options visit sba.gov/mitigation.

For more information and to apply online visit SBA.gov/disaster. Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for information on SBA disaster assistance. For people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

Sunday deadline looms for Lions flood fund apps

COOK- If you sustained flood damage this summer and live within the 55723 or 55703 zip codes, you can still submit an application through this Sunday, Sept. 15 if you would like to be eligible to receive support from the Cook Lions Club.

Homeowners, renters, and business owners should all complete a survey through a link on the Cook

MN Lions Club Facebook page if you suffered damage or a loss of property beyond what was covered by insurance.

Hardcopy forms will be available at the flood recovery center located at 1 W. Vermilion Dr. on Saturday from 10 a.m.-noon.

Questions may be directed to Steve Kajala 218-750-0310.

Campground zoning issue to be decided Sept. 24

BEATTY TWP- A long-simmering conflict over a campground intended to cater to veterans on Lake Vermilion's Black Bay will reach a milestone of sorts on Tuesday, Sept. 24 when the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners meets to take final action on a rezoning request that, if passed, would allow the campground development.

A rezoning request for five parcels of land, three

of which are accessible by water and are intended for campsites, was originally filed by Christine Wyrobek in February 2023, along with a conditional use permit application for development of the nonprofit Rough-N-It campground. Such a development is not an allowable use under the current zoning classification of residential but would be under the requested change to shoreline multiple use.

The road since has been a rocky one marked by public dissent, procedural errors, a planning commission vote to recommend denial of the rezoning, and two lawsuits brought by Wyrobek and her partners against the county. Both lawsuits were voluntarily dismissed. Meanwhile, Wyrobek has operated some camping at the site, claiming that the activity is in accord with her interpretation of allowable use for residentially

zoned lots. The county disagrees and has sent Wyrobek letters indicating that she is in violation of the current ordinance.

The board of commissioners makes the final ruling on rezoning requests, and will meet at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 24 in the County Board Room at the Duluth Courthouse to discuss and make a decision on the rezoning application.

Paul Bunyan Communications celebrates decade of GigaZone broadband

REGIONAL- Paul Bunyan Communications is celebrating the tenth anniversary of the groundbreaking GigaZone all fiber optic network. Launched a decade ago, the GigaZone network has transformed the connectivity landscape in Northern Minnesota, providing unparalleled internet speeds, reliability, and customer satisfaction.

The GigaZone network, a significant advancement in

telecommunications network technology, is designed to meet the growing demands of the digital age. With Internet speeds now up to 10 gigabits per second, the network has enabled households, businesses, and institutions to experience gigabit fast uploads and downloads for uninterrupted online activities.

Over the past ten years, the cooperative has continually invested in and expanded the GigaZone network. Paul

Bunyan currently offers the service in the North Country in Cook, Morcom Township, Togo, Ash Lake, Sand Lake, Kabetogama, and Voyageurs National Park, with build-outs planned for the Britt and Angora areas.

"In 2014, we set out to build a network that would not only meet the needs of our community but exceed them," said Gary Johnson, CEO of Paul Bunyan Communications. "Today, we are

proud to celebrate a decade of delivering on that promise with the GigaZone all-fiber optic network. Our commitment to innovation and customer service has never been stronger."

"Our decision to invest in an all-fiber optic network was driven by our commitment to our members and our vision for the future," Johnson continued. "As other providers struggle with aging infrastructure, we con-

tinue to push the boundaries of what's possible, ensuring that our communities, no matter how remote, have access to the best technology available."

In addition to providing cutting-edge connectivity, the GigaZone network has also been instrumental in supporting local economic growth, remote education, telehealth services, and countless other community initiatives. The network's ro-

bust performance has proven essential during the recent global pandemic, enabling seamless remote work and learning experiences for over 30,000 homes and businesses.

"Looking back on the past ten years, we are incredibly proud of what we've accomplished," Johnson said. "But we are even more excited about the future."

LEGAL CHALLENGE

Sen. Smith visits Ely's new Community Hub



by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- U.S. Senator Tina Smith was in Ely last week to visit the Community Hub, a building for which she and fellow U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar worked to obtain a \$1.2 million grant for its renovation.

The facility is the culmination

Left: While visiting the Happy Days Learning Center at the Community Hub, U.S. Senator Tina Smith plunked down on the floor and started singing with the toddlers lined up in the hallway. photo by K. Soderberg

of years of effort by the Ely Area Community Foundation to create a community support and wellness-oriented facility for the Ely area. In December 2022, the EACF was able to purchase the former Minnesota Department of Revenue Building on Miners Drive. Renovation on the facility began this past winter to create the hub which opened at the beginning of August. The facility is currently the home of the expanded Happy Days Learning Center, the Functional Fitness Gym, and provides offices for two area nonprofits.

“Senator Smith came to see what a

great facility she helped to fund,” said Kurt Soderberg, the secretary of EACF. “The senator is a strong supporter of childcare, especially for rural Minnesota, so she spent time touring Happy Days. At one point, to everyone’s surprise, she joined some of the kids waiting in the hallway and started singing with them.”

Smith also spent time during the visit to hear from EACF board members on their future needs for the Community Hub, including the community space and the proposed future aquatic center

LEGAL CHALLENGE

Deer farmers lawsuit dismissed by federal judge

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Minnesota’s struggling deer farming industry suffered a serious blow last month when a federal judge dismissed a lawsuit and petition for a preliminary injunction aimed at preventing the state from enacting regulations that farmers say will irreparably harm their operations and force many to shut down.

Figuring prominently in the lawsuit was former deer farm operator Dennis Udovich, of Greaney. After voluntarily ceasing his deer farming activities, attorneys argued that Udovich is prevented from re-entering the profession due to a moratorium on new registrations for white-tailed deer farming. The regulations also limit the transfer of existing registrations to immediate family members, effectively prohibiting non-family members like Udovich from entering the industry. The lawsuit asserted that Udovich has a constitutional right to pursue the profession of his choice.

The ruling

In dismissing the lawsuit and denying the preliminary injunction, Minnesota U.S. District Court Judge John R. Tutheim found that deer farmers are, essentially, collateral damage in the state’s fight against chronic wasting disease, or CWD.

“Plaintiffs argue that the statute is not rationally related to the prohibition of new white-tail deer registrations because the ‘evil’ the state seeks to control is CWD, not white-tail deer farmers,” Tutheim wrote. “However, the Minnesota Legislature passed the statute to prevent the spread of CWD, not to eliminate the white-tail deer-farming profession. The eventual elimination of white-tail deer farming in Minnesota, while unfortunate, is incidental.”

Tutheim also found that, “The liberty to pursue one’s chosen occupation is not a fundamental right.”

New restrictions

In order to combat the threat of chronic wasting disease, the state Legislature passed regulatory amendments in 2023 imposing new

restrictions on the registration and operation of white-tailed deer farms. CWD infection rates in confined farm herds can be higher than in free-ranging deer populations, and a 2020 study found that movements of cervids between farms presents a risk for spreading CWD in Minnesota. Preventing the spread of CWD gained additional steam when researchers promoted a belief that the prion-based disease, similar to mad cow disease, could be transmitted to humans.

In December 2023, the Minnesota Deer Farmers Association and 40 individual plaintiffs filed a lawsuit in federal district court against the Department of Natural Resources seeking to prevent implementation of the new rules. They argued that the state was violating their constitutional rights to due process, equal protection, and unjust property seizures by prohibiting new deer farm registrations, restricting the transfer of registrations to immediate family, imposing costly new fencing requirements, and restricting individual rights to enter or continue in the deer

farming industry.

An industry on the decline

Once a thriving statewide industry with more than 700 registered cervid farms, today the DNR lists only 101 deer farms in the state. With the moratorium on new farms and the restriction of sale, one time, to a blood relative, the regulations will put an end to deer farming in the state, MDFA President Scott Fier told *Outdoor News*.

“I don’t feel like justice was served,” Fier added. “Family farms are being ruined. Between those two things, the industry is dead. It’s very obvious that (elected and state officials) are trying to regulate us out of business. We understand what we do isn’t for everyone, but it isn’t against the law.”

Erick Kaardal, attorney for the plaintiffs, said in a statement following Tutheim’s ruling that his clients would appeal.

“We are disappointed with the district court ruling,” Kaardal said. “The principal legal disputes are over whether there is a constitutional right

for Minnesotans to pursue state-recognized occupations such as deer farming and whether the state of Minnesota is using unconstitutional legal procedures to terminate deer farming in Minnesota,” he added. “How can it be legal to prohibit such a person from pursuing a state-recognized occupation which others enjoy? If the Minnesota government can have partial bans on people pursuing the deer-farming occupation, why not similar partial bans on certain Minnesotans pursuing other occupations such as electricians, plumbers, carpenters, doctors, lawyers?”

Meanwhile, the DNR said in a statement that the agency will follow the rules as created by the Legislature. “The Minnesota DNR takes very seriously its responsibility to protect the health of Minnesota’s deer population. We will continue to work with deer farmers and follow duly enacted laws within our regulatory authority as we engage in that important work.”

FUNDING...Continued from page 1

an innovative portfolio of projects and power purchase agreements that will benefit cooperative members across Minnesota,” said Great River Energy President and Chief Executive Officer David Saggau.

Carbon capture

Minnkota’s proposal focuses on funding its Project Tundra, a carbon capture and storage development slated

for construction adjacent to the Milton R. Young power plant near Center, N.D. “It’s an effort on our part to try to figure out how to capture carbon dioxide off the back side of our largest coal plant,” said Minnkota President and CEO Mac McLennan. “It works basically by running the flue gas that comes out of the plant through a scrubber that pulls the CO2 out of it.”

From there, the CO2 is

pumped anywhere from 4,000-10,000 feet underground, into layers of porous sandstone that can absorb large quantities of the gas. The design is expected to be able to capture and store up to 4 million metric tons of carbon dioxide annually. That makes it the largest such project directly associated with a power plant proposed anywhere in the U.S.

In addition to carbon capture, Minnkota is propos-

ing to add 370 megawatts of wind energy, located in North Dakota. Combined, the proposal is expected to create hundreds of short- and long-term jobs, while providing while reducing greenhouse gas pollution by 4.3 million tons—the equivalent pollution from 1 million cars—annually.

Progress towards renewable standard

While Minnkota is pursu-

ing carbon capture technology as a way to retain coal as a viable energy source, Great River has rapidly moved away from coal and has been able to stabilize its wholesale power costs at the same time.

