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the **TIMBERJAY**



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SILVER RAPIDS REDEVELOPMENT

Twin lawsuits filed to reverse Lake County decision



Residents, DNR allege county violated its own ordinance, state law in CUP and plat rulings

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

FALL LAKE TWP- Lake County is facing a double-barreled legal action that is likely to throw a virtual hand grenade into the planned development

Left: The Silver Rapids Lodge with cabins in the background.
photo by C. Clark

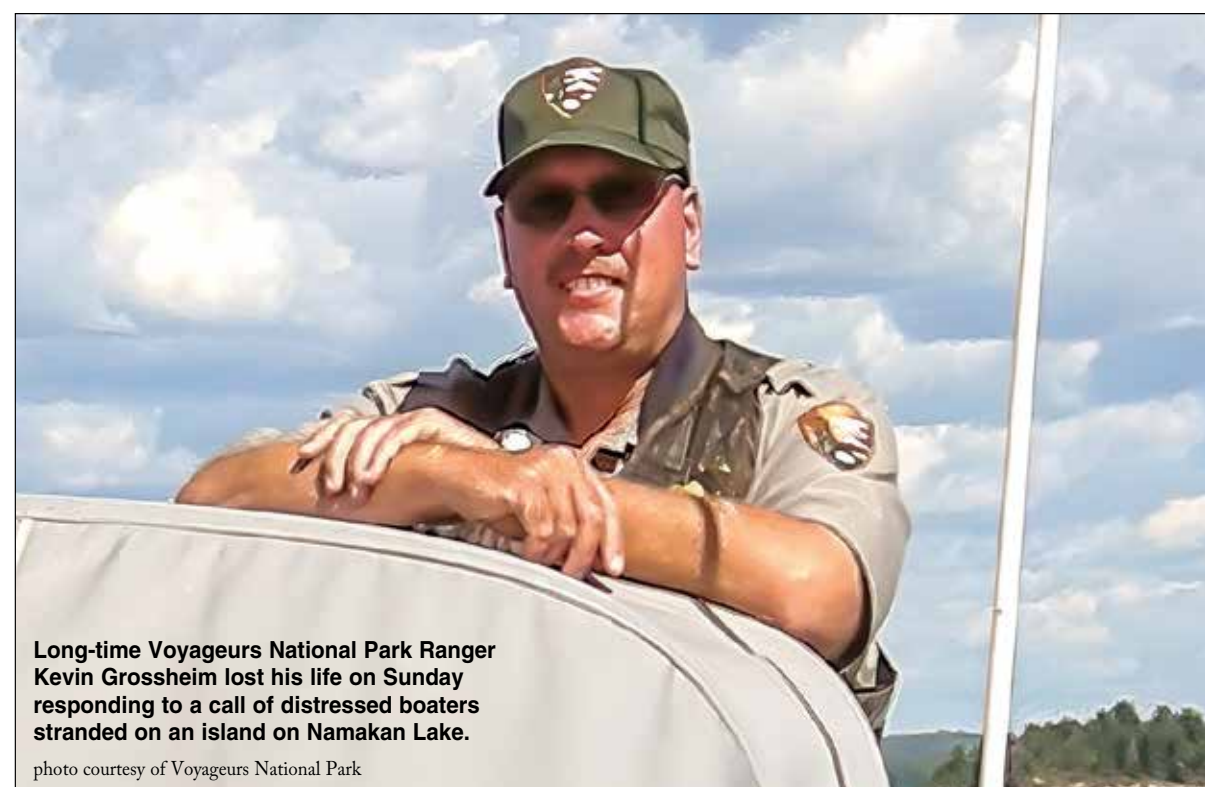
at the Silver Rapids Resort property here. The 62-acre parcel, located on the narrows between Farm and White Iron lakes, has been the subject of intense local controversy over a planned redevelopment that would greatly increase the density of residential units and increase vehicle and boat traffic at the site.

Local property owners and residents, organized under the name Community Advocates for Responsible Development, or CARD, filed suit against the proposal last Thursday, Oct. 3, alleging that the Lake County Planning Commission knowingly violated county ordinances and state law when it approved a conditional use

permit and preliminary plat that allows for greater density of development at the site than allowed.

Later that same day, the Department of Natural Resources filed its own lawsuit, making similar allegations. The DNR suit cites the

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Long-time Voyageurs National Park Ranger Kevin Grossheim lost his life on Sunday responding to a call of distressed boaters stranded on an island on Namakan Lake.

photo courtesy of Voyageurs National Park

VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK

Park ranger dies in rescue

Had responded to family stranded in high winds

by **DAVID COLBURN**
Cook/Orr Editor

VOYAGEURS NAT'L PARK- A long-time Voyageurs National Park ranger died Sunday while rescuing a stranded family on Namakan Lake amid high winds and rough waters in Voyageurs National Park.

The ranger, identified as Kevin Grossheim, 55, of Kabetogama, responded to a distress call late Sunday morning from a family stranded on Birch Cove Island, according to the park service. The family of three — a father, an adult son, and a young boy — had been camping when their boat was pushed ashore by five to six-foot waves, leaving them unable to free it.

Grossheim took the family aboard his Park Service boat to bring them back to the mainland, but the vessel capsized during the trip. St. Louis County Sheriff Gordon Ramsay told MPR News that, "The front kind of nosedived, the boat listed, and flipped over upside-down."

Ramsay noted that earlier reports stating Grossheim's boat had been towing the family's boat were inaccurate.

After the vessel capsized, the three

See...**ACCIDENT** pg. 10

Grossheim recalled as a dedicated public servant

by **DAVID COLBURN**
Cook/Orr Editor

KABETOGAMA- By Tuesday, the news of 55-year-old Voyageurs National Park Ranger Kevin Grossheim's tragic but heroic death during an attempt to bring three campers to safety through the treacherous waves of wind-whipped Namakan Lake on Sunday had gone national, with major news outlets and wire services spreading the story far and wide. Social media was filled with accolades and condolences. Flags were flying at half-staff at national parks, Minnesota state buildings, and at many private homes and businesses in honor of the ultimate sacrifice given by a law enforcement ranger in the line of duty.

It's a tribute well-deserved, but unfamiliar for a man who in most accounts is described as quiet, unassuming, and humble, who mostly preferred being out of the spotlight when doing his job in the park or helping in his hometown of Kabetogama.

"He did many, many things that



Ranger Kevin Grossheim enjoying a 2011 encounter with a beaver in Voyageurs National Park.

photo courtesy Steve Windels

really nobody knows about," said Kabetogama friend and neighbor Betsey Warrington. "He was just always that kind of guy. He was always

See...**GROSSHEIM** pg. 10

ELECTION SEASON

Early voting in county running above average

by **DAVID COLBURN**
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Voting is underway for the 2024 general election, and St. Louis County Supervisor of Elections Phil Chapman told the *Timberjay* on Tuesday that voter interest is strong.

"It's going well. We've had pretty good turnout with people voting by absentee ballot, both walk-in and by mail," Chapman said. "We have 17 deputies that do their own absentee balloting, and I actually had a chance to touch base with most of them yesterday, and the voter turnout so far has probably been a little higher than what we expected for people voting absentee. The general feel is that people are voting earlier compared to previous elections."

Voters can request an absentee ballot up until

Monday, Nov. 4, the day before the election, but Chapman cautioned that the deadline for returning those ballots is 8 p.m. on Nov. 5, which could cause difficulties for late requesters. "If someone requests an absentee ballot when we're a week out, we will contact that voter and tell them we're a week away, we can send you your materials, but you might not get it in time to get it back to us," Chapman said.

While voters going to the polls will have the same experience as in other recent elections, systems still have to be tested, and that process has already started.

"We do a preliminary test on our ballots," Chapman said. "We've done that test and everything looks great. The county has a public accu-

See...**VOTING** pg. 9

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Bois Forte launches carbon credit effort

by **DAVID COLBURN**
Cook/Orr Editor

NETT LAKE- A small group of Bois Forte band members came together at the tribal government center in Nett Lake on Tuesday to learn more about the band's carbon sequestration initiative for 28,000 acres of land from the largest tribal buyback of ancestral lands ever executed in the country.

The 2022 purchase of former PotlatchDeltic lands from The Conservation Fund came with the restriction that the forest land, which is enrolled in the Minnesota Sustainable Forest Incentive Act (SFIA), cannot be used

for commercial purposes, but must remain forest-related, ensuring conservation and forest management practices are followed. The incentive payments for enrolling the land in the SFIA program go to pay the loan funds used for the buyback.

"When PotlatchDeltic enrolled (the land) in the SFIA program, it's enrolled for 50 years, so the program for the 28,000 acres will be until 2066," Bois Forte Tribal Chairwoman Cathy Chavers said.

But working with the National Indian Carbon Coalition, the band has found

See...**CARBON** pg. 10



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Community notices

Hope Lutheran Harvest Festival on Oct. 26

EMBARRASS- Hope Lutheran Church in Embarrass is hosting its Fall Harvest Festival on Saturday, Oct. 26 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. There will be raffles with prizes such as quilts, gift baskets, and gift cards. Baked and canned goods will be for sale, plus a luncheon. All are invited to attend.

Fall Flannel Fest at Kaleva Hall on Oct. 26

VIRGINIA- Come one and all to the Fall “Flannel” Fest Saturday, Oct. 26 at the Historic Kaleva Hall located at 125 Third St. N in Virginia. The Lindula Brothers will perform Folk, Bluegrass, and Finnish music from 6 to 8 p.m. Tickets are \$7, under 10 years free. Box meals (sloppy Joes, chips, water and treat) available at 5 p.m. for \$5. Wear your best flannels and have a great time. Proceeds go to the preservation of Kaleva Hall. Check us out on Facebook.com/KalevaHall. All are welcome.

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>.

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.

Register online by checking out the class calendar at elyfolkschool.org. For questions or concerns please contact Anna Heil at anna@elyfolkschool.org. This weekend is made possible in part by the McKnight Foundation.

It’s time to nominate someone for the Touchstone Energy Community Award

COHASSETT – Do you know an organization or community group that has made outstanding contributions to the local community? Lake Country Power is seeking applications for the Touchstone Energy Community Award, which recognizes nonprofit organizations and community groups that have shown a strong commitment to the community. Any organization that has helped make northern Minnesota a better place to live and work is eligible for the \$500 award.

Community members may nominate an organization by completing an application form, available at Lake Country Power or online at www.lakecountrypower.coop. Questions may be directed to Tami Zaun at 800-421-9959, ext. 7152. The application will require a description of the community service project, program or event and the positive impact it brought to the community.

Applications are due by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 1. Mail to Lake Country Power, Attn: Tami Zaun, 26039 Bear Ridge Drive, Cohasset, MN 55721, or e-mail tzaun@lcp.coop.

The award recipient will contend for the statewide Touchstone Energy Community Award, which has a cash prize of \$2,000. The statewide award winner will be recognized in February 2025 at the Minnesota Rural Electric Association annual meeting.

The Touchstone Energy cooperatives of Minnesota, including Lake Country Power, are part of a national network across 46 states that adhere to the values of integrity, accountability, innovation, and commitment to community. Touchstone Energy cooperatives stand out as a trusted source of power and information to their 30 million member-owners every day.

ORR LANDMARK



The reviews are in, and it’s a Billy the Bluegill-sized two-thumbs up for the summer makeover of the iconic roadside statue in Orr. Former Orr School art teacher Lyn Reed spent about 80 hours recently repainting the fish, a popular stop for tourists to take photos. The project was funded by the Orr Lions Club with the help of many donations from the community. A story about the project ran in last week’s edition of the Timberjay. photo by L. Reed

HIGHER EDUCATION

Vermilion Campus Foundation honors retired educators

ELY- The Vermilion Campus Foundation gave out more than \$150,000 in student scholarships during the foundation’s scholarship banquet held here on Sept. 26. At the same time, the organization honored Butch and Lucy Diesslin, of Ely, for their years of educational service and financial support to the foundation’s scholarship effort.

Over 110 people attended the banquet at the Grand Ely Lodge where the foundation gave 77 students scholarships ranging from \$200 to \$6,000. The Vermilion campus winners of the Minnesota North College All Campus Presidential Scholarships of \$6,003.90 were Griffi Stiel, Kierra Waller, and Lauren Saba.

Diesslins honored

The foundation gave its 2024 Vermilion Supporter Award to the Diesslins, who recently donated \$100,000 in stock to endow a scholarship in their name. “A major reason for my endowing a scholarship is my receiving scholarships when I was in college,” said Butch. “As the second-oldest child in a family with eight children, I received a tuition-and-fee scholarship when I was earning my bachelor’s degree at Mankato State College. Over the years, I was able to save and invest a portion of earnings while I was employed, and now that I am comfortably retired, I’ve reached a point where I want to give back to others that want a college education by endowing two scholarships, one at (the Vermilion campus) and one at the University of Wisconsin– Superior.”

Diesslin began teaching physics at the Vermilion campus in 1973, when the institution was still a stand-alone junior college and spent his entire career teaching here. He married Lucy



Retired educators Butch and Lucy Diesslin, of Ely, were the 2024 recipients of the Vermilion Campus Foundation Supporter Award. photo by C. Clark

Barnes in 1983, a junior and senior high school math teacher. After moving to Ely, she taught mathematics for the Ely Public Schools. The Diesslins have remained active in Ely’s community organizations since they retired, supporting not only the Vermilion Campus Foundation, but also the Kiwanis, the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital Board, the Dorothy Molter Museum, the American Association of University Women, and Ely Community Resource.

