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# The **TIMBERJAY**



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**TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'**

## The Chocolate Moose will be no more

Iconic log building and longtime restaurant to be new home of Piragis bookstore

by **CATIE CLARK**  
Ely Editor

**ELY-** For forty years, the prominent log building near the corner of Sheridan and Central- and the good

**Left: The Chocolate Moose has been prominent on Ely's main drag since the 1980s.**

photo courtesy The Chocolate Moose

eats served within- have been like a beacon for warm-season visitors to the end of the road.

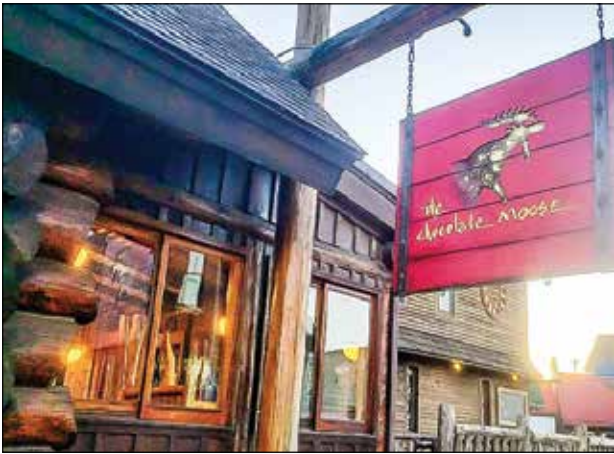
But the Chocolate Moose will not return to Ely's culinary scene next spring as Piragis Northwoods Company, which owns the building once again, is turning the page to something new.

"It's bittersweet," said Elli Piragis. "It's sad to lose a restaurant that's been in Ely for so long. My parents started the Chocolate Moose with Millie and Barry Bissonnette, and my father used to serve ice cream there in the 1980s. People still show up at the Chocolate Moose asking after

the ice cream."

The restaurant and its building have been through several changes of ownership over the years. After operating it initially, Piragis leased the restaurant location starting in the 1990s and later sold the

See...**PIRAGIS** pg 9



**SLOWER SEASON**

## Fed study: Tourism was off in 2024

Arrowhead saw one of the biggest declines

by **DAVID COLBURN**  
Cook/Orr Editor

**REGIONAL-** The hospitality and tourism industry in Minnesota is down this year, according to a recent survey of businesses conducted jointly by the Federal Reserve Bank of Minnesota, Hospitality Minnesota and Explore Minnesota, with the Arrowhead facing greater challenges than other regions.

Federal Reserve Bank Director of Regional Outreach Ron Wirtz recapped the survey responses of 266 businesses in a Sept. 27 webinar. The survey was conducted at the end of August, and Wirtz said that while the overall health of the industry is OK, a poor summer overall in terms of revenue has left businesses in an eroding position.

"Unfortunately, I don't have a lot of great news in terms of some of the indicators that we look at," Wirtz said. "It was a fairly poor summer overall in terms of revenue. Some of the biggest challenges are some of the same challenges that we've seen in the past, inflation and wages in particular, but there are others. We're seeing pressures for both inflation and wages ease in terms of what people are reporting, but it seems like firms are not necessarily feeling that relief."

Just over 50 percent of respondents reported that revenue was somewhat

See...**TOURISM** pg. 9



**REMEMBERING**

## Orange Shirt Day observed

Survivors of residential school system recognized as part of international commemoration

by **DAVID COLBURN**  
Cook/Orr Editor

**NETT LAKE-** Nearly 100 Bois Forte band members turned out on Monday for a ceremony and walk to remember and honor the Indigenous people who were forced to attend residential schools in the U.S. and Canada in the 1800s and 1900s.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, also

known as Orange Shirt Day, was established in Canada in 2013 in concert with the efforts of a national commission that spent seven years documenting the attempt to forcefully assimilate Indigenous cultures in government-funded, church-operated residential schools in Canada. The Canadian Parliament elevated the day to a national holiday in 2021. A

bill designating a similar day in the U.S. is currently being considered in Congress.

Orange Shirt Day takes its name from the story of Phyllis Webstad, a survivor of the St. Joseph Mission School in Canada. As the author and activist tells the story, on her first day of residential school as a six-year-old she was stripped of her clothes, including a new orange shirt

her grandmother bought her that was never returned. The orange shirt represents the efforts made by residential schools to deny children their Indigenous identities.

The Vermilion Lake Indian School, located on Sucker Point, where the Bois Forte offices and health facilities are found today,

See...**ORANGE** pg. 10

**Above: An entourage of adults and Nett Lake School students walk in observance of Orange Shirt Day on Monday at Nett Lake.**

photo by D. Colburn

**UNDERSTANDING MANOOMIN**

## Weaving culture, science, and history

by **JODI SUMMIT**  
Tower-Soudan Editor

**TOWER-** An all-school field trip to Big Rice Lake in late September was just the starting point for a multi-disciplinary approach to studying the cultural, scientific, and historical roots of our region for students at Vermilion Country School in Tower.

During the all-day trip, organized with help from the 1854 Treaty Authority and the Minnesota DNR, students had a chance to paddle a canoe on the lake and see wild rice growing. They learned how to parch and thrash rice, and had time to hike in the woods, and then shared a lunch cooked over a campfire.

But the day was only the start of the study of manoomin, the Ojibwe word for wild rice.

Teachers are using wild rice as a focal point for science, history, and environmental studies this fall, with a focus on hands-on, project-based learning. Students will be able to use some of

**Right: Students venture out on Big Rice Lake to learn more about wild rice.**

submitted photo

their fall projects as part of the year-end environmental expo, which highlights the environmental learning done throughout the year.

See...**RICE** pg. 10



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## Community notices

### Our Saviors Fall Festival on Oct. 5

VIRGINIA - Our Saviors Lutheran Church is having a Fall Festival Saturday, Oct. 5, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. There will be a bake sale, coffee an', a silent auction, household treasures, quilters' area, and youth activities. There is something for everyone. Please come and join us for a fun time. Our Saviors Lutheran Church is located at 1111 8th St S.

### ERFA Pancake Breakfast and jigsaw puzzle competition at Timber Hall Oct. 5

EMBARRASS - Join us for all-you-can-eat pancakes, choice of ham or sausage links, juice, and a bottomless cup of coffee on Saturday, Oct. 5, between 8 and 11 a.m. at the Timber Hall Event Center in Embarrass. Cost is \$7 for adults, \$4 for ages 6-10, 5 and under eat free. During breakfast, you will have an opportunity to make a blood donation. If you are interested, sign up online at [www.mbc.org/searchdrives](http://www.mbc.org/searchdrives) (code 5046) or call Bonnie Overton at 218-780-3058.

Stay for the jigsaw puzzle speed competition. Tables will be set up for a 4-person team and each team will get one 500-piece puzzle to put together. Sign up a whole team or as an individual and we will get you on a team. Cost is \$5 per person (\$20/team). Prize for first place only and each team gets to keep their puzzle. RSVP to Sue Beaton (text or call) 218-750-2718. PLEASE RSVP so I have enough puzzles. Mail payment to: ERFA, PO Box 83, Embarrass, MN 55732.

Have a closet full of puzzles? Bring some to trade! The Embarrass Region Fair Association sponsors all of this fun.

### Meeting of Lokka Tupa #1 Ladies of Kaleva scheduled for Oct. 7

VIRGINIA - Lokka Tupa #1, Ladies of Kaleva will meet on Monday, Oct. 7 at noon at Kaleva Hall in Virginia.

### E-Waste expo & collection event Oct. 5

MT. IRON - The Iron Range Partnership for Sustainability has partnered with Global Ewaste Solutions for an e-waste collection event on Saturday, Oct. 5 at the Mt. Iron Community Center. The event aims to bring awareness for the need to recycle old electronics. This educational community event is sponsored by Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation, University of MN NE Regional Sustainable Development Partnership, St. Louis County, RECA (Recycling Electronics for Climate Action).

The event will run from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. There will be food trucks, activities, and more.

Many electronics will be accepted for free, such as cables, wires, intact batteries, VCR/DVDs, speakers, stereo equipment, toner cartridges (limit 3 per person), keyboard, toasters, and more. There will be a \$5 per item fee for laptops, tablets, smart phones, PCs, printers, LCDs up to 24", and vacuums (bags must be removed). Larger televisions will be accepted for a fee, depending on the size and type.

### Sectionals concert in Ely rescheduled for Oct. 13 at Ely State Theater

ELY - The Sectionals in concert at Ely's Historic State Theater has been rescheduled for Sunday, Oct. 13 at 4 p.m. The Sectionals, the premier jazz ensemble of Northern Minnesota, were scheduled to perform at Ely's Historic State Theater Friday, Sept. 27. This scheduling change enabled concert organizers to move the performance from the small lounge to the larger State Theater stage, to accommodate for high demand for this performance group, who often draw 100-150 attendees when they perform "down range."

The Sectionals, hailing from all across the Iron Range, cover a broad range of music and genres, in addition to their many jazz standards.

Join us for this one-time concert at the State Theater. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the door or online at <https://movies.elystatetheater.org/movie/the-sectionals-in-concert>.

## ELY STATE THEATER

### "Letters from Home" honors veterans on Saturday, Oct. 5

ELY - Northern Lakes Arts Association presents "Letters from Home," a musical tribute to veterans, on Oct. 5 at 7 p.m. at Ely's Historic State Theater located at 238 E Sheridan St. This unique show honors veterans and celebrates their legacy through music and memories. Join us for an evening that bridges generations and celebrates the service of our veterans.

Created by Erinn Dearth, the show honors veterans through music and storytelling, using timeless songs from WWII to the Vietnam War era to evoke memories and connect with audiences.

What began as a simple suggestion from Erinn's father, Pat Dearth, a U.S. Coast Guard veteran, quickly evolved into a national tour celebrating those who served. The performances are a heartfelt blend of classic melodies, from the Andrews Sisters to iconic 60s hits, transporting audiences to the USO shows that once



lifted the spirits of soldiers.

Dan Beckmann, who vividly recalls the moment that led him to "Letters from Home," joins dearth. "I was photographing penguins in Antarctica when I got a call offering me a gig. Little did I know it would change my entire perspective on life." Dan's comedic flair and

connection with veterans in the audience add a personal touch, creating an emotional, interactive experience.

Tickets are available at [NorthernLakesArts.org](http://NorthernLakesArts.org) or at the door. The cost is \$25 for the general public, \$20 for NLAA members, \$18 for seniors, and \$12 for youth. As a special tribute to our

veterans, Northern Lakes Arts is offering free tickets for veterans, thanks to the generosity of community members and the organization itself. Veterans can claim their free tickets by selecting the special "Veteran Ticket" at checkout as a thank-you for their service.

## CULTURAL LEARNING

### Moccasin class held at Bois Forte Heritage Center

VERMILION RESERVATION - In late September, Jessica Ojala Anderson, the Language & Culture Coordinator at the Bois Forte Heritage Center & Cultural Museum, hosted a Baby Moc's class where attendees were instructed step-by-step how to make their own baby-sized puckered moccasins. Ojibwe people are known for the puckered style where at the toe of the moccasin, the leather is held together tightly at the toe to create a ruffled look at the seam.

The workshop included participants from grandparents to new moms and dads who were really excited about the new babies coming into their lives. Jess used



a moccasin-making design book that she displayed to the class that had moccasin patterns for all sizes. The first part of the process after cutting out patterns is called basting, where you connect a piece of leather to the "tongue" or "vamp"

(top) part of the moccasin. The next was to use the lock-stitch sewing technique to connect the vamp to the bottom part. This is where Jess assisted the class individually to create what she called "hills and valleys" while doing a lock stitch to create the

puckered style at the toe.

The time to create one moccasin while taking breaks for instruction was about 3 hours. Participants were sent home with extra supplies to finish the second moccasin, and additional materials as some wanted to make more.

For more information on Ojibwe lifeways, please visit the Bois Forte Heritage Center & Cultural Museum, which is located on the shores of Lake Vermilion and on the grounds of Fortune Bay Resort Casino. The museum and gift shop are open from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday at 1500 Bois Forte Road, Tower, MN 55790. For information, call 218-753-6017.

### Work of Art Retreat set for Oct. 26-27 in Ely

ELY - Calling all working artists in the Ely and surrounding areas! An opportunity for professional development is coming to the Ely Folk School on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 26 and 27, as the "Work of Art Retreat" (facilitated by

the nonprofit Springboard for the Arts) kicks off a four-workshop series on business skills and resources for creators and handcrafters.

Four 2.5-hour workshops will focus on pricing, funding, engaging customers and selling work, and business plan essentials. The professional development curriculum is designed to help artists in all disciplines—visual, performing,

and literary arts—as a way to help creators achieve their goals and set themselves up for a successful career, no matter what stage of their practice they may be in. The weekend will also offer an opportunity for connection and conversation with other local artists. Participants will enjoy a potluck and social time on Saturday night after the first day of workshops.

Artists can sign up for

all four workshops at a discount (\$100), or participate in individual workshops for \$30 each. Workshops begin at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on both days.

Registered online by checking out the class calendar at [elyfolkschool.org](http://elyfolkschool.org). For questions or concerns please contact Anna Heil at [anna@elyfolkschool.org](mailto:anna@elyfolkschool.org). This weekend is made possible in part by the McKnight Foundation.

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CITY GOVERNMENT

# Ely City Council candidates spar at forum

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- A crowd of just over sixty turned out at the Vermilion campus's fine arts theater Sept. 24, to hear from four of the five candidates for the Ely City Council at a forum sponsored by the American Association of University Women and the Ely Rotary Club.

Ely City Council incumbents Paul Kess and Jerome Debeltz were joined by political newcomers Frederica Musgrave and Emily Roose. Candidate and former police chief John Lahtonen did not attend. The candidates are running for three open seats as the terms for both Kess and Debeltz expire at the end of the year. City council member Ryan Callen's term is also expiring at the end of the year and he isn't seeking re-election.

The forum was moderated by Lacey Squier, Anna Heil, and Joe Weise. As Weise explained at the beginning of the event, the forum had eight rounds of questions. Each candidate had 90 seconds to answer a different question every round. At the end of a round, the candidates were given 30 seconds to address any of the four questions from that round. In total, the candidates fielded a total of 48 unique questions during the forum.

## The candidates

Jerome Debeltz, now retired, has served on the city council for 31 years and he highlighted his volunteer experience and the importance of giving back to the community where he lives. "If you can't help other people, you really aren't doing your job."

Paul Kess sat on the city council for ten years during the 1990s, returning in 2014 after a long hiatus. Kess currently sits on the city's budget committee and his knowledge of how the city is funded was apparent during the forum. He is retired after teaching at Minnesota North College when it was still Vermilion Community College.

Frederica Musgrave began following Ely's city



Ely City Council candidates from left-to-right: Paul Kess, Frederica Musgrave, Jerome Debeltz, and Emily Roose. photo by C. Clark

politics closely after observing "disturbing behaviors at a planning and zoning meeting," and opted to get involved in pushing for changes. "I had been door knocking, and people have constantly relayed to me that city hall and the city council are a good old boys club that needs to be changed," she said. Musgrave, who often describes herself as a former teacher, retired to Ely after working in a variety of fields both in the U.S. and Germany.

Emily Roose, the only candidate under forty, is currently the chair of the Ely Planning and Zoning Commission and a member of the city's projects committee. Roose moved to her "forever home" in Ely in 2021 and joined planning and zoning shortly afterward. She is currently the chair of the commission and spoke of the changes she has made to make commission meetings more productive. By training, Roose is an accountant, but she currently works as a small business advisor and loan officer at the Entrepreneur Fund. "I want to use my business acumen to build an inclusive and welcoming city government responsive to hearing all voices."

## Themes of the forum

Even though the candidates fielded 48 unique questions, several themes emerged during the forum. The issue of affordable housing came up repeatedly and

extended to include short-term rentals and Ely's blighted properties.

Kess said housing may be Ely's most important issue. "Filling jobs depends on affordable housing," he said.

Debeltz attempted to explain the city's monetary obstacles to building more housing, pointing out that it failed this year to secure state funding for its 37-unit housing project.

"The state gave all its funding to projects in the south of the state," Debeltz said, adding that he would like to see more senior housing in the city.

Roose stated that in order for Ely to be "open and inviting, Ely needs to have housing for employees."

Musgrave remarked that she had questions about how the city handled its housing and that "we're too slow in this city" in dealing with the issue. Kess, Debeltz, and Roose all pushed back on that statement, noting that big projects like housing move at the glacial "speed of government."

Debeltz was asked if he would raise taxes to address the city's issues, and he used the questions to circle back toward housing. "We've got to have more housing for people to move here, so there's more people on the tax rolls so we can lower taxes." He then pointed out that it was imperative to keep a lid on city spending and to aggressively seek out grants, local government aid, and

state and federal subsidies as ways to keep taxes down, especially in a community like Ely where the population has a larger proportion of retired people on fixed incomes.

None of the candidates addressed the underlying barrier to funding new public housing in Ely and the rest of the country, namely filling in the funding gap between the cost of building and what financial institutions will lend.

## Short-term rentals

All four candidates weighed in on the issue of short-term rentals, which were euphemistically labeled as "Airbnbs."

Kess made his strongest statements of the evening regarding short-term rentals. "I opposed the expansion of Airbnbs for the simple reason that it takes housing away from people who'd like to live here ... I wouldn't want an Airbnb next to me. I have grandchildren who come, and having people come and go every night is an issue, not only for noise but for security."

Kess described his efforts, which the *Timberjay* verified after the forum, that he was "instrumental in limiting the number of Airbnb licenses in the city when we first regulated them." He also advocated for the city to lower the number of Airbnb licenses in residential zoning from 36 to 25, which it did. Kess also wanted to limit the number of short-term rentals in commercial zoning while

acknowledging that businesses, like some outfitters, have historically provided short-term housing for customers.

Roose did not display the same rancor toward Airbnbs as Kess but noted "We need to be stricter with Airbnb licenses in residential (neighborhoods) and to impose a moratorium for commercial zoning."

## Blight

Musgrave used housing issues to segue to Ely's

blighted properties. "We have so many unoccupied houses ... I think the city just needs to tell us how many unoccupied houses (are in Ely) and do some kind of incentive to have those people finally sell off the house or fix them up ... The city needs to step up and deal with the blighted housing before developing all these housing complexes."

Roose rebutted, stating "There is a process to resolve those blighted properties, and that does take a long time. But another thing the city can do is to (set aside money) in our budgeting process to tackle some of these. It is quite expensive to resolve a blighted property, but if we start to budget for this, we can start to tackle it."

Debeltz circled back to avoiding new taxes and pursuing other funding sources like grants and other government aid. He cited the city's successful efforts in obtaining grants from the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board for mitigating blighted properties.

See ELY...pg. 5

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# OPINION

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The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

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## Editorial

### Silver Rapids project

#### Lake County’s handling of the proposal raises troubling questions

Can the residents of Lake County rely on their own planning staff to ensure that major development meets the standards laid down by ordinance? That’s an open question in the wake of the revelation, reported in the *Timberjay* last week, that DNR environmental officials have been expressing their doubts related to the Silver Rapids development for at least the past two months.

It’s been troubling to watch how this process has played out, and it suggests that politics got in the way of protecting the environment in Lake County. We were encouraged earlier this summer, when the county’s own environmental staff agreed that an environmental assessment worksheet, or EAW, would be useful in helping to enhance the understanding of the project and its implications on the environment for both county decision-makers as well as the public.

But when hundreds of area residents petitioned to ensure completion of an EAW, county staff backed away, rejecting the petition dismissively. Why the sudden change in position? It’s particularly odd given the fact that DNR officials were also advocating for an EAW, arguing that it was potentially mandatory.

What’s more, DNR area hydrologist Dani Braund, in an Aug. 9, 2024, email obtained by the *Timberjay*, raises numerous questions about the standards being used to review the project, and notes concerns that the proposal is not in compliance with the county’s own ordinance.

When asked whether the applicants had submitted an open space analysis based on the requirements within the shoreland impact zone, Lake County’s Tanya Feldkamp acknowledged they had not. On the issue of density, the DNR notes that the applicants submitted an analysis based on a state standard that doesn’t apply in Lake County, which had opted for a stricter standard back in the 1990s, apparently out of concern for maintaining the rural and wilderness-edge character of the county’s lake communities. In her response, Feldkamp said county staff was recommending “an amount of units between the county subdivision ordinance (16) and the 33 units allowed with shoreland commercial PUD requirements.” In the end, “in between” meant the maximum allowed under state rules, or 33.

Of course, none of these questions or answers was ever revealed to the public. If the DNR’s concerns were ever

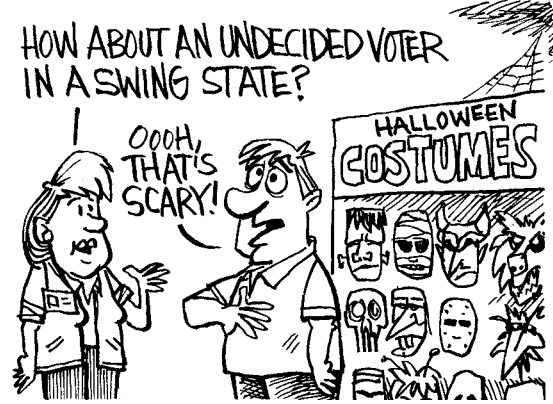
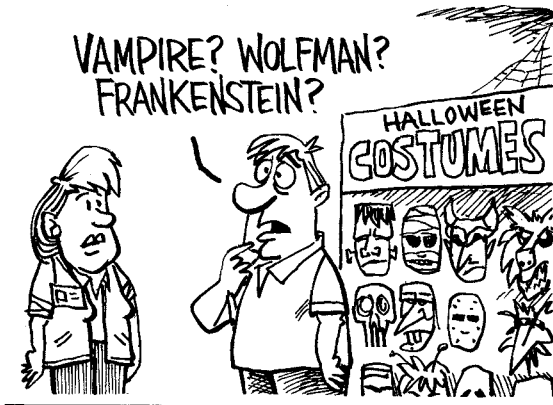
made known to members of the county planning commission, it didn’t happen in a public meeting. We’ve asked Lake County for clarification about when or if commission members were aware of the DNR’s position but given the likelihood of litigation over the county’s decision, they’re not talking.

