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the **TIMBERJAY**



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989 VOL. 35, ISSUE 44 November 8, 2024 \$1.50

LAMPPA MANUFACTURING

Plant fire hits at peak season

Stove manufacturer had long list of orders as heating season arrives

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
 Managing Editor

TOWER — It was the worst possible time for a fire at Lamppa Manufacturing in Tower. With the heating season here, orders for sauna stoves and wood furnaces were running strong and production had kicked into high gear. “It’s always bad timing for a fire, but this is kind of our peak

season,” said plant manager Dale Horihan. “We had been running about four-to-six weeks for delivery. This could stretch that out to eight-to-ten weeks.”

The production crew had just returned on Monday morning when an apparent malfunction with a welding gun sent an electrical surge through the build-

See...LAMPPA pg. 9



Sparks fly as firefighters used metal saws and grinders to cut through metal sheathing to expose and extinguish fire at Lamppa Manufacturing.

2024 ELECTION RESULTS

The North Country bucks national trend Harris top vote-getter in Arrowhead

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
 Managing Editor

REGIONAL — The North Country voted against the grain of the national mood on Tuesday, as Democrat Kamala Harris won in St. Louis, Lake, and Cook counties, by nearly identical margins to four years ago. That ran contrary to the trend elsewhere in the country, where former president Donald Trump generally improved on his margins this time, versus his 2020 run against Joe Biden.

In St. Louis County, Harris was helped by big margins in Duluth, which

lifted her to a 56-42 percent win in the county, which was virtually identical to the 56-41 percent margin in 2020. Harris lost most precincts in the northern part of the county, including the heart of the Iron Range, although margins were closer on the Range than points north.

The Ely area was an exception to that trend, as Harris won in Ely proper, along with Fall Lake, Morse, and Eagles Nest townships.

Both Lake and Cook counties favored Harris, again by identical margins to

See...REGION pg. 10



Left: A young spiderman (Brooks Eloranta) looks less than eager over a smooch from his aunt Emily while trick-or-treating in Tower.

Below: A llama from Cook's Country Connection attracts a large group of trick-or-treaters at the Cook Lions Club trunk-or-treat event at the community center.

Below left: An eclectic group of characters made their way down Tower's Main Street.

Skraba, Warwas top area house races

by DAVID COLBURN
 Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Minnesota District 3A Rep. Roger Skraba easily won re-election to a second term on Tuesday, while Republican Cal Warwas won the contest to fill the District 7B seat vacated by the retirement of DFL Rep. Dave Lislegard.

It was one former mayor besting another in the District 3A race, as Republican Skraba collected 14,443 votes to DFL

challenger Harley Droba's 10,779 votes, a 55.5-41.5 percent margin.

Skraba fared better in Droba's home turf of International Falls, winning by 700 votes, than he did in his hometown of Ely, where he prevailed by 202 votes. Droba handily won the race in Cook County, ran close but lost in Lake County, and lost St. Louis, Koochiching, and Itasca counties by large

See...HOUSE pg. 11

Stauber easily outpaces Schultz in the Eighth

by DAVID COLBURN
 Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Eighth District Congressman Pete Stauber won another term in the U.S. House on Tuesday, handily defeating DFL opponent Jen Schultz.

In a rematch of the 2020 race, Schultz failed to cut into Stauber's base despite

a vigorous campaign effort. Stauber garnered 247,295 votes to Schultz's 176,551, a 58-42 percent advantage, nearly identical to the 57-43 edge he held in 2022.

That the Eighth has turned into a Republican stronghold can be seen in the

See...STAUBER pg. 9

HALLOWEEN 2024

SPOOKY FUN



GREENWOOD

Township hires attorney to investigate allegations against Maus

by JODI SUMMIT
 Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP- The Greenwood Town Board voted 3-2 at a special meeting on Oct. 30 to hire an attorney to investigate allegations made by Tower Ambulance/Fire Department member Steve Freshour, and two other members of the department, against Greenwood Fire Chief

and First Responder Jeff Maus.

Lois Roskoski, Paul Skubic, and Craig Gilbert voted in favor, and John Bassing and Rick Stoehr voted against the motion. This meeting was initially posted as a closed meeting, but was opened at the request of Jeff Maus, which is his right in accordance with the Open Meeting Law.

The township is hiring Pam Whitmore of the law firm Kennedy

and Graven, a large Minneapolis law firm that practices primarily in local government law. Whitmore has over 20 years of experience in the areas of local government law, municipal litigation and conflict management services. She was recommended by the township attorney Mike Couri and will be charging the township a rate of \$250 per hour. Roskoski said the attorney would most likely

be working remotely and conducting interviews through Zoom. No timeline was offered for the investigation, although Roskoski estimated it could take two months to complete.

The town board had met earlier that afternoon, in a closed meeting, to discuss ongoing litigation between Fire Chief Jeff Maus and the township regarding two complaints made to the Minnesota Department of

Labor and Industry (MDLI) which have not been resolved at this point. No action was taken on that matter.

The Freshour allegations were included in a handwritten 16-page letter, dated Oct. 22, which detailed ten incidents involving both emergency medical and fire calls dating back to 2023, where Freshour felt

See...ALLEGATIONS pg. 9



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Community notices

Home solar energy presentation in Ely Tuesday, Nov. 12

ELY- Are you interested in installing solar energy at home? The Ely Climate Group invites you to their meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 12 at 4 p.m. at the Ely Field Naturalists Resource Center above the Ely NAPA store. We will discuss how to start the process, what to expect, financial costs, savings and rebates, and more. Bring your questions or tell us about your experiences. This program will be available by zoom, you can find the link at elyminnesota.com/elyclimate.

Indigenous celebration at Fortune Bay Sunday, Nov. 17

VERMILION RESERVATION- Fortune Bay is hosting an event on Sunday, Nov. 17 in recognition of Native American Heritage Month. The event will be held in the Woodlands Ballroom from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. and will feature over 15 local artisan vendors selling homemade goods and foods.

Rob Fairbanks, know as “The Rez Reporter,” will be putting on two 45-minute shows, and Bois Forte’s very own author, Shane Drift, will be on hand to talk about his newly published book titled “Sad Evil.” This event is free and open to the public.

Lundgren’s partnering with AEOA Senior Nutrition for Nov. 18-22 food event

EVELETH- Lundgren Motors in Eveleth has announced their partnership with AEOA Senior Nutrition. Lundgren Motors will host a Food Distribution Event for anyone age 60 and older from Nov.18-22. 400 boxes consisting of shelf stable food will be distributed.

“We are excited for this opportunity to support our local seniors with the help of our friends at the AEOA. We look forward to seeing many familiar faces and meeting new friends throughout the week,” said Laura Hughes, general manager of Lundgren Motors.

Seniors can pick up their food box at Lundgren’s at 900 Old Hwy 53, Eveleth from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the week of Nov.18. All recipients will register to receive a food box at the event. Coffee, cookies and popcorn will be served throughout the week.

“We have had several food distributions in our area and have helped many people. This event is for anyone over the age of 60 and is important for our seniors with the upcoming expenses during the holiday season. We are excited to partner with Lundgrens to help seniors in our community,” said Jill Clapsaddle, AEOA Senior Nutrition.

Ladies of Kaleva Soinnuttaren Tupa 32 and the Knights meeting Nov. 14

VIRGINIA- The Ladies of Kaleva Soinnuttaren Tupa 32 and the Knights will be meeting Thursday, Nov. 14 at 6 p.m. at Kaleva Hall. This will be our last meeting of the year. Please attend so we can make the final arrangements for our Holiday Bazaar. We will be having our potluck Christmas Dinner on Dec. 6 at Kaleva Hall. Everyone is welcome.

“Castaway Island Christmas” dinner theater in Cook Friday, Dec. 6

COOK- Do you ever think “What would it be like to be marooned on an island for Christmas?” Cook Covenant Church, located at 11 S. 2nd Street in Cook, welcomes you to visit a “Castaway Island Christmas” dinner theater at 6 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 6. This is the fifth year church members and friends will perform a holiday event with a dinner theatre. This year, we have another humorous play, written by our pastor, Brian Burton.

Posters are going up all over town and country. These dinner theatre events are always special, and they are hilarious! Many times attendees wish there would be more than one performance. Seating is limited so reserve yours today by calling or texting 331-442-9463. Again this year, the cost to attend, per person, is a donation, all of which will go to the Cook Community Food Shelf.

EMBARRASS

Nelmark open Nov. 7-9 for “A Scandinavian Christmas”

EMBARRASS –With Christmas just weeks away, it’s time to find holiday gifts or stocking stuffers. Shoppers will find numerous items available at the Embarrass Nelmark Homestead Museum at reasonable prices, created by community artisans. Old time memories can be experienced and captured at the old homestead which has been redecorated for the holidays and will be open on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Nov. 7, 8 and 9, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. and Dec. 12, 13 and 14, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

The list of items this year is endless: handcrafted figures; homemade soaps and oils; small trees, mantle and entry decorations; sauna signs; repurposed and recycled items attractively made new again; Finnish glassware; unique children’s books and other gift books; t-shirts and sweats, baseball caps, warm hats and mittens to wear; aprons, ironing board covers, throw pillows and lovely long-lasting rag rugs; postcards from olden days; bird feeders, old marbles, games for kids, and local photographs of sites we treasure.

Upstairs at the museum—which is located across



Get a head start on your holiday shopping and baking, plus be sure to take time to sit with friends for coffee an’ during the Nelmark’s annual holiday gathering. A second gathering is set for Dec. 12-14. file photo

from Timber Hall—you can find unique collectibles, such as kerosene lanterns, cookie jars to fill, old jars and tins, crocks, glassware collections and many additional items on sale.

If you’re not in the market for stocking stuffers or collectibles, there will be an amazing selection of freshly baked holiday breads, cookies, candy and rolls on Thursday and Friday (may

be gone by Saturday!) to add to your taste enjoyment. There will be homemade candies, tea rings, Christmas coffee cakes, potica loaf, braided rolls, cinnamon rolls, wild fruit jams and jellies, a variety of relishes, jars of home processed dill and sweet pickles, including beet pickles, spicy salsas, rhubarb and berry jams, fresh cardamom biscuit (pulla) sprinkled with sug-

ar along with other ethnic breads, “limpu” and Swedish rye bread, artisan breads, and other yummy delicacies. Come early and enjoy hot cranberry cider and coffee on the house and help ring the sleigh bells for the holiday season... a special Scandinavian Christmas.

BUSINESS SAVVY

Sign up for Northspan’s free Conducting Business 101: Basic Cash

VERMILION RESERVATION- If you ever wanted to learn how to stretch your dollars further, then you’ll want to stop by the Sumac room at Fortune Bay Resort Casino Saturday, Nov. 9 for Northspan’s Conducting Business 101: Basic Cash Flow course.

The free class, which includes complimentary lunch, begins at 10 a.m. Please arrive 15 minutes early to sign in and do some networking.

Highlights of the course include:
 > Discuss Barriers to Keeping Track of Numbers

Class is on Saturday, Nov. 9, but seats are still available

- > Introduction to the Profit and Loss Report
- > Hands on Working with the Income and Expense Tracker Tool
- > Hands on Working with Cash Flow Projections

The course wraps up with a question and answer session before adjourning at 2 p.m.

Preregistration is required, so please go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ConductingBiz101> to sign up.

This workshop is presented in partnership with Northland SBDC and is powered by the Northspan Group, Inc. If you have any questions, please reach out to Jared Dunlap, Northspan consultant & tribal liaison at jdunlap@northspan.org.

KBFT RADIO

Misaabe Cultural Experience set for Nov. 13-14 in Virginia

VIRGINIA– Bois Forte Tribal Community Radio is delighted to announce the Misaabe Cultural Experience 2024 in celebration of Native American Heritage Month. This extraordinary event will take place Wednesday, Nov. 13 and Thursday, Nov. 14 at the Iron Trail Motors Event Center in Virginia. Day sessions on both days are from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Evening sessions on both days are from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Both sessions will feature cultural speakers, performers, and tribal programs from the Bois Forte Reservation. The Misaabe Cultural Experience 2024 is aimed at the general public, particularly those interested in learning more about Native American life from past to present. Topics will cover history, art, cultural practices, and lifestyles, offering a comprehensive and engaging exploration of Native American heritage.

Special presentations include:
 > James Vukelich: Renowned speaker on Native American history and culture, on Wednesday at 6 p.m.
 > The Woodland Sky Dance Company: Showcasing mesmerizing traditional and contemporary Native Amer-

ican dance, Thursday at 6 p.m.

> Oginawaab Sutherland: Esteemed cultural leader with insights into tribal practices and modern life, Wednesday and Thursday during day sessions.

Local high school student groups are especially invited to attend and experience the cultural richness firsthand. Admission is free and the event is open to the public. For more information, please contact KBFT 89.9FM at 218-248-0167 or email gstrong@boisforte-nsn.gov.

Mino Mashkiki (Good Medicine) Music Fest set for Friday, Nov. 15

KBFT 89.9FM Bois Forte Tribal Community Radio is proud to present the 2024 Mino Mashkiki (Good Medicine) Music Fest, a vibrant celebration of music and culture in observation of Native American Heritage Month. The event will take place on Friday, Nov. 15 from 5:30 – 10 p.m. at the Iron Trail Motors Event Center in Virginia.

This year’s festival boasts an impressive lineup of artists, promising

an evening filled with diverse musical performances: Bobby V will kick off the night with original music from his new album “Storyline;” Itz Lil Lee will bring a fresh new track “City Life” and feature his latest CD “Bimadiziwin;” War Bonnet will rock the stage with their latest release “Eagle’s Eye.”

Special Guest Annie Humphrey will perform songs, speak and present to her powerful new project “Fire In The Village.”

Headliner Keith Secola, the legendary Native American music icon and Iron Range Award-winning artist, will close the night with his classic indigenous vibe, offering an engaging evening of song, insight, and community.

Admission is free and open to the public. Light food and beverages will be provided until supplies run out.

Sponsors include: The Minnesota Legacy - Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund; The Virginia Human Rights Commission; The Bois Forte Band of Chippewa.

Pop-Up Art Sale

Saturday, November 9 • 9 AM-2 PM
 Join us for a unique art experience featuring **five talented local artists!**
 (233 E Washington St. Ely)

Explore a stunning array of handmade jewelry, naturally dyed fabrics and yarns, captivating abstract art, beautiful paintings, and handwoven towels and scarves.

Don't miss this chance to support local creators and find one-of-a-kind treasures!

