



**Inside:**  
**Ely discusses cannabis rules...** See /3  
**Hiking the powwow trail...** See /4B  
**Turkey giveaway...** See /12

# the TIMBERJAY



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989 VOL. 35, ISSUE 43 November 1, 2024 \$1.50

## ROAD WORK AHEAD

# County outlines plans for Harvey St. reconstruction

Residents should plan for months of closures and inconvenience as part of \$3.5 million project

by CATIE CLARK  
 Ely Editor

ELY- East Harvey Street, one of the busiest streets in Ely, will be rebuilt over the summer of 2025. Elyites can look forward to traffic disruptions, rerouting of the Fourth of July parade, and mayhem while trying to access the Ely Public Schools and Whiteside Park, both of which border Harvey Street.

East Harvey will be dug up between Central and Ninth Avenue

and repaved with the addition of new sidewalks, curbs, and streetlamps. During the project, the city will install a new water main along First Avenue between the Ely Senior Center and the Ely Steam Bath, which will run through the intersection of First and Harvey.

### The future Harvey Street

The rebuilt East Harvey Street will use the entire 66-foot right-of-way. The roadway will include two 12-foot driving lanes with an 8-foot

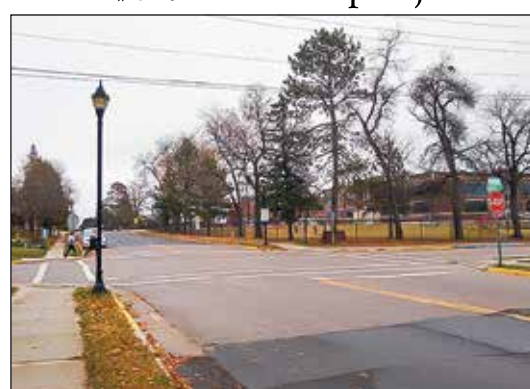
parking lane on both sides of the street. The road will be lined with new curbs and gutters. The county will install new 6-foot-wide sidewalks separated from the curb by a 2-foot-wide grass boulevard. The exception will be along the south side of Harvey between Seventh and Ninth where no sidewalk will be installed.

Harvey will host new decorative-style street lamps, similar

See...**HARVEY** pg. 13

**Right: A view down Harvey Street looking east. The reconstruction will be paid for by St. Louis County but is likely to cause delays as the street provides access to churches, the post office, and the Ely Public Schools.**

photo by S. Clark



## CITY OF TOWER

# Consensus reached on Mesabi Trail route

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
 Managing Editor

TOWER— Nearly two dozen area trail enthusiasts here reached a consensus this week on how to bring the final few miles of the Mesabi Trail to Tower. The route had been up in the air for the past few months after officials with the St. Louis and Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority, which oversees the Mesabi Trail, expressed concern about

their ability to find a route into town.

When assistant director Sarah Ciochetti told members of the Tower City Council this past summer that the rail authority was considering using the rail grade south of town, which would have bypassed the city, council members opted to get involved. The city has been investing resources into upgrades around the

See...**TRAIL** pg. 11

## PUBLIC SAFETY

# Alleged dog killer in Ely released to drug treatment

by CATIE CLARK  
 Ely Editor

ELY- An Ely man who allegedly shot and killed a family member's dog was released from the St. Louis County Jail this week on a \$30,000 bond, on the condition that he immediately enter a drug treatment program.

Iver Paul Lepisto, age 19, is charged with seven counts for his actions on the evening of Sunday,

Sept. 29, including felony third-degree assault, felony discharge of a firearm in city limits, felony attempt to disarm a peace officer, and a gross misdemeanor for animal cruelty.

According to a witness statement by a family member injured in the melee, Lepisto shot a companion dog belonging to another family member outside their house on the 400 block of

See...**CHARGES** pg. 11



## HALLOWEEN

# The season of orange



Kids and their parents gathered in Tower on Sunday for a pumpkin carving extravaganza sponsored by the Tower Fire Department.

Pictured are (clockwise from top left) Wyatt Hill with a big smile after completion of his pumpkin; Harper Olson smiles as she holds up pumpkin guts; Brylee Erickson with a slightly ominous expression, carves her pumpkin; and Camden Olson, who munches Cheetos while sitting on pumpkins.

photos by J. Summit



## EIGHTH DISTRICT RACE

# Congressional candidates answer wide range of questions

Campaign's only candidate debate hosted by WDIO

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
 Managing Editor

DULUTH— The two major party candidates for Minnesota's Eighth District congressional seat squared off in their only debate of the campaign on Tuesday, sponsored by



Pete Stauber



Jen Schultz

WDIO television in Duluth.

Republican Rep. Pete Stauber, now seeking his fourth term, and his

DFL opponent Jen Schultz answered several questions from moderators Darren Danielson and Baihly Warfield during the 40-minute forum that touched on issues from inflation to Great Lakes shipping.

Schultz, a UMD economics professor and former state legislator representing the Duluth area, took issue with Stauber's limited record of accomplishment in Washington, noting that in six years he had passed two bills, one to name a post office

and the other to form a task force.

On inflation, Schultz said her background in economics would help her address the cost-of-living for families and she noted that she had grown up in a family that struggled financially, being raised by a single mother.

Stauber said producing more domestic energy was the key to reducing prices and he took issue with the Biden administration, which he called the "most anti-en-

ergy, anti-mining" administration in history. "You know, it's not right that folks in the Northland, especially with the heating season coming up, have to pay 30 or 40 percent more for their heating bills every month," he said.

Schultz noted that oil production in the U.S. was at record highs under the Biden administration. She also noted that corporate consolidation

See...**FORUM** pg. 11



Fall and Winter fashions have arrived! Piragis is home to the Piragis Bookstore

Your Hometown INDEPENDENT BOOKSTORE where great books always find you!

piragis.com 218 - 365 - 6745 boundarywaterscatalog.com

Contact The Timberjay

218-753-2950  
 editor@timberjay.com



## Community notices

### Pancake Breakfast at Timber Hall Event Center Saturday, Nov. 2

EMBARRASS- Join us at the Timber Hall Event Center on Saturday, Nov. 2 from 8-11 a.m. for all-you-can-eat pancakes, your choice of ham or sausage links, juice, and a bottomless cup of coffee. Adults \$7, Children 6-10 years old \$4, Kids under 5 eat free. Breakfast is also free for all veterans during the month of November.

Honor our veterans by donating gently used clothing and outerwear to the Disabled American Veterans. Enjoy a holiday boutique with local artisans, discuss your Medicare needs with a Medicare Sales Agent, and support Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners.

### Community Connect event in Virginia on Wednesday, Nov. 6

VIRGINIA- The next Community Connect event will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Iron Trail Motors Event Center, located at 919 6th Street South in Virginia.

Community Connect is an event designed for people experiencing homelessness or economic hardship. It serves as a one-stop-shop, providing a variety of free services for people who are struggling economically, and to help connect them with resources available from agencies and nonprofits in the community.

This Community Connect event will offer free hair trims, clothing and hygiene items; housing supports; crisis information; mental health resources; warrant resolutions; children and family services; vaccine and disease education; health insurance information; and substance use disorder services.

Free rides are available to and from Community Connect courtesy of Arrowhead Transit, by calling 1-800-862-0175, and selecting option 1.

Community Connect is based on the national Project Homeless Connect, which began in San Francisco in 2004 and has since spread around the country. This Community Connect is co-sponsored by St. Louis County Public Health, Fairview, AEOA, Medica and Blue Cross Blue Shield.

### Meeting of Lokka Tupa #1 Ladies of Kaleva scheduled for Monday, Nov. 4

VIRGINIA- Lokka Tupa # 1, Ladies of Kaleva will meet on Monday, Nov. 4 at noon at Kaleva Hall in Virginia.

### Finnish program in Hibbing Tuesday, Nov. 5

HIBBING- Finnish Americans and Friends present a program called "Graveyard, Finns, and the stories they tell" by Janet Eichholz on Tuesday, Nov. 5, at 2 p.m., at Grace Lutheran Church, located at 4010 9th Ave W in Hibbing. Janet, who grew up in Finntown, Va. and is predominantly Finnish, will share photos and stories from local and Finnish cemeteries. Perhaps this will elicit stories from the audience! Anyone interested in the topic is invited to what is sure to be interesting and informative. A coffee an' social time is part of the program.

## VETERANS DAY



Mesabi Community Band will hold A Salute to Veterans concert on Nov. 7 at 7 p.m. at the Eveleth City Auditorium. Band members that are veterans are: Zeb Norenberg, Army, Minnesota National Guard; Ron Maki, Army; Steve Kniefel, Air Force, Air National Guard; Larry Baker, Marine Corps, Army National Guard.

## Mesabi Community Band Veterans Concert Nov. 7

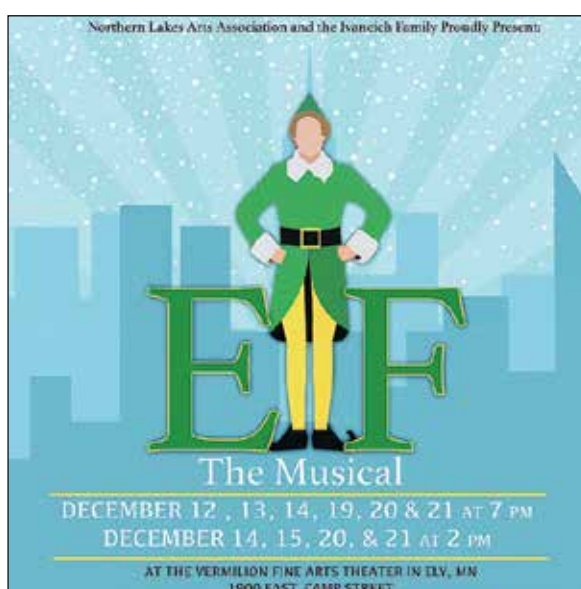
EVELETH- Mesabi Community Band will present the first concert of its fiftieth season with "A Salute to Veterans" concert on Thursday, Nov. 7 at 7 p.m. in the historic Eveleth City Auditorium. Under the direction of Larry Baker, Bill Lavato, and Daniel Melby, the band will present an evening of music, including marches such as "Americans We" and "The Strategic Air Command March." The Glenn Miller favorite, "In The Mood," will feature the saxophone section and "God Bless The U.S.A." will feature vocalist Paul Muhich. The Armed Forces Salute, a medley of the songs of the Army, Coast Guard, Marine, Air Force and Navy will recognize veterans in the audience. The public is invited to enjoy this evening as a prelude to Veterans Day, on Nov. 11. Admission is a freewill donation.

## HOLIDAY MUSICAL

# "Elf: The Musical" brings holiday magic to Ely

ELY- The holiday season is fast approaching, and with it comes a heartwarming treat for the Ely community - "Elf: The Musical," presented by Northern Lakes Arts Association, runs from December 12-21 at the Vermilion Fine Arts Theater. Based on the beloved 2003 film, this musical adaptation is packed with laughter, love, and festive spirit, offering the perfect way to embrace your inner elf and celebrate the magic of Christmas.

Sponsored by the Ivancich Family, with partial funding from the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust, "Elf: The Musical" is a delightful adventure from the North Pole to New York City as Buddy the Elf discovers his true identity and the power of spreading joy. Directed by Ian Francis Lah, the show stars Noah Warner as Buddy, a larger-than-life elf who was raised at the North Pole but finds out he's actually human. Determined to meet his real father and help spread Christmas cheer, Buddy's childlike enthusiasm for the holidays brings joy to everyone he meets- whether they're ready for it or not. Lily Stanley, a local fa-



vorite, stars as Jovie, Buddy's love interest, whose cynical view of the holidays is soon challenged by Buddy's infectious cheer. Rounding out the talented cast are Bob Winkelman as Walter Hobbs, Buddy's grumpy and workaholic father; Andrea Strom as Emily Hobbs, Walter's kind-hearted wife; and Nels Majerus as Michael Hobbs, Buddy's young half-brother, who helps bring the family together during the holidays. And what's a Christmas story without Santa? Peter Kess takes on the jolly role of St. Nick, with Karin Schmidt as Mrs. Claus, adding an extra touch of warmth to this holiday tale. Audiences will also enjoy the humorous antics of characters like Mallory Wintz as Deb, Quinn Vidas as Chadwick, Jesse Olson as Mathews, and Kenneth Tyler Walls as the Fake Santa. Austin Anderson, the production's music director, leads a talented team in creating the festive sounds of the North Pole and New York City. The show's choreography, crafted by Megan Wind, will bring high-energy dance numbers to the stage, ensuring audiences of

all ages are entertained from start to finish.

The ensemble cast features both seasoned and new talent, including Natalie Johnson, Sailor Marzella, Asa Toddie, Payson Kundering, Aspen McCoy, Aubrielle Poppler, Alison Poppler, Moxie Lindsay, Mattie Lindsay, Starla Forsman, Toby Davis, Keller Strom, Amelia Strom, Zoe Forsman, Ava Wohlsen, Andy Weise, Steve Toddie, Joshua Forsman, Brandi Richards, Emily Weise, Karl Jones, Bailey McLinn-Belehar, and Carolyn Dehnbostel.

Assistant director Toby Davis works closely with director Ian Francis Lah to bring this story to life, ensuring each character radiates the joy and warmth that makes this holiday show such a beloved favorite.

"Elf: The Musical" promises to captivate audiences with its combination of humor, heart, and holiday magic. Whether you're a lifelong fan of the original movie or discovering Buddy's story for the first time, this production will leave you grinning from ear to ear - because, as Buddy says, "I just like to smile. Smiling's my favorite!"

With performances nearly every day from Dec 12 - 21, there are plenty of opportunities to catch this festive show.

Performance Dates and Times:

- Thursday, Dec. 12- 7 p.m.
- Friday, Dec. 13- 7 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 14- 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.
- Sunday, Dec. 15- 2 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 18- 7 p.m.
- Thursday, Dec. 19- 7 p.m.
- Friday, Dec. 20- 7 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 21- 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Tickets are selling fast, and you won't want to miss out on what is sure to be one of Ely's most enchanting holiday events. Grab your tickets today at [www.northlakesarts.org/elf](http://www.northlakesarts.org/elf) before they're gone!



## UP NORTH SHOP

this year's theme

"WRAPPED IN LOVE"

**SATURDAY**  
**NOV. 9 • 8-3**

Cook Community Center

Join us for a day of shopping, friendship and wild rice soup & homemade bread

Go to our Facebook event page, post a Christmas Memory to be entered into our "Wrapped In Love" basket drawing!

A fundraiser for Northwoods Native American Student Association

NOVEMBER 9, 2024  
SATURDAY 10-3PM

# HOLIDAY boutique

## ELY SENIOR CENTER

SHOP EARLY FOR UNIQUE GIFTS  
LOCAL ARTISTS AND CRAFTERS

candles - jewelry - baked goods - textiles - home decor  
watercolor & acrylics art - pottery, & more

MORE INFO - DAFNE @ 218.365.2263      27 S 1ST AVE. W. ELY, MN 55731

## RANGE JEWELRY & GIFTS

"A Gift For Every Occasion"

- In-store jewelry & watch repair
- Cash for Gold & Silver
- SISU JEWELRY

OPEN: Tues-Sat 9-5  
218-827-2515  
Babbitt Shopping Center

ST. MARTIN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH INVITES YOU TO OUR

# CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

NOVEMBER 9TH 10AM - 1PM

108 N. 2nd St., Tonaw

Cookie Patch, Bucket Raffles, Christmas Elephant Sale, Crafts, Butter Braids, Children's Activities: Kid's Christmas Shop & Art Projects, Tupperware, Norwex, Pampered Chef, Jewelry, Breads, Plants, Jams, Signs, Baskets, Pottery, Wool, Door Prizes, 50/50 Cash Drawings, and More!

ST. MARTIN'S CAFE  
Caramels & Cinnamon Rolls, Soups, Buns, Sandwiches

## COUNTY SCHOOLS

# ISD 2142 fills vacant North Woods board seat

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Ort Editor

VIRGINIA- The ISD 2142 school board appointed Mallory Manick, of Cook, to fill the North Woods area seat vacated by former board member Nathan Briggs, whose family moved to another state.

Three candidates – Caroline Roesch, Mallory Manick, and Gwyneth Storm – applied for the position. Originally scheduled for the September meeting, the decision was delayed so that board members could meet with the candidates at their October working session in order to make a more informed decision. In the interim, Storm withdrew her name from consideration, reportedly because she is moving out of the area.

Board member Ron Marinaro nominated Manick, and the motion was passed unanimously without discussion. No information on Manick's background was provided – the *Timberjay* will have a profile

of the new board member in an upcoming edition.

By state law, Manick must wait for at least 30 days before taking the oath of office and assuming her new duties. Because the regular Oct. 22 meeting was cancelled due to a lack of a quorum, Manick won't become an official board member until the Dec. 10 business meeting.

Among the items in the superintendent's report, Superintendent Reggie Engebritson told board members that the new student cell phone policy that restricts access during the school day has gone even better than expected. While some students have had to be reminded of the policy, overall compliance has been extremely good with no major issues reported, Engebritson said.

In other business, the board:

- ▶Extended the district's open enrollment deadline from Jan. 15 to June 1. The move opens the possibility for receiving more transfer students from other districts, something that would aid with the district's projected financial strains.
- ▶Approved a resolution au-

thorizing the district to accept \$600,000 in Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation revenue bond funds for the North Woods wastewater processing rehabilitation project.

- ▶Approved a revised policy increasing the threshold value for inventory of fixed assets from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

- ▶Approved applications to the Minnesota State High School League for grant funding to offset student fees for extracurricular activities and provided additional training opportunities for students, staff, officials and others involved in athletics and fine arts events.

- ▶Authorized Finance Director Kim Johnson to make changes to the signers for district and school bank accounts.

- ▶Approved a memorandum of understanding with the teachers' union with regards to salary schedule placement.

- ▶Hired Lorenda Daugherty to a one-fifth time position as the restorative practices coordinator at North Woods.

- ▶Hired Jacob Vernlund and Sherri Elg as paraprofessionals at Northeast Range.

- ▶Hired Trudy Pelach as a teacher aide at North Woods.

- ▶Hired Molly Krueger and Jodi Whiteside as paraprofessionals at North Woods.

- ▶Hired Rachel Hendricks as a van driver and Lois Pajari as a substitute driver at North Woods.

- ▶Hired Chelsea Radosevich as a substitute nutrition employee at North Woods.

- ▶Hired Christa Seelen as a van driver at NER.

- ▶Hired Colleen Villa as a substitute site secretary at Tower-Soudan.

- ▶Hired Shawn Aase as a substitute custodian at NER.

- ▶Hired the following coaching staff: Head robotics coach Michelle Long at North Woods; head track coach Brett Brodeen at North Woods; one-act play director Joe Kaufenberg at NER; head speech coach Jennifer Kaufenberg at NER; head robotics coach Ryan Lindsay and assistants Aaron Donais

and Walter Harrier at NER; head wrestling coach Adam Hagen at NER; head girls basketball coach Liz Cheney and assistants Becca Bundy and Mya Buffetta at North Woods; and head boys basketball coach Andrew Jugovich and assistants Black Scofield and Daniel Squires at North Woods.

- ▶Hired Jennifer Prepodnik and Jolene Wilson as Little Grizzlies adult aides at North Woods.