The foundation

Incorporated in 1979, Vermilion Campus Foundation supports the college in providing exceptional, affordable education to Vermilion students. The foundation works closely with Vermilion staff and faculty to support academic excellence, professional success, and community involvement. The foundation awards academic scholarships and facilitates programs designed to help students and keep them on course for degree completion.



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GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP

Nitpicking continues over open meeting law issues

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP- For three solid hours here on Tuesday night, the hostility between the previous majority and the current majority on the Greenwood Town Board showed no indication of winding down.

It began during public comment, when former township clerk and supervisor Sue Drobac had questions about a bill paid by the township, but then went on to question current clerk Debby Spicer. When Spicer didn't respond (the board generally listens during public comment and doesn't engage in back-and-forth), she pointedly asked why Spicer was looking at her phone. After more argument with Chair Lois Roskoski about some files that had been misplaced during the transition after last March's election, Drobac then criticized the style of minutes being prepared by Spicer.

"Whoever is typing the minutes," Drobac said, "it looks to me like opinions, not what is just happening at the meeting." Drobac said that the Minnesota Association of Townships prefers to simply say there was a discussion on a topic, and not to describe the entire conversation.

Roskoski noted that the board cannot tell the clerk how to do her job.

"She is being subjective about everything," said Drobac.

Spicer's minutes have been descriptive, often including direct quotes, and blow-by-blow coverage of the more combative conversations during the meeting. But supervisors do have the option, and often do, make changes to the minutes before final approval at the following



Town board chair Lois Roskoski (left) made good use of her gavel during the three-hour long Greenwood meeting on Oct. 8. The rest of the meeting write-up will be in next week's paper. photo by J. Summit

board meeting.

After being gavelled to silence and talking angrily back to the audience, Drobac said, "I am not leaving, thank you."

When it was time to approve the minutes from the Sept. 12 meeting, supervisor John Bassing tried to clarify why he, supervisor Rick Stoehr, and treasurer Jeff Maus had left the meeting.

"We said it was a special meeting," Bassing said, "and the chair did not read the entire opinion from attorney Mike Couri."

Bassing went on to read from an email that he said was sent the day of the Sept. 12 meeting. "I believe the key question," the attorney wrote, "is whether the township posted a revised meeting schedule with the new regular meeting date

of Sept. 12. If the revised meeting schedule...was posted at least four days prior to today's meeting, then I believe tonight's meeting will be a regular meeting." If the meeting was considered a special meeting, the posting would have to include the purpose of the meeting.

"That's why we left," Bassing said. "It was not posted."

Roskoski noted that this information was not presented at the September meeting.

Bassing said he did not get a copy of the email from Couri until 12 days after the meeting.

"There is a lot of duplicity here," he told Roskoski, "You had the email."

"You walked out before I could finish reading it," said Roskoski.

Bassing then claimed to have

a photograph of the bulletin board four days prior of the meeting, without the posting.

"I also have a photograph of the bulletin board," said Roskoski. "Our clerk said it was out there." The meeting was posted as a regular meeting, and the agenda was also available. Whether or not the monthly meeting calendar had been updated was not confirmed.

"I believe that I did and it was on the bulletin board," said Spicer.

At that point the audience began to grumble, voicing displeasure with the tone of the discussion.

Roskoski asked why the Bassings had not come to the clerk or the chair if they thought the meeting hadn't been posted properly. John's wife JoAnn, the former clerk, is now the township's deputy treasurer.

"Deputy treasurer Bassing, if you saw something wrong, you should have come to us," said Roskoski.

Members of the audience were clearly impatient with the nitpicking and "gotcha" attitude on display.

"Are these the important issues?" asked audience member Jet Galonski. "This is BS."

Roskoski noted that an open meeting law violation has to be a "willful" violation. She said the meeting was posted, as well as noticed in the newspaper.

"We have been accused three or four times of open meeting violations," said supervisor Paul Skubic. "We keep getting accused of it. Then do something about it. Come on. Spend time doing something good for the township."

This statement garnered a lot of applause from the audience.

"So, the public is saying that John never did anything good for township?" asked Drobac.

"This is a violation of the open meeting law," said JoAnn Bassing.

Roskoski again gavelled down the talk from audience member Drobac, and asked her to leave the meeting. Drobac refused to leave, giggling, and saying, "let's see how this gets written up next time."

Later in the meeting, there was more discussion of the open meeting law issue.

"Why aren't we all trying to work together," asked Roskoski. "We all ran to do what is best for Greenwood."

Roskoski noted that JoAnn Bassing received an attorney or Minnesota Association of Townships email meant for current clerk Spicer regarding the August meeting that had been rescheduled.

"Why didn't JoAnn just talk to Debby?" Roskoski asked. "This has happened twice. You have seen it and not talked to us."

JoAnn Bassing said that when she and Drobac had met with Roskoski and Spicer after the election, "we got the feeling that neither wanted to know what we knew. You turned me off at the very beginning."

Roskoski noted there is "a group continuously trying to find problems."

JoAnn Bassing and Jeff Maus said they were hurt when there were questions about financial reports and inconsistent financial totals. Maus also said that the Spicer would not allow deputy treasurer JoAnn Bassing access to the treasurer's office, when Maus had asked JoAnn to pick up some papers for him.

"Maybe we need to bring in a therapist," said Roskoski, who had largely kept her cool through the combative exchanges. "I just want everybody to be respectful. We have a lot of work to be done."

Duluth city attorney appointed to court

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL— Gov. Tim Walz has appointed Jessica Fralich, a former St. Louis County prosecutor and current Duluth city attorney, to fill the Sixth Judicial District judge position being vacated by David M. Johnson's retirement.

"It is my honor to appoint Jessica Fralich to the St. Louis County bench," said Walz in a press statement this week.

Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan also lauded Fralich's appointment. "Whether it is serving as Duluth's city attorney or working as a judicial referee, her commitment to service and community is at the heart of what drives her. Her deep familiarity and understanding of the St. Louis County justice system will make her a great asset to this bench."

In addition to her work as a city attorney, judicial referee, and county prosecutor, Fralich has served as a team member for Do-

mestic Violence Restorative Circles, the Domestic Violence Response Team, and the Range Coordinated Community Response Team. Her community involvement includes working with local agencies to develop and provide training designed to increase awareness regarding the impact of domestic abuse and ensure implementation of best practices by system professionals. Fralich earned her B.A. from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and J.D. from Hamline University School of Law.

Voters will elect another new member to the Sixth District bench in November for a position that came available when incumbent District Judge Dale Harris decided to retire rather than seek re-election. Former Duluth city attorney Gunnar Johnson and Duluth attorney Shawn Reed emerged from a crowded primary field to compete for the spot.

Minnesota's Sixth Judicial District encompasses Carlton, Cook, Lake, and St. Louis counties.



Jessica Fralich

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OPINION

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e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial

Putting America last

Trump and Vance show they lack respect for America's norms and traditions

Remarkably cordial. That was the most common take on last week's vice-presidential debate between Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz and Ohio Sen. JD Vance.

The debate was remarkable only in the contrast it provided with the man at the top of the GOP ticket. Politics has always been rough and tumble in America, but since the day that Trump rode down the golden escalator at Trump Tower to accuse Mexicans, among other things, of being rapists and drug dealers, politics has grown increasingly dishonest, mean, even cruel.

Trump is, without question, the primary impetus behind this devolution of the country's political discussion. What we saw last week was an example of how the two major parties used to interact. Real debate on the policy matters, but without the demonization that has marked our politics since Trump.

Trump, who has little interest in government policy, has focused instead on hyperbolic, often childish, personal and mocking attacks on his political opponents and the use of false narratives. He brings all the sophistication of a circus barker, looking to get the public's attention through the kind of antics that most political leaders have traditionally shied away from—with good reason.

Many of his supporters say they like that Trump doesn't sound like a normal politician, or that he says things they believe but could get them fired, or criticized, for saying. That's not a good thing. Society works to encourage its values by penalizing those who deviate from established norms. Teaching honesty and kindness are considered the marks of good parenting or are the kinds of values that most of us would expect children to learn in elementary school. People who continuously lie out of self-interest, cheat, or act or speak cruelly or in a bigoted way against others, are rightly criticized as ill-behaved or lacking basic decency. Without such constraints, society devolves in exactly the same way we've seen in our politics.

While Trump's supporters might get a thrill when he falsely claims that Haitians are eating pets in Ohio, or that his Democratic opponent Kamala Harris is mentally impaired (when, clearly, she is not), or when he urges his supporters to brutalize protesters, or spreads lies about FEMA or our election process, these things matter. There are consequences when Trump calls for executing political oppo-

nents, falsely accuses Democrats of supporting the murder of living infants or accuses immigrants of "poisoning the blood of America."

There is no doubt that Trump has made America an angrier place than in the recent past, when people of differing political persuasions could disagree without being disagreeable. Families and communities are more divided today over politics than at any time in memory. More people live in fear that political differences could spill over into violence than has been the case in at least half a century.

While there were always exceptions, most politicians in America, particularly at the presidential level, recognized that they had an obligation to set a standard that elevated the discussion in America and that respected both our institutions and the American story in general, even as that story has been mythologized over the years. America has never been perfect, but it is, today, a far cry from the hellhole that Trump routinely describes on the stump. That's because we have, for centuries, established societal norms that fostered the very qualities that most of us try to find in our fellow Americans every day—honesty, hard work, and a willingness to help others when in need. Here in the Midwest, especially, we were raised to treat others with kindness, to demonstrate humility, and to be careful of words that can hurt.

These are lessons that Donald Trump never learned, and when his supporters cite his resistance to basic human decency or honesty as a strength, we can only shake our heads at the lack of common sense.

Our political norms matter, because they form the basis for democratic governance. The U.S. Constitution and all that its words have manifested over the past 248 years depend entirely on our willingness to abide by the norms and traditions that have long guided our political process. That includes the peaceful transfer of power and the acknowledgement that elections are legitimate even when you don't win. When Sen. Vance refused to answer that basic question at last week's debate — whether Trump had lost the 2020 election — he had an opportunity to demonstrate his willingness to operate by America's traditions. Instead, he showed he plans to follow in Trump's disgraceful footsteps. That's not "America first." That's putting America last.



Letters from Readers

Time to imagine a new way forward

"We're not going back!" Stories we tell ourselves shape our learning, believing, thinking, and doing and so shall we become. Stories of gender inequality, white supremacy and class dominance have whitewashed history. Are we separate and above nature or dependent and integral; competitive and greedy or cooperative and altruistic; wicked and selfish or good and just?

Biblical stories tell us "be fruitful and multiply," have dominion over and subdue the Earth. "God, above and beyond nature" sets the stage for anthropocentrism, that Earth is subordinate to mankind. Another story of spirituality places human beings with an Earthly responsibility of stewardship as planetary caretakers and caregivers.

Hobbesian theory (1600s A.D.) has been powerful in persuading that human beings are born selfish, competitive, and power hungry while Rousseau (1700s A.D.) portrayed hunter-gatherers in more generous terms as being simple, naturally good, cooperative, but corrupted by society. Another story tells us we are imaginative, creative and resilient by nature to reorganize and choose another way.

"Those who fail, have only themselves to blame," is pure rubbish! "Survival of the fittest" nonsense pervades our "rags to riches" stories to "pull yourself up by the bootstraps" hyper-individualism. Unquestioned assumptions and false claims are baseless assertions unsupported by evidence. Scientifically, nothing tells us we're on a one-way trajectory of evolution with inevitable outcomes. As old prejudices, false beliefs and tyranny of ignorance fade, new possibilities emerge before our eyes.

Neuroscience reveals the brain's ability to change itself. Accumulating evidence suggests that social beings are adaptable, not "stuck," but capable of redesigning how we organize ourselves. We are the architects of the social structures we build. Stories that we are basically good and cooperative social creatures may produce happier outcomes. As "Trump's Watches" run out of time, imagine "A New Way Forward!"

Harold Honkola
Stillwater

The hypocrites of big business

During intense political campaigns such as we have now, rhetoric often echoes with accusations of a candidate being "socialist" or even "communist." If they are in favor of the government helping individuals or businesses weather difficult times or gain advantage over foreign competition, it is labeled as being "socialist."

Elon Musk (billionaire) has spoken out against higher taxes for the wealthy, is against subsidies for businesses and has stated that the government shouldn't control capital. Let's look at Musk's track record on those issues:

Musk's SpaceX got a \$2.89 billion contract with NASA in April 2021. Also he received a \$653 million contract with the Air Force in 2020. While not subsidies per se, it shows Musk is eager to do business with the big government he says "should not control capital."

Pandemic stimulus cash flowed to Musk in 2020 in the form of "payroll benefits." This he received while tweeting that individual citizens should NOT get personal aid from the federal stimulus package!!