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

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St. Mary’s Catholic Church - Cook

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TIMBER INDUSTRY

LP Solutions looks elsewhere to increase siding production

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

Use of aging Cook site not part of current discussions

COOK- Unless one is deliberately looking for it, the former Ainsworth OSB plant south of Cook, closed 16 years ago, is “out of sight and out of mind” for traffic on Hwy 53. And that’s been an apt descriptor, as well, for current site owner LP Solutions in their investor meeting discussions about future expansion.

Tuesday’s third-quarter 2024 meeting was full of rosy updates for LP Solutions, as CEO Brad Southern reported that siding sales were up 22 percent, including strong demand for an addition to its signature SmartSide siding line, known as SmartSide ExpertFinish trim and siding, a prefinished version of the industry-leading product. “Siding set a new record for sales,” Southern said. “ExpertFinish saw another record quarter for both revenue and margin.”

Southern said that the new construction market had cooled slightly, but noted that single family units, a prime target for siding sales, are running higher than average in the market. And with ana-



The Ainsworth plant, south of Cook, shut down 16 years ago. file photo

lysts projecting a coming rebound in the remodeling market, Southern predicted that the company’s growth will continue.

“We are confident that we will continue to grow siding and structural solutions in 2025 and beyond,” Southern said.

But when the discussion turned to how the company would increase production to meet the

growing demand, Cook didn’t appear to figure into the conversation or the calculation. Instead of developing the Cook site, LP Solutions apparently will continue its so far successful strategy of converting existing facilities to siding production.

“We’re now getting to a point where we are really looking at that next wave of capacity that we

need,” Southern said. “We do have two remaining aspen-based OSB mills, one in Quebec and one in British Columbia, that are potential conversion options for us. We do have the idle facility in Wawa, Ont., that we’re studying in detail. And then we have options at existing siding mills to add press lines, so all of those are still on the table for this next wave of capacity.”

The Cook site last factored into capacity expansion discussions with investors back in 2022, when Southern indicated that it would be a possible site for developing a greenfield project, an entirely new facility specifically designed for siding production. However, such a project would be more time-consuming and much more costly to implement than the company’s conversion strategy, and at this point isn’t a viable solution to meet the company’s projected needs in the next two years. Such a project would be, “probably the least capital efficient means of securing new siding capacity,” Southern said at the time.

Local hopes were riding high in 2016 after LP Solutions bought the site over a competing option in Hoyt Lakes. Expected to open within two years, the siding plant was projected to initially employ 150 workers and give a big boost to area logging companies. That timeline was pushed back after the company decided to convert another existing plant to siding production, and Cook has been left on the outside looking in ever since.

CELEBRATING STARS

Ely’s first Dark Sky Festival set for Jan. 10-11

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor



the U.S. to earn this recognition.

Creating an event

The Ely Chamber of Commerce and the Ely Area Tourism Board have been working group of local businesses and organizations on the idea for almost a year. After months of meeting and discussion, the group agreed earlier this year that the area would profit from a

dark sky event. Over the summer, the working group agreed that January would be a good time to hold a dark sky festival.

“We looked at the calendar, and mid-January was uncluttered and removed from all the other events we have going on,” said Ely Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Eva Sebesta. “It’s halfway between the holidays and the Ely Winter Festival with not much going on.”

Having picked the dates for the event, the chamber and tourism board got down to work on filling the weekend with things to do. Todd Burlet, the president of Starry Skies North and a delegate to the International Dark Sky Association, is helping to craft the festival. Burlet has helped launch dark sky events throughout Minnesota.

Burlet said he’s been working behind the scenes with Sarah Vogl at the tourism bureau, Eva Sebesta at the chamber, and others on ideas for the event.

“I can’t say enough about what Todd has contributed,” Sebesta said. “He’s really helped us pull all the pieces together.”

The festival

The event organizers picked the date and spread the word to businesses and organizations at the end of September. The chamber put the event on the statewide Explore Minnesota events calendar and began sharing the event with astronomy and astrophotography-focused Facebook groups nationwide. The tourism bureau got to work designing a Google ads campaign to begin this month along with other marketing efforts.

Throughout October, the festival calendar began to fill. As of Nov. 2, the festival had grown to over 15 events with more anticipated as more businesses and groups get on board with planning.

“We’re hoping to see some of what we saw last winter with the Frozen musical,” Sebesta told the

Timberjay, “like the themed meals and drinks at the Grand Ely Lodge, for example.

Preview of events

Sarah Vogl of the tourism bureau provided a list of highlights already scheduled for the festival. These include:

- Painting the Aurora with Watercolor with Instructor Cecilia Rolando, Jan. 10.

- Moonlight Kicksled Adventure with Ely Bike and Kicksled along the Trezona Trail, Jan. 11.

- Romeo and Juliet presented by the Northern Lakes Arts Association, Jan. 10.

- Snowshoe Hike on Fall Lake hosted by the Friends of the Boundary Waters, Jan. 11.

- Dark Sky-Themed Trivia Night hosted by Ely Trivia at the Boathouse Brewpub, Jan. 10. “Folks can go to ely.org/DarkSky.”

See DARK...pg. 5

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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

End the Electoral College

This anachronism has been used by Republicans for years to hold power against the will of the people

As of this writing, we know who the next president of the United States will be, even as it remains unclear which candidate — Kamala Harris or Donald Trump — will ultimately win the most votes. That fact highlights the problems with the way we elect a president, which puts virtually all the electoral power in the hands of a relative handful of voters, primarily swing voters in swing states.

A voter in Minnesota, which has the bluest track record in the country in presidential elections over the past half century, is of little interest to presidential candidates. Ditto for voters in the Dakotas, or Illinois, or California — places candidates never bother to visit anymore. It seems we’ve become the United States of Pennsylvania, since as far as campaigns judged this election season, voters in the Keystone State were the only ones who mattered. Sure, they visited the other swing states, most notably Michigan, North Carolina, Nevada, and Wisconsin, but they all decided fairly early that the election would be decided by the residents of Pennsylvania.

This is not how it works in any other democracy and with good reason. When the public is led to believe they live in a democratic system, anti-democratic processes like the Electoral College undermine support for that system.

Most years, the electoral vote totals match the popular vote so the public is allowed to forget the undemocratic nature of our presidential selection process. Yet, increasingly, the Electoral College is diverging from the will of the American people. Out of the six most recent elections (not including 2024), the popular vote winner did not win the White House on two occasions because of the Electoral College. In other words, the person who the American people actually wanted to serve as president was denied that victory in one out of three elections.

It’s worth noting that, but for the Electoral College, it’s almost certain that Democrats would have controlled the White House continuously for the past 32 years, ever since Bill Clinton’s election in 1992. (While Republican G.W. Bush won the popular vote in 2004, he would not have been the incumbent at the time if not for the Electoral College). Indeed, were it not for the Electoral College, we would have a U.S. Supreme Court that was much more in line with the views of the majority of Americans.

Since the formation of the Republican Party in 1854, every instance when the Electoral

College superseded the popular vote, it worked to the advantage of the GOP candidate. And that’s no fluke, since it was the GOP, in the late 1800s, that strategically used the rapid admission of a large number of Western states with very small populations (but well-established Republican political machines), to hold onto power in both the Senate and the White House even as their popularity in the country at large was declining with their ever-increasing fealty to that era’s Robber Barons. Dividing the Dakota Territory into North and South Dakota, or adding states like Idaho and Wyoming, which had almost no population at the time of admission, gave the Republicans additional seats in Congress and a systemic advantage in the Electoral College.

Likewise, the GOP has fought tooth and nail to block statehood for the District of Columbia (which has a larger population than Wyoming), and Puerto Rico, which has a population of about 3.3 million, roughly the same as Utah or Connecticut. While D.C. is allocated three electoral votes, it has no representation in Congress. Puerto Rico has no voting representation in Congress, nor is it allocated any electoral votes. The admission of these two places as states would add five electoral votes and four new senators (almost certainly favoring the Democrats).

When statehood is even suggested, Republicans accuse Democrats of playing power politics, but denying statehood to these places is exactly the kind of disenfranchisement of Americans that Republicans have been known for. It’s exactly the same reason that Republicans denied the admission of Democratic-leaning New Mexico to the union until 1912, despite the fact that the state had substantially greater population than most other Western states at the time. Wyoming was admitted to the union in 1890 with a population of 62,000, while efforts by Democrats to add New Mexico, with 160,000 residents as of 1890, were routinely blocked by Republicans.

While they like to point fingers at their opponents, it is the GOP that has been rigging our electoral system for more than a century, by elevating the power of lightly populated Republican-leaning states, while keeping Democratic voters in places like New Mexico, D.C. and Puerto Rico disenfranchised. Should the Democrats ever gain power again in Washington, they should use it to bring an end to the stacked deck the GOP has created.

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Letters from Readers

There’s a word for what’s happening here

REGRESSION is a fantasy of going back to “Make America Great Again.” The slogan is a reactionary longing for a magical and mythical time when “life was better.” Trump’s rhetoric and behavior speaks to a rich, white-male-dominated America that denied women and minorities equal rights. Regression, as a defense mechanism, sells ideology without an idea.

INTROJECTION is a psychological defense of celebrity attachment to vicariously “get drunk” on Trump and “be somebody!” Identifying with the famous, powerful and wealthy offers a false sense of status. Without questioning, cult-followers swallow Trump’s

authoritarianism, bigotry, crudeness and cruelty while abandoning autonomy and responsibility.

DISPLACEMENT, a defense mechanism of “us against them,” blames others and takes anger out on those imagined as vermin, or “enemies from within.” Fascist memes promise mass deportation, arresting opponents and incarcerating liberals and socialists. Zero-sum thinking says another’s gain is your loss. Feeling better at another’s expense is dehumanizing.

PROJECTION allows Trump, a convicted felon, to minimize his own faults and unacceptable behavior by casting those flaws onto others. False accusation and lying about others require a bit of psychology in our civic arsenal for detecting and evaluating the power of political self-delusion.

RATIONALIZATION explains away irrational behavior with seemingly “reasonable” excuses. Trump supporters find it necessary to “justify” the irrational outbursts of a “wannabe” dictator. Accepting Trump’s lies as truth is troubling, but rendering truth as disposable and obsolete is repulsive, reprehensible and repugnant.

DENIAL, a psychological defense, ignores reality by refusing to accept unpleasant facts such as climate change, denying the reality of the COVID virus, the 2020 presidential election results, or describing Jan. 6 as a “day of love.” Think of fascism, as descriptor, not an epithet! Is it Trump’s fascist lure at work or is it home grown fascism raising its ugly head?

Harold Honkola
Stillwater

COMMENTARY

Immigrants make America stronger

It’s easy to get caught up in the challenges associated with immigration: controversy over the U.S.-Mexico border, discomfort with demographic change in urban and rural communities, and so on. But we can’t ignore the benefits that immigration and immigrants produce for America.

We are “a nation of immigrants,” as President John F. Kennedy wrote. Aside from Native Americans, we are here because our ancestors chose to immigrate — or, in the case of many African Americans, were brought here against their will. We’ve always debated how much to welcome immigrants, but there’s no question they contribute to the strength and vitality of our country.

We can all name immigrants who have added immeasurably to America’s commercial, cultural



LEE HAMILTON

and public life. They include scientists and inventors like Albert Einstein and Nikola Tesla, business innovators like Andrew Carnegie and Google’s Sergey Brin, former secretaries of state Henry Kissinger and Madeleine Albright, and dozens of popular entertainers, artists and athletes.

In this election year, however, we’re more likely to hear claims that immigrants are bad for the country. Donald Trump, in his campaign for the presidency, linked immigration to crime and violence, even repeating the thoroughly debunked claim that Haitian immigrants in Ohio are eating dogs and cats.

Of course, we have a long history of being suspicious of immigrants. As early as 1798, the Alien and Sedition Acts targeted

immigrants for allegedly spreading threatening ideas. The Know Nothing party of the 1800s relied on anti-immigrant sentiment. A surge of immigration around the turn of the 20th century brought a backlash. The anti-immigrant Ku Klux Klan of the 1920s had enormous clout.

Then, as now, opponents said immigrants increase crime, take American jobs and weaken American culture. In reality, none of these claims are true.

Research consistently finds that immigrants commit crimes at lower rates than native-born Americans, and increases in immigration haven’t raised the crime rate. Yes, we can find examples of horrific crimes committed by immigrants, but most immigrants are law-abiding and hard-working. Studies also find that immigrants are less likely than others to rely on government benefits. The jobs they hold, often

See IMMIGRANTS...pg. 5

COMMENTARY

It’s time to reexamine, assess, and refresh

To be really honest, I think this election season could possibly be the worst in recent history — way too long and fraught with one shocking development after another. There were the numerous court cases that never went anywhere, the unexpected decision by Joe Biden to remove himself from the presidential race, and a slew of unnerving judicial decisions, from district courts right up to the Supreme Court. And for many, the steady stream of outland-



KATHLEEN MCQUILLAN

ish rhetorical statements became the biggest test of all.

It’s true that if we look back in time we’ll find other campaigns when social and political upheaval tested our mettle. Two events that come to mind are the assassination

of Democratic candidate Robert F. Kennedy and the riotous outbreak at the 1968 Democratic Convention. We mustn’t forget the 2000 presidential election when the Supreme Court stopped a ballot recount and issued the

decision to dismiss the tallying of a popular vote that favored Al Gore and then appointed George W. Bush. The impact of that judicial interference changed global geopolitical dynamics thereafter. Much of the conflicts exploding across the Middle East today were triggered by the foreign policy decisions of the G.W. Bush administration. Elections do have consequences.

What has made the 2024 election cycle especially challenging is how we have handled the uncertainties ahead for our deeply divided nation. No question, those earlier examples of

political chaos and violence had a profound effect on the electorate, but Americans were determined to endure their dismay, accept the outcome and proceed to move forward. We did our soul-searching and our nation survived. What has happened during this election is different. Nearly everyone with whom I’ve spoken have reported higher levels of anxiety, fear, anger, insomnia, and depression from this campaign cycle than ever before. Moving ahead, the question of “now what?” still looms. And according to analysts, the shocking results will likely affect our recov-

ery. Besides questions regarding the future over particular issues, we’re also deeply concerned about painful divisions between neighbors, friends, and family that were fueled and festering from previous election outcomes. Will we be able to tackle the pressing needs that still face our nation? How long will it take before our fractured relationships begin to show signs of healing?

Our social norms for public conduct have been tested in ways heretofore unimagined. It’s been difficult to impose standards of language and behavior that meet

previous expectations. Trust in our social institutions is at an all-time low so it will be a challenge to find consensus on what the parameters for a new normal should be, and how will we enforce them?