In 2022, the company sold off its flagship Coal Creek power plant while it retained rights to a major power transmission system, enabling Great Energy to deliver wind energy to users in Minnesota.

“These measures have Great River Energy well positioned as a new state law requires electric utilities to serve 100 percent of retail electric sales with technology that does not emit carbon dioxide by 2040,” states Great River’s 2022 annual report.

SILVER RAPIDS...Continued from page 1

the scale and density of the proposed development. Local reaction will be addressed in an upcoming *Timberjay* report.

In granting the CUP, Lake County did impose 20 distinct conditions, which highlighted the county’s intent to rely on its own permitting processes and other regulatory agencies to address a number of environmental concerns, including wastewater, water supply, lodging unit density, and storm runoff, during permitting for the project.

The Lake County Environmental Services Department, which includes its planning and zoning division, sent a memorandum on Aug. 6 summarizing the findings and conditions to the developers of the Silver Rapids Resort LLC. The memorandum is not the official notice of “findings of fact” and conditions. The county has 30 days to record the findings and permit conditions as “official minutes” of the planning commission, and those will have the force of law.

The conditions

The CUP approved last week included twenty conditions which are listed below, which the *Timberjay* has lightly edited for clarity:

➤ Occupancy limits and the total approved number of units allowed will be determined by the approved, final septic design for the site.

Bonding will be required in an amount to be determined by the County Attorney.

➤ ADNR water appropriation permit must be attained prior to issuance of any land use or septic system treatment permits for phase two construction.

➤ The lodging establishment is subject to, and grantee must comply with, Lake County Health Department and Minnesota Department of Health requirements.

➤ Final site plan to be submitted to Lake County planning and zoning by Nov. 1, 2024.

➤ Emergency response and FireWise plans shall be developed and submitted to Lake County planning and zoning.

➤ No retail sales at White Iron Lake beach, only a bathroom and shade structure per the approval of a variance through Lake County.

➤ Units not to exceed 33 in Tier 1 and 29 in Tier 2.

➤ No discharge of fireworks or firearms allowed on site.

➤ All outdoor fires must be limited to designated fire rings.

➤ Quiet hours must be observed between the hours of 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.

➤ There must be management onsite during resort operations.

➤ The use of RV campers and park models on site is

prohibited.

➤ All vehicles and trailers must be contained on the property; on-street parking is prohibited.

➤ Dwelling units located in bluff and shoreline structure setbacks may not be expanded in any exterior dimension.

➤ An aquatic invasive species prevention plan is required, which shall be reviewed by Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District and the White Iron Chain of Lakes Association with final approval from Lake County Planning and Zoning prior to the certificate of occupancy of the main lodge.

➤ A site plan of docks and water facilities shall be submitted to planning and zoning and the DNR to determine if

permits are necessary.

➤ The use of jet skis shall be highly discouraged, including no rental of jet skis.

➤ The number of docks and mooring sites not to exceed the plan proposed on Aug. 6.

➤ Rental of boats shall be limited to resort guests and unit owners.

➤ Fractional units shall be limited to rental of one party per unit; lockouts are considered multiple units.

The density issue

The single largest concern expressed by most local residents is scope of the resort makeover, which will increase the occupancy of the property from 280 to 400 people. Many have expressed doubt that such

an increase in usage can be achieved without significant environmental and cultural impacts.

The 49 cabins and their square footage is a key issue because the residential space inside the timeshare cabins plays a leading role in determining the maximum density to avoid an environmental assessment worksheet.

After a half hour verbal tussle at the beginning of the meeting over how to calculate the timeshare square footage, the county approved 33 lodging units for the tier one setback zone, which includes the motel and the five grandfathered cabin on the shoreline, and the 29 units in the tier two setback zone. The total number of units will be 62.

The original proposal submitted to the county on May 31 was for 36 units in tier one and 25 in tier two, for a total of 61. The result is that the county did not significantly change the one thing that concerns area residents, namely a large increase in the number people who will visit the resort. Both the county and the developers have not taken any steps to address resident fears that the resort will destroy the quiet, paddle-oriented nature of the White Iron chain of lakes. The lack of transparency and a seeming unwillingness to engage with Fall Lake area property owners has solidified resistance to the resort makeover, which will be the topic of an upcoming article in the *Timberjay*.

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LEVY...Continued from page 1

for the city. Currently, every percent increase in the levy raises an extra \$4,150. Mayor Dave Setterberg noted that the city would likely need to raise water rates for next year to cover additional debt service for the new drinking water treatment plant, which will put an additional burden on city residents even without a levy increase.

Council member Joe Morin motioned for a preliminary increase of three percent for next year, which would bump the city's tax levy to approximately \$426,000. But council member Josh Zika noted that, by state law, the city can't raise its levy above the preliminary amount set in September. Cities can lower their levies, and many do, before setting the final number in December.

Morin agreed with Zika's logic and rescinded his motion for three percent, following up with the proposed five percent increase, which the council approved unanimously. Council members will be reviewing the budget over the next few months ahead of the final levy decision later this year.

Ceglar's presentation on the city's audit was largely uneventful. While the city had made some progress in bolstering its general fund, Ceglar said apparent deficits in some other accounts suggested that progress was limited. The audit did include a \$190,000 restatement from previous years to account for the city's decision to transfer management of the Gundersen Trust to the Duluth-Superior Community Foundation.

The city's ambulance service showed some progress in reducing its deficits, with a \$92,000 deficit including \$54,000 in depreciation.

Setterberg noted that the audit doesn't always give a

clear a picture of the city's finances as might be expected because of the way that money flows in and out of the various accounts. "It's just a snapshot at year-end," he said.

Ceglar issued his usual findings regarding lack of segregation of duties and lack of control over financial reporting. He also noted that renovations by TEDA at the charter school should have used sealed bids rather than quotes because the total value of the project ended up exceeding \$175,000. "That's something to keep in mind in the future for these close-to-the-threshold projects," he said. Overall, Ceglar had many fewer findings than in the recent past.

In other business, the council discussed favorable initial reports from soil testing at the site of the rapid infiltration basin, or RIB, system, that the Tower-Breitung Waste Water Board is currently considering. The new system would provide for land treatment of a potentially significant portion of the two communities' wastewater, substantially expanding total treatment capacity. "The quick update is that the soils are looking good," said council member Zika, who has a background in wastewater treatment. He said the focus is currently on determining the best location for the facility within the area that has been cleared for the project.

In other business, the council:

- Approved a proposal by AMPTEK to develop a plan for electrical upgrades to the Hoodoo Point Campground over the next several years, at a cost not to exceed \$8,000. Campground manager Randy Pratt informed the council that most sites at the campground still lack the 50-amp service that has become the standard

Freshour honored for quick response to assault

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER— The heroic action of Tower EMT Steve Freshour, who broke up a premeditated assault here back on July 22, was formally recognized on Monday. Mayor Dave Setterberg and Breitung Police Chief Dan Reing offered comments, a plaque, and a Zup's gift certificate to Freshour during a brief award ceremony held as part of this week's city council meeting.

"We can tell you that Mr. Freshour went above and beyond the scope of his duty and I truly believe he saved that gentleman's life," said Chief Reing

during his remarks.

Setterberg presented the plaque and gift to Freshour, noting that the West Virginia native had previously served in the military before becoming an EMT in Tower. He was near the ambulance hall the night of the assault by four teenage boys on a man they had lured to town and responded immediately to the screams of the man as he was assaulted by the teenagers with wooden and metal rods. Freshour was able to scare off the attackers, call 911, and render aid to the victim.

"Most of us will probably never be in that situation and if we were we can only



Steve Freshour (r) accepted an Outstanding Citizen Award from Tower Mayor Dave Setterberg on Monday.

hope that we would do what he did," said Setterberg. "He came to the situation swiftly and selflessly. I just want

to let you know that the community is grateful that you're a part of it."

for most large RVs. He said some of the smaller 20-amp services still have screw-type breakers.

When questioned by council members, Pratt acknowledged that the campground likely isn't losing any business as a result of its outdated electrical service. "The seasons are complaining but we'd fill their lots up no matter what," he said. Council member Bob Anderson noted that a plan to upgrade the electrical could delay improvements to the campground's bathroom facilities, which are also in need of repair.

➤ Set a public hearing on a new zoning ordinance for short-term rentals in the city for 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 24, with a planning and zoning commission meeting to follow.

➤ Approved a work plan by SEH to map and give a preliminary assessment of the condition of the city's

stormwater infrastructure. The work, at a cost of \$20,000, would not include camera testing the lines for their condition. The work will be funded by a \$20,000 grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Other MPCA grants could help the city pay for further work on stormwater infrastructure.

➤ Opted to try using email as a means of reaching city residents with various announcements in the future, rather than using texting for now. The council had considered an app that would have facilitated texting with residents but opted not to pursue that option for now.

➤ Briefly discussed but took no action on the proposal by the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital to create a regional ambulance service to serve Ely, Tower, and Babbitt. "They're going to need to give the communities much more detail if it's going

to move forward," said councilor Anderson. "Right now, it's just a very broad idea."

➤ Heard a report on a recent meeting to discuss options for getting the Mesabi Trail to Tower. Councilor Kevin Norby, who headed up the meeting, said it included representatives from several area trail groups who discussed a variety of options. Norby said Mesabi Trail Assistant Director Sarah Ciochetto would try to come up with cost estimates of the options ahead of a meeting tentatively set for next month.

➤ Approved a motion to accept an IRRR grant to cover the cost of a chip reader at the airport's fueling station.

➤ Noted that the new kayak launching dock is getting considerable use.

➤ Authorized clerk-treasurer Michael Schultz and maintenance supervisor Ben Velcheff to conduct the initial screening of applications

for the city's maintenance assistant position. The city received 12 applications for the position.

➤ Authorized Setterberg and Morin to serve along with the city attorney to meet with AFSCME union representatives to begin the latest round of contract negotiations with city workers. A separate negotiation is also planned with the city's ambulance director.

➤ Approved a short-term lease of the city's now-empty pole building on S. Second St. by Tinde-USA for storage of building materials. The lease is currently set at \$700/month.

➤ Directed Schultz to send letters to property owners with delinquent utility bills urging them to get caught up before the city applies to have their overdue accounts added to their property tax statements.

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EVENTS

Embarrass's "Community Night Out" growing in popularity

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

EMBARRASS- The lawn chairs were set up at least a half a dozen rows deep, and the always popular Bill Maxwell and his Cowboy Angel Blue band played on an outdoor stage in front of the Seitaniemi Housebarn, Embarrass's one-of-a-kind log structure that helps tell the story of the town's Finnish immigrants.