Lake County officials need to clarify how they intend to move forward when it comes to Silver Rapids and other future development proposals. Do Lake County officials intend to enforce their ordinances, or apply them only when it suits their purposes? Here, it’s apparent that the county opted to apply a more lenient state standard that they had previously rejected as too permissive.

According to the DNR staff involved in the matter, the county had negotiated the terms of its ordinance when it was drafted back in the 1990s and the DNR ultimately agreed to an ordinance that was a mixed bag of provisions, some arguably stricter and some arguably looser. For Lake County to come back now and argue that it can rely on state rules where they’re more lenient, while ignoring their own ordinance, raises the question: Why does the county have an ordinance at all? Or even more critically, whose interests are county officials serving?

We certainly recognize that public reaction to most new development can be knee-jerk and overwhelmingly negative. But in the case of the Silver Rapids development, it’s easy to understand the public’s concern. Back in the 1990s, Lake County officials opted to enact an ordinance that allowed less density than might be allowed elsewhere in the state, a reflection of their understanding that expectations of residents were undoubtedly different here on the edge of the Boundary Waters. Residents have invested in homes and cabins in the area and, understandably, have an expectation that the county will enforce its ordinances as a way to protect their investments and ensure that development is consistent with the community standards that have been established. The reaction of the public to the Silver Rapids plan suggests there’s a major disconnect between what the public expects from Lake County and what today’s county officials appear willing to deliver.

If county officials won’t enforce their own ordinances, it should come as no surprise if residents, or the DNR, ask a court to insist that they do.



## Letters from Readers

### Jen Schultz knows what she’s doing and will think for herself

Jen Schultz spent twenty years teaching economics at UMD in Duluth. Our livelihoods depend upon economics, the price of homes we buy or the new car we drive are by ‘supply and demand’ economics. One of the points of economics is, “The standard of living.” On the Iron Range we enjoy a robust standard, having two cars in the driveway. We produce a product here, its value depends upon the economic standard of “supply and demand.” Jen worked hard in the Minnesota Legislature to produce funding for the Essentia Health hospital. What has Pete Stauber done for us? What does he know about economics and the role it plays in our daily lives? Jen knows how intricate a role economics plays globally as well as how our communities are concerned. Stauber is a “no vote.” He’s got no individuality to think for himself. It’s the GOP party line for him.

Skip M. Dickinson  
Britt

### Schultz brings optimism

Ready to carry the optimistic energy from the Democratic Convention into Minnesota’s Eighth District contest between Jen Schultz and Pete Stauber? Ready for an end to the dark and divisive blame game of the MAGA movement dividing our families, friends and neighbors and preventing progress on issues most important to us? Statistics say that most of us agree on most things, but the current atmosphere of us against them prevents any compromise on issues on which we don’t see eye-to-eye.

Jen has a graduate degree in economics, taught health care economics, was a successful four-term state legislator working across the aisle, writing and passing legislation to benefit the whole state. She supports working families, voting rights, human rights, women’s reproductive health care, a living wage, cutting costs for affordable healthcare and housing. Jen turns to respected spe-

cialists for insight into complex and divisive issues. She understands different areas of the Eighth District having visited throughout the district during the last campaign and last two years. Jen has a 100 percent AFL-CIO voting record and understands the importance of our industries. She will prioritize the aggressive creation of long-term, high-paying jobs, preventing jobs from moving overseas, implementing policies that build a strong middle class. Her mining stance is a rare blend of inclusiveness, practicality, and care for the beauty and economic vitality of our natural resources. She recognizes the importance of mining jobs while prioritizing protection of our water and honoring Native American treaties. Her proposals from bringing steel production to the Iron Range to investing in technology for safe mining practices demonstrate a comprehensive approach that considers economic and environmental factors ensuring that mining benefits our local communities above all else and cutting ties with multinational corporations that extract our resources without any flow of money back into the region. She does not take the easy way out.

Pete Stauber’s monthly emails invariably start with doom and gloom, blaming the Biden administration for all wrongs and disparaging the state of our country. They parrot Donald Trump’s lies and tout the work of House Republicans. I mainly remember the House spending a lot of time trying to impeach various Democrats on “trumped” up charges, fighting among each other, failing to pass a national budget, and killing (on Trump’s orders) a bipartisan border bill co-authored by Senators Langford, R-Okla., Murphy, D-Conn., and Sinema, I-Ariz. who worked months on a bill dealing with the issues that the Republicans continue to blame on Democrats. It is called the least productive Congress in modern history.

Stauber prioritizes ultra-wealthy, foreign mining companies and big corporations ahead of working families, supports an extreme abortion ban, voted against investments in labor, police, veterans, common sense gun legislation and communities in the Eighth District and has endorsed a convicted felon for president. He

voted NO on everything from workers’ rights to organize, tax cuts for low wage workers, and expanding broadband coverage. He consistently demonstrates a lack of leadership and disregard for community well-being. Jen Schultz was willing to participate in several debates. Stauber refused, turning down dates on Almanac North and once again with the *Duluth News Tribune* and Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce making him the only candidate since this debate started in 2010 to do this. When Schultz called him out for dodging voters, Stauber agreed to a WDIO-TV debate.

Driving between Duluth and Grand Marais, I see more Schultz signs than Stauber signs leading me to believe that others want this change and to move us into the light. Please join us in voting for positive energy and a bipartisan effort on behalf of all Eighth District constituents. Vote for Jen Schultz!!

Barbara (Lund) Gabler  
Lutsen

### It’s your choice

- Some - pro abortion
  - Some - pro choice
  - God - pro life
  - You - choose
- Marilyn Mueller  
Greenwood Township

## 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](mailto:marshall@timberjay.com).

We ask that letters be limited to 300 words.

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

## COMMENTARY

# Biden/Harris economic policies: lower inflation without a recession

One of the most under-reported stories of 2024 is clearly the incredible economic progress that the United States has made in the past two years, one that has left Americans objectively better off than at any time since the start of the pandemic, and arguably enjoying the best economic times in decades.



MARSHALL HELMBERGER

of any country in the world, post-pandemic. The recent decision by

President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris have instituted economic policies, with the support of Democrats and even a few moderate Republicans in Congress, that are directly responsible for the most robust economic expansion

the Federal Reserve to begin to aggressively cut interest rates is a signal that the most troublesome economic aspect of the post-pandemic world — high inflation globally — has been contained here in the U.S. Inflation, which peaked at 9.1 percent in the U.S., and significantly higher in many other countries, is now down to the Fed’s target rate of two percent, a reduction that was achieved without a recession.

The decision to lower interest rates, which Fed board members said is a trend we

can expect to continue, is going to further strengthen an economy that is already growing at an impressive rate. The Commerce Department reported last week that the economy grew at a robust 3.0 percent in the second quarter, while the GDP growth from the first quarter, which had been softer, was revised upward to 1.6 percent. Since the second quarter of 2021, the first full quarter under Biden’s tenure, the economy has grown at a rate of 2.9 percent, the most robust economic perfor-

mance of any president since Bill Clinton, and 30 percent better than the pre-pandemic average of 2.0 percent GDP growth under President Trump.

Speaking to the Economic Club of Washington, D.C., a non-partisan forum, in the wake of the interest rate cut, Biden reminded the audience that when he and Vice President Harris took office, it was in the midst of the worst pandemic in a century and the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. Despite the seri-

ousness of the situation, they found that the Trump administration (which had spent months focused on stealing the 2020 election rather than addressing the concerns of Americans) had virtually no plan in place to combat the economic challenges posed by the pandemic.

Biden said he came into office not only committed to delivering immediate economic relief to Americans, but to transform the econo-

## Letters from Readers

### Vote for free and truthful speech

We are living in a democracy that believes in free speech.

We are a nation of mixed religions and mixed nationalities.

We believe in life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all.

Everyone is considered equal. No one is above the law.

However, everyone who believes in democracy does not necessarily agree on the definition of free speech.

What does free speech mean? To some people it means anything can be said whether true or not.

Others believe in the Ten Commandments, such as number four, "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor."

As a citizen, we can choose to tell the truth or not, but we can't lie to Congress. However, congressmen can lie to us. Political speech that is based on lies can become hate speech. When this happens, Congress fails to act in the interest of our democracy. We "the people" therefore must vote for politicians that tell the truth, treat others with respect, and are willing to compromise to save our democracy.

We must vote and VOTE for DEMOCRACY.

**Jo Ann Halunen**  
Virginia

### Droba would be a strong advocate for veterans

I am writing to express my strong support for Harley Droba, the current Mayor of International Falls, who is running for the state House of Representatives. As a U.S. veteran and past district commander in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Harley understands the unique challenges faced by veterans. He is particularly passionate

about improving healthcare for veterans in Minnesota, ensuring they receive the care and support they deserve. Talking with Harley it is immediately revealed that he is not only a very compassionate person but also understands that our legislative district is becoming an older demographic and will require additional high-quality healthcare services in our area.

Learning more about Harley I have discovered he has always been a dedicated public servant, working hard to make his community better. His leadership as mayor demonstrates his commitment to addressing the needs of all the town's residents. I have met several times with Harley and I have been impressed each time at how he listens to people. It is quite apparent he will be able to bring people together to find solutions, making him an excellent candidate to represent us.

Harley's dedication to veterans, deep understanding of this district's needs, and his strong leadership skills makes him the right person for the job. I encourage everyone to support Harley Droba in the upcoming election. Let's vote for him and work toward a brighter future for Minnesota.

**George Pliml**  
Cook

### Trump would surround himself with sycophants

As much as our radical friends, neighbors, and fellow Americans might like the idea of having Mr. Trump be the boss of everyone, it's long past time to remember why democracy is usually the best route for the most people.

Any time you have one person being "The Decider," that person is going to be surrounded by people whose only goal is to stay close to that person, which means

flattery and ass-kissing is more important than telling that person what he or she needs to know.

Pretty soon, that person is totally convinced that everything they say and do is marvelous, and so are the results - because everyone around him tells him so. (This is usually a guy - women are smarter about this stuff than men are. They have to be to survive.)

Any good football coach has lots of help. The best ones have people willing to argue with him. Mr. Trump would be a lousy football coach, just like he's been lousy at running businesses. He's gone bankrupt six times.

He even managed to go bankrupt with a casino, which I don't think has ever happened before. He even thought that the TV show, "The Apprentice," was real. Can you imagine being on a team with him as the manager and coach?

Or even as the guy with the Gatorade? No thank you.

**Dave Porter**  
Minneapolis

### Trump appeals to the worst in us

In 2016, when Donald Trump was holding campaign events in front of record crowds, a TV reporter was interviewing three women who had waited overnight to get good seats to the event. They did not know each other until they became line buddies. The reporter asked each one what it was about Donald Trump that drew them to his campaign. The first woman said "I love how he hates." The second responded "He is able to say the things I want to say but I would get fired if I said them." And the third woman noted that she just saw all these white people and wanted to join them.

It was a revelation that Donald Trump was tapping into the hate and racism that

lay hidden in many hearts. He was cheered as he spread his lies and told people that journalists and government in general were the "enemies" of the people. Most Americans doubted that the lies and hateful language were a winning strategy. They were wrong.

Mr. Trump went on to win the 2016 election (not the popular vote) and we had four years of his presidency where he continued his assault on facts, failed to deliver on his infrastructure promises, gave huge tax breaks to the top five percent, and ignored the severity of the COVID pandemic. And when he lost the 2020 election (both the popular vote and the electoral college) he summoned a mob to storm the Capitol to interrupt the certification of the election. And even though he lost over 60 court cases because his lawyers could not produce any evidence of voter fraud or tabulation errors he continues to lie about the results of that election. The lies and the hateful language continue.

We are now just weeks away from the 2024 election. Voters will have to decide if they want to endure four more years of deceit, bombast, name-calling, and chaos. Voters will have to decide, do they want people in government who try to use facts to solve problems, and more importantly, voters will have to decide if the people they elect really recognize that we face problems that could destroy us. Global climate change is a REAL problem, the loss of a woman's right to reproductive health care is a REAL problem, wealth disparity is a REAL problem, the rise of authoritarian dictators is a REAL problem, gun violence and the safety of children in school are REAL problems, and the desire of some to let Donald Trump be a dictator on day one is as REAL problem. The problems are so REAL that some Republicans have

united as Republicans for Harris and are urging voters to vote Democratic down the ticket. These problems need people from both sides of the aisle to pool information and policy to fix the problems. We need to reject the language of hate and lies to give our children and grandchildren a better world in which to live.

**Andrew Urban**  
Eagles Nest Twp.

### Climate change is a major factor this election season

What is the most important issue that voters should consider when voting? It is not immigrants, not abortion, not inflation, and not wars (which historically have always ended), but climate change that is manmade and will not stop and recede until we and the rest of the world stop polluting our atmosphere.

Hurricane Helene has destroyed homes, factories, office buildings, stores and public infrastructures, adding up to countless billions to repair. Many people have been killed or wounded or have lost jobs. The greenhouse canopy continues to get bigger, causing increasingly larger storms, landslides, droughts, floods, extreme heat and frequency throughout the world.

The Biden administration has made Herculean efforts to slow the pace of pollutants flowing into the atmosphere despite strong and ill-informed opposition. There is no one solution. It requires a variety of approaches to ameliorate the problem.

We need a President who will continue and increase efforts to stop the flow of pollutants from the United States, and also provide global leadership to other countries to follow suit.

It is quite obvious that Trump does not have the capability or the wherewith-

al to do the job. He thinks climate change is a "hoax." Moreover, he truly demonstrated his lack of world leadership by abruptly withdrawing from the climate change Paris Agreement that literally represents the entire world's representatives from 195 nations.

Climate is without a doubt the most serious issue for the United States and the Earth itself. It needs to be taken into account in this coming election.

**Gerry Snyder**  
Ely

### Vote Yes for the Great Outdoors amendment

I live in Roseville and yet am a faithful reader of the great community newspaper, the *Timberjay*. I am writing out of concern for the passage of the MN Great Outdoors Amendment which will be on the front of every voter's ballot.

Over 30 years ago, a majority of Minnesotans voted to dedicate a portion of state lottery proceeds to conservation. Since then, it's provided over \$1 billion for projects to enhance Minnesota's parks, green spaces, arts and culture. The North Country has been the recipient of these funds in many projects.

In this election year over 50 percent of Minnesotans must VOTE YES to continue funding these conservation and arts projects.

PLEASE VOTE YES!  
If you don't mark your ballot, it will be counted as a NO VOTE!

Let's keep this lottery funding working for conservation and arts projects throughout Minnesota.

**Anne Haugan**  
Roseville

### ELY...Cont. from page 3

#### Small Business

Musgrave was asked what the city council could do to support small businesses. "Ask them ... Ely's government should be serving their needs, and should be asking them directly," she re-

sponded. She also stated that Ely should be doing more to help its small businesses rather than aiding larger developers.

"I don't believe we don't help small business," Debeltz rebutted, citing Ely's commercial rehabilitation loan

program for local businesses. Kess weighed in, pointing to Ely's economic development authority's "active small business program, which he called "the envy of the Iron Range."

Roose saw addressing the trio of housing, child

care, and jobs as crucial to building small businesses and economic health. She acknowledged that Ely currently had an arts- and tourism-based economy, but that the city had "room for other industry."

### ECONOMY...Cont. from page 4

my in a way that increased fairness and opportunity by investing in average American families.

Without any Republican votes, Biden immediately won passage of the American Rescue Plan, preventing an anticipated wave of evictions and bankruptcies while also addressing the very real health emergency posed by the pandemic. It provided additional funding for state and local governments to prevent layoffs of teachers, first responders, and other public employees. It expanded the child tax credit, which brought child poverty to its lowest level in American history. It also included provisions to protect union pensions.

Policy adjustments by the administration helped untangle the supply chain issues and resulted in huge increases in cargo volume at U.S. ports, which had tanked in the wake of the pandemic and created shortages of such vital goods as baby formula.

As shortages inevitably prompted price increases, Biden and Harris were under pressure by conservatives and many moderates to cut back on federal spending in the wake of the American Rescue Plan. It was the same policy prescription that led to slow growth and years of economic pain in the wake of the 2008 financial collapse. Biden and Harris learned that lesson, however, and, rather

than austerity, they won passage of the infrastructure bill, with some GOP support (not including Rep. Pete Stauber), designed to rebuild roads and bridges, ports, trains, and to bring high-speed internet to every American. The new law required the use of American workers and products as part of these projects.

The administration also won passage of the Chips and Science Act, which is in the process of bringing semiconductor manufacturing back to the U.S. Companies around the world are currently pouring money into new manufacturing capacity like never before, to take advantage of incentives built into the new law. As of April of this year, that investment was running at an eye-popping rate of \$190 billion on an annualized basis. Indeed, according to a new report from Moody's Analytics, factory construction in the U.S. is at the highest level in over half a century, and that's due almost entirely to Biden/Harris administration policy. While that policy is currently keeping construction workers busy, it will soon be employing hundreds of thousands of new factory workers, and that's on top of the 700,000 new manufacturing jobs the administration has already created. Indeed, the Biden/Harris administration has done more to turn around manufacturing in the U.S. than any administration in

generations.

What's more, the administration is creating hundreds of thousands of new jobs in clean energy as part of passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, while also allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices. American workers are seeing steady wage gains and the racial wealth gap has declined. Oh, and more Americans have health insurance than ever before, thanks to the Affordable Care Act, which Trump has repeatedly said he wants to dismantle. Small business owners, by the way, are among the biggest beneficiaries of the ACA, which is providing insurance coverage for millions of our nation's entrepreneurs.

The Biden/Harris administration has shown that it is possible to safeguard wages for workers and promote economic growth while simultaneously bringing down inflation. It comes down to smart policy, which can be created when smart people are put in charge of economic policy. It's good for workers and its good for investors, who are enjoying a stock market at all-time record highs.

Indeed, the Biden/Harris administration has shown the fallacy of trickle-down economics, which has never generated economic success, as the Trump administration showed once again with their economic policy of tax cuts

for the rich and big corporations. It's no surprise, in other words, that of the 51 million net jobs created in the U.S. since 1988, 50 million have come under Democratic presidents. Biden and Harris have shown more clearly than ever that government policy and investment can make a real difference in the lives of average Americans when it focuses on growing the economy from the middle out.

But Biden, in his message to the Economic Club, concluded that the gains the U.S. has made are built on a foundation that Donald Trump threatens to undermine. Foreign companies look to invest in the U.S., he said, because they feel secure in the rule of law that provides security for those investments. While he didn't mention Trump by name, he didn't have to. Everyone there was well aware of Trump's efforts to politicize our system of justice to bend to his whims and self interest. Trump, in his ignorance, threatens to undo everything that has made America so successful.

Credit to Professor Heather Cox Richardson for some of the information in this column. Her widely-followed podcast, Letters from an American, is highly recommended.



*the*  
**TIMBERJAY**

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Read the entire paper on-line every week. On-line subscriptions cost \$29.95/year; details and payment at www.timberjay.com.

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

Week of October 7

**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 Oct. 15.

Greenwood Fire Dept.- Training meetings on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

Greenwood Town Board- 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 8

**Thursday**  
AA Meeting- Lake Vermilion 12x12 (Open) 6:30 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Tower. Use the rear side door entrance.

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



**TSHS weekly winner**  
TOWER- The Charlemagne's 52 Club Week 3 winner of a \$100 cash prize is Joan Broten of Tower.

**History Tidbit:** The Works Progress Administration was created in 1935 by Franklin Delano Roosevelt and was responsible for some of the buildings in Tower and the surrounding area. The old country garage and the forestry office (both torn down in the early 2000s) were built as part of the project meant to stimulate the economy and help the country get out of the Great Depression.

**TSAA Fall Auction set for Nov. 14**  
TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Athletic Association annual fall fundraiser auction will be held on Thursday, Nov. 14 starting at 5 p.m. at the Wilderness at Fortune Bay.

Tickets are \$30 in advance, and \$35 at the door (if any seats left). Reserve your ticket by calling Jodi at 218-753-2950 or stop by the *Timberjay* office in Tower (tickets must be paid in advance). Seating is limited to 60 people, and the event has sold out the last few years. The ticket price covers the cost of the hot and cold appetizer buffet. Drinks are available to purchase at the bar.

This fun-filled evening includes a social hour, karaoke with LuAnn, raffles, plinko, games, and a live and silent auction. There will be many amazing items to bid on, including lots of great gift ideas for the upcoming holidays.

Donations are needed for prizes and the silent auction. Please drop by the *Timberjay* office in Tower or call Jodi at 218-753-2950 to arrange a pick-up. Also, anyone interested in volunteering can also contact Jodi.

