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# the **TIMBERJAY**



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989

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DEVELOPMENT

## Silver Rapids developers hand in their permits

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

### File motion to dismiss lawsuits by citizens group and DNR as moot

REGIONAL- Quietly and with little fanfare, the owners of Silver Rapids Resort have surrendered their permits and approvals for the proposed redevelopment of the century-old resort, near Ely, following a legal challenge by local residents and the Department of Natural Resources.

the Minnesota Sixth District Court in Duluth issued an "order to maintain status quo" at the resort, stopping all work related to the applications until a scheduled hearing on the pair of lawsuits on Nov. 27.

The owners of the property proposed to renovate the resort's motel, build a new lodge, construct 49 quarter-fraction timeshare cabins, install 15 new docks, and make other improvements.

A grassroots opposition

made up of local residents and landowners formed a new nonprofit called Community Advocates for Responsible Development, or CARD, and filed a lawsuit opposing the applications, arguing that Lake County had violated state law in granting the applications. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources filed its own lawsuit on similar grounds.

**Summary judgment**

With the permits now surrendered, both Lake County

**Right: The future of the Silver Rapids Resort property remains in doubt after developers turned in permits for a planned redevelopment of the site.**

photo by C. Clark

and the Silver Rapids Resort filed motions for summary judgment with Judge Hylden seeking dismissal of the cases as moot.

The language from Silver

See...**PERMITS** pg. 10



COUNTY SCHOOLS

## District faces \$1.3 million deficit next school year

### District may seek operating levy to avoid more painful cuts

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL-St. Louis County Schools Finance Director Kim Johnson had some grim news for school board members Tuesday, a budget forecast for next year with a \$1.3 million deficit, one that will undoubtedly lead to more staffing cuts.

The shortfall is in the general fund, a \$34.3 million line item used in large part to fund salaries and benefits for teachers, administrative staff, and some categories of support staff. Other educational expenses are also made from this fund, but staffing costs represent the single largest share of the general fund and are the most likely target for cuts. The district accommodated a shortfall this year by cutting ten teaching positions.

"We've got to continue to make cuts, and we've got to look at absolutely everything," Johnson said. "We're working with (Superintendent) Reggie (Engebritson) and administration and trying to make some addi-

See...**DEFICIT** pg. 9

GREENERY HEIST

## Babbitt man faces charges for theft of spruce tops

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

BABBITT—Blake Robert Buschman, age 37, has been charged with the felony theft an estimated 5,250 spruce tops from bogs between Babbitt and Embarrass in September and October.

DNR Conservation Officer Anthony Bermel seized around 1,300 spruce tops from Buschman on Oct. 28 after staking out a location where Buschman was allegedly harvesting tops from

See...**CHARGES** pg. 9



LEARNING

## Culture through crafts

### Series of classes combine language with the building of traditional skills

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

**Above: Jessica Anderson Ojala (center) helps Bailey Jenkins (left) and Wahsey Jenkins get help starting their medicine bag.**

**Right: Brody Chosa works on sewing his medicine bag**  
photos by J. Summit

VERMILION RESERVATION- Brody Chosa squinted his eyes as he carefully stuck a needle through two layers of soft, tanned deer hide, sewing together a small medicine bag pouch. Band-aids were required at one point, but there were no complaints from Brody, or the other dozen Bois Forte community members who had joined the evening class at the Bois Forte Heritage Center.

Led by the museum's language and cultural coordinator, Jessica Anderson Ojala, participants stitched together a small pouch to hold asemaa (tobacco) or cedar leaves, to leave as

a gift for the great spirit to give thanks when harvesting animals, plants or other items from the earth.

"When you harvest, you put some tobacco down," said Anderson Ojala. "So, you are always present with the great spirit."

As participants finished their bags, they filled them with tobacco leaves. "You should think good thoughts

See...**CULTURE** pg. 11



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

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## Community notices

### 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.

### Festival of Trees annual Tour of Homes Saturday, Nov. 23

VIRGINIA- The Festival of Trees annual Tour of Homes will take place on Saturday, Nov. 23 from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Four area homes and two local businesses will be showcased.

Registration begins at 10:30 a.m. at the Virginia Elks Lodge where everyone can bid on many wonderful silent auction and raffle items. Light refreshments and treats will be served. All proceeds are dedicated to creating a private behavioral health space in the Emergency Department at the Virginia hospital to accommodate patients in crisis. This event is hosted by the Essentia Health-Virginia Regional Foundation. Tickets are \$45 and are available at Virginia-TourofHomes2024.EventBrite.com.