The annual event, which somehow always manages to coincide with unseasonably nice fall weather, offered tours of the housebarn, live music, free ice cream, and chili, cornbread and pie for purchase.

This year, Sisu partnered up with the Embarrass Region Fair Association, which provided kids' games, free ice cream cones, and prizes for the area children who had participated in the Embarrass Kids Club events throughout the summer, completing the Embarrass history treasure hunt.

After running out of



With the historic Seitaniemi housebarn as a backdrop, Cowboy Angel Blue performed last Sunday evening as part of the annual Community Night Out event sponsored by Sisu Heritage and the Embarrass Region Fair Board. This year's event attracted one of the largest crowds ever. photo by J. Summit

chili, pie, and cornbread last year, Sisu volunteers upped their food preparation by 25-percent. This meant almost 75 quarts of homemade chili and 30 homemade pies, sold by the piece. At the end of the

event, almost everything was gone. A few extra slices of pie were handed out to the musicians, and a few event-goers who had stuck around after the music was over also scored a second dessert.

"I think it is the best night we've had," said Sisu board member and pie wrangler Mickey White. "And we signed up new members for Sisu Heritage, which is always good."

They did run out of coffee, and had quite a few requests for decaf, White said.

"But real Finns don't drink decaf," she noted.

Marlin Bjornrud, who was busy selling Sisu Heritage merchandise and tickets for the group's annual raffle, said this was the biggest crowd he's ever seen at the event.

He said the partnership with the fair association brought several new families with young children, who enjoyed both the music and time playing on the grounds. "We are hoping they will come back next year," Bjornrud said.

While the event attracts many of the same families year to year, there were still plenty of people who had never seen the unique building, and one

family even traveled from Bovey this year, he said. This event, along with Sauna Day in June, and a concert at the Apostolic Lutheran Church, are all fundraisers for Sisu's restoration work. This year the group raised enough from their generous business sponsors to cover all the event costs, meaning all the money raised from food sales are able to go directly into the group's work of restoring and maintaining Embarrass's historic architecture.

"This housebarn is so special and unique," Bjornrud said.

The housebarn, set almost three miles down a dead-end gravel road off Hwy. 21, is set on land that is now owned by Sisu Heritage. The housebarn is open to the public during this annual concert, and private tours can be arranged by contacting Sisu Heritage.

Sisu is waiting to hear later this month on their latest grant request to the Minnesota Historical Society

for \$265,000 which would fund the majority of the work needed to complete the restoration. They are working with LHB Architects on this phase of the project. Sisu has already repaired the foundation, replaced the roof, replaced windows, repaired and replaced damaged logs, and other major work needed to stabilize the building, which dates back to 1907. This new grant would pay for completing the exterior walls, repairing and restoring siding, and work on the interior of the cow barn section. The final phase of the project will be restoring the interior of the house portion of the housebarn. The building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1990. You can learn more about Sisu Heritage at their website, <https://sisuheritage.org/>.

WATER...Continued from page 1

all closed and bottled water sold out almost immediately.

Between 4 and 5 p.m., city work crews had pumps set up to drain the excavation for the original pipe repair, which had filled with water gushing in from the failed valve.

The next few hours were spent removing the old pipe and valves, followed by cleaning out the excavation anew and assembling the replacement parts, which the city had prudently kept on hand. Most of the new pipe is epoxy-coated stainless steel, according to Langowski, with a lifetime of at least a hundred years.

By 9:30 p.m., work crews had most of the new pieces in the excavation and were fitting them together. Langowski originally estimated the repair would be completed by 8 p.m., but, in the end, it took nearly twice as long. With everything installed, the city started flushing the water lines through the city's fire hydrants at 11:30 p.m. Homes at lower elevations and on the east side of town got their pressure back first while homes on the hills on the south side of Ely didn't see normal water pressure until after midnight.

Anatomy of a failure

The first sign of trouble with the aging infrastructure had appeared a few days earlier when a water main connected to the ancient valve sprung a leak. "Public works started yesterday working on fixing a leak," Ely's Building Official Doug Whitney told the Timberjay.

"The water had been collecting at the bottom of the hill (the low point in the road just west of Dollar General) for a while, so the pipe probably had been leaking for a while. The city was making that repair now before winter arrived."

When the city started working on Monday, public works set up a detour south on Third Ave. W., west on W. Harvey St., and then north on Fourth Ave. W. back to Hwy. 169.

The valve failed where the line from the water tower meets 12-inch and 10-inch lines that run underneath the highway. Langowski estimated that public works was about three hours from completing the repair on the leaking pipe when the valve failed, just before 4 p.m. on Tuesday afternoon.

The fallout

The break in the water line was downstream of the treated water in the water tower and city reservoir, both of which were full. Yet the repairs undoubtedly allowed contaminated materials from the excavation and pipe repair into the system. Water lines are cleaned by flushing out the contaminated water but until the city completes flushing its



Workers assemble one of the critical junctions above ground before lowering into position underground. photo by C. Clark

water lines, the water in them will be deemed unsafe for consumption without boiling.

While residents filled the "What's Up, Ely MN" Facebook group with gripes about the lack of drinking water, Fire Chief David Marshall had bigger worries. He was busy making sure the Ely Fire Department was ready to handle any fire calls that might come up.

"I've contacted all the surrounding fire departments, to apprise them of the situation and to arrange for them to send their water tenders with their drop tanks in case we have a fire call," Marshall said. A drop tank is a portable open-topped tank resembling a low-sided swimming pool which fire departments use in areas that lack a ready water supply. Ely also has its own 2,500-gallon water tender and drop tank.

While the collapse of the valve proved a major inconvenience for city residents and businesses, it did result in the much-needed replacement of a key piece of city infrastructure. And Whitney noted it could have been worse, particularly given the rapid flooding of the excavation located next to the failed valve.

"There's one good thing to note about this incident, and that is no one was injured with all the wet and mud and failing

valves," said Whitney. "You just don't know what you'll find when you dig up these hundred-year-old pipes."




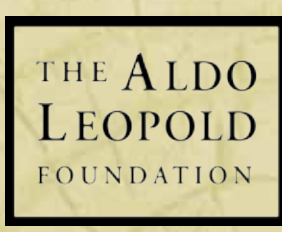
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ELY

Harvest Moon plus Portageland Music makes for extra special fall festival

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- The three-day Harvest Moon Festival was blessed this year with sunny weather, though breezy at times. Over 15,000 estimated festival visitors enjoyed cool mornings and clement temperatures in the afternoons as they shopped 96 vendors, including 12 food trucks in the food court and the ever-popular Kiwanis serving up blueberry pie à la mode and Dorothy Molter root beer floats.

This year, a new event, the Northern Lakes Arts Association's Portageland Music Festival ran concurrently in Whiteside Park on Saturday afternoon. "It was like strong sisters standing side by side," said Ian Francis Lah, NLA Executive Director. "I was a little nervous about running a paid event next to a free one, but most of the people who were interested in the music did pay to get in. I talked with one vendor near the bandshell and he was thrilled, saying how the music kept people in the park longer than they would have stayed because in previous years, the crowd at the festival has tapered after three p.m. and this year they stayed for the music."

The NLA experience with the two festivals sharing Whiteside Park was similar. "We got great feedback about the music," said Ely Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Eva Sebesta. "Folks loved the music genres. It really added a lot to the event and it was a great draw bringing more people into the park."

Awards

The Ely Chamber of Commerce, which runs the event, gave out awards in four categories this year, up from three last year: arts, craft goods, the makers' market, and the food court.

The winners in the art category were: first place- Waters Edge Art from Nisswa, second place- Steve Sutter Fine Art from Minneapolis, and third place- Katie Bromme Watercolor from Two Harbors.

The winners in the craft category were: first place- Pharr Thrown Pottery from Ely, second place- Ledge Wood Creations from Foley, and third place- Superior Creations from Duluth.

The winners in the makers' market category were: first place- Morning Glory Creations from Ely, second place- Ledge Wood Creations from Centuria, and third place- Fair Haven Honey Farm from Rochester.

The winners in the food court category were: first place- Frozen Tundra from Ely, second place- Grilled Cheese Galore from Gilbert, and third place- Rose Cottage Baking Company from Cook.

The first-place winners in all categories receive \$100 off for one booth space for next year's Blueberry/Art or Harvest Moon festivals. The second-place winners receive \$75 off and the third-place winners receive \$50 off.



Right: Shoppers wandered through Whiteside Park.

Below: A toddler riding piggyback gets a birds-eye view at the Harvest Moon Festival.

photos by C. Clark



Above: Two pie eaters receiving their ice cream at the Kiwanis pie operation in the Whiteside Park Pavilion at the Harvest Moon Festival.

Left: The Morning Bird Band from Hibbing on stage at the Whiteside Park bandshell on Saturday afternoon.



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The First Full Marathon runner will arrive at the finish line around 10:15am.
The First Half Portage runner will arrive at the finish line around 10:15am.
The First Full Portage runner will arrive at the finish line around 12:45pm.
Come and cheer them in!

TRAFFIC IMPACTED - Saturday, Sept. 21

St. Louis County, MNDOT, the Cities of Ely and Winton, Townships of Fall and Morse and the Ely Marathon team have put together a plan that is safest for all participants and community members.

The following road closures will take place on September 21:
(Echo Trail) North Arm Road to Grant McMahan 7:30AM-10:00AM
(Grant McMahan) Echo Trail to HWY169 8:00AM-12:00PM
(Old Winton Road) Grant McMahan to W 6th Ave 8:00AM-12:00PM
(Cedar Lk RD/Cloquet Line) Old Winton Road to Beel Road 8:00AM-12:00PM (Pioneer Road) Grant McMahan to Miners Dr. 8:30AM-1:00PM

(Miners Drive) Pioneer to 17th Avenue 8:30AM-1:30PM
(17th Avenue) Miners to Camp St. 9:00AM-2:00PM
(Camp) 17th to 15th 9:00AM-2:00PM (Sheridan) 15th to 1st Ave 8:15AM-2:00PM
(1st Ave) Sheridan to Harvey 8:15AM-2:00PM
(Chapman) 1st Ave to 7th Ave 8:15AM-2:00PM
(Harvey) 1st Ave to 17th Ave 8:15AM-2:00PM

All emergency vehicles will be allowed on the race course at any time. There will be pilot cars positioned in the case that other vehicles need to get through during emergency situations.