- ▶Accepted resignations from NER golf coach Ethan Stachovich; North Woods assistant boys basketball coach Jordan Villebrun; NER paraprofessional MaCayla Flategraff; NER cheerleading coach Rachel Johnson; North Woods paraprofessional Trudy Pelach; T-S paraprofessional Krystal Rynders; NER paraprofessional Brianna Buschman; and NER/T-S ECSE/ECSE teacher Sydney Webb.

- ▶Approved the termination of NER paraprofessional Miranda King.

- ▶Recognized newly-tenured North Woods language arts teacher Ashley Paakonon.

# Ely looks at new cannabis business ordinances

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- The Ely City Council got its first look at proposed new cannabis business ordinances at its Tuesday study session, including zoning restrictions on where these businesses would be allowed and how many licenses the city will permit.

Despite the new ordinances the city passed last year to regulate the sale of hemp-derived edibles with tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, Minnesota passed new state laws during the 2023 legislative session regulating the sale of cannabis itself. Those new state laws have Ely and every other community and county in the Gopher State jumping through hoops.

## New cannabis laws

The new state laws create 16 cannabis and hemp product licenses. To open a cannabis or hemp product business, a business owner must now apply for a license through the newly estab-

lished Office of Cannabis Management, or OCM. After the business owner applies, the OCM will consult with the municipality where the business will be located for zoning approval and feedback. Once a license is issued, municipalities can issue registrations to certain cannabis businesses to operate in their communities.

Cities must conduct compliance checks to ensure that businesses are following the law for selling cannabis and hemp-derived THC products and can revoke registrations to operate if necessary. For their troubles, cities can collect registration fees from businesses and will also receive a portion of the state's 10-percent tax on cannabis-based sales.

A municipality can regulate cannabis businesses, including reasonable restrictions on the time, place, and manner of those establishments, but they can't prohibit the operation of cannabis businesses in general. Minnesota Stat. §342 allows cities to limit the number of

cannabis retail business, with the caveat that there cannot be less than one establishment for every 12,500 residents.

The new cannabis laws have created confusion throughout the state, in part because the OCM has not yet fully codified the regulations governing cannabis businesses. This has left cities and counties scrambling to enact their own ordinances on cannabis without knowing if they will need to redo them once the OCM gets its act together and issues a complete set of rules.

"We have two steps we need to do," Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski told the city council. First is to decide on zoning and then to determine what we'll regulate ... which we may need to change once the state decides on how they are going to put everything together."

## Moratorium and ordinance

Ely passed a new moratorium earlier this year on issuing registrations for can-

nabis and cannabinoid businesses to give the city time to write new ordinances to accommodate the upcoming state regulations. That moratorium expires at the end of the year.

Ely City Attorney Kelly Klun outlined the proposed cannabis ordinances for the city council, explaining its two parts: zoning and business regulation. The business regulation portions begin in the usual manner with definitions followed by a section governing lower-potency hemp-derived products, which incorporates most of what the city council passed in 2023 for selling edibles. The one notable change is that the fines for hemp product retailers who violate state or local laws were raised several hundred dollars compared to what the city council passed last year (from \$500 to \$750 for a second violation, and from \$1,000 to \$1,500 for a third violation).

The proposed ordinance also contains a new section on cannabis businesses. "I did spend a significant

amount of time figuring out what other cities are doing and using their best practices and format so we'll be congruent with the state regulations," Klun told the council.

## Cannabis businesses

The proposed ordinances will allow for cannabis retail, manufacturing, and cultivation. The business ordinances end with a section allowing "temporary cannabis events," which parallels the city's ordinances that allow events to sell alcohol. These events will be prohibited on public property and can only be held from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The cannabis regulations received the most discussion. Council member Adam Bisbee opened the debate by questioning an initial restriction on cannabis retail in Ely to one license.

"Because of our population, if we only have one business, it creates a lack of competitiveness," Bisbee stated. "I'd like to see (at least) two to create a competitive environment."

The council also debated the difference between the cannabis fines compared to alcohol or hemp product fines, with some, like Bisbee, arguing that the fines should be the same for all three types of recreational drugs. One thing the council did appear to agree on was increasing the fines for prohibited public use inside the exclusion zone around public schools.

"I am very much in favor of a higher fine than \$150 for public consumption near a public school," Mayor Heidi Omerza said emphatically.

Regarding the zoning end of the ordinances, cannabis businesses other than retail would be restricted to industrial zoning and excluded from operating near public schools, day care centers, treatment centers, and public parks.

Nothing in the proposed ordinances is set in stone yet. The first reading of the cannabis ordinances will be at the city council meeting on Nov. 19.

## REAL ESTATE



**WE NEED LISTINGS!**

Contact us for a free property valuation

218-666-5352  
info@bicrealty.com bicrealty.com

**PRICE REDUCED** Rustic cabin on Elbow Lake sitting on 3 acres with 210 ft of shoreline. Furnished, seasonal 1 BR plus loft and multiple storage buildings. Water access only. **\$189,900 MLS# 145799**

**NEW LISTING** Newer home on 17 acres and close to Pelican Lake. 2 BR, 1 BA has single floor living, covered porch off the kit/LR, newer flooring, T&G paneling. Newer (2007) garage, outhouse, and add'l outbuilding. Public lands to the west. **\$280,000 MLS# 147594**



**VERMILION**  
LAND OFFICE  
Real Estate Appraisals

**Looking To Buy Or Sell? Give Us A Call!**

vermilionland.com  
info@vermilionland.com  
1-866-753-8985  
Cook • Tower • Virginia



**BARB HEGG**  
Associate Broker, GRI

Office 218-666-6183  
Mobile 218-742-2369



Vermilion Land Office • vermillionland.com  
PO Box 518, 210 S. Highway 53, Cook, MN 55723

## PRIME LAKESHORE LOT

Majestic tall pines and breathtaking rocky outcroppings provide the perfect backdrop for your dream retreat! 375 ft of lakeshore on 4 acres of stunning land on Lake Vermilion! Direct access to hundreds of acres of state and federal forest. Whether you're looking to build your dream home, a vacation retreat, or simply invest in nature, this property has it all. **\$274,500**



**NEXT TIME COME HOME!**

**JANISCH REALTY**

218-780-6644



# OPINION

"CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW...ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH, OR OF THE PRESS;"

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

## Editorial

### A pivotal election

On Tuesday, Americans will determine whether they want a president or a dictator

Next Tuesday, voters here in the North Country will join their fellow Americans in making the most consequential political decision in all of our lifetimes. None of us has ever seen a presidential candidate who has so clearly disclosed his desire to end the 248-year experiment in democracy we call the United States of America.

We know that many voters in our region will put their mark next to the name of Donald J. Trump on Election Day. In doing so, they cannot claim they were unaware that they were voting for a man who is intent on turning the United States into a dictatorship.

Donald Trump has made his hostility to the principles of this country a virtual centerpiece of his campaign. He has openly called for ending the right of the media to criticize him, which is always the first step on the path to tyranny. Mr. Trump openly calls for pulling the broadcast licenses of CBS and ABC because they've engaged in critical reporting of his actions. Appearing just last week on Fox and Friends, Trump argued that the conservative network should no longer air negative ads about him or allow those critical of him to appear on their programs. Even the friendliest of networks isn't good enough for Trump who, like dictators everywhere, demands adulation 24 hours a day.

Trump doesn't even pretend that the First Amendment would provide protection for Americans under a Trump administration. He now regularly refers to his political opponents as "the enemy within," and has called for the deployment of the National Guard and even our regular military to "take care" of his enemies.

Many of his supporters dismiss such talk by Trump and note that he didn't engage in such actions in his first term. Yet, as many of his top advisers — including nearly his entire top military and national security staff — have since revealed, it was only because of their collective decisions to ignore or push back against Trump's unconstitutional orders that the U.S. military wasn't deployed against Americans and others in the country during his first term. Former top Trump staff say he wanted to shoot migrants seeking asylum or refugee status here in America. His former defense secretary Mark Esper has written that Trump wanted the U.S. military to shoot peaceful protesters in the streets in the wake of the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police and reacted with rage when military leaders told him that would be illegal.

Trump doesn't share the protestors' concerns about police brutality. In fact, a month ago, Trump called for giving police "one really violent day," which he said would end the crime problem. "Shoot 'em all, let God sort 'em out," may be the kind of idiocy you can find in the nuttier corners of social media, but it's not how things operate in a country that's supposed to be based on due process and the rule of law.

Perhaps that is why nearly half of his former Cabinet officials have refused to endorse him. Many, like former Gen. John Kelly, Trump's longest-serving chief of staff, and former Vice President Mike Pence, have said publicly that the man they watched behind closed doors in the White House is an unmitigated danger to this country. Other top officials, all Republicans mind you, say he regularly expressed admiration for Adolph Hitler along with more modern-day dictators like

Vladimir Putin, Xi Jinping, and Victor Orban. The former head of his Joint Chiefs of Staff called Trump "fascist to the core."

These individuals know Donald J. Trump much more intimately than anyone in our region planning to vote for him next Tuesday, and anyone considering such a vote should at least pause to wonder why those closest to him recognize the danger he poses to this country, while far too many in our region clearly do not.

They might want to consider, as well, the ugliness that surrounds Donald Trump in the closing weeks of the campaign. At his rally last Sunday at Madison Square Garden, Vice President Kamala Harris was variously described as the "anti-Christ," or as a "prostitute," while those advising her were referred to as "pimps." Puerto Rico, a U.S. territory, was described as a floating island of garbage, while Jewish and Black Americans also served as targets for ridicule.

The Trump campaign tried to backpedal in the wake of the backlash to the event, but the orgy of cruelty and hate was absolutely in keeping with the tenor of the Trump campaign for the past several months. We'd like to think that Trump and the GOP reached rock bottom last Sunday, but we suspect there is worse to come depending on the outcome of Tuesday's election.

It's worth noting that dictators often come to power initially through the ballot box. Adolph Hitler was first elected as German Chancellor in 1933, and he used that authority over several years to seize absolute power. We like to tell ourselves that it can't happen here, but in the end, the America we've known for the past 248 years, for all its faults, is ultimately based on a piece of very old parchment. The day that we, as Americans, say we're okay with leadership that lights a match to that document is the day that "We the People" throw in the towel for a dictator.

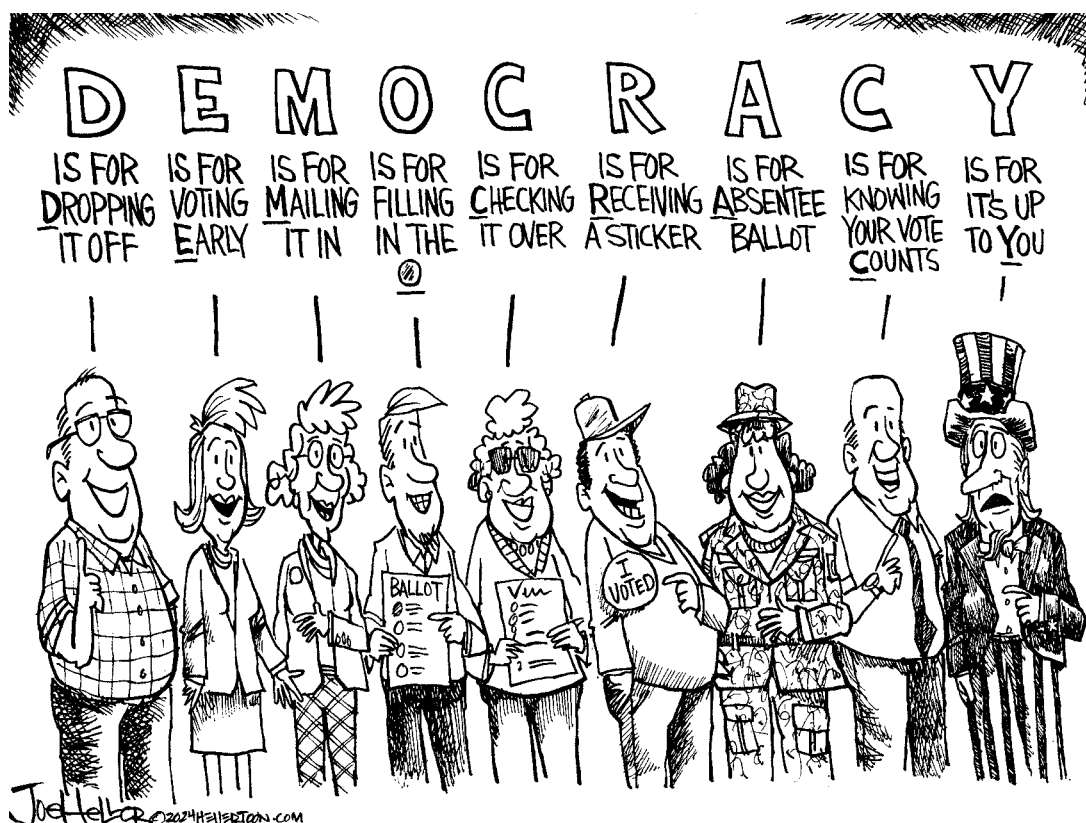
Don't think for a moment that others within our government will ride to the rescue if voters are reckless enough to put Trump back in the White House. Trump has made clear that his second term administration would be filled only with sycophants, starting with his vice-presidential pick, JD Vance, who has already promised to violate the Constitution if given the chance. We've seen that weak-kneed Republicans in Congress, like our own Eighth District Rep. Pete Stauber, will back any illegal action taken by Trump. And the most corrupt and partisan Supreme Court in U.S. history has laid down its own marker when it declared Trump immune from prosecution for virtually any action he undertakes while in office.

Republicans in Congress and at the Supreme Court have set the stage for the end of America as we know it.

Let's be clear. If given power again, Trump has no intention of relinquishing it. There's a reason he tells supporters they'll only need to vote one more time. No one intending to vote for him on Tuesday can say they didn't know they were voting for a dictator instead of a president.

Tuesday could well be a turning point like no other in American history. Will we choose to continue our 248-year experiment in self-governance by electing someone committed to good governance and the rule of law, or will we throw it all away on a man with no knowledge nor respect for what it actually means to be an American?

On Tuesday, vote like the country's future truly depends on it—because it absolutely does.



## Letters from Readers

### Election has me sleepless in Soudan

As this would be my last chance to vent before the most important, most consequential election of our lifetime, I'm writing what should be my last letter on the subject of Donald Trump, the "man who would be king," or the "felon-in-chief."

Knowing, or fearing, that the next four years will be either years of chaos and pain, as our democracy crumbles, or a period of healing, where we can begin to see the return of some semblance of sanity, with the era of Trump in our rearview mirror, has made for more than a few sleepless nights.

Will Trump lose (again) and his legacy be relegated to the "dustbin of history where it belongs," as John Brennan so eloquently stated? Or will he be returned to power by a misguided electorate, to wreak further havoc on our sacred institutions, with help from his enablers in Congress and on the religious far-right?

My previously stated belief that Donald Trump is the most dangerous man we've ever seen in public life, up to and including Joe McCarthy and Richard Nixon, still stands. That belief has been repeatedly reinforced by public comments made by so many of the people who worked for him in the White House, attesting to his unfitness for office. His recent displays at some of his rallies show an undeniable mental decline — swaying to music on stage for almost 40 minutes, obsessing about a legendary golfer's man-parts, for God's sake! I mean, you could hardly make this stuff up!

Whether he wins or loses, the fact that roughly half the electorate voted for him will stand out as maybe the most astounding, logic-defying event in this nation's long history. I suspect more sleepless nights lie ahead.

Lynn Scott  
Soudan

### Braver Angels can help us navigate our divided politics

"In the past two weeks have you been feeling down, depressed, or hopeless?" You recognize that question if you've had a clinic appointment recently. But did you know that right now many patients are responding, "Well, except for the election I'm okay."

It's not unusual for people to feel anxious about an election, but this year the situation is more pronounced than ever. And adding to the stress is the fact that it could be days or even weeks before we know who the next president will be and if the result will be accepted by the side that loses.

So, what can you do? Recognize you have the power to have peaceful, respectful conversations with your neighbors, friends, and families. Yes, sometimes this involves avoiding political topics, but trying to understand rather than change another person's point of view can lead to a better relationship.

If we can understand one another, we can find solutions to the issues that negatively affect our lives. If we can listen to each other we can understand what values we have in common. That way even if our neighbors have a different political view, we can still borrow a cup of sugar, or help with something more serious.

Where can you find help trying to bridge the political divide? Here are some tools from Braver Angels.org and Braver Angels MN that may help:

1. Try to depolarize yourself a bit. Think of one good thing about what the other side stands for. Think of one thing from your side that you disagree with. There is a free online "Depolarizing Within" workshop that takes about 40 minutes to complete at the Braver Angels website. Go to BraverAngels.org>Have an Experience>Take an eCourse. <https://tinyurl.com/>

mswprmc. Other eCourses are on Managing Difficult Conversations, Family and Politics, and Skills for Bridging the Divide.

2. Prepare for personal post-election anxiety. Reach out to a person who votes differently but whom you feel you can approach. Have a conversation, even briefly, before and after the election. Recognize that their anxiety and fears may be very much like your own even if their positions are not.

3. Remind yourself to exercise your "empathy muscle" and remember that you can love your friends and family members without agreeing on everything or even understanding why they think the way they do.

The Ely Braver Angels Alliance has gatherings about every three weeks at different times and locations to maximize the number of people who can attend at least occasionally. We also recommend:

1. Braver Angels of Minnesota has a short video to help with those "challenging conversations."

<https://tinyurl.com/yc33yecw>

2. This Braver Angels podcast focuses on how we can become better consumers of the news:

<https://braverangels.org/a-braver-way-episode-18/>

3. "Turning Down Our Own Anxiety," by Julian Adorney:

<https://braverangels.org/turning-down-our-own-anxiety/>

4. A segment of The Spark podcast features a Braver Angels segment about "How to Prepare for the Election: No Matter Who Wins."

<https://tinyurl.com/sxtpw46k>

Join the Ely Braver Angels Alliance and engage with us regularly in our mission to build a more civil community. We hold skills workshops and discussions focused on local and national issues (and delicious cookies!). Check out our Facebook page at Ely Alliance Braver Angels for information or email [ElyBraverAngels@gmail.com](mailto:ElyBraverAngels@gmail.com) to sign up for occasional newsletters.

Johnnie Ferderber  
Nick Wognum, Co-Chairs,  
Ely Alliance Braver Angels

## COMMENTARY

### Brother, can you spare some art?

Where can you go in Ely and many Minnesota communities for free entertainment and education? You might be surprised to find out what you have been missing at your public library. Programs in four areas— arts, culture, literary, and Minnesota history, are made possible by the Legacy Amendment to the Minnesota constitution, funded through the state sales tax.

Recently, I attended a presentation by Duluth artists, Brian and Sue Matuszak, who had been intrigued by artwork in northern



Minnesota that was created during the Great Depression as part of the Work Progress Administration (WPA.) Little information was available, so they started digging and researched for two years, which resulted in creating their presentation to share their findings and, hopefully, a book in the future to preserve this part of Minnesota culture.

During the 1930s, the country was experiencing a collective psychological depression brought on by the economic collapse that wiped out jobs, savings, and hope for millions. President Roosevelt's New Deal infused massive amounts of money into the economy through many

new programs, nicknamed the "alphabet agencies," like the WPA to put people to work and give them some hope.