There was a time (and not too long ago) that a candidate could not wander very far outside of social norms before the public’s response would either lead to a voluntary exit from the race or simply scorn a candidate into oblivion. I’m recalling Howard Dean’s mere enthusiastic “scream” from

See REFRESH...pg. 5

REFRESH...Cont. from page 4

the podium that doomed his bid for the presidency. In contrast, throughout this election, continuous, inappropriate, offensive, and oftentimes proven-false remarks, not to mention criminal charges and a conviction, have resulted in the opposite effect. Despite intense coverage by the media, bad behavior has only stirred greater passion among supporters and spurred more and greater infractions! Despite distaste for this method to acquire more votes, no one could find a way to curtail it. We watched the things worsen as the campaign drew to its final days. Many were stunned by the election results on Nov. 6.

Today, what comes to mind are some insights shared by my deceased sister who left this earth on Nov. 1, 1997 after a short and fatal bout with bone marrow cancer. She always called herself “a radical optimist.” When I would experience times of frustration and cynicism about my government, Karen was always ready to cite examples in history that bolstered her argument in favor of faith and hope in the process. Metaphorically speaking, she’d explain that when people least expected brighter days,

the sun would suddenly burst through the clouds. One of her favorite stories was the fall of the Berlin Wall on Nov. 9, 1989. And one of her heroes was Václav Havel, poet, playwright, and president of the democratic Czech Republic once that country broke from the Soviet Union.

Karen’s passionate positivity was infectious. I mention her because we are now facing some very challenging times. Her voice still pierces my darkest moments, triggering a glimmer of hope. I’m reminded that goodness still exists in all of us and longs for expression. Believing this is what’s needed for the light within us to illuminate our path forward. Our faith and patience with our system of government are key to staying the course. I will be clinging to her stern but loving guidance to “keep our eyes on the prize,” especially in these early days following the election. I can’t see the path forward, yet. My concerns sometimes threaten to spin out of control. That is, until her wise words cut through my fears. Wait. Stand firm. Be patient and watch closely for a break in the clouds.

The “electing” part appears to be

settled. Now the hard work of discovery begins. It’s time now to reexamine where we’ve been and reassess what happened. Make greater understanding a goal. Bolster my will to respect everyone I meet, to listen more closely, and seek what we have in common so that we’ll both join on the path forward when the light might suddenly break through the clouds.

I expect our country to be reeling for a while. Some may be hooting in celebration. Some may be filled with anger or overwhelmed by despair. The months ahead will be trying times, continuing to command our faith and patience. Many have been working hard and are tired. But we can’t not flip our recent history’s coin and seek the valuable lessons that are there. Our work to improve our democracy is still not done nor would it have been, regardless of who won the White House. A time will come when we’ll have looked long enough and can detect a sliver of light. We’ll be ready once again to participate in renegotiating America’s greatness.

IMMIGRANTS...Cont. from page 4

in health care, construction, agriculture and hospitality, are jobs that employers have trouble filling. Workers worried about job security have more to fear from technology.

Immigrants are our neighbors, our co-workers and the people who care for our children and our elderly. They account for nearly 14 percent of the U.S. population, and most are here legally. They pay more than \$500 billion a year in taxes. In many areas, their arrival

has offset a population decline as the native-born population ages.

Importantly, immigrants also bring skills that are essential to our economy. A significant number are college graduates. Immigrants account for over 22 percent of U.S. entrepreneurs, 15 percent of nurses and nearly a quarter of workers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, according to an American Immigration Council report. An Eli Lilly & Co. vice

president added this: “What many people may not know is that our diabetes and weight loss medicine that is often in the headlines was invented by four people here in our home state of Indiana — three of whom are immigrants to our country.”

Opening the doors to such high-skilled immigrants should be a policy priority, but our immigration laws haven’t been significantly updated since 1986. Our current system prioritizes family unification, a

laudable goal, but it hasn’t kept pace with changes in the economy.

We need a modern, streamlined immigration system that advances America’s national interests, secures the border, reflects our values and treats people as human beings, regardless of their circumstances. We can start by recognizing the benefits that immigrants produce for America — and the even greater benefits that they can produce in the future.

Letters from Readers

The world needs alternatives to fossil fuels

Global warming is causing thousands of worldwide heat-related deaths plus destruction of crop lands, wildlife, infrastructures, and generating floods, droughts, and hurricanes in addition to frequent and longer-term blackouts. It creates emotional and financial burdens to people and their communities around the globe.

Trump is still leading chants for “Drill baby drill,” and if he is elected president, he plans to roll back environmental laws, regulations, and subsidies.

As President of the United States, Trump would have a worldwide megaphone to encourage the increase of oil products and to discourage attempts to curtail use of fossil fuels. As president, Trump, would not only harm the United States’ climate and its economy, but also other countries.

Environmental deterioration is due primarily to oil explorations and having fossil fuels spewing greenhouse emissions into the atmosphere. The oil companies producing the fuels do not appear to be taking aggressive steps to find alter-

natives or effective ways to ameliorate the problem. On the contrary, they are expanding their detrimental environmental operations. The owners of these companies appear to be complicit with management. The millions of shareowners should demand that oil companies take actions to alleviate harmful effects of their products, or they should sell their stocks.

These companies have the resources, talent, and research capability to develop alternatives to dirty fossil fuels. Hydrogen is one alternative. Recently, development in the hydrogen industry make it an increasingly viable alternative. Pure, natural hydrogen is found in multiple countries and the U.S. along the Mid-Continent rift in several states. Natural hydrogen has a price advantage because it does not require costly refining.

An encouraging development of hydrogen is its ability to be converted into powder form for ease of transportation, storage, and as a component for batteries. The research is now focusing on making powdered hydrogen scalable.

Gerry Snyder Ely

DARK...Cont. from page 3

Fest to find a link to the festival Facebook page (they can also search “Ely Dark Sky Festival” on Facebook to get to our page).

“All events within the festival will be promoted on our festival Facebook page,” Vogl told the *Timberjay*, “so people should be encour-

aged to follow that page for updates, with information on registration and costs for specific events.” Vogl said a direct link to the Ely Dark Sky Festival Facebook page is on ely.org/DarkSkyFest; or people can search for “Ely Dark Sky Festival” on Facebook to locate the page.

The *Timberjay* encourages letters to the editor. You can submit letters by mail at PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790, or email letters to marshall@timberjay.com. We ask that letters be limited to 300 words.

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

Keep it Clean,
ST. LOUIS COUNTY



AURORA TRANSFER STATION

5910 Hwy 135 N, Aurora

HOURS

Mon, Thu, Fri: 8 a.m.–4 p.m.
Tue, Wed: 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
Sat: 8 a.m.–Noon

EMBARRASS CANISTER SITE

7530 Koski Rd, Embarrass

HOURS

Sat: 12:30 p.m.– 4:30 p.m.
Thu: 10 a.m.– 5 p.m.

NORTHWOODS TRANSFER STATION

9384 Hwy 21 N, Ely/Babbitt

WINTER HOURS

Mon, Thu-Sat: 8 a.m.–3 p.m.
Tue: 9:30 a.m.–3 p.m.
Wed: 11 a.m.–5 p.m.

These are the correct Soudan hours...

SOUDAN CANISTER SITE

5160 Hwy 169, Soudan

HOURS

Mon, Wed, Sat, Sun: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

REGIONAL LANDFILL

5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia

HOURS

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

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITY

5345 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia

HOURS

Tues and Sat: 8 a.m.–1 p.m.

ST. LOUIS COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

218-749-9703 | OFFICE HOURS MON - FRI 8 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Winter hours effective October 1 - April 14



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the
TIMBERJAY

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

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Week of Nov. 11

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.

Tower City Council- 5:30 p.m. on Nov. 12. Change due to Veterans Day holiday on Monday.
Greenwood Town Board- 6:30 p.m. on Nov 12

Thursday
AA Meeting- Lake Vermilion 12x12 (Open) 6:30 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church,



TSHS weekly winner
TOWER- The Week 8 winner of the Charlemagne's 52 Club \$100 cash prize is Trent Manderle of Oak Creek, Wis.

History Tidbit: Chinese laundries were popular in Tower at the turn of the 20th Century. Some of them were run by Chinese immigrants but some were run by local businessmen who saw the potential for profit in the laundry business. Many ads are featured in the newspapers between 1900 and 1910, as well as a few interesting stories about immigrants and how different their lifestyles were compared to the local people's.

Tower-Soudan Joint Powers to meet on Nov. 12
TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Joint Powers Recreation Board will meet on Tuesday, Nov. 12 at 8:30 a.m. at Good Ol' Days. Funding requests must be received in writing prior to the meeting and can be dropped/sent to Tower City Hall, PO Box 576, Tower, MN 55790.

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. This annual fundraiser raises needed money for Tower-Soudan Elementary's PTO, Tower-Soudan youth baseball, Vermilion Country Charter School.

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.

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 Lamma Civic Center. Tables are available for \$25, paid in advance. The Tower-Soudan Civic Club will be selling coffee, treats, and lunch. To reserve a table, con-

TRICK OR TREAT



Young and old had a great time trick-or-treating on Main Street on Halloween. Shops reported at least 150 trick-or-treaters after school. Afterwards, most families stopped by the civic center for the party sponsored by the Tower Fire Department Relief Association. Pictured, clockwise from top left: Jen McDonough and her mother Marge handed out candy and toys at the Tower Cafe. Sawyer and Finn Suihkonen picked out rubber ducky toys at the Timberjay. Julie Boskaykin and daughter Amara, who was celebrating her first Halloween. Libby Haavisto with son Carver, who was taking in the views. Harrison Beldo rocked his Ewok costume as he and his mother, Rachel Beldo-Rosa walked up and down Main Street. photos by J. Summit



TOWER FOOD SHELF



The dinner and silent auction raised over \$900 for the food shelf. Volunteers would like to thank all the businesses who donated prizes for the silent auction.

Tacos to help end hunger

A taco night last Friday raised money to support the Tower Food Shelf. Pictured below is food shelf director Kate Smith, and at left, members of her family and friends who cooked up and served the taco dinner meal. photos by J. Summit



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 Tower Food Shelf would like to thank the following businesses for their contributions to our taco dinner fundraiser and silent auction:* WEVE, Hibbing, for their large donations of items for the backpack program Watering Can, Cook Homestead Mmills, Cook Valhalla Ridge Farm, Angora

Heather's Home Goods, Embarrass Pike River Products, Tower Benchwarmer's, Tower Little Green Pantry, Tower Tower Café Northern Comfort, Cook Rose Cottage Bakery, Cook Timberjay, Tower Bikes in Need, Bikes Indeed Nordic Home North Ubetcha Antiques, Tower Fortune Bay Casino

Vermilion Club Sulu's, Tower Rick's Relics, Tower Zup's Grocery, Tower and Cook Lamma Civic Center/City of Tower Also a huge thank you to all the volunteers many people that came out and supported the Tower Food Shelf. The food shelf will be offering a freewill clothing and warm gear distribution whenever anyone is in need.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

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

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tact Jodi at 218-753-2950 or mail your table fee to Friends of VCS, c/o Jodi Summit, PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790.

Lunch Bunch to meet at the Boathouse in Ely on Nov. 21

ELY- The Lunch Bunch will meet on Thursday, Nov. 21 at the Boathouse in Ely at 12:30 p.m. Please RSVP to Kathy at 218-753-2530.

Everyone is welcome to join the group for lunch and conversation.

Bookmobile stops

REGIONAL- The Arrowhead Bookmobile will be in the Tower-Soudan area on Wednesdays: Nov. 13, and Dec. 4, 2024. Stops include: Britt (Sand Lake Storage): 9 - 9:30 a.m.; Bois Forte (Boys & Girls Club): 11 - 11:30 a.m.; Greenwood (Town

Hall): 12 - 1 p.m.; Soudan (Post Office area): 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.; Tower (Civic Center): 3:45 - 4:30 p.m.; and Embarrass (Hwy 135 & Hwy 21): 5 - 6 p.m.

For more information on the Bookmobile or Mail-A-Book services, contact the Arrowhead Library System, 218-741-3840, email at als@alslib.info, or website at alslib.info.

NORTHERN LAKES ARTS ASSOCIATION

Ely talent show plays to sold out crowd



Upper left: SunShine Gardner and Megan Olson won the \$750 audience favorite their dance number. Upper right: Ken Innis (left) and Adam Norgren (right) take their bows after a set of three classic R&B tunes. Lower left: Catie Clark in skaldic costume recited the epic battle of Beowulf versus Godzilla from Tom Weller's "Culture Made Stupid." Center middle: LynnAnne Vesper performed Garrison Keillor's "The Finn who would not take a sauna." Center bottom: A bewigged Irene Hartfield played a grumpy accompanist in a humorous number with vocalist Jennifer Merhar. Lower right: The youngest performer, Fiona Olson, age 10, took second place in the audience favorite awards with her stand-up comedy routine. photos by S. and C. Clark

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- The inaugural "Ely's Got Talent" show at Ely's Historical State Theater sold out last Friday. The show was a fundraiser for the Northern Lakes Arts Association and treated its audience to 11 acts ranging from serious vocal performance to traditional stand-up comedy. The MC for the show was Jim Lah, and the acts were interspersed with the antics, gags, and many costume changes of Ruth Lah. The judges for the event were Emily Roose, Emily Weise, Emily Rantala, and Paul Kess.

The show opened with Jennifer Merhar and pianist Irene Hartfield. The program suggested that they would perform Mozart, and they did a brief excerpt of that composer's music, but most of their time on stage was spent performing a hysterical ditty about Merhar's contribution to a church dinner of "Green Jello marshmallow cottage cheese surprise."

Five acts were humorous, starting with Merhar's and Hartfield's number. The show included two humorous poetic recitations. The first, performed by Catie Clark, was a dramatic skaldic rendition of how Beowulf defeated the monster Godzilla.

The second was the performance by LynnAnne Vesper of the Garrison Keillor epic poem about the Iron Range Finn who disliked saunas. She was originally slated to perform with her cats, who are trained to do tricks; however, being cats and therefore fickle, they refused to perform, so Vesper changed her act with only two hours before the show.

A third recitation-style act was on the more serious side as storyteller Karl Jones told the tale of how he arrived in Ely.

"Ely's Got Talent" also included a stand-up comedy routine by the youngest performer, Fiona Olson, age 10, who won second place in the audience favorite awards. The other stand-up comedy routine was by Abby Dare, who won the \$250 judges' award and took third place in the audience favorite awards.