Volunteer: run@elymarathon.com

ELY DETOUR DURING MARATHON

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

FRIDAY:
Noon-10 pm Packet pickup at Whiteside Park
Noon-8 pm Epic Bounce House Obstacle Course
Noon-8 pm Food Trucks at Whiteside Park
6-8 pm Dick Beardsley Book Signing
4-10 pm Dorothy Molter Beer and Drink Tent
7 pm Northern Lights 5K GLOW RUN

SATURDAY:
5:30 am Busses begin picking up at Whiteside Park/Ely High School
7:30 am Start of Ely Marathon
8:00 am Start of Boundary Waters Bank Half Marathon
8:45 Start of Dorothy Molter Root Beer Run
9 am Kids Finishers and Marathon runners start coming in
8-3pm Race Expo and Food Trucks at Whiteside Park
8-3pm Bounce House Extravaganza at Whiteside Park
10-3pm Dorothy Molter Beer and Drink Tent
10-2pm Rhino Rocks Whiteside Park
2pm Awards Ceremony at Whiteside Park.

ELY STREET CLOSURES:
The following streets will be closed from 8:30am to 2pm:
• East Camp Street from 17th Ave. to 15th Ave.
• Sheridan Street from 2nd Ave. to 15th Ave.
• Chapman Street from 2nd Ave to 7th Ave.
Hwy 169 (Sheridan Street) detour will run from Central Ave. to Harvey Street to 17th Ave. (shown in green).

ELY DETOUR DURING MARATHON

NORTHERN LIGHTS 5K GLOW RUN
Friday, Sept. 20 @ 7 p.m.

- The 5K race will be in effect for 6:40pm to 8 pm on Sept. 20
- The entire course will be blocked off to traffic during the race.
- Barricades will be placed so that alleys south of Camp Street will be accessible.
- The course will be cleared as the last racers move throughout the route.
- Registration will be at Whiteside Park for this event this year, not at YCC

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Sunday, September 15
4 to 7 PM at the Town Hall

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FOOTBALL

Ely tops East Central 14-8

Notches a win at their home opener, evens record to 1-1

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

ELY — The Timberwolves evened their season record at 1-1 on Friday as they outpaced East Central 14-8 in their home opener here. “It was a good game,” said Ely Head Coach Louie Gerzin. “From the git-go, our boys came ready to play.”

Ely drew first blood with a touchdown in the first quarter as runningback Alex Merriman took it in from four yards out. “He just put his shoulder down and kept his feet moving,” said Gerzin.

Jesse Oelke added the conversion to put the Wolves up 8-0.

The Eagles came back early in the second with a drive that knotted the score at eight. Despite chances, neither team added points heading into the break.

But the Wolves emerged from the locker room ready to win and added their second touchdown of the evening midway through the third quarter when quarterback Sean Merriman took it in from one-yard out. Minus the failed conversion, the score staked Ely to a 14-8 lead, which they

never relinquished.

Friday’s contest was a considerable turnaround from the team’s season opening shellacking at the hands of I-Falls. “Play on the offensive line was much improved,” noted Gerzin. “We worked on that a lot this week.” Gerzin said the addition of senior Garrett Rohr at offensive guard helped the Wolves control the line more effectively.

Ely’s offense also proved more effective against the Eagles, led by Alex Merriman, who rushed for 139 yards

including the touchdown. Sean Merriman notched a 20-yard pass completion to Oelke along with a two-point conversion.

photo by J. Greeney

Oelke had a big night defensively as well, posting nine tackles, a sack, and a fumble recovery. Alex Merriman added eight tackles,



while Brady Eaton posted seven. Garrett Rohr tallied five tackles while Sean Merriman added four and broke up two passes.

The Wolves will be looking to improve to 2-1 on Friday when they head to South Ridge to take on the Panthers.

VOLLEYBALL

Ely stays unbeaten thus far

Takes first at Greenway Tournament on Saturday

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

CHISHOLM — Three weeks into the volleyball season, Section 7A teams are still looking for a way to blemish Ely’s perfect season. In a busy week, the Wolves added six more straight set victories to improve to 9-0.

On Monday, the Wolves didn’t let a slow start keep them from their latest match win as they downed the Bluestreaks 25-21, 25-17, and 25-13.

“It took us a little while to get into a rhythm on the court but once we found our groove, we were able to complete the plays,” said Ely Head Coach Megan Wognum. “Chisholm did a great job of placing the ball where we had holes and it was excellent practice for us to work on staying low and ready on defense.”

Senior middle hitter Lilli Rechichi led the way with 15 kills on the night along with nine digs, while sophomore Audrey Kallberg had an impressive showing as well with eight kills, 12 digs, three solo blocks and three ace serves. Senior Clare Thomas posted nine kills and five digs, while sophomore Charlotte Hegman added four kills and six digs. Sophomore setter Gretta Lowe notched 31 assists and 14 digs.

“Offensively, we ran some different plays and tried some new things that worked well for us,” said Wognum. “It was a great game that will help us grow as a team.”

The Wolves got a look at several other teams as they dominated last Saturday’s Greenway tournament in Coleraine, winning eight straight sets against four different opponents to take first in the tournament for the second year in a row.

After dumping Cherry in straight sets last Thursday, the Wolves showed it wasn’t a fluke as they dispatched the Tigers on Saturday, 25-13, 25-7. Audrey Kallberg had a strong performance, leading with eight kills and six digs.

See ELY GIRLS...pg. 2B



FOOTBALL

Grizzlies lose heartbreaker

Fall 12-6 to Kelliher-Northome in home opener

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- The North Woods Grizzlies football team held its own against Kelliher-Northome on Friday until a failed fourth-down attempt deep in their own territory opened the door for the Mustangs to escape with a 12-6 win.

Both teams showed the ability to move the ball but had little success in turning drives into points. Following a Mustang punt that pinned them at their own two-yard line, the Grizzlies mounted a 13-play drive with a fourth-down conversion that eventually fizzled out on their own 40.

After a punt, K-N responded with the first scoring drive of the game, a 78-yard march in the second quarter that culminated in a three-yard touchdown run to put the Mustangs up 6-0 with 7:23 left in the half.

North Woods senior Talen

Jarshaw ran the ensuing kickoff back to the Mustangs 48, coughed up the ball three plays later for a turnover, then came right back with an interception to set the Grizzlies up at their own 41. The drive stalled at the K-N 40 when a fourth down swing pass from quarterback Louie Panichi to running back Nick Abramson was snuffed out in the backfield.

With 1:49 left on the clock, K-N methodically moved from their own 45 to the North Woods 15 and threatened to score again, but Grizzlies defensive end James Yernatch sniffed out a fourth-down screen play and tackled the K-N receiver at the 11 to kill the drive.

North Woods struck back in the second half after the defense held K-N at their own 18, with the big play coming

See GRIZZLIES...pg. 5B

Above: Grizzlies’ running back Talen Jarshaw tries to elude a defender during first-quarter action against Kelliher-Northome.

Below: North Woods quarterback Louie Panichi powers his way through the line as he runs for the Grizzlies’ only score of the night.



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VOLLEYBALL

Grizzlies rally at Aurora to remain undefeated

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- Life on the road apparently suits the North Woods volleyball team, as the Grizzlies came home this past week from trips to Mesabi East, Deer River and South Ridge with their undefeated record intact.

During last Thursday's battle at Mesabi East, that

unblemished record seemed initially in jeopardy, as the Grizzlies were uncharacteristically out of sync and fell behind in the first game 24-9. North Woods shook out of their doldrums with an eight-point run before losing 25-17, but that run would prove instrumental in the outcome of the match.

"They saw that they could come back from anything," said

Grizzlies Head Coach Kaileen Redmond. "We took that and ran with it, with the momentum, and really kept our energy up, which was critical to get us where we needed to be."

The second game was a torrid affair, with a revitalized Grizzlies attack holding the lead through 10-9. A three-point flurry by the Giants gave them the lead at 12-10, and the heated

Right: Backed up by Izzy Pascuzzi, the Grizzlies' Tessa Burnett fields a Mesabi East serve.

photo by D. Colburn

skirmish continued until Mesabi East finally prevailed 25-23.

Down 2-0 for the first time this season, the Grizzlies

See NW VBALL...pg. 2B



SWIMMING

NR-E notches several firsts against Mesabi East

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

AURORA—The Northeast Range-Ely girls swimmers notched some firsts against a strong Mesabi East team here last Thursday, but the Giants outpaced the NR-E swimmers overall, with 96 points to 67 in the

binary meet.

But Nighthawks swimmers had posted some strong early season performances. Sophomore Madison Jonas bested the field by better than six seconds in the 100 backstroke with a time of 1:29.23. NR-E sophomore Moon Vetos-Keen finished in second at 1:35.75.

Tuuli Koivisto edged teammate Jordan Borchert to finish first and second in the 100 breaststroke with times of 1:29.12 and 1:29:15 respectively.

The Nighthawks also dominated the 400 freestyle relay, taking first and second. The team of Brynn Larson, Ivy Ohlhauser, Maddie Johnson, and

Lindsay Israel took first with a time of 5:09.07. Vetos-Keen, Isla Carlson, Sabrah Hart, and Raegan Borchert took second with a time of 5:27.68.

The Nighthawks also posted a number of second-place finishes. In the 200 medley relay, Via DeBeltz, Jordan Borchert, Anna Larson, and Alyssa Ice finished in 2:18.03, good

for second place.

Larson also notched a second-place finish in the 100 butterfly, with a time of 1:11.94, while Via DeBeltz finished second in the 500 freestyle with a time of 6:25.37.

CROSS COUNTRY

Wolves, Grizzlies compete at Coleraine's Titan Invitational

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COLERAINE- Cross country runners from Ely and North Woods tackled the circuit at Eagle Ridge Golf Course in Coleraine last Thursday for the Titan

Invitational meet.

Grizzlies runners helped pace the South Ridge Panthers squad to a fourth-place finish in the boys 5K competition, led by Alex Burckhardt's fourth-place finish in a time of 16:59.1. Kahlil Lightfeather-Spears was the other North

Woods runner finishing in the top half of the field, placing 16th with a time of 17:52.8.

The Ely boys finished seventh, paced by Caid Chittum in 25th place with a time of 18:10.1. Silas Slocum came in 39th with a time of 18:33.1, and Brooks Brenny

placed 40th with a time of 18:35.7.

Girls

The Panthers finished fifth on the girls' side, with Ely right on their heels in sixth.

North Woods' Zoey Burckhardt topped the South Ridge contingent with a time

of 20:07.2, placing 11th. Addison Burckhardt came in 21st with a time of 21:25.9.