### 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.

### “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.

### Santa and Mrs. Claus pancake breakfast Sunday, Nov. 24 in Virginia

VIRGINIA- The annual Santa and Mrs. Claus Pancake Breakfast will be held at the Virginia Elks Lodge on Sunday, Nov. 24 from 9 a.m. – 1p.m. Bring your cameras and get the perfect family Christmas photo! The students of Shannon Gunderson will perform and trees decorated by North Star Elementary students will be showcased. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for those 3-12, and children under 2 years of age are free. More information can be found on Facebook (Festival of Trees 2024 Virginia MN).

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## ELY STATE THEATER

# Fire in the Village art and music tour on Nov. 17

ELY- The new arts and cultural organizing collective, Fire in the Village, is pleased to announce the inaugural Fire in the Village: Zaka’an Art & Music Tour of the upper Midwest. The tour will be stopping at Ely’s Historic State Theater on Sunday, Nov. 17. Doors open at noon with a community art printing activity, followed by a 1 p.m. concert. Tickets are \$20, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds. The concert will be led by Village co-founders and touring songwriters Annie Humphrey and David Huckfelt (formerly of The Pines), following the community art activity led by Village artist and organizer Shanai Matteson.

Concerts will open with a mini fashion show featuring designs by Annie Humphrey and Terri “T-Bazz” Laduke. Music will be accompanied by videos and multimedia art activations, the contributions of guitarist and producer Jeremy Ylvisaker and other guest artists. Fire in the Village is a new arts collective led by Humphrey (Leech Lake Reservation), Huckfelt (Minneapolis),



and Matteson (rural Aitkin County).

The goals of the group are to create art and culture experiences in small communities and cities to remind people that we are made of earth, and we are power. These concerts and workshops center on themes of shared con-

nection with land and water, the importance of free thinking and creative expression, and care for our communities in tumultuous times.

“Our Fire in the Village tour brings music, storytelling, visual art and an all-inclusive spirit. The purpose of this tour is to gather and create together, so that we will recognize the very real power that is within each of us,” said Village artist Annie Humphrey.

Fire in The Village is a collective of artists and cultural organizers. Their aim is to build and sustain spiritual fires of connection where we live – in Anishinaabe territory, or rural northern Minnesota – and in arts and music communities across the region. The oxygen for these fires is poetry, music, printmaking, mural arts, storytelling, dancing and nourishment, all woven together by coherent thought for our children and earth. The renewable fuel is the heartfire within each of us.

## MINNESOTA WRITER

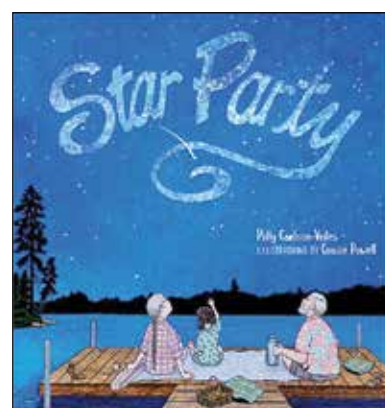
# Local author wins Northeastern Minnesota Book Award

REGIONAL- Polly Carlson-Voiles, of Ely and Eagles Nest, recently won the Northeastern Minnesota Book Award for children’s literature for the third time. The winning book, “Star Party,” was published by the Minnesota Historical Society. The award was a surprise presentation at the NEMBA award ceremony in Duluth on Oct. 15. The book was beautifully illustrated by Consie Powell, also from Ely. The early-grade picture book tells about a child visiting her grandparents’ cabin and being introduced to the wonder of the night sky, which she had never been able to see in the city. This book is a gentle introduction to nature away from density of electric lights and the awe people the world over feel when viewing the immensity of the dark night sky. She wrote the book after learning that children growing up east of the Mississippi River are never able to see the star-studded dark

sky due to light pollution.

Carlson-Voiles first won the prize in 2008 for her book, “Someone Walks By: The Wonders of Winter Wildlife,” which she also illustrated. In 2013 her middle-grade novel, “Summer of the Wolves,” won the prize.