Many people are familiar with the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), which was focused on construction, roads, and land reclamation projects. The Ely area projects include the Kawishiwi Campground pavilion, the Ely Community Center, and the stone buildings, fire pit, and benches in Semer's Park; the latter were built by the National Youth Administration (NYA).

People are less familiar with the five art-related programs within the WPA which focused on art, theater, writing, music, and histor-



## Letters from Readers

## Vote against someone who votes against women

As a woman and a mother, I am terribly disappointed in Pete Stauber. It seems as though he has no respect for us women and our contributions to family and community. He voted:

- NO to the Violence Against Women that would investigate and prosecute with mandatory restitution those who committed violent crimes against women (HR 3355).
- NO to infant formula supplemental appropriation act (HR 7790).
- NO to speeding up and funding the safe production and delivery of baby formula.
- NO to prevent shortages of baby formula stemming from supply chain disruptions.
- NO to funding for Head Start programs (HR 5894).
- NO to protect our kids act (HR 7910).
- NO to active shooter act (HR 6538).
- NO to a bipartisan agreement to reduce gun violence.
- NO to ending the senseless murders of our kids.
- NO to keeping deadly weapons out of the hands of dangerous individuals.
- NO to enhanced review process for gun-buyers under 21.
- NO to funding school safety and increased security.
- NO to speedy, widely distributed "active shooter" alerts.
- NO to increased funding for mental health.
- NO to limiting the use of the hazardous, carcinogenic "forever" chemicals (HR 4267).
- NO to protecting Americans with pre-existing health conditions (HR 986).
- NO to the largest veterans' health care bill in decades that expands VA health care for millions of vets, including women vets who were exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances during military service.
- NO to affordable insulin now act (HR 6833) which would cap the outrageous cost of insulin.
- NO to women's health protection act (HR 8296).
- NO to ensuring access to abortion act (HR 8297).

- NO to right to contraception act (HR 8373).
- NO to marrying whom we love.
- NO to respect for marriage act (HR 8404).
- NO to a woman's right to make her own health care decisions.
- NO to our ability to access reproductive health care across state lines.
- NO to paycheck fairness for us, our moms, grandmas, sisters and daughters (HR 7).

To sum it up (more could be added), Pete Stauber collected his salary while voting NO to all the above and NO to protect our democracy act (HR 5314 would have safeguarded our democracy, defended the rule of law, and strengthened our democratic institutions) and NO to the freedom to vote act (HR 5746 protected our votes rather than suppressing them, prevented partisan gerrymandering, and stopped voter discrimination). Come to think of it, it is not only women that he does not respect. It is all of us. Remember this when you VOTE. VOTE NO on Pete Stauber.

**Karen Reichensperger Ely**

## Joe White is right for Babbitt

Joe White is right for the people of Babbitt. Joe's commitment to family, state, and community speaks volumes of his character.

Joe has the dedication and foresight to guide Babbitt into the future. The present number of mining companies, with future minable deposits, requires a knowledgeable person at the helm. This person will need a broad understanding of the industry. In addition, he will need boots on the ground to support and guide this growing and evolving industry. We need a person who can work across the aisle. Joe is that candidate.

Joe will invest the needed resources that are required to ensure Babbitt's future and the future of generations to follow.

Joe does not stop working when he hangs his hat up for the day. Joe understands that to have a strong and resilient mining industry, you need a resilient community. Joe understands affordable housing is key to a new generation of workers.

Joe has put his time into affordable housing, and to

insuring those homes are sustainable, meet Energy Star guidelines, and are economical to own and operate. Thank you, Joe.

New Range Copper Nickel is very fortunate to have a person with the talent and dedication that Joe White possesses. The city of Babbitt, the VFW, American Legion and ambulance department are some of the organizations that have benefited from Joe's dedicated time.

Joe's family has allowed him to dedicate time and resources to our community. They also deserve gratitude and appreciation.

It only seems normal for Joe White to be elected as the next Mayor of Babbitt.

Thank you, Joe, for your dedication and hard work for the betterment of our community.

**Richard E. Pierce Babbitt**

## Choose Jen Schultz for the Eighth

I can list many reasons to vote for Jen Schultz, all of them seriously valid and exciting for our future. But one reason that all of us should be able to agree on is that Pete Stauber's complete devotion to the dangerous, unhinged, blatantly fascist Donald Trump makes a vote for Stauber impossible for decent, democracy-loving Americans. We've got a future to think about.

**Lee Peterson Greenwood Township**

## Lorrie combines strength, intelligence, and diplomacy

Lorrie Janatopoulos is the ideal candidate to represent our unique Iron Range and its core values in St. Paul. We, Jerry and Patty Janezich, ask you to please consider voting for Lorrie. We've known her and been friends for over 40 years. As a former legislator, I can recommend Lorrie to you as a fighter and trustworthy advocate for jobs, fairness, and common sense. Lorrie as a mom, grandmother, and front-line worker is a true and hard-working woman.

For decades, Iron Range Democrats have served as the bedrock of our communities, championing causes we can all agree on — lower



property taxes, support for mining and natural resources jobs, a fair minimum wage, health care for our neighbors, and protection of our valued senior citizens. Iron Range Democrats have delivered on these issues.

These principles have not only defined our past but continue to shape our future. Lorrie is the right person to carry this banner forward. She will stand for reproductive rights and for the public dollars needed for quality public education for our students. Her opponent has very different positions on reproductive rights and home schools his children.

What sets Lorrie apart from her opponent is her unique combination of strength, intelligence, and diplomacy. She has the strength to stand firm on issues that matter to us, the intelligence to navigate complex policy discussions, and the diplomatic skills to build coalitions and find common ground. Lorrie will be our full-time legislator; her opponent says he'll be part-time.

Lorrie's ability to bridge the gap between our proud traditions and the demands of a changing world makes her uniquely qualified to represent us in the Minnesota House. We urge our fellow citizens to join us in supporting Lorrie Janatopoulos for House.

**Jerry and Patty Janezich Lorrie For House Campaign Co-Chairs Chisholm**

## The Big Lie and the U.S. Constitution

No one should be supporting one who took an oath to uphold the U.S. Constitution, yet refused to accept the results of a free and fair election, or who concocted a fake elector scheme, refused to engage in a peaceful transfer of power, and instead, incited an insurrection to prevent Mike Pence from certifying the electoral college votes. To this day, Donald Trump continues the BIG LIE and voices his deep disappointment that Mike Pence did not support his lies about the 2020 election.

If this nation was back to normal, we would be watching a debate between two respectable and responsible presidential candidates, perhaps Liz Cheney and Kamala Harris. We would be watching a debate where two candidates with opposing viewpoints address the issues and yet hold one another in high regard. We would not be subjected to the outrageous name-calling and bullying. We would not be gasping at the lies and outrageous claims. We, as a nation, would once again be back to adhering to the rules outlined in the U.S. Constitution. We would not be experiencing the anxiety triggered by the liar and cheat, the cruel one who mocks those not like him and threatens to arrest opponents.

We hear him call the Jan. 6 insurrection a love fest. This is gaslighting, telling us that what we saw wasn't what we saw. I re-

member the horror I experienced as the angry mob stormed the Capitol. I remember the shock and disbelief that I experienced as the assault unfolded. I think about the confederate flags and, of course, the Trump flags, carried by those doing his bidding. I think of the findings of the Jan. 6 committee, exposing a plot that had been planned well in advance. I think of the ugliness and the shock that this would happen here. I gasp in disbelief at those who continue to deny the horror of the attack and its meaning. This was an attack on our democracy.

When one side purports lies and continues to deny reality, we can't talk. We can only do everything in our power to ensure that this never happens again. I feel deep gratitude to Liz Cheney and all of the respectable and responsible Republicans who have come forth to support Kamala Harris. These are true patriots who understand what is at stake in this election. Every elected official takes an oath to uphold the U.S. Constitution. There are too many now who have failed to keep that oath.

Respect. Honor. Truth. These are the values that matter.

Lies and threats are not the American way.

**Ellie Larmouth Tower**

## ART...Cont. from page 4

ical records. Through the Federal Art Project (FAP), communities could apply to the state supervisor who connected them with a visual artist to make their requested work of art. Critics who said that paying artists was frivolous was countered by WPA Director Harry Hopkins who said, "Hell! They've got to eat, just like other people!" The visual artists were encouraged, but not required, to choose subjects relevant to the community and region they were embedded in such as farm scenes, cityscapes, and ordinary people at work and play. The style was often naturalistic, seldom abstract.

Post Office murals were

handled through a different program called The Section. Qualified artists had to apply and submit sketches directly to the federal government. The subject matter was usually realistic representations of the history and industry of the area, like the two murals in the Ely Post Office.

The aim of the various art programs was multilayered:

- To give artists employment.
- To capture a portrait of ordinary life in the 1930s to preserve for the future.
- To give the local residents an exposure to art being created publicly, right in their midst, so they could watch the progress and in-

teract with the artists.

- To instill a sense of pride that their community was important enough to have art created for it.

- To make the aesthetic pleasure that art can bring available to everyone, not just the wealthy.

President Roosevelt, along with his wife Eleanor, who actively promoted the projects with Harry Hopkins, understood that people needed work, dignity, food, and housing, but they also had needs beyond mere survival. They needed to have hope for the future and not to be isolated in despair. They needed some joy and laughter.

The yearning for these were evident in the popular culture. A profusion of upbeat popular songs created a sense of optimism and escape, including "Life is Just a Bowl of Cherries," "We're in the Money," and "Happy Days Are Here Again," often considered the theme song of FDR. Songs also provided a way to document the era, voicing complaint about lost jobs and impoverishment, such as "Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?" The Wizard of Oz was released in 1939, visually portraying hope as the film began in black and white and burst into radiant color in Munchkin Land.

"Somewhere Over the Rainbow" promised that "somewhere skies are blue, and the dreams that you dare to dream really do come true." Some critics suggested that Oz might be a commentary on President Roosevelt's administration. Little Orphan Annie's song "Tomorrow" captures the optimistic hope for better days in the movie first released in 1932.

Theater productions through the Federal Theater Project (FTP) gave citizens an opportunity to get involved in all the aspects of production, bringing experience, and learning new skills, as writers, actors, directors, musicians, set designers, publicists, which sometimes led to other jobs. Performance art required people to get out of their houses and join a team. The collective effort showed how much they could accomplish working together while having some fun, creating bonds between people that could last, just as it does in our community theater today.

Community choirs were created then, and still are, to bring people together to literally harmonize, learn to balance their voices with others, have some fun, entertain and make new friends. I just learned that Ely Community Resource

(ECR) has expanded their multi-generational program at Carefree Living with a show-up-and-sing choir every other Saturday at 10 a.m. Whether you're a child or adult, you're invited to drop in to join in the fun.

People sought inexpensive entertainment and distractions from their circumstances, so radio programs, dancing, dance marathons, and cinema were popular. Jazz, blues, swing, dance band and ragtime were some of the most popular genres. Board games were a cheap, reusable form of fun, and the classics Monopoly, Sorry!, and Scrabble were either created or popularized during this time period.

In today's world, after the Covid lockdown with serious global issues creating dissension and confusion, many feel isolated, anxious, and lonely. Distractions and entertainment that help people get together and create new opportunities and friendships in their lives are evident: trivia and jigsaw puzzle contests, classes, walking/running events, mystery dinners, and many more.

If you're looking for something fun to do, gas up or plug in your vehicle, grab the kids or some friends, and motor over to your neighboring commu-

nities for a treasure hunt to search out FAP public art in Ely, Virginia, Chisholm, Mt. Iron, International Falls, and Grand Rapids. Most can be found at the post offices, libraries, or in parks, and you can ask the locals for clues. Art was also created for Eveleth, Cloquet, Two Harbors, and Duluth, but has disappeared or is not on display.

Sadly, excellent recent programs in Ely featuring the Matuszeks and the Sutter Brothers had very low attendance. Do check out library programs in your area and show up to enjoy and support presenters with your interest and enthusiasm. You can still catch the Sutter Brothers between Nov. 1 and Nov. 9 at other libraries on the tour. Oh, and be sure to thank the library staff who pull it all together!

Sue Matuszak is a fiber artist with the Duluth Fiber Guild, and Brian is the producer for Rubber Chicken Theater in Duluth. Their next show is a holiday sketch comedy revue in December. For more info: email matuszak3@msn.com or go to rchickentheater on Facebook, X, and Instagram.

**A Scandinavian Christmas**

at the Nellmark Homestead

**NOVEMBER 7, 8, & 9**  
**DECEMBER 12, 13 & 14**

**10 am to 3 pm**  
4839 Salo Rd. Embarrass, MN  
across from Timber Hall

**Handmade Crafts, Bakery, Books**  
**Scandinavian Collectibles and More!**

## Letters from Readers

### Don't fall for the "spoiler" claim

Are independents really "spoiler candidates?" Let's start with a fact. Over 50 percent of voters are now identifying as independent. This is an all-time high in modern politics. Coupled with the popularity of ranked choice voting, independent redistricting, and term-limits being even well above that, you can start to see the American people are disenfranchised with both major parties. But who benefits from

this fear mongering of alternate parties or independents "taking votes?" The parties in power of course. No person or group is entitled to a two-person race in a democracy, and if someone else gets a decent number of votes, don't you think they earned it and that the major parties probably let down their voters?

A little disclaimer, Rich Tru (as the current political landscape is) does not support an alternative party candidate for president. He believes that is not how you start

change; it begins from the bottom-up.

This is his first run for any office here in District 3A. This is the House of Representatives in our state of Minnesota, not Congress, not the Presidency. People want a politician who won't change their priorities or votes, because of what their party tells them to do or what dark money influence has over them. They should be held to account by their constituents. This is how Rich was raised on the Northshore, surely similar to yourselves,

voting for the person not the party. When he heard people were not going to even vote this year, he empathized with the outlook a lot of people had, but instead of just saying "nothing will ever change" he decided to give back to the community he grew up in by being a choice we all have not had in decades.

Rich has no delusions of being some kind of savior. He also knows not all independents want the same things, but do you even agree with half of the official positions either major party does? He will fight like

no other and has not run a negative campaign unlike both opponents. A campaign of solutions and optimism is how Rich will win this election. By reassuring that neighbors will have each other's backs in that voting booth, that they are not alone in wanting Tru Change.

**The Campaign for Rich Tru's House Committee Two Harbors**

### Supporting world peace would be a meaningful legacy

As our entire nation races toward the imagined "finish line" of the upcoming presidential election, atrocities continue in the Middle East at an alarming scale, with no end in sight. We've spent obscene levels of campaign dollars that vanish into an abyss of ignorant, fear-mongering, foul, and hateful words, while millions of people in war torn regions of the world face horrific levels of devastation and mass starvation. All of which, it seems, we largely ignore.

At this point, Americans are either obsessively focused on polling results or so disgusted by the absurdity that we're tuning it out. Meanwhile, tensions in the world grow. It might look like we don't care. But I believe that a lot of people do! It's easy to think we're powerless. But we still have our democracy and it's begging for our attention. We just need to shift our focus from our screens and newspapers and think for a moment beyond our own borders.

It's time to utilize the White House comment line, by phone or email, and demand that our current President immediately stop supplying arms to Israel and other countries in the region. This would help de-escalate the conflict. Tell him to call for an immediate ceasefire and lead an all-out (and serious) international campaign to negotiate a "peace plan" with a clear step-by-step path forward. And keep the public informed of its progress!

President Biden, in his moving final address to the United Nations General Assembly, expressed his deepest longings and a heartfelt call for world peace. He now needs our all-out call to amp up his actions. Were he to devote his foremost attention to creating a lasting peace in the Middle East, I can't think of a more meaningful legacy to leave behind.

**Kathleen McQuillan Cook**

### Outside money is dominating the 3A race

Thank you for covering the 3A race and the dark money being spent on the mailers with the false or misleading information, which is to say: overstatements and outright LIES.

I had hoped that Skraba would have the guts and honesty to speak out against these mailings trashing his opponent, since they were supposedly sent without his input, but if that is the case, I haven't seen any statement.

I made a point of finding the address of the Make Liberty Win group and sending them an email, but I received no response from them. We've gotten a number of phone calls from Make Liberty Win. In each case, the person on the phone spoke with such a thick accent that her words were close to unintelligible, except to ask did we support Droba.

Yesterday I received a pro-Skraba mailer that was from a separate independent group, AFP Action Minnesota. There were statements, but no way to judge the veracity of the claims.

The way any kind of

claims can be flung around should concern all voters, no matter which side we might be voting for. Apparently, any "group" could decide to trash any one of us at any time.

**Lois J. Garbisch Cook**

### We need a change in Washington

There is only one party in D.C. — the party of big money. For show and tell; the Democrats and Republicans put on shows battling each other in public for news propaganda consumption by the people. And the result is the interests of the nation's population do not get addressed but the interests of the big money and the power brokers behind the closed doors in the smoke-filled rooms that get implemented.

People understand the men and women that you are voting for national office have been selected to be on that ballot. The power brokers, so to speak, pull the strings to make happen what they want to happen. And if they want to change them, they change them. An example is the removal of President Biden from the ticket after the people voted for him and Biden winning the delegates during the state primary elections.

Amy Klobuchar is in over her head in this power structure of Washington, D.C. After 18 years as U.S. Senator, whatever Klobuchar hoped to do has either happened or will never happen. The country is in a bigger mess than when she arrived in Washington D.C. The cohesion of the society is being torn apart. There is no common morality today; it has been replaced with the new age religion called Relativism, (whatever you want goes).

The U.S. government is bankrupt — this fiscal year just the interest that the Federal Government will pay out on the national debt will be around \$1.1 trillion. This has been happening for many decades and has reached the point of no return.

How does this society fix this mess? Not by sending politicians who have been there for decades and made this mess worse.

We have a choice in this

election. There is a young man, very intelligent, articulate, and overflowing with common sense, who is running for the Minnesota U.S. Senate seat, Royce White.

Royce White was rejected by the Minnesota Republican Party leadership, this small group of people had selected another candidate to run for the U.S. Senate, but the people attending the Minnesota State Republican Convention rejected the selected candidate and voted in Royce White. The people spoke. You may not know or even have heard of Royce White as the power brokers in the Minnesota Republican Party have not shown much support for the people's chosen candidate.

We need a change of direction in Washington, D.C. Royce White is that candidate to bring change, to save the country from this society being manipulated into pulling itself apart and from the government's fiscal destruction staring us all in the face or to help rebuild it from the ashes of destruction.

Whatever your individual hot topic concerns are, they pale into insignificance compared to what will happen to this society if this government collapses. Today, we urgently need change in Washington, D.C. That means voting in new people that are highly intelligent into the various elected offices and not professional politicians with vested interests that have been instrumental in getting this society into this very serious quagmire.

If the current incumbent senator has not put even a dent into these major governmental, societal problems by now, after 18 years in office, they never will.