Ely placed three runners in the top half of the field, led by Molly Brophy who finished 14th with a time of 20:38.1. Mattie Lindsay ran the course in 21:35.6, placing 24th, and

Isabella Macho came in 42nd with a time of 23:11.1.

The Panthers had another meet scheduled for Tuesday at Mora, and both schools will be back in action on Sept. 17 in Grand Rapids.

GRIZZLIES..Continued from page 1B

from Mason Rutchatsky, who tackled a runner for a three-yard loss. On the punt exchange, the Grizzlies took over at the 50-yard line.

Abramson had a strong seven-yard carry for a first down at the Mustang 38, and after a fumbled handoff put the Grizzlies back on the 42, Panichi went to the air,

connecting with Jarshaw in the left flat. Jarshaw weaved his way back across the field as he ran to the 20. Runs by Abramson and Jarshaw took the ball to the 13, and Panichi bulled his way up the middle on a quarterback sneak that ended up in the end zone for the score. An attempted pass for the conversion fell incom-

plete, leaving the score knotted at 6-6 with 8:05 remaining.

After forcing another K-N punt, the Grizzlies got the ball back at their own 26 with 3:47 left and momentum in their favor. Two runs and an incomplete pass left them staring at a fourth down and three, and Head Coach Joel Anderson decided to go for it.

The decision backfired when Mustang defenders shut down the North Woods running play for a one-yard loss, giving K-N the ball at the 31 with 2:55 left.

Eight plays later, the Mustangs scored the go-ahead touchdown on a four-yard sweep with only 15 seconds remaining, taking a 12-6 lead after a failed conversion

attempt.

The Grizzlies had one last shot when Jarshaw returned the ensuing kickoff to the Mustang 34, but a Panichi pass with two seconds left fell incomplete, sealing the win for the Mustangs.

The Grizzlies had 152 yards of total offense, 127 on the ground and 25 in the air.

Abramson led the rushing attack with 72 yards on 23 carries, while Jarshaw picked up 37 yards on 12 carries. Panichi was two-of-nine passing.

The Grizzlies will be back on their home turf on Friday at 7 p.m. to try to upend perennial powerhouse Mt. Iron-Buhl.

ELY GIRLS..Continued from page 1B

The Wolves had no trouble against Mesabi East, winning 25-10, 25-14. Lilli Rechichi and Audrey Kallberg each posted six kills in the match.

Mora presented Ely its toughest challenge as the Mustangs held close in a 25-21 first set before Ely dominated the second set in a 25-13

victory. Kallberg posted ten kills and seven digs in the match, while Rechichi added six kills and 11 digs. Thomas added five kills and four digs.

Rechichi had another big match in the tournament, this time against Greenway, posting 15 kills and seven digs to lead the Wolves to a 25-15,

25-17 match win. Kallberg added six kills and seven digs while Thomas added four kills and six digs. Lowe notched 22 set assists and eight digs.

The Wolves were set to host Mesabi East on Thursday and will stay at home to meet I-Falls next Tuesday, Sept. 17.

NW VBALL..Continued from page 1B

appeared to be in trouble early in the third game, trailing 11-6, but then the miscues that had haunted North Woods early on shifted over to the Giants. Trailing by one at 17-16, the Grizzlies got three kills from Izzy Pascuzzi, a flip by Carsyn

Burnett to an open hole in the Giants' defense to go up 20-17. With Britin Lappi serving, North Woods turned a 21-18 lead into a 25-18 win.

Now brimming with confidence, the Grizzlies streaked to a 6-0 advantage in the fourth

game, with Lauren Burnett figuring prominently in the run with a stuff at the net, an acrobatic save, and a massive kill shot. A pair of kills by Pascuzzi put the Grizzlies up 12-3, and Lauren Burnett short-circuited a Giants comeback attempt with a kill at 15-11. Tessa

Burnett took over at serve and scored a pair of aces as the Grizzlies ran the lead up to nine at 20-11, and Pascuzzi closed out the 25-16 win with a kill to even the match at 2-2.

The Giants wouldn't go quietly in the final game, grabbing a 5-1 lead. But the

Grizzlies clawed their way back and took the lead at 8-7 on an ace serve by Carsyn Burnett. North Woods never trailed again, rising from the early ashes to claim the match win with a 15-10 victory.

Adjustments were the key to the comeback win,

Redmond said.

"Our serve receive needs some work, but we're getting there, and we're making some changes as needed," she said. "We made the adjustment and pulled back another person to pass, and it worked out for us. We saw that they were playing a little bit shorter game on us, so we just adjusted our defense to really tuck in closer and focused on putting up the double block and filling in from there. And like I mentioned before, our energy tonight was off the charts, and that made such a huge difference."

Back on track

The Grizzlies returned to their straight-set winning way with 3-0 victories at Deer River on Monday and South Ridge on Tuesday. In both matches, North Woods was tested in the final game.

The Grizzlies held steady in the first game against Deer River, winning 25-20, and dominated the second 25-10. The Warriors made a game of it in the third, but North Woods held on for the 25-22 match winner.

The Grizzlies weren't seriously threatened in the first two games against South Ridge, winning 25-15 and 25-17. The third game, however, was a battle royale as the two teams put together a barnburner that went to extra points, with North Woods coming out on top 32-30.

The Grizzlies will put their 6-0 record on the line at home on Tuesday against Cherry, then hit the road to Floodwood for a match on Thursday. North Woods will play in the eight-team Rock Ridge tournament on Saturday, Sept. 21.



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TOWER

Floatplanes can now fly direct to and from Canada from the Tower Airport

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- The Tower Airport is now a registered airport for remote border crossings for seaplanes traveling to and from Canada.

“We are about 20 miles from the Canadian border,” said airport manager John Burgess. “This should bring in some more traffic to our seaplane base.”

The airport can now accommodate users of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection app. Pilots need to go through a security check before using the app, and then they need to report information such as names and passport numbers of any passengers through the app when

flying back in from Canada. The airport is now listed for users of Garmin pilot maps.

Burgess said there are currently 25 seaplanes and aircraft based out of the Tower Airport that will be able to use the new system, as well as planes flying in from other areas.

Burgess said the system was supposed to become active as of July 1, but just went online as of Aug. 22. The first plane used the system on Aug. 27 as it flew in from a fishing camp north of the border. Planes can land at the airport to get registered through customs and then proceed to their final destination, if that is not Tower.

Previously, pilots would need to land in Crane Lake or Ely to go through customs.

Burgess said the airport has been working on getting approved for this system for almost three years.

“Our local airport users have been involved in getting this to happen,” he said.

The app will record when a plane lands in Tower, and then it notifies the port of entry office in International Falls. It then lets the pilot know if the flight was approved or not. If not, the customs service could send an agent to the Tower Airport to review the flight, Burgess said.

A seaplane docked at the Tower Seaplane Base, which is adjacent to Hoodoo Point and the Tower Airport. submitted



ADVENTURE

Ozzie Reif hikes 70 miles on Border Route Trail using handmade gear



A selfie of Ozzie Reif while on his hike from Ely to Grand Marais using all-natural gear that he made himself, right down to his socks and underwear. submitted photo

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

REGIONAL- Ozzie Reif, of Ely, didn't quite complete the 110-mile hike he envisioned when he headed into the woods near Ely late last month, destination Grand Marais. As highlighted in an Aug. 30 feature in the *Timberjay*, he made the journey using gear he had manufactured himself from natural materials— including his shoes, socks, and even his underwear. And while he didn't make it the entire way, Reif was feeling good about the effort when the *Timberjay* caught up with him recently.

“The hike was beautiful. However, I completed 70 miles of the 110-mile hike. By the miles, that makes me a failure but I don't feel that way. I feel really good about the experience... “I also really want to thank everyone who helped me and all the volunteers who made the trail nice.”

Reif opted to finish the hike before reaching Grand Marais, pulling off the Border Route Trail

near Clearwater Lodge on Clearwater Lake. “I knew I could pull out if I needed to,” Reif said. “Along the rest of the route down to Grand Marais, I would have been facing blowdowns with trees piled three to four trunks high.” Reif ended the hike after leaving the border trail and walking down the Clearwater Road to the Gunflint Trail where two friends picked him up.

“Clearwater was last of several places where it was easy to leave the trail,” Reif noted. “After that, it would have been 30 miles to Grand Marais with no accessible way out.

Conditions

While the daytime weather was mild, the nights were a bit challenging at times for Reif.

“It was colder than I expected,” he said. “One night, I had to exercise to warm up and then put on all my layers before sleeping.”

And some of his homemade equipment didn't make it through the hike. “The gourd failed,” Reif replied. “It got moldy.” Reif had to resort to drinking from his hand-

made copper cooking pot instead.

In general, the rest of his gear survived the trek, though he waffled on his soft-sole leather footwear. “The shoes were really great. I didn't get any holes.” He used the taller, simpler pair to hike and the other, shorter pair as camp shoes. “I took over 210,000 steps on the hike,” he said. While the soles of his hikers held up, it was his toes that took a beating.

“I think I must have kicked every rock on the trail,” Reif groused. “I trashed my shins and stubbed my toes for ten days straight ... I will definitely hike these trails again, but in different shoes that are nicer to the legs.”

Public interest

Reif had two scheduled talks along his hike and both were well-attended.

“There were 20 people for my talk at Chig-Wauk [nature center],” Reif said. “There were 45 at the North House Folk School, including some who drove over to Grand Marais to hear me talk.”

EDUCATION

Statewide academic assessment test data released

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

Less than half of students statewide are achieving at grade levels

REGIONAL- The Minnesota Department of Education's recently released 2024 report cards for academic achievement in the state's school districts showed that less than half of Minnesota's students performed at grade-level proficiencies in math, reading, and science on the state assessment tests.

Still, an encouraging sign from the data is that for reading and math, scores remained steady from last year at 49.9 percent for reading and 45.5 percent for math, and science scores improved from 39.2 to 39.6 percent, suggesting that schools are beginning to see some success in countering the large drop in overall scores experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We need all students to succeed and thrive in school,” Education Commissioner Willie Jett said in a press release. “Statewide assessment and accountability data are an important part of a broader set of measures that tell our schools and families how students are doing and guide MDE in planning how to best support our school communities.”

Education officials noted that lawmakers significantly increased K-12 spending over the past year or so and passed the READ Act to mandate phonics-based reading instruction in the early grades as measures which should return dividends in student performance in upcoming years.

“It's going to be a long-term systemic change and we're starting to implement it now,” Jett said.