Here are some more examples of Musk receiving government money:

►New York State gave \$750 million towards Musk's SolarCity plant in Buffalo, N.Y. SolarCity reported in 2015 it had received \$497.5 million in direct grants (outright subsidies) from the U.S. Treasury. A *Los Angeles Times* investigation shows that it was much higher at \$1.5 billion based on reported sales. SolarCity also received tax credits that covered 30 percent of the cost of photovoltaic systems that SolarCity installed.

►As of 2015, Tesla had sold \$517 million in environmental credits to its competitors, thanks to enabling government legislation. Tax credits to purchasers of electric vehicles also led to more sales of Tesla EVs.

►Nevada gave \$1.3 billion to Tesla in the form of tax breaks and other incentives to build a Tesla "gigafactory" in 2014.

►Texas gave Musk \$15 million in 2014 in the form of economic development subsidies. This was to build the world's first commercial rocket launch pad. Texas local and state officials changed state laws so as to be able to close a public beach

during launches and provide legal protection against noise lawsuits!

Sources: *Business Insider/Reuters/Los Angeles Times*

These are not the only examples of rich folks using the principle of OPM, (Other People's Money, a.k.a taxpayer's money) to become wealthy while posing as independent "Captains of Industry," and "anti-Socialists."

Mark Roalson
Hoyt Lakes

Trump's mental competency is increasingly in doubt

Democracy is based on the concept that the people have the right to determine by their vote who will be their leader. The U.S. Constitution's requirements to be President are that the person be 35 years or older, a natural born citizen of the United States, and a resident of the U.S. for at least 14 years. The judgment for further qualifications is up to the voters.

Candidate Trump's mental health has become a public issue. Trump, at age 78, is now the oldest major party nominee for President in history. His recent speeches are more incoherent and rambling. Trump's niece, Mary Trump, a clinical psychologist, wrote a book identifying disorders she believes he has. According to a recent article in the *New York Times*, "Trump has seemed confused, forgetful, incoherent, and disconnected from reality lately."

"Trump is never wrong," Trump said recently, adding "I am never, ever wrong." That is not true. During his previous presidential campaign, he said he would eliminate the federal deficit, which he did not do, but actually increased the debt by \$6.7 trillion while in office, the most in any four-year period under any previous president. He also said he would get Mexico to pay for the border wall. It never happened.

The importance of the mental condition acceptance of a presidential candidate is left to the voters. In the case of Trump, we can only judge his mental decline revealed by his public words and actions. He will not provide a public medical report by a competent and politically unbiased doctor, despite the fact that his predecessors have done so.

Gerry Snyder
Simsbury/Ely

COMMENTARY

Trump made fentanyl crisis worse; Biden and Harris have brought solutions

One of the many false narratives used by Donald Trump throughout his campaign for the White House is the notion that the fentanyl crisis is being fed by immigrants seeking a better future in America. As with so much of what comes out of Trump's mouth, this story is virtually pure



MARSHALL
HELMBERGER

a recent analysis of arrest records from U.S. Customs and Border Protection by the lib-

erty failures of his own chaotic administration.

Fentanyl has, indeed, been responsible for an unprecedented spike in drug overdose deaths in the U.S. since 2014, but there is zero evidence of a connection to illegal immigration. In fact, a

recent analysis of arrest records from U.S. Customs and Border Protection by the libertarian Cato Institute, found that 80 percent of those arrested for trafficking fentanyl across our borders were U.S. citizens. Virtually all of the remaining were non-citizens, but they were arrested at ports of entry, virtually all of them driving vehicles. As the Cato Institute points out, that's not how or where undocumented immigrants are coming across the border. Indeed, these foreign traffickers were simply entering the U.S. temporarily, as happens legally at both our northern and southern borders tens

of thousands of times a day. They just happened to be carrying illicit drugs.

Further evidence of the disconnect between undocumented immigration and fentanyl is found in the trend lines of overdose deaths from this synthetic drug. What Donald Trump would never acknowledge is that the sharpest rise in fentanyl deaths in the U.S. occurred under his administration. According to the Center for Disease Control, 68,647 Americans died of overdoses of all kinds between April

2018 and April 2019. By April 2020, that had jumped to 78,021 and then jumped to nearly 100,000 annual deaths by the time Trump left office, a 45 percent increase over just two years.

What's more, far from ignoring the problem as the former president did, the Biden/Harris administration has pursued a wide-ranging set of policy prescriptions that have remarkably slowed the flow of fentanyl into the country and reduced overdose deaths by as much as 30 percent in some Midwestern

states and about 20 percent nationally from the previous peaks. Overdose deaths from fentanyl will almost certainly be below the levels experienced under Trump by the time Biden leaves office if the current trends continue.

Unlike Trump, who sees tragedy as something to exploit for political benefit, the Biden/Harris administration undertook a series of effective policy prescriptions that most public health experts

See CRISIS...pg. 5

Week of October 14

Monday
Embarrass Al-Anon Family Group- Hope Lutheran Church, 5088 Hwy. 21, 6 p.m.
Tower City Council, 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 14

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.

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

Breitung Town Board- 6 p.m. on Oct. 17

Vermilion Country School Board- Meetings posted online at



TSHS weekly winner
TOWER- The Week 4 winner of a \$100 cash prize of the Charlemagne's 52 Club is Kate Larson of Elk River.

History Tidbit: Small towns were planned and platted near Tower but never fully developed. Hinsdale and Walsh are two of those places - Hinsdale is along the lakeshore between Tower and Cook, and Walsh is between Tower and Kugler.

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 brings the community together



Above: Breitung Police officers Isaac Karolczak, James Vukad, chief Dan Reing, and Jim Battin. Below (from left) Dan Reing dressed for the occasion, Shara Dostert and Alex Bromley volunteered at the auction table, Isaac's wife Angelica and their new baby Christopher stopped by for some tacos. photos by J. Summit

SOUDAN- The Breitung Police Department, with help from lots of family and friends, sponsored their third annual Tacos with Cops fundraiser on Oct. 5.

Authentic Mexican tacos with all the fixings were served, with food prepared by Breitung Police Chief Dan Reing's wife Ivette, with help from their extended family.

The Breitung Community Center had a line already formed before the food was even ready to be served, and a steady stream of lunch-goers came in all afternoon.

"This is Ivette's secret family recipe," said Dan, who said the taco filling was slow-roasted beef with special seasonings. The meal also included refried beans and rice.

The meal was by freewill donation. There were also basket raffles and a 50/50 raffle. All the funds raised are used for community outreach and youth programming done by the department, including educational programs done at the elementary and charter high school in Tower.



TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY



It's flag football season in Tower, with Scott Chiabotti and John Jirik coaching students once a week after school. The players also had a chance to play teams from North Woods this fall. Left: Dylan Crego moves the ball towards a touchdown. Above: Ayva Anderson grabbed the flag off runner Vincent Chosa. photos by J. Summit

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Lunch Bunch to meet on Oct. 17 in Aurora

AURORA- The Lunch Bunch will meet on Thursday, Oct. 17 at The Hive in Aurora at 12:30 p.m. RSVP to Kathy at 218-753-2530. Everyone is welcome to join the group for lunch and conversation.

Tower Food Shelf collecting backpacks and winter weather gear

TOWER- The Tower Food Shelf is seeking children- and adult-sized backpacks for their new "Fill the Pack Drive for the Needy." Backpacks can be dropped off at the Tower Food Shelf building, or call Kate with any questions at 763-528-5396. The food shelf will be filling the children's backpacks with snacks for children to have over the weekend, and the food shelf will be open on Fridays to hand out the backpacks. They will also be filling adult-size backpacks with supplies to hand out to needy adults. The food shelf is also

collecting cold weather gear to hand out to food shelf clients this fall.

Amanda Rasmusson receives Masters in Special Education

BEMIDJI- Amanda Rasmusson, of Embarrass, received a Masters degree in Special Education last spring from Bemidji State University. Bemidji State University is a member of the colleges and universities of Minnesota State. Learn more at bemidjistate.edu.

Scenic Rivers in Tower offering kids Halloween coloring activity

TOWER- Families in the Tower-Soudan area are invited to stop by the Scenic Rivers Medical Clinic in Tower to pick up a children's Halloween coloring page. Completed pages that are returned will be on display at the clinic, and all those who return a page will receive a treat bag!

Food Shelf taco dinner fundraiser on Nov. 1

TOWER- The Tower Food Shelf is hosting a taco fundraiser dinner on Friday, Nov. 1 from 5 - 8 p.m. at the Tower Civic Center. There will be a silent auction and antique bike auction. Donations can be mailed or brought to the Tower Food Shelf, 302 Spruce St., PO Box 533, Tower, MN 55790. Call Kate with any questions at 763-528-5396.

Tower Food Shelf rummage sale on Tuesday, Oct. 15

TOWER- The Tower Food Shelf is hosting a huge rummage sale on Tuesday, Oct. 15 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Donations of sellable items or cash are welcome and can be dropped off at the food shelf. During the sale, attendees can enter a drawing to win a child's four-wheel pedal bike. All proceeds will benefit the food shelf. Call Kate with any questions at 763-528-5396. Donations

can be dropped of the week-end of Oct. 12-13 or anytime during the day on Oct. 15.

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.

St. Martin's Christmas Bazaar set for Nov. 9

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 Christmas Bazaar set for Saturday, Dec. 7

TOWER- The annual Christmas Craft Show will be held on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Lamma Civic Center. Tables are available for \$25, paid in advance. The Tower-Soudan Civic Club will be selling coffee, treats, and lunch.

To reserve a table, contact Jodi at 218-753-2950 or mail you table fee to Friends of VCS, c/o Jodi Summit, PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790.

AROUND TOWN

Forsman Car Show and Burnout Competition



Visitors at the Jake Forsman Memorial Car Show and Burnout Competition looking over a DeLorean.

photo by C. Clark

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- Every year, the Jake Forsman Memorial Car Show and Burnout Competition brings classic cars, muscle cars, hotrods, and

roasters for a day of fun and burnt rubber in front of Ely City Hall. To date, the event has raised over \$50,000 in scholarships for local students training for careers in the mechanical and building trades.

This year's burnout competition had a twist. Kael Richards, a small business owner and former classmate of the late Jake Forsman, offered a \$250 prize on behalf of Righteous Republic Clothing early Saturday to

the winner of the morning burnout session. Tommy Nixon from Zimmerman snagged the impromptu prize in his black 1998 Chevrolet S10 pickup.

The prize prompted Fenske Tree Service to offer

\$250 on the spot to the winner of the afternoon burnout session. It was won by Vinnie Wood from Cotton with his 1991 Ford Mustang.

Wood and Nixon faced each other in the burnout finale, with Wood winning the competition. He took home a lighted desktop sign provided by Pengal's Basswood Trading Company as a prize.

The "Best in Show" award went to a legendary Ely car that was the envy of local teenage boys throughout the 70s and 80s. A&W proprietor Alan White would park his 1972 Camaro Z28 outside the restaurant on sunny summer days. It is now owned by his brother-in-law, Don Baltich. This year was the first time the Camaro was part of the car show.

Al Forsman, one of the organizers of the fundraising event remarked, "Clearly, our community embraces the spirit of giving and support that aligns with the mission of the Jake Forsman Memorial Scholarship. We are truly grateful to be able to lead this work funding the education of our future workforce. We couldn't do this without the generosity of time, talent, and treasure contributed by so many like-minded people. Thank you all for your support."

ELY HIGH SCHOOL HOMECOMING



After a week of school festivities, the Ely Memorial High School Band led the school's homecoming parade last Friday. The 10-block parade featured floats by all the high school classes. photo by C. Clark

Elyites graduate

BEMIDJI- Two Bemidji schools, Bemidji State University and Northwest Technical College, released their lists of Spring 2024 graduates on Oct. 3.

Elyite Alexander Barker graduated from Bemidji State with a Bachelor of Science in Aquatic Biology. Laurel Kaercher and Melissa Schroeter both graduated from Northwest Technical College. Kaercher earned a certificate as a community health worker. Schroeter received a diploma in practical nursing.

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. 15: Northwoods Volunteer Connection with Jo Swanson
- Oct. 22: TBA

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2024



clear skies, chilly nights
folks leaving town for winter

leaves move down the street

Libraries

Ely library

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

Babbitt library

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

Support groups

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous
OPEN AA - 7:30

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

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

ELY WOMEN'S OPEN
AA - Monday at noon at
Ledgerock Church, 1515 E.
Camp St., Ely.
BABBITT AA - 7 p.m.
Thursdays, Woodland
Presbyterian Church.

AL-ANON - Sundays
8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony's
Catholic Church in Ely.
BABBITT AL-ANON -
Thursdays, 7 p.m., at
Woodland Presbyterian
ADULT BASIC
EDUCATION GED
Study materials and pre-test
available.
Call 218-365-3359, or
1-800-662-5711.

CO-DEPENDENTS'
12-step support group, 4:00
p.m. Tuesdays, hosted by
Well Being Development,
Ely. *This meeting is sus-
pended temporarily while
Well Being Development's
Northern Lights
Clubhouse moves to its
new home.*

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.

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

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 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 Marguerite 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.

The Curiosity Cohort group will meet on Tuesday, Oct. 22, from 1:30-3 p.m. This session will be a hands-on class for teens and adults limited to 15 spots. The library will have a waitlist if all the class spots are filled. Register in advance so the library can order enough supplies for participants.