**YOU GO VOTE.  
Robert Tisovich Ely**

### Trump is showing us what he is

I can only ask the Trump supporters, "Do you ever actually listen to what Trump is saying when he speaks?" Did you hear his supporters spewing hatred at the Madison Square Garden rally on Sunday? Those deplorable words are coming out of their mouths; you can't blame that on "leftist" media, when even the *Wall Street Jour-*

*nal* — owned by right wing billionaire, Rupert Murdoch — had a negative headline, "Several Speakers Take Dark Tone at Trump's MSG Rally." There's a saying, "When someone is telling or showing you what they're like, believe them." Trump has been telling us for a long time, and it's not a portrait of the kind of intelligent, grounded, rational, diplomatic leader we need in the White House.

**Betty Firth Ely**

### Lorrie will be a strong voice for our region

As a long-time member and past President of AFSCME Council 5 union and a current Township Supervisor in Great Scott Township, I am writing to express my strong support for Lorrie Janatopoulos in her campaign for the Minnesota House seat.

I have had the privilege of working extensively with Lorrie over the years, and I can confidently say that she is exceptionally qualified for this position. Her dedication to our community and her ability to advocate for the needs of working families make her the ideal candidate to represent us.

Additionally, I am proud to share that both AFSCME Councils 5 and 65 have endorsed Lorrie, which speaks volumes about her commit-

ment to labor rights and her proven track record in supporting our union's values.

I encourage my fellow community members to support Lorrie in the upcoming election. She will be a strong voice for us in the Minnesota House.

**Judy Wahlberg Mt. Iron**

### Schultz and Harris work for solutions

**Mining:** While serving in the Minnesota State House of Representatives, Jen Schultz proved her ability to work across the aisle to craft and pass legislation to benefit all residents in our state. Her stance on mining reflects a rare blend of inclusiveness, practicality, and care for both the beauty and economic vitality embodied in our natural resources. She recognizes the importance of mining jobs while prioritizing the protection of our water and honoring Native American treaties. Her proposals from bringing steel production to the Iron Range to investing in technology for safe mining practices, demonstrate a comprehensive approach that considers both economic and environmental factors to ensure that mining benefits our local communities above all else and cutting ties with multinational corporations that come in to extract our resources without any flow of money back into the region.

Our current U.S. Rep.,

Pete Stauber, would hand this precious area over to a foreign company with a poor record of environmental stewardship to remove and profit from the extraction of a mineral while endangering the future of an environmental jewel in our state.

**Immigration:** The most obvious political trick and falsehood being used by Donald Trump and his Minnesota mouthpiece, Pete Stauber, to frighten and divide Americans is clearly their lies about immigration.

In contrast, the Biden-Harris Administration negotiated a bipartisan border deal with the toughest, fairest reforms in decades to secure the border. It was derailed by Trump and some Republicans to the great angst of the bipartisan legislators who worked long and hard to develop it. Tough but fair measures by the Biden-Harris Administration have dropped border crossings significantly. In June illegal crossings were down by 40 percent. As president, Harris will revive the border bill Trump killed, add 15,000 agents, further cutting fentanyl flow, and increase resources to dismantle criminal organizations at the border.

Please use the above information when deciding how you vote for Congress and the next President of the United States.

**Barbara Lund Gabler Lutsen**

# == VOTE == JOHNSTON



• **COOK MAYOR** •  
- Integrity  
- Leadership  
- Stability

Paid for by the candidate on his own behalf



**RE-ELECT  
LIZA ROOT  
COOK CITY COUNCIL**

As a councilor for the past two years, it has been my honor to listen and work alongside fellow residents to address our community's needs. I'm proud to have taken action on several key initiatives, including:

- Coordinated city-wide clean-ups
- Secured housing needs assessment grants that saved city funds
- Increased accessibility to council meetings so more residents can attend
- Helped lead flood relief efforts in partnership with state and local agencies

I'm committed to promoting greater transparency in our budgeting and ordinances. I remain committed to ensuring our community thrives and look forward to continuing this work together.

#### Priority 1

Transparency and Communication between City Government and Residents

#### Priority 2

Continuing to address the Housing Needs of our Community

#### Priority 3

Disaster Preparedness, Mitigation and Response

**Feel free to call me at 907-331-7724  
if you have any questions.**





Week of Nov. 4

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

**Tuesday**  
Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5 p.m. New location in the old St. James Church building. Next food shelf day is Nov. 19.

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

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

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



**TSHS weekly winner**  
TOWER- The Week 7 winner of the Charlemagne's 52 Club \$100 cash prize is Lori Ilminen of Virginia.

**History Tidbit:** In a 1970 edition of the *Tower News*, an article on Mrs. Erik Bystrom elaborated on her walking trip from Duluth to Tower on a trail; "through unbroken wilderness. The journey took four days. She was met in Tower by her husband, a carpenter in the employ of the Minnesota Iron Company. Only two houses had been erected in the community at that time. Mrs. Bystrom was an aunt of Glenn Bystrom of Tower and the mother of Albert Bystrom, reported to be the first white child born in Tower. Mrs. Bystrom was a native of Sweden, coming to the United States in 1879."

**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. Over two-thirds of the seats are already reserved. 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.

**For All Your Feed & Seed Needs**

**HIBBING FEED and SEED**

262-3049

READY FOR HALLOWEEN



Pumpkin carving party fun (thanks to the Tower Firemen's Relief Association). Above: Stellmach siblings work on their pumpkins. Left: Noelle Trancheff, Below: Eddie Larson.



Pastor Joel Guttormson and Immanuel member Lloyd McIntyre crafted this wooden cross to be used for candle lighting.

**Immanuel Lutheran in Tower hosting Prayer and Reflection time on election day**

TOWER- Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower will welcome the community to visit the church for a time of prayer and reflection on election day, Tuesday, Nov. 5. The sanctuary will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., during voting precinct hours. The prayers will follow a tradition from Holden Village, an interfaith, ecumenical retreat center in the Northern Cascades Mountains of Washington. There will be time for individual meditation, candle lighting, and prayer before or after voting. Pastor Joel Guttormson will be leading a guided devotion every two hours throughout the day beginning at 8 a.m. and continuing until 8 p.m. Immanuel Lutheran Church is located at 304 Spruce Street in Tower. People of all faith traditions are welcome.

TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY



**Iron Range Rotary literacy project donates dictionaries to TS third graders**

TOWER- Tower-Soudan third graders got a special gift this last week, as volunteers from Iron Range Rotary visited their classroom to give each student a new dictionary. They were told to choose their words carefully because words leave a lasting effect on people. Words help define who we are and the impact we have on other people. Language connects us as a society. We create connections with one another. All of us come from different backgrounds so we see things from different perspectives. Understanding this is of great value in making the world a better place. The Iron Range Rotary Club sponsors a literacy project "Dictionaries for Third Graders." Each participating third-grade student and their respective teachers receive "A Student's Dictionary," chosen for their level of learning. First, the teachers assist the students in the use of a dictionary in school. Then the students take them home to use year after year. These books are not just dictionaries. They contain much additional content including weights and measures, table of elements, mathematical information, information on the United States government and presidents, countries of the world, planets, and much more. Kids find themselves enthralled with all of the facts available at their fingertips. Why do kids still need to learn about dictionaries when they can "Google" anything they need electronically? "A Student's Dictionary" encourages reading an actual book, said Rotary volunteers. Reading develops focus and literacy. Reading decreases stress, so reading before bedtime relaxes children for a good night's sleep. Studies show that children who read for pleasure have higher scores in a variety of subjects, resulting in greater success in school. Iron Range Rotary Club's objective is to promote positive learning.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

**Local seats are on the ballot in Tower, Eagles Nest, Embarrass, and Kugler**

REGIONAL- Eagles Nest Township: David Chibabotti filed for Supervisor Seat B, Brian Harrington filed for Supervisor Seat E, and no one filed for Supervisor Seat C. Keely Drange filed for the clerk seat.

Embarrass Township: Shireen Lee filed for Supervisor Seat 2, Eric Garman filed for Supervisor Seat 3, and Jennifer Boese filed for the clerk seat.

Kugler Township: Christopher Suihkonen filed for Supervisor Seat A, Ross Swanson filed for Supervisor Seat B, and no one filed for the open clerk seat.

City of Tower: Kevin Norby filed for one of the two open council seats. There were no other filings,

but David Wanless is doing a write-in campaign. See story in this week's paper

**Help maintain the ski trails on Nov. 2**

TOWER- Volunteers are needed to help prepare the Howard Wagoner Ski Trails for the winter season. The goal is to get the trails ready to groom as soon as it snows! Volunteers will meet at the south trailhead at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 2. We will be removing rocks and filling in holes. Wear sturdy boots/shoes and gloves. Bring shovels/rock bars if you have them. If someone has an old truck to haul dirt, that would be helpful. The Howard Wagoner Trails Club fall meeting is on Tuesday, Nov. 19, at 5:30 p.m. at the Lamppa Civic Center.

**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.

**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 partici-

pate. 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 Holiday Craft Sale 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 Lamppa 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 your table fee to Friends of VCS, c/o Jodi Summit, PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790.

**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.

## ELY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Halloween at Washington Elementary



The Ely PTO held its annual Halloween party for Ely school kids at the Ely Public Schools campus on Saturday afternoon, with four bouncy houses set up in the new gym, games and treats in the campus commons, and a black light art show of student art in the band room. Upper left: Nina Larson is all smiles as she lands at the bottom of a bouncy house slide. Top center: Two examples of scary faces made by kindergarten students displayed in the black light art show. Upper right: Valerie Petersen takes aim in the ball toss game in the campus commons. Lower left: a father and daughter pair came dressed in cat costumes. Lower right: Teacher Chelsea Blomberg (right) supervised the monster foot races as Nial Blomberg (center, Iron Man Costume) races Quinn Carlson (left, animal costume). photos by C. Clark

## Ironhawks Raffle

ELY- The womens basketball team at Minnesota North College – Vermilion is holding both a raffle and a fundraiser. The money will go toward travel, hotels, and food when the team plays away games, and for newer equipment and gear for the basketball program. A portion of the donations and raffle proceeds will also go to providing Christmas for a

local family in need. The campaign for donations is through a QR code displayed at Ironhawks games. The raffle is limited to 100 tickets, sold at games or through Head Coach Ryan Zyla at [ryan.zyla@minnesotanorth.edu](mailto:ryan.zyla@minnesotanorth.edu). Each ticket is \$100. The prize is \$5,000. The winner will be drawn at the last home game of the year on Feb. 22.

## Wedding ring searches for lost owner

ELY- One of the staff at the Ely Community Pharmacy asked if the *Timberjay* could help find the owner of some lost property. The ring was left in the bathroom at the pharmacy in 2021 and has been sitting unclaimed since.

It is a wedding-band style ring. There is a date inscribed inside it: Nov. 26, 1966. The ring size would be large for most women but small

for many men. On that date, 33 couples were married in St. Louis county. A member of one of those couples has already reached out to us, hoping to find a lost ring. Sadly, the ring found at the pharmacy was not hers.

Describe this ring to claim it. Email [catie.timberjay@gmail.com](mailto:catie.timberjay@gmail.com) for more information. The ring will be turned into the Ely Police Department on Nov. 8 if unclaimed.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

## Babbitt Public Library

BABBITT- The November art kit for kids will be for oil pastel drawing. Take one home while supplies last.

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.

## Ely Public Library

ELY- The library will be closed on Monday, Nov. 11 for Veterans Day; on Friday, Nov. 15, and Monday, Nov. 18 for carpet installation; and on Thursday, Nov. 28, and Friday, Nov. 29, for Thanksgiving.

The spice for November is savory. Pick a up a free sample and recipes while supplies last.

The Friends of the Library Book Club will meet on Monday, Nov. 4, at 3 p.m. This activity is open to everyone. The book under discussion is "Born a Crime" by

Trevor Noah.

The Get Crafty group will make cute trivets out of wine corks to protect tabletops on Wednesday, Nov. 6, from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Register in advance so the library can order enough materials for participants.

The library board will meet on Wednesday, Nov. 6, from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

The library building is ten years old. Come join the library to celebrate the occasion at the "Rock the Library" event On Friday, Nov. 8, from 6-9 p.m.

The Friends of the Library monthly board meeting will be on Tuesday, Nov. 12 from 1-2 p.m.

The Library Scientists group will meet on Wednesday, Nov. 13, from 2-3 p.m. The topic this month is gravity. Register in advance so the library can order enough materials for participants.

The Curiosity Cohort for adults will meet on Tuesday, Nov. 19 from 1:30-3 p.m. The topic will be fancy napkin folding to dress up dining room tables for the winter holidays. Register in advance so the library knows how many participants it needs to

prepare for.

The library will hold an online Kahoot trivia game on books 4-6 in the Boxcar Children series by Gertrude Chandler Warner. The Kahoot will start at 3 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 14, and end at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 19. Participants must preregister for the Kahoot so the library can email the link for the game.

## Girl Scouts

ELY- Ely is getting a Girl Scout troop. The troop is currently open to girls in grades K-3, or ages 5 - 8 for those in homeschool, but grades 4-5, or 9- and 10-year olds, can be added if there is enough interest and an adult volunteer to help. Register online at [www.girlscoutslp.org/en/get-involved/join.html](http://www.girlscoutslp.org/en/get-involved/join.html) or message Elizabeth Thunstrom on Facebook.

## Ely Community Youth Choir

ELY- The Ely Community Youth Choir is for singers who are in grades 2 through 6. Rehearsals will be on Mondays, Nov. 4 through Dec. 2 plus one dress rehearsal on Saturday, Dec. 7. The group will perform on Dec. 7, when they will sing Christmas se-

lections on their own and then join with the adult Ely Community Choir in the performance of the Christmas cantata "Love Is Born." Monday rehearsals will be at 3 p.m. in the choir room at Ely Memorial High School. The fee for the choir is \$10. Register online at <https://www.ely.k12.mn.us/communityed>.

## Medicare 101

ELY- Ely Community Education is offering more sessions of its popular, no-cost Medicare 101 class on Wednesday, Nov. 6, and Wednesday, Dec. 4. Both classes are from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the Media Center at the Ely Public Schools campus, 600 E. Harvey St. Enter through door No. 1 and turn right after the double doors. The Media Center will be on the right across from the new gym. The class is for those wanting to learn more about making informed Medicare choices, including how to avoid costly sign-up mistakes as your 65th birthday approaches.

## Holiday Boutique

ELY- The Ely Senior Center, 27 S. First Ave. W., will host a holiday boutique

with local crafters and artists selling their wares, including candles, jewelry, baked goods, textiles, home décor, art, pottery, woodwork, and more. The date is Saturday, Nov. 9, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, call Dafne at 218-365-2263.

## Free pet microchips

ELY- Contented Critters Animal Rescue will hold a microchip and nail trimming clinic on Saturday, Nov. 16, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Ely Flower and Seed, 145 W. Camp St. The clinic is for dogs and cats; no breeders please. The microchips are free, with no registration or annual fees. Trimming nails for dogs and cats is \$15 per pet; please do not bring any aggressive pets.

## The Ely for Ely Leadership Workshop

ELY- Registration for the Ely for Ely Leadership Workshop runs through Nov. 11. Register at [boundarywatersconnect.com/elyforely](http://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.

## 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](mailto:ElyTuesdayGroup@gmail.com) or call her at 218-216-9141.

Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

- Nov. 5: No Tuesday Group on Election Day
- Nov. 12: New Elyites
- Nov. 19: Ely-Palestine Solidarity Group

## Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2024



the vote is our right  
declare the love of freedom

liberty's at stake

## 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 and 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 suspended 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.

**FORUM...**Continued from page 1

had given many large companies too much market power, which is contributing to inflation. "It's not the government setting these prices, it's big companies. What Congress can do is to make sure that we have more competition, that we address the high level of mergers and acquisitions."

On the need for more housing, Stauber blamed the shortage of housing on immigrants, claiming there are 25 million illegal immigrants, although most studies estimate about half that number. But Stauber said illegal immigrants are competing for available housing, making it harder for Americans to afford. He also took issue with timber policies, which he said were preventing the production of the lumber needed to build new housing. In addition, he cited government regulations that limited the kind of prod-

ucts, like ceiling fans, that can be used in homes.

Schultz said solving the problem will take a concerted push to expand the supply of new housing along with changes in monetary policy to bring down mortgage rates. Schultz cited new legislation sponsored by Minnesota Sen. Tina Smith, which would bring down financing costs for developers and said she would support such measures if elected to Congress. "We also have old housing stock throughout the district," which she said needs to be upgraded. "We also need to make it affordable for older adults that are in a larger home to relocate to a smaller residence."

On keeping mining competitive on the Iron Range, Stauber accused Democrats of "wanting to shut down the Iron Range," and claimed that Minnesota has "the best

environmental" standards. He touted the Duluth Complex, a sulfide-bearing ore body that he said contains trillions of dollars in minerals. "There's only one presidential candidate who will open mines here. It's Donald Trump," he said.

Schultz called for "moving mining forward," by diversifying to bring more financial benefits from the region's mineral resources. "I want to make steel on the Iron Range. I want to think big," she said. She called for more funding for entities like the Natural Resources Research Institute and the Entrepreneur Fund to generate new ways to utilize the region's mineral resources to create jobs. But she said advancing mining means involving major stakeholders including property owners and tribal nations concerned about clean water. "Mining and permitting gets litigated

in the courts because there's not the leadership to bring everyone to the table," she said. "People are concerned about water quality because it impacts property values. "For a lot of people in this district, almost all of their wealth is in their property."

When asked if they would respect the outcome of the 2024 election, regardless of the victor, both candidates said they would. Schultz took issue, however, with Stauber's actions in the wake of the 2020 election and called him an "election denier." "He wanted to overturn the 2020 election. He voted against investigating the insurrection on Jan. 6 where 140 police officers were injured and some people died," she said.

Stauber said he ultimately voted to certify the 2020 election and he called on everyone to turn down the rhetoric. "We

are all Americans. We want the best for our children and our grandchildren... politics should not divide our families and communities, and it has," he said.

Schultz addressed the divisions in her closing statement. "People are tired of the anger and the hatred and the bitterness and the political rhetoric, but my opponent contributes to that," she said. "His emails are filled with anger and hate and blaming and complaining instead of solving the problems he talks about," she said. Schultz said Stauber is quick to complain about problems, but rarely makes an effort to solve them, citing the recent bipartisan border security bill, which Stauber opposed even as he complains about illegal immigration.

While the moderators did not bring up reproductive

rights, Schultz addressed the issue in her closing statement, citing Stauber's votes against a woman's right to choose. "I'm going to fight to make sure we have all our rights, our reproductive rights," she said.

Stauber, in his closing remarks, took Schultz to task. "You know, no matter how hard my opponent tries, she cannot run from the extreme, failed far left policies of the Biden-Harris administration that has resulted in skyrocketing prices, a wide open southern border, and wars abroad," and he urged people to vote on Tuesday. "We should never let West and East coast elites tell us how to live here in the Northland," he said. "I am fighting for our way of life."

**TRAIL...**Continued from page 1

Lamppa Civic Center, and the train depot in anticipation of completion of one of the final gaps in the 130-mile-long trail, which will eventually run from Grand Rapids to Ely.

Council member Kevin Norby organized a meeting of stakeholders in September, which brought input from several trails organizations, both motorized and non-motorized, along with the DNR, MnDOT, and officials from the Mesabi Trail, to discuss options for getting the trail to town.