This annual fundraiser raises needed money for Tower-Soudan Elementary's PTO, Tower-Soudan youth baseball, Vermilion Country Charter School, and other youth educational opportunities. The event is sponsored by TSAA, Friends of Vermilion Country School, and the Tower-Soudan PTO.

Subscribe to the **TIMBERJAY!**  
Call 218-753-2950



BREITUNG POLICE DEPARTMENT



Tacos with Cops set for Saturday, Oct. 5 in Soudan

SOUDAN- The third annual Tacos with Cops fundraiser will be held on Saturday, Oct. 5 from noon – 5 p.m. at the Breitung Community Center. The event is hosted by Breitung Police Chief Dan Reing and his family. There will be authentic tacos, public safety information and resources, and community dialog. A freewill donation will be taken which will help fund Breitung Police Department special projects.

BIG TRUCKS



Big Truck Night this year featured sunny skies and perfect weather. Pictured clockwise from top left: Zella Boshkaykin, Seija Snyder, and Parker Wellander raced to see the big trucks. Ari Banks checks out the view from the cab of a fire truck. Ada Gornick played on the swings in the park. Noel Trancheff shows her grandpa Fred Precht the Smokey Bear toys she got from the DNR. Peyton Edwards tries out a fire hose with help from the DNR's Keith Flood. Zaija Schroeder tries out some Breitung Fire Department gear. photos by J. Summit



COMMUNITY NOTICES

Little Church to meet Oct. 12

VERMILION LAKE TWP- The Little Church committee will meet on Saturday, Oct. 12 at 10 a.m. The group always welcomes anyone and are looking for people interested in keeping The Little Church preserved and maintained in our community. The church hosts a men's group that meets every Thursday at 9 a.m. for coffee and conversation. All are welcome. There is also a womens group that starts around 10:15 a.m. on Thursdays. The Little Church is located in Vermilion Lake Twp. on Co. Rd. 26/Wahlsten Rd. Any questions contact Len Hujanen at 218-749-2014.

VCS looking for used magazines

TOWER- The Vermilion Country School is looking for used magazines that would be appropriate for use

in school art projects. Magazines can be dropped at the charter school or at the *Timberjay* office in Tower.

Rummage sale to be held at Tower Food Shelf on Oct. 15

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 by calling Kate Smith at 763-528-5396 to set up an appointment.

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. – noon.

Tower Food Shelf fundraiser set for Friday, Nov. 1

TOWER- The Tower Food Shelf is hosting a fundraiser dinner on Friday, Nov. 1 from 5 – 8 p.m. at the Lamppa Civic Center. The menu is still being developed, watch for more details in an upcoming paper.

Right: Kristine Jonas was the lucky winner of this year's Sharing the Harvest raffle sponsored by the Tower Farmers Market. Market vendors each donated items to fill the basket. All the proceeds from the raffle are donated to the Tower Food Shelf. photo by J. Summit



ELY PUBLIC SAFETY NIGHT

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:

- Oct. 8: Sonja Tosteson, Urban & Community Forestry Volunteer & Partnerships Coordinator
- Oct. 15: Northwoods Volunteer Connection with Jo Swanson

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2024



football in the air anticipation prevails  
cold winds soon arrive

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 Ledgerrock 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.



Chamber of Commerce photo contest winners

ELY- The Ely Chamber of Commerce has picked its winners for the third annual 2024 Capture Ely Photo Contest, giving out a total of \$1,500 in prizes to the winners. The contest had four categories for shopping, family fun, outdoor recreation, and nature. Each category awarded four prizes: \$200 in "Chamber Bucks" for first place, \$100 for second, \$50 for third, and \$25 for fourth.

"We had a fantastic group of photographers this year, and it was really difficult choosing just four for each category," stated Eva Sebesta, executive director. "The Nature category received almost forty images, followed closely by Outdoor Recreation."

The contest was started in 2022 to highlight the many facets of Ely and its photographers. Photos from the contest are used in the Chamber's annual business and visitor guide, social media, and on the Ely.org website.

This year's winners in

the nature category were: first – Reflections by Judith Nagel; second – Fall on Fall Lake by Kim Breimeier; third – Two for the Money by Michelle Wild; fourth – After the Storm by Thomas Johnson.

In the family fun category, the winners were: first – Cooling Off by Diane Kromer; second – Helping Great Grandpa by Donna Meier; third – Enjoying an Ely Sunset by Donna Meier; fourth – Block Printing at the Folk School by Abby Sirek.

The winners in the outdoor recreation category were: first – Lunch Break by Adam Borchert; second – Son Fishing by Daniel Raza; third – No Skating Rink Needed by Diane Kromer; fourth – Boundary Waters Walleye by Donna Meier.

In the shopping category, the winners were: first – Cabin Cuisine by Kendra Kauppi; second – Sunrise on Chapman by Abby Sirek; third – Zup's Shopper by Kendra Kauppi; fourth – Treats by Catherine Raza.



Above: The firefighters of the Ely Fire Department had all their tools out at Ely's Public Safety Night and Open House as they demonstrated to the watching crowd how to dismantle a car in the case of an accident.

Right: Sandra Thom (seated), the person who runs the office side of the Ely Police Department, smiles as she chows down on a burger at Ely's Public Safety Night and Open House on Sept. 25. Ely patrol officers Charles Petersen and Courtney Olson stand behind of her.

photos by C. Clark

HOMECOMING



Ely Memorial High School crowned its Homecoming King and Queen on Tuesday at an hour-long pep rally at the school's football stadium. This year's King and Queen are Ben Leeson and Carmen Nelson. photo by C. Clark

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Babbitt Public Library

BABBITT- The library is now open on Fridays again.

The book club is starting on Monday, Oct. 7, at 2 p.m. The book for October will be "The Five Start Weekend" by Elin Hilderbrand.

The library will host a presentation incorporating humor and history as Duluth artists Brian and Sue Matuszak tell stories about Minnesota artists and the public artworks they created throughout the Arrowhead Region during the New Deal Federal Art Project in 1935. The program will be on Wednesday, Oct. 9 at 10:30 a.m.

The library will host live entertainment by Gerry & Friends (and their accordians) on Thursday, Oct. 10 at 2 p.m. Refreshments will be provided.

The library is holding a sealed bid auction for surplus library equipment, including filing cabinets, chairs, a desk, a kitchen cart, lap desks, and more. The equipment being sold is on display at the library. Bids for any of the equipment must be submitted in a sealed envelope to the library by 6 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 10.

The Friends of the Library are raffling off a ghostly Halloween decoration. Purchase tickets at the library for \$1 apiece. The drawing will be at the Harvest Festival on Saturday, Oct. 12 at 1 p.m. (see the Harvest Festival notice below).

The Friends of the Library have a raffle going for a Kate Spade glimmer tote bag. Tickets are \$5 each and

only 500 will be sold. The drawing will be on Dec. 14; ticket holders do not need to be present to win.

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 October is anise. Pick up a sample and recipes at the front desk while supplies last.

The library will hold an online Kahoot trivia game on three books by acclaimed children's author Roald Dahl: "The Twits," "Matilda," and "The BFG." The Kahoot will start at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 2, and end at 8 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 7. Participants must preregister for the Kahoot so the library can email the link for the game.

The last day to register for the library's Wild West Murder Mystery Party is Monday, Oct. 7, by 6:30 p.m.

The Friends of the Library monthly board meeting will be on Tuesday, Oct. 8, from 1-2 p.m.

The library will host a program on the Arrowhead region's New Deal Works Progress Administration artworks on Monday, Oct. 14, from 12:30-1:30 p.m.

The Friends of the Library Book Club will meet on Monday, Oct. 14, from 3-4 p.m. The book for discussion is "The Night Watchman" by Louise Erdrich.

The library will hold an online Kahoot trivia game on "Misty of Chincoteague," "King of the Wind," and "Born to Trot" by Margue-

rite Henry. The Kahoot will start at 3 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 17, and end at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 22. Participants must preregister for the Kahoot so the library can email the link for the game.

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.

The Ely for Ely Leadership Workshop

ELY- Registration for the Ely for Ely Leadership Workshop opens on Oct. 1 and runs through Nov. 11. Register for this event at the Boundary Waters Connect website at boundarywatersconnect.com/elyforely. The workshop will be on Monday, Nov. 18. The cost is \$20 with scholarships available. The conference includes a continental breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack.

NLAA 2025 Art Shows

ELY- The deadline to apply for one of the spots in the Northern Lakes Arts Association's 2025 Art Show Season is Oct. 30. This opportunity offers a two-month exhibit, a \$500 stipend, and a three-day artist residency to engage with the local arts community. Apply through the NLAA website at northernlakesarts.org/2025-art-show-application.

Reflections Dance Company Classes

ELY- Registration for fall classes by Reflections Dance Company is now open. Classes start on Oct. 6, and run through Dec. 4, with a showcase recital on Satur-

day, Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. Sign up for classes at www.northernlakesarts.org and pay online, or bring cash or check to the first class. New for the fall session are introductory levels for social swing dance, beginning adult jazz and tap, and an advanced technique class. Come to class ready to move and bring a water bottle. If you have questions, contact Director Molly Olson at 218-410-9457 or send an email at reflectionsdc18@gmail.com. Scholarships are available.

Free Tree Training

ELY- Learn to be an Ely Tree Steward Volunteer on Tuesday, Oct. 8, from 8-11 a.m. at the Vermilion Fine Arts Theater at Minnesota North College. The University of Minnesota Forest Resources program will provide instruction on tree biology, identification, planning best practices, mulching, staking, fertilizing, trunk protection, and more. This program is free of charge to the public, courtesy of the USFS and DNR. For more details and to register, visit z.umn.edu/treesteward\_upcomingtrainings.

Fish Thief

ELY- On Oct. 11 at 7 p.m., Ely's Historic State Theater will show "The Fish Thief." Formerly titled "Relentless," this documentary screened at the 2024 Ely Film Festival to a sold-out audience of 50 people. If you missed it back in February, now is your chance to see the film. The director of "The Fish Thief," Lindsay Haskin, will be present at this one-night reshowing of the film.

Harvest Festival

BABBITT- the Babbitt Senior Citizens and the Babbitt Friends of the Library are holding a Harvest Festival with craft vendors, a white elephant sale, a bake sale, and food on Saturday, Oct. 12, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lunch featuring sloppy joes or pulled pork sandwiches, chips, pickle, dessert, and a drink will be \$10; just coffee and dessert, \$5. The event will be at the Babbitt Municipal Gymnasium, 71 South Dr.

Art Reception

ELY- Ely's Historic State Theater will host a reception for Sarah Seidelmann's Exhibition of "Things That Make Me Feel Good Again," which is the Northern Lakes Arts Association art show for September. The reception will be on Oct. 12, from 5-6 p.m. in the theater lobby.

The Sectionals Rescheduled

ELY- Ely's Historic State Theater's presentation of the ever-popular Sectionals singing ensemble has been rescheduled for Sunday, Oct. 13, from 4-6 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person. Tickets can be ordered in advance at elystatetheater.org or bought at the door.

Ladies of Kaleva

ELY- The Ely Ladies of Kaleva will meet on Tuesday, Oct. 15 at 1 p.m. at the Ely Senior Center. The Marsalji Trio will play a program of Finnish music. Anyone interested in Finnish heritage is welcome to attend. Questions about the program can be directed to Sally at 218-760-2036.

NORTH COUNTRY ICON

# Billy the Bluegill gets a summertime makeover

Former Orr art teacher tackles the larger-than-life project with advice from experienced forerunner

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

ORR- Any famous icon can benefit from a makeover at one time or another, and recently that time came for none other than Billy the Bluegill of Orr.

The iconic statue, now over four decades old, has received numerous facelifts over the years, and this time former Orr School art teacher Lyn Reed took on the task of spiffing the creature up.

The project was funded through the Orr Lions Club and numerous donors, and club president Tom Antikainen said that the Lions were the originators of the statue.

"The Orr Lions Club raised funds and had it done in 1981 or 1982," said Antikainen. "I am sure the project was brought up by then Lions president Will Miller, who was owner of Island View Resort at that time."

It may have been an article by *Minneapolis Tribune* columnist Ron Schara in 1978 that helped to establish Orr statewide as a bluegill mecca and lent momentum to the birth of Billy the Bluegill. Here's an excerpt from Schara's column:

"Those of you who have not discovered the joys of trophy bluegills may only remember Orr as a small clearing in the timber between Virginia and International Falls. If so, you have a poor memory."

"If you're looking for giant bluegills and you stumble into, of all places, Orr, you've come to the right place. My friend and television personality Chuck Ross

of WCCO-TV stumbled onto Pelican Lake a month or so ago and returned gushing with enthusiasm. If you know Ross, you know he could stumble over a skunk and fall into a sweet bed of roses. In the case of Pelican Lake, his stumbling produced 60 or so bluegills that totaled 50 pounds or so. The largest, as I recall, went over 1-1/4 pounds.

"Ron Anderson, the town's businessman, verified the lake's lunker bluegill reputation.

"As far as I am concerned, it's the best bluegill lake in the state," claimed Anderson."

According to the popular online site Roadside America, the work is credited to sculptor Gordon Shumaker, who created other Minnesota giants such as White Bear's Chevy dealer Polar Bear, Smokey Bear in International Falls, and Alexandria's Viking "Big Ole."

The bluegill is famous as a spot for picture taking by tourists from around the country. A Trip Advisor reviewer from Wellington, Kan. wrote, "This is an iconic photo site for those fishing on Pelican Lake. A classic 'we were here' memento." In fact, getting pictures with the bluegill is a family tradition for many, such as this Trip Advisor user, who wrote, "I get my picture with my hand in his mouth during vacations for the last 25 years. What a wonderful welcome after driving from LaPorte Indiana. You know you have arrived when you see the bluegill!"



Artist Lyn Reed takes a break from painting to pose with Billy the Bluegill in Orr. submitted

## Painting Billy

"I was the art teacher, and I started in Orr in 1980 and worked there for 30 years," Reed said. "Ron Maki, the art teacher in Cook, had always done it in the past. A teacher, a friend of mine, he said to me 'You know, they're looking for somebody to do the fish and your name came up.' So I thought I'd give it a try."

Reed met with Maki a couple of times to find out what kind of paint he used (one coat sign paint) and how he prepared it for painting.

"He said we have to scrape it and sand it all down," Reed said. "There's no electricity there, so I had to figure out how to do that. I decided to use my battery-operated drill and I bought some wire brushes to go on the end and did it that way."

Once uncovered, Reed discovered a good pattern used by Maki that she could follow.

"I kind of followed what he did and just painted," she said. "I changed the colors a little bit and made them a little brighter, and I layered it to get a nice effect on the fins. There are four layers of color, so the other colors kind of come through. You can't tell that from a distance, but it gives it a lot more depth and makes it a lot more interesting."

Reed said she spent about six to seven hours a day working on the paint job, about 80 hours total.

"I just kept going," she said. "Every day I thought it's going to be done in a couple of days, but then a couple of days would come and go and it was a couple more days. It did take longer than what I thought. You have to go around each of those scales, and that was a bit time consuming."

But the work in progress didn't stop the parade of Billy fans lining up for photos.

"It was nice because lots of people stopped," Reed

said. "Sometimes you can have as many as ten people stop from all over – Canada, Illinois, Florida – it's amazing how many people come from different places and stop there."

And the former art teacher drew some local attention as well.

"A lot of my students, because I taught so many kids in that area, they would stop and say, 'Mrs. Reed, you're painting a fish!' So it was kind of a fun thing to do. I enjoyed it."

While friendly faces were some of the rewards, the job had its challenges as well, from heat and storms to bugs and trains.

"I made the mistake of putting sunscreen on my forehead the first day, and the sunscreen melted and dripped into my eyes, and I thought well I won't do that again," Reed laughed. "A lot of those days the temperature was 84, 86 one day, so we got pretty hot out there. And then for some reason the flies were biting at that time, which is a strange time. And then one day thunderstorms came through every couple of hours. I'd just get started and then another storm would come through."

Wind was another nagging element, as it would often cause newly-applied paint to drip. Reed kept a rag soaked with paint thinner handy to wipe away the errant blobs.

The interruptions caused by trains, particularly northbound ones, was something Reed hadn't thought about when taking on the job.

"They blow their whistle

right at the fish when they're going north," she said. "A few times I was up on the ladder, and you kind of get busy with what you're doing, and all of a sudden without realizing the train is right there only about 20 feet away from you the whistle blows a few times. I thought, 'Oh good golly' and I nearly fell right off. In the beginning I thought they were doing it on purpose because they're seeing me there, but I think they have to do it because the crossing was right there."

Reed is glad that she took on the project and is happy with how Billy looks with his new coat of paint.

"It turned out really nice, and I didn't get overwhelmed by how big it was," she said. "As an art teacher, like with Ron Maki, we're kind of jacks of all trades. We know how to apply colors. We know how to do fine lines and thick lines. It's just a matter of putting those skills to work to do a big project like that."

Antikainen said that the total cost of the project was \$9,544.32, and he thanked the numerous donors who helped to defray the costs. Those donors include: Leiding Township, Pelican Lake Resort Association, Orr American Legion, Frank's Marine, RE/MAX Lake Country, Pelican Bay Inc., Jerry and Amy Shuster, T. Pattenn Café, Deer Lodge, Ryan's Rustic Railings and Furniture, Inc., and Lumber-Orr-Hardware.

Additional donations are welcomed and can be sent to Orr Lions, P.O. Box 213, Orr MN 55771.

## DIG PINK DAY



Scenic Rivers Health Services CEO Keith Harvey listens as Cook Mayor Harold Johnston proclaims Tuesday "Dig Pink Day" for breast cancer awareness during a ceremony at Cook Hospital. D. Colburn photo

## GRIZZLIES HOMECOMING



Last week was homecoming week at North Woods School, with different activities every day for students to engage with. Homecoming royalty queen candidates were Nia Gaskell, Jaida Lambert, Sheyenne Schuster, and Dakota Schwartzenberger. King candidates were Kalvyn Benner, Talen Jarshaw, Ryder Gibson, and Trajen Barto. Above left: Nia Gaskell and Jaida Lambert react to Sheyenne Schuster's delighted surprise as the North Woods Grizzly places the queen's crown on her head. Above right: Queen Sheyenne posed with King Talen Jarshaw after the coronation assembly on Thursday. The Grizzlies football team punctuated the week with a Friday afternoon homecoming game win over Cass Lake-Bena, 62-0. photos by D. Colburn

## Cook-Orr Calendar

### Reception to kick off Martin memorial show at NWFA

COOK- October is the month for the Susan Martin Memorial Member Show at the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook, and a reception will be held to celebrate the exhibit on Friday, Oct. 4 from 5-7 p.m. at the gallery.

This annual event showcases the artistic talents of NWFA members both new and old and honors the spirit of one of NWFA's founding members and artists, Susan Martin, who passed away in 2015. Members who wish to exhibit may have space and sell their works free of rental fee from Oct. 6-26. Members should bring crafts and art to the gallery on Monday, Sept. 30 or Tuesday, Oct. 1. Generally, display space of approximately 4x4 feet of wall space or six feet of table space is provided per artist or crafter. An inventory list describing each item, including price if for sale, is required. Sales tax and a 15 per-

cent commission on items sold will be collected.

Contact Alberta White-nack at 218-666-2153 with questions.

The gallery is located at 210 S River St. in Cook.

### NWFA drawing class will be Friday, Oct. 18

COOK- Introduction to Basic Drawing, a class to be taught by Cecelia Rolando at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery, has been rescheduled as a one-day class on Friday, Oct. 18 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. in Cook.

Ely native Rolando teaches a variety of art classes and loves drawing. Rolando will run through several exercises to encourage better drawing from students and how this leads to improved paintings. Register calling Alberta at 218-666-2153.

The NWFA Gallery at 210 S River St. in Cook is open on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. More information about NWFA and upcoming classes, exhibits,

and events is available online at [www.nwfamn.org](http://www.nwfamn.org).

### Fall Festival Fiesta is coming on Saturday

COOK- The Cook Friends of the Parks will be hosting a Fall Festival Fiesta on Saturday, Oct. 5 from noon-6 p.m. at the Cook VFW.

A festive meal of authentic Mexican steak tacos with rice, beans, and salsa will be served for \$10, with takeout and delivery in Cook available.

As a fundraiser for the organization's pickleball project, a variety of raffles will be offered, as well as Bingo, with cash prizes, from 1-4 p.m.

Volunteers are needed, as are donations of wine, spir-its, and baskets of raffles. In lieu of making a raffle basket, people may make a donation and have Friends of the Parks put together a basket in their name.

Check the Friends of the Parks-Cook, MN Facebook page for event details and updates.

### Library has take and make kit for tassels

COOK- Make your own tassels with a take and make kit from Cook Public Library.

The kit includes several sizes of wooden tassel weaving tools and a va-

riety of threads and clips to make several tassels. The kit is for ages eight and up, with one kit per household.

This kit is made possible by Arrowhead Library System and Friends of the Cook Public Library.

## Customer Appreciation Day

Friday, October 18  
8 AM-2 PM

- Drawings for Prizes •

Hot Dogs, Brats,  
& Refreshments  
11 AM-2 PM

We hope to see you!