The library will celebrate Frankenstein Friday on Friday, Oct. 25, from 3:30-4:40 p.m. Learn about Frankenstein and do some Frankenstein-related projects.

"How to Say North with the Sutter Brothers" is a program coming to the library on Monday, Oct. 28, from noon-1 p.m. The program blends Ross Sutter's music and three-time Minnesota Book Award

winner Bart Sutter's poetry.

The library will hold an online Kahoot trivia game on the first three books in the Bridgerton series by Julia Quinn. The Kahoot will start at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 29, and end at 8 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 4. Participants must preregister for the Kahoot so the library can email the link for the game.

Stop by the library on Thursday, Oct. 31 in costume to receive a fun treat.

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

Babbitt Public Library

BABBITT- The library is now open on Fridays again.

Win an acrylic paint kit. Enter a photo of your work completed with the September drawing kit from the library and 321 Art Studio to be entered into a drawing to win the paint set. Send the photo to 321artstudio@gmail.com to enter.

The free monthly art kit for kids for October is colored pencil drawing. Pick one up at the library while supplies last.

The library has a take-and-make fairies kit for kids. Kids can take one free kit home. Pick one up while supplies last.

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 library will hold a

class on Tuesday, Oct. 15, at 2 p.m. to make your own decorative ghost. This is an adult-only class. Cost is \$5. Spots in the class are limited and registration is required. Stop at the library to register or call the library at 218-827-3345.

The Friends of the Library have a raffle 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.

The Ely for Ely Leadership Workshop

ELY- Registration for the Ely for Ely Leadership Workshop runs through Nov. 11. Register 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.

NLA 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 NLA website at northernlakesarts.org/2025-art-show-application.

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 reshooting 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.

Pile Burning Workshop

ELY- The U.S. Forest Service will hold a workshop on how to safely burn piles of hazardous woody debris on Saturday, Oct. 12, from 9 a.m.-noon in Room 104 at the Minnesota North College Vermilion Campus, 1900 E. Camp St. The workshop is free and no registration is required. The workshop will relocate to the Kawishiwi Ranger Station after the classroom portion for hands-on activities if the weather and wildfire danger conditions allow. Bring outdoor clothing and boots for the outdoor portion of the workshop.

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.

Oktoberfest Fundraiser

ELY- The Grand Ely Lodge will host the Oktoberfest fundraiser for the Ely Winter Festival on Saturday, Oct. 12, from 6-9 p.m. The event will feature a German dinner, cash bar, raffle, silent auction, dancing, costume contest, and prizes. Ely's own Largemouth Brass Ensemble will provide live music. Tickets are \$45.

NORTH COUNTRY ICON

ISD 2142 to see drop in pay levy receipts for 2025

Board delays appointing a replacement for vacant District 2 North Woods until October business meeting

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

CULVER- Their hands tied by a lag in state reporting of essential financial information, the ISD 2142 school board approved an unspecified maximum levy for the 2025-26 budget at a Sept. 24 meeting at South Ridge School, a ceiling that will still leave the district hundreds of thousand of dollars short of its needs.

"I can tell you we're going to see a decrease in the levy (funding)," district Finance Director Kim Johnson told the board. "The levy is not final yet at the Department of Education. We're going to be down probably close to half a million dollars versus last year, if not more. This is just the preliminary levy – when it comes to the final levy we will vote on the actual levy amount. So I'm

asking you to approve the levy at the maximum knowing it will be a reduction in the levy versus last year."

A spreadsheet Johnson provided to the *Timberjay* the next week revealed the shortfall is projected to be greater than the estimate she gave at the board meeting.

The total pay levy for 2024 was \$7,123,512. For 2025, that amount is projected to drop by 11.5 percent to \$6,336,022, a decrease of \$787,490.

It's a statutory requirement that the district set a maximum levy figure in September, with the general intent of looking for possible budget reduction that could lessen the figure and the impact on taxpayers when they set the final levy in December.

Board appointment
The board was scheduled to appoint a replacement

for District 2 North Woods member Nathan Briggs, who resigned the position as his family has moved to another state. Three applicants were listed on the agenda – Gwyneth Storm, Mallory Manick, and Caroline Roesch.

But board member Rob Marinaro objected, saying that he didn't know the candidates and didn't have enough information. He made a motion to delay the vote and invite the applicants to a meet and greet at the October working session. The motion passed, and the board will act to fill the vacancy at the October regular meeting.

Other business
In other business, the board:
➤ Heard a report on activities at South Ridge School from Principal Michael Johnson.
➤ Reviewed and approved the district's wellness

policy.
➤ Approved cooperative sports agreements for boys and girls cross country teams between Northeast Range, host district Ely, and Vermilion Country School, and wrestling with NER as the host school with Ely.
➤ Approved a two-year contract with Operating Engineers Local 70 for clerical staff.
➤ Hired Jennifer Kinler to a half-time equivalent position as an ECFE child educator and preschool teacher.
➤ Hired Serena Chavez, Jean Kirk, and Brianna Buschman as a paraprofessionals at NER.
➤ Hired Jennifer Brownlee as a part-time ECFE teacher for up to three hours a week at NER.
➤ Hired Trudy Pelach as a paraprofessional at North Woods.
➤ Hired Jamie Kuta-

la as a part-time preschool teaching assistant and ECFE teacher aide for a combined 11 hours per week, plus special events as needed.
➤ Hired Susan Thomas as an Indigenous Support Advocate I at North Woods.
➤ Hired Amy Buotto as an Indigenous Support Advocate II at North Woods.
➤ Hired Lori Schuler as a part-time Nutrition Employee II at North Woods.
➤ Hired Megan Breezee and Nina Sharo as van drivers at Tower-Soudan and Jennifer Brownlee as a van driver at NER.
➤ Hired Tara Flatley as a social worker at NER and Tower-Soudan.
➤ Hired Nina Sharp as a substitute van driver at Tower-Soudan.
➤ Hired Jordan Villebrun as assistant football coach at North Woods at half stipend.

➤ Accepted the retirement of Tower-Soudan Title I teacher Kathleen Meier.
➤ Accepted resignations from NER paraprofessional Ryan Nephew, North Woods nutrition employee April Ploof, Tower-Soudan van driver Megan Breezee, North Woods social worker Drusilea Donato, NER paraprofessional Hannah Peitso, North Woods Indigenous Support Advocate II Susan Thomas, North Woods paraprofessional Carlie Hadrava, NER nutrition employee Brianna Buschman, NER teacher Tara Flatley, and NER van driver Greg Rozier.
➤ Approved a voluntary reduction in hours for NER paraprofessional Jennifer Brownlee.

Cook council approves five percent levy increase

Standard required procedure sets maximum levy that could go lower later

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- The Cook City Council is looking at a preliminary property tax levy increase of five percent for 2025 after voting on the maximum levy at it's Sept. 24 meeting.

The preliminary general fund budget for 2025 proposes operating revenues of \$704,107, of which \$541,201.27 would be generated by the levy increase, which would be \$25,771.49 more than the current levy. When considering projected expenditures of \$694,200.50, the general fund would have a positive balance of \$9,906.50 under the proposed hike.

However, setting a maximum levy amount is September is a statutory requirement, and it can be lowered by the time the final levy and budget are approved in December.

And if the pre-meeting budget session to discuss the library and parks budgets as well as the proposed overall budget in any indication, a

lower level may be forthcoming given the level of scrutiny the budgets were given.

Council member Ron Bushbaum, appointed to the council in July to fill the unexpired term of Elizabeth Storm, was a primary driver of the inspection, having obviously reviewed documents thoroughly and armed with a host of questions about various line items.

One question Bushbaum asked was about an inconsistency he believed existed with the 2024 current levy amount.

"So in regards to your current levy budget of \$515,429, where did that number come from?" Bushbaum asked. "I'm looking at a document here from the auditor's office and there's just a little discrepancy with that, \$520,000."

City Administrator Theresa Martinson responded.

"Is that just the levy, or is that some small cities ...," she asked.

"The current pay 2024 levies, the budget certified to be collected is \$520,338 for

the city of Cook," Bushbaum said. "I've just seen some discrepancies, and I'm just looking for some consistency."

Many of the questions Bushbaum asked were answered through referrals to the city's past practices that he would not have necessarily been aware of as a new council member.

Bushbaum put his fiscal responsibility cap back on when it came time in the agenda for an update on the Vermilion Dr. road project. Engineer John Jamnick was not present to provide an update, nor was a written update provided.

"So there's no update to an \$853,000 project?" Bushbaum said. "I think the taxpayers deserve and update on that for sure."

And when it came time in the regular agenda to officially approve the maximum levy and proposed budget, Bushbaum cast the sole nay vote.

Library rebuild
Library Director Crystal Whitney kicked off a review of the status of repairs to the

library after damage from the June flood.

"Structurally, the building is good," Whitney said. "The asbestos cleanup is finished – that took longer than we thought it was going to. We still have limited house because our public bathroom has half walls and we have no furniture, and we really can't have people sitting there with no flooring. I have been in touch with SEH, who did the project planning for us for the roof and HVAC – some of that really needs to be done now because of flood-proofing measures. That's what we're hearing from FEMA, that we have to flood-proof the building, meaning we don't want water to get in again. But if it does, the materials that are in there, if they get wet there's less chance that it's as damaging as it was this time. So SEH is working with me – we're waiting for one last number from the city and then they should be able to get a proposal to me."

Both Whitney and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Dawn Kehoe discussed a recent

development that the city has been assigned a FEMA liaison manager to assist with the process of inputting expenses to public infrastructure that has occurred, including the library. Kehoe noted a challenge.

"We haven't received a full damage assessment with regards to the library," she said. "We're having a hard time finding an individual who's qualified to do that, so FEMA indicated they would go in and do that for us. Unfortunately, we're just up against timelines and how quickly this is going with FEMA."

Kehoe said a meeting with the FEMA liaison had been set for Oct. 7.

"Once that happens, I think you should start to see things fall into place," Whitney said. "I guess my worry is that it's going to get cold and we can't turn the heat on and there's no insulation on the inside walls, so I think we are going to have to do something if we're going to be open."

Other business
In other business, the

council:
➤ Heard from airport manager Doug McDuff that installation of the new weather monitoring system was complete and that he's waiting for the FAA to come turn it on.
➤ Approved a memorandum of understanding with the county for them to operate the city's emergency alert siren. The siren can be activated by city staff as well.
➤ Heard from council member Jody Bixby that owners of blighted properties who have been notified by the city and have not taken action to clean up their property have now been formally referred to the city attorney.
➤ Heard that the draft of the new city ordinance book, which will be available online, is in the review process. Councilors decided to schedule a special session dedicated to the project. The ordinance book also has to be reviewed by the city attorney.
➤ Awarded low bidder Lakes Gas the contract for the city's propane.

New helipad for fire brigade

LAKE VERMILION- On Wednesday, Sept. 25, North Memorial's Air Care Helicopter and crew flew to the Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade's parking lot to evaluate the newly completed Helispot.

The pilot, Wes Caple, and medical crew Linda Roberts and Olivia Tokarczyk, met with members of the LVFB and showed off their

new helicopter. The flight crew reviewed landing and other procedures with LVFB members.

The flight crew was highly complementary of the new landing zone that can now be used for medical emergencies as well as for logistical support with wild and residential fires and search and rescue operations. Upon completion of the LVFB

docks, for which the brigade continues to fundraise, there will be a complete system for handling emergencies in the rural Lake Vermilion area. Thanks go out to the IRRRB and St. Louis County for grants that supported this project, and as always, we thank our volunteers and our local supporters for this service to Lake Vermilion and the surrounding areas!



Top: North Memorial helicopter and crew. Right: Aerial view of new LVFB helipad. submitted



Cook-Orr Calendar

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 of 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.
Reception to kick off Martin memorial show at NWFA
COOK- October is the month of the Susan Martin Memorial Member Show at the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook.
The 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. The gallery is located at 210 S River St. in Cook.
Native artists and art sought for NWFA exhibit
COOK- Northwoods Friends of the Arts (NWFA) is inviting Native American artists and art owners to participate in an upcoming exhibit.
"Native American Art: Past and Present" will be featured from Thursday, Nov. 7 to Saturday, Nov. 30 at the NWFA Gallery, located at 210 S River St. in Cook.
Are you a Native American craftsman or artist or do you have Native American Art you would be willing to

share with the public? Examples are beading, painting, weaving, sculpture, birch bark baskets or pottery for the exhibit.
If you have art to exhibit, call or text Lyn Reed at 218-780-3633, Malita Spears at 218-944-1517, or Shawna Kishel at 218-780-6510. Whatever you have created or want to share will be welcomed at NWFA Gallery. Leah Rogne, George Strong, and Darren Landgren are also helping to reach local artists or art owners for participation, to coordinate deliveries, or make arrangements to pick up art objects between Friday, Nov. 1 through Monday, Nov. 4.
A public reception will be hosted at the gallery honoring the artists and the art-

work on Friday, Nov. 8 from 5-7 p.m. During November the NWFA Gallery is open Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. For a special occasion on Saturday, Nov. 9, the gallery will be open from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. along with many businesses in Cook for the "Fall into Christmas" shop local day.
The inaugural Native American art exhibit in 2023 was featured by Minnesota Public Radio host Emily Bright on her program "Art Hounds." Local artists Payton Counts and Theresa Drift were interviewed for the beautiful, poignant exhibit put together by the local Native American communities served by NWFA Gallery.