At the second meeting of the stakeholders held Monday, the parties all agreed

on the alternative, dubbed the Tower link trail, that would provide the connection for the Mesabi Trail to Tower. The Mesabi Trail is currently slated to extend up the west side of Hwy. 135 to Rivers Road, where it would tie into the link trail in the vicinity of the Tower ski trails. The link trail currently connects the trailhead near Lamppa Manufacturing with the Tower ski trails. Ciochetti had originally feared that route was too hilly and would cost too much to meet the ADA standards for the trail. But she told the group that she had since walked the route and believed the hills

were manageable.

"And it's really beautiful back there," she said.

What's more, she said, if the Mesabi Trail can use the existing corridor, which is maintained by the Howard Wagoner trails club, the cost of construction and environmental review would be much less than building a new route, as they originally envisioned. Ciochetti said paving that portion of the trail would likely reduce maintenance requirements for the Howard Wagoner club, since the Mesabi Trail would then be responsible for that maintenance. While there

were some concerns that the paved trail could lose snow cover sooner than otherwise, potentially shortening the ski season, the Wagoner club members decided the impact would be limited.

Meanwhile, use of the Tower link trail would free up the rail grade south of town for ATV use.

Ron Potter with the Prospector's ATV trail group, said that the club was hoping to make use of the rail grade for some trail realignment in preparation for the opening of the new ATV campground near Soudan.

The Tower link trail

would also be an advantage for the group working on the Lake Vermilion bike trail, which would be a spur off the Mesabi Trail that will connect to the Y Store and Fortune Bay. That trail will be coming to Tower from the west and can connect with the Mesabi Trail somewhere near the existing Tower trailhead.

"It looks like we're all in agreement," said Norby, who moderated the meeting.

The agreement prompted more discussion about how all the parties can work together in the future to advance trail building and maintenance in the Tower area to minimize

conflict between motorized and non-motorized users by keeping the different uses as separate as possible.

There was some discussion, as well, of funding opportunities and how the groups can cooperate in jointly supporting grant applications as trail development proceeds.

While the group was created as ad hoc to address the Mesabi Trail route, there was consensus that an occasional meeting, possibly twice a year, would be a good way for the groups to stay in contact and work together to support the overall mission of creating recreational trails in the area.

**CHARGES...**Continued from page 1

East Boundary Street. He then brought the gun inside the house and returned outside, where he was reported to be yelling.

Another family member hid the gun while Lepisto was outside, but when Lepisto found out he became enraged, and began to assault her. Ely

Police Department officers reported that Lepisto was fighting with the woman when they arrived at the residence and that they had to forcibly restrain him from attacking his family member and as they tried to place him in handcuffs. When asked if he had been using drugs, he said he had

used "methamphetamine, PCP, and other substances," according to the statement of probable cause.

The family member injured in the altercation with Lepisto was treated at Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital for a fractured nose, and lacerations and trauma to

her face and scalp.

When arrested on Sept. 29, Lepisto was already scheduled for an Oct. 2 hearing on a previous charge of misdemeanor domestic assault from an incident on Aug. 12.

Amber Pederson, an assistant St. Louis County attorney, argued for an unconditional

bail of \$100,000 and requested a mental health screening. The prosecutor's bail memo noted, "While the defendant has no significant criminal history, his family members have indicated that he has a history of mental illness and use of controlled substances." Lepisto was released on

Oct. 22 directly to Northland Recovery. He is scheduled for an omnibus hearing on Nov. 12 for both the Aug. 12 and Sept. 29 charges.



# Superior Fuel

Fueling your way of life.™

## FIXED RATE FUEL OIL NOW AVAILABLE!

Lock in your rate now through **November 15, 2024**, and enjoy peace of mind all winter. Take advantage of this opportunity to stabilize your heating costs with one of our exclusive fixed-rate fuel oil pricing plans, including pre-buy and convenient monthly payment options. Don't miss out!

Call Us Today  
**218-722-2050**

[SuperiorFuelCompany.com/fixedratefuel](https://www.SuperiorFuelCompany.com/fixedratefuel)

# Enter the Great Turkey Give-Away!

Last Day to enter is Wed., Nov. 20



Enter to win each time  
you visit any of  
these businesses.

## A FREE Turkey

will be given away at each store.

### 42 chances to win!

Certificate for a FREE TURKEY  
will be given to each winner  
(up to \$25 in value).

## Catching a Turkey has never been so easy!

### **ORR**

#### **Orr Municipal Liquor Store**

4521 Hwy. 53 • (218)757-3935

#### **Pelican Bay Foods**

Your handy grocery store on Hwy. 53

#### **Lumber Orr Hardware**

Full-service hardware and lumber

### **COOK**

#### **Northern Comfort Company**

123 2nd St. SE • (218)666-9891

#### **Cook Hospital & Care Center**

10 SE 5th St. • (218)666-5945

#### **Park State Bank**

Hwy 53 • (218)666-0393

#### **North Star Credit Union**

24 S River St. • (218)666-5940

#### **Cook VFW**

Post 1757 • (218)666-0500

#### **McDonald's Cook**

Hwy 53 • (218)666-0077

#### **Waschke Family Chevrolet**

Hwy 53 • Sales & Service

#### **Cook Building Center**

We're at your service

#### **Zup's Grocery**

Hwy. 53 • (218)666-0205

#### **1st National Bank**

Our specialty: money

### **EMBARRASS**

#### **Embarrass Vermillion Federal Credit Union**

4880 Hwy 21 • (218)984-3501

### **TOWER/SOUDAN**

#### **Tower Cafe**

411 Main St. • (218)670-5889

See Facebook for hours & specials

#### **Pike River Products**

515 Main St. • (218)735-3828

#### **Living Well Physical Therapy**

402 Spruce St. • (218)481-7603

#### **Vermilion Park Inn**

30 Center St., Soudan • (218)753-2333

#### **Little Green Pantry**

615 Main St. • (218)421-9133

#### **Lamppa Manufacturing**

9501 MN-135, Tower • (218)753-2330

#### **Embarrass Vermillion Federal Credit Union**

505 Main St. • (218)753-4311

#### **Soudan Store**

Open daily

#### **Tower-Soudan Agency**

Your Independent Agent

#### **UBetcha Antiques & Uniques**

601 Main St. • (218)753-3422

#### **Frandsen Bank-Tower**

415 Main St. • (218)753-6100

#### **Zup's Tower Grocery**

Open 7 days a week • (218)753-2725

#### **Vermilion Fuel & Food**

Open daily in Tower

#### **D'Erick's**

On & Off Sale Liquor, Tower • (218)753-4071

### **BABBITT**

#### **Range Cenex-Babbitt**

For all your gas & convenience item needs.

### **ELY**

#### **Piragis**

105 N Central Ave. Ely • (218)365-6745

#### **Zup's in Ely**

Open 7 days a week • (218)365-3188

#### **Frandsen Bank & Trust-Ely**

102 E Sheridan St. • (218)365-6121

#### **Wintergreen Northern Wear**

205 Sheridan St. • (218)365-6602

#### **Dee's Bar**

17 E Sheridan St. • (844)359-6233

#### **Grand Ely Lodge**

Come visit us at the Evergreen Restaurant

(218)365-6565

#### **Ely Flower & Seed**

Christmas trees, wreaths and poinsettias

Feed for all your indoor and outdoor friends

#### **Ely Surplus**

Quality goods, Affordable prices

Hours: M-Sat: 9-5; Sun: Closed

#### **Mealey's Gift & Sauna Shop**

When in Ely, Shop at Mealey's

Hours: M-Sat: 10-5; Sun: Closed

#### **Merhar's Ace Hardware**

Your local hardware headquarters

#### **Range Cenex-Ely**

For all your gas & convenience item needs.

#### **Northridge Credit Union**

1321 E Sheridan St. • (877)672-2848

#### **Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital**

328 W Conan St. • (218)365-3271



Visit These Fine Local Businesses For All Your Holiday Needs!

PUBLIC SAFETY

# Gillson trial slated for next Tuesday in Virginia courtroom

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor



Jason Gillson

50, will begin at the Virginia courthouse.

In September 2023, Gillson was charged with felony arson of a residence, felony

assault of a peace officer by the throwing or transfer of bodily fluids, felony flight from a police officer by motor vehicle, and felony discharge of a firearm within a municipality.

During an altercation with his girlfriend at his residence on Boundary Street on Sept. 13, 2023,

Gillson allegedly shot her phone and wallet with a pistol, set his own house on fire, fled from the scene in a panel truck in a chase that ended in Embarrass, and spat on Officer Bradley Roy of the Ely Police Department while being taken into custody.

Minnesota Sixth District Judge Robert C. Friday will preside over Gillson's trial next week.

EMPLOYMENT

# Health care and social service expected to lead job creation in region

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Recently released employment projections through 2032 by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) indicate that 40 percent of the job growth in northeast Minnesota will be driven by the health care and social assistance sector.

DEED projects that the region will add 5,157 new jobs between 2022 and 2032,

a growth rate of 3.3 percent, with 2,065 of those coming in health and social service occupations.

The hospitality sector, including accommodations and food services, is projected to add 826 jobs, and construction jobs will increase by 538. Combined with health and social services, these three sectors will account for two-thirds of the expected job growth in northeast Minnesota.

With an additional 128 jobs, mining will account for

just 2.4 percent of job growth, half as many as arts, recreation and entertainment. The forecast for agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting is bleak, as DEED projects the loss of 88 jobs by 2032, a decline of 7.2 percent, the largest percentage decline of any employment sector in the region. Finance and insurance, utilities, information, and retail trade are also projected to lose jobs. These represent continuations of long-term trends, with the rising influence of automation and e-commerce as contribut-

ing factors.

Looking at the churn in the job market, which represents the total demand for workers, DEED anticipates that 95,400 workers will switch jobs during the period and another 78,000 openings will be created by people leaving the workforce.

Food preparation and serving occupations lead the projections with 27,700 openings, followed by 19,300 in office and administrative support and 17,300 in sales and related occupations. These

high numbers of openings reflect both the size of these occupational groups as well as their higher rates of turnover compared to other sectors.

In terms of fastest growing occupations, health care occupations top the charts, holding four of the top six occupational categories. Nurse practitioners are projected to have the highest rate of growth at 38 percent, with physician assistants at 26.5 percent and medical and health service managers at 25.2 percent. Physical therapist assistants

have a projected growth rate of 19.3 percent.

Software developers will be the second-fastest growing occupation with a 27.7 percent increase in job openings expected, with information security analysts growing by 23.1 percent.

On the other end of the spectrum, more traditional occupations, like secretaries, administrative assistants, file clerks, disc jockeys, data entry keyers, tellers, and transcriptionists are projected to see declines in job opportunities.

## HARVEY...Continued from page 1

to what was installed on James. According to Harold Langowski, the Ely clerk-treasurer, the new lights are dark sky compliant. "They are LED lights," Langowski said. "They're 85-watt fixtures and all the lighting is directed straight down. All the fixtures we've installed over the years have been LED with the cutoff prisms in the globes. But these new lights now are the next generation. If you've been to downtown Minneapolis, that's what they have down there."

### Storm sewer

The road work will include blasting on Harvey between Central and Third Avenues so the city can reroute the storm sewer that collects the runoff in the neighborhood west of Whiteside Park and south of downtown.

"Starting even as early as this fall," Fallstrom remarked, "we're getting a consultant on board to come by to do a pre-inspection survey of

those homes within a 200-foot radius from where we're going to be blasting the storm sewer trenches.

Blasting along Harvey must follow Minnesota's regulations, which limit the size of explosive charges and require strict vibration monitoring. Property owners will be informed of when the blasting will occur. The county will settle any claims for damages caused by the blasting.

Ely will also rebuild East Conan Street between Second and Third Avenues to accommodate the rerouting of the storm sewer.

"The storm sewer currently comes down Harvey," Langowski explained. "It comes down Third Avenue East all the way down to White Street. It turns to the west and goes all the way to Second Avenue East, and then goes down Conan Street... That's the very lowest part of town, and (the current storm sewer

route) pushes all this additional storm water and causes some localized overflow flooding at times. Rerouting that big storm sewer will resolve the majority of those stormwater flooding issues."

### Logistics

The county will begin work in May 2025, weather permitting. Completion of the work is expected before the end of October. Once the project begins, portions of East Harvey Street will be closed. The closures will affect several blocks at a time in a way that will lessen the impact on the Ely Public School campus.

"There are ways we can phase the project," Fallstrom explained, "so we don't impact that area, hopefully, while school is in session — so maybe to impact that area only during the summertime when school is closed."

Parking will be allowed on Harvey during construc-

tion. Access for residents will be through the alleys and the north-south avenues. Some intersections on Harvey will stay open during most of the project, namely those at Central, Fourth, and Eighth avenues.

The county already owns all 66 feet of the right-of-way on Harvey. St. Louis County Public Works has arranged temporary easements so it can proceed with work around sidewalks, walkways, steps, and driveways. "In our survey of the street, we already know we don't need to cut any trees," Fallstrom commented.

Harvey Street has an alter ego as County State Aid Highway 156. Its status as a county road is why St. Louis County is paying for the project with its estimated price tag of \$3.5 million. The only exception is for storm sewer and water main costs, which will be borne by the city. The county will not impose any assessments on Harvey residents for new curbs and sidewalks or other work related to the project.

The rest of Harvey between Ninth and 17th Avenues will be redone at some unspecified future

date. "Certainly, within the decade," Langowski added with some humor.

"When the project is finished, Harvey between Central and Ninth will look very much like James and Eighth," Langowski stated. James Street and Eighth Avenue are also county state aid highways, both of which the county has rebuilt in the last decade.

The county will solicit bids for the project in February. It will build a website so residents can track construction plans and schedules by April.

**Physical Therapy Clinics in Floodwood, Tower & Duluth**

**MODERN PAIN RELIEF TREATMENT**

**Headaches • Jaw Pain  
Shoulder, Neck, & Back Pain  
Muscular Tension  
Planter Fasciitis**

Call to schedule an appointment, for a free consultation to see if physical therapy can help you or look us up on the web

**PHONE:** 218-481-7603  
**WEBSITE:** living-well-therapy.com

DRY NEEDLING

## FALL OPEN HOUSE AT GRACIE'S

MIMOSAS, HOT APPLE CIDER • GOURMET FOOD TASTING  
DRAWING FOR PRIZES AND LOTS OF FUN!!

**FRIDAY AND SATURDAY  
NOVEMBER 8TH & 9TH 10AM-5PM  
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 10TH 11AM-3PM**

● 22 WEST SHERIDAN • ELY

## WELCOME

*Leta*  
*Redmund-Pulford*

*to our team!*

*B.I.C. is happy  
to announce that Leta has  
joined us and we look  
forward to working with her!*

*You can contact Leta @  
218-780-9017  
leta@bicrealty.com  
www.bicrealty.com*

**Medical, Dental, and Behavioral Health  
Quality and Compassion  
For Every Patient for Life**

Cook • Bigfork • Tower • Eveleth • Northome  
Floodwood • Big Falls

Same Day Appointments Available

24-Hour Emergency Care  
in Cook and Bigfork

(877) 541-2817  
www.ScenicRiversHealth.org

TOWER

# One on the ballot, one write-in for Tower Council

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- Two candidates are vying for two open seats on the Tower City Council, although only one will appear on the ballot. After one of the two incumbents opted not to seek re-election, and no one else filed for his seat, that left Kevin Norby as the only name that will appear on the city council ballot on Tuesday. But David Wanless, a relatively new Tower resident who said he's looking to be active in his new community, has mounted a write-in campaign for open seat.

The *Timberjay* spoke to both candidates ahead of Tuesday's vote.

## Kevin Norby

Kevin Norby was first elected to the Tower Council four years ago and while he's willing to serve another term, he was hoping for an alternative. "I am happy to serve on the council, but I was kind of hoping someone new and qualified would step up," he said. "We should all encourage people to be on the council or to serve in other committees for the city."

Norby said his time on the council has been a good experience, but it was harder than he thought.

"It is easier to criticize from the stands than it is to find good solutions," he said.

Norby said his role has been mostly working behind the scenes in collaboration with others.

"My focus is to keep taxes low, but still improve the livability of the city. More development and more people we get to live here will reduce the taxes for all of us and improve our quality of life as a city," he said. "We need to stop going down in population and



Kevin Norby

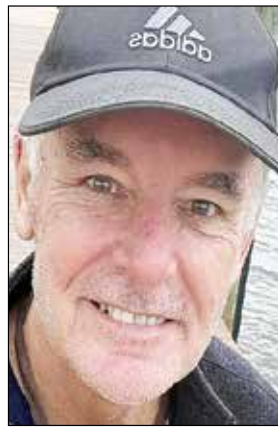
start attracting more people to live here. We have a lot of grant money lately to help us achieve these goals, but we need to manage it well."

Norby said the council has worked hard to keep the tax levy stable and has retired the debt the city incurred from previous administrations.

"We have added a new loan for the county building," he said, "but it shouldn't raise taxes much more. Everyone I talked to encouraged me to change my mind and approve getting the asset."

The city is purchasing the old county garage on Marina Dr., which will be used to house the city's maintenance department and possibly other city offices.

Norby's role on the council has been active, including service planning and zoning and airport commissions, the Hoodoo Point ad hoc committee, and trails efforts. He took an active role on the ambulance commission, working with other township leaders to explore a joint powers board to oversee the ambulance. While a joint powers board structure was not ultimately approved, Norby said the work done helped them better understand the issues, as well as



David Wanless

allowing the ambulance commission to reestablish a working relationship with Greenwood Township.

## David Wanless

David Wanless moved to Tower with his partner Laura Garofalo last fall. Wanless grew up in St. Paul, but said Lake Vermilion has always been his favorite lake in the state. He had been living

out-of-state, and when he brought Laura for a visit to St. Paul, they took a road trip to Grand Rapids and then across the Iron Range.

"I wanted to show her one last area," he said. "When we drove over the bridge into Tower, the colors were turning, and those flower baskets were beautiful. Laura told me she wanted to live here."

The couple looked at a few homes in Soudan, but ultimately decided on a house on South Second St. in Tower.

"We like being right in Tower, close to the restaurants, and close to the trails."

The two are both retired, though Laura is working part-time at Good Ol' Days, and she is thinking about opening her own business.

Wanless comes from a background in information technology and accounting. He has also worked as an auditor and project manager.

"I'm a problem solver in the business world," he said.

They spent their first year doing a major remodel, inside and out, of their new house.

He started attending council meetings and has been talking to friends and neighbors about issues facing the city. He said he wants to make sure the city stays on sound financial footing.

"I want to give back to where I live," he said. "It's a positive thing to do."

"I see so much potential here," he said. "I am a big believer that Tower can become a destination center, not just a place to drive through on the way to Ely."

Wanless has volunteered on the committee looking to develop the Lake Vermilion Trail, and is interested in trails for both non-motorized and motorized recreation. He and Laura hike, ATV, ski, snowmobile, and snowshoe. They have been using their

ATV to not only explore area ATV trails, like the Prospectors Trail, but then jumping off the ATV to explore smaller non-motorized trails on foot. They also are spending time enjoying Lake Vermilion.

He would like to see the city become a place people want to come and visit, a "place people want to come to stay." He would like to see the city have a hotel as well as other lodging options like bed and breakfasts and nightly rental homes like Airbnbs.

"We need to make the city and Main St. more attractive," he said, and added he wants to see the city address blighted properties.

The couple has five grown children, from previous marriages, and three grandchildren.