Lumber Orr Hardware  
4563 Hwy. 53, Orr, MN 55771  
Hours: M-F 8-5, Sat 8-Noon  
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OVERNIGHT BLAZE

# Cook house, damaged by June flood, destroyed by fire

**COOK-** An early morning fire on Monday destroyed a Cook house that has been unoccupied since the June flood.

The two-bedroom house at 202 First Ave. NW, about 60 feet from the north bank of the Little Fork River, was reported to be

on fire at 3:40 a.m. on Monday. A driver passing on Hwy. 53 saw flames above the treetops and called 911 after locating the source of the blaze.

The Cook Fire Department and Cook ambulance responded to the blaze. Pike-Sandy-Britt and

Kinney-Great Scott departments were also dispatched but were discontinued after the scene had been assessed.

The house is considered a total loss, and there were no injuries reported during the incident.

The cause of the fire is under

investigation by the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office with the assistance of the Minnesota State Fire Marshals Office.

**Right: Little remained after fire destroyed this house on the 200 block of 1st Ave. NW in Cook.** photo by D. Colburn



## TOURISM...Continued from page 1

or significantly lower than last year, with only 25 percent indicating higher revenues. That's due in part to lower customer traffic, reported by half of the survey respondents.

Those numbers are in stark contrast to 2021, the first summer of the COVID pandemic without significant business restrictions when people sought out tourist experiences as respite from the quarantines they'd been under. Nearly 70 percent of businesses reported increases in revenue that year, about 30 percent indicating their revenues were significantly higher. Each year since, the number of businesses reporting lower revenue than the year before has increased, a possible indicator that people are returning to pre-pandemic lifestyles.

"It doesn't mean they were necessarily unprofitable or that revenues were necessarily bad," Wirtz said. "You may have had a really great year and revenues decline from last year. But again, just on its face, what we saw (this year) is that roughly half

of respondents saw revenue decline from last year, and only about a quarter see increases. In general, it seems pretty clear that the pandemic boom has really worn off and that we're seeing some adjustments throughout the sector."

Most businesses don't expect to recoup any losses going into the fall, and around 80 percent reported expectations of level to decreased revenue and customer traffic compared to last year.

Inflation was the top challenge reported to operations, far outdistancing the second-most reported challenge, wage increases.

Staffing wasn't as much of a concern in this year's survey as it has been in the past, Wirtz said.

"Hiring more full-time staff has dropped significantly, and they are also hiring to replace more turnover than they were previously," he said. "I think a lot of businesses managed to staff up over the last couple of years and so now I think it's a little bit more of maintaining.

"What our respondents are reporting is that wholesale inflation is still higher than what they are charging to their customers and so they are eating a lot of that price increase. What we are seeing is that the long-term trend is improving modestly but pretty steadily. I'm sure everybody out there who's listening who's running a business would love to see lower prices from their vendors rather than just seeing prices go up more slowly."

### North Country impact

The survey breaks down the tourism and hospitality industry into four sectors – goods and services, food and drink establishments, attractions and entertainment, and overnight accommodations. North Country resorts may have seen slightly less impact on their business overall, as the overnight accommodation sector experienced less of a downturn than the other three.

"The only sector that is even close to par is accommodation," Wirtz said. "And even there, just anecdotally, generally even they have been

seeing lower occupancy, but their average room rates have remained fairly healthy, so I think that's one of the reasons they're a little bit closer to par."

However, compared to the rest of the state, the northeast region had the highest percentage of businesses reporting slightly or significantly lower revenues and traffic and the smallest reporting slightly or significantly higher ones.

And while the vast majority of businesses reported little to no impact from the summer floods, the Tower-Soudan area likely missed out on the economic benefits of tourists returning to Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park. Impacted by the pandemic and then a renovation project which closed the facility in October 2021, the park re-opened for tours in May but closed again in June after the mine's 27th level became flooded with over nine feet of water from torrential rain and the sump pumps malfunctioned. When open, the park has drawn about 34,000 visitors annually.

Another indicator that the reported losses may not have been felt equally across the North Country comes from preliminary visitor estimates to Voyageurs National Park. While visitor center numbers for the summer have not yet been finalized, manager of interpretation and public affairs Kate Severson told the *Timberjay* that visitation was up this summer over 2022 and 2023, although pandemic-related closures of visitor centers and boat tours may have led to some underreporting for those years. Severson said staff believe that numbers in 2024 are higher in part because there wasn't much flooding at the start of the summer compared to previous years.

Specifically for boat tours, VNP saw participation increase from 6,839 in 2023 to 8,773 in 2024. Severson said that also reflects the fact that more tours were scheduled this season and fewer were cancelled.

### Overall effects

Wirtz said that the data shows that growth in tourism and hospitality is essentially

"stalled."

"I think we have to be straight up on that," he said. "I don't really see any region or industry sub-sector that is seeing wildly different results. Some are better, but it's mostly in the margins, inflation and wage pressures are both improving but I don't know that respondents are necessarily feeling that much relief either."

"Overall financial health is still positive on net," Wirtz concluded. "There's definitely been some erosion in the overall financial health of the sector that we're paying attention to. I think it's very safe to say this is a very cautious group in terms of what lies ahead."

And Wirtz noted the limitations of the survey.

"It's hard to say any point-in-time survey is exactly what is happening," he said. "We kind of don't know where we are on the trend line. We try to do as good a job as we can, but not everything necessarily fits in an easy to interpret box."

## PIRAGIS...Continued from page 1

building. Then, in 2019, the business bought the building back. Beginning next year, it will serve as the new home of Piragis' bookstore, which has, for years, been marooned on the second floor of the company's main retail store located adjacent to the Chocolate

Moose.

"It made sense for us," Ellie explained. "We share walls, doors, and the same basement." Piragis Northwoods leased the space to Bryan Morcom of Tower for a pop-up restaurant in 2019. The space was unused

in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, Piragis leased the restaurant to Nick Laurent and Maddie Wilson, who operated the Chocolate Moose through the end of this summer. According to Ellie, the lease was not renewed.

To move the bookstore

downstairs, the business will reconnect the former Chocolate Moose to the rest of the retail space. "I've always wanted a downstairs bookstore," Ellie said, highlighting the bookstore move as part of the business's plans for expansion.

"We need to expand our footprint," Piragis explained. "This will create space for our growing company."

Ellie said the plans for the current bookstore space, upstairs in the main retail building at 105 N. Central, are "to be announced." The

firm currently occupies the double-wide storefront on Central, the discount outlet and outfitting buildings at 45 W. Sheridan St., and the Piragis Boat House at 14 W. Sheridan St.

# Keep it Clean, ST. LOUIS COUNTY



### ASH RIVER TRAIL CANISTER SITE

11391 Ash River Trail

### WINTER HOURS

Sat: 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### COOK TRANSFER STATION

2134 S. Beatty Rd.  
Cook

### HOURS

Mon: 10 a.m.–6 p.m.  
Tues thru Sat: 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

### COUNTY 77 CANISTER SITE

2038 County Rd. 77  
Greenwood Twp

### WINTER HOURS

Thu, Sun: Noon–5 p.m.

### KABETOGAMA LAKE CANISTER SITE

10150 Gamma Rd

### HOURS

Wed: noon – 4 p.m.  
Sat: 8 a.m. – noon

### ORR CANISTER SITE

4038 Hwy 53

### WINTER HOURS

Tue, Thu: 9 a.m.–noon  
Sat: 8 a.m.–noon

### PORTAGE CANISTER SITE

6992 Crane Lake Rd, Buyck

### WINTER HOURS

Tue, Sat: 1 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### REGIONAL LANDFILL

5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia

### HOURS

Mon-Fri: 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.  
Sat: 8 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

### HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITIES

5345 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia  
Tues and Sat: 8 a.m.–1 p.m.

3994 Landfill Rd, Hibbing  
Sat: 8 a.m.–1 p.m.

**ST. LOUIS COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT**  
218-749-9703 | OFFICE HOURS MON - FRI 8 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Winter hours effective October 1 - April 14



# RICE...Continued from page 1

Adrienne Whiteman, the school's director of Indigenous Programming, is excited to see all the ways the study of wild rice fits into the school's curriculum, for both the Native American students and the entire student body.

"We are all learning as a group," she said. Some students were uncertain about trying new experiences, like parching rice in an iron kettle over an open fire.

"But we helped talk them through the process," she said. "Overall, it's been such a good experience."

She noted that some of the Native students have not had the chance to learn these traditions from their own families, so it is as new to them as other students.

"I am so happy for the willingness of our teachers to be on one page for this," she said.

About one-third of the students at VCS are Native Americans, and many live on the Vermilion and Nett Lake reservations.

"Once a week we are doing lessons on wild rice," said science teacher Sam Magnuson, with units already looking at the life cycle, phenology, and conservation challenges for those managing wild rice lakes. Students will be exploring the differences between commercially-grown "paddy" rice and authentic wild rice, and later this fall will be exploring different recipes



Left: Students gather around a circle with a tarp covered with wild rice in the center.

Above: Parching rice in a large iron kettle.

submitted photos

staffer Marne Kaeske.

"Marne loves to include students in all aspects of traditional hunting and gathering," Whiteman said. "The school's ability to collaborate with 1854 really benefits our students."

Whiteman is heading an effort to develop a wider curriculum, including Ojibwe language lessons and other Native crafts. For Indigenous People's Day on Oct. 14, students will get the chance to learn birch bark basket weaving, beading, and making lanyards.

The school will also be partnering with the Bois Forte Heritage Center for both tours and more in-depth learning, Whiteman said.

The 1854 Treaty Authority is an inter-tribal natural resource management organization that protects and implements the off-reservation hunting, fishing and gathering rights for the Grand Portage and Bois Forte bands in the lands ceded to the United States government under the Treaty of La Pointe, 1854.

that feature the native grass.

Students in U.S. History are learning about the history of manoomin and its importance to the cultural identity of the Native Americans from before white settlement to the present day. They have been studying the history of tribes in the northeast portion of the United States and their relationships to manoomin.

"We want to create a compassionate understanding for where our students live," said Magnuson. "This is place-based education, giving students a great sense of ownership of their learning by tying it to their community." Students are also being encouraged to interview their

own family members to learn about their experiences harvesting wild rice.

Jackie Ridings, the school's student success counselor, is working with students to understand misconceptions about the history of the grain and its importance to cultural identity.

"Our food systems today do not honor that," she said.

"What does wild rice bring to our communities then (back in the 1600s) and now," she asked. "And what is it still providing?"

Students are studying the science behind wild rice management, and how it differs from other crops.

"This is such an inter-

esting crop," Magnuson said. "In alternative, more "natural" agriculture you want diverse stands. But wild rice grows best in a monoculture." Human interference, invasive species and pickerel weed, and climate change are all proving dangerous to the future of wild rice.

"When we make land management decisions, we need to start with science first," he said. "But we need a foundational knowledge. This was built up over thousands of years, but current land managers didn't listen and learn." Efforts to manage wild rice by managing water levels have proven problematic. In addition, the crop is sensitive

# ORANGE...Continued from page 1

opened in 1899 and after transitioning to a day school in the 1920s ran through 1953. The government also operated a day school at Nett Lake, and some Bois Forte children were enrolled in other residential schools around the state.

The ceremonies at Nett Lake were live streamed so that members in the Vermilion sector could participate as well. Representing the day's regular catch phrase "Every Child Matters," the children who attend Nett Lake School were there at the tribal government center to take part in



the observance.

A drum circle sang several songs, and spiritual advisor Vern Adams gave an invocation and then related stories about a relative who had been forced to attend a residential school. Afterward, the 80 or so in attendance at Nett Lake filed out of the building to walk the approximately one-mile route along Lakeshore Dr.

Allison Bajan, left, and Adaanis Goodsky walk side by side along Lakeshore Dr. at Nett Lake as part of the Orange Shirt Day walk.

photo by D. Colburn

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2025 Outlander DPS 500 Legion Red		\$8,349
2025 Outlander DPS 500 Wildland Camo		\$8,949
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CITY OF ELY

# County plans upgrade to Harvey St. next spring

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- St. Louis County is finally coming to rebuild Harvey St., but not until next spring. The waffle iron pavement will eventually be just a memory, but the price will be closing one of the city's busiest streets for the summer.

In correspondence read at Tuesday's city council meeting, the county informed the city that the county-supervised project will begin in May 2025. Because Harvey St. will be closed between Central and Ninth Aves. into next summer, the county will hold a public information meeting for Ely area residents about its scope and schedule. The meeting is set for Monday, Oct. 28, at 6 p.m. in the council chambers at Ely City Hall.

**Community center**

The city council approved a development agreement between the city and Pillar Company LLC for the renovation of the former Ely Community Center. The city will be acting as the fiscal agent for Pillar for the purpose of applying for a demolition construction grant from the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board. That grant, for \$200,000, would help fund the first phase of work on the former community center.

"The applications are being reviewed now," reported Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski, "which explains the timing for why we needed to have the agreement on the agenda for this meeting."

Langowski explained that having the development agreement in place was a condition of the grant. The agreement contains provisions that the IRRR can use to pull back the \$200,000 if the developer does not finish the project on schedule by the end of October 2025. Pillar, owned by developer Matthew Stupnik, proposes to remodel the Art Deco community center into a boutique hotel.

In other matters, the council:

- Rescheduled its regular meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 5, to Tuesday, Nov. 12, to avoid a conflict with the general election.

- Approved the recommendation from the planning and zoning commission to hold a study session on cannabis land use regulations and ordinances. The topic will be added to the agenda of the city council study session on Tuesday, Oct. 29, at 6:30 p.m. The study session already has city fees and fines on the agenda. The planning and zoning commission is invited to the study session.

- Heard correspondence from the Ely Area Ambulance Service regarding the board seat vacated by Chuck Novak last month. The city council appointed Paul Kess to fill Novak's seat on the ambulance board as a representative of Ely. Scott Kellerman wrote on behalf of the ambulance board, "Our bylaws have no provision for appointment to our board by any outside organization." He informed the council that the ambulance board had voted in Roger Chambers of Ely to fill Novak's vacated seat.

Kellerman went on to say that if the mayor or any city council member was interested in being on the ambulance service board, "We will take action to get that person on our board."

- Approved a request from the park and recreation board to task the planning and zoning administrator to ask potential recreation center users about their interest in upgrading the ice rink at the center. The proposal is to pave the center's ice rink for year-round use (e.g., pickleball in summer, volleyball in fall). The planning and zoning administrator will also ask about availability for a joint study session with interested groups on ways to upgrade the rink.

City council member Al Forsman inquired what the purpose was of seeking other groups and meeting with them. City council member and park and recreation board liaison Adam Bisbee replied that the study session would investigate ways "for multiple groups to pool funding."

The motion passed 6-1, with Forsman casting the dissenting vote.

- Approved a proposal for the park and recreation board to approach students at

Minnesota North College, to ask them to volunteer to help clean up the area around Pillow Rock while Ely is installing a park bench there.

- Heard the report from the Ely Planning and Zoning Commission that it approved the subdivision of the property at 226 E. Harvey St. into two parcels. The property belongs to the First Presbyterian Church of Ely.

- Returned the proposed revision of the city's dumpster ordinance to the planning and zoning commission for clarification.

- Approved the recommendation of the Ely Utilities Commission to advertise the Salvation Army HeatShare Program on the city's website.

- Approved attendance for city staff at the Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association Technical and Operations Conference and Trade Show in St. Cloud, on Dec. 10-12.

- Approved a \$400 Residential Conservation Improvement Program rebate for a heat pump at 919 E. Chapman St.

- Approved a \$5,190 Commercial Conservation Improvement Program rebate for lighting at KJ's True Value Hardware Store.

- Heard and approved the first reading of Ordinance 378 to amend Chapter 11, Section 11.41 of the Ely City Code to drop the land stability certification requirement at the 75-foot or greater setback in the Shoreline Overlay District surrounding Miners Lake.

- Approved the appointment of Claudia McBride to the tree board with a term expiring on Jan. 31, 2026.

- Approved Resolution 2024-036 to make levy assessments against taxable properties for delinquent water, sewer, and electric accounts.

- Approved Resolution 2024-037 to support the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Brownfield Assessment Grant Application for the Iron Range Brownfield Coalition. Ely is a member municipality of the coalition. The city of Virginia will submit the grant application as the fiscal agent for the coalition.

CITY OF TOWER

# Council seeks prices for two projects yet this fall

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

TOWER — With the construction season likely to come to an end in the next several weeks, the city council here used a special meeting to authorize getting bids on a major project and quotes on a smaller one.

City officials believe they finally have enough grant funding in place to upgrade stormwater connections, replace utility connections to two residences on S. Second St. between Pine and Birch Streets and replace old clay tile sewer line on S. Third. It is all being incorporated into a street reconstruction project including Birch St. (south of Main St.), S. Second St., and S. Third St.

The project is intended to replace a lateral shared by two homes that may be impacted by bedrock with new laterals providing access from the front of the affected residence-

es. The project is also designed to redirect stormwater from around the train depot to try to address the ongoing issue with water infiltration into the depot's basement.

The city has obtained approximately \$670,000 combined in grants from a variety of sources. Affected homeowners will likely need to pick up a portion of the cost for installing new laterals across their private property. Alan Johnson, with Benchmark Engineering, said he's had discussions with the homeowners, who are aware of that potential and remain supportive of the project.

In authorizing project advertising, the council directed Johnson to include sidewalk replacement on S. Second St. as an add-alternate, giving the city the ability to cut costs on the project if necessary. Most other residential streets in the city do not include sidewalks.

In other business, the council authorized seeking

quotes to upgrade four existing, little-used tent sites at the Hoodoo Pt. Campground. The sites aren't popular with tent campers because the sites are gravel rather than grass, but that's ideal for RV campers.

With far more demand for RV sites than the campground can currently accommodate, the council is looking to invest in the needed utility connections to make the sites rentable to RV campers. Initial estimates for the work have come in at around \$14,000, which the city could likely make up in just over a year at current RV camping rates, whether the sites are made seasonal or monthly. Council members were hoping that the work could be completed yet this year, allowing for rental of the sites beginning in May 2025.



## ELY PUBLIC SCHOOLS ISD #696

Dear Members of the Ely Community,

The purpose of this message is to inform our community about an important decision facing our district this fall. On **November 5th**, a question on the ballot will ask for a Capital Project Levy Authorization to help address critical needs that impact our students and the future of the Ely Public School District.

Our district faces rising financial costs in several key areas—specifically transportation, technology, and curriculum. As inflation continues to increase for everyone, MN state school funding lags behind inflation, creating financial hardships for numerous school districts across the state. Over the past year, we have worked hard to minimize the impact of the economic cuts on our students, staff, and programs, making difficult decisions to cut \$233,000 from our budget in the spring of 2024. However, these savings alone are not enough to offset our increasing financial demands.

General Education Formula Allowance, 2003-2025  
Adjusted for Pupil Weight Change and Inflation (CPI)



The Capital Project Levy Authorization will provide \$350,000 in funding each year for 10 years, which will help our district manage these escalating costs. Without this additional revenue, our district will be forced to consider further cuts to staff and programs in the spring of 2025. We are committed to providing a quality education for all students; however, we must continue researching additional financial resources to sustain our school's financial costs.



### PROVIDING A BRIGHT FUTURE

On November 5, 2024, residents of Ely Public School District will consider a capital project levy authorization to provide approximately \$350,000 annually to support investments in classroom technology, new curriculum and textbooks, and updating our transportation fleet. Residents will vote whether to approve the plan during the general election on Tuesday, November 5th.

[ely.k12.mn.us/capital-project-levy](http://ely.k12.mn.us/capital-project-levy)

**Our Goals**

The Ely Public School District is committed to providing all of our students with the most current technology and learning materials to ensure they are being prepared for their adult life whatever direction they choose to go. We are also committed to updating our transportation fleet to provide safe transportation to and from school.

Goal: Provide our classrooms with digital tools to enhance students' learning experiences and prepare them for their future.

Goal: Provide financial stability for years to come so we don't have to cut student programs.

Goal: Update the district's transportation fleet without compromising student programs and extra curricular activities to accomplish this.

### Ely Public Schools Capital Project Levy Authorization

**Our Plan**

10 Year Plan For Levy Money				
	Technology & Software	Transportation	Curriculum, Textbooks, & Materials	Total
2024-26	\$200,000	\$60,000	\$30,000	\$490,000
2026-27	\$100,000	\$60,000	\$20,000	\$280,000
2027-28	\$100,000	\$60,000	\$20,000	\$280,000
2028-29	\$100,000	\$0	\$20,000	\$220,000
2029-30	\$100,000	\$0	\$20,000	\$220,000
2030-31	\$100,000	\$0	\$20,000	\$220,000
2031-32	\$100,000	\$0	\$20,000	\$220,000
2032-33	\$100,000	\$0	\$20,000	\$220,000
2033-34	\$100,000	\$0	\$20,000	\$220,000
2034-35	\$100,000	\$0	\$20,000	\$220,000

**Didn't We Just Have a Vote For The School?**

In 2020, Ely Public Schools had a wonderful opportunity to get matching funds from the IRRR for school building improvements. Voters did vote on a bond for the improvements. None of the money was able to be used in the general fund for educational operational purposes. This new levy will directly benefit students in the classroom.

Please review the details of the levy to make an informed decision. For more information, please review our capital project levy page located in the top right corner of our website. [CapitolProjectLevyAuthorization\(ely.k12.mn.us\)](http://CapitolProjectLevyAuthorization(ely.k12.mn.us)) For information on how this levy will directly affect your taxes, please use the linked external website under Property Tax Information on our Capital Project Levy Authorization page on our website.