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 variety 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.



INTENSIFYING DROUGHT

Shell Lake fire prompts new closure in the Boundary Waters

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

REGIONAL - The Superior National Forest has closed a large area around Shell Lake in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness due to a small wildfire discovered earlier this week. The closure was issued on Oct. 8 and remains in effect until further notice.

SNF Supervisor Tom Hall has prohibited visitor entry on Agawato Lake, one campsite on Agawato Lake, two campsites on eastern end of Shell Lake, and the loop portion of

Dry conditions sparking other fires as well, but nothing major to date

the Sioux-Hustler Trail. The entry point to Devil's Cascade on the trail is still open.

The SNF has also posted alerts for Boundary Waters visitors at entry points 14 and 15 on the Echo Trail and alerted co-operators and outfitters of the fire activity.

The Shell Lake Fire is approximately a half-acre in size and is currently burning in timber with a mixed boreal forest component. It is suspected to be human caused;

however, an official fire investigation has not occurred yet.

An initial size-up of the fire from aircraft showed the fire was creeping, smoldering, and occasionally torching single trees. The fire has the potential to spread toward both the east near Agawato Lake and a portion of the Sioux-Hustler Trail, a roughly 35-mile hiking trail in the far northwestern portion of the 1.1 million-acre BWCAW.

Northern Minnesota is in

the midst of a flash drought as many parts of the region have seen less than a half inch of rain over the past six weeks, along with record warm temperatures. The conditions have created prime conditions for wildfire, although the area has avoided any major blazes to date.

Federal and state firefighters have responded to several wildfires in recent days. A smoky fire along a powerline in Vermilion

Lake Township burned about four acres late last week and required firefighters to spend days rooting out hotspots from dry peat soils. The Minnesota DNR, Minnesota Conservation Corps and the Vermilion Lake Volunteer Fire Department all responded to the incident.

The availability of firefighting suppression resources, including personnel and equipment, is limited due to large wildfires still occurring

in western states as well as the dispatch of firefighting resources supporting hurricane response efforts in eastern states. The National Preparedness Level was increased to 5, the highest level, on Oct. 8.

The map of the closure area and the official closure notice are on the USFS website at fs.usda.gov/alerts/superior/alerts-notices/ — click on the Shell Lake link on the right side of the webpage.

What's new this year

- Voters can return absentee ballots in person until 8 p.m. on Election Day.
- There are no restrictions on how many voters a person can assist at the polls.
- Registered voters can ask to be added to a permanent absentee voter list.
- Any citizen with a felony conviction who is not incarcerated can vote, although that law is being challenged.

Who can vote in Minnesota

To vote you must be:

- A U.S. citizen
- At least 18 years old on Election Day (16 and 17-year-olds can pre-register.
- A resident of Minnesota for 20 days.
- Not currently incarcerated for a felony conviction.
- Not under a court order that revokes your right to vote.

How to register to vote

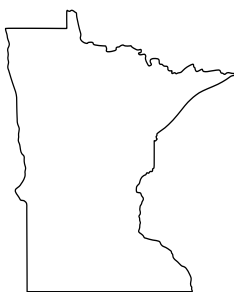
The deadline to register online or by mail is Tuesday, Oct. 15. If you miss that deadline, you can still register on Election Day.

To register online: Go to <https://mnvotes.sos.mn.gov/VoterRegistration/index> to register to vote.

To register by mail: You can download a paper application to register from the Secretary of State's website or in person at the county auditor's office in Virginia.

To register in person: Register during early voting or on Election Day. You'll need ID with your current address, such as a state driver's license, state or tribal ID. If you don't have these forms of identification, you'll need some kind of photo ID along with a bill, lease, or other document that confirms your name and address.

ELECTION 2024



HOW TO VOTE IN THE 2024 ELECTION

Key dates

Deadline to register in advance of Election Day:
Tuesday, Oct. 15

Deadline to return an absentee ballot:
Tuesday, Nov. 5, by 8 p.m.

Early voting days:
Friday, Sept. 20 to Monday, Nov. 4.

Election Day:
Tuesday, Nov. 5, polls open 7 a.m.- 8 p.m.

Do you need to show ID to vote?

No, but you'll need to show proof of residence if you have not voted in more than four years.

How to vote in a mail-in precinct

Voters in mail-in precincts, which includes many small or unorganized townships in St. Louis County, or cities smaller than 400 residents, can opt to conduct elections entirely by mail. Those voters registered in these areas will automatically be sent a ballot. Return it by mail in the return envelope provided or return it in person to a county election office. It must be received by 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 5.

Voting an absentee ballot

- Read the instructions that come with your ballot carefully.
- You will need a witness when you vote and complete your ballot. The witness can be either a registered Minnesota voter or a notary.
- Return the ballot and forms right away after you finish. Your ballot will not count if it is received after Election Day.

How to vote early

If you live in a rural township in St. Louis County, you'll need to early vote (which can be done through an absentee ballot) at the county auditor's window at the Virginia Government Services Center, located at 201 3rd Av. W in Virginia. Hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. If you're a Bois Forte band member, you can early vote one day only, on Wednesday, Oct. 16 from noon-6 p.m. in the Eagle Room of the Bois Forte Tribal Government Building, located at 5344 Lakeshore Dr. in Nett Lake.

Residents in the cities of Babbitt, Cook, Ely, Tower and Virginia can early vote absentee at their local city hall during regular office hours. Remember that only residents within the city limits of these communities are allowed to vote at their city hall. Residents of outlying townships wanting to vote early will need to do so at the county office in Virginia listed above unless their township is providing other early voting options.

VOTING...Continued from page 1

racy test and we'll be doing that on Thursday — that's for our unorganized precincts. Testing our absentee ballot counters and local jurisdiction public accuracy testing is going to start probably within this week."

Some polling places in other parts of the country have had security issues in prior elections, but Chapman said at the moment he's not aware of any issues that might affect St. Louis County.

"St. Louis County has been pretty good compared to some of the situations we've

seen in other states and counties," Chapman said. "But we are in constant communication with the Secretary of State, FBI, and law enforcement, just keeping that open line of communication and monitoring things to make sure that we're on top of it.

In June, the Republican National Committee launched an initiative to mobilize thousands of polling place "monitors," mostly in swing states, a move prompted by the false claims of widespread voter fraud in the 2020 propagated by presidential candidate

Donald Trump. Critics of the initiative claim the GOP effort is really aimed at voter intimidation. In Minnesota, however, state law has provisions that would reduce the impact of such surveillance here.

Only election officials, individuals who are waiting to register or to vote, or someone conducting exit polling are allowed within 100 feet of a building in which a polling place is located. Voters must be allowed to pass without unlawful interference. There are additional restrictions

covering who can be inside a polling place while the vote is being conducted.

However, once the polls close, the rules change.

"After the polling is over, it's open to the public," Chapman said. "The public can go in to monitor or watch the tabulation and the judges balancing and filling out their summary statements. But even though they're allowed to be at the polling place to observe the process, they can't interfere with or intimidate the judges. But during the day, it's restricted — you can't just

go into a polling place and observe. That's not allowed."

Those who need to register to vote should be aware that next Tuesday, Oct. 15 is the last day to register to have one's name appear in the official voter roll at the polls. Voters may register up to and including Election Day. Chapman recommended using the [mnvotes.org](https://mnvotes.sos.mn.gov) website to register ahead of time and added that the site includes a list of required documents a voter needs to bring to their polling place to register on Election Day.

Chapman had a message for county voters.

"My message would be to encourage people to get out and vote, regardless of the method they choose to vote," Chapman said. "I think it's important that people get out and make their voices heard. Absentee or polling place, it makes no difference. Just get out and vote to get your voice heard."

LAWSUITS...Continued from page 1

planning commission's decision to allow for expansion of the resort property "from 13 dwelling units to 62 dwelling units." Citing Lake County ordinances and state lakeshore rules, the DNR contends in its filing that "the planning commission lacked authority to grant a permit for such a large increase in the number of units."

The DNR contends the commission could have approved no more than 29 dwelling units under its ordinance. "Therefore, the planning commission erred in failing to follow its own ordinance and by approving an increase to 62 dwelling units," states the DNR's legal brief filed in the Sixth District court in Two Harbors. The DNR also cites violations over the number and distribution of mooring slips as well as the apportioning of open space within the development.

CARD's filing asks the court for an injunction along with an order requiring the county to retract its decision, while the DNR is asking the

court to require Lake County to redo its conditional use permit and plat for the project to comply with "local shoreland law." Both lawsuits ask the court to require Lake County to pay all costs and attorneys' fees for the plaintiffs.

The DNR is being represented by Attorney General Keith Ellison. CARD, which now claims over 300 members, is represented by the Taft Stettinius & Hollister Law Firm, based in Minneapolis.

Included in CARD's 125-page court filing are numerous exhibits that plaintiffs believe show that members of the planning commission knew that the conditional use permit they approved on Sept. 4, 2024, was in violation of county ordinance and state law.

Perhaps the most damning of those exhibits is a spreadsheet, apparently prepared by Lake County planning staff, that shows the allowable number of residential or rental units that would be allowed near the waterfront (known as the first tier) and

how many would be allowed in the second tier, located further inland. According to the spreadsheet, the most units that could be allowed in the first tier under the county's ordinance was 14, with 15 allowed in the second tier, which is exactly what CARD and the DNR have maintained from early in the process.

In the end, the planning commission inexplicably approved a conditional use permit allowing 33 units in the first tier and 29 units in the second.

"The record is indisputably clear that Silver Rapids' planned resort, according to its development plans and application submittals, mischaracterized the permitted use of the resort property, and exceeded — by double — the maximum densities permitted for such property under both local and state law," notes the attorneys for CARD in their court filing.

The project developers, who hope to build 49 luxury condominiums at the site along with additional docking, a new

lodge, and improvements to other existing buildings, had argued that the project should fall under less restrictive state rules for commercial planned unit developments. Yet the county spreadsheet showed that even under the state rules, no more than 27 units would be allowed in the first tier, with 21 in the second tier.

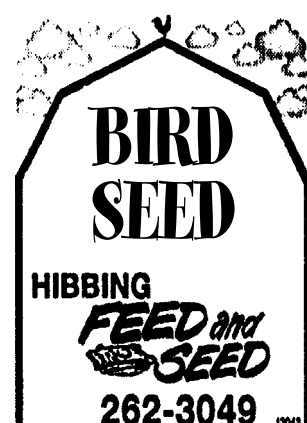
In either case, the Minnesota DNR had informed county officials ahead of the decision that the stricter county ordinance, rather than the state's shoreland rules, was the controlling standard for the project.

CARD calls the county's approval of the applications "unlawful, arbitrary, and capricious," and adds that the county and its administrator for its planning staff, Christine McCarthy, the director of Lake County Environmental Services, had "no excuse" for their failure to deny the applications. The *Timberjay* reached out to McCarthy by email with questions on whether her office had ever informed planning commis-

sion members that the permit and plat they were considering violated both local ordinance and state law. It's not clear that the spreadsheet, which implies county awareness of their violations, was ever presented to planning commission members, or if they understood its significance. McCarthy said she could not comment given the ongoing litigation. Lake County administrator Matthew Huddleston did not respond substantively to other questions posed by the *Timberjay*.

In a comment after the filing, CARD attorney Adam Niblick expressed surprise at the county planning commission's actions. "Regardless of how one feels about this particular development project, the fact remains — and the DNR's separate lawsuit confirms — that Lake County government officials knowingly defied state and local law and then doubled down when confronted with their wrongdoing," Niblick said. "That should alarm all taxpaying citizens of Lake County."

Niblick noted that his firm has been involved in the public process on the development from the early stages and had made the planning commission well aware of their view that the decision ultimately made by the commission was illegal. In addition, officials with the DNR had expressed similar concerns to county staff, warning in a Sept. 13 letter that the county could well face legal action if it failed to reverse its decisions regarding the Silver Rapids development.



ACCIDENT...Continued from page 1

family members were able to swim back to the island, but Grossheim did not resurface. His body was recovered after a three-hour search assisted by the U.S. Border Patrol, the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office, and the Kabetogama Fire Department.

Ramsay said that Grossheim was wearing a self-inflating life jacket, which

was supposed to inflate upon contact with water.

Grossheim had served as a law enforcement ranger at Voyageurs National Park for over 20 years. He was also an instructor for the Motorboat Operator Certification Course (MOCC) and a volunteer with the Kabetogama Fire Department and EMS.

"(Grossheim) really had

a servant's heart, and he died doing what he liked to do, and that was helping people," Ramsay said.

Grossheim began his career as a seasonal ranger in 1993 and later worked at Boston National Historical Park and Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore before his long tenure at Voyageurs. Park Superintendent Bob

DeGross expressed his condolences, describing Grossheim as someone who "was much loved by all and always known to go above and beyond. He will be greatly missed. Our hearts go out to his wife and their loved ones."

In honor of Grossheim's selfless act and passing, National Park Service Deputy Director Frank Lands ordered

flags to be flown at half-staff at national parks through Oct. 9. Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz also ordered that U.S. and state flags at all state buildings be flown at half-staff in honor of Grossheim, and encouraged private citizens and businesses to do the same.