Prepared and paid for by the Campaign Fund of Harley Droba committee 805 8th St, International Falls, MN 56643  
HarleyDroba.com

Elect  Harley **DROBA**  
Minnesota House District 3A

**MY RECORD AS MAYOR SPEAKS FOR ITSELF...**

- Two New Hotels
- Two New Gas Stations
- New Grocery Store
- Downtown Revitalization
- New Apartment Opening

**Vote Harley Droba November 5th**  
ARMY VETERAN • HUSBAND & FATHER • INTERNATIONAL FALLS MAYOR • BUSINESS OWNER

Labor Endorsed

*Re-Elect*

# Skraba

---

# MN HOUSE 3A

★ LABOR ENDORSED ★

Prepared and paid for by Skraba for House, P.O. Box 152, Ely MN 55731



# SPORTS

Serving northern  
St. Louis County  
since 1989

## CROSS COUNTRY



North Woods' Alex Burckhardt runs in the Section 7A qualifying meet in Coleraine last Thursday. Burckhardt finished fourth, securing his fourth trip to the state meet in Minneapolis. submitted photo

## Ely, North Woods runners qualify for state meet

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Six area cross country runners— three from Ely and three from North Woods— will be competing in the Class A state championships in Minneapolis this Saturday after turning in strong qualifying performances at the Section 7A meet in Coleraine last Thursday.

Ely senior Caid Chittum turned in the top performance of the day, rounding the Eagles Ridge Golf Course 5K circuit with a season-best time of 17:13.9 to finish third in the 112-runner event. Right on his heels in fourth place was North Woods senior Alex Burckhardt, who paced his South Ridge Panthers squad to the boys team title with a time of 17:14.4.

It will be Burckhardt's fourth consecutive trip to the state championship meet, and the third straight trip for Chittum.

North Woods junior Lincoln Antikainen and eighth-grader Kahlil Lightfeather-Spears were also instrumental in the Panthers' win that earned them both tickets to the state meet. Antikainen finished 15th with a time of 17:56.6, and Lightfeather-Spears was right behind in 16th with a time of 18:00.6. Both runners competed in last year's state meet.

Two other Ely boys finished in the top quarter of the field but did not qualify to run at state. Silas Solum placed 26th with a time of 18:20.6.

See CROSS COUNTRY...pg. 2B

## VOLLEYBALL PLAYOFFS

## Grizzlies fall to Bigfork 3-2

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

BIGFORK- "The one that got away" is supposed to be a fishing story, not a volleyball lament, but it's a phrase that will linger into the offseason for the North Woods Grizzlies after being eliminated from the Section 7A volleyball tourney last Friday at Bigfork.

The Grizzlies forced a fifth and deciding game with an overwhelming 25-11 rout of the Huskies in the fourth game and appeared to have all the momentum on their side in what had otherwise been a tight contest between evenly-matched opponents.

Bigfork grabbed the early lead in the fifth, but a pair of aces by Carsyn Burnett and two kills by Izzy Pascuzzi kept the Grizzlies close.

See GRIZZLIES...pg. 2B

## VOLLEYBALL RECOGNITION

## Rechichi, Burnett named to All-State team

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- North Country high school volleyball is on the radar of the state's coaches. That was apparent this week with the announcement that two of the area's finest players have been named to the 22-member Minnesota Volleyball Coaches Association Class A All-State team.

Ely senior middle hitter Lilli Rechichi and North Woods junior outside hitter Lauren Burnett were

See ALL-STATE...pg. 2B



Far left: Ely's Lilli Rechichi goes high for a spike earlier this season.

Left: North Woods junior Lauren Burnett hammers one of her 350+ season kills.

file photos



## SECTION 7A VOLLEYBALL PLAYOFFS

## Ely's gauntlet keeps rolling

Wolves dominating in quest for fourth-straight Section 7A title

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

ELY— Will the Timberwolves claim the Section 7A volleyball title for a fourth year in a row? That answer remained unknown as of the *Timberjay's* Wednesday press time. The Wolves were set to take on South Ridge at the Rock Ridge School gymnasium on Wednesday night in semi-final competition after easily defeating Chisholm in the quarterfinal round last Friday.

The Wolves, who have dominated Section 7A since 2021, will be looking to make it to the section championship once again, set for 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 2, at Hermantown High School. If so, they'll be facing the winner of Wednesday night's contest between Floodwood, the top-seed in the south subsection, and Bigfork, the north subsection's second seed.

That could set up an Ely-Floodwood championship match-up for the third year in a row.

Playing in Ely, last Friday,

Above: Sophomore Audrey Kallberg and senior Clare Thomas combine for a block during last Friday's quarterfinal round playoff tilt against Chisholm.

Right: Thomas goes up high for a spike during Friday's contest, played in Ely.

photos by J. Greeney

the Wolves made short work of fourth-seeded Chisholm, taking three straight sets 25-15, 25-8, and 25-9.

"We came out ready to play on Friday night," said Ely Head Coach Megan Wognum. "We got the nerves out when we played our first game on Wednesday so I think we came in stronger mentally on Friday. We had a quick offense and completed our kills with minimal errors."

Senior Lilli Rechichi dominated at the net for Ely, posting 15 kills and four solo blocks, along with a match-leading 13 digs. Sophomore Audrey Kallberg added ten kills and 11 digs, while senior Clare Thomas posted seven kills and in a row.

See WOLVES...pg. 2B



AMERICAN-MADE APPLIANCES  
SOLD LOCALLY.

KITCHENAID • MAYTAG • CAFÉ • GE • WHIRLPOOL • AMANA • HOTPOINT  
APPLIANCE FINANCING & EXTENDED WARRANTIES NOW AVAILABLE!

**p**  
pohaki

804 N. 6th Avenue | Virginia  
218.741.3014

**GRIZZLIES...**Continued from page 1B

North Woods took a 9-8 lead on a pair of kills by Lauren Burnett, and extended the lead to 11-8 on two huge blocks, the first involving Lauren Burnett and Mya Kinsey and the second Kinsey and Brittin Lappi. The Grizzlies looked to be in the driver's seat for a trip to the tourney semifinals when Lauren Burnett slammed another kill for a 12-8 lead in the shortened 15-point game.

But momentum is a most fickle thing in sports, swinging often on a single play, and when the Huskies' Memphis Tendrup hammered a kill to end the Grizzlies' scoring streak, Bigfork suddenly had new life. McKinnley Johnson followed up with an ace for Bigfork, and after a pair of Lauren Burnett kill attempts sailed long, North Woods Head Coach Kaileen Redmond called a time out with the score knotted at 12-12. But the Grizzlies got no reprieve from the break, and the Huskies kept up the heat and escaped with the 15-12



**Left: North Woods' senior duo of Mya Kinsey, left, and Amber Sopoci team up for a block against the Huskies during last Friday's contest at Bigfork. The Grizzlies 3-2 loss in the match brought an end to an otherwise strong season.**

photo by D. Colburn

win and the 3-2 match victory. The sudden reversal of fortunes put a big damper on what had otherwise been a valiant Grizzlies effort. Trailing by as many as six in the opening game, North Woods gamely fought back to within one before losing 25-23.

North Woods trailed 20-15 when a Pascuzzi kill turned the tide, and with the junior hitter at the serve the Grizzlies came roaring back to take a 21-20 lead. Bigfork was serving with a 23-22 lead but faulted on the serve, and with Tessa Burnett taking the ball the Grizzlies got scores from

Lauren Burnett and Carsyn Burnett to take the second game 25-23.

North Woods was within two at 16-14 in the third game when Bigfork got on a roll, closing with a 9-1 run to win 25-15 and take a 2-1 lead in the match.

Needing a win to stay alive, the Grizzlies completely dominated the fourth game. With Lappi and Pascuzzi at the serve for long scoring runs, the Grizzlies steamrolled their way to an improbable 18-3 lead. While the Huskies regained a bit of balance, the huge lead was insurmountable as the Grizzlies won 25-11.

The No. 3-seeded Grizzlies had hoped to make a deeper run into the tourney by pulling the upset over the No. 2 Huskies, but Bigfork was able to beat North Woods for the second time in three tries this season. North Woods bowed out with a season record of 19-6, one win shy of last season's mark.

**CROSS COUNTRY...**Continued from page 1B

edging out teammate Brooks Brenny who ran 18:22.6 and finished 27th.

On the girls' side, the Wolves had two individual

qualifiers for state. A fourth-place finish by Molly Brophy earned the Ely sophomore her fourth trip to the big event, circuiting the course with a time

of 20:05. She first went to state as a seventh grader in 2021. Freshman Mattie Lindsay scored a trip to Minneapolis with an 11th-place finish and

a time of 20:37.6.

The South Ridge girls couldn't duplicate last year's team-qualifying effort, and North Woods fresh-

man Zoey Burckhardt and senior Addison Burckhardt came up short in the running for individual berths. Zoey Burckhardt finished 17th with

a time of 21:06.7, and Addison Burckhardt placed 23rd with a time of 21:28.7.

**WOLVES...**Continued from page 1B

nine digs. Sophomore setter Gretta Lowe added 31 assists and six digs.

"We knew that Chisholm was going to fight hard but it all came down to who wanted

it more," said Wognum. "Our serving was amazing as well as our blocking and digs."

Playoff-opening jitters last Wednesday kept their match with Littlefork-Big

Falls closer than it otherwise might have been, but the Wolves prevailed in straight sets 25-13, 25-14, 25-13. Rechichi had another big night on offense, with 15 kills, while

Thomas pitched in with eight kills. Kallberg notched seven kills and added 12 digs, while sophomore Charlotte Hegman posted six kills and four digs. Lowe added 37 assists and

seven digs.

The Timberjay will post results on Ely's Wednesday night game at timberjay.com. Watch for full game details, and potentially the

results of the Section 7A championship contest, in next week's print edition.

Keep it Clean,  
ST. LOUIS COUNTY

<b>AURORA TRANSFER STATION</b>	<b>HOURS</b> Mon, Thu, Fri: 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Tue, Wed: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sat: 8 a.m.-Noon
5910 Hwy 135 N, Aurora	
<b>COOK TRANSFER STATION</b>	<b>HOURS</b> Mon: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tues - Sat: 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
2134 S. Beatty Rd, Cook	
<b>COUNTY 77 CANISTER SITE</b>	<b>WINTER HOURS</b> Thu, Sun: Noon-5 p.m.
2038 County Rd. 77 Greenwood Twp	
<b>EMBARRASS CANISTER SITE</b>	<b>HOURS</b> Sat: 12:30 p.m.- 4:30 p.m. Thu: 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.
7530 Koski Rd, Embarrass	
<b>NORTHWOODS TRANSFER STATION</b>	<b>WINTER HOURS</b> Mon, Thu-Sat: 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Tue: 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Wed: 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
9384 Hwy 21 N Ely/Babbitt	
<b>SOUDAN CANISTER SITE</b>	<b>HOURS</b> Mon, Sat: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Wed, Sun: Noon-5 p.m.
5160 Hwy 169, Soudan	
<b>REGIONAL LANDFILL</b>	<b>HOURS</b> Mon-Fri: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Sat: 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
5341 Regional Landfill Rd Virginia	
<b>HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITY</b>	<b>HOURS</b> Tues and Sat: 8 a.m.-1 p.m.
5345 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia	

**Winter hours effective  
October 1 - April 14**

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

© 2024 St. Louis County, All Rights Reserved

**ALL-STATE...**Continued from page 1B

both tabbed for inclusion on the honorary squad, an honor not bestowed on a player from the region since former Northeast Range standout Hannah Reichensperger was named in 2021.

The award differs markedly from all-state honors given by the Minnesota State High School League for achievements in MSHSL-sponsored state tournaments. Selection to the MVCA all-state team is based on an athlete's performance across the entire regular season, with benchmarks in various statistical categories that have to be met in order to be eligible for consideration. MVCA selection committee members track potential nominees throughout the season through communication with coaches and attending matches. All head

coaches are then asked to rank or grade the nominated players from their section.

Statistics, live observations, section coach feedback, and a strength-of-schedule assessment that places greater value on a player's performance against strong competition are all considered in a selection committee meeting that typically lasts up to three hours for members to select the all-state teams.

Ely Head Coach Megan Wognum lauded Rechichi's selection.

"Lilli is completely deserving of this high honor," Wognum said. "She has worked hard her entire volleyball career and put so much time into learning the sport outside of the season. She is always willing to put the extra time in and it has

clearly paid off. Lilli is a great mentor for other players and always motivates others to try their best. She's willing to try new things to push herself to be better than she was the day before.

Wognum shared statistical evidence of how dominant Rechichi has been for the Wolves this season.

"As of right now, Lilli has 282 kills, 56 aces, 49 blocks, and 195 digs," Wognum said. "She has offered so much to our team defensively this year as well as offensively with her amazing work as a middle hitter. I am very proud of Lilli's dedication and commitment to volleyball and her team."

Grizzlies Head Coach Kaileen Redmond was equally effusive about Burnett's selection.

"We are thrilled to be honoring this great achievement," Redmond said. "Lauren's passion and dedication to the sport has grown immensely in the time I've had with her and making the all-state team is a true testament to her hard work. Lauren's achievement is a first for the North Woods Grizzlies volleyball program. We couldn't be more proud of her and happy to continue to grow with her as a team."

As a junior, Burnett's huge contributions to the Grizzlies' 19-6 season were even more impressive, Redmond said.

"Lauren played 78 sets this season with over 350 kills, 200+ digs, and more than 65 ace serves," she said.

Rechichi and Burnett will be officially honored when the MVCA all-state teams are formally recognized at the association's state tournament banquet next Tuesday, Nov. 5 in St. Paul.

Cook VFW  
POST 1757

(218)666-0500

Open Daily: Noon to Closing  
(Closed Tuesday)

HAPPY HOUR 3:30-6:30 PM

Pull Tabs (Lic #00390)

Thursday: BINGO

Food Served 4:30-5:30 PM  
Games Start: 6:30 PM

Friday  
BURGER NIGHT • 4:30-7

Burgers starting at \$7  
Take-out available

206 1st St SW, Cook, MN

HEARTH  
SIDE  
CORNER

FIREPLACE  
SALES & SERVICE

Contact us for  
Fireplaces, Stove &  
Chimney Products,  
Installations, Inspections  
and Repair

218-365-5013

hearthsidcorner@citlink.net

MESABI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

2024/25 SEASON

A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

FANTASY, ACTION, AND INTRIGUE

COSTUMES ENCOURAGED!  
DRESS UP AS YOUR  
FAVORITE MOVIE CHARACTER!

2  
NOV

7PM  
Rock Ridge High School Performing Arts Center  
Virginia, MN

3  
NOV

2:30PM  
Washington Elementary Auditorium  
Ely, MN

TICKETS ONLINE AND AT THE DOOR  
[www.mesabisymphonyorchestra.org](http://www.mesabisymphonyorchestra.org)

www.mesabisymphonyorchestra.org

This activity is made possible in part by a grant from Ely's Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust. Additional funding for MSO's 2024-25 season is provided by the Eveleth Area Community Fund of the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation.

Since 1948  
Wells  
Water Systems

- PUMPS
- WELLS
- HYDRO-FRACKING

1-800-662-5700

Spring Park Rd.  
Mt. Iron, MN 55768



UTILITIES

# Minnesota Power rate increase approved at lower level

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

**REGIONAL-** The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission last week approved a revised 4.9 percent rate increase for Minnesota Power residential and small business customers, well below the company's initial request.

The average household will see an additional \$5 per month on their electric bill, according to Minnesota Power. Industrial and large commercial customers will see a 4.4 percent increase. The approved rate hike is significantly lower than the 12 percent increase initially sought

by the Duluth-based utility, a subsidiary of ALLETE, Inc.

Consumers had been paying an 8.6 percent interim hike approved last January while the company's request was being considered. As part of the settlement, customers who paid the interim rate will receive a one-time refund in early 2025, estimated at \$30-40 for most households, along with interest.

Minnesota Power's revised rate proposal aims to support ALLETE's EnergyForward strategy, which is focused on achieving 100-percent carbon-free energy by 2040. The company, which reached nearly 60 percent renewable energy

in 2022, plans to use the additional funds to bolster its workforce, improve grid reliability, address inflation and supply chain issues, and enhance cybersecurity. The final rate hike is projected to raise approximately \$34 million, less than half of the \$89.1 million the company initially sought.

The settlement also caps executive compensation for the company's top ten highest-paid leaders at \$1.5 million, ensuring that expenses above this amount will not impact customer bills.

The agreement also set Minnesota Power's return on equity at 9.78 percent, allowing it to attract

the investment necessary to fund its clean-energy initiatives, which include transitioning to renewable sources and building resiliency in the electric grid.

The change was finalized after extensive negotiations between Minnesota Power, the Minnesota Department of Commerce, the Attorney General's office, and a coalition of large industrial customers, including taconite mines and paper mills.

"This agreement strikes a balance, with beneficial outcomes for customers while keeping Minnesota Power on track as it works toward the state's ambitious climate

goals," ALLETE Chair, President, and CEO Bethany Owen said in a statement. "We appreciate the hard work of our team and our stakeholders, and the commission's recognition that this rate settlement agreement is the best outcome, with benefits for our customers, our communities, the climate, and our company."

The PUC decision follows a 9.5-percent rate increase granted to Minnesota Power in early 2023 which was also lower than the initial request of 17.58 percent.

BREITUNG TOWNSHIP

# Fire truck repairs costly, but cheaper than buying a new pumper

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

**SUDAN-** Breitung Township Supervisor Matt Tichel gave the board a heads up at their Oct. 17 meeting, that repairs of the fire department's mini-pumper, were proving costly.

Tichel said the department had spent about \$28,000 on repairs so far, and that there were still some items that needed to be replaced. Repairs on the departments truck three have included the replacing the pump, several valves, the compressed foam system, and replacing gauges.

"We have known there were issues since 2021, and were trying to limp it along," Tichel said. "The truck should be in really good condition now, and it should be good for a really long time."

Even with higher-than-expected repair bills, Tichel said the price tag was still far less than replacing the rig, which would cost upwards of half a million dollars.

The department is also in need of new turnout gear for members because the current gear is out-of-date. The department had applied for a grant for the purchase, but was not successful, so the department will need to fund this purchase out of their budget. Tichel also told the board that the water tender will need some repairs, but they likely won't be as costly as the pumper.

There was no board action required on these repairs.

Plans are moving ahead for the completion of the Tower-Soudan loop trail, and board chair Tim Tomsich said the project may qualify for a state grant program that would pay for 100-percent of the construction costs. The township has sent in a pre-application, and they will hear in November if they qualify to submit a full application. If not, the project would qualify for DNR, Blandin Foundation, plus IRRR funding, but would require a greater local match, perhaps around \$50,000. The

project is a joint effort with the city of Tower.

The project, which will complete a paved trail loop between Tower, Soudan, and the two campgrounds, is expected to cost around \$900,000 for the final one-plus mile of paved trail required.

Tomsich said if the local match is required, they are looking at funding it from campground revenues, spread over three years.

**FEMA funding**

The township has completed most of the repairs to roads and infrastructure from the June flood event, and has their application for FEMA reimbursement mostly completed. The township is still waiting on some information from contractors, as well as information required by the Build American, Buy American Act, which requires purchasing for federal contracts to use American-made components and steel. Engineer John Jamnick said it can be complicated to get assurances that the steel used in com-

ponents was made in America, and there are exceptions for components that are not made in America. FEMA representatives were set to visit Breitung on Oct. 24 to do a final inspection of projects.