### School District Question 1 Approval of Capital Project Levy Authorization

The school board of Independent School District No. 696 (Ely Public Schools) has proposed a capital project levy authorization of 3.445% times the net tax capacity of the school district. The additional revenue from the proposed capital project levy authorization will be used to provide funds for the acquisition, installation, replacement, support and maintenance of software, educational software, software licenses, computers, improved technology equipment, networks, infrastructure, the costs of technology related personnel and training; the purchase and replacement of school buses and school-related transportation vehicles; and the acquisition of curriculum, textbooks and materials. The proposed capital project levy authorization will raise approximately \$350,000 for taxes payable in 2025, the first year it is to be levied, and would be authorized for ten years. The estimated total cost of the projects to be funded over that time period is approximately \$3,500,000. The projects to be funded have received a positive Review and Comment from the Commissioner of Education.

**Yes** Shall the capital project levy authorization proposed by the school board of Independent School District No. 696 be approved?

**No**

**BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.**

Thank you for your time, support, and dedication to our schools. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at 365-6166 or [aoelke@ely.k12.mn.us](mailto:aoelke@ely.k12.mn.us).

Sincerely,

Anne M. Oelke  
Superintendent of the Ely Public School District

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TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY

# School celebrates gym renovations and new programs

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- Tower-Soudan Elementary has a few reasons to celebrate. Last Thursday the school celebrated its annual fall spirit day with the “grand opening” of the newly-remodeled gymnasium and lunchroom, along with the official opening of the new school forest. There were crafts, the school book fair, root beer floats, a food truck, and more for families to enjoy. After the events at the school, Big Truck Night began in Soudan.

Principal John Jirik said he had started to think about ways to improve the school facility a couple of years ago. Some needed upgrades were funded by the district, like new student desks, sensory-friendly classroom furniture, and the new cafeteria seating.

“This gym is our community center,” he said. “But the district didn’t have all the funding needed to fix it up.” After a presentation he made to the board at Lake Country Power last spring, the school was awarded about \$85,000 in unused capital credits. This paid for the vast majority of the estimated \$91,000 renovation project. The district funded new overhead lighting and a new sound system. The LCP grant was used to repaint and repair the walls, purchase additional concert risers for the stage, and to fund the purchase of new pads (which were set to be installed shortly).

“We want our community using this gym,” he said. “This is pride.”

The newly-waxed gym floor reflected the bright newly-painted white walls, which along with the new lighting, turned the room into a bright and cheery spot. The gym is used for school and early childhood activities, as well as community events like the annual Tower-Soudan Area Singers concert.

Jirik noted that the school is rated highly for its academics, and they are working on adding in el-

ementary-level athletic opportunities, including intermural volleyball and flag football this fall.

The school also recently completed the process for setting up a school forest, on 62 acres of city-owned land just north of the school building.

“It’s unique to have a school forest right next to the school,” said DNR Forestry staffer Victoria Jari. “This is awesome.” The land will be used to teach children about the importance of our area forests, to be used as an outdoor classroom, as well as provide a place to explore the outdoors. The school and the city of Tower worked with the DNR to gain the certification required. Jari and Keith Flood, who works at the forestry office in Tower, led a tour into the forest area, which shares trails developed for both hiking and ATV use.

The \$85,000 grant is from a special Lake Country Power program created in 2022 to benefit schools in the cooperative’s service area. The Education Improvement Program awards grants of up to \$100,000, funded through the coop’s unclaimed capital credits. The coop’s board of director’s reviews applications, determines the finalists, and then can request in-person interviews, before a final decision is made.

**Above: Framed by a floor so shiny it reflected the newly-repainted gym walls, principal John Jirik gave a brief talk. Right: DNR forestry staff Victoria Jari led a walk to the school forest. Far right: Kalila Boshkaykin enjoyed a root beer float.**

**Below from left: Own Zak picked out some books at the book fair. Representatives and board members from Lake Country Power attended the event. PTO young helpers Zaija Schroeder and Harley Banks taste-tested the root beer floats they were preparing. Students made beaded bracelets in purple and gold, the school colors.**

photos by J. Summit



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# SPORTS

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## FOOTBALL

### Grizzlies throttle Cass Lake-Bena

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- The North Woods Grizzlies football team didn't disappoint a big homecoming crowd last Friday, putting a big-time beatdown on the Cass Lake-Bena Panthers 62-0.

It's been a tough year thus far for the Panthers, having given up an average of 66 points per game coming into the contest against the likes of Mt. Iron-Buhl and Cherry, and were hoping to turn

things around against the 1-3 Grizzlies.

But while the Panthers stacked up well size-wise against North Woods, they were no match for the Grizzlies' skill and execution, as the home team excelled on both sides of the ball in the blowout.

The Grizzlies' defense stepped to the fore on the first series for the Panthers, holding for a three-and-out, and a huge punt return by Talen Jarshaw set North Woods up at the CL-B 19.

Two plays later, Nick Abramson scored a touchdown on a run from the 13, and Louie Panichi's conversion run put North Woods ahead 8-0 with less than five minutes elapsed on the clock.

The Panthers went to the air on their next series, and Jarshaw intercepted the ball near midfield and returned it to the CL-B 27. He fumbled on the tackle, but Abramson recovered for North Woods.

It was another short two-play drive for the Grizzlies, with

**Right: The Grizzlies' Nick Abramson runs for the first of his four touchdowns against Cass Lake-Bena last Friday. Abramson averaged over 13 yards per carry in the game.**

photo by D. Colburn

Abramson scoring again, this time on a 22-yard-scramper, and Panichi's second conversion gave the Grizzlies a 16-0 lead with 5:40

See GRIZZLIES...pg. 4B



## VOLLEYBALL

### Wolves top Nighthawks

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

BABBITT— The Timberwolves kept their Section 7 unbeaten streak alive here on Monday as they downed Northeast Range in straight sets. The Nighthawks, playing on their home court, came out with enthusiasm and gave the Wolves one of their biggest challenges of the season so far against a Section 7 squad. The 'Hawks led at times during the opening set but the Wolves rallied in the end for a 25-20 win.

Ely took no prisoners in the final two sets, winning 25-7 and 25-11.

"What a fun first set," said Northeast Range Head Coach Misty Roseth. "We had great serve receives! In set two, they picked up their offense and we struggled with our serve receive."

Ely's big three worked the net again for the Wolves. Sophomore Audrey Kallberg and senior Clare Thomas, who has been improving her net play in recent games, both notched

See ELY/NER...pg. 4B

## SWIMMING

### NR/E tops Bluestreaks, fall to Agates

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

BABBITT— The Northeast Range/Ely swim team posted seven first-place showings in their contest with Stella Maris Academy here last Thursday, but it wasn't enough as the Sentinels edged NR/E 51-43.

Alyssa Ice and Via DeBeltz had big afternoons, both notching two individual first-place varsity finishes. Ice won the 50 freestyle in a time of 28.29, just half a second ahead of the second-place finisher from Stella Maris. Ice also won the 100 freestyle, besting the field by just over a second with a finish time of 1:06.87.

DeBeltz crushed the field in the 500 freestyle, with a time of 6:17.47, besting the field by nearly 25 seconds. DeBeltz also took first in the 200 freestyle with a time of 2:19.62, topping the field by nine seconds.

Anna Larson notched a first-place finish in the 100 butterfly with a time of 1:11.96, besting the field by

See SWIMMING...pg. 4B



## VOLLEYBALL

### Ely tops Grizzlies

Wolves drop first set to a Section 7 team this season in 3-1 win

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- It was standing room only in the North Woods gym for the "Dig Pink Night" battle between the Grizzlies and the Ely Timberwolves, and the Wolves continued their mastery over the Grizzlies with a 3-1 match win.

A good portion of the Ely contingent in the crowd joined North Woods fans in wearing pink for the breast cancer awareness night, a night in which Grizzlies fans were hopeful their team could nab their first win against Ely since 2018.

But the Wolves put the crowd on notice from the outset that they were a force to contend with, taking an 8-2 lead in the opener on a Clare Thomas kill and a North Woods error. The Wolves put their foot on the gas and extended the lead to 19-10 on a Lilli Rechichi spike and coasted to a surprisingly easy 25-13 win.

The Grizzlies buckled down and

**Top: Ely's Lilli Rechichi and Charlotte Hegman team up for a block against North Woods' Mya Kinsey.**

**Right: The Grizzlies' Lauren Burnett fires a kill down the line against Ely's Amelia Penke.**

photos by D. Colburn

fares better in the second game after some adjustments.

"I expressed the need to attack everything and quit playing safe," Grizzlies Head Coach Kaileen Redmond said.

When the Wolves threatened to pull away at 14-9, the Grizzlies got a much needed four-point run that included a block by Amber Sopoci and a kill by Izzy Pascuzzi to narrow the gap to 14-13. The Grizzlies pulled even at 19-19 on a shot by Carsyn Burnett and took a 22-20 lead

See VOLLEYBALL...pg. 4B



### Wolves go 2-3 against state's top Class A teams

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

BURNSVILLE— The Timberwolves made their mark against some of the top teams in the state Sept.

20-21, as they won two of five matches during the annual Burnsville Showcase and kept the matches tight even in their losses.

Two of those three

losses came to teams ranked in the top five in Class A statewide. Last year's state champion Russell-Tyler-Ruthton, who won this year's showcase, found Ely extremely competitive,

while winning in two close sets 25-22 and 25-19.

Fifth-ranked Minneota topped Ely in two hard-fought sets, 25-16 and 25-20. Spring Grove, another traditional volley-

ball powerhouse, edged Ely 25-23 and 25-17.

Ely topped Fillmore in the consolation round 25-18, 26-28, and 15-9 and edged Bethlehem Academy 25-23 and 25-20.

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# Outdoors

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GET OUTSIDE!

## Second fall color peak likely this weekend

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— An unusual fall color season appears headed toward a second climax by this weekend, after a mid-September burst of color generally faded away earlier than usual.

According to the Department of Natural Resources, the fall color was ranging from 25-75 percent across northern St. Louis County, a pace of change that is well behind last year and somewhat behind the color change in 2022.

The record warm temperatures this September likely delayed the onset of the color change and the lack of rainfall is expected to lead to a more muted

color change than in most years. Many trees, including maple and some birch and aspen, turned early this year, then dropped their leaves, leaving some stands nearly bare, while others continued to hold green leaves. The sunny days and cooler nights this week should spark a second peak as those remaining green leaves are rapidly turning now and could be close to peak by this weekend.

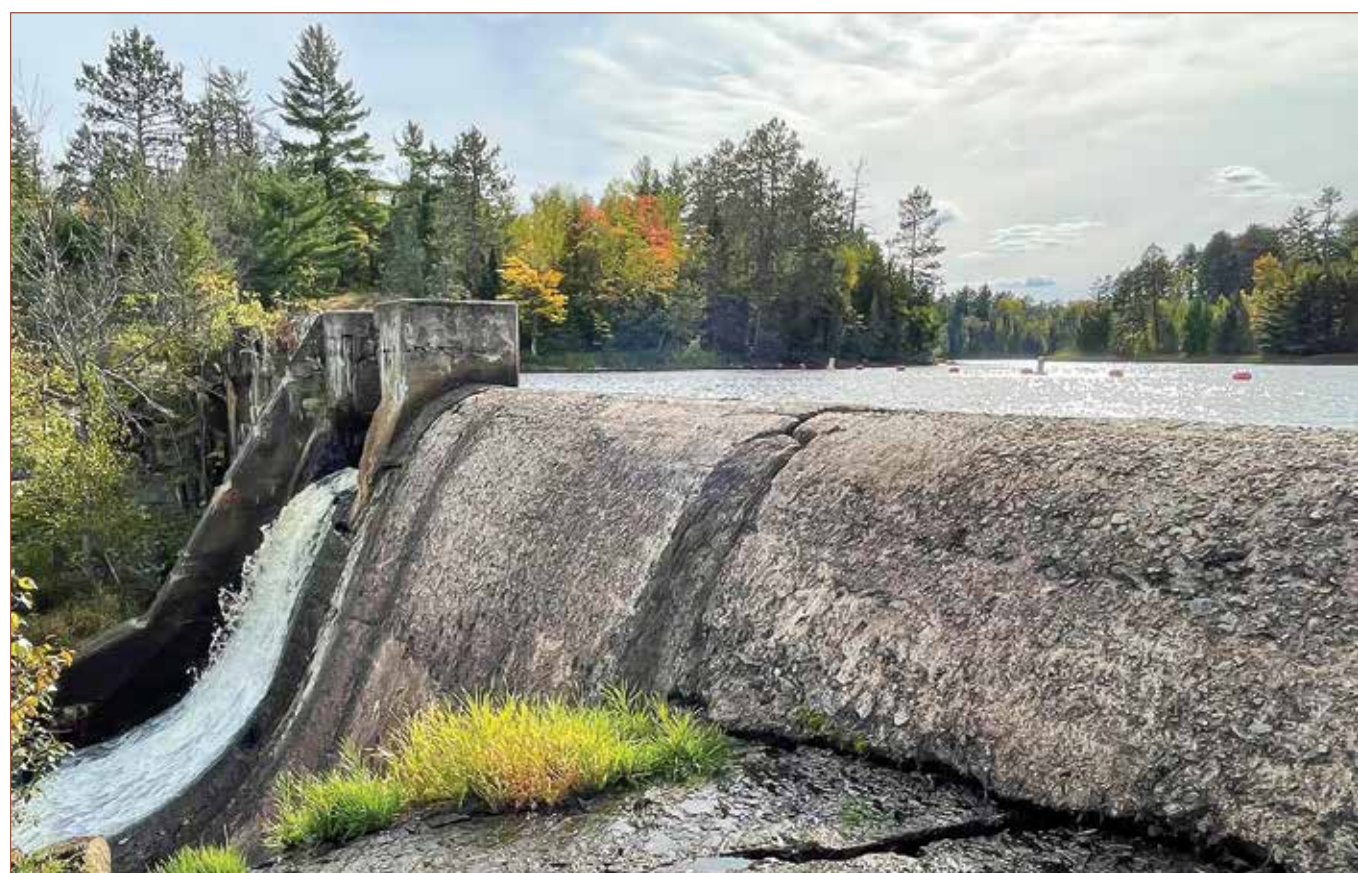
State parks are a good place to view the fall colors and this weekend's forecast for more sunshine and high temperatures in the low 60s should make for perfect conditions for outdoor activities. As of Oct. 1, the DNR was reporting 25-50 percent color change at Lake Vermilion Soudan Underground Mine State park and 50-75 percent at

Bearhead Lake State Park.

The recent chilly nights combined with the abundant sunshine are helping spark the change. That's because the chlorophyll that gives leaves their green color breaks down in the fall, and cooler temperatures at night and sunshine during the day tend to speed up that process. As the chlorophyll breaks down, other phytochemicals, like carotenoids and anthocyanins, which reflect yellows, oranges, and reds, come into the foreground, giving leaves their "fall" color.

**Right: A second peak of maples, aspen, and birch is expected for this weekend across the North Country.**

photo by M. Helmberger



WARM AND DRY

## A summery September

Calendar may say it's fall, but temperatures this past month were in line with August

REGIONAL— The calendar last month may have said September, but Mother Nature was still thinking summer.

"You just had a typical August," said Kenny Blumenfeld, one of the state's climatologists, commenting this week on what was the second-straight exceptionally warm September in Minnesota. In International Falls, which hosts far northern Minnesota's longest period of data, this September

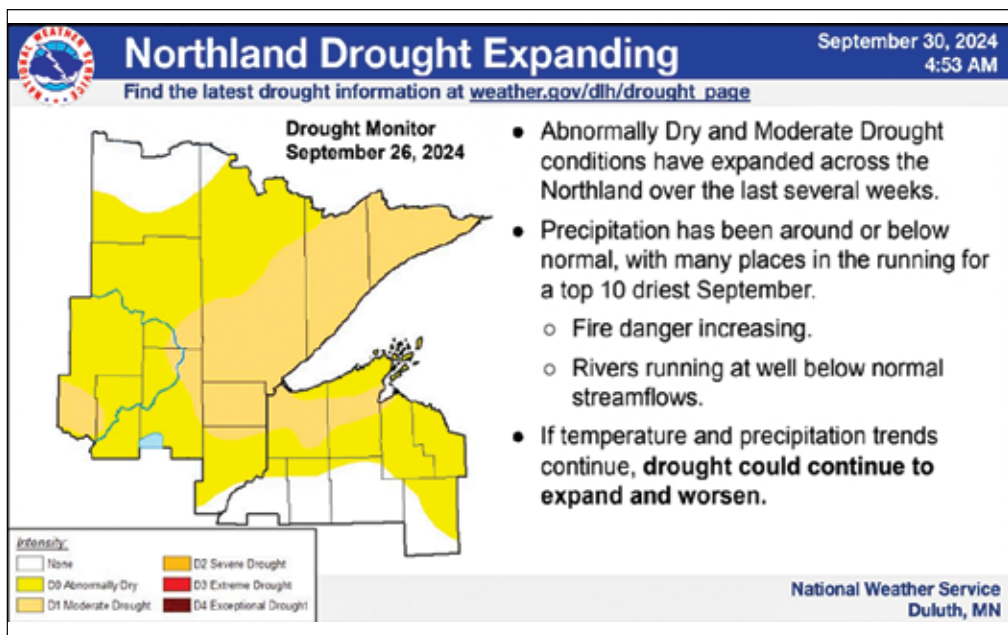
appears headed for the record books as the second warmest ever recorded, with an average monthly temperature of 62.3 degrees F, finishing just behind the 62.8 degree mark set way back in 1920. A typical September averages 54.2 degrees in the border city.

This past month was right in line with an average August, where the average monthly temperature typically comes in at 62.8 degrees.

It turns out that summer-like warmth in Minnesota's first month of meteorological fall is becoming a pattern, notes Blumenfeld, as ten out of the last 11 Septembers have been warmer than the 30-year average. Five of the top ten warmest Septembers of all time, in a statewide climate record going



MARSHALL HELMBERGER



**Top: Water levels on area streams are falling rapidly in response to several weeks with little or no appreciable rainfall. Pictured is the Pike River dam, where no water has been flowing over the lip for weeks.**

photos by M. Helmberger

back at least 125 years, have all occurred since 2000, while the top three warmest have all been recorded in just the past ten years. "September is really showing up as a summer month these days," said Blumenfeld. "If the changes we see in September are sustained long-term, that would be a fundamental change in our growing season."

But this past September wasn't just exceptionally warm. With only a few exceptions, it was exceptionally dry as well as a nearly continental-wide high-pressure system refused to budge, bringing weeks of warm

and dry weather to the western two-thirds of the U.S. and much of Canada.

"It's a very strange pattern," said Blumenfeld, who notes that it's highly unusual to be at or near record setting in the same month for both temperature and precipitation.

"It's possible that this will be both the warmest and driest September on record," he said, while acknowledging that it will likely take some time to crunch all the weather data to know for sure. "I think we can safely say that no September this warm has ever been this dry," he said.

But what makes this pattern even more unusual is the vast geographical scale of the high-pressure system that is contributing to the extraordinary conditions. "Typically, whenever we experience a flash drought, like what we're seeing now, someone

the next state or two over is getting hammered by rain," said Blumenfeld. In other words, flash droughts are usually created through the luck of the draw, as precipitation systems simply miss certain areas.

But that's not what's happening this year, notes Blumenfeld. "In this case, there are no persistent rainfall events happening anywhere nationwide, except in the Southeast with the hurricanes."

The persistent high pressure has cut off most of the country's mid-section from the Gulf of Mexico, which typically provides the moisture that fuels precipitation in the eastern half of the country. From a meteorological standpoint, said Blumenfeld, the current weather map is extraordinarily rare. "You just don't see

See WEATHER, pg. 3B

### Outdoors briefly

#### Some Forest Service campgrounds to remain open thru Oct. 21

REGIONAL—The Superior National Forest is closing or reducing amenities at many developed campgrounds for the season. Dispersed and backcountry camping, as well as boat ramps, trails, and certain restrooms will remain open. Sites with gates will be closed and locked until spring.

A limited number of developed campsites listed below will stay open until Monday, Oct. 21 with no services and no fees. If a campground is not listed below, it is closed for the season.

► Gunflint Ranger District: Devils Track, East Bearskin, Flour Lake, Iron Lake, Kimball Lake, Trails End, Two Island Lakes.

► Kawishiwi Ranger District: Fenske, South Kawishiwi, and Birch Lake.

► Laurentian Ranger District: Pfeiffer Lake.

► LaCroix Ranger District: Jeanette and Echo Lake.

► Tofte Ranger District: Crescent Lake, Sawbill Lake, and Temperance River.

While open, these sites will offer no services, including garbage, water, or power. Sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis, free of charge. Visitors are reminded to pack out all garbage and gear.

#### Whitefish and cisco netting to open soon on some area lakes

REGIONAL—Netting of cisco and whitefish for personal use is open this fall on designated lakes, starting as early as Oct. 18 in some far northern lakes, known as Schedule II lakes. Seasons on Schedule I lakes will start with 48-hour notice.

Among those area lakes set to open for whitefish or cisco netting on Oct. 18 include Crane, Elbow, Isabella, Kabetogama, Namakan, Rainy, and Sand Point. The season on those lakes runs through Dec. 8.

Schedule I lakes are posted as open once DNR fisheries staff determine it is appropriate based on annual assessments of fish abundance and weather conditions. Schedule II lakes in the region include Basswood, Bear Island, Fall, Newton, Ojibway, Shagawa, and Vermilion.