Four acts were musical. Jenni Fowler and Marissa Ronning performed vocal solos. Willy Martin from Embarrass sang and played a honky tonk piece on guitar that he wrote himself. Ken Innis and Adam Norgren also sang and accompanied themselves with their guitars in a short set of three classic R&B tunes.

The first place in the audience favorite awards was the dance number by SunShine Gardner and Megan Olson. They won \$750.

Ely Elementary students raise \$1,200 in penny wars



Brody Grotberg inspects a penny war jar as Nolan Niskala (center) and Oliver Kochendorfer (right) look on. photo by C. Clark

ELY- Grades K-5 at Washington Elementary held "Penny Wars" during the last two weeks of October to raise money for UNICEF. Each grade had a jar where students could contribute pennies, each worth a point. The addition of other coins subtracted points and bills added points. Students were not limited

to contributing to the jar for their grade, so loading another grade's jar with higher-denomination coins to lower their points was permitted. The fourth and fifth grade classes, which collectively raised \$800, won the penny wars with the highest point counts — and all the students won dilly bars from Dairy Queen.

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.

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

The library building is ten years old. 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 nap-

kin 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.

Sage Foundation

ELY- Sage Foundation is helping connect hardworking students with community members who need extra hands with simple labor projects. If you need help moving, stacking firewood, or any

other simple project please contact Lou Wiggin at 218-821-2341.

Holiday Boutique

ELY- The Ely Senior Center, 27 S. First Ave. W., will host a holiday boutique on Saturday, Nov. 9, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with local crafters and artists selling their wares, including candles, jewelry, baked goods, textiles, home décor, art, pottery, woodwork, and more. 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.

Solar energy

ELY- Are you interested in installing solar energy at home? The Ely Climate Group invites you to their meeting at 4 p.m., Nov 12, at the Ely Field Naturalists Resource Center above the Ely NAPA store, 41 E. Chapman St. We will discuss how to start the process, what to expect, financial costs, savings and rebates and more. Bring your questions or tell us about your experiences. This program will also be available by Zoom using the link at ely-minnesota.com/elyclimate.

In Brief

Tuesday Group schedule

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

Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

- Nov. 12: New Elyites
- Nov. 19: Ely-Palestine Solidarity Group
- Nov. 26: Closing out the 2024 Tuesday Group season and Boundary Waters Connect updates with Lacey Squier

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2024

GIVE



A CHANCE

the news dominates at least november 5 done

hope for peace and love

Libraries

Ely library

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

Babbitt library

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

Support groups

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous

OPEN AA - 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, in-person, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St., Ely.

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

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

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

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

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

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

CO-DEPENDENTS' 12-step support group, 4:00 p.m. Tuesdays, hosted by Well Being Development, Ely. *This meeting is 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.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Cook council continues scrutiny of proposed budget

Members question proposed actions related to property issue, CDBG funding

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- Cook City Council members reviewed proposed budgets for the airport and recreation and deferred action on a pair of agenda items due to having insufficient information at their Oct. 24 regular meeting. Airport manager Doug McDuff presented the proposed airport budget at a session preceding the formal business meeting. It's projected that the airport will have a \$30,881 shortfall in revenue over expenses, a common regular scenario for small rural airports such as Cook.

The council appeared to be comfortable with McDuff's explanation for expenses related to the airport's runway and building operations, and McDuff presented information based on a study by MnDOT of the airport's impact on the local economy. In return for the estimated \$179,000 expense of operation, McDuff said the airport had provided an economic impact benefit to the city of nearly a half-million dollars in 2024, 2.7 times more than it cost to operate it and over 16 times more than what the city pays to subsidize it.

However, given that the benefit is an indirect one for city government, the council

asked McDuff to talk about possible ways to increase revenue in the future to offset the budgetary deficit.

McDuff mentioned the possible sale of unneeded property at the airport, and City Administrator Theresa Martinson elaborated.

"The airport has airport property and then they have city property," Martinson said. "I don't know the history on just the city property part of it, but over the years we've had some conversations internally about potentially looking at selling some of the land around the airport."

That includes an irregular-shaped 16.2 acre plot west of the airport's old crosswind runway that was purchased to accommodate FAA safety requirements. The crossway runway was abandoned, eliminating the need for the extra plot. During the regular business meeting, the council approved McDuff to proceed with making the necessary contacts to establish a possible sale price, which would be brought back to the council for approval before seeking potential buyers.

McDuff noted that the property was purchased primarily with FAA funds, but that the city would be able to keep 100 percent of the proceeds of a sale. The only

FAA stipulation is that the money has to be used exclusively for the airport.

McDuff also talked about anticipated revenue from the planned expansion of private hangers at the airport, and suggested an option of constructing a city-owned hanger that would have rental space for multiple airplanes.

CDBG deferral

The city council was asked to consider authorizing an application to St. Louis County for Community Development Block Grant funds to assist with the Eldien residential project. The project would be included in the county's consolidated action plan that is submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for CDBG funds.

Council member Ron Bushbaum asked city engineer John Jammick, of JJJ Engineering, why additional properties that had been discussed weren't included in the resolution presented.

"I know we talked about that," Jammick said. "There was a number of other projects we talked about in the past about different areas to develop. I thought that would be worked through the Housing Committee to look at all these different projects."

Bushbaum pointed out that the resolution stated that the project meets the low to

moderate income CDBG guidelines, but that the city is currently not eligible to receive CDBG funds.

"We have to do a survey first," Martinson said.

"I don't know how we can pass this resolution when we don't currently qualify," Bushbaum said.

"Historically, the city's been eligible for CDBG as a city, but every time they do a census it seems like it changes," Jammick said.

"They're saying that the city of Cook does not have the ability to apply, like Ron said, so we have to conduct a survey," Martinson continued. "Our office has already sent that survey out today, so you're going to get it in your mailboxes. We have to have 250 responses back. If we don't have responses by Nov. 6, we're going to start door knocking or phone calling, because we have to get that in or we lose the potential to apply for infrastructure to housing that we need so desperately."

Pending successful completion of the survey, the council will act to approve the resolution at its November meeting.

Conversation then turned to the possible sale of four small city-owned lots adjacent to 16 1st St. SW to Cook Building Center owner Eric Burckhardt.

"He's interested in buying some land from the city as a part of flood mitigation with his business," Martinson said. "The land is zoned commercial, and typically when we sell the city has to sell at market value."

Bushbaum responded. "I'm going to make a motion to table this, because I think that there's just a lot of moving parts that aren't being addressed -- snowmobile trail, other residences in the area, fencing," he said. "What is the proposed build? Is this going to be elevated? What is the plan? I don't think the city has a really good idea of what the plan is. I just don't want to be one of those things that we look back in ten years and say gee, I wish we would have taken a little bit more time and vetted this one better."

Council member Jody Bixby spoke in favor of the motion.

"I want to say that it's not like we aren't supporting businesses in Cook, but we want to make sure that we make the right decision and we have the knowledge of what is actually going on for the people around, for our residents, for our taxpayers," she said. The council agreed to invite Burckhardt to the next meeting to elaborate on his plans for the property.

On a different matter, Bixby asked that the city provide more transparency about how revenue from the liquor store is allocated in the budget.

"I would like more information about where that goes in the city for the residents, so we understand where that money is going and how it's being spent even if as a council we need to make decisions or we feel it should be allocated somewhere else," Bixby said.

Library

Library director Crystal Whitney was unable to attend the council meeting, and staff and council members chose not to comment on the status of the facility or speculate on winter operations without her input. However, in a written report, Whitney noted that she had two meetings with a FEMA representative, and from those came away with several items that needed to be addressed in order to move forward, including:

- Creating an itemized list of all contents lost, including shelves, books, rugs, etc.
- Obtaining a cost estimate from SEH to restore the library to pre-flood conditions.
- Obtaining an additional estimate from SEH for flood mitigation measures.

A DOUBLE DOSE OF HALLOWEEN FUN



Big Truck Trunk or Treat Night at North Woods School

Sponsored by the North Woods Early Childhood Family Education Program

Halloween Trunk or Treat Night at Cook Community Center

Sponsored by the Cook Lions Club
photos by D. Colburn



Cook-Orr Calendar

Library to host talk with 1999 blowdown book author

COOK- The Cook Public Library and Arrowhead Library System are pleased to host author Cary J. Griffith, speaking about his most recent nonfiction book "Gunflint Falling: Blowdown in the Boundary Waters."

On July 4, 1999, in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW), a bizarre confluence of meteorological events resulted in the most damaging blowdown in the region's history. "Gunflint Falling" tells the story of this devastating storm from the perspectives of those who were on the ground before, during, and after the catastrophic event—from first-time visitors to the north woods to returning paddlers to Forest Service Rangers.

Griffith will also discuss his latest Sam Rivers Mystery, "Dead Catch" (set on Lake Vermilion).

This free program will be offered at the Cook Community Center at 10 a.m. on Dec. 3.

Udovich spaghetti fundraiser will be Nov. 16 at Old Muni

COOK- The Old Muni in Cook will be hosting a spaghetti fundraiser dinner on Saturday, Nov. 16 from 3-7 p.m. to benefit Nadine Udovich and her family in her fight against cancer. Udovich was diagnosed in May with stage three lung cancer, and subsequently doctors discovered that the cancer has spread to other parts of her body. She is married to Mark Udovich and the couple has four sons and seven grandchildren.

Supporters can dine in

or carry out – contact Ellie Brunner at 218-780-4481 the day of the event to place to-go orders. Those who cannot attend the event can offer their support by making donations to a GoFundMe campaign online or to a special account set up with North Star Credit Union in Cook.

NWFA stages Native American month celebration exhibit

COOK- Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook celebrates Native American History Month in November with a special exhibit opening on Thursday, Nov. 7 and a public reception on Friday, Nov. 8 from 5-7 p.m. at the gallery, featuring special guest speaker Heart Warrior Chosa, who will share how art and culture inspired her coloring books at 6 p.m. Music will be provided by jazz guitarist

Briand Morrison from Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.

This special exhibit includes hundreds of not-to-miss Native American keepsakes, memorabilia and artwork. Items range from new creations to vintage and family artifacts shared by individual collectors, including two large mural panels portraying famous Native American chiefs and Sacagawea, who traveled thousands of miles with the Lewis and Clark Expedition as their interpreter.

Items on display and for sale include writings about spiritual values, jewelry, weapons, clothing and sculptures, to name a few.

NWFA Gallery is a non-profit arts organization serving the arts community year round in Cook, located at 210 S River St. November hours are Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and

Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. The gallery will be open until 4 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 9 for the "Fall into Christmas" promotion in Cook.

Shopping events kick off holidays in Cook on Saturday

COOK- If you're looking for something to jumpstart your holiday cheer, look no further than Cook this Saturday, Nov. 9, for two opportunities to put a little jingle in your jangle.

"Up North Shop" at the Cook Community Center from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. features the creations of 15 talented crafters and artisans selling a wide variety of unique personal, household, and decorative items. This year's event promises to be even better than last year's. Stop in and enjoy a wild rice soup lunch served by the North Woods Native American Stu-

dent Association.

And don't miss out on Cook's "Fall Into Christmas" promotion, a collaborative effort among a dozen local businesses. If you have a favorite retailer they're likely on the list, and take the opportunity to pop into that place you've always been wondering about but haven't yet visited. You'll find specials, treats, and drawings – be sure to check with a location you're interested in for their hours of operation.



ELECTIONS 2024

Cook voters opt for new faces on their city council

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

COOK- Cook voters spoke loud and clear for change in city government on Tuesday as they rejected the re-election bids of Mayor Harold Johnston and council member Liza Root in the wake of a current of dissatisfaction over the city's handling of the June flood.

Johnston, who has run unopposed for mayor in prior elections, suffered a major loss to winner Dan Manick, who garnered 55 percent



Dan Manick



Ron Buschbaum



Jesse Scofield

of the vote, 167 votes, to Johnston's 30 percent, 91. Erin Danielson's 15 percent of the vote was also a signal from the voters for change.

Buschbaum taking the second seat up for grabs. One-term incumbent Liza Root received 121 votes and sees her tenure on the council come

Voters also gave a win to new comer Jesse Scofield in the council member election. Scofield edged out Ron Bushbaum by a single vote, 138-137, with

Widespread dissatisfaction with the city's overall response to the historic June flood is believed to have been a major influence in the large slate of candidates and the election results. A common theme among challengers that evidently resonated

with voters was a lack of transparency and poor communication from city government.

Manick comes to the position of mayor with past experience as a Cook City Council member. He also brings experience gained by serving on the ISD 2142 St. Louis County Schools, including a stint as board chair. Manick currently serves on the St. Louis County Planning and Zoning Board and the Board of Adjustment. Neither Bushbaum or Scofield have held prior elective offices.

No surprises in local elections for uncontested seats

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

REGIONAL- There were no contested seats in local governmental elections in Tower, Eagles Nest, Embarrass, and Kugler. Other area townships hold their local elections in March. In Tower, Kugler,

and Eagles Nest, write-in candidates were elected to open seats where no candidates filed.

The city of Tower had two open city council seats. Incumbent Kevin Norby filed for one seat, but incumbent Josh Zika did not file, and the second open seat had no

other filings.

Kevin Norby won 201 votes, while David Wanless, won the other open seat with 18 write-in votes out of the 37 cast.

Eagles Nest had three open supervisor seats and a clerk seat: David Chiabotti, won 171

votes for Supervisor Seat B, while Brian Harrington netted 160 seats for Seat E.

Write-in results for Seat C, where no one had filed, were not immediately available.

Keely Drange won the town clerk position with 176 votes.

In Embarrass, Shireen Lee won Supervisor Seat 2, with 343 votes, while Eric Garman won Seat 3 with 345.

Jennifer Boese was re-elected as clerk with 365 votes.

Kugler Township had two open supervisor seats and a clerk seat:

Christopher Suikonen and Ross Swanson both won seats with 76 votes apiece.

Brianna Broten won in a write-in for clerk, with 15 votes out of 22 write-in cast.

ALLEGATIONS...Continued from page 1

Maus had not acted professionally on emergency scenes, and not provided an adequate level of care.

"I am bringing these issues to your attention because I am not seeing an improvement or positive changes on calls made to our area by Greenwood personnel, and hope by bringing this forward to see a change for better outcomes," wrote Freshour.

These complaints did not come from the city of Tower, according to city clerk/treasurer Michael Schultz, but personally from city employees without permission from nor knowledge of the city.

Maus was clearly surprised by the complaints, which he only learned of from the township attorney a day before the meeting.