Scores are affected by student participation, as families can choose to opt out of Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment tests, with research showing that participation in high school is typically lower, and that white students and those with higher grade point averages were more likely to decline to participate.

There is also a view held by

many educators that the tests don't truly measure student performance as observed in their broader day-to-day assessment activities with students.

“Teachers and administrators do not see the test as something that is really reflective of what is happening at the schools, and that has had major repercussions because we, at the state level, we use this as an accountability system,” said Julio Cesar, executive director of research and assessment for the Bloomington Public School District. “But if teachers and administrators do not buy into the test (and) students are not buying into the test, what are we really measuring?”

Locally, the Ely and St. Louis County School districts have faced their own challenges with the pandemic drop, and the Ely district appears to have fared the best relative to state assessment scores, while St. Louis County Schools for the most part have performed below state averages in all three assessment subjects.

ISD 696

Scores for the Ely district as a whole exceeded the state averages in all three academic assessments.

In math, 45.6 percent of Ely students performed at or above grade-level proficiency, edging just above the state average of 45.5 percent. Washington Elementary had the highest percentage of proficient math students at 55.9 percent. Memorial Middle School scored 40.5 percent, and Memorial High School was well below the state math average at 34.3 percent.

Ely has performed consistently well against the state reading average the past four years, with 2024's mark of 51.7 coming in above the state average of 49.9. That reading figure was bolstered by Memorial High School students, where 57.1 percent of students performed at or above grade level, while 52 percent

of middle schoolers did so. Reading scores among elementary students dropped to 49.5 percent, down from 56.8 percent in 2023.

Science assessments are administered in only grades five and eight, and once in high school, creating greater variability in year-to-year scores, particularly at the building level. Science proficiency averaged 42.9 percent for the district, or 3.3 percent higher than the state average. But the challenge of variability can be seen when looking across the past four years of scores for Memorial High School, which were 78 percent in 2021, 51.5 percent in 2022, 40 percent in 2023, and 51.7 percent in 2024. Middle school proficiency was only 19.1 percent in 2021 for the one grade measured, while it was up to 32.5 percent this year. Elementary scores have declined since hitting 61.9 percent in 2021, slipping to 47.2 percent in 2024.

ISD 2142

The state report card does not break out middle school averages separately for St. Louis County Schools, reporting only on elementary and secondary schools.

For the district as a whole, including all grade levels at all five attendance centers, ISD 2142 fell below state averages in all three measured academic areas.

The greatest discrepancy was in math, where only 29.1 percent of students demonstrated proficiency, well below the state average of 45.5 percent. In 2021, the district tested at 33.7 percent proficiency and has declined in each subsequent year.

The gap is much narrower in reading, with ISD 2142 registering a 45 percent proficiency score for 2024 versus the statewide average of 49.9 percent. The district's score is slightly lower than scores for the previous three years.

In the more highly variable science proficiency measure, ISD

2142 was again below the state average, 32.3 percent proficient versus the average of 39.6 percent.

The district's elementary schools were the strongest contributors to the overall district scoring in 2024, with Tower-Soudan Elementary besting the state math average at 46.9 percent proficient, and North Woods and Cherry elementary schools topping the reading average at 53.7 percent and 56.8 percent proficient respectively. North Woods and Cherry were joined by South Ridge Elementary in eclipsing the state average in science. North Woods had 54.4 percent of students performing at grade-level proficiency, while Cherry was at 44.7 percent and South Ridge at 40.5 percent.

The four secondary schools of St. Louis County Schools – North Woods, Northeast Range, Cherry and South Ridge – have consistently performed below state averages for the past four years, Northeast Range being the lone exception, as it narrowly beat the limited science assessment state average in 2023, with 42.9 percent proficient compared to the statewide average of 39.2 percent. All four schools also performed below the district averages in math, reading, and science for 2024.

Only one in five North Woods secondary students was proficient in math, 20.4 percent. That figure was lower still for Northeast Range at 13.3 percent.

In reading, North Woods was within five points of the state average at 44.7 percent and just barely below the district average of 45 percent, while Northeast Range slotted in at 30.4 percent proficient.

At North Woods, 28.6 percent of students demonstrated proficiency in science, compared to 21.2 percent at Northeast Range.

After three straight years of topping the statewide average, students at North Woods Elementary slipped to 37.6 percent proficiency

in math. The school was still well above the district math average of 29.1 percent. For the fourth consecutive year, North Woods Elementary students exceeded the state average in reading, coming in at 53.7 percent. The school has excelled in science compared to the state average the past four years, scoring 54.5 percent proficient in 2024, almost 16 points higher than the state average.

Tower-Soudan has scored above the state average in math for three of the past four years, including 2024 when it came in at 46.9 percent. After notching a state-average-beating 52.9 percent in reading in 2022, Tower-Soudan slipped to 46.9 percent in 2024, three points below the state average. The state report card indicates that counts were too small to report for science assessments in 2021, 2023 and 2024, but in 2022 the school recorded a mark of 58.8 percent, well above that year's state average of 41.3 percent.

The 2024 score for math at Babbitt Elementary came in at 37.7 percent proficient, well below the state average but well above the district average. The score was a significant improvement over the 28.1 percent registered in 2023. At 44.1 percent, Babbitt Elementary's reading score was just slightly below the district average of 45 percent. The school's performance in science reflects the highly variable nature of that limited assessment, as only 9.1 percent of students performed at a proficient level in 2024, while the group assessed in 2022 came in at 46.7 percent proficient.

It should be noted that a number of different factors can affect a school's performance on assessment tests, including the school's size and grade levels assessed, student physical, nutritional, and mental health, socioeconomic composition of the student body, testing conditions, and student opt-outs.

MPR News contributed to this report



Outdoors

Our lives in the
Northwoods



RECREATION

Mesabi Trail ridership is booming

REGIONAL— Interest in the Mesabi Trail continues to grow, and the St. Louis and Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority, which manages the trail, has the data to prove it. Thanks to more than two dozen trail counters spread along the 165 miles from Grand Rapids to Ely, trail officials now have a much clearer sense of just how much traffic the paved bike trail is receiving— and the numbers are impressive.

So far this year, the trail has seen 140,000 users, with several weeks of peak outdoor riding and a couple major rider events yet to come.

The trail has had counters in the past, but most had stopped working. Trail authorities added 21 new counters to the four older ones that still functioned to help give a much better sense of usage throughout the trail.

The numbers suggest that the efforts by trail supporters, like Club Mesabi, to promote the Mesabi Trail have been remarkably successful. When Club Mesabi was created, their goal was to hold a major bike tour event on the Mesabi Trail every summer to bring attention and visitors to the area. The Great River Energy Mesabi Trail Tour has been a successful event since the first one was held in 2005. This year's event, which had nearly 300 registered riders, was no exception.

"Hundreds of riders, many volunteers, 17 sponsors, seven communities, and many organizations made this all possible," said Club Mesabi Executive Director Paula Kangas. "We would like to extend thanks, gratitude, and heartfelt warmth to everyone who made this great event happen."

There have been events held on the Mesabi Trail over the years, but the past two years have seen the advent of some new activities. Club Mesabi has organized several local community rides to engage with folks living in the area. A local hiking group gathers to walk the full length from one end to the other, taking on a different section each week. This is their third year and they are closing in on ending another successful summer trek. The Iron Range Half Marathon that took place on Aug. 17 was a great success as well, according to event promoters. This inaugural event had 186 registered participants, running most of the 13.1-mile fully sanctioned half marathon route on the Mesabi Trail from Eveleth to Gilbert to Virginia. Another event held on Aug. 17, The Grind at Giants Ridge, used a portion of the Mesabi Trail to connect different mountain bike courses. And BAM (Bike Across Minnesota) had 350 riders doing an out-and-back ride from Hoyt Lakes to Grand Rapids over four days.

The marketing efforts made by the rail authority have

See **TRAIL**...pg. 5B



RESTORATION

A field transformed

Converting a landscape of invasive grasses to native prairie plants

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK—For Sharon Beatty and David Stanton, the concept of home is about more than a building. So, when the couple decided to restore a century-old barn in rural Cook as their new home, they needed a plan for the surrounding landscape as well.

"The idea was that we would plant it with wildflowers and plants that were native to Minnesota— some are native to northern Minnesota, others more middle Minnesota, to have a meadow and wildflowers and grasses which would encourage native birds and pollinators. Some of these species have populated the northern area for a long time."

It was a vision designed to help the local wildlife, said Beatty. "We wanted this to be a wildlife haven," Beatty said. "For both of us, conservation is important. I think the primary driver was how to have a beautiful space outside, something "conversationally" good, but also practical, and luckily those three things fit together."

The reimagining of the landscape around the barn began four years ago when the couple first worked to address the invasive reed canary grass, which had overrun most of the old field around the old barn.

"It's one of the worst grasses that you can have, highly invasive," Beatty said. "There's not much nutrition in it for most species, and the foliage is so dense that little animals cannot use that space to hide very well."

The solution was to do a lot of rototilling to get rid of not only the foliage but the extensive root system of the plant. Beatty said that they rototilled

Top: A view of the newly renovated barn, now the home of Sharon Beatty and David Stanton, near Cook, with restored prairie flowers.

Below: Sharon Beatty holds her hand in front of the seed head of fringed brome grass, a native grass.



"We wanted this to be a wildlife haven. For both of us, conservation is important."

Sharon Beatty

the ground eight times across the course of that summer. "We had to do it, but I think it's under control now," she said. "I did a lot of work earlier this year pulling out invasives as I find them, maybe three hours a week. I just have to give the natives a little more support for another year, and then it should be simple."

Another invasive species that Beatty keeps an eye out for

is birdsfoot trefoil.

"It can grow in any space where there's any kind of sun, especially on disturbed soil," she said. "It seems to be good for some animals, but not for others. Most pollinators, except perhaps for the bees, they cannot access the nectar. You want variety, especially native varieties, that other pollinators can make use of."

When it was time to begin establishing Minnesota native grasses, flowers, and plants, Beatty and Stanton turned to a nursery near Duluth specializing in native restorations.

Prairie Restorations was founded in 1977 as one of the first companies in the nation devoted exclusively to designing, restoring, and managing native prairie plant communities. Since then, the company has expanded to six locations

See **LANDSCAPE**...pg. 5B



Grouse season is a great time to spend time in the woods with friends, or just your best friend. file photo

GROUSE SEASON

Heavy June rains may have limited grouse reproduction

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Hunters are unlikely to see a repeat of last year's phenomenal grouse season this year when they head to the forest roads and trails starting Saturday. But that doesn't mean that hunters won't find birds out in the woods this fall.