Netting schedules are based on expected water temperatures. As the water temperature cools, game fish head to deeper water while cisco and whitefish come to shallow water for fall spawning.

Whitefish and cisco sport netting is open to Minnesota residents only.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources allows netting when there is little chance that fish other than cisco and whitefish will be caught. Game fish incidentally taken in nets must be returned to the water immediately. Complete regulations, including designated lakes, netting schedules and requirements related to use of gear and invasive species, are available on the Minnesota DNR website.

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DRY CONDITIONS

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather



The sign outside the DNR area office in Tower highlights the very high wildfire risk in the area.

Fire danger borders on extreme in region

Forest Service enacts campfire ban in BWCAW

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL—Weeks of high temperatures and little rainfall has left much of the North Country experiencing fire danger bordering on extreme. That includes roughly the northern half of St. Louis and northern Lake counties, particularly in areas with shallow soils, which are prone to rapid drying.

While the region saw somewhat more seasonable temperatures this week, appreciable rainfall has continued to elude the area, further exacerbating the conditions. Even without precipitation, fire risks can vary from day-to-day depending on winds and relative humidity, according to Brian Feldt, area forester with the Tower area DNR. Feldt said with the forecast next week calling for continued warm conditions and no rain, fire danger is likely to range from very high to extreme throughout the period.

High winds and low humidity on Monday prompted the issuance of a red flag warning across portions of north-central Minnesota and notice of near-critical fire danger across the rest of the Arrowhead early this week.

Much of the region saw

barely half an inch of rain in September, or barely 15 percent of average for the month.

The conditions have prompted the Department of Natural Resources to impose a ban on open burning, with the exception of campfires, across most of the state. As of Tuesday, the U.S. Forest Service had issued an emergency order prohibiting the use of campfires, including charcoal grills or barbecues within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. The use of gas or propane cookstoves will still be allowed.

At the same time, the forest service has reinstated the closures put in place during the Wood Lake fire. That includes Wood, Good, Hula, and Indiana lakes and connecting portages as concerns about the remnants of that fire, and its potential for rekindling, are growing with the continued dry weather.

No appreciable precipitation is currently in the ten-day forecast.

Friday		Saturday		Sunday		Monday		Tuesday	
63	43	70	44	57	35	61	40	70	43

City	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	City	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	City	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	City	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.					
Ely	68	48	0.00	0.00	Emb.	63	31	0.00	0.00	Cook	61	42	0.00	0.00	Orr	66	43	0.00	0.00	Tower	62	33	0.00	0.00
09/23	68	48	0.00	0.00	09/23	63	31	0.00	0.00	09/23	61	42	0.00	0.00	09/23	66	43	0.00	0.00	09/23	62	33	0.00	0.00
09/24	67	31	0.00	0.00	09/24	67	31	0.00	0.00	09/24	67	42	0.00	0.00	09/24	64	50	0.00	0.00	09/24	66	35	0.00	0.00
09/25	66	38	0.00	0.00	09/25	66	38	0.00	0.00	09/25	68	46	0.00	0.00	09/25	79	41	0.00	0.00	09/25	66	39	0.00	0.00
09/26	78	38	0.00	0.00	09/26	78	38	0.00	0.00	09/26	77	50	0.00	0.00	09/26	82	46	0.00	0.00	09/26	78	40	0.00	0.00
09/27	82	39	0.00	0.00	09/27	82	39	0.00	0.00	09/27	82	51	0.00	0.00	09/27	79	50	0.00	0.00	09/27	82	41	0.00	0.00
09/28	81	35	0.00	0.00	09/28	81	35	0.00	0.00	09/28	81	42	0.00	0.00	09/28	63	41	0.00	0.00	09/28	81	37	0.00	0.00
09/29	83	25	0.00	0.00	09/29	83	25	0.00	0.00	09/29	81	42	0.00	0.00	09/29	77	41	0.00	0.00	09/29	83	41	0.00	0.00
YTD Total			22.75		YTD Total			23.92		YTD Total			24.39		YTD Total			NA		YTD Total				25.70

WEATHER...Continued from page 2B

this,” he said. “I can’t remember a time when high pressure dominated virtually the entire country... almost the entire continent.”

The impacts were being seen in the rapid drying of soil across most of north-eastern Minnesota, where the regional average for precipitation this month came in at just 0.58 inches, almost three inches below average. International Falls and Kabetogama, which were hit with a significant thunderstorm that dropped about three inches of rain two weeks ago, were the only stations in the region reporting close to normal precipitation for the month.

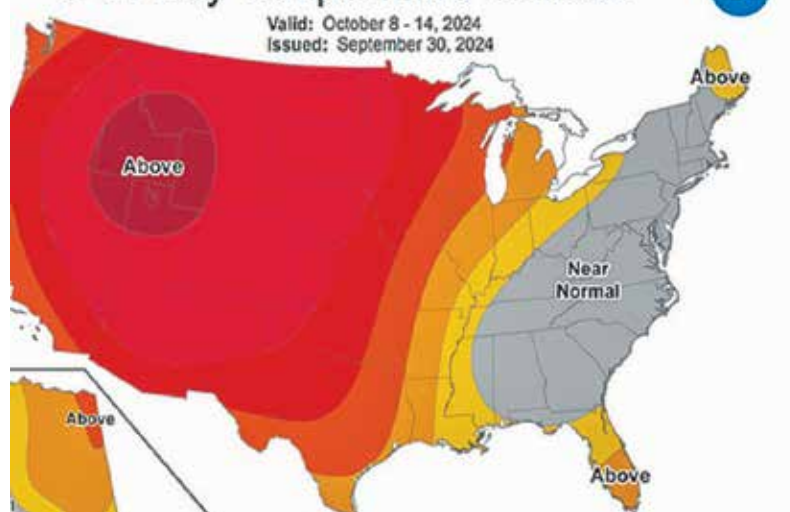
Trend expected to continue

The unusual pattern that brought such warm and dry weather to the North Country in September is expected to continue well into October, according to the National Climate Prediction Center, which is forecasting a high probability of continued above average temperatures and below average precipitation across virtually the entire western two-thirds of the country, including Minnesota, through at least the middle of the month.

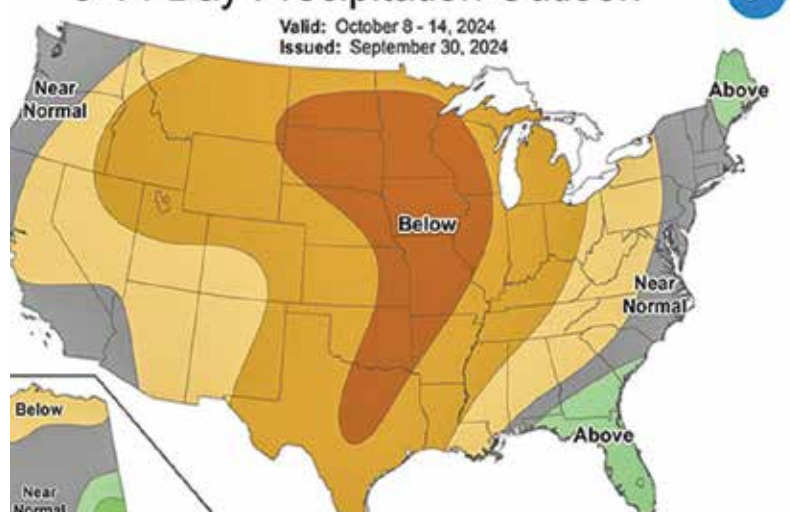
Longer term seasonal forecasts predict that the warm and dry trend will eventually break down and a more normal pattern will take hold across the northern tier of states heading into winter.

Last winter’s extraordinary warmth was fueled by the warm el Niño currents that set up in the Pacific. This year, neutral conditions are expected to transition to a weak la Niña pattern by later this fall or early winter. Similar conditions traditionally lead to warm and dry fall, followed by an abrupt change to winter weather. Over the winter, a weak la Niña pattern typically brings

8-14 Day Temperature Outlook



8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook



colder than average temperatures and near average to slightly above average precipitation. The National Weather Service is expected to release its official winter outlook later this month. The Timberjay will report on their prediction when it becomes available.

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VOLLEYBALL

# Grizzlies pushed by Chisholm, breeze past NER

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

**FIELD TWP-** The North Woods volleyball team picked up a pair of match wins over Chisholm and Northeast Range this past week as they tuned up for Tuesday's big tilt against Ely.

If the Grizzlies needed another challenging match under their belts, they got it from Chisholm on Monday in a home matchup that the Bluestreaks took to five games.

Chisholm overcame an early deficit in the first game,

taking the lead at 10-9. The Grizzlies had challenges in fielding serves and setting up their hitters as the Bluestreaks forged in front 19-12, forcing a North Woods time out. The break did little good, however, as Chisholm closed out the first game with a 25-18 win.

The Grizzlies rounded back into regular form for game two, leading from beginning to end. Hitters Lauren Burnett and Izzy Pascuzzi consistently found the range on big kill shots that helped North Woods to an 18-12 lead. Chisholm's attempt at a late rally fell short as the

Grizzlies evened the match with a 25-21 win.

The Grizzlies were reminded in the third game that no lead is safe against an equal opponent. After trading points in the early going North Woods slipped ahead 11-10, then grew that lead to 17-11 on a streak that included three Pascuzzi kills. The lead was eight at 23-15 when the Bluestreaks caught fire. North Woods' Carsyn Burnett stopped one run with a dunk at the net to put the Grizzlies one point away from the win, 24-20. But that was the last point North Woods would

score, as Chisholm went on a 6-0 run to regain the match lead 2-1 with a 26-24 win.

When the Grizzlies took a 6-5 lead in the fourth game, they appeared resolved to not let another game slip away. With North Woods getting good contributions across the lineup, they pushed the lead to 15-10 on a Burnett kill. Several key defensive plays kept the Grizzlies in points they eventually won as they pulled away from the Bluestreaks to win 25-16 and even the match.

North Woods carried that momentum into the final

game, racing to a 6-0 advantage. Chisholm wouldn't go down easily, fighting back to within one at 10-9, but with the Grizzlies leading 12-10 the Bluestreaks had no answer for the rifle arm of Burnett, who hammered three kills to hand the win and the match to the Grizzlies 15-11.

**Dominate NER**

The Grizzlies were on the road last Thursday to take on the Nighthawks of Northeast Range. With wins over common opponents Mt. Iron-Buhl and International Falls, the Nighthawks were primed for an upset.

Instead, the Grizzlies had little difficulty in controlling the match. The Nighthawks made incremental improvements along the way, but North Woods kept a firm grip throughout, winning 25-14, 35-17, and 25-18.

In stats provided by the Nighthawks, Kaydence Hancock was the big hitter on the night for NER with nine kills. Danica Sunblad and Chloe Janeksela anchored the defense with 10 digs each.

CROSS COUNTRY

# North Woods runners compete at Hibbing Rotary Invitational

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

**HIBBING-** North Woods cross country runners fared well in one of the largest meets of the year in the Hibbing Rotary Invitational last Thursday.

Over 160 runners from 24 schools toed the line for the boys 5K race around the Hibbing Municipal Golf Course, with three Grizzlies runners finishing in the top quarter of the field. Alex Burckhardt led the way for the South Ridge Panthers squad with an 11th-place finish with

a time of 17:27.4. Lincoln Antikainen slid into the 32nd spot with a time of 18:04, and Kahlil Lightfeather-Spears placed 35th in 18:09.2. With teammate Sawyer Fierke-Lepp placing 15th, the Panthers finished in second place behind winner Duluth East.

With 19 schools and 138 runners in the girls race, the course was almost as crowded, but North Woods' Zoey Burckhardt managed to weave her way to a 16th-place finish with a time of 20:46.2. Addison Burckhardt also edged into the top quarter of competitors by finishing 34th with

a time of 21:46.8. As a team, the Panthers placed tenth.

The Panthers were scheduled to compete in the Ely Invitational on Thursday.

## VOLLEYBALL...Continued from page 1B

when a Rechichi hit sailed wide and the Grizzlies' Brittin Lappi served up an ace. The Grizzlies nabbed a 25-22 win when Mya Kinsey and Sopoci teamed up on a block of an Audrey Kallberg kill.

The score remained close early in the third game as Ely held an 8-7 advantage. But Kallberg lofted a shot over the North Woods front line for a score and followed up with a kill to ignite a six-point run by the Wolves that gave them ample breathing room at 14-7. Ely controlled the game from there, taking a 2-1 lead in the match with a 25-16 win.

A big kill by the Grizzlies' Lauren Burnett to open the fourth game got the Grizzlies off to their best start of the night, taking an 8-3 lead on a run that included a pair of Pascuzzi kills. North Woods led by as many as six and still held a five-point edge at 16-11 after scores by Lappi and Pascuzzi. An Ely block at 17-13

put the ball in the serving hands of Thomas, who paired a couple of aces with kills by Kallberg and Charlotte Hegman to take an 18-17 lead. Kinsey finally ended the Ely run with a kill to make the score 20-18, and the game was tied 20-20 after an Ely error and a Lauren Burnett kill. The teams traded blows from there, Ely scoring and North Woods responding up to 23-23. Rechichi connected with a big kill shot to put the Wolves one point away from the win, and a Kallberg block sealed the 25-23 win and the match for the Wolves.

Ely Head Coach Megan Wognum gave props to the Grizzlies after the match.

"North Woods always comes to play - I'm always very impressed with their team," Wognum said. "We did get some good blocks on them, which kind of helped build us up a little bit, helped our momentum. But North Woods is always the

game of the year, and we really enjoy playing them. We don't see as much competition like this around our section, so it's just really nice to see that level of play."

Wognum said that the play of Kallberg and Rechichi was key to their success.

"I just have to give it to both of our middles tonight," she said. "They really showed up to play and they were so strategic and smart about where they were placing the ball. It was just really phenomenal. Audrey, she can soar, she's up there for what feels like five minutes sometimes. And hat's off to Lilli - they're triple-blocking them at times and they got creative with how they were placing the ball."

Grizzlies Head Coach Kaileen Redmond acknowledged that a heated five-game win over Chisholm on Monday might have affected her team's stamina on Tuesday, but nonetheless credited her squad for

adjusting to Ely's power game.

"We haven't faced a force in hitting much this season so matching up with a team we knew had strong hitters was something we spent time preparing for," she said. "Our blocking was a bit rusty in the beginning but once we started to speed up at the net it made a difference for us."

Another epic battle between these two teams could come on Saturday in Aurora at the Mesabi East Invitational tournament. Both squads have road games on Monday, with North Woods taking on Nashwauk-Keewatin and Ely facing off against Bigfork.

**Right: Ely's Clare Thomas hammers a kill past the block of Mya Kinsey.**

photo by D. Colburn



## GRIZZLIES..Continued from page 1B

left in the quarter.

After another three-and-out, it was Carson Johnson's time to shine, fielding a punt on the dead run and returning it to the Panthers 9-yard line. After a rare two-yard loss, Panichi found Jarshaw on a quick out pass for an 11-yard score, then ran in the conversion to put North Woods up 23-0 with 4:02 remaining in the quarter.

North Woods started with their worst field position of the quarter at their own 34-yard line on their next possession and methodically moved the ball to the CL-B 33. Abramson took it to the house from there for a 30-0 lead early in the second quarter.

The Grizzlies were poised to score yet again when they fumbled away the football at the CL-B 3. The Panthers picked up their first first down of the game and added another as they moved the ball

to the 35. Looking to build momentum, the Panthers tried to convert on a fourth-and-seven, but the Grizzlies shut them down and took over at the CL-B 35.

A Panichi draw moved the ball to the 17, and an inside screen pass to Jarshaw resulted in the Grizzlies' fifth touchdown of the half. Abramson ran in the conversion, and North Woods took a 38-0 lead into halftime.

Abramson found his way back into the end zone again on a 14-yard run on the Grizzlies' first possession of the second half, and a Panichi pass to John Warren was good for the conversion and a 46-0 lead.

The defense punctuated its domination of the Panthers on the next series when Warren came up with an interception at the North Woods 42 and sprinted down the sideline, breaking two tackles on the

way to a 58-yard pick six. The conversion made the score 54-0.

With a continuous clock in the second half, the defense forced a pair of CL-B fumbles, the second leading to the Grizzlies' final score of the game. With the North Woods reserves taking over at the Panthers' 26, quarterback Jett Lambert carried the ball on third-and-one from the 17 and found paydirt. Taysean Boshey-Wilkerson got the call on the two-point conversion with 4:45 remaining top off the huge North Woods win.

It was a breakout game for Abramson, who averaged 13.7 yards per carry as he toted the ball ten times for 137 yards, four touchdowns and two conversions. Panichi ran the ball four times for 27 yards and three conversions.

Panichi had a solid game passing the ball, completing

seven of 11 throws for 75 yards, two touchdowns, and one conversion. Both those touchdowns went to Jarshaw, his only two catches of the day for 28 yards. James Yernatch hauled in two passes for 38 yards.

Johnson was the standout performer on defense, collecting four solo tackles and seven assists.

"We played our game," North Woods Head Coach Joel Anderson said. "Last year we'd been playing to our opponents. The scheme that we had on defense paid off tremendously - we were in control from the very first play of the game. They just didn't have the answers for our coverage."

Some tweaks up front paved the way for Abramson's big day, Anderson said.

"We had an idea of what we were going to see and we

changed our blocking scheme this week," he said. "They didn't have the adjustments. I think everyone, Nick included, has been waiting for this all year, and our receiving game the last two games has really opened things up for us with the run."

Anderson also had high praise for Warren's interception return.

"He's played lights out all year," Anderson said. "He's

been everywhere we've asked him to be and the way he read that on defense and ran it back showed just what he can do."

With back-to-back wins for the first time since 2021, the Grizzlies will have a challenge making it three in a row when they host the 5-0 Cherry Tigers, ranked fifth in the state by Minnesota Football Hub on Friday.

## ELY/NER..Continued from page 1B

ten kills in the contest, while senior Lilli Rechichi added nine, along with a game high 16 digs. Kallberg added 12 digs and Thomas posted 11. Sophomore setter Gretta Lowe added eight digs along with 35 assists, while junior Sadie

Rechichi added five digs and six ace serves.

For Northeast Range, Kaydence Hancock led the way offensively with six kills. Maizy Sundblad and Peyson Roseth each posted nine digs and two kills, while Else

Bee added four digs and two kills. Danica Sundblad added 12 digs and Chloe Janeksela added five.

The Wolves have a busy week ahead, with a Saturday game at Mesabi East and a trip to Bigfork on Monday. They'll

be back home on Tuesday to host Mt. Iron-Buhl.

The Nighthawks were set to face Northland on Thursday and will visit Mesabi East on Saturday.

## SWIMMING..Continued from page 1B

nearly four seconds. Larson also finished second in the 200 individual medley, with a time of 2:43.99.

Larson, DeBetz, Tuuli Koivisto, and Brynn Tuuli teamed up for a first place finish in the 200 freestyle

relay with a time of 1:58.12. With Ivy Ohlhauser replacing Koivisto, the same team combined for a win in the 400

freestyle relay with a time of 4:24.23.

NR/E is slated to visit Cloquet on Saturday. They'll

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## COMMENTARY

# The arts play a pivotal role in Ely's economic success

We are writing to highlight a vital yet often overlooked aspect of our community's growth: the significant economic benefits derived from Ely's investment in arts and culture.

Ely, known for its stunning natural landscapes, is also home to a vibrant cultural scene supported by the Ely Cultural Alliance. This alliance includes the Northern Lakes Arts Association, Ely Folk School, Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust, Tofte Lake Center, Dorothy Molter Museum, Boundary Waters Connect, Ely's Historic State Theater, and the Listening Point Foundation. These organizations are more than cultural touchstones, they are powerful economic drivers that fuel our town's prosperity.

The Ely Cultural Alliance is dedicated to fostering the growth and enrichment of arts and culture in Ely by uniting diverse creative voices and nurturing a vibrant artistic community. Our mission is to provide a supportive platform that empowers local artists, preserves cultural heritage, and encourages collaborative endeavors that contribute to the identity and vitality of our community. We envision Ely as a regional hub renowned for its rich tapestry of arts, cul-

ture, and shared experiences, driven by collaboration, education, and celebration.

Recent findings align with national data, illustrating the broad impact of arts and culture on both rural and urban communities. According to a 2019 National Governors Association report titled "Rural Prosperity through the Arts & Creativity Sector," two-thirds of all businesses, regardless of their location, consider local arts and entertainment organizations crucial for attracting workers. Rural performing arts organizations, like those in Ely, attract more outside visitors (31 percent vs. 19.3 percent for urban organizations), driving economic activity through admissions, dining, and other expenditures.

Recent data underscores this impact: expenditures related to our cultural institutions surged from \$776,544 in 2019 to \$1,305,909 in 2022, marking an impressive 68.2 percent increase. This information is compiled from the member's 990 forms which are available to the public online. Attendees of events in town spend upward of \$100 to \$120 per event outside of the cost of participation. This growth is not just a statistic, it translates into real benefits for

our local economy, including job creation, business stimulation, and enhanced quality of life for residents and visitors alike. One of the most remarkable aspects of Minnesota's arts and culture landscape is the incredible support it receives from an array of generous funders. There truly is no other state like it. Organizations such as the Blandin Foundation, the McKnight Foundation, the Minnesota State Arts Board, the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, and the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust have been instrumental in fostering a vibrant arts community throughout the state. Ely has been especially fortunate to benefit from this support, with numerous projects funded by these generous entities. Their investment underscores a powerful truth: there is not a scarcity of resources for the arts in Minnesota—there is an abundance. This level of commitment allows our community to thrive, innovate, and create extraordinary experiences for all, reaffirming that Ely's cultural growth is not only possible but flourishing. Our arts organizations are recognized as "substantive innovators," contributing to a dynamic service industry by using surplus funds for innovative

projects.