The maintenance department's flood repair work the past months included ditching of storm sewer outlets, replacing culverts and repairing ditches on Echo Pt. Rd., adding a new culvert and clearing ditches on Junction Rd., repairing flood damaged dock sections at McKinley Park Campground, and adding rock to eroded shoulder areas on the Stuntz Bay Rd.

**Police report**

Breitung Police Chief Dan Reing reported 90 calls for service in September, and two arrests: an adult male arrested for DWI, giving a false name, and test refusal; and a juvenile male arrested for a probation violation with additional charges pending. Reing said the department had been very busy in September, and would be sub-

mitting a more detailed report in October.

**Other business**

In other business at the meeting, the board:

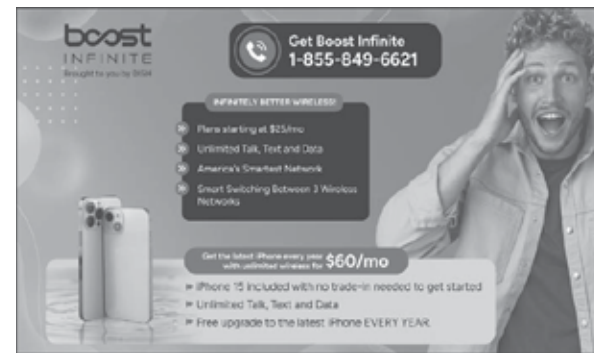
- Approved a resolution to alter and vacate portions of the Thompson Farm Rd., which is being rebuilt and slightly rerouted. The project is being funded through a statewide road project grant, along with some funding from the DNR and Prospectors Trail. The new road will be providing access from the off-road vehicle campground being constructed by the DNR, as well as moving the roadway away from gravel reserves owned by the town-

ship and a private contractor.

- Heard an update on infrastructure projects. The Stuntz Bay Rd. project was ready for blacktopping, and the cost of the change orders required earlier this summer will be covered through the state park road fund. The project was funded through the state park road fund, but managed by the township.

- Moved their regular November meeting to Tuesday, Nov. 19.

- Heard the St. Louis County Board may hold a regular meeting at the Breitung Town Hall in January.



# Keep it Clean.

# ST. LOUIS COUNTY

<p><b>ASH RIVER TRAIL CANISTER SITE</b> 11391 Ash River Trail</p>	<p><b>WINTER HOURS</b> Sat: 12:30 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.</p>
<p><b>COOK TRANSFER STATION</b> 2134 S. Beatty Rd. Cook</p>	<p><b>HOURS</b> Mon: 10 a.m.—6 p.m. Tues thru Sat: 9 a.m.—3:30 p.m.</p>
<p><b>COUNTY 77 CANISTER SITE</b> 2038 County Rd. 77 Greenwood Twp</p>	<p><b>WINTER HOURS</b> Thu, Sun: Noon—5 p.m.</p>
<p><b>KABETOGAMA LAKE CANISTER SITE</b> 10150 Gamma Rd</p>	<p><b>HOURS</b> Wed: noon — 4 p.m. Sat: 8 a.m. — noon</p>
<p><b>ORR CANISTER SITE</b> 4038 Hwy 53</p>	<p><b>WINTER HOURS</b> Tue, Thu: 9 a.m.—noon Sat: 8 a.m.—noon</p>
<p><b>PORTAGE CANISTER SITE</b> 6992 Crane Lake Rd, Buyck</p>	<p><b>WINTER HOURS</b> Tue, Sat: 1 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.</p>
<p><b>REGIONAL LANDFILL</b> 5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia</p>	<p><b>HOURS</b> Mon-Fri: 8 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Sat: 8 a.m.—3:30 p.m.</p>
<p><b>HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITIES</b></p>	
<p>5345 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Tues and Sat: 8 a.m.—1 p.m.</p>	<p>3994 Landfill Rd, Hibbing Sat: 8 a.m.—1 p.m.</p>

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

**Winter hours effective October 1 - April 14**





# Outdoors

Our lives in the Northwoods

## WINTER OUTLOOK

### Weak la Niña would likely bring more snow this winter

NOAA: The developing pattern could boost the region's odds for a snow lovers' winter

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Snow lovers here in the North Country have reason for optimism, at least according to a recent analysis posted on [climate.gov](https://www.climate.gov/news-features/blogs/enso). (see <https://www.climate.gov/news-features/blogs/enso>). Regular weather watchers likely already know that the Climate Prediction Center is forecasting the development of a weak la Niña current in the Pacific this late fall and winter.

La Niña currents generally mean more snow in the northern U.S., includ-

ing here in Minnesota, but there are quite a few instances when northern Minnesota experienced less snow than usual under la Niña conditions.

In other words, the “more-snow signal” from a la Niña in general is more of a 60-40 probability. It’s there, but don’t necessarily run out and buy that new snowmobile you’ve been eyeing. What’s more, even when the average la Niña brings more snow, it’s only about three or four inches more than usual.

But when you look closer, by analyzing the weather impacts from just weak la Niña events, as is predicted for

Developing weather patterns could mean more opportunity for winter outdoor activities like snowshoeing, skiing, and snowmobiling.

file photo

this winter, the situation suddenly looks more promising. Under a weak la Niña, Minnesota’s odds for a snowier than average winter jump to about 70-30, and it’s more likely to produce an extra eight-to-ten inches of snow, as compared to the long-term average. That’s enough to make a real difference for those of us who like to play in the snow.



## YOUTH DEER HUNT



North Woods School sophomore Merilee Scofield poses with the doe that she shot Oct. 20 in a field at her rural Cook home. submitted photo

### Young Cook hunter has a perfect record

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- Some might call 15-year-old Merilee Scofield the envy of many a deer hunter in the North Country, as she’s never failed to fill a deer tag since she started hunting at the age of ten.

“She turned ten on opener, and that’s what she wanted to do for her birthday,” said her mother, Jennifer Scofield. “She’s 15 now and about to turn 16, and I think she’s shot seven deer total.”

Merilee has already made a mark at a young age as a sharpshooter on the North Woods School archery team. The sophomore competed in the NASP Centershot Eastern Nationals last spring in Louisville, Ky. in both the bullseye and 3D target competitions. But when it comes to deer, her mother said, Merilee uses a rifle, and obviously learned well under the watchful eyes of her father, Jeremy, and her grandfather, Bill Nieters.

And some might also envy the relative ease with which she bagged another doe this past Sunday. No long drives, no arduous treks through dense forest to a remote tree stand, no sir – Merilee just took a short trek out of her back door.

Jeremy and Jennifer Scofield live about eight miles west of Cook, where they have 70 acres adjoining their home’s back yard.

“She was in our field, and I can watch her from our back yard,” Jennifer said.

It’s rare to find a teenager these days without a cellphone, and Merilee’s came in handy as she prepared to take aim at her prey. She sent a text to her vigilant mom.

“She said there’s a deer between you and me, Mom, you need to go in the house because I don’t want to shoot you,” Jennifer said.

Jennifer complied, and moments later Merilee chucked up the seventh deer of her young hunting career.



## REVISITING PAGAMI

### The Powwow Trail offers a reunion and a vision of recovery from fire

A trek to Pose Lake along the Powwow Trail two weekends ago was a reunion of sorts for a small group of friends. For me, it was a return to the site of the Pagami Creek Fire, which I first visited back in 2011, three weeks after the fire had incinerated more than 90,000 acres, and more than 50,000 acres in a single unforgettable day in September 2011.

Three weeks after the blaze, the area was a black moonscape, with no sign of life for miles. The fire was so hot, it burned virtually everything, leaving behind only ash and a surreal graveyard of blackened tree trunks that stretched to the horizon.

Thirteen years later, I was eager to revisit the area to assess the recovery from that incredible fire.

For my long-time friend Mary Shedd, it was an opportunity to walk part of the trail she helped build back in the late 1970s, during her early years with the U.S. Forest Service.

While portions of the trail follow an old logging road that had headed north from the former community of Forest Center, most of the trail’s roughly 30 miles had been carved by hand through the uncracked forest. Mary, who lived 30 years in Tower, recently moved fulltime to Isabella with her husband Steve. She never lost her enthusiasm for trail-building and even now, in her 70s, she still spends much time in the woods clearing routes and blazing trees.

Joining us on the trail were

my wife Jodi and our friend Victoria, the young one of the group.

The Powwow Trail is a path that Mother Nature has done her best to wipe away. In 1999, the massive blowdown made the trail impossible for months and at the time, there were some in the forest service who were content with giving up on the trail. When Pagami blew through, it left thousands of dead snags lining the trail and most have since fallen over, providing yet another blow to the trail.

But we were reminded on the 12-mile out-and-back trek of how it is that the trail still survives despite these challenges. Along the way, we ran into a

crew of about a dozen volunteers who were spending their weekend helping to maintain the trail. It’s been volunteers who have devoted thousands of hours over the years to keeping the Powwow a viable, and apparently popular, trail. While I’ve hiked Boundary Waters trails many times, I had never seen so many others with the same idea before, and that’s not even counting the trail workers.

#### The recovery

What all those fellow hikers find is a landscape that is, in places, on the way to recovery from an epic disaster. Much of the landscape is now blanketed in a carpet of either dense jack pine saplings or equally dense aspen sprouts, all underlain by

Above: Pose Lake, in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, shows the impact of the 2011 Pagami Creek Fire, which burned over 90,000 acres.

Below: Mary Shedd, formerly of Tower and now of Isabella, points to the stretch of the Powwow Trail she helped build in her early years with the U.S. Forest Service.

Bottom: A male spruce grouse sits in a young jack pine along the trail. photos by M. HelMBERGER



MARSHALL HELMBERGER



READ  
the Timberjays!

See PAGAMI, pg. 5B

PAGAMI...Continued from page 4B

a tangle of crisscrossed tree trunks, like pick-up sticks, that make any venturing off the trail challenging. While aerial surveys in winter have shown a substantial moose population within the burn, we saw only a couple signs of moose along the route. While moose have long legs, I thought it has to be challenging for them to make their way through much of the surrounding forest.

The dense jack pine do provide good habitat for at least some species. Spruce grouse thrive in young jack pine and we kicked up several grouse along the way. Most were ruffed grouse, but we confirmed at least one was a spruce grouse, since it only flew up in the nearest tree when our two dogs came through and flushed it. It was no more than 15 feet away, but it virtually vanished in the thick jack pine. I had to slowly work my way through a tangle of downed logs and stand virtually underneath it to get a clear shot (with my camera) at the bird. The density of the jack pine was the clearest possible evidence of the remarkable effectiveness of the survival strategy of this fire-adapted species. In the wake of Pagami's intense heat, the millions of cones that had grown but remained closed on the jack pine that grew in the area, suddenly opened, releasing untold billions of small, winged seeds across a landscape now open to the wind and with freshly exposed mineral soil flush with nutrients. The result was an upland landscape completely dominated by jack pine.

Even as the forest rebounds, the evidence of Pagami remains everywhere. Despite the 13 years since the fire, the millions of tree trunks piled along the forest floor look weathered but showed no sign of imminent decay. Even the millions of jack pine cones still lying on the ground, which must date



Above: Jack pine cones scorched in the Pagami fire 13 years ago lie open and empty on the ground. Right: Young jack pine grow around the scorched remains of other trees burned in the 2011 blaze. The ground is now covered with downed trees that were tinder dry after weeks of drought in the area. photos by M. Helmberger



back to the fire, looked as if they were no more than a year or two old. It's as if the microorganisms that normally decompose these organic materials were wiped away in the fire as well. Walking along the trail, on in the midst of a drought, I couldn't help but think that there was a tremendous amount of dry fuel still remaining on the landscape, just waiting for another lightning strike.

I had expected a more verdant landscape than we saw. In many places, the plants that normally grow on the forest floor still appeared in short supply, suggesting the inferno killed many of them at their roots and took the seed sources with them. Moss, which reproduce through windblown spores, seemed to be the most common groundcover in most uplands. While the land was recovering, Pagami had seemingly set back the clock on much more than might be expected.

Even the rocks were changed. I've used a big blowtorch at times over the years to break up large boulders in our yard, which leaves the rocks noticeably brittle, and I recognized the same effect

on the rocks that had apparently been superheated as a result of the fire. Halfway into our hike, on an open face of ledgerrock overlooking Pose Lake, we stopped for lunch. All around us were the still-charred remains of trees that had once covered this rock, but there was only scattered living vegetation that had since made its way back.

I imagined this same rock face, left exposed as the last glaciers melted away ten thousand years ago, and surmised it wouldn't have looked much different. This was a place that had been transformed and it will probably be generations before it returns to its former state. And given climate change and our increasing

frequency of fire, there's no guarantee that it will ever be like it was.

Yet at least a few areas within the blaze were left mostly intact. As it is throughout the Boundary Waters, the Powwow passes through some impressive wetland complexes. While these areas were lightly burned by Pagami, they avoided the intense heat that seared the uplands. I remember that these were the only places one could still find a touch of green 13 years ago and they seemed to have recovered most fully.

That, of course, is the nature of fire. Its intensity varies across the landscape. Wetlands, lakes, and high hills tend to leave small oases in

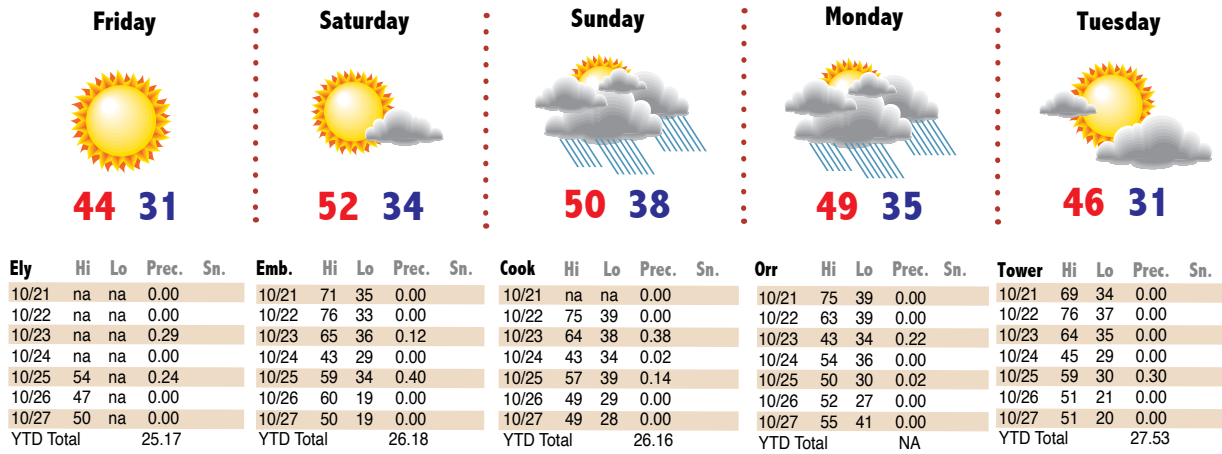
If you decide to go

The Powwow trailhead is located near the west end of Isabella Lake, and is designated as BWCAW entry point No. 86. The first several miles of the trail follow an old logging road, which makes for easy walking, in sharp contrast to most trails in the BWCAW. You can do an out-and-back day hike or plan for overnight hiking if you'd like to do the entire 31 miles. The forest service recommends at least three days to complete the hike, which traverses more than a dozen lakes along the way. Much of the trail passes through the Pagami burn.

their wakes. Variations in the fuels and forest composition make a difference as well, leaving behind a mosaic of vegetation of different types and ages, that provides ideal habitat for so many of our wild neighbors in the North Country. If you want to get a look at this process in action, a walk on the Powwow Trail is sure to be enlightening.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather



**Northwoods Splendor!**  
Stay with Us  
Includes continental breakfast!  
Book Online: [vermilionparkinn.com](http://vermilionparkinn.com)  
Close to lakes, trails, state parks, casino  
218.753.2333 • 30 Center St., Soudan MN

**Rich Tru**  
FOR MINNESOTA HOUSE DISTRICT 3A  
FWD INDEPENDENT  
Prepared & Paid for by the Campaign Fund for Rich Tru

Not Left. Not Right. FORWARD

Tru Change starts from the Bottom-Up not Top-Down  
New Perspectives

- ★ The People not The Party
- ★ No PAC or Corporate \$
- ★ Equity for Rural Priorities
- ★ Wholistic Legislation
- ★ Solutions Oriented
- ★ Rank Choice Voting
- ★ Bipartisan Deal Broker
- ★ Proactive not Reactive
- ★ Fiscal Responsibility
- ★ Term-Limits
- ★ Democracy Defender

www.RichTruMN.com Forward Party ENDORSED

**KELLY KLUN**  
Attorney At Law

Estate Planning  
• General Questions  
• Wills  
• Trusts  
• Power of Attorney  
• Health Care Declaration  
• Cabin Succession Planning

Complimentary 15 Minute Consultation

**KLUN LAW FIRM**  
Direction. Guidance. Results.

1 E. Chapman Street • P.O. Box 240 • Ely, MN 55731  
218-365-3221 • 218-365-5866 Fax  
www.klunlaw.com

**EBCH**  
Ely Community Pharmacy

The service you deserve. The neighbors you trust.

At Ely Community Pharmacy, your health is our priority. Our on-site, pharmacist-led team is here to answer questions, help manage your medications and provide the expert care you need—with the personal touch you deserve.

Trust Ely Community Pharmacy for:

- Over-the-counter medications
- Immunizations
- Diabetic testing supplies

Need something we don't carry? We can special order OTC items for the next day!

As of Monday, June 3, 2024, we now require an ID when picking up certain controlled medications for the safety of our customers. Contact the pharmacy if you have any questions about your prescription pickup.

**NOVEMBER • HAPPY THANKSGIVING SALE**

<p><b>Indicaid Covid 19 Rapid Antigen at Home Test</b></p> <p>Retail \$19.99 2 pack</p>	<p><b>\$14.99 Sale</b></p>
<p><b>Foster and Thrive Migraine Relief</b></p> <p>Retail \$6.99 50 coated caplets</p>	<p><b>\$4.99 Sale</b></p>
<p><b>Foster and Thrive Gas Relief</b></p> <p>Retail \$5.49 18 Chewable Tablets Cherry Flavor</p>	<p><b>\$3.99 Sale</b></p>
<p><b>Mylanta liquid antacid anti gas classic flavor</b></p> <p>Retail \$11.19 12 fl oz</p>	<p><b>\$7.99 Sale</b></p>

READ THE TIMBERJAY!