"Kevin Grossheim was a dedicated ranger and public servant, known for his

unwavering commitment to helping others," said Walz. "Minnesota mourns this tragic loss, and requests all flags be lowered in recognition of Ranger Grossheim's service and sacrifice."

The incident remains under investigation. Details regarding memorial services for Grossheim are still being finalized.

GROSSHEIM...Continued from page 1

willing to help and was quiet, stayed in the background, didn't tooth his own horn ever at all. He was just such a valuable member of our community."

At the park

Grossheim was a member of the park's "old guard," those folks who've made working at VNP their life's work, and according to park superintendent Bob DeGross, Grossheim was right where he belonged.

"His career was 28-years long with the National Park Service, and 23 years that was here at Voyageurs," DeGross said. "From my conversations with him, and of course, I can't speak for him, but I think that's because he found his place here. He truly loved Voyageurs."

VNP Wildlife Biologist Steve Windels, another of the park's old timers, reflected on Grossheim's work.

"I've worked with Kevin since I got to Voyageurs in July 2003—we are some of the last remnants of that era," Windels said. "Kevin was always the guy who was there to help, always the guy who had his eyes and ears open to what was going on. Even though he was a little shy, I would describe him as a people person. He loved boat training every year. He enjoyed meeting people and more importantly wanted to make sure they had what they needed. The amazing thing about Kevin is that he never stopped putting other people first because that was his job, to make sure others were safe."

He took a shine in particular to the park's seasonal staff and volunteers, knowing they would need some of his knowledge of the park, and in particular the Namakan

basin, knowledge that was as wide and deep as the waters he patrolled.

"He has taken many of the seasonal staff and volunteers on tours of the park to help them become more familiar with the area and better be able to answer visitors' questions," said VNP Program Manager for Interpretation, Outreach and Partnerships Kate Severson. "Kevin's name was mentioned to me several times by the volunteers and seasonal rangers when I first started. They said he was the person to go to to get things fixed at the Kabetogama Visitor Center, that he had beautiful photos of the park to share for our social media pages, and that he would be the best person to show me around the lakes because he has been here so long and knows them so well. I don't think Kevin saw himself as just law enforcement—he was the heart of the park team."

"He was definitely not just law enforcement," DeGross said. "He was a jack of all trades and assisted in whatever he could. He was always very committed to going out and helping with facility maintenance stuff when it was needed or helping out in our interpretation and education program. He was definitely one of those people who was integral to making sure that there was a team spirit, making sure he fostered that team to the greatest extent possible."

As a law enforcement ranger, Grossheim often teamed up with now retired DNR Conservation Officer Lloyd Steen, of Ray, when circumstances called for more than one responder.

"My overarching feeling about Kevin knowing him through the years is that he

was a very kind-hearted soul," Steen said. "He was always professional, but he was also very personable, very easy to get along with, and he really pushed safety within the park."

Speaking to Steen's point, Grossheim received the park's annual safety award this year.

"And whenever we ended up in an enforcement situation, he was capable," Steen said. "I always felt that he could handle himself, but he favored more of the safety training and the medical."

It was Grossheim's emergency medical background that brought him into contact about 17 years ago with Alyssa Richards, then coordinating EMS services for St. Croix National Scenic Riverway and Grossheim doing the same at VNP. "We worked a lot together with EMS and search and rescue," Richards said. "We started this cool concept of doing an EMT refresher just with the parks, and it was awesome. They would come down, Apostle Islands would come down, and we concentrated on what we do in the parks instead of a generic EMT refresher. This was back in the day, like 2007 to 2014."

For many years, Grossheim was also the lead instructor for the park's motorboat certification course, DeGross said.

"He was the lead of the six to eight instructors that we have and put a lot of effort into making sure that people knew how to operate safely," DeGross said.

Warrington witnessed some of Grossheim's work and spoke glowingly about the experience.

"We were just so impressed with those young men and how he treated them,

and they respected him," Warrington said. "You could tell that they enjoyed being around Kevin and he was amazing with them. He just taught them so well and the time and effort he put into the curriculum was I'm sure way beyond the scope of what he was required to do."

And Grossheim was passionate about connecting the park with its surrounding communities.

"He was always the one who was the biggest advocate of making sure we were involved with the Fourth of July parade at International Falls, or we were involved and participated in whatever might be going on at any of our gateway communities," DeGross said. "He recognized the need to connect with the community."

Kabetogama

If someone wonders who fixed a piece of play equipment in the community playground, Warrington would be glad to tell them that it was Grossheim.

"There's a little teeter totter airplane toy and the propeller was broken," she said. "He took it on himself, he got the part, and he repaired it and had it fixed for the kids so no one would get hurt on it."

And besides all the little things he did for the community, his most important contribution may have been working with the Kabetogama emergency medical service and fire department.

CARBON...Continued from page 1

a way to reap economic benefit from the land without commercial development through the sale of carbon credits for the forested property.

Carbon credits are a means for companies to meet required emissions standards for carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gasses. For example, a company's operations may emit 43 metric tons of carbon dioxide, but is required to meet a standard of only 40 metric tons of emissions. By purchasing three carbon credits, the company is considered to be in compliance. And carbon credits can act as incentives to reduce emissions, too. Per the example, if the company cuts its emissions of CO₂ to 38 metric tons, they can sell two of their carbon credits to someone else.

"We didn't know what carbon credits were," Chavers said. "Then along came the National Indian Carbon Coalition (NICC). They asked if we wanted to use our 28,000 acres for carbon credits. So basically, we're doing economic development. We're getting money or funding. We're developing the land (using sustainable management). We're leaving it as is. The forest will stay the same."

Chavers said that NICC staff made several trips to review the property to make sure that it was suitable for the carbon credit program and gave credit to the band's forestry and natural resource staff for their work in facilitating the process.

"We're the first tribe ever to get this much land back, and we're nationally known for that," Chavers said. "Now we're being nationally recognized for this carbon credit project."

The band talked with NICC about who they would like to sell their carbon credits to, and they decided to choose more environmentally friendly companies.

"We chose not to go with

the gas and oil industries because they harm our environment," Chavers said. We want to go with industries or companies that are doing good and have the ability to really work out a good partnership with them. We're kind of going on a new journey, but it will be a good journey, and it will be very beneficial for the future of Bois Forte and for our children in years to come."

The tribal council has already committed to using SFIA money for natural resources program services, staffing needs, and other support, and Chavers said the carbon credit program will provide extra funds to go toward such activities.

Learning more

NICCCarbonCo-Benefits Director Chase Christopherson had a slide show that explained the program in more detail, but the primary reason he had for being there was community engagement.

"We are a tribal-led program where we work specifically with tribes on exploring and developing really ecosystem-based marketplaces and revenue generation primarily in the carbon market," Christopherson said. "The reason we're here today is to do some community outreach, to really meet with all of you to see what you value, what you like, what you don't like, and really what you would like to be done with this reacquired 28,000 acres. I'm responsible for ensuring that not only are the climate impacts and climate aspects of a carbon project met, but also that the community not only is unaffected by this project activity, but that you benefit from it as well, in addition to the biodiversity of the surrounding areas."

Toward that end, there were several stations set up in the room, staffed by forestry and natural resources personnel, where attendees

were given the opportunity to contribute their goals for forest management, such as facilitating use for traditional tribal activities and biodiversity.

"The plant species, animal species that you want to see either brought back to your lands or that you want to see supported and propagated within these areas."

Christopherson noted that the project involves collaboration beyond NICC and Bois Forte.

"We are working in partnership with The Nature Conservancy as well as Terra Carbon—they are two non-profit developers."

Terra Carbon brings a unique aspect to the project by helping to ensure that it is managed to mitigate climate change, generate social and environmental benefits, and protect biodiversity by following climate, community, and biodiversity standards. "This is the first type of project done in Indian country in North America," Christopherson said. "We really have a chance here to show that tribes manage their forest and land (by these standards) but that they do it better than anyone else. I think we're going to accomplish that."

Christopherson emphasized that this was just the beginning for getting the community involved, and that NICC would be back numerous times to facilitate more.

Ecological Resources Program Director Chris Holm has been designated as the band's project lead, and while he had hoped for a larger turnout for Tuesday's meeting, he said he believes more band members will get involved as they see the band's commitment to the project and understand the benefits to come from it.

A second session was held on Wednesday for members living in the Vermilion sector.

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VOLLEYBALL

Ely's gauntlet rolls on

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

ELY — The Timberwolves continued their dominance in Section 7A volleyball action this past week, notching six more match wins, including four straight victories on Saturday to take first at the Mesabi East tournament.

On Tuesday, the Wolves

capped the week's success with an overwhelming beat-down of Mt. Iron-Buhl. Ely took it 25-7, 25-6, and 25-15. Eleven Ely players combined for 33 kills, 43 digs, and 19 ace serves in the rout. Sophomore Audrey Kallberg proved the chief assassin, with 12 kills, followed by senior Lilli Rechichi with eight. Senior Clare Thomas led in digs,

with eight, and aces, with six. Sophomore setter Gretta Lowe added 31 assists and five digs.

At Bigfork on Monday, the Wolves beat the Huskies twice in three days as they took three straight sets 25-20, 25-11, and 25-19. Lilli Rechichi dominated at the net for the Wolves, notching 12 kills, along with nine digs. Kallberg added seven kills and a dozen digs,

Right: Ely sophomore Audrey Kallberg goes up for a block during Tuesday's rout over Mt. Iron-Buhl.

photo by J. Greeney

while sophomore Charlotte Hegman posted six kills and 12 digs. Junior Sadie Rechichi added 12 digs on the night.

See **ELY GIRLS...**pg. 2B



FOOTBALL

Grizzlies fall 47-12 to Cherry

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELDTWP — Fans of big play football games got their fill at Friday's North Woods home football game against Cherry, but the Tigers came up with far more of them in chalking up a 47-12 win over the Grizzlies.

The Grizzlies defense turned in what was arguably the first big play of the game when, trailing 7-0, Nick Abramson sacked the Cherry quarterback for a six-yard loss, a play that after a subsequent incompletion set up a daunting fourth-and-25 for the Tigers at the North Woods 40. But instead of punting, the Tigers flipped the big play tables on the Grizzlies with a 40-yard touchdown pass.

Despite the lapse, the Grizzlies defense largely held their own against a Cherry squad that had rolled up 64 points against Cass Lake-Bena, thwarting multiple Tigers drives and keeping the score close late into the half. North Woods had some success moving the ball on offense, but had a pair of drives fizzle out in Cherry territory.

It looked as though the Grizzlies would get out of the half without any more damage after stopping another Cherry drive at the North Woods 22 with only 50 seconds left, but the Tigers defense came up with a big play on a fumble recovery just five seconds later. With a short field to

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



CROSS COUNTRY

Ely runners fare well at home

Over 400 runners from more than a dozen schools competed at Ely Golf Course

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

ELY — Over 400 high school and junior high cross country runners swarmed the Ely Golf Course last Thursday for the annual Ely Invitational meet to run under a partly-cloudy sky and favorably cool temperatures.

The home team acquitted themselves well in the varsity races, with the Ely girls placing fourth among nine teams and the boys taking fifth among 13 schools.

Anna-Britta Helmer of Duluth East paced her team to the championship by winning the girls 5K in a time of 19:07.

Molly Brophy led the way for the Wolves

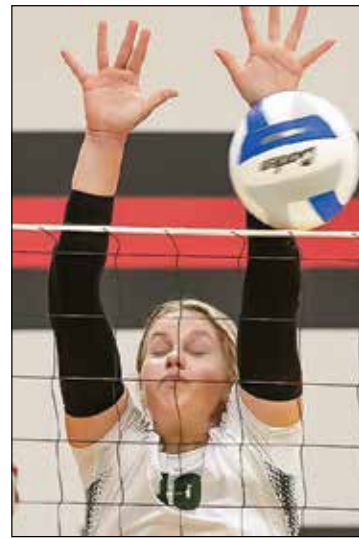
Above: Ely's Molly Brophy sprints to the front of the pack at the start of the girls varsity 5K at the Ely Invitational meet on Thursday.

Right: Ely's Caid Chittum near the start of the boys race.

photos by D. Colburn

with a sixth-place effort, notching a time of 19:41.3. Mattie Lindsay finished 21st in the field of 130 runners with a time of 20:53.6. Other Ely runners who finished in the top third of the field included Isabella Macho, 32nd in 22:04.7, Katy Brophy, 39th in 22:26.7, and Elsa Ellerbroek, 44th in 22:34.6. Brandy Strange,

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



The Nighthawks' Else Bee goes up for a block during tourney play against North Woods on Saturday. photo by D. Colburn

VOLLEYBALL

Grizzlies face tougher going

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELDTWP — It was a mixed bag for the North Woods volleyball team this past week as the Grizzlies went 2-2 at a tournament at Mesabi East on Saturday and picked up a convincing 3-0 road win at Nashauk-Keewatin on Monday.