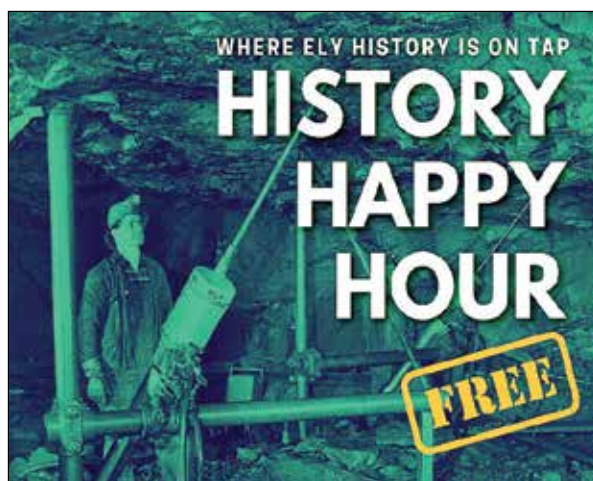
All of Carlson-Voiles’ books are focused on putting children in touch with nature. Other titles are a hard-paged book for toddlers called “Eat, Sleep, Howl: Animals in Winter,” which playfully encourages language development in the very young with a focus on northern animals and illustrations drawn from “Someone Walks By.” Another book, “Big Yellow,” invites discussions of confidence and courage with a story about a firefighting airplane. The picture books are all for the early grades employing lyrical story lines and including back matter about the factual information that inspired the tales.



Carlson-Voiles has several other titles in the works including a second novel and additional early-grade subjects of interest to lovers of nature and North Country adventure. All of her books are available in bookstores (recommended) and on the Internet.

## MINING HISTORY

# History Happy Hour in Ely on Wednesday, Nov. 20



ELY- History Happy Hour delves into the rich history of the Soudan Underground Mine on Wednesday, Nov. 20 from 5 - 5:30 p.m. at the Boathouse Brewpub’s Lookout Lounge. The Soudan Mine is the oldest mine in Minnesota and known as the Cadillac of mines due to its relatively safe and comfortable working conditions compared to other mines. The Lookout Lounge will be open from 4:30 – 6 p.m. for dining and drinks before and during this free program.

History Happy Hour is offered on the third Wednesday of the month, October-May, from 5-5:30 p.m. and is supported by the Boathouse Brewpub, Ely’s Heritage Preservation Commission, the Dorothy Molter Museum, Boundary Waters Connect and the Ely Folk School.

# Support the Ely Winter Festival on Give to the Max Day Thursday, Nov. 21

ELY- Planning for the February 2025 Ely Winter Festival is well underway. The recent Oktoberfest started the fundraising process and early giving has already begun for Give to the Max Day on Thursday, Nov. 21. Sponsorship letters are in the mail to businesses here and elsewhere, with different levels of support available. If you would like your business to be included, please contact the Festival Coordinator at 218-365-SNOW (7669). Individuals who wish to contribute directly to the Festival can visit [www.elywinterfestival.com](http://www.elywinterfestival.com) and click on the Donate button.

Promoting activities and events that engage local community members as well as visitors is the central theme of the Festival’s mission. Outdoor activities, arts, music, food, historical events and other activities promote Ely’s unique culture and location. From Feb. 6-16, 2025, snow sculpting in the park and numerous other activities will be offered. Some are outdoors, some indoors, but all promise to help break up the long, cold winter. The Festival is funded by grants, business sponsorships, both local and national, fundraisers, and donors. While Ely’s Chamber of Commerce often contrib-

utes advertising support, the Festival is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and is not affiliated with the Chamber.

This activity is made possible in part by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, thanks to appropriations from the Minnesota State Legislature’s general and arts and cultural heritage fund; and in part by a grant from Ely’s Donald G. Gardner Humanities trust.

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TOWER

# Council skeptical over cost of sprint medic pilot project

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

Program would charge the city \$200 for each time they respond to a medical call

“It’s a lot of expense to us and a lot of risk.”

Council member Kevin Norby

TOWER— City council members here expressed considerable skepticism over a proposed pilot project that would utilize so-called “sprint medics” to respond quickly to medical emergencies in rural parts of St. Louis County.

The pilot is being funded by a \$3 million state allocation approved earlier this year for St. Louis County and it is designed to equip and staff rapid response vehicles, such as vans or SUVs, designed to provide prompt advanced life support, or ALS, care to patients who call 911. Currently, many part of northern St. Louis County are served by ambulances that don’t provide ALS, although they frequently call out larger services that do offer ALS when the need arises.