"I must vehemently complain about this hearing," Maus told the board, sitting in the audience during the meeting. "I was not given adequate time to prepare a defense against what could

be very serious charges," he said. "I was given less than a day's notice."

Maus told the board he had since asked, several times, that this meeting be postponed to allow him to bring evidence that would support his defense. He added that an additional statement, submitted that day, from Tower Fire Chief Paige Olson, contained misinformation that can be easily refuted by listening to the recording of the radio calls from the scene of the fire in question.

"I am 100-percent confident that if given time to adequately review this information," Maus told the board, "I would be able to give you complete and correct answers that you are seeking. I pray it's the desire of the board to seek the truth," Maus said.

Four members of the fire department who attended the meeting said they were there to back up Maus's statements, and to refute details in the allegations. Bassing asked if the board would allow these



Left: Members of the Greenwood Fire Department turned out to support their chief, Jeff Maus. photo by J. Summit

fire department members to speak, but the board declined to hear from them at that time.

The board did not discuss the allegations presented, but a copy of them was available for the public to review. About two dozen people attended the meeting.

After the meeting, a group of four fire department members, who had come

to support Maus on short notice, indicated their desire to support their community and do the best job on emergency scenes as possible. They said they were puzzled by the complaints lodged against the department, since in many of these cases they were on the calls in question and did not witness the behaviors cited. They also were concerned

about how these complaints were handled, and why there wasn't communication about any possible issues immediately following the incidents in question.

History of conflicts in the fire department

Maus has filed complaints with MDLI/OSHA against previous boards for their actions regarding the fire department and discriminatory behavior towards himself, after he made safety-related complaints regarding previous fire department officials. While serving as a captain in the department, the board voted to reorganize department duties, eliminating his position. This happened shortly after he had made complaints to the state about safety practices in the department. He remained as

a firefighter and emergency medical responder for the department, and then was appointed interim, and then permanent fire chief after a previous board terminated the chief and assistant chief, who were at-will employees of the township. Their dismissal followed alleged incidents of the department refusing to follow direction from the town board in regards to maintenance of fire department equipment, among other matters. At that point, a majority of fire department members, who told the town board they were refusing to respond to emergency calls unless the chief and assistant chief were reinstated, were also dismissed by the town board. Maus has since built back the membership base of the department, hiring several trained and some novice firefighters, and worked to increase the training requirements of department members.

LAMPPA...Continued from page 1

ing's interior metal sheathing, burning through the plastic vapor barrier and igniting the wooden wall studs used in the six-year-old building's construction.

The fire was confined to the northeast corner of the building's weld shop, but the blaze quickly filled the plant with smoke, forcing an evacuation of the plant's workers, who stood for hours in the parking lot watching as firefighters tried to get a handle on the situation. Firefighters used large ventilation fans to clear the smoke from the building, allowing them to work inside

without cumbersome air packs and masks.

Horihan said their workers performed professionally and followed their protocols for handling a fire and evacuating safely. He also credited a prompt response from area fire departments. "They arrived quickly and were excellent," he said.

That prompt response from several area departments kept the fire from spreading into the building's attic, which would have presented a much greater challenge for firefighters and substantially lengthened the time to get the

plant back in operation.

Horihan is hopeful the plant will be able to restart production within a week or two, although the requirements of the fire investigation could lengthen that timeline. Company officials have stressed the need to get things back up and running as quickly as possible.

Horihan said he's still waiting to find out whether insurance will cover payroll costs over the period the plant is temporarily shut down.

The fire was a freak accident in a building that should be largely fire resis-

tant. The walls are sheathed with metal inside and out and the materials stored within the plant itself consist predominantly of heavy steel. But once the high-voltage power from the welding gun conducted through the metal sheathing, it appears it ignited the plastic vapor barrier that had been installed over the wall insulation, according to Horihan. That was enough to get the building's wood framing burning and it quickly began to smolder and smoke. Because the fire was within the walls, firefighters had to use metal saws and grinders

to cut through the sheathing to extinguish the hot spots.

An estimate of the cost of the damage was not available as of press time. The building is owned by the Tower Economic Development Authority which will be overseeing the repairs. TEDA officials had already reached out to insurance adjusters and contractors in hopes of getting the plant back up and fully functional as quickly as possible.

Lamppa Manufacturing currently employs 18 workers. The company manufacturers sauna stoves, both electric

and wood-burning, as well as the cleanest-burning wood furnaces in the U.S.

Several area fire departments responded to Monday's incident, including Tower, Breitung, Greenwood, Vermilion Lake, Eagles Nest, and Virginia, which brought a ladder truck and personnel to the scene. The Tower Ambulance was also posted on standby at the scene while the Breitung PD handled traffic control.

STAUBER...Continued from page 1

election results in the district up and down the ballot. Across the same set of precincts reporting, Donald Trump won 56 percent of the district's votes, Republican U.S. Senate candidate Royce White edged Democrat incumbent Amy Klobuchar, and Republicans won 20 of 22 Minnesota House races by an average margin of 60-39 percent.

The two places where Schultz trounced Stauber were in Cook and St. Louis counties. Schultz outpolled Stauber 66-33 percent in Cook and 55-45 percent in St. Louis. Lake County narrowly fell into Schultz's column, but she fared poorly in the remainder of the 18 counties wholly or partially covered by the district, losing by an average of 30 percentage points.

Stauber also bested

Schultz in House District 3A, 55-44 percent.

Stauber issued a statement Tuesday evening after the race was called in his favor.

"I continue to be humbled by the strong showing of support from the voters of the Eighth Congressional district tonight and I pledge to continue fighting in Congress for their way of life and faithfully representing the values they hold closely," he said. "I've heard the voters loud and clear: they are fed up with skyrocketing prices, an open southern border, and chaos abroad. I look forward to turning the page on the past four disastrous years and hopefully working alongside President Trump to put America first and get our economy moving again by becoming energy and critical mineral dominant. We

must close the southern border and restore our standing in the world where America will once again be respected by friends and foes. To my constituents, I reaffirm this commitment to you: I will always put you first, I will always have your backs, and I will always fight relentlessly for our way of life."

Schultz also offered a statement conceding the election to Stauber and reflecting on her campaign.

"While tonight's results are not what we wanted, I couldn't be prouder of the campaign we built together," Schultz said. "We fought for the issues that matter most to the people of northern Minnesota—affordable health care, reproductive freedom, and a fair economy that works for everyone. Though

we came up short, our fight was never in vain, and I will always be grateful for the belief people placed in me. Though we didn't win this time, I'm incredibly grateful for everyone who gave their

time, their energy, and their resources to this campaign. The movement doesn't end tonight. We've built something special here, and the relationships we forged and

the conversations we had will continue to shape the future of northern Minnesota."

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2024 General Election Returns, federal and state by city and township

District 3A Precinct	US President				US Senate		8th Dist Rep		House 3A		Registered voters <small>As of 7 a.m. Tuesday</small>
	Harris	Trump	Kennedy	Stein	Klobuchar	White	Stauber	Schultz	Skraba	Droba	
Babbitt	325	606	7	2	373	516	632	299	610	279	1,047
Bearville	76	72	0	0	80	65	82	63	83	57	339
Beatty	162	169	4	0	170	143	180	157	185	145	362
Birch Lake Unorg. #9	168	139	4	1	181	117	148	162	151	148	350
Breitung	166	192	2	1	202	147	204	157	208	141	416
Camp Five	3	15	0	0	4	14	15	3	15	2	19
Cook	138	165	5	0	165	128	176	129	157	130	341
Crane Lake	18	63	0	0	28	51	64	17	63	16	87
Eagles Nest	117	98	0	2	132	81	105	111	109	106	232
Ely	1,049	982	21	3	1,147	824	1,021	1,017	1,099	897	2,304
Fall Lake	284	199	1	5	307	169	220	271	227	251	546
Field	77	154	1	0	103	123	158	73	154	69	254
Greenwood	342	373	6	0	401	312	388	332	391	212	834
Kabetogama	38	81	0	0	43	71	84	35	84	29	136
Kugler	44	61	0	1	54	49	58	48	62	40	125
Leiding	75	143	1	0	95	125	150	70	151	67	258
Linden Grove	26	41	0	0	34	30	43	22	40	25	73
Morse	512	404	8	1	552	361	449	481	471	444	1,027
NW St. Lo. Unorg. #21	42	76	0	0	45	68	78	39	79	35	130
Orr	48	73	3	2	65	61	93	33	88	36	144
Owens	37	104	1	0	50	84	105	36	102	35	159
Portage	35	86	4	0	46	72	89	36	90	32	132
SE Kooch	18	18	2	0	22	14	19	19	22	15	54
Stony River	49	60	0	2	52	54	58	52	58	48	141
Tower	93	154	1	1	112	116	155	94	144	93	289
Vermilion Lake	94	98	3	0	102	88	104	91	108	80	209
Waasa	72	78	3	1	83	65	82	71	83	55	166
Willow Valley	23	47	2	0	23	47	47	24	50	20	81
Winton	30	67	1	0	34	55	67	31	73	25	104

District 7B Precinct	US President				US Senate		8th Dist Rep		House 7B		Total voters
	Harris	Trump	Kennedy	Stein	Klobuchar	White	Stauber	Schultz	Janatopoulos	Warwas	
Alango	65	94	0	1	79	76	98	59	59	97	182
Angora	49	98	1	0	56	85	102	48	48	97	158
Embarrass	142	268	3	0	161	234	275	134	128	281	453
Morcom	14	31	0	0	19	25	31	14	12	31	56
Pike	120	146	5	1	145	123	163	109	105	159	299
Sandy	93	119	2	0	120	91	118	98	92	120	233
Sturgeon	38	58	2	0	44	52	61	37	35	62	112

Unofficial results from the Minnesota Secretary of State *based on actual votes cast, total voters may vary slightly

REGION...Continued from page 1

four years ago. Cook County favored Harris 66-31 percent, while Lake County proved much closer at 51-47 percent.

Meanwhile, Trump showed a slight improvement in Koochiching County this year, topping Harris by a 62-36 percent margin, better than his 60-38 percent margin four years ago.

Statewide, Harris edged Trump by a relatively narrow 51-47 percent margin, three points short of Biden's seven percentage point win in 2020. Nonetheless, Harris's statewide victory extended Minnesota's streak of backing Democrats for the White House to 52 years. The last time Minnesota voted

Republican was in 1972, when the state narrowly went for President Richard Nixon over South Dakota Sen. George McGovern.

While Minnesota had plenty of company in the Democratic column in the upper Midwest in 2020, as Wisconsin and Michigan backed Biden, Illinois was the

only other midwestern state to go blue this time around.

The ramifications of the election could be significant for the region. In his one visit to Minnesota this year, Trump promised to immediately end a temporary mineral withdrawal in a portion of the Superior National Forest. Legislation introduced earlier this year by Eighth District Rep. Pete Stauber, dubbed the Superior National Forest Restoration

Act, would speed the path for foreign mining companies to develop copper-nickel deposits within the upper Rainy River watershed, which drains in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Should the GOP hold its control over the U.S. House, as appears likely, it increases the chances that Stauber's measure could be signed into law.

The area could also feel the uncertain effects of high

tariffs that Trump has promised to impose on U.S. importers of foreign-made products. While the tariffs could benefit the steel industry, most economists have warned that the levies will boost the prices of most everyday goods and could actually harm steel-using manufacturing industries in the U.S., as was the case during Trump's first term.



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PUBLIC SAFETY

Ely's Gillson takes plea in arson and firearms cases

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- Just ahead of the start of a jury trial scheduled for Nov. 5, Jason Keith Gillson opted for a guilty plea on two counts stemming from his 2023 incident in Ely, which led to a host of felony charges, including arson, flight, assault, and discharging a firearm

within city limits.

The charges arose from Gillson's actions during two altercations with his girlfriend at his residence at 45 E. Boundary St. on Aug. 20 and Sept. 13, 2023. On Aug. 20, he shot out the tires of his girlfriend's car as she tried to leave his house. On Sept. 13, he shot both her wallet and cell

phone, set his own house on fire, and fled from the scene resulting in a 25-mile police chase. He later assaulted the law enforcement officers who took him into custody, prompting additional charges.

According to the plea petition Gillson filed with the court on Monday, the troubled Ely man will plead

guilty to three of the felony counts, including felony firearms discharge stemming from the Aug. 20 incident and second-degree arson and fourth-degree assault of a peace officer resulting from the Sept. 13 incident. Prosecutors agreed to drop a first degree arson charge, felony flight, and a second

felony weapons discharge count as part of the plea.

Gillson's plea also includes a cap on incarceration at 365 days and a lifetime ban on owning a gun and ammunition.

Gillson's single-family home was condemned on Sept. 14, 2023. Since that time, Gillson has received a

settlement with his insurance company and hired contractors to work on the property, according to Doug Whitney, Ely's building official. The property remains condemned for habitation until the repairs are completed and Ely inspects the property.

PUBLIC HEALTH

COVID activity wanes, but conditions ripe for new surge

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- A leading indicator of COVID community activity has dropped significantly in recent weeks as Minnesota is experiencing a respite from the usual autumnal spike in cases seen in earlier years of the pandemic. However, waning immunity, low uptake of the new booster shot, and a new, more-infectious COVID virus variant are factors that could contribute to another rise in cases as winter approaches.

In late September, the viral load of COVID in northeast Minnesota wastewater treatment plants, including the Central Iron Range Sanitary Sewer District facility in Chisholm, was more than 34 times higher than in late June, and COVID hospitalizations rose right along with that. But those numbers began trending downward on Sept. 29 and has dropped dramatically since then, falling to about one-tenth of the numbers seen earlier this fall.

That mirrors a trend occurring across the country, as the Centers for Disease Control reports an equally dramatic decline beginning in late August. Significantly, CDC reports of COVID test positivity, emergency room visits, hospitalizations and deaths have also fallen from their July/August surge.

"Right now, we should remember these days what it was like before the pandemic, because that's what we're experiencing right now," said noted University of Minnesota epidemiologist Michael Osterholm in a recent podcast. "They will change. Surely, we will see more stressful days ahead. But from this perspective, with the respiratory illnesses that we worry about, the ones that can hurt us and kill us, we're in pretty good shape. Right now, in the United States we are experiencing really the

lowest level of serious respiratory disease in our communities than we have probably at any time in the last five or six years. Fortunately, we're seeing COVID numbers come down."

Possible surge?

Despite the current COVID respite, there are reasons health experts are concerned about the possibility of a resurgence of the virus in coming months.