Prior to a tournament at Rock Ridge earlier this season, North Woods Head Coach Kaileen Redmond noted that her team was "notorious for having slow starts first thing in the morning," and the Chisholm Bluestreaks turned that to their advantage in the first match of the day at Mesabi East, breezing to a 25-16 win in the first game. The Grizzlies roared back in a torrid second game that went to extra points, but riding the momentum of their opening victory the Bluestreaks eeked out a 29-27 win to take the match 2-0.

After sitting out the next round, North Woods righted the ship in a

See **VOLLEYBALL...**pg. 2B

FOOTBALL

Warriors dominate Wolves 37-8

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

ELY — Homecoming proved a home drubbing for the Timberwolves this past Friday as Deer River racked up more than 340 yards of offense

Left: Ely quarterback Sean Merriman looks for running room during Friday's game with Deer River.

photo by M. Helmberger

enroute to a 37-8 victory before a large homecoming crowd.

Ely set the tempo in their opening drive, as they initially moved the ball only to lose it to a fumble in Deer River territory. It was the story of the night as turnovers and penalties seemed to stymie every one of Ely's attempts at a sustained drive.

"I felt we came out firing but shot ourselves in the foot with penalties,"

said Ely Head Coach Louie Gerzin. "We were moving the ball down the field and had drives stall because of mistakes."

The Wolves certainly had their chances. In the first quarter, they recovered a Deer River fumble at midfield but holding penalties kept pushing them back.

The Warriors, who faced their own

See **ELY FOOTBALL...**pg. 2B



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HEALTH CARE

Ely Community Health Center to offer dental fillings in the summer

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- The Ely Community Health Center has extended their affordable dental care to fillings and extractions over the summer and will be able to offer them again next year from May into October. The nonprofit offers dental care for those with state-funded insurance and offers sliding scale services for those with private or no insurance.

“We never turn patients away due to financial inability to pay for services,” stated Mary Bianco, M.D., chair of the center’s board of directors.

Bianco credited the extension of dental care in the sum-

mer to the efforts of volunteer Thomas Kvanbeck, D.D.S. Kvanbeck recently retired after operating his own dental practice in Wisconsin. Bianco said Kvanbeck was “excited to give back to our community.” He will be spending his summers at his Ely cabin and some of his spare time while here providing fillings and extractions at the center’s dental clinic.

The expansion adds to the services the center’s registered dental hygienists already offer, including cleaning teeth, taking X-rays, and performing fluoride treatments and oral cancer screenings. With the center’s mobile dental equipment, they also provide dental services on-site at Boundary Waters Care Center and Carefree Living

Ely.

Free medical clinic

In addition to dental care, the center’s free walk-in medical clinic is open on Thursday evenings from 5:30-7 p.m. at 33 E. Chapman St. No appointment is necessary. The volunteer staff of physicians, nurses, and nurse practitioners offers a slate of no-cost services, including chronic illness management, treatment of acute illnesses and minor injuries, prescription refills, physicals, and education.

Insurance help

The center’s executive director, Helen Tome, is a certified MNSure navigator. She is

a trained assistance provider in helping area residents find and apply for health insurance, including the public programs like MinnesotaCare and Medical Assistance.

Health insurance navigation and dental care services require an appointment. The center can be contacted by calling 218-365-5678 or emailing director@elycommunityhealth.org. The center’s website is elycommunityhealth.org.

The Ely Community Health Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Donations help the center continue to provide health and dental care to the local community.

Right: Dentist Thomas Kvanbeck at the clinic. submitted



Tower to participate in Northeast Regional Ambulance Initiative

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- Members of the Tower Ambulance Commission, along with Tower Ambulance Supervisor Dena Suihkonen, and Tower Council Member Kevin Norby will participate in the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital’s newly-formed Northeast Regional Ambulance Initiative.

The new working group will include directors from the Ely, Tower, and Babbitt ambulance services, an Ely

Area Ambulance Service board member, and one representative from each city or township considering involvement in a regionalized ambulance service. The first meeting of the group is set for Oct. 18.

The meeting will be overseen by SafeTech, the group that EBCH hired to produce the regional ambulance study.

The commission discussed the new working group at its meeting on Oct. 7.

“I think this will be to gauge if all three ambulance

services are interested in a regional service,” said Suihkonen, who added she heard that SafeTech was working on getting more information on the financial implications of creating a regional service.

“That needs to be the first step,” said TAS member Matt Tuchel. “There are definitely positives and negatives.” The plan would need approval from all three ambulance services to proceed, and it calls for the Ely-Bloomenson Hospital to oversee and manage the regional service.

Members at the TAS meeting all seemed in favor of learning more about a regional service, especially if it could provide ALS service to the area, something the Tower Ambulance Service is not currently equipped to do (though ALS service is provided cooperatively from the Virginia Ambulance Service.) The big outstanding questions about such a regional service include the cost and what type of financial subsidies would be required, as well as how many ambulances would be stationed in the area.

The Tower Ambulance Service is financially more stable than last year, with a bank balance of \$78,161 at the end of August, although Suihkonen reported that the service still needs to pay its workmen’s compensation insurance which is around \$20,000. The ambulance replacement fund is in a rebuilding phase, at \$15,145, after the purchase of the new ambulance in August, though some of the participating townships have yet to make their 2024 payments.

The new ambulance has been driven 2,793 miles so

far, Suihkonen reported, and the 2019 rig, rated in good condition, has 92,157 miles, which includes 14,364 miles so far this year. Ambulance calls to date this year are up from previous years.

The commission decided to put the 2013 GMC rig up for sale on an ambulance trading site. Any proceeds from the sale would go into the ambulance replacement fund.

The commission will hold its next regular meeting on Jan. 6, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

Obituaries and Death Notices

Raymond L. Marsnik

Raymond L. “Ray” Marsnik, 83, of Ely, passed away peacefully in his home on Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024. A Funeral Mass will be held on Saturday, Oct. 19 at 11 a.m. at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church in Ely with visitation one hour prior to the service at the church. Lunch will follow. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

Ray was born in Ely to George and Mary Kalsich Marsnik on March 2, 1941. He was the youngest of 13 children. He graduated from Ely Memorial High School in the class of 1959, Ely Junior College and Bemidji State University, where he received his master’s degree. He taught for 35 years in the Lake County Schools, Biwabik and Mesabi East Schools. He coached football and basketball for many of those years. He retired from teaching in 1998. He served on the Ely School Board from 2001 to the present. He was set to retire this year. He served as board chair for most of those years. Education and sports were his passion. He especially loved the Minnesota

Golden Gophers. He married his wife Pat on Dec. 30, 1982.

Ray is survived by his two stepchildren, Trish (Barry) Weisinger and John (Heather) Scufsa; five grandchildren, Emily (Danny) Forsman, Stephen (Becky Murphy) Weisinger, Addison Scufsa, Rebekkah Scufsa and Rachael Scufsa; great-grandson, Isaiah Forsman; sisters, Ruth Mahin and Jeanette McManus; sisters-in-law, Beth Petersen and Barb (Steve) Fultz; brothers-in-law, Bob Baier and Charlie McNulty; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Pat; and siblings, Marie Yakich, Frances Weiler, Leo Kuzma, Donald Kuzma, George Marsnik, Albert Marsnik, Leonard Marsnik, Bernard “Fuzzy” Marsnik, Annette Marsnik and Lori McNulty.

Thomas J. Efta

Thomas J. Efta, 70, of Babbitt, passed away on Sunday, Oct. 6, 2024, at his home. Funeral arrangements are pending with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

Georgia tourist takes plea bargain for Ely assault

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- The Georgia tourist who assaulted his parents and a St. Louis County Deputy in the face in July has used the rare Norgaard plea to dodge a felony conviction in a plea bargain deal reached Sept. 30.

While intoxicated, Dylan Scott Williams of Centre, Ala., caused an incident at the Grand Ely Lodge

on July 13. Williams, his parents, wife and child were in Ely for a wedding. As reported in the July 26 issue of the Timberjay, during the fracas to restrain Williams, he kicked Deputy Micah Hughes in the face while resisting arrest.

Williams was charged with felony assault of a peace officer, two gross misdemeanor counts of assault and obstruction, and three misdemeanor counts of do-

mestic assault. He spent five days in the St. Louis County Jail after his arrest.

Williams’ plea bargain dismissed the felony charge, both gross misdemeanors, and one of the misdemeanor assault charges. He was convicted of two misdemeanor felony assault charges and sentenced to five days in jail. Because he has already spent five days in incarceration, he was credited for the time already served.

Williams used the rare Norgaard plea, which is unique to Minnesota. In a Norgaard plea, a defendant admits to a crime but doesn’t remember committing it because of being intoxicated or mentally ill. The Norgaard plea is named after a 1993 Minnesota Supreme Court case, *State of Minnesota v. Norgaard*, when the court first allowed the plea.

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Outdoors

Our lives in the
Northwoods

HUNTING SUCCESS

Blockbuster bear numbers, mixed reports on ruffed grouse

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Bear hunters are reporting one of their best seasons in years as a poor natural food crop has brought bears into baits like hunters haven't experienced since at least 2021.

As of this week, with the season set to end Sunday, hunters had registered 3,333 bears,

already the highest harvest in more than five years.

"We kind of expected a good hunting season because of the limited natural foods," said Courtney Clark, assistant area wildlife manager for the Department of Natural Resources in Tower.

But the numbers are surprising even wildlife managers as hunter success this year is exceeding 60 percent in some

areas. In zone 25, for example, hunters have registered 215 bears out of 325 total permits issued by the DNR. That's a success rate of 66 percent. Zone 25 includes far northern St. Louis and eastern Koochiching counties.

In zone 31, which encompasses the entire North Shore, inland to the Ely and Embarrass areas, hunters have registered 242 bears out of 400 permits issued, a success rate of 60 percent.

Statewide, hunters registered 1,203 bears on the opening day of the season, nearly as many as the just over 1,500 bears registered all last season. Last year, abundant natural foods limited hunter success.

This year's high harvest could impact the DNR's efforts to continue to recover the bear population, which was depleted after

See **HUNTING**, pg. 5B



HIKING THE BWCAW

Seven miles to the Devil's Cascade

Or 14 miles there and back on a day hike along the Sioux Hustler trail

"It looks like it's about five miles." It turns out I would regret those words, at least a little.

I've long had a difficult time convincing people to accompany me on my little adventures, which I regularly write about in these pages. Snowshoe slogs across the Lost Lake Swamp. River canoeing through rapids, which can (and sometimes do) involve capsizing. Or long(ish) hikes through the Boundary Waters.

the distances involved when I'm looking for a fellow adventurer.

So it was with my suggestion of a day hike up the Sioux Hustler trail, which heads north from the Echo Trail, completing a 35-mile loop through the far northwestern end of the Boundary Waters.

I wasn't suggesting the entire 35 miles on a Saturday. The plan was to hike as far as

Devil's Cascade at the north end of Lower Pauness Lake, which is part of the Little

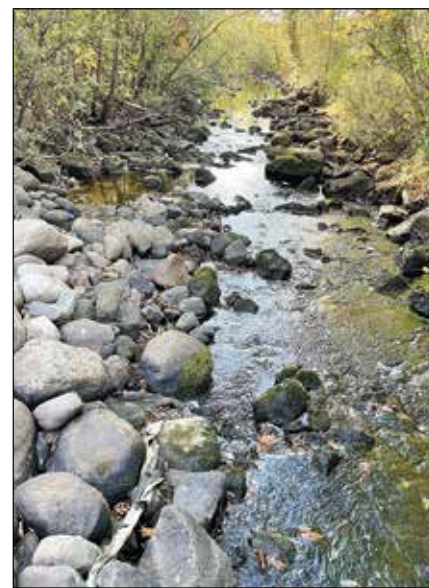
Above: Looking up the Devil's Cascade from the bottom. With the current low water, it was possible to explore inside the narrow canyon.

Below: A view up the Little Indian Sioux River near the Devil's Cascade.
photos by M. HelMBERGER



MARSHALL HELMBERGER

See **HIKE**, pg. 5B



The East Two River in Tower.

WORSENING DROUGHT

River levels hit critical lows in the region

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Given weeks of little or no rain, river levels across northeastern Minnesota have dropped sharply, with most regional watersheds now considered critically low.

The Vermilion River, which had been considered within normal flow just one week ago, fell sharply over the past week as outflow from Lake Vermilion has slowed considerably due to the intensifying drought.

At the mouth of the Vermilion River, at Crane Lake, flow dropped from 141 cubic feet per second, or cfs, to 93 cfs. Anything below 122 cfs is considered at Q90, which means flows are higher than that 90 percent of the time. Virtually every river system in St. Louis, Lake, and Cook counties are currently considered in Q90 status.

The Basswood River, which was in Q90 last week, had seen its flow decline by a third in the week ending on Monday. The DNR posts its stream flow data every Monday during the open water season. As of this week, the Basswood River was at 210 cfs, down from 318 the week before and far below the Q90 cutoff of 355 cfs.

The Little Fork River saw a significant drop as well, from 114 cfs last week to just 71 cfs as on Monday. The Q90 threshold for the Little Fork is 90 cfs.

The St. Louis River, which has been in Q90 status for the past few weeks, saw another significant drop in the past week, with a registered flow of 329 cfs, down from 486 cfs the week before. For the St. Louis River, 1,500 cfs would be a more typical flow for this time of year. Anything below 629 cfs is considered Q90 status.