In theory, the sprint medics would be able to reach patients requiring a higher level of care minutes faster than is currently possible, but there was concern by council members that the price tag was more than they expected. According to the billing agreement submitted to the city as part of the pilot, the city’s ambulance service would pay \$200 each time one of the sprint paramedics responds to a medical incident within their service territory. “I thought that’s what the \$3 million was for,” said council member Bob Anderson. The \$200 is less than the service currently pays for ALS service when it requests it from Virginia or Ely, but council members worried that

the paramedics would likely respond to many if not most ambulance calls in the area where they’re working. As it is, fewer than one-in-ten calls in the area typically require advanced life support.

Council member Kevin Norby said he worries that the paramedics, who are supposed to be roving the area during their 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Monday-Friday on-call hours, will be eager for action and will naturally respond to calls in their vicinity. “It’s likely we’ll see more paramedic responses,” said Norby. “It’s a lot of expense to us and a lot of risk.”

Anderson agreed and asked what the program would cost after the grant funds run out and whether the city could afford it in the longer term.

Council member Joe Morin said he expected the sprint medic teams would want to maximize their activity in order to show both the need and financial viability and he said he wanted more time to study the program’s outline, which the council received in their packet.

Council members also questioned why those currently trying to organize the pilot program had yet to schedule a presentation to the council,

which would ultimately have to approve the plan. Ambulance director Dena Suihkonen said she’s had four meetings with the organizers and Norby said he’d been involved in two of the meetings, but they’ve yet to make a formal presentation or a request to the full city council.

Clerk-treasurer Michael Schultz expressed concern about the impact the program could have on staff morale in the ambulance service, particularly if the paramedics begin to dominate patient care. “Could our own staff lose interest?” he asked.

Norby suggested that the sprint medics could be based in Greenwood, but if so he questioned whether Greenwood should help pay the cost.

In the end, the council took no action on the request from organizers of the pilot project.

In other ambulance-related news, the council made no decision on the future of the city’s oldest ambulance. City officials have been considering converting the 11-year-old rig into a transfer vehicle that would allow the ambulance service to increase its number of inter-hospital transfers without adding additional miles to the two newer

ambulances.

Council members agreed they still had too many questions about needed repairs to the older ambulance and other equipment costs they might need to incur to get the rig ready for use in transfers.

In related news, the council voted unanimously to name Shawn Gawboy as the city’s new assistant ambulance director, for 16 hours a week. Gawboy will be on-call with the ambulance service during her working hours. Suihkonen said Gawboy, currently an emergency medical responder, is now working to achieve her licensure as an emergency medical technician, or EMT.

In other business, the council:

- Gave the first reading to a new ordinance governing short-term rentals. An accompanying schedule would limit the number of short-term rental units in residential portions of the city to two on Lake Avenue Dr., two in Northstar Addition, and two within the city’s R-3 zone, which is the central residential district in the city. The schedule calls for an unlimited number of short-term rentals within the central commercial district and four within the Tower Harbor North district, although that number is likely to be amended to unlimited before the second and final reading.

- Approved the low bid of \$608,797 from Mesabi Bituminous for a community infrastructure project that will involve some sewer line

replacement and new pavement on portions of S. Second and Third streets, along with stormwater and parking lot improvements around the train depot.

- Reviewed a water quality report from the Tower-Breitung Waste Water Board that revealed one recently-tested location had exceeded the allowable limit for copper. TBWWB operations manager Matt Tichel said the wastewater board had provided the required notice to customers and had fielded a few questions about the violation. Tichel noted that the TBWWB is still having to draw its water from its backup well and that the water quality isn’t as high as from the primary well, which should be back on line later this month. Even so, Tichel said the well water isn’t the source of the higher copper levels. He speculated that a change in the pH of the water may be leaching copper from newer copper water lines that may have been installed at the location experiencing the exceedance. The location of the exceedance is not considered public information.

- Set a preliminary budget meeting for 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 4. The council will need to approve its final 2025 budget and levy next month.

- Approved a motion to continue moving forward on the plan to complete the loop bike trail that connects the Hoodoo Point and McKinley Park campgrounds to Tower and Soudan and to authorize

up to \$1,500 in additional allocation for grant writing.

- Approved a motion to make adjustments to the electrical service at the Tower Airport to allow for upgrading the airport’s well pump to 220-volt. The new service will also be in a new location to allow for more reliable access by city staff. Currently the electrical service panel for the pump is located inside a private hangar.