The first is the fact that community-wide immunity is falling as people are farther removed from their latest vaccination or COVID infection. Thoughts about herd immunity from the virus, which is long-term resistance to a virus, like that from measles and polio vaccines, has been dismissed by experts as something that will not occur with COVID, as infections and reinfections have occurred regularly as the virus has mutated.

And very few are up to date on their COVID shots. According to the Minnesota Department of Health, only 8.9 percent of St. Louis County residents are up to date with the new COVID booster approved in August, barely higher than the 8.7 percent state average. Even lower levels of booster uptake have been reported for Koochiching, Itasca, Lake, and Carlton counties. Cook County, which has had historically higher vaccination rates in comparison to the rest of the state, is only marginally better at 13.4 percent. Given that vaccine-based immunity begins to fade three months after a shot has been received, those who received their last shot prior to July are at increased risk for contracting the virus and the serious complications that can come from it.

"Vaccines, as we've talked over and over again for COVID, are not going to keep you from ultimately getting infected," Osterholm said. "They will protect you for a limited period of time, but

in fact, you can greatly reduce your risk of serious illness, hospitalizations, and death, even in the older age population, by getting your dose of vaccine." Osterholm encouraged people to not delay in getting their booster shots as he talked about the most recent clarification from the CDC in what certain groups should receive.

"Last week, the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommended a second 2024-25 COVID-19 vaccine dose, spaced six months apart for people aged 65 and older, and younger people with immunocompromising conditions," Osterholm said. "The recommendation replaces a vaguer additional doses language that was used in an earlier recommendation for the latest COVID-19 vaccines and will likely be welcomed by those who are confused by the previous recommendation."

Meanwhile, a new threat is the latest COVID variant, dubbed XEC. The CDC estimates that XEC represents 18 percent of the current COVID variants circulation in federal Region 5, which includes Minnesota, and it appears to be more effective in eluding immunity than any prior variant. The XEC variant is on a trajectory to become the dominant variant in the U.S. just in time for winter, when COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations tend to peak.

"This is a new variant unlike any we've seen before based on where the mutations are," Osterholm said. "It still is in that same lineage of viruses for which we've been vaccinating against, and so I do expect the vaccine to actually still be as effective here as it was with some of the other variants. What's very different

here, however, is the speed at which it likely can spread through the population. It will get around the immune protection that we may have enjoyed in the past with our vaccines or previous infections. So, at this point, I will say the take home messages is, number one, the XEC variant is going to potentially mean more transmission in the community. Those who haven't been vaccinated recently, who haven't been infected recently, boy, I sure urge you to go and get your booster as soon as you can."

Long COVID

With the COVID pandemic now more than halfway through its fifth year, more and more research has been emerging about long COVID, which is not a specific condition but rather a host of different effects that can impact various body systems for months and even years after an infection.

"There isn't a one long COVID," Osterholm said. "We're finding that there are multiple different long-term impacts that occur, and they can be very different. And some of us have one, some of us have another."

Shortness of breath, chronic coughing, severe fatigue, and brain fog are some of the most widely recognized long COVID symptoms in the general public, but they can be far broader in scope, affecting sleep, sensory perception, the heart and cardiovascular system, the gastrointestinal system, and mental health, to name but a few.

A study published last

week in *JAMA Network Open* reported seven specific symptoms that long COVID patients are at greater risk for, including loss of smell, loss of taste, rapid heart rate upon standing, problems with thinking, bone pain, mild fatigue, and severe fatigue.

What appears to be linking these wide-ranging symptoms to long COVID is the tissue inflammation that comes along with a COVID infection.

"The inflammation piece has played a huge role," Osterholm said. "The body gets turned on, it doesn't shut off or shut down. And then as a result, we see these other health conditions. When you look at where we're at today in the research, what we're really looking at is what does this inflammation do, this immune response to the host

that gets turned on because of its interaction with the COVID virus."

Osterholm cited recent research from the United Kingdom in which MRI scans were used to assess brain inflammation following severe COVID. "The researchers found that those who were hospitalized with severe COVID had inflammation in their brainstem, which is often referred to as the control center of the brain," Osterholm said. "Those who had longer hospital stays, more severe acute infections, and worse functional outcomes were more likely to have greater inflammation. Understanding the role of inflammation and how we might modulate it is a really important step to eventually developing therapies that can help patients right now."

HOUSE...Continued from page 1

margins.

Skraba's victory is a clear indicator of the shift of regional politics toward the Republican Party, a shift that limited Skraba's effectiveness in the DFL-controlled House during his first term.

District 7B

Warwas had little difficulty in winning the District 7B race, topping DFL candidate Lorrie Janatopoulos by 13,781 to 10,655 votes, a margin of 56-44 percent.

Warwas won all but three of the 57 precincts in the district, losing only French and McKinley Townships and Virginia Precinct 3.

Warwas ran on a conservative, pro-mining agenda and aligns with Republican positions the party tried to advance in the most recent legislative session.

Pending the outcomes of other House races, Warwas and Skraba could end up in the House majority should Republicans be successful in flipping the chamber. If not, they will have to contend with the DFL trifecta of state government control.

Their fate may lie with the results of races in House Districts 14B, in central Minnesota, and 54A in the

Twin Cities metro. DFL candidates currently lead those races by margins close enough to trigger automatic recounts.

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CROSS COUNTRY

Brophy tops area runners at state meet



Ely sophomore Molly Brophy heads toward the finish line in Saturday's Class A state cross country championship in Minneapolis.

photo courtesy MSHSL

by DAVID COLBURN

Cook-Orr Editor

MINNEAPOLIS – Ely sophomore Molly Brophy had the highest finish among the three Ely and three North Woods runners competing in the Class A cross country championships in Minneapolis on Saturday.

Brophy has qualified for state every year since she was a seventh grader in 2021, when she finished 91st. She's steadily climbed the standings since then, placing 54th in 2022, 46th in 2023, and this year finishing 35th in the field of 160 runners. Brophy ran the 5K circuit at the Lee Bolstad Golf Course in 20:02.04.

Ely freshman Mattie Lindsay finished in the top half of the field, placing 62nd with a time of 20:36.3.

North Woods senior Alex Burckhardt, the anchor for the South Ridge Panthers boys team, finished off his high school career by placing 44th in the field of 160 with a time of

See STATE MEET...pg. 2B

VOLLEYBALL

Wolves top South Ridge in semifinals

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

VIRGINIA—The Timberwolves made short work of South Ridge last Wednesday as they beat the second-seeded Panthers in straight sets, 25-12, 25-16, 25-13, to clinch their fourth straight berth in the section finals.

Their Oct. 30 win over South Ridge maintained the Wolves' undefeated record in Section 7 play for 2024.

Despite three quick games, the Wolves notched some impressive stats, including a combined total of 56 digs, led by sophomore setter Gretta Lowe with 13. Sophomore Audrey Kallberg added 12 while seniors Clare Thomas and Lilli Rechichi added ten and eight respectively. Junior Sadie Rechichi added six digs.

Lilli Rechichi led the way at the net, with ten kills and five ace serves, while Thomas and sophomore Charlotte Hegman added eight kills apiece. Kallberg pitched in with six kills. Lowe posted 34 set assists.

SECTION 7A VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

IT'S A DYNASTY!

Ely wins section title for the third year in a row

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

Above: The Wolves pose with their Section 7A championship trophy. Pictured are, from left, Assistant Coach Randi Walker, Peyton Huntington, Makenzi Huntington, Audrey Kallberg, Amelia Penke, Sadie Rechichi, Clare Thomas, Lilli Rechichi, Charlotte Hegman, Ruby Lowe, Lydia Shultz, Gretta Lowe, and Head Coach Megan Wognum.

HERMANTOWN—The top-seeded Ely Timberwolves cashed their third consecutive ticket to the Class A state championship volleyball tourney on Saturday with a 3-0 win over upstart No. 3-seed Bigfork.

The Wolves overpowered South Ridge 3-0 to reach the final match, their third straight-set win of the tourney, while Bigfork upset higher-seeded Floodwood to get to the Hermantown High School finale.

With strong play at the net from Lilli Rechichi and Audrey Kallberg the Wolves moved out to a 9-6 lead in the first game, and with Clare Thomas nailing a pair of service aces Ely extended their lead to 13-6 and looked to be comfortably in control. But Bigfork had no intention of going away meekly, getting to within four at 15-11 on a block at the net. With the Huskies' McKinnley Johnson at serve, Bigfork then reeled off a stunning eight-point run to turn the tables on the suddenly rattled Wolves to go up 20-15. A Rechichi tap for a score broke the string and Sadie Rechichi got the Wolves back in sync with a pair of aces. Ely pulled even at 22 on a Bigfork error and took a 24-22 lead on a kill by Kallberg and an ace by Peyton Huntington. The score was knotted again at 25-25 when Ely got kills by Charlotte Hegman and Kallberg to secure the come-from-behind 27-25 win.

Carrying momentum into the second game, the Wolves dominated the early going, racing out to a 15-6 advantage. The Huskies chipped their way back into the game at 17-14, but kills by Thomas and Kallberg squelched the comeback attempt as Ely cruised to a 25-15 win and a 2-0 advantage.

Fighting for their tournament lives, the Huskies kept things close in the third, with the game tied six times through 15-15. But two quick scores by Lilli Rechichi ignited a 10-3 run that propelled Ely to the state tourney berth with a 25-18 win.

It was the ninth consecutive match the Wolves had won in straight sets, and Ely Head Coach Megan Wognum was pleased with how her team rallied to win the match.

"We struggled in the first set to find our rhythm," Wognum said. "We were making some silly mistakes. We needed to close our blocks and we needed to press a little more so we didn't have to pick up the sloppy things coming off our block. We were able to



Above: As Lilli Rechichi (12) looks on, Ely's Audrey Kallberg winds up for a kill on a set by teammate Gretta Lowe.

Right: Ely sophomore hitter Charlotte Hegman hammers a kill past two Bigfork defenders.

photos by D. Colburn

turn that around quickly, though, in the second set and the third set and finish things a little stronger on our side."

Setter Gretta Lowe had a strong match, particularly when it came to setting up Kallberg's big blows in the middle.

"Audrey and Greta have played all season together and they click really well," Wognum said. "They've got really good rhythm when they're in sync. The key to that, though, is a good pass, and thankfully our team

See WOLVES...pg. 2B



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ELECTIONS 2024

A handful of incumbents fall in Ely area races

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

REGIONAL-Incumbents lost seats on both the Babbitt and Ely city councils, while ISD 696's capital projects levy was narrowly approved by voters. Those were among the takeaways from Tuesday's local elections.

Longtime incumbent Paul Kess lost his bid for another term on the Ely City Council, finishing fourth out of a pool of

five candidates for three seats. Incumbent Jerome Debeltz managed to hang on to his council seat, finishing second with 1,056 votes. Emily Roose was the top vote-getter with 1,122, while John Lahtonen claimed the third opening with 973 votes. Kess received 907 votes, while Frederica Musgrave received 573.

Roose is currently chair of the city's planning and zoning commission, while Lahtonen

is Ely's former police chief. Ely council member Ryan Cullen had opted not to seek re-election. Ely Mayor Heidi Omerza won her uncontested race with 1,570 votes.

In Babbitt, Andrea Zupancich topped Joe White in the race for mayor, with 515 votes to White's 398. Incumbent Babbitt City Council members Glenn Anderson and Paul Hoheisel lost their seats to Duane

Lossing and John Fitzpatrick. Lossing, who is stepping down as mayor, took 569 votes, while Fitzpatrick garnered 310. Terry Switajewski finished third with 239 votes, followed by Craig Warlof with 213, Hoheisel with 193, and Anderson with 151.

In ISD 696, Ely School Board incumbents Tom Omerza and Hollee Coombe kept their uncontested seats with 2,329 and 1,982 votes

respectively. The school board had three empty seats up for grabs in this election with only the two incumbents running. Erin Moravitz launched a write-in campaign for the third seat, which she won with 597 votes.

The voters of ISD 696 passed the ballot measure for a 10-year capital project levy of \$350,000/year with a vote of 1,623 in favor versus 1,447 opposed.

In Winton, incumbent

Marlene Zorman won her reelection as mayor with 86 votes. Both incumbent city council members, Susan Scufsa and Kathy Edman, will keep their seats with 75 and 74 votes respectively. All three ran uncontested races.

In Morse Township, Rita Fidely won an uncontested election for town supervisor seat C with 287 votes and Gina Vickerman won an uncontested election for town clerk.

Briefly

Crane Lake man injured in crash

CRANE LAKE- A 55-year-old Crane Lake man was seriously injured in a single-vehicle rollover

Sunday morning along the Crane Lake Road, approximately a mile and a half south of the Echo Trail intersection. That's according to the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office, which responded to the incident.

Around 11:40 a.m., a passerby

reported finding the vehicle overturned in a west-side ditch with the driver, Matthew Tomasko, trapped inside.

St. Louis County deputies, along with medical personnel, responded to the scene, where the man was freed

from the vehicle and later airlifted by LifeLink helicopter to a hospital with serious but non-life-threatening injuries. The victim's name was withheld pending family notification.

The St. Louis County Sheriff's Office was assisted by Buyck

First Responders, Buyck Fire Department, Border Patrol agents, the Orr Ambulance, and Orr Fire Department.

WOLVES...Continued from page 1B

was able to step that up and have a solid pass for our setter to complete the set for our hitters."

Wognum said she expects her veteran players with state tourney experience to be steadying influences on the Wolves' rookies.

"We've got some who are really nervous that are new, a few players on the floor that haven't played before at state," Wognum said. "Otherwise, our seniors are pretty solid, and we've got some juniors who have played a little bit. So, we've got some with some nerves, some that are just ready to go, and hopefully they can balance each other out and just get ready to play."

Wognum said the team will be relying on its two senior mainstays, Clare Thomas and Class A all-state



Left: Ely students raise their arms to form an archway tunnel as the members of the Ely girls volleyball team marched out of the school on Tuesday on their way to the state volleyball tournament at the Xcel Energy Center. The girls won the Section 7A championship on Saturday, their third section title in a row. They were set to start play at 7 p.m. on Thursday.

photo by C. Clark

player Lilli Rechichi, for a solid run at state.

"The two of them are phenomenal - they can make a mistake and just find a way to fix it, and they find a way to be strategic with every ball," Wognum said. "It really is an

amazing thing to watch. I'm excited to see them play at state, but I am very sad to see them going after that. It's going to be hard to fill those spots."