The latest river levels are still higher than during the latest summer drought in 2021, when some area rivers virtually disappeared. As of Sept. 19, 2021, the Vermilion River's flow had declined to an astonishing 8.0 cfs. The Vermilion River's flow is largely determined by the discharge over the Vermilion Dam, so once the lake level drops below the lip of the dam, water flow in the river can fall to almost nothing.

Lake Vermilion has "gotten crazy low," in recent days, according to Gretchen Niemeste at Aronson Boat Works. "It seems to be dropping by inches every day."

With no rain in the ten-day forecast, the water levels are likely to continue to fall for the foreseeable future.

HIKE...Continued from page 2B

Indian Sioux flowage. The Sioux Hustler trail is described as a "lollipop," with a spur trail to the cascade as the stick with a roughly 20-mile loop starting at the end of the stick.

The maps I had seen had no mileage markers so I estimated the distance to the cascade was about five miles, which would then be ten miles there and back. I was thinking probably more like five and a half miles each way, but figured I'd round down as I was still hoping Jodi might want to join in. We'd been on ten-milers before, but not in recent years so I figured anything over ten would be a non-starter.

In the end, Jodi declined, but I did find a willing hiking partner who had been on my treks before and knew what she was getting into. Unfortunately, she's a runner who wears one of those fancy watches that tell you how far you've gone.

My "about five miles" didn't hold up. At mile five, it was clear we weren't anywhere close to the cascade. "I was kind of thinking it would be five and a half miles," I said.

She let me know when we were at five and a half miles. She let me know when we were at mile six, and at six and a half. "Jodi warned me about this," she confided.

"Yeah, yeah," I said. "I think we're getting close now."

Just a bit further on, a fairly well-worn trail appeared and we stopped and wondered if it might be a shortcut to our destination. It turned out it was



Orange maple leaves with a waterfall backdrop along the Little Indian Sioux River.

the trail to a latrine, set back a ways, it turns out, from a gorgeous campsite on a rocky overlook at few hundred feet further along.

"Do you think that's the Devil's Cascade," my hiking partner suggested. I tried to ignore her and headed back to the main trail, while she hung out to get a picture of the latrine to document our visit to what she now insisted must be the destination I had promised.

At mile seven, we did, in fact, make it to Devil's Cascade, which given the low water level was more like the Devil's Tinkle, but it gave us the chance to eat a quick lunch on rocks in the narrow canyon that would normally be underwater. Over the centuries, the 75-foot-high canyon walls had shed some massive boulders,

and I tried to imagine what it must have looked like in the wake of our June 18 rainstorm or when swollen with snow-melt from a normal winter. It must be an angry, roaring torrent when the water's high.

Below the cascade, where there is normally a large pool, there was just a trickle of water flowing between rocks,

making it easy to cross the river at will. The scene was bookended by the golden leaves of big yellow birch and orange sugar maples, an interesting mix of two tree species that are uncommon in the Boundary Waters.

On the trail

From the start, we knew daylight would be an issue, as

it always is in October. We had hit the trail about 10 a.m. and knew that we'd need to set a brisk pace given the uncertainty of our destination. On the way in, we'd set an average pace of 19-minute miles, so we were making good time.

Fortunately, the Sioux Hustler trail is surprisingly well-maintained. I've been on hiking trails in the Boundary Waters that can take a bloodhound to follow at times, but we experienced only one moment of uncertainty when the trail ran a couple hundred feet along the top of a beaver dam. We, at first, had traveled on what appeared to be the trail only to have it fade away, prompting us to double back before deciding to walk the dam. There were a few blow-down trees here and there, but they could easily be stepped over or around and barely slowed us down.

We even ran into a couple other hikers, which is a very rare event on a Boundary Waters trail. Then again, it was hard to top our recent run of weather, which has been remarkably dry and warm for this time of year. The fall

colors were near peak, and the bugs were non-existent, so it was an ideal time to be out in the wilderness.

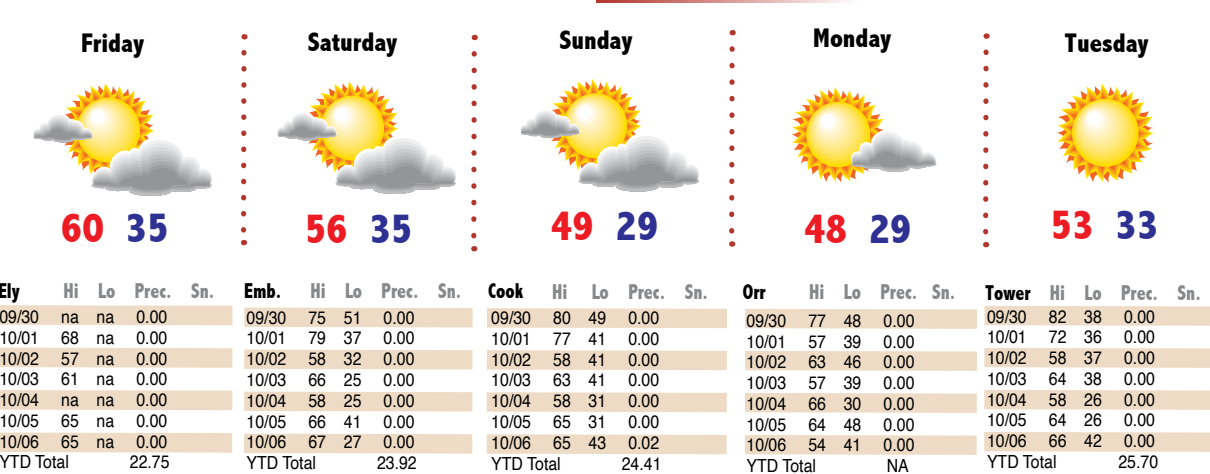
The section of trail we traveled offered plenty of variety, including colorful overlooks and deeply shaded stretches lined with cedar right along the Little Indian Sioux River, which at one point included a small but scenic waterfall, which could make a nice destination for those not interested in the 14-mile round trip to Devil's Cascade. A stretch of alder at one point on the trail was loaded with ruffed grouse.

We were tired by the time we made it back to the car but recognized it as that worthy kind of tired that says you actually did something with the day. It was a bit more than five miles, to be sure, and I would hear about it again when we got back to the house and Jodi got the report from my hiking partner.

"I told you that would happen," she said. "He does that all the time."

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather



HUNTING...Continued from page 4B

several years of aggressive harvest more than a decade ago cut the bear population roughly in half. While the population has recovered in many parts of the state, bears have been slower to rebound in far northern Minnesota. While the public did report many more bear sightings in the region this summer, that's likely a reflection of the poor natural food supply than a spike in actual bear numbers.

Ruffed grouse

While initial reports on the grouse season were less than enthusiastic, Clark said she's hearing better reports in the past week or two as the leaves are dropping and the summer coverts are dispersing.

"We were expecting

really good numbers from the drumming counts this spring," said Clark, but the heavy June rains and flooding likely impacted grouse reproduction. But just as the flooding impacts were spotty, it appears grouse numbers are as well. "We probably have pockets of good population out there," said Clark. We're hearing from some hunters that they're filling out while others aren't seeing many birds."

Regardless, Clark said hunters will need to temper their expectations, particularly after last year's exceptionally high grouse numbers.

Fishing reports

Ely area

Heavy winds this last week had many anglers laying low. Anglers that went out fishing found active walleyes in 15-20 feet of water around wind blown points and sunken islands. Small and medium sized suckers were the hot baits. Anglers fished them on a lindy rig or 1/4-3/8oz jig. Gold, blue/white and pink/white were the hot colors this last week. Water temps are now in the mid

to high 50s.

Smallies continue to binge feed on anything they can get in their mouths. Large and medium size suckers have been the best way to avoid catching piles of 2-3lb bass. Lindy rigs and jigs have been the best way to fish large minnows. Sunken islands that top out in 10-15 feet of water have been the best areas to find smallies. Not all humps are created equal, so if the bass aren't biting on the hump you're fishing, keep moving!

Multiple anglers have been reporting that the crappies have started to school up and are sliding down to warmer, stable water temperatures. Anglers should now be focusing their efforts in the 12-16 feet of water range. Jig/twister, beetle spins, and the classic crappie minnow and bobber have been catching crappies. Anglers have been finding crappies just off weedbeds and around sunken islands.

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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.

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.

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.

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Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 4, 11, 18, 2024

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

SEALED BIDS FOR: 2024 Street and Utility Improvements including the approximate quantities:

BASE BID: MOBILIZATION-1 LS; CLEARING-3 EACH; REMOVE MISC. STRUCTURE- EACH; REMOVE MANHOLE-3 EACH; SAWING BITUMINOUS PAVEMENT (FULL DEPTH)-290 LNFT; REMOVE SEWER PIPE (SANITARY)-280 LNFT; REMOVE SANITARY SERVICE PIPE-90 LNFT; REMOVE BITUMINOUS PAVEMENT-37850 SQFT; COMMON EXCAVATION-2375 CUYD; ROCK EXCAVATION-100 CUYD; SELECT GRANULAR BORROW (CV)-1350 CUYD; GEOTEXTILE FABRIC TYPE 5-3980 SY; AGGREGATE BASE (CV)

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; ADD ALTERNATE #1:

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;

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. located at 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 questcdn.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

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: voyageurnationalparktour.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.

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: voyageurnationalpark-tours.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

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 10/11

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.

Dated: September 24, 2024 SIGNED BY: William Roden, President Published in the Timberjay, October 4 & 11, 2024

ELECTION NOTICE

COOK-ORR HEALTHCARE DISTRICT The election for the township open board positions listed below will be held in conjunction with the General Election on Tuesday, November 5, 2024

- Angora Township
City of Cook
City of Orr
Crane Lake Township
Owens Township
Portage Township
Willow Valley Township



Published in the Timberjay October 11, 2024

EMPLOYMENT

Program Accountant Closes: 11/04/2024

Position Purpose: The Program Accountant is responsible for setting up, maintaining, and monitoring all general ledger accounts, funds, and budgets in the accounting system relative to State, Federal and Tribal contract/programs including preparing adjusting journal entries under the direction of the Program Accounting Supervisor.

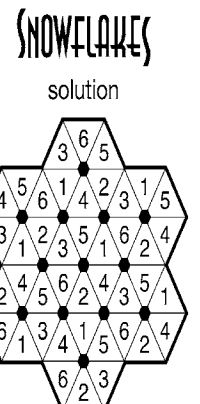
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Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 11, 18, 25 & Nov. 1, 2024

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



Get Results! Advertise in the Timberjay!

King Crossword

ACROSS 1 "Kapow!" 4 Makes a choice 8 Release money 12 Actress Merkel 13 Boyfriend 14 Celestial bear 15 MSNBC rival 16 Lawman Wyatt 17 Some HDTVs 18 James Caan's role in "The Godfather" 21 Shoe width 22 Aachen article 23 Tire pattern 26 LBJ's successor 27 Faux - 30 Shower bar? 31 Chart format 32 Shed 33 Cauldron 34 Hit show letters 35 Symbol of freshness 36 HBO rival 37 Serena, to Venus 38 Grammy-winning Shawn Colvin song 45 Exotic berry 46 Eventful periods 47 Actor Harrison 48 Brisk pace 49 Vogue rival 50 Microwave 51 Curly cabbage 52 Ken or Barbie 53 Oklahoma tribe 4 Heeded 5 Quiet partner? 6 Tropical tuber 7 Paramount 8 President Martin Van - 9 Not pizzicato 10 "This - outrage!" 11 Zap with a beam 19 Tide variety 20 Author Yutang 23 Recipe abbr. 24 Kanga's kid 25 Have dinner 26 Carnival city 27 Luau dish 28 Gore and Pacino 29 Farm pen "Continue!" 31 "Continue!" 32 Prepare potatoes 34 Bashful 35 Truck fuel 36 Marsh bird 37 Lowercase 38 Bag 39 Pac-12 team 40 Hammer target 41 Woody's son 42 Rice-shaped pasta 43 Vegan's no-no 44 Big fair, for short

DOWN 1 Tampa Bay team, for short 2 - Domini 3 "Death in Venice" author 42 Rice-shaped pasta 43 Vegan's no-no 44 Big fair, for short

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

9x9 Sudoku grid with numbers in some cells: 8 6 9 3, 2 6 7, 4 5 9, 2 3 6 5, 7 1 8, 9 7 3, 5 1 2, 3 4 6, 1 7 9

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: ♦♦

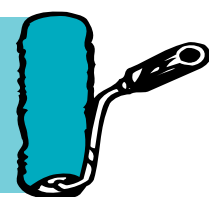
♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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CryptoQuip
 This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.
 Clue: O equals L
 HGDV QFRBDQ MFJD RO HPLG
 F KMGDJD LT CQPJCQFJ GPK
 MTJDWX OFBLVDB, PL HFK F
 CTTQ-GFBWX OQFV.
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CryptoQuote
AXYDLBAAXR
 is **LONGFELLOW**
 One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each week the code letters are different.
 CADVD ZQ LFCAZLY ZL P
 SPCDVOZXXPV CAPC CDXXQ
 JFB ZC'Q YFZLY CF RD P
 RBCCDVTXJ.
 - V. RBSGKZLQCDV TBXXDV
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