- Approved a request from the Tower-Soudan Elementary School for the installation of a storage shed and porta-potty on the former football field for use in student activities on the field. The school district had transferred the property to the city when the former high school was closed.

- Discussed but made no final decision on how to manage the pilings along the East Two River channel. Council members were concerned that too many of the pilings were being removed. The council discussed whether they have legal authority to prevent removal of the pilings and asked Schultz to consult with city attorney Mitch Brunfelt to develop possible recommendations.

- Approved the purchase agreement with St. Louis County for the acquisition of the public works garage on Marina Drive.

- Heard that the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board approved the \$3 million in bonding for the city’s water infrastructure improvements.

BABBITT

# Pulsar prepares to deepen their exploration well

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

BABBITT- Pulsar Helium has taken steps to ensure they can reach their well site regardless of the weather. Last year, the firm was prevented from bringing in heavy equipment to work on their site

southwest of Babbitt during last year’s mild winter conditions and spring break-up.

Pulsar has upgraded portions of the Dunka River Road, which is the access route to their drill site. The firm plans to do additional improvements to the road in later November “in anticipation of

increased traffic levels during the winter.”

Pulsar signed a new contract with Capstar drilling on Oct. 1 to deepen their Jetstream No. 1 well by approximately 1,600 feet, which will extend the well through the entire gas-bearing zone. Pulsar has recently completed a drill pad for

Capstar’s drill rig, which is scheduled to arrive at the well site during the first week in December.

“Only one well has been drilled within the prospect, which has not yet met target depth, but has flowed concentrations that are considered very high by global standards,” said Pulsar CEO Thomas Abra-

ham-James. “We’ve seen other projects achieve significant gains in resource size and flow rates through similar deepening efforts, and combined with our data, and our existing high concentration credentials, we believe Jetstream #1 can stand as a top-tier helium production site worldwide.”

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# OPINION

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## Editorial

### Trump's victory

Democrats need an economic message that goes back to their roots

Donald Trump's victory last Tuesday has sparked the usual Democratic handwringing that happens whenever an election doesn't turn the way they had hoped — and centrists and the party's progressive wing are already making their case for why the party needs to change if it's going to win elections again.

There is a risk, as always, that the party will read too much into the election results. The fact is those in power in western democracies across the world have been taking a shellacking in the past year as voters everywhere reacted to the global inflation spawned by the economic dislocations of the pandemic. As the *Financial Times* recently noted, "Every governing party facing election in a developed country this year lost vote share, the first time this has ever happened in almost 120 years."

Younger voters, in particular, who were too young to remember the far worse inflation the country faced in the 1970s and 80s, shifted towards Trump in the mistaken belief that he had something to do with the low inflation the country enjoyed during his previous four years. In fact, he just happened to be in the White House during a portion of a nearly two-decade-long period of low inflation globally.

What's more, the fact that inflation was back to the Federal Reserve's preferred two-percent range for the past few months never broke through with an electorate whose sources of information are increasingly unreliable. More Americans, particularly younger voters, rarely utilize the so-called legacy media (think newspapers, the broadcast news networks, or even CNN). Instead, the "news" that most voters receive comes from a wide range of opinionated online sources, largely dominated by right-wing voices, who painted an economy that was strong by traditional measures as on the verge of collapse. As our founders recognized, an informed electorate is critical to the maintenance of a democratic form of government. A uninformed electorate, which is arguably what we have now, is the path to authoritarianism.

Americans will learn that Trump's economic policies, such as they exist, won't bring prosperity back to the middle and working class and will almost certainly spark a new round of price hikes for many consumer goods if Trump actually implements his proposed tariff scheme.

The public's sour mood coming out of the pandemic led to Trump's defeat four years ago, and it hurt Harris's case this time around. That pendulum is likely

to swing back two years from now, particularly as the effects of Trump's dubious economic policies become clearer to the public.

But while much of this was likely baked into the cake, the Democrats' decision to play to Republicans both weary and wary of a second Trump presidency plainly failed, and it appears it left many of the party's more left-leaning voters disenchanted. Many chose to simply stay home, as evidenced by distinct declines in turnout in places where Biden had rolled up big numbers four years ago. President Biden's uncritical support of Israel in its war on Gaza and Lebanon certainly didn't help, either.

For those in the center-right "Clinton" wing of the Democratic Party, winning over moderate Republicans has been the holy grail quest for more than 20 years and if ever there was an election where this shift was possible, it was this one. And while there were a number of high-profile Republicans who endorsed