With millions of acres of public forest land interspersed with access roads and hiking trails, there are few places in North America that offer a more inviting opportunity for a ruffed grouse hunter than northern Minnesota— and the outlook is promising even if bird numbers will almost certainly be down from the exceptionally high numbers of the past couple years.

The big question mark remains reproductive success, since heavy June rains fell at a time when young grouse can be vulnerable to exposure and overland flooding, such as was experienced in some locations in June. "I do think the spring flooding had some impact on the broods," said Tower DNR area wildlife manager Jessica Holmes.

Drumming counts this past spring showed adult numbers at near record levels in northeastern Minnesota, but the success of the fall hunt is often more closely tied

See **GROUSE**...pg. 5B

Wildflower Watch



This week's featured flower
ZIGZAG GOLDENROD

The **Zigzag Goldenrod**, *Solidago flexicaulis*, is one of 18 species of goldenrod found in Minnesota and one of the more distinctive. While most goldenrods are sun-loving, this species is typically found in more wooded locations. It is recognized by the small clusters of yellow flowers that grow at the base of the stem of the plant's alternating leaves. The leaves are perhaps the best field mark. While most goldenrod leaves are narrow, this species has broad leaves and that very sharply serrated, much like a saw blade.

While it's found throughout Minnesota, it is far less common than other goldenrods in our region, making this a nice find for wildflower enthusiasts.

GROUSE...Continued from page 4B

to reproductive success than springtime drumming counts, since hunters often predominantly harvest young of the year.

That may mean hunters will have to rely more heavily on adult birds, which tend to be considerably wrier than young ones.

With abundant public land, hunters in the DNR's Tower work area will find plenty of places to hunt. The work area also maintains 83 miles of hunter walking trails, which were recently mowed in preparation for the season. Those are likely to provide excellent hunting opportunity for hunters looking to work some exercise for themselves and their dogs into their hunting plans. You can find digital maps and locations of trails in the area on the DNR's website at www.dnr.state.mn.us/hunting/hwt/index.html or stop by the Tower DNR area office for hard-copy maps. Opening weekend should be a great time to be out in the woods, with the maples starting to show color. Conditions



A young ruffed grouse eats aspen leaves.

have grown increasingly dry in recent weeks, which should help improve accessibility. The current weather forecast calls for partly cloudy skies and unusually warm conditions so keep yourself and your dogs well hydrated if you're out stomping in the woods. Minnesota has the well-deserved reputation as the nation's top state for grouse hunting, with an annual harvest that ranges from 200,000 in a poor year, to 500,000 during a peak year.

TRAIL...Continued from page 4B

garnered national and international interest in the trail. "Not only are we seeing more events occur on the trail, but there has been a marked increase in map requests and wheel pass sales this year," said Kangas. "I've had to restock wheel pass vendors multiple times as they keep selling out the supply they have on hand."

Two other events are coming up this month, including a ride on the Vermilion segment sponsored by Ride MN. The Tomassoni Tour, a ride in memory of Sen. David Tomassoni who worked tirelessly to bring the Mesabi Trail to fruition, will be held on Sept. 19-21. This event will cover two different segments of the trail, the first day on the Vermilion segment, and the second day on the Mesabi segment. The first-day route between Tower and Ely covers 27 miles for the half tour and 54 miles for the full tour. The second day will begin in Eveleth and turn around at Chisholm. The half-tour distance is 30 miles and the full-tour distance is 60 miles. This is a phenomenal event that aids in the fight against Amyotrophic Lateral

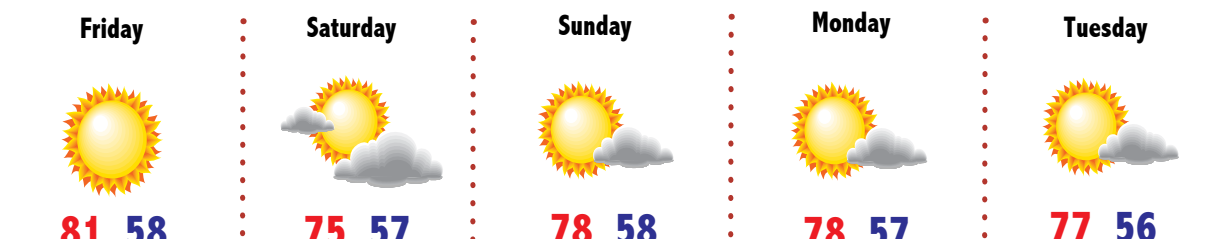
Sclerosis (ALS) through the fundraising requirements of participants.

"We are excited to see the investments in the Mesabi Trail bringing more people to our region," says St. Louis County Commissioner Michael Jugovich of Chisholm. "This has been part of our strategic plan from the beginning as we look to strengthen the workforce in our area by offering amazing quality-of-life amenities."

Almost 30 years have been invested in the development and construction of the trail, but it is only in the past couple of years that a concerted effort has been made to market this tourist gem in the Northland. "Once completed, the Mesabi Trail will be a sought-after destination for many seeking to experience this region's beauty, history, and culture," said Jugovich.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather



Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
09/02	68	na	0.00		09/02	69	36	0.00		09/02	69	47	0.00		09/02	73	43	0.00		09/02	70	37	0.00	
09/03	69	na	0.00		09/03	73	43	0.00		09/03	74	46	0.00		09/03	79	55	0.00		09/03	72	40	0.00	
09/04	70	na	0.00		09/04	78	56	0.00		09/04	79	55	0.00		09/04	73	61	0.00		09/04	77	53	0.00	
09/05	na	na	0.13		09/05	80	56	0.05		09/05	80	59	0.05		09/05	63	45	0.03		09/05	79	58	0.08	
09/06	na	na	0.09		09/06	65	38	0.00		09/06	62	45	0.03		09/06	63	39	0.17		09/06	64	38	0.00	
09/07	61	26	0.01		09/07	63	29	0.00		09/07	62	37	0.00		09/07	66	32	0.00		09/07	63	30	0.00	
09/08	62	na	0.00		09/08	64	31	0.00		09/08	65	36	0.00		09/08	77	50	0.00		09/08	64	30	0.00	
YTD Total			22.57		YTD Total			23.51		YTD Total			23.94		YTD Total			NA		YTD Total				24.60

LANDSCAPE...Continued from page 4B

throughout Minnesota, and broadened their operations to encompass wetland, woodland, and shoreline restorations as well.

The broad expertise came in handy when Beatty and Stanton realized that they weren't dealing with just one environment but four on the one-acre plot.

"We only discovered it once we started planting," Beatty said. "We have a small pond in there, and because of the pond, we had this extra soil which has created a berm. That berm is very, very poor soil, it's mostly clay from underneath the ground. Things that will grow there are like poverty oatgrass and foxtail barley, which is native but didn't come with the seed mix, it just grew by itself." "The yarrow and black-eyed Susans are happy there near those trees, an area that gets more shade, and because the tree roots dry out the soil so much, that's a special environment, and very little grew there," Beatty continued.

The pond has also created another different area because, Beatty said, it leaks.

"This area here where you see so much more of the purple, you've got this leakage and it's very wet, so some things won't grow, others grow very well. That blue vervain is a gorgeous plant that is also really good for the butterflies and bees and pollinators of all sorts."

Another area was more sandy due to road and sewage system construction, Beatty said, and that, too, required a different mix of native seed. "So I've got maybe three or four dif-

ferent mixes now in different parts of the meadow, and that took some experimentation," she said. "After that first rototilling we scattered the seeds, and the first year you just get these tiny green shoots."

New growth created a guessing game, as Beatty had to learn what to leave and what to pull out.

"It's hard to distinguish sometimes what are the natives and what are the invasives," she said. "It can be really hard. I still have trouble with some grasses until they head out."

It's a task far more challenging than a typical home lawn because the meadow has 19 species of grass to contend with, 13 of which are the desired natives and six that are invasive species to be weeded out.

"You have to educate yourself about a lot of this, and it's very interesting. I've learned a lot. I started out knowing almost nothing," Beatty said. "In fact, things I thought were native because I see them everywhere are not, like daisies. There is a native daisy-like flower called an oxeye that is much smaller. So, I treat daisies as invasives and pull them all out."

When the flowers are in bloom, the meadow is a colorful wonderland, with 26 varieties of native flowers that Beatty has either planted or have come back on their own.

"Now we have things like wild roses, wild strawberries, wild raspberries, blue violets, white violets, and even the columbines have come back,"

Beatty said.

But again, she has to keep on the lookout for the invasive floral species, too, as she's identified 14 of those in the meadow.

"Probably all of these you recognize, but they're actually invasive," she said. "They're wild from somewhere else like Asia or Europe."

And while keeping the invasives at bay sounds like a lot of hard work, as the native species get fully established they don't require much care at all, because they're adapted to thrive in the native environment. "Weeding invasives) is all I have to do," Beatty said. "I don't have to add fertilizer, in fact it's not good to add fertilizer. I don't have to put in chemicals, I don't have to re-seed, I don't have to mow. It's quite practical in that regard."

Beatty is interested in encouraging others to try their hand at converting landscape back to native plants and offered some tips.

"It's best to prepare the ground really well, and in the first two or three years just be really vigilant," she said. "Then you just have minor problems to deal with as it grows. You really have to know that the first three years you will have extra work, but then after that it should mostly take care of itself." Beatty noted that a native restoration would be easier to do in town with smaller lots than the one-acre plot she has been working with. "If you have a small space like a yard it's much easier," she said.

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DRAIN

- Water from boat, bilge, motor, and live well
- Remove drain plug and open all water draining devices
- Trash unused bait

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- Everything at least five days before going to other waters
- (Or) Decontaminate with high pressure water (120°F or warmer)

STOP INVASIVE SPECIES! LEARN MORE AT CLEANDRAIN.DRY.ORG



Obituaries and Death Notices

Barbara Jo Kupka
Barbara Jo Burton Kupka, 74, of Embarrass, passed away on Saturday, Sept. 7, 2024, at Essentia Health in Duluth with her family by her side.

Connie Olson and Shanon (Keith) Urbanski; sister, Beverly (Jonathan) Hill of Olathe, Kansas; many other extended family members; and best friend, Corrine Mahlman.

Louis J. Gornick
Louis J. Gornick, 98, a proud World War II Navy veteran, passed away at Carefree Living in Ely on Tuesday, Aug. 27, 2024.