Our cultural investments resonate far beyond Ely, extending our influence across a wide swath of Minnesota, including major cities like Duluth, Brainerd, and the Twin Cities, within a 100-260 mile radius. Nationally, we impact neighboring states drawing artists and visitors from across the country who contribute to making Ely their creative home. This influx elevates Ely's status as a prime tourist destination. Internationally, our connections reach regions such as Thunder Bay, Ontario, about 200 miles away. This extensive reach highlights the pivotal role Ely's cultural sector plays in attracting visitors and strengthening regional ties.

The financial boost has enabled these institutions to engage an additional 26,231 individuals, broadening our cultural reach and reinforcing Ely's appeal as a year-round destination. This is crucial for a town where seasonal tourism alone cannot sustain the economy. By providing diverse cultural events and programs throughout the year, we ensure a steady influx of visitors and support local businesses even in the off-season.

Ely's arts and culture scene does more than com-

plement our scenic beauty—it invigorates our community by fostering creativity, collaboration, and pride. From art galleries and craft shops to performance venues, artist retreats, and cultural festivals, our sector supports local entrepreneurs and provides significant economic and educational opportunities.

Investing in arts and culture not only enriches our community but also strengthens its resilience and growth potential. By supporting and celebrating these cultural assets, we attract more visitors and foster a sense of unity and pride among residents. These vibrant cultural offerings also make our community more appealing to potential new residents, further amplifying our growth potential.

As we look ahead, let's embrace and leverage the potential of our cultural institutions. They are not just part of our heritage but key to our continued economic vitality and community well-being. Let's invest in the arts as a strategic driver for Ely's success and prosperity.

As we reflect on the remarkable growth and impact of arts and culture in Ely over the past three years, it's clear that our community is thriving in ways we never

imagined. The vibrancy of our arts scene has brought people together, bolstered our economy, and enriched our collective experience. As we enter the season of giving, we ask you to remember the profound benefits that these cultural investments have brought to Ely.

Your support is crucial to sustaining and expanding these opportunities. By joining us in our mission, you are not just contributing to the arts, you are investing in the future of our community. Let's continue to build a thriving, inclusive community that celebrates the creative spirit of the North. Together, we can ensure that Ely remains a beacon of culture, creativity, and connection for years to come.

**Ian Francis Lah - Northern Lakes Arts Association**  
**Lucy Soderstrom - Ely Folk School**  
**Liz Engelman - Tofte Lake Center**  
**Freja Alioth - Listening Point Foundation**  
**Lacey Squier - Boundary Waters Connect**  
**Jess Edberg - Dorothy Molter Museum**  
**Jacob White - Ely's Historic State Theater**

## Obituaries and Death Notices



### Lois C. Larson

Lois Constance Larson, 88, of Cook, passed away on Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2024. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 19 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Cook. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Lois was born in Cook, on July 2, 1936, to Arthur and Matilda Erickson Refsdal. Lois grew up in Cook with her sister Zoe and brothers John and Wally, where she attended school, graduating in 1954. After high school, Lois attended Virginia Junior College, now Mesabi Range Community and Technical College, where she obtained a business degree. Her first business occupation was as a bookkeeper for WHLB Radio Station, where she had a great time rooming and socializing with other young women. During this time, she met and married her husband, Alan Larson; they were happily married for 46 years until his passing in 2006. Lois was the librarian at the Cook Library for 32 years. So many people got to know her as she served the community. She was a long-time member of the Covenant Church in Cook.

Lois was a talented artist who painted. She was so proficient at painting, even as a child. In elementary school, she was the go-to person if someone needed a poster or illustration. She taught weekly classes for the Cook School Community Education program and for the North Woods Friends of the Arts gallery. Her passion was watercolor, which she shared

while teaching a six-week class in 2017. Lois spent a lifetime sharing her talents and enjoying quiet time on her deck where she painted many lovely and mystical paintings.

Lois also enjoyed meeting up with friends and her women's groups and having coffee and lunch. She played volleyball for the Sturgeon Garage Volleyball team. When that ended, the women still gathered to visit, and still meet to this day. Lois also enjoyed thrift shopping, antiquing, and going to the casino.

Lois is survived by her daughter, Kirsten "Kit" Sayeh; son, Scott (Anne); brother, Wally Refsdal (Marilyn); grandchildren, Nathan Larson (Jade), Kodi Larson and Tily Sayeh (Sean Naujhton); great-grandchild, Slade Larson; sister-in-law, Jody Refsdal; brother-in-law, Bill King; several nieces and nephews; and many friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; loving husband, Alan Larson; sister, Zoe King; brother, John Refsdal; nephews, Brad King and Tim King; and beloved dog, Rags.

### Mary E. Schaak

Mary Elizabeth Schaak, 85, of Tower, formerly of Bloomington, passed away peacefully with her husband Bernie at her side on Sunday, Sept. 15, 2024. A celebration of life took place on Thursday, Oct. 3 at the Jones-Harrison residence in Minneapolis. Family services were provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.

Mary was born on Dec. 17, 1938, to Dr. Severin H. Koop and Helen Sehl Koop and grew up in Richmond, Minn. On July 15, 1961, she married Bernard "Bernie" Schaak in Richmond. Mary and Bernie lived in St. Louis Park before moving to Bloomington where they raised their family, and eventually retired to their lake home on Lake Vermilion in Tower.

Mary loved her family with all her heart; her grandchildren were especially the light of her life. She especial-

ly enjoyed family time at the lake and the holidays with all the chaos that it brought. She was so excited to be a great-grandmother but unfortunately missed the birth of her first great-grandchild by two days.

Mary is survived by her husband, Bernie of Tower; children, Anne Schaak of Bloomington, Lisa Plessel (Dan) of Coon Rapids and Christopher Schaak (Gretchen) of New Hope; seven grandchildren, Matthew Plessel, Alexandra Olson (Brodie), Nicholas Plessel, Timothy Plessel, Samantha Plessel, Liam Schaak and Dillon Schaak; great-granddaughter, Delaney Olson; and sister, Peg Wacloff of Sun Lakes, Ariz.

She was preceded in death by her son, Michael; parents; sister, Helen "Trixie"; and brothers, Severin, Nicholas and John.



### William J. Sersha

William John "Bill" Sersha, 97, of Cook, passed away on Sunday, Sept. 29, 2024. The family would like to thank Edgewood Vista and Waterview Pines for their compassionate care. A Memorial Service with Military Honors will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 9 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service. Lunch will follow at the Cook VFW. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Bill was born on Nov. 22, 1926, in Eveleth, to John and Mary Dolenc Sersha. He attended school in Eveleth. Bill was a U.S. Army Veteran of World War II and served in the occupation of Japan.

He was a proud member of the American Legion Post 480 of Orr for 50 years. Bill worked for Pittsburgh-Pacific Mining Company for 34 years as a driller and blaster.

On Sept. 15, 1951, Bill married Beryl Johansen of Alango; they moved to Cook in March of 1954. Bill and Beryl spent time in their retirement years going on fishing trips with family and friends. They spent many winters in Mission, Texas.

Bill enjoyed playing horseshoes, working in his woodshop, listening to polka music, and listening with family and friends.

Bill is survived by his son, Roger (Juanita) Sersha of Angora; granddaughter, Rochelle Bristol of Hibbing; grandson, Rodney (Melanie) Anderson of Iron; five great-grandchildren; nine great-great-grandchildren; brother-in-law, Roger (Jean) Johansen of Virginia; and many nieces, nephews and lifelong friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Mary; five brothers, John, Joe, Peter, Robert and Pat; wife, Beryl; and son, Dan (Jean) Sersha.

### Margaret H. Pogorels

Margaret "Margie" Helen Turnsk Mlaker Pogorels, 94, of Spudville/Hibbing, passed away on Saturday, Sept. 14, 2024, at Heritage Manor in Chisholm. Margie's family would like to thank the staff at Heritage Manor for all the outstanding care and companionship they gave her the last five years. Thanks also to Fairview Range Hospice for their compassionate and tender care. Family graveside services were held at the family plot in the Chisholm Cemetery. Arrangements were with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

She is survived by her daughter, Carolyn (Matt)

Baratto of Hibbing; sons, Frank (Sharon) Mlaker of Hibbing, Warren (Betty) Mlaker of Cook, Tony (Cynthia) Pogorels and Terry (Carol) Pogorels, both of Hibbing; brother, Henry Turnsk of Vacaville, Calif; 13 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; nieces, nephews and cousins.



### Barbara Kollar

Barbara Bliss Kollar, 102 and a half, passed away peacefully on Sunday, Sept. 22, 2024, at the Boundary Waters Care Center in Ely. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

Barbara was born on Feb. 16, 1922. She was born and raised in Springfield, Mass., a community her ancestors founded in 1636. She was a graduate of Russell Sage College and received her master's degree from Springfield College. Her career years were spent as a physical education instructor and then as Supervisor for

Health, Safety and Physical Education in the public schools of Springfield. She was even a coach for boys basketball and baseball during World War II. Barb was a very active and athletic person who enjoyed ski teaching, tennis and other outdoor activities. After retiring to Florida where she met her second husband, Roland Kollar, she joined a tennis club and helped her teammates win a state title in their age group.

She moved to Ely in 2017 to be near her daughter. Barb enjoyed attending Tuesday Group and playing bridge with her newfound friends. Her guides for fishing and dogsledding claimed her as their oldest client ever. She was also grateful for her many friends who visited and read to her as she lost her sight.

Barbara is survived by her only child, Cynthia Miller and son-in-law, Denis Miller, both of Ely; two grandsons, Cameron Miller (Claire) and Toller Miller (Kimberly); six great-grandchildren, Joseph, Chloe, Lucy, Thomas, Lily and Whitten; and niece, Carol Bliss.

### Raymond L. Marsnik

Raymond L. Marsnik, 83, of Ely, passed away at his residence on Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024. Family arrangements are being provided by Kerntz Funeral Home in Ely.

## ELY-WINTON HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Ely-Winton Hospital Scholarship Fund offers scholarships to students in the fields of:

- |                              |                                     |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Doctor of Medicine        | 6. Physician's Assistant/Paramedic  |
| 2. Nursing (RN/LPN)          | 7. Occupational Therapist           |
| 3. Laboratory Technician     | 8. Physical Therapist               |
| 4. X-Ray Technician          | 9. Pharmacy                         |
| 5. Medical Records Librarian | 10. Other approved by the Committee |

Applicants must have attended school in Ely or Babbitt for at least two (2) years and graduated from that school. Applicants must be engaged in obtaining professional, vocational, or scientific education or training leading to a degree or certificate in one of the above-mentioned fields.

Applications are available at the District Office, Ely Public Schools, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731, or you may contact Lori Westrick at (218)365-1727 or lwestrick@ely.k12.mn.us. Applications are due in the District Office by Thursday, October 31.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**BIDS FOR SNOW REMOVAL/SANDING**

The Greenwood Township board is accepting bids for snow removal and sanding at the Town Hall and Birch Point Extension for the 2024-2025 season.

The bid should state the cost of plowing and sanding all areas of the Town Hall complex at 3000 Hwy 77, Tower MN 55790, and the plowing and sanding of Birch point extension.

The successful contractor must provide a certificate of insurance as to general liability insurance coverage and must carry equipment and general liability insurance for no less than \$1,000,000.00 for personal injury and property damage.

Mail or bring bids to Greenwood Township Clerk at 3000 Hwy 77, Tower MN 55790 by noon, Tuesday, October 8, 2024.

The township reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any irregularities and to accept any bid deemed most advantageous to the Township.

*Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 4, 2024*

**EAGLES NEST TWP NOTICE TO VOTERS IN MAIL BALLOT PRECINCTS IN ST. LOUIS COUNTY 2024 GENERAL ELECTION VOTING PROCEDURES**

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

**Notice of State General Election:** November 5, 2024. All persons registered to vote on September 20, 2024, in MAIL BALLOT precincts will automatically be sent a ballot at least 14 days prior to the election. If you are registered to vote and do not receive a ballot by October 22, 2024, please contact the Auditor's Office at one of the locations listed below.

Voted ballots may be returned by mail (stamped return envelopes are included with each MAIL BALLOT packet) or in person at one of the below listed locations. All returned ballots **MUST BE RECEIVED** by **8:00 p.m.** on Election Day at one of the below listed Auditor's Office locations. Assistive voting equipment and witnessing of signatures is also available at the Auditor's Offices.

**NOTE: If you live in one of the mail ballot areas and are eligible to vote but are not currently registered, you may apply to the Auditor's Office in person or by mail for ballots and registration materials.**

Auditor, St. Louis County Courthouse  
100 North 5th Avenue West, Room 214,  
Duluth, MN 55802  
(218) 726-2385

Virginia Government Services Building  
201 South 3rd Ave West  
Virginia, MN 55792  
(218) 749-7104

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**Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation**

1. Publication Title: The Timberjay; Publication Number: 16025; Filing Date 9-27-24; 4. Issue Frequency: Weekly; 5. Number of Issues Published Annually: 51; 6. Annual Subscription Price: \$48; 7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication: PO Box 636, 414 Main St., Tower, MN 55790; 8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office: 414 Main St., Tower, MN 55790; 9. Full Name and Address of Publisher: Marshall Helmberger, 414 Main St., Tower, MN 55790; Editor: Jodi Summit, 414 Main St., Tower, MN 55790; and Managing Editor: Marshall Helmberger, 414 Main St., Tower, MN 55790. 10. Owners: Marshall Helmberger, same as above, Jodi Summit, 414 Main St., Tower, MN 55790, Gary and Edna Albertson, 9094 Hibbing Point Rd., Cook, MN 55723; 11. Known bondholders: None; 12. NA; 13. The Timberjay; 14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: 9-20-24; 15. Extent and Nature of Circulation- Average No. of Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: a. Total number of copies 2,628; b1. Paid/Requested Outside-County Mail Subscriptions: 478; b2. Paid In-County Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541: 1,480; b3. Sales through Dealers and Vendors: 566; b4. Other Classes Mailed through USPS: 8; c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation: 2,524; d. Free Distribution by Mail: 41. Outside County: 0; In-County as Stated on Form 3541: 41; 3. Other Classes Through the USPS: 0; 4. Free Distribution Outside the Mail: 20; e. Total Free Distribution: 61; f. Total Distribution: 2,585; g. Copies Not Distributed: 43; h. Total: 2,628; i. Percent Paid and/or Requested: 98; No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date: a. Total number of copies 2,625; b1. Paid/Requested Outside-County Mail Subscriptions: 460; b2. Paid In-County Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541: 1,431; b3. Sales through Dealers and Vendors: 593; b4. Other Classes Mailed through USPS: 8; c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation: 2,492; d. Free Distribution by Mail: 0; d1. Outside County: 0; d2. In-County as Stated on Form 3541: 41; d3. Other Classes Through the USPS: 0; d4. Free Distribution Outside the Mail: 20; e. Total Free Distribution: 61; f. Total Distribution: 2,553; g. Copies Not Distributed: 72; h. Total: 2,625 i. Percent Paid and/or Requested: 98; 16. a. Paid Electronic Copies- Average No. of Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: 416; b. Total Paid Print Copies + Paid Electronic Copies: 2897; c. Total Print Distribution + Paid Electronic Copies: 3,001; d. Percent Paid: 98; No. Electronic Copies Published Nearest to Filing Date: a. Paid Electronic Copies: 433; b. Total Paid Print Copies + Paid Electronic Copies: 2,492; c. Total Print Distribution + Paid Electronic Copies: 2,986; d. Percent Paid: 98; 17. Total circulation includes electronic copies. Yes; 18. Publication of Statement of Ownership: 10-04-2024. 17. Signature: Marshall Helmberger; Date: 9-26-24.

*Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 4, 2024*

**EMPLOYMENT**



**Residential Appraiser I - Ely**  
\$28.17 - \$34.22 Hourly  
Apply by 10/08/2024

[www.stlouiscountymn.gov](http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov)  
or call 218-726-2422

*Equal Opportunity and Veteran-Friendly Employer*

**Radio Station Events Coordinator**  
Closes: 10/08/2024

**Position Purpose:** The Radio Station Events Coordinator serves as liaison between content producers, independent contractors, and Bois Forte Tribal Programs or other interested parties engaged by KBFT radio, to oversee the execution and documentation of its community events including photographer(s), videographer(s), and/or sound engineer(s) for recording live broadcasts if needed. The incumbent is responsible for promoting all events which support the rich history, culture, arts, of the Bois Forte Community and creates opportunities for art, education and access to the arts.

**Excellent Benefits:**

Single Medical & Dental - Free • Annual Leave • Sick Leave • 401k match • 15 paid holidays • Flex Plan • Life Insurance • LTD • Voluntary Benefits available by payroll deduction

**Website Address:**  
<https://boisforte.com/jobs/>

*Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 27 & Oct. 4, 2024*



**VERMILION COUNTRY SCHOOL MIDDAY ROUTE VAN DRIVER**

Vermilion Country School in Tower is seeking a daily midday van driver from 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. to drive from Tower to Virginia and back, Monday thru Friday when school is in session, \$20/hour. **Contact 218-248-2485 if interested**

Legal notices are online each week at [timberjay.com](http://timberjay.com) [www.mnpublicnotice.com/](http://www.mnpublicnotice.com/)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF AUCTION Forfeited Impound Vehicle 1978 Ford Pickup**  
Unknown Mileage, Min Bid \$3,500  
Impounded for 6 Years  
Auction Date 10/30 @ Noon  
Viewing 1 hour prior  
Kens A1 Auto Service  
1501 E Howard St, Hibbing, MN 55746

**KUGLER TOWNSHIP MEETING NOTICE**

The Kugler Town Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, October 9, 2024, at 5 p.m. at the town hall.

Christopher Suihkonen, Town Clerk

*Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 4, 2024*

See our legal notices online each week at [www.timberjay.com](http://www.timberjay.com)

**CITY OF TOWER ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS**  
PROJECT NO: T024-01  
OWNER: CITY OF TOWER, MINNESOTA

CLASS 5-1000 CUYD; TYPE SP 9.5 WEARING COURSE MIXTURE (2:C)-395 TON; TYPE SP 12.5 NON WEARING COURSE MIXTURE (2:C)-630 TON; GRANULAR BACKFILL (CV)-170 CUYD; 8" PVC PIPE SEWER-590 LNFT; CONNECT TO EXISTING SANITARY SEWER-1 EACH; CONNECT TO EXISTING MANHOLES-1 EACH; CONNECT TO EXISTING SANITARY SERVICE-10 EACH; PLUG AND ABANDON PIPE SEWER -3 EACH; 6"X8" PVC WYE-10 EACH; 6" PVC PIPE SEWER-420 LNFT; CONSTRUCT DRAINAGE STRUCTURE DESIGN 4007-4 EACH; CASTING ASSEMBLY-4 EACH; ADJUST FRAME AND RING CASTING-2 EACH; TRAFFIC CONTROL-1 LS; COMMON TOPSOIL BORROW-60 CUYD; TURF ESTABLISHMENT-1 LS; SODDING TYPE LAWN-480 SY;

CLEARING-3 EACH; REMOVE MISC. STRUCTURE-1 EACH; REMOVE MISC. STRUCTURE (RAIL)-76 LNFT; SAWING BITUMINOUS PAVEMENT (FULL DEPTH)-230 LNFT; REMOVE CONCRETE WALK-3515 SQFT; REMOVE BITUMINOUS PAVEMENT-15945 SQFT; COMMON EXCAVATION-960 CUYD; SELECT GRANULAR BORROW (CV)-590 CUYD; GEOTEXTILE FABRIC TYPE 5-2000 SY; AGGREGATE BASE (CV) CLASS 5-370 CUYD; TYPE SP 9.5 WEARING COURSE MIXTURE (2:C)-235 TON; TYPE SP 12.5 NON WEARING COURSE MIXTURE (2:C)-335 TON; 12" RC PIPE APRON-1 EACH; 4" PERF TP PIPE DRAIN-8 LNFT; 12" RC PIPE DESIGN 3006-415 LNFT; CONSTRUCT DRAINAGE STRUCTURE DESIGN N-2 EACH; CASTING ASSEMBLY-2 EACH; ADJUST FRAME AND

RING CASTING-3 EACH; RANDOM RIPRAP CLASS III-2 CUYD; 4" CONCRETE WALK SPECIAL-3550 SQFT; CONCRETE CURB AND GUTTER DESIGN B612-105 LNFT; COMMON TOPSOIL BORROW-10 CUYD;

**ADD ALTERNATE #2:** REMOVE CONCRETE DRIVEWAY PAVEMENT-140 SQFT; REMOVE CONCRETE WALK-1315 SQFT; COMMON EXCAVATION-30 CUYD; GEOTEXTILE FABRIC TYPE 5-170 SY; AGGREGATE BASE (CV) CLASS 5-30 CUYD; 4" CONCRETE WALK-1810 SQFT; 7" CONCRETE DRIVEWAY PAVEMENT-16 SQYD;

**ADD ALTERNATE #3:** REMOVE CONCRETE WALK-1275 SQFT; COMMON EXCAVATION-25 CUYD; GEOTEXTILE FABRIC TYPE 5-150 SY; AGGREGATE BASE (CV) CLASS 5-25 CUYD; 4" CONCRETE WALK-1725 SQFT;

**ADD ALTERNATE #1:**

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Bids will be received by City of Tower, Michael Schultz, Clerk/Treasurer, City Hall 602 Main St, Tower, MN 55790 until 10:00 A.M. local time October 29, 2024, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

The information for Bidders, Form of Bid, Form of Contract, Plans and Specifications, and Forms of Bid Bond, Performance and Payment Bond, and other contract documents may be examined at Benchmark Engineering, Inc., 8878 Main Street, Mountain Iron, MN 55768.