The Wolves drew the No. 7 seed and a matchup against the second-seeded Minneota Vikings, 22-11, in the first round of the state tourney, which was scheduled for Thursday at Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul. Minneota's record is deceptive, as they played nine Class AAAA foes, going 2-7 against the larger schools. Minneota scored a 2-0 victory over the Wolves on Sept. 20 in the Midwest Volleyball Warehouse Showcase tournament, 25-16, 25-20.

STATE MEET...Continued from page 1B

17:04:06. It was Burekhardt's fourth trip to the state meet.

Ely's Caid Chittum, making his third trip to the state meet, finished back in

the pack in 87th position with a time of 17:42.2, well off the pace of his third-place sectional meet qualifying performance.

North Woods junior Lincoln Antikainen climbed the ladder from last year's 134th-place finish, placing 110th with a time of

17:58.8. Teammate Kahlil Lightfeather-Spears, a North Woods eighth-grader making his second appearance at the state meet, was close behind

in 113th place with a time of 18:00.2. The South Ridge boys qualified as a team for the state meet and placed 13th in the 16-team field.



Memories of the Early Days

A fascinating look back at the early history of the Lake Vermilion area

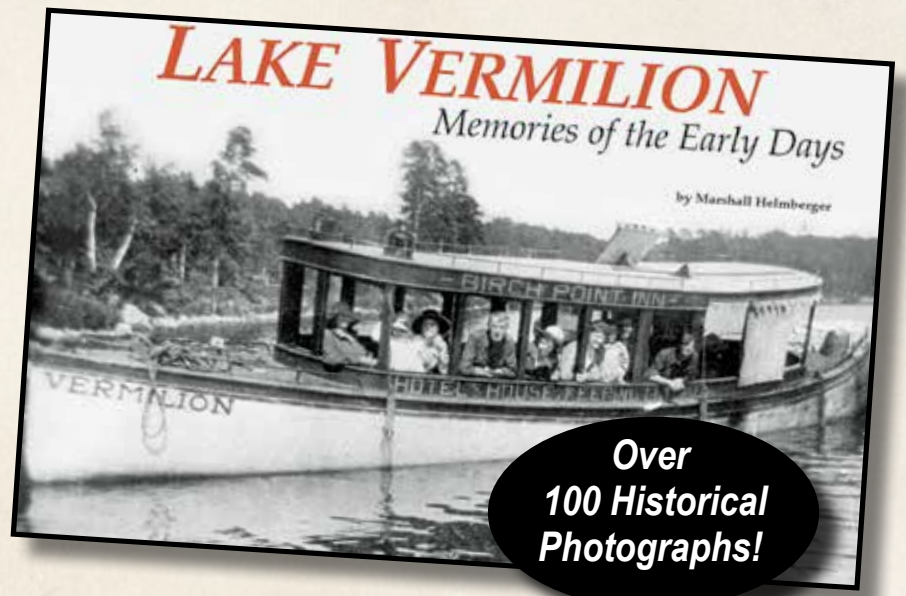
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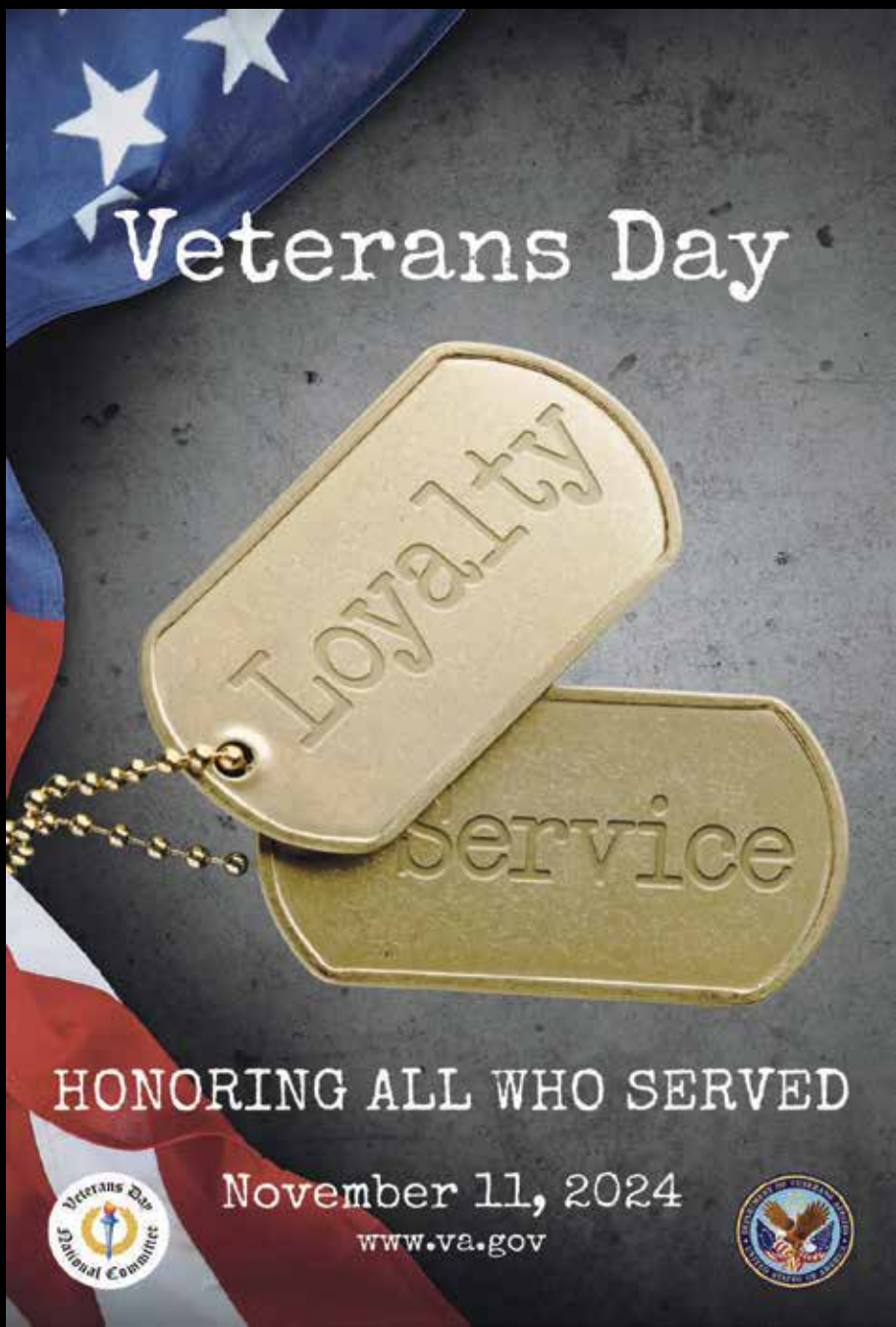
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Outdoors

Our lives in the
Northwoods

WARMTH CONTINUES

Our above-average autumn continues

October ended about five degrees warmer than normal across the North Country

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Another exceptionally mild fall in the North Country continued unabated in October as most reporting stations saw temperatures well above average and a continuation of the dry pattern that's been in place in the region since August.

Among the reporting stations within the *Timberjay's* coverage area, temperatures ranged from 4.7 degrees F above average in Tower to 5.6 degrees

F above in Orr.

State climatologist Pete Boulay noted that the state has seen another remarkable run of above-normal temperatures. The last time the region experienced a month with below normal temperatures was in July of 2023. "But people don't generally complain about being slightly below normal in July," said Pete Boulay from the state climatology office.

This past month was the fourth-straight above-normal October for temperatures, although it wasn't as warm as

October 2021, when the month averaged 7.4 degrees F above average among all reporting stations in the Arrowhead. October 2020 was the last time the region experienced a below-average October.

The exceptionally mild weather is expected to continue at least through the middle of November. Both the 6-10 and 8-14 day outlooks from the National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center show a high probability of above-normal temperatures. The forecast for Saturday's regular firearms

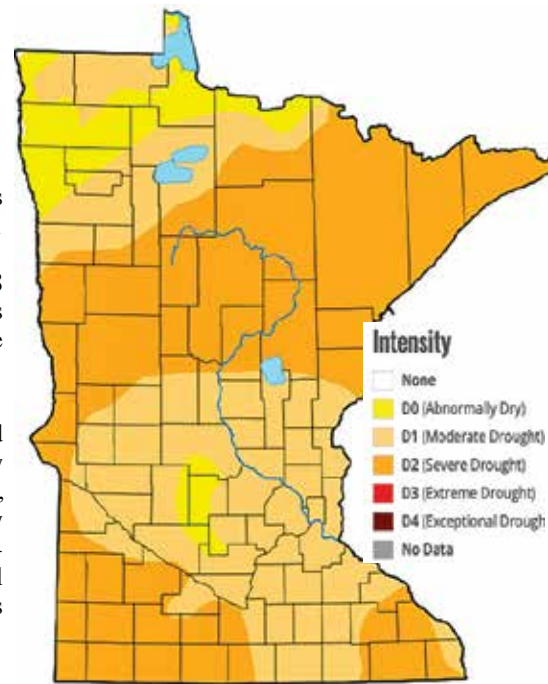
deer opener calls for sunny skies and an unseasonably balmy 51 degrees F.

The average high for Nov. 8 in northern St. Louis County is 39.5 degrees F with an average low of 21 degrees.

Drought extending

The drought that has settled into Minnesota the past few months shows no sign of ebbing, even as the 6-10 and 8-14 day outlooks show a better-than-50-percent chance of above normal precipitation. Yet the models

See WEATHER...pg. 5B



REGULAR FIREARMS DEER SEASON

Another tough season ahead?

DNR: Preseason scouting and time on the stand will improve your odds

REGIONAL— Preseason scouting and time in the stand are the best ways for hunters to improve their odds when the 2024 regular firearms deer season opens here in the North Country on Saturday.

With the deer population still well under goal here in northern St. Louis, Lake, and eastern Koochiching counties—and most hunters in the region limited to bucks only—DNR wildlife officials say hunters can expect they'll need to work to put some venison in the freezer.

Last year's record-mild winter undoubtedly reduced winter mortality for the region's deer herd, but DNR assistant area wildlife manager Penny Backman said it takes more than one mild winter to allow for recovery of the region's deer herd. "We could use about three or four mild ones in a row," she said.

What's more, other weather events may have blunted the impact of last year's mild winter.

"The spring flooding could have hit our fawns, too," said Backman. Fawns in the region are typically born in late May, so many were only a few weeks old during the June 18 deluge. "Fawns are not that good at swimming at that age," noted Backman.

Even so, Backman said she's hopeful there will be a few more deer on the landscape this season, as compared to last. "We are seeing

a few more fawns, but nothing dramatic," she said. "It's going to take more time to really recover," she said.

Backman said hunters will have the best chance for success near farm fields, which means parts of PA 177 and or those areas south of the Mesabi Iron Range. "It's always a bit better in those areas rather than in hardcore wilderness," she added.

She notes that deer make use of farm fields and pastures this time of year, which can help them put on extra fat heading into winter. She said fields that have recently been fertilized can be more attractive to deer since that tends to make the forage more nutritious.

With a season opener, which is set by law as the Saturday closest to Nov. 6, coming nearly as late as possible, area whitetails should be well along into the rut, which should aid deer movement. But predictions for highs in the 40 and even into the 50s for the opening weekend, will likely be warm enough to slow buck movement, or keep them more active during cooler nighttime hours.

Wind is another factor, notes Backman. During high winds, deer tend to stay put since they're less able to detect predators. "Cool weather without much wind is the ideal," she said.

Backman notes that the key for most hunters is the presence of

DNR's NE Minnesota report

REGIONAL—Per the DNR: "Despite a mild 2023-24 winter, deer populations in the northeast region of Minnesota are still low and will take multiple years to recover from several severe winters in prior years.

The best deer harvest opportunities in the northeast part of the state will be in the southern portion of this region, where deer numbers are higher.

In addition, the highest deer numbers are expected in areas of mixed habitat of open fields and forest. Scouting for local pockets of deer will improve hunter success. Hunters in far northern areas will again have fewer opportunities to harvest antlerless deer, and in some areas hunters will only be allowed to harvest bucks. This will give local deer populations in these northern areas a chance to grow



where their numbers are below goals established through the public deer population goal setting process.

To help inform consideration of a proposed elk restoration project, new mandatory CWD surveillance sampling will be implemented on opening weekend of firearms A season in DPAs 156, 173, 181 and 199 as a precautionary measure within the potential elk restoration area.

a doe somewhere near their stand. "If you're lucky, that doe goes into heat and brings Mr. Buck right to you," she said.

The phase of the moon is another factor that can play into hunter success. The moon will be at first quarter on opening day, waxing toward full by Nov. 15. That should keep the woods relatively bright overnight during the first week of the season, which means bucks will likely remain active outside of legal hunting hours. While that

can be a disadvantage, deer that are active overnight tend to bed down toward morning and often are more active than usual at midday. That means hunters who pack a lunch, rather than heading back to camp at noontime, can gain an advantage.

Feedback from hunters

While many hunters have pointed to the region's wolf population as the primary factor behind lower deer numbers, Backman

See OPENER...pg. 5B

TRADITIONS



Send us your tales from the hunt

REGIONAL—Deer season is a time of tradition, family and fun. It's also a time for great outdoors stories and we'd like to hear yours—so we can share the best with our readers.

We're looking for stories and photos from this year's hunt. Whether it's an interesting encounter in the woods, a monster buck, a funny story about life at deer camp, or a young person's first deer, we want to hear about it. Don't worry if you're not a writer. Just tell us the story over the phone—we'll write it for you. Or email us with a few details and we'll take it from there. And don't forget—nothing highlights the story better than some photos, so send them along as well.

Contact Marshall Helmberger at 218-753-2950 with your stories or email them to marshall@timberjay.com.

So go out and have a great time. And let us know how you did!

Outdoors briefly

Log your wildlife sightings online with the DNR

REGIONAL—Now is an ideal time for hunters to use the Minnesota DNR's online log for deer and other wildlife sightings. The DNR uses the information to supplement population estimates, which are an important tool for managing wildlife.

Using a mobile device or desktop computer, deer hunters can enter information on the DNR website about wildlife they see while in the field, including deer, turkey, bear, fisher and other species.