Alexia "Lecky" Lesar
Alexia "Lecky" Lesar, 71, passed away at her residence in Ely on Tuesday, Aug. 20, 2024.

Minnesota Supreme Court to hold oral arguments at Rock Ridge High School on Thursday, Oct. 3

Public invited to a dinner with judges at Fortune Bay on Oct. 2, reservations needed by Sept. 23
VIRGINIA - The Minnesota Supreme Court will hear oral arguments at Rock Ridge High School at 10 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 3, as part of a longstanding outreach program that teaches students about Minnesota's judicial system.

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS DEFENDANTS:
You are hereby summoned and required to answer the Application of the Applicants in the above-entitled proceeding and to file your answer to the said Application in the office of the District Court Administrator in said County, within 20 days after service of this Summons upon you exclusive of the day of such service, and if you fail to answer the Application within the time aforesaid, the Applicants in this proceeding will apply to the Court for the relief demanded therein.

Bearville Township Special Town Board Meeting
The Bearville Township Board of Supervisors will meet at 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 24 to inspect Bearville Township Road 528 in order to assess the damages from the June/July 2024 storm system.

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Position: Contract and Procurement Manager
Closes: 09/30/2024
Position Purpose: The Contract Manager will be responsible for overseeing contracts and agreements made by the Tribal Government with other entities.

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

CryptoQuip
This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.
Clue: F equals K
ZV Z FLRX ENHR BDMRO VNOFE
AQQ KRRL GZEYQIBARG, Z
XNMOG YDNKQKOW BDW
"1AR KDMIZEA QDR BNHZLU!"

City of Tower Planning and Zoning Commission PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
Tuesday, September 24, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.
The City of Tower Planning and Zoning Commission will conduct a Public Hearing to solicit comments on Short Term Rentals for the City of Tower.

SNOWFLAKES solution
Subscribe to the TIMBERJAY! Call 218-753-2950

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

King Crossword

ACROSS
1 Broadway flop
5 Foot part
9 Urban carrier
12 Vivacity, in music
13 "Funny!"
14 Flamenco cheer
15 Rural tourist attractions
17 Skier Tommy
18 Actress Neuwirth
19 Serious
21 Wide, fancy necktie
24 Jazz singer Laine
25 Noggin
26 Reeve role
30 Einstein's birthplace
31 Mini-plateaus
32 Green preflux
33 Pudding choices
35 Firecracker sound
36 Grecian vessels
37 Embedded spies
38 Bas-relief medium
40 Reed instrument
42 Pirates' quaff
43 Duncan Hines products
7 "Evita" role
8 Pesters
9 Fast-food deal
10 Balm ingredient
11 Tavern order
16 Bumped into
20 "— the ram-parts ..."
21 Border on
22 Actress Ward
23 College freshman
24 Tax prep pros
26 Brief moments
27 Can. neighbor
28 Dreaded breakout
29 Eggy drinks
31 Prop for Mr. Peanut
34 Apr. address-ee
35 Aircraft manufacturer
37 May honoree
38 Clench
39 Franc replacer
40 Gumbo need
41 Existed
44 Have a cold
45 Tic-tac-toe loser
46 Sch. URL
47 Filming site
DOWN
1 Telly network
2 Granada gold
3 Russian space station
4 Chocolate-coated treat
5 Melville captain
6 Demolish

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle
Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦
♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!
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Super Crossword
Answers
COBRA DECAL ACDO SOMA
AXIOM ECONO MATL URAL
IFSOMEBODYWROTEA BAKE
NOT OVALS EEE UNMUTE
ERRS ISA IRABU CERISE
DOUBLEBIOGRAPHYABOUT
MAS DUI TOSS NRA
PLUME PAL PROF UPSET
SUPERMODELCRAWFORD
ACED OLD ALIGN DEFAME
LIN SUE ASIDE FED RAE
MADMAN IRENE ALL SIGN
ANDACTRESSWILLIAMS
JADEDLASS WET INLAY
ASEUSSR DEAMSG
WHATSHOULDITBETITLED
SEDAKAKA SEEPS AIM EXEC
BERYLS ELL ERYVIN ONO
BONO ATALEOFTWOCINDYS
BRET LANE MURAL GSUIT
SODS ANTE ALEXI HAISTA



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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.

HAIR CARE

DREAMWEAVER SALON & DAY SPA- Open Monday-Friday 8:30 - 6:30. 218-666-5594. tfn

PET CREMATION

Go online to VermilionPetCremation.com or call 218-780-8069 for pet cremation details and rates.

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RUMMAGE SALES

MULTI-FAMILY GARAGE SALE
Saturday, Sept. 14, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
1601 Pioneer Road, Ely.

Something for everyone, new and used tools, contractor DeWalt air compressor, Milwaukee sawzall (2), power hand tools, other small tools, computer desk, camping equipment, tents, children's toys, housewares, lots of misc. and free stuff.

HUGE GARAGE SALE

(Last one this year!)

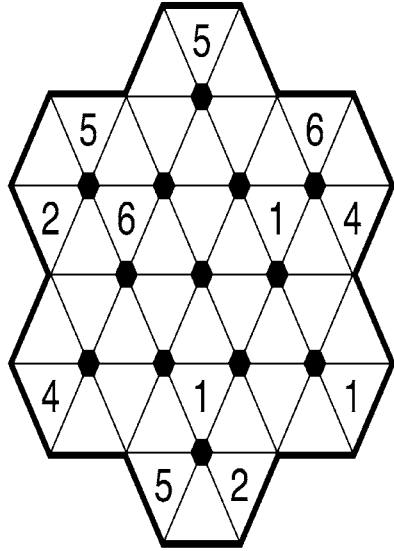
Friday, Sept. 13, 10 am - 5 pm
Saturday, Sept. 14, 10 am - 3pm
BAG SALE starting 2 pm on Saturday
Help me get a car in my garage this winter!

527 Voyageur Road, Ely
(Past Silver Rapids on the Kawishiwi Trail- follow signs to the garage by the mailboxes)

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

Super Crossword DEFINITELY NOT DICKENS

ACROSS

1 Lethal snake
6 Racecar sticker
11 "T.N.T." rock band
15 Drug in "Brave New World"
19 Basic truth
20 Cheap, in adspeak
21 Letter carriers carry it
22 Eurasian border river
23 Start of a riddle
26 Harden by heat
27 Negating word
28 Ellipses
29 Wide footwear spec
30 Take off silent mode
32 Goofs up
34 "Time — great healer"
35 Pitcher Hideki —
37 Deep red
39 Riddle, part 2
43 Mommies
44 Hwy. felony
45 Easy throw
46 Shooters' org.

47 Showy feather
50 Good buddy
52 Univ. lecturer
54 Underdog's win
56 Riddle, part 3
61 Served perfectly
62 On in years
63 Set straight
64 Slander
68 Broadway's — -Manuel Miranda
69 Begin litigation against
70 Parenthetical comment
71 Gave grub to
72 Issa of HBO's "Insecure"
73 Kooky guy
75 Dunne of film
76 With 86-Across, totally wrong
77 Indication
78 Riddle, part 4
82 Cynically callous
85 Young lady
86 See 76-Across
87 Dentist's filler
88 Enzyme name suffix
89 Pre-1991 world power

91 Antinarcotics org.
93 "Umami" taste source
94 End of the riddle
102 "Oh! Carol" singer Neil
103 Leaks slowly
104 Objective
105 Biz bigwig
107 Green gem sources
109 Third of July?
110 Sam of the Watergate hearings
112 "Dear Yoko" dedicatee
113 Lead singer of U2
114 Riddle's answer
118 Novelist — Easton Ellis
119 Narrow street
120 Wall painting
121 Astronaut's garment
122 Lawn patches
123 Cost of cards
124 U.S. soccer star Lalas
125 "— la vista, baby!"

DOWN

3 Small eatery
4 Aussie leaper
5 Arsenal stuff
6 Corrupt
7 Hygiene product company
8 Boston catches
9 Even one
10 Large intestine's place, for short
11 One-celled swimmer
12 Feline pet
13 God, to Godard
14 "Tom — Jack Ryan" (TV series)
15 Compton, to Los Angeles
16 Speeches
17 Be positive
18 Hoppy brew
24 Bad things
25 Back area
31 Gauged
33 Totaled (up)
35 Debt memo
36 Residential area of a city
38 Pennsylvania, par exemple
40 Max who played Jethro
41 Doing nothing
42 Children's author Syd
47 Holy hymn
48 Saint — (Caribbean nation)
49 Capsize
50 Magnet part
51 Total (up)
52 Lion groups
53 Great anger
55 Many a shareable PC file
57 Small hill
58 Tools utilizing beams
59 "So Wrong" singer Patsy Beckham Jr.
65 Sans-serif typeface
66 Lava, beneath the surface
67 Tiny, to a tot
69 Ohio city on Lake Erie
70 Part of MFA
71 Fly like a bee
74 West of film
75 Mythical escapee of Crete
76 Stupefaction
77 Dollar bill
79 As well
80 Cotton-tipped stick
81 Menu, e.g.
82 Skull bones
83 City WSW of Raleigh
84 Numbed, as pain
90 Donna of Clinton's Cabinet
91 Sheepskin, to speo speak
92 UFO riders
93 Imitate
95 Seers' cards
96 Sobieski of "Branded"
97 Editing mark
98 Auditory canal buildup
99 City in central Italy
100 Second book of the Bible
101 "Don't admit to that"
106 — Rican
108 Comic Laurel
110 Raison d'—
111 Close by
113 Air gun pellets
115 Busy bug arm or mouth
117 Org. with U.S. secrets

Even Exchange

answers

- Twirl, Twill
- France, Prance
- Larder, Ladder
- Grade, Grape
- Shrink, Shine
- Lodge, Ledge
- Called, Calmed
- Brush, Brash
- Weaver, Weaker
- Diner, Diver

CryptoQuote

answer

Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds you plant.
— Robert Louis Stevenson.

CryptoQuip

answer

If I knew some cruel folks had been dispatched, I would probably cry "The brutish are coming!"

King Crossword

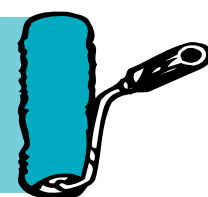
Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

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



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CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAXR
 is **LONGFELLOW**

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

EQK'U GIEYS SLMA ELJ WJ
 UAS ALHBSTU JQI HSLC WIU
 WJ UAS TSSET JQI CNLKU.
 - HQWSHU NQIRT TUSBSKTQK.

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