Copies may be obtained at the office of Benchmark Engineering Inc. located at 8878 Main Street, Mountain Iron, MN upon payment of \$50.00. Non-refundable, sales tax included. Electronic documents are available at [questodn.com](http://questodn.com) project number 9351857 a non-refundable cost of \$35.00.

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informality or to reject any or all bids.

Each Bidder must deposit, with their bid: security in

the amount, form and subject to the conditions provided in the information for Bidders. The bid should be in a sealed envelope with the project name, bid date and time clearly labeled on the outside.

All applicable state and federal laws relative to wage rates shall apply on this project. Contractors will be required to submit payroll reports.

No Bidder may withdraw their bid within 35 days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

Michael Schultz  
Clerk/Treasurer  
DATE: September 30, 2024

*Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 4 & 11, 2024*



**CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME**

Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333. The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business

Assumed Name: [voyageursnationalparktour.com](http://voyageursnationalparktour.com)  
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 9855 Gappa Road, Kabetogama, MN 56669, United States  
NAMEHOLDER(S): Border Guide Service LLC, 105 Peck Street, P.O. Box 155, Antelope, MT 59211

I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

Dated: September 24, 2024  
SIGNED BY: William Roden, President

*Published in the Timberjay, October 4 & 11, 2024*

**CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME**

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Assumed Name: [voyageursnationalparktours.com](http://voyageursnationalparktours.com)  
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 9855 Gappa Road, Kabetogama, MN 56669, United States  
NAMEHOLDER(S): Border Guide Service LLC, 105 Peck Street, P.O. Box 155, Antelope, MT 59211

I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

Dated: September 24, 2024  
SIGNED BY: William Roden, President

*Published in the Timberjay, October 4 & 11, 2024*

**King Crossword**

**ACROSS**

- 1 Buddy
- 4 Rm. coolers
- 7 Bashes
- 12 Epoch
- 13 Speck
- 14 Mowing sites
- 15 Goal
- 16 Handel compositions
- 18 Author Harper
- 19 Purse part
- 20 Trudge
- 22 Mess up
- 23 Prejudice
- 27 Mardi Gras VIP
- 29 Borneo beasts
- 31 Pocket breads
- 34 Harley rider
- 35 Delphi figure
- 37 In shape
- 38 Title for Helen Mirren
- 39 Gorilla
- 41 Wild guess
- 45 Cornell and Yale, e.g.
- 47 E.T.'s craft
- 48 Citrus drink
- 52 Carnival city
- 53 Sal of "Exodus"
- 54 Just out
- 55 Rage
- 56 Croc's kin
- 57 Hosp. areas

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12			13			14					
15			16			17					
18			19								
20			21		22			23	24	25	26
			27		28		29	30			
31	32	33						34			
35					36		37				
38				39	40			41	42	43	44
				45				46		47	
48	49	50	51						52		
53						54				55	
56						57				58	

- 58 Homer's neighbor
- 11 Snake's warning
- 36 Roof overhang
- 37 Birdseed holder
- 21 Preprandial prayer
- 40 Steinway product city
- 42 Shroud city
- 43 Blazing
- 44 Greeted a bully
- 45 Borodin's "Prince —"
- 46 Gives a darn?
- 48 Texter's "Heavens!"
- 49 Estuary
- 50 Busy insect
- 51 Opposite of paleo-
- 22 Disney mermaid
- 23 Entices
- 24 Pen filler
- 25 Get older
- 26 Old map letters
- 28 Immigrant's subj.
- 30 Hitter's stat
- 31 Group of seals
- 32 Nest egg acronym
- 33 Highland hat

**Weekly SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

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

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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**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

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**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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## Super Crossword BETWEEN WHITE AND RED

- |   |                            |                              |  |                                 |                            |
|---|----------------------------|------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                                     | <b>DOWN</b>                | <b>DOWN</b>                  | <b>DOWN</b>                                | <b>DOWN</b>                     | <b>DOWN</b>                |
| 1 U.K. equivalent to an Oscar                     | 2 Qty.                     | 3 10-year-old student, often | 4 Court hearing                            | 5 Carrier with a Toronto hub    | 6 — for tat                |
| 6 Trinidad and —                                  | 7 Round bodies             | 8 Hesitate like a mule       | 9 Blue-green                               | 10 Main points                  | 11 Actor Milo              |
| 12 Baggage screeners' org.                        | 13 Fourteen times five     | 14 Philosopher Hannah        | 15 Sinus doc                               | 16 Boxer Ali                    | 17 "Congrats!"             |
| 15 Moose kin                                      | 14 Philosopher Hannah      | 15 Sinus doc                 | 16 Boxer Ali                               | 17 "Congrats!"                  | 18 Rib-eye, e.g.           |
| 19 American poet — Baraka                         | 15 Sinus doc               | 16 Boxer Ali                 | 17 "Congrats!"                             | 18 Rib-eye, e.g.                | 22 Actor Ryan              |
| 20 Basra natives                                  | 16 Boxer Ali               | 17 "Congrats!"               | 18 Rib-eye, e.g.                           | 22 Actor Ryan                   | 24 Walk cockily            |
| 21 Balloon pilot                                  | 17 "Congrats!"             | 18 Rib-eye, e.g.             | 22 Actor Ryan                              | 24 Walk cockily                 | 28 Peel off                |
| 23 Upon initial sight                             | 18 Rib-eye, e.g.           | 22 Actor Ryan                | 24 Walk cockily                            | 28 Peel off                     | 31 Site of rural peace     |
| 25 Twilight time, to poets                        | 22 Actor Ryan              | 24 Walk cockily              | 28 Peel off                                | 31 Site of rural peace          | 32 Mariner's distance unit |
| 26 Diplomacy                                      | 24 Walk cockily            | 28 Peel off                  | 31 Site of rural peace                     | 32 Mariner's distance unit      | 33 — -fi flick             |
| 27 Performs an axel, e.g.                         | 28 Peel off                | 31 Site of rural peace       | 32 Mariner's distance unit                 | 33 — -fi flick                  | 35 Suffix with resident    |
| 29 Arizona-to-Kentucky dir.                       | 31 Site of rural peace     | 32 Mariner's distance unit   | 33 — -fi flick                             | 35 Suffix with resident         | 71 Some light planes       |
| 30 Mauna —  | 32 Mariner's distance unit | 33 — -fi flick               | 35 Suffix with resident                    | 71 Some light planes            | 72 VirusScan company       |
| 31 Square-cut building stones                     | 33 — -fi flick             | 35 Suffix with resident      | 71 Some light planes                       | 72 VirusScan company            | 73 Brazilian soccer hero   |
| 34 Glossy fabric with an elaborate floral pattern | 35 Suffix with resident    | 71 Some light planes         | 72 VirusScan company                       | 73 Brazilian soccer hero        |                            |
| 37 Rule, in brief                                 | 71 Some light planes       | 72 VirusScan company         | 73 Brazilian soccer hero                   |                                 |                            |
| 38 Atomic cores                                   | 72 VirusScan company       | 73 Brazilian soccer hero     |  |                                 |                            |
| 42 Playpen toy                                    | 73 Brazilian soccer hero   |                              |  |                                 |                            |
| 43 Baby's breath and cowherb are members of it    |                            |                              |  |                                 |                            |
| 47 "Gung Ho" actress Rogers                       |                            |                              |  |                                 |                            |
| 51 Sondheim's "Everybody Ought to Have —"         |                            |                              |  |                                 |                            |
| 52 Like a laundromat washer, for short            |                            |                              |  |                                 |                            |
| 53 Closer to now                                  |                            |                              |  |                                 |                            |
| 55 Swam some pool lengths                         |                            |                              |  |                                 |                            |
| 58 Florida city near Miami                        |                            |                              |  |                                 |                            |
| 61 Bits of land in eau                            |                            |                              |  |                                 |                            |
| 62 Material on a Q-tip                            |                            |                              |  |                                 |                            |
| 65 Person howling                                 |                            |                              |  |                                 |                            |
| 66 — Lingus                                       |                            |                              |  |                                 |                            |
| 67 Ancient Palestine                              |                            |                              |  |                                 |                            |
| 68 Bamboo eaters                                  |                            |                              |  |                                 |                            |
| 69 Jackson 5 #1 hit of 1970                       |                            |                              |  |                                 |                            |
| 72 — and pestle                                   |                            |                              |  |                                 |                            |
| 73 Wage recipients                                |                            |                              |  |                                 |                            |
| 74 Leg midpoint                                   |                            |                              |  |                                 |                            |
| 75 Alternative to apple pie                       |                            |                              |  |                                 |                            |
| 79 Jewish villages of old                         |                            |                              |  |                                 |                            |
| 81 Debonair                                       |                            |                              |  |                                 |                            |
| 82 Greasier                                       |                            |                              |  |                                 |                            |
| 85 French cathedral city                          |                            |                              |  |                                 |                            |
| 86 Burger meat                                    |                            |                              |  |                                 |                            |
| 87 Crispy-skinned fish dish                       |                            |                              |  |                                 |                            |
| 91 "Oz" co-star Walker                            |                            |                              |  |                                 |                            |
| 94 Having a saintly ring                          |                            |                              |  |                                 |                            |
| 95 "— minute!"                                    |                            |                              |  |                                 |                            |
| 96 Noted presidential matriarch                   |                            |                              |  |                                 |                            |
| 101 Many KFC pieces                               |                            |                              |  |                                 |                            |
| 103 Singer DiFranco                               |                            |                              |  |                                 |                            |
| 104 Squeal (on)                                   |                            |                              |  |                                 |                            |
| 105 Papal crowns                                  |                            |                              |  |                                 |                            |
| 109 Job honcho                                    |                            |                              |  |                                 |                            |
| 110 Cubic — (fake gem)                            |                            |                              |  |                                 |                            |
| 113 What seven key words in this puzzle are       |                            |                              |  |                                 |                            |
| 117 Native of Fiji or Nauru                       |                            |                              |  |                                 |                            |
| 118 Well-reasoned                                 |                            |                              |  |                                 |                            |
| 119 Four-page sheet                               |                            |                              |  |                                 |                            |
| 120 Lease topic                                   |                            |                              |  |                                 |                            |
| 121 Green prefix                                  |                            |                              |  |                                 |                            |
| 122 Auditory stimuli                              |                            |                              |  |                                 |                            |
| 123 Lieu  |                            |                              |  |                                 |                            |
| 39 Site: Abbr.                                    | 40 Brian of rock           | 41 Promiser's qualifier      | 44 Guitarist Lofgren                       | 45 Strong as —                  | 46 Country of NW Afr.      |
| 48 Tavern   | 49 Actress Ryan            | 50 1040 org.                 | 53 Showy debut, perhaps                    | 54 Tram rocks                   | 56 "Memento" star Guy      |
| 57 — Domingo                                      | 59 Narrow road             | 60 Agrees (with)             | 63 Broccoli — American feathered headdress | 67 Singer Marc                  | 68 Shunned one             |
| 69 Destroying Scuds, say                          | 70 Triple Crown venue      | 71 Some light planes         | 72 VirusScan company                       | 73 Brazilian soccer hero        |                            |
| 74 Ship's spine                                   | 75 Tavern                  | 76 Before                    | 77 Prez Lincoln                            | 78 Fleur-de- —                  | 80 Results of compromises  |
| 83 Notable time                                   | 84 Cath., e.g.             | 87 Fiero or GTO              | 88 Raggedy —                               | 89 Feb. 29, for leap day babies | 90 — -Croatian             |
| 92 Goodyear's home city                           | 93 Malicious sort          | 96 Schick item               | 97 In reserve                              | 98 It'll stop traffic           | 99 Frisbees, e.g.          |
| 100 Big internet portal                           | 102 In — (stuck)           | 106 Pasta sauce brand        | 107 Yemen port                             | 108 Mail in, e.g.               | 111 Meowing pet            |
| 112 "I'll take that as —"                         | 114 Aves.                  | 115 Vardalos of the screen   | 116 Walloped in a boxing ring              |                                 |                            |

### King Crossword

Answers  
Solution time: 26 mins.  
MAG ACS FETES  
ERA DOT LAWS  
AIM ORATORIOS  
LEE STRAP  
SLOG ERR BIAS  
REX ORANGS  
PITAS BIKER  
ORACLE FIT  
DAWE APE STAB  
IVIES UFO  
ORANGEADE RIO  
MINEO NEW IRE  
GATOR ORS NED

### FUNERAL SERVICES

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### Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

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VOTING

# Snafu prompts changes to auto voter registrations

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

Program automatically registers eligible voters when they apply for a state ID, drivers license

REGIONAL-Minnesota election officials are making changes to the state's automatic voter registration (AVR) system after problematic entries cropped up in a recent review, though no evidence was found of ineligible individuals being registered.

The system, which was launched in April, registers eligible residents automatically when they apply for a state-issued ID, such as a driver's license. Over 90,000 people have been auto-registered to date, according to a release from the Minnesota Secretary of State's Office. That includes about 65,000 age-eligible voters and about

25,000 preregistrations of 16- and 17-year-olds.

The system includes an intensive review process by state and local officials to verify registrants' identities and residences and confirm their eligibility to vote, and roughly one thousand registrations were flagged for further review due to questions about adequate verification. These registrations have been inactivated pending additional confirmation of names, addresses, and citizenship status, Secretary of State Steve Simon said. Those flagged individuals will be notified and instructed to register online, at their local election office, or in person at their polling place if eligible.

To prevent future problems, the Department of Public Safety's Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS) division has implemented new verification measures, including a two-tiered manual review process for all files before they are sent for voter registration. The DVS is also increasing staff training to minimize human error in processing documentation. The revised review process could extend the time frame for processing AVR registrations by up to 12 weeks. However, individuals may still opt to use traditional registration processes instead in order to ensure registration for the November general election.

Public Safety Commissioner

Bob Jacobson emphasized that no cases have been identified where an ineligible person was registered to vote.

"Minnesota has a proud tradition of broad voter participation and unquestionably fair and secure elections," Jacobson said, adding that the recent updates to DVS protocols enhance the integrity of the system.

Election officials expressed confidence that the new measures will prevent any further issues and ensure that the system operates as intended. Simon noted that the state is taking "an abundance of caution" to maintain the accuracy of the voter rolls.

Republicans have raised concerns about the AVR system, questioning whether the screening process ensures only eligible voters are registered. They called on state officials for greater transparency about how flagged voter registrations are being handled ahead of the upcoming election, which is just weeks away. Early voting in the state began last Friday.

MPR News contributed to this report

## ELY-BLOOMENSON COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

### Sandy Nickolson is the Minnesota Hospital Association Volunteer of the Year

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- A volunteer at the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital has been named by the Minnesota Hospital Association as one of its four volunteers of the year.

Sandy Nickolson is part of the hospital's community liaison committee, a group of volunteers who meet with the hospital twice a month to learn more about what is happening at EBCH and work on small fundraising and other volunteer projects.

"When Sandy started on the committee, she was instrumental in introducing us to the blessings backpack concept to help us with a way to provide support to individuals who may be homeless, housing insecure, or lack belongings," said Jodi Martin, the marketing and communications team leader for the hospital. "The backpacks can be given out at the staff's discretion and contain every day, basic-needs items such as soap, shampoo, oral hygiene kits, toilet paper, and socks. Sandy raised all the money through donations



A blessings backpack from the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital. Sandy Nickolson was named a Minnesota Hospital Association's volunteer of the year for creating the blessing backpack program at EBCH.

from family and friends to support the project financially. She also created a resource guide that could be included in the bags."

The Minnesota Hospital Association recognized her efforts at its award luncheon on Sept. 19 during the association's 2024 annual meeting in Brainerd. Nickolson was unable to be present at the awards ceremony so the hospital accepted that award on her behalf.

The association honored 39 individuals and hospital teams at the meeting. Nickolson was one of four volunteers in the state honored with the Volunteer of the Year award.

"There is amazing work being done every day", said Dr. Rahul Koranne, president and CEO of MHA. "It is incredibly important to honor the teams and individuals doing this work."

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MINING

# Pulsar Helium pursues new drilling and land acquisition

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

**BABBITT-** Pulsar Helium, the Canadian firm that hopes to develop the Topaz helium gas deposit southwest of Babbitt, is feeling good about its exploration program—good enough that it has signed a new contract for additional drilling and is actively expanding its lease holdings in the region.

“We believe the Topaz Project has district size scalability,” said Pulsar CEO Thomas Abraham-James. “Accordingly, as part of our growth strategy, we are actively securing key land positions. Following this option exercise, we are pleased to have almost doubled our net acreage and are now targeting additional land acquisitions, guided by well-defined geological insights.”

The Oct. 2 announcement that Pulsar has doubled its land position also follows the release of the resource evaluation report by the Sproule reservoir engineering firm that supports the estimated regional extent of helium gas in the ground. The company is pursuing the acquisition of

additional acreage to secure district-wide control of what it believes to be the newly emerging regional helium reservoir.

The firm also announced on Monday, Oct. 1, that it has signed a new drilling contract with Capstar Drilling. Pulsar has hired the driller to deepen the Jetstream No. 1 well an additional 500 meters (1,640 feet) with an option to drill additional step-out wells.

“The signing of the Capstar Drilling contract is a further step forward as we look to commercialize our high-grade Topaz helium project in Minnesota,” Abraham-James said. “We anticipate that deepening the Jetstream No. 1 well will further validate the economics of the project and confirm the reservoir’s district-scale potential.”

“These are exciting times for Pulsar, particularly as mineral security and ‘safe jurisdiction resource development’ increasingly shape investor decision making. We are receiving strong support across the political spectrum in Minnesota, (where they) recognize the statewide benefits of bringing Topaz on stream.”



A map graphic showing the approximate area of the estimated regional helium resource in Duluth Complex rocks southeast of Babbitt. submitted image

FIRE DANGER



## Brush fire in Ely burned about a half-acre

**ELY-** A walker on the Trezona Trail called in a brush fire on the northeast side of the Vermilion campus of Minnesota North College on Tuesday.

It’s not clear when the fire began. “The fire had laid down overnight,” Ely Fire Chief David Marshall told the *Timberjay*. “It burned around four-tenths of an acre when we measured using GPS. When we found it, it was smoldering and creeping but had mostly extinguished itself.”

Department of Natural Resources Conservation Officer Sean Williams said at the scene that it was lucky the winds were not strong overnight or on Tuesday morning because the fire hazard is currently elevated due to tinder dry conditions.

The U.S. Forest Service, DNR, the Ely Fire Department and the Ely Police Department

responded to the blaze. The combined personnel doused the smoldering fire after hand carrying water packs and extinguishers into the burning area.

“All four agencies that responded agreed that the cause of this fire was likely human,” Marshall said. “Please, due to the elevated fire danger, people need to not build any camp fires for now.”

**An Ely firefighter inspecting the site of a half-acre brush fire between the Vermilion campus of Minnesota North College and the Trezona Trail.**  
photo by C. Clark

## Light activity in county land auction

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

**REGIONAL-** Only 13 of 55 available tracts in the recently completed St. Louis County tax-forfeited property auction were sold in the first such event since sales were halted in 2023 following a Supreme Court decision declaring the state’s former auction system unconstitutional.

Properties in the North Country that were sold included:

➤ An irregularly shaped 3.87-acre parcel with about 460 feet of frontage on Ban Lake in Beatty Township was purchased by Jennifer L. Schindeldecker for a price of \$34,830.

➤ A 2.33-acre parcel with about 240 feet of frontage on Elbow Lake in Beatty Township was purchased by Laura Brambilla for \$28,500.

➤ An irregularly shaped 1.07-acre parcel with about 235 feet of frontage on Eagles Nest Lake Number One in Eagles Nest Township did not receive a bid in the auction but was purchased over the counter after the auction

closed. The listed price for the property was \$92,440.

➤ A 40-acre parcel crossed in the northeast by about 1,000 feet of the Little Fork River in Linden Grove Township with no known legal access was purchased by Norm Lindsey, Linden Grove Pioneer LLC for \$45,100, above the minimum bid of \$37,090.

A tax-forfeited property auction settlement sale is

now underway online, with bidding closing on Thursday, Oct. 3 at 11 a.m. Auction information can be found by going to the county Land and Minerals Department webpage at [www.stlouiscountymn.gov/departments-a-z/land-minerals](http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/departments-a-z/land-minerals) and clicking on the “Sales and Contracts” link.

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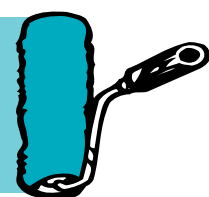
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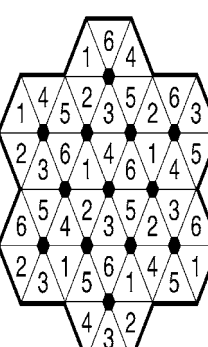
  
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