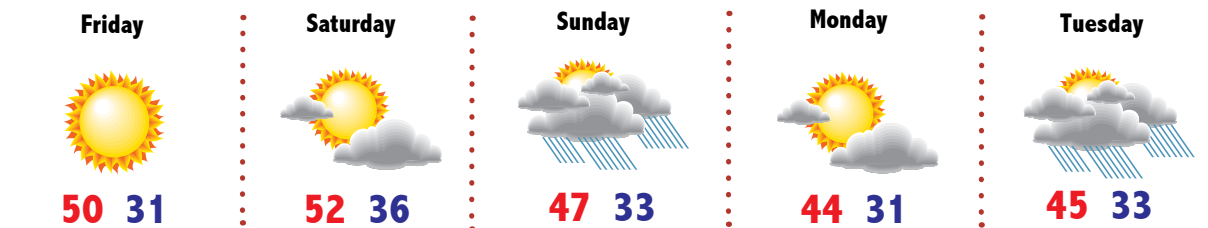
Hunters are encouraged to fill out a report after each hunt even if they don't see any deer that day. Filling out a report, even if no deer are observed, is important as it allows for an accurate estimate of the number of deer observed per hour of field observations, which provides a useful comparison to other metrics used to monitor deer populations. The log will remain open through the end of the year.

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SUPERIOR NATIONAL FOREST

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather



Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
10/28	50	na	0.00		10/28	56	38	0.00		10/28	54	36	0.00		10/28	63	41	0.00		10/28	57	35	0.00	
10/29	57	na	0.00		10/29	61	41	0.00		10/29	60	41	0.00		10/29	57	43	0.00		10/29	61	40	0.00	
10/30	58	na	0.16		10/30	61	42	0.14		10/30	56	41	0.32		10/30	43	30	0.37		10/30	58	41	0.27	
10/31	44	29	0.00		10/31	43	26	0.02		10/31	43	33	0.01		10/31	36	27	0.00		10/31	44	28	0.00	
11/01	36	23	0.00		11/01	36	16	0.00		11/01	36	24	0.00		11/01	39	18	0.00		11/01	36	17	0.00	
11/02	39	na	0.04		11/02	41	16	0.01		11/02	38	24	0.02		11/02	41	32	0.00		11/02	41	20	0.00	
11/03	41	31	0.00		11/03	41	26	0.00		11/03	42	33	0.01		11/03	48	36	0.00		11/03	41	28	0.00	
YTD Total			25.37		YTD Total			26.18		YTD Total			26.52		YTD Total			NA		YTD Total				27.80

A pair of lynx kittens, part of the future of the lynx population on the Superior National Forest. photo courtesy of USFS/R. Pennesi

The legacy of GLNR-S-571 on the Superior Nat'l Forest

ISABELLA— Early last spring, Gary Olson, a Superior National Forest volunteer, discovered a Canada lynx carcass lying along a forest road near Isabella.

Little remained of the carcass except some hair and most of the skeleton (the skull was missing). Through detective work, Superior NF wildlife staff were able to figure out the cat's identity. A sample of the hair from a front paw was sent to the forest service's Rocky Mountain Research Station, which was able to match the DNA with an animal already in their data base, a female known as GLNR-S-571, aka "The Trappers Lake Female."

From 2014 to 2024, wildlife staff and volunteers on the Superior collected 27 scats (lynx feces) from this individual spanning an area of about 71 square miles. GLNR-S-571 was born in the Isabella area in 2013 making this lynx 11 years old at the time of her death. Her breeding territory over the years spanned from Isabella to 12 miles northwest and 13 miles northeast.

The cat was old enough that her end could have been natural causes, but due to the advanced state of decay we cannot rule out a vehicle

collision, predation, or other possible causes of mortality. She had many litters of kittens through the years. Through DNA analysis, there is a high level of confidence that GLNR-S-571 had offspring with her each year from 2019 to 2024 (at least 10 individuals), and it is highly likely that she had other litters prior to 2019 that were not detected. The team is hopeful that she will be survived by them and they will be looking to detect those kittens in the coming monitoring seasons.

Another impressive lynx on the Superior is GLNR-S-551, another female in the Isabella area who is now the oldest lynx in the Superior's database at 11 years old (first detection in 2013).

"Canada lynx GLNR-S-571 is one of only three out of 538 lynx in the Superior's DNA database documented to be older than eight years of age," noted Dan Ryan, a wildlife biologist with the Superior. "Both 571 and 551 were found last winter and were known to be 11 years of age and both had kittens last winter. Generally, if they make it past being a kitten and figure out how to provide for themselves, their survival rate is pretty good," said Ryan.

Outdoors briefly

Researchers seeking images from deer gut piles

REGIONAL—The Offal Wildlife Watching Project with the University of Minnesota Extension is aimed at better understanding how hunter-provided deer gut piles (also called offal) are used by Minnesota wildlife.

The researchers behind the project are asking volunteer hunters to set up remote cameras on the gut piles they leave in the field to capture images of

wildlife visitors for one complete month. The project also relies on volunteers to help classify and identify wildlife in the many thousands of captured images each hunting season at Zooniverse.org.

The project is currently seeking more deer hunter participants from throughout Minnesota. Hunter participants are welcome to use their own trail cameras or borrow project

camera equipment to use (shipping costs covered). Prospective participants can get more information and register at offal@umn.edu. Questions can be directed to Program Coordinator, Grace Milanowski at offal@umn.edu or 612-626-0109. You can also follow the project on Facebook, Instagram and X.

DNR will have updated deer harvest data online

REGIONAL— People who are interested in deer harvest data can find current harvest data and past harvest reports on the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' deer reports and statistics webpage (mndnr.gov/mammals/

deer/management/statistics.html). The page also features an interactive map and graph that visualize the data.

In Minnesota, archery deer season began Sept. 14 and continues through Tuesday, Dec. 31. Firearms "A"

deer season begins Saturday, Nov. 9, with various closing dates depending on a hunter's Deer Permit Area. Muzzleloader season begins Saturday, Nov. 30, and continues through Sunday, Dec. 15.

OPENER...Continued from page 4B

said there seems to be an increasing understanding among hunters that habitat factors are also playing a role. As the *Timberjay* reported in the Oct. 18 edition, the diminishing number of fresh clearcuts, which provide nutritious food sources as the forests regenerate, along with a reduction in older forests and balsam fir, which provide winter cover, was likely limiting the ability of the region's deer herd to rebound as

quickly as in the recent past.

Backman noted that deer in the region have co-existed in the past with very high wolf numbers. "We had some of the highest wolf densities up here seen anywhere in the late 1990s and early 2000s and yet we had deer everywhere."

Season details

The season gets underway officially at approximately 6:40 a.m. on Saturday,

Nov. 9 and runs through Sunday, Nov. 24.

Successful hunters will have the choice of registering their deer online (mndnr.gov), by phone (888-706-6367) or at traditional walk-in registration stations. You'll need to include the harvest registration number that appears on your license to complete your registration.

WEATHER...Continued from page 4B

so far, suggest only relatively modest amounts of precipitation, not the kind that will be necessary to ease drought conditions.

The more frequent rains that have fallen in the past couple weeks have helped to diminish fire danger, but they've done little to replenish soil

moisture or prompt a rebound of water levels in lakes and streams.



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Obituaries and Death Notices



Jose Agustin Vidal, 88, of Nett Lake, went home to be with the Lord on Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2024. Per his wishes, there will be no funeral services. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Jose was born on March 19, 1936, in Mariel, Cuba, the only child of Francisco and Nieves Vidal. He worked as a fisherman and diver and concrete plant worker in Cuba. After spending five years as a political prisoner in Cuba during the 1960s, he left his beloved country and fled to Spain. He spent a year in Spain and arrived in the United States in 1969, where he met his wife, Rita, in New Orleans. They were married in 1970 in Grand Forks, N.D. Throughout the years, they lived in Grand Forks, N.D.; Roanoke, Va.; Naknek, Alaska;

Phoenix, Ariz.; and Nett Lake. Jose was a hard worker who held various jobs to support his family, including owning and operating a refrigeration business. His family meant more to him than anything else in the world, something he proudly and often mentioned. He enjoyed cooking Cuban and Spanish cuisine, tinkering in his tool shed, watching the news, talking politics, and spending time with his wife and family.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Rita; children, Laura Ferwalt of Nett Lake, Leo (Angela) Vidal of Nett Lake, Lisa (Jason Carlson) Vidal of Tower and River Spirit of Duluth; grandchildren, Christine, Britney, Alley, Trinity, Tristan, Winter, Raven and Skylar; and great-grandchildren, Carlin, Valor and Nova.

He was preceded in death by his parents; mother-in-law, Alice P. Smith; surrogate mother, Ruth Boshey; and brothers-in-law, Edwin Porter and Howard Knutson.

Dana L. Wakemup

Dana "The Great Dane" Leslie Wakemup, 51, of Nett Lake, passed away on Saturday, Nov. 2, 2024. A wake service will be held on Friday, Nov. 8 starting at 7 p.m. It will be followed by the funeral service on Saturday, Nov. 9 at 10 a.m. Both events will be at the Bois Forte Tribal Government in Nett Lake. Arrangements are with

Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

He is survived by his mother, Alice Wakemup; sisters, Carolyn Wakemup (Francis Littlewolf Jr.) and Toni Wakemup (Charles Gruae); brothers, Chuck Holmes, Daniel Wakemup (Bea Vuebenson) and David Wakemup (Angel Santeramo); and many nieces and nephews.

Alvin S. Warpula

Alvin Steven Warpula, 90, of Babbitt, passed away peacefully at Waterview Woods in Eveleth on Monday, Oct. 28, 2024. A celebration of life was held on Thursday, Nov. 7 at The Junction in Babbitt. Interment will be at 10 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 8 at the Argo Cemetery in Babbitt. The family would like to thank the staff at Waterview Woods, St. Mary's Hospice-East Range team, family and friends for all their prayers, love and support. Arrangements are by Landmark Funeral Home of Virginia.

He is survived by his wife, Carol Grendahl Warpula; daughter, Cindy Lou Warpula; brother, Earl Warpula; several nephews and nieces; Glen Tervola; and adopted family, Jim and Kathie Crawford and family.

Robert M. Pintar Jr.

Robert M. Pintar Jr., 46, of Babbitt, was reunited with his mom and sister on Saturday, Oct. 26, 2024, in Aurora. A celebration

of life will be held at Sam's on Friday, Nov. 8 from 12-4 p.m. Light lunch will be provided.

He is survived by his father, Kenneth of Babbitt; brother, Travis (Tena) and nephews, Aiden and Cooper, all of Pequot Lakes.

Samuel J. Richter

Samuel Joseph "Sammy" Richter, 41, of Ely, died on Sunday, Oct. 27, 2024. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home. If you or someone you know is suffering from addiction, please reach out for help at the Minnesota Addiction Hotline 2-1-1.

He is survived by sister, Tessa (Jared) Overton; niece and nephew, Summer and Jake Tome; love of his life, Melissa Morrison; stepchildren, Rhys Truty, Madison (Colton) Clark, Logan and Taylor Mather; grandson, Luke Clark; special friend, Sydney Matthias; godmother and godfather, Chris and Larry Urbas; many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends that became family.

Murle F. Olson

Murle F. Olson, 90, of Cook, passed away on Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2024, at View Crest Health Center in Duluth. Funeral arrangements are pending with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

Super Crossword

Answers grid for Super Crossword with words like CORRAL, UTOPIA, BERYLLIUM, ANISETTE, RAFTS, ILLS, LENNIE, OXYGEN, SAIDSO, INCA, TOOTHY, ATRIA, LANZHANUMBOHEME, ALEC, NEAR, OSLO, etc.

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A complete application must include the following: Cover letter, District Licensed Application, Resume, Copy of official transcripts, Current Minnesota teaching license.

Return materials to: Ely Public Schools, Attn: Superintendent, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731 or email lwestrick@ely.k12.mn.us. Contact Principal/Superintendent Anne Oelke at (218) 365-6166 ext. 1724 or aoelke@ely.k12.mn.us with any questions. Application review to begin: November 13, 2024; open until filled. Published in the Timberjay, Nov. 8, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

KUGLER TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

The Kugler Town Board will meet on Tuesday, November 12, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. at the Kugler Town Hall for their regular monthly meeting.

Christopher Suihkonen, Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Nov. 8, 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 L

UE QCXW U ZQBXX YDHXYK
NOD LMJ DEEDZKN NOMN MRUCR
UK OMHUCR QC FW LQJW. U'F
EDDXUCR KQ WQBNOXDKK.

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CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

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

UKAJEUI AJTNYAF JNRREUCFF
FK VOSJ NF AJC VCVKYQ
KD JNRREUCFF.
- NULYC IELC

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WORD LADDERS

Can you go from BLOWN to DROPS in 6 words? Change one letter for each rung in the ladder.

BLOWN

Ladder lines for word ladders

DROPS

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Story lines
5 Entanglement
8 Victor's cry
12 Barking mammal
13 Artist Yoko
14 Scrapped mission
15 Hawaiian city
16 Tic-tac-toe win
17 Corrida bull
18 Surround
20 Edge
22 Standard
23 Fiddle stick
24 Umps
27 Revolt
32 - Baba
33 To and -
34 Modern, in Bonn
35 They can hold their heads high
38 Aussie greeting
39 Takeoff stat
40 Comic Philips
42 On the job
45 Destroys
49 Hoodlum
50 Privy
52 Small combo
53 Oklahoma tribe
54 Gl entertainers
55 Full house, e.g.

King Crossword grid with numbers 1-58

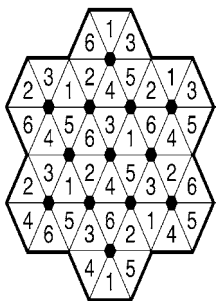
DOWN

- 1 Tennis legend Arthur
2 Check
3 Young whale
4 Sailing vessels
5 PBS anchor Judy
6 Rock's Brian
7 Nitwit
8 Preambles
9 Oboe, for one
10 Folklore monster
11 Queen dowager of Jordan
19 - Boheme
21 Kimono closer
24 Tatter
25 Yalie
26 Kindling
28 Opposite of "post-"
29 Guitar-making material
30 PBS supporter
31 Chap
36 Makes amends
37 New Deal pres.
38 "Faust" dramatist
41 - Deeds
42 Awestruck
43 Dorothy's dog
44 Heidi of "Project Runway"
46 Rocky outcrop
47 Monarch
48 Freshens lawns
51 Sugar suffix

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

Sudoku grid with numbers 6, 9, 1, 7, 5, 3, 9, 2, 8, 4, 4, 6, 1, 3, 1, 5, 6, 3, 8, 4, 2, 6, 8, 5, 5, 4, 7

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

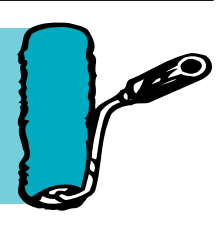
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