## Obituaries and Death Notices

### Ervin W. Olson

Ervin W. Olson, 92, of Babbitt, passed away at Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital on Friday, Oct. 25, 2024. Services were held on Wednesday, Oct. 30 at the Babbitt Evangelical Lutheran Church. Burial followed at the Argo Cemetery in Babbitt. Family arrangements were

entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

He is survived by his wife of 71 years, Esther Wang Olson; sons, Edward (Carla) Olson and Donald (Chris) Olson; daughter, Lisa (Rodney) Lampton; brother, Verdell (Faye) Olson; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

### Timothy C. Rimer

Timothy Calvin Rimer, 69, of Ely, died of colon cancer on Thursday, Oct. 24, 2024, in Boundary Waters Nursing Home in Ely, in the care of hospice. No services have been scheduled. He is survived by many friends.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ELECTION

THE GENERAL ELECTION will be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024

POLLS will be open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm at GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP HALL 3000 County Road 77, Tower, MN View your ballot at Greenwood Township office or go to the Minnesota Secretary of State website – myballotmn.sos.state.mn.us

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

### LEIDING TOWNSHIP CAMP FIVE TOWNSHIP Notice of General Election

Notice is hereby given to all qualified voters of Leiding Township and Camp Five Township, County of St. Louis, State of Minnesota. General election will be held Tuesday, November 5, 2024. Polls will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Leiding Town Hall, 10707 Hwy. 53, Orr, MN 55771.

Marie Milan, Town Clerk

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

### SNOWFLAKES

solution

### TOWN OF EMBARRASS PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST

A public accuracy test for the Election Optical Scan Equipment (DS200) and AutoMark will be held the Town Hall, 7503 Levander Road, Embarrass MN on November 1 at 1:30 pm. All public is welcome.

Jennifer Boese  
Embarrass Town Clerk

*Published in the Timberjay, Nov. 1, 2024*

### 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: X equals M

D MRHGLRM DM VBO VHCSZAJGY  
VRZC XBSZYZDCZ PZTBXZ  
OZTAZMBAU HJ OMBMZ. ORZ'O  
BYPADLRM VDMR XZ!

©2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

### Get Informed! Get the Timberjay!

## EMPLOYMENT

### Executive Director of Development Permanent, Full-Time

This position provides leadership, strategic planning, integration, and direction to the agency in general, and specifically it's Business Development division. The incumbent in this position is responsible for coordinating and implementing all agency business development incentive programs and must lead in developing complex financing proposals designed to attract and retain businesses within the Department's service area. This position also has overall responsibility for the activities and results of the IRRR's economic development and provides day to-day leadership for department operations. This position directs personnel and oversees and coordinates teams to plan, develop, implement and/or finance development projects and to undertake new economic development initiatives.

Learn more and apply online at [mn.gov/careers](http://mn.gov/careers)  
Job ID: 80952

### Facilities and Operations Manager Permanent, Full-Time

This position oversees the management of all the agency's properties and facilities that are owned, occupied and leased at Eveleth, Biwabik – Giants Ridge, Chisholm – Mineland Reclamation and Minnesota Discovery Center. This position directs long-term plans, goals and strategies for site management, new construction and development planning, maintenance and repairs of real property and assets consistent with the agency's mission and objectives.

Learn more and apply online at [mn.gov/careers](http://mn.gov/careers)  
Job ID: 80941

**Application deadline: November 4, 2024**  
**GREAT BENEFITS PACKAGE INCLUDED**

AA/EOE, Veteran Friendly

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

## Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

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

1. Enthusiasm	___ D ___	Day for tree planting	___ B ___
2. Complete travesty	___ A ___	Air ___ One	___ O ___
3. Where walls meet	___ R	Trumpet kin	___ T
4. Beauty's suitor	___ E ___	TNT explosion	___ L ___
5. Billfold	W ___	Pavlova's dance	B ___
6. Mommy's partner	___ D ___	Groovy	___ N ___
7. More solidified	___ I ___	Agriculturalist	___ A ___
8. Maritime	___ A ___	Belly-button	___ E ___
9. Ship's load	C ___	No. Dakota's largest	F ___
10. Rainforest	___ N ___	Multi task	___ G ___

©2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

### 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. Also monitors contracts/programs by providing requests, reporting and documentation under the direction of the Program Accounting Supervisor (Supervisory Program Accountant).

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

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

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

### 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.

TJ TU MVJ VMFB NVH QGZJ  
QR IV JGZJ QR ZHR GRFI  
HRUAVMUTLFR, LDJ ZFUV  
NVH QGZJ QR IV MVJ IV.  
— OVFTRHR

©2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

©2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

## King Crossword

<b>ACROSS</b>	1 Fringe benefit	5 "Humbug!"	8 Rocky out-crop	12 Jai –	13 Swelled head	14 Valentine border	15 Cooking area	17 Gray's subj.	18 Wedding setting	19 Riyadh residents	21 Pride parade letters	24 GI entertainers	25 Ganges wrap	28 Incursion	30 "Tasty!"	33 Actress Thurman	34 Orchestral strings	35 Director Ang	36 Prohibit	37 Gas co., for one	38 Printer's blue	39 Corn core	41 Cruising	43 Drag	46 New York's – Island	50 Pundit's piece	51 Causing annoyance	8 Santa –	9 Not by design	10 "Superfood" berry	11 Understands	16 Work unit	20 German car name	22 Author Harte	23 Shire of "Rocky"	25 Long lunch?	26 Docs' org.	27 Cattle farm workers	29 Misfortunes	31 – culpa	32 Gents	34 Rubik's brain-teaser	38 Phoned	40 From days of yore	42 "A mouse!"	43 "Brave New World" drug	44 IRS employees	45 Get ready, briefly	47 Chic beach resort	48 Monogram pt.	49 Pvt.'s superiors	52 Parisian pal	53 Fanatic
---------------	------------------	-------------	------------------	----------	-----------------	---------------------	-----------------	-----------------	--------------------	---------------------	-------------------------	--------------------	----------------	--------------	-------------	--------------------	-----------------------	-----------------	-------------	---------------------	-------------------	--------------	-------------	---------	------------------------	-------------------	----------------------	-----------	-----------------	----------------------	----------------	--------------	--------------------	-----------------	---------------------	----------------	---------------	------------------------	----------------	------------	----------	-------------------------	-----------	----------------------	---------------	---------------------------	------------------	-----------------------	----------------------	-----------------	---------------------	-----------------	------------

© 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

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

### Super Crossword

Answers

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

Subscribe • 218-753-2950



# TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

Considerations of personal privacy, time and resources prevent the newspaper from investigating ads placed in the classified section. If you respond to an ad, we urge you to use the same care and prudence that you would use when conducting business in any other situation.

**Try out the Timberjay classifieds**  
 Line classifieds cost 30¢/word, \$6.00 minimum. Classified ads can be run a second time at half price (private parties only). We now accept payment by Visa, Mastercard, AmEx, and Discover. Call your ad in to 218-753-2950. Display (boxed) classifieds are billed by the "inch" - please call for prices and information on discounts. Call Today - 218-753-2950

Your local source for news, music and entertainment!

**91.7 KAXE**  
 Northern Community Radio  
**90.5 KBXE**

91.7fm - Grand Rapids  
 90.5fm - Bemidji  
 89.9fm - Brainerd  
 kaxe.org

### AUTOMOTIVE

**Langevin Auto & Truck Repair**  
*Full Service Auto Repair & Garage*  
 Hours: 8 AM-5 PM M-F  
 2 Miles South of Tower  
 218-749-0751

### HAIR CARE

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

### PET CREMATION

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

### WANTED

SELIGA CANOES WANTED: We'll buy old Seligas in Good Shape. Turn your classic canoe into cash. Call Steve at 365-6745. tfn

### LAND FOR SALE

REMOTE 85 ACRES off Doig Road, 6 miles west of Babbitt. Easement access to your own private wilderness. Asking \$43,000. Call Robert 651-982-2808. 11/8

### SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### MARINE

#### MOCCASIN POINT MARINE

4655 Moccasin Point Rd Lake Vermilion  
 218-753-3319  
 Storage, Boat Rentals, Service/Repairs/Sales  
 Mechanic on Duty  
 moccasinpointmarine.com



**MERCURY OUTBOARDS**  
**Frank's Marine Sales & Service**  
 Mercury, Orestiner, Lund  
 www.franksmarinesales.com  
 franksmarine@centurytel.net  
 Hwy 53, Orr • Call 218-757-3150

**ARONSON BOAT WORKS**  
 LAKE VERMILION, TOWER  
 Located two miles southwest of Tower on Hwy. 169  
 Winter Hours Start Nov. 1:  
 Mon-Fri: 9 AM-5 PM  
 Sat & Sun: Closed  
 MERCURY LUND ORESTINER PROVEN  
 Storage • Complete Service • Sales

Since 1926  
**Handberg's MARINA**  
 & GENERAL STORE  
 Boat Sales, Service & Storage  
 YAMAHA MERCURY  
 218-993-2214 • handbergs.com  
 Crane Lake, MN

**Centrally Located On Lake Vermilion**  
 Covered Wet & Dry Boat Storage  
 Lease or Purchase Options  
 Marina • Mechanic on Duty  
 Convenience Store  
 24-Hour Fuel • Live Bait  
 4551 Bradley Road, Tower • 753-5457  
 www.shamrocklanding.com

**Subscribe Today**  
 Call us at 218-753-2950  
 or go online at www.timberjay.com

**SNOWFLAKES**  
 by Japheth Light

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ♦♦♦♦

♦ Easy ♦♦ Medium ♦♦♦ Difficult

© 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

## Super Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Conga cousin
  - 6 "Ho-hum" feeling
  - 13 Old Toyota coupes
  - 20 "Tosca" tunes, e.g.
  - 21 Doggy
  - 22 Hat with the brim turned up on three sides
  - 23 The choosing of cosmonaut Gagarin?
  - 25 Its capital is Tallinn
  - 26 Border of Utah and Idaho, e.g.
  - 27 Primo pitcher
  - 29 Of higher rank
  - 30 Cooks in fat
  - 31 Sign that an egg may have gone bad?
  - 35 Listed from memory
  - 38 Felt sorry for
  - 39 King-size tub
  - 40 Santa — (hot desert winds)
  - 41 Distributed, with "out"
  - 42 Pamper
- DOWN**
- 1 Articulates
  - 2 In — (mired)
  - 3 Hollywood's Sorvino
  - 4 Angler's chum
  - 5 Put forward
  - 6 Proved false
  - 7 Kilns, e.g.
  - 8 Go really fast in Fla.
  - 9 Winter hrs.
  - 10 Twice CCLI
  - 11 Lacto- — diet
  - 12 Threatened hostilely
  - 13 Sword metal
  - 14 Surgery sites, in brief
  - 15 Scholarly group
  - 16 Devoted attendant
  - 17 Many a sonata finale
  - 18 Disney mermaid
  - 19 Sarcasm, informally
  - 24 Writer Wiesel
  - 28 North Atlantic catch
  - 31 Pig's grunt
  - 32 Bouquets-to-order co.
  - 33 "Pshaw!"
  - 34 Egg producer
  - 35 Having light beams
- ACROSS**
- 46 That guy over there with the famous signature?
  - 50 Indian dress
  - 51 Round figure
  - 52 High trains
  - 53 Real stunner
  - 54 Writer known for twist endings
  - 57 Chimney duct
  - 58 Possible result of a computer crash
  - 60 Key with no sharps or flats
  - 61 Side street
  - 62 Given "four years at a New Haven university" as punishment for a crime?
  - 65 Painter Max
  - 68 Frigid epoch
  - 69 University near Fort Worth
  - 73 Water, in Cuba
  - 74 "Ars — artis" (MGM motto)
  - 75 "I'll do it," in radiospeak
  - 76 '16 Olympics city
  - 77 Major conflict
- DOWN**
- 57-Across
  - 79 Lemon-hued growth on old bread?
  - 81 Suspend, as a meeting
  - 83 Certain British noble's domain
  - 86 Kind of sword
  - 87 "Notorious" Supreme Court inits.
  - 88 Vintage Ford
  - 89 People using swearwords
  - 92 A typical casual greeting?
  - 96 Bagel centers
  - 97 Lena of song
  - 98 Angry feeling
  - 99 Food-packing plants
  - 103 "Tail cone," for "Lance Ito"
  - 105 Shaggy ox that's a baseball mascot?
  - 109 Floral decoration
  - 110 Satan, with "the"
  - 111 Philosopher Kierkegaard
  - 112 Printing machines
  - 113 Loathes
  - 114 Telling signs
- DOWN**
- 36 — Gay (WWII plane)
  - 37 Have the capacity to, to Shakespeare
  - 38 Treaty
  - 41 Indoor tabby
  - 42 Tote bag
  - 43 See 93-Down
  - 44 Correct
  - 45 Comply with
  - 47 More skilled
  - 48 Gas in lights
  - 49 Strong alloy
  - 50 In a snobbish way
  - 54 Psi follower
  - 55 Camouflage
  - 56 Doc treating apnea
  - 57 Hightail it away
  - 59 Perplexed
  - 60 Certain palm berry
  - 61 Give the OK
  - 63 Take-home
  - 64 Former BP gas brand
  - 65 H2O, to a tot
  - 66 "Yipes!"
  - 67 — Khalifa (Dubai skyscraper)
  - 70 Overused theme
  - 71 OPEC ship
  - 72 Center points
  - 74 Big ravine
- DOWN**
- 75 Traveled
  - 78 Undermines the power of
  - 79 "Seize the day" acronym
  - 80 Ship dining place
  - 82 "Navel" fruits
  - 83 Just missed parring
  - 84 Suffix with fruit names
  - 85 California's Marina del —
  - 88 Do injury to
  - 89 Rabbits
  - 90 Elbow-to-wrist bone
  - 91 Appear to be the case
  - 92 Twyla of choreography
  - 93 With
  - 94 43-Down, list of superb students
  - 94 Expunge
  - 95 Singer LeAnn
  - 96 "In case you — noticed ..."
  - 99 Corp. money honchos
  - 100 As to
  - 101 Idyllic garden
  - 102 IRS form IDs
  - 104 Enjoyed food
  - 106 St. cresser
  - 107 First-aid —
  - 108 Bullring cry

**CryptoQuip** answer  
 I thought it was wonderful when Madeleine became secretary of state. She's Albright with me!

**CryptoQuote** answer  
 It is not only for what we do that we are held responsible, but also for what we do not do. — Moliere

### FUNERAL SERVICES

**Range Funeral Home**

Virginia 741-1481  
 Hibbing 263-3276  
 "Friends Helping Friends"

### Weekly SUDOKU

#### Answer

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

### King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

PERK BAH CRAG  
 ALAI EGO LACE  
 RANGETOP ANAT  
 ALTAR SAUDIS  
 LGBT USO  
 SART RAID MWM  
 UMA GELLI LEE  
 BAN UTIL CRYAN

### Even Exchange

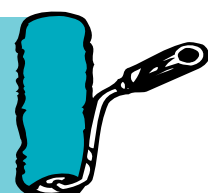
- answers
- Ardu, Arbor
  - Farce, Force
  - Comer, Comet
  - Beast, Blast
  - Wallet, Ballet
  - Daddy, Dandy
  - Firmer, Farmer
  - Naval, Nevel
  - Cargo, Fargo
  - Jungle, Juggle

**Get Results!**

**Advertise in the Timberjay!**



# HOME IMPROVEMENT GUIDE



## Comfort for the Holidays!

### RECLINERS & RELAXERS



Nordic Home North

303 Main St, Tower  
218-753-3313 • 612-280-9195 cell  
www.NordicHomeNorth.com • marit@nordic-home.com

## SAUNA SPECIAL!

1 x 6-7' Premium Knotty Cedar V-Joint

**\$1.20 LF**

reg price \$2.60 LF while supplies last



Phone/Fax: 218.666.5344  
Hours: Mon. Fri: 7-5, Sat: 8-12  
info@cookbuildingcenter.com

## OAK NARROWS STORAGE

Premium Lake Vermilion Location

1/2 mile to Oak Narrows Public Access  
Safe, Secure and Accessible 24/7 Year-round  
• Multiple Sizes Available •  
Units with 11' Wide Doors & Outlet Inside

[oaknarrowsstorage.com](http://oaknarrowsstorage.com)

For all your HEATING, PLUMBING and AIR CONDITIONING needs...



We're the Professionals!

## Heisel Bros.

HOURS: M-F 8 AM-5 PM

PLUMBING & HEATING  
Northgate Plaza • Virginia  
218-741-8381 • www.heiselbros.com

Master Plumber PC644131



Trusted. Local. Experts



VERMILLION ROOFING.com

218-800-ROOF • Insured • License #BC785662

## Tekautz Mechanical

Heating, Air Conditioning, Refrigeration Repair & Install

Steve Tekautz  
612-845-1625  
P.O. Box 264  
Soudan, MN 55782  
(We accept credit cards)



## YOU CALL, WE HAUL!

### Anderson Barging, Inc.

Cement Trucks, Septic-Pumping Trucks, Dump Truck Service, Building Materials, Dirt, Well-Drilling Equipment, Propane Delivery,

Covering all of the Lake Vermilion Area

Cell 218-780-4955  
[www.andersonbarging.com](http://www.andersonbarging.com)

## Your Project Headquarters



## VERMILLION LUMBER

HOME OF THE PROFESSIONALS  
218-753-2230  
302 Main St., Tower, MN  
M-F: 8 AM-5 PM; Sat: 8 AM-Noon

## FOREST CONCRETE PRODUCTS

Delivered Redi-Mix Concrete Septic Tanks

We have: Concrete Steps & Sidewalk Pavers, Crushed & Washed Rock, Sand, Garden Soil, Crushed & Screened Gravel, Different Types of Concrete Blocks. FREE ESTIMATES for site development, roads, fill and excavations.

Celebrating Over 52 Years!

From Ely to Tower-Soudan and Virginia, using local gravel pits to support all your needs.

FOREST CONCRETE PRODUCTS



1715 E. Sheridan, Ely, MN 55731  
office 218-365-6161 • plant 218-365-4030  
fax 218-365-6985 • cell 218-341-3197

Call about the 30% tax credit!



**KUUMA**  
Smokeless Wood Furnaces and Fantastic Sauna Stoves!



**WORLD'S #1**  
HOT AIR WOODBURNING FURNACE!

.45 gr/hr. emissions  
99.4% comb efficiency  
99% smokeless burns

833-660-1064

lampmfg@gmail.com • lampakuuma.com  
9501 Hwy. 135, Tower MN 55792

## RANGE L.P. GAS

Call Us For All Your LP Gas Needs!

Hoover Rd, Virginia 741-7393  
1613 E. Camp St., Ely 365-8888

24 Hour Emergency Service

• Toll Free •  
1-800-862-8628

## AUTOMOTIVE

## Ely Auction Service, LLC

AFFILIATE OF 2 RIVERS AUCTIONS

### 2003 Chevrolet Tahoe

208,000 miles, runs good, 4x4 works, Winter is coming.

**\$1,995**



1307 E. Sheridan St, Ely • 651-260-4228  
Jay Greeney • jmgreen40@earthlink.net

Hours: M-F 1 to 5, Sat 10-2



## INSURANCE

## Tower-Soudan Agency & Palo Mutual

Your Independent Insurance Agency



**We Can Insure:**  
Residential, Seasonal, Island and Non-Road Access Properties

218-753-2101  
415 Main St.  
Tower, MN  
[www.towersoudanagency.com](http://www.towersoudanagency.com)



**WE'RE YOUR COMPLETE REMODELING HEADQUARTERS!**



**FLOOR to CEILING**  
INTERIOR DESIGN SHOWROOM

218-741-6690 • 8401 Enterprise Drive N., Virginia/Mt. Iron • [floortoceiling.com/virginia](http://floortoceiling.com/virginia)

HOURS: 8-5:30 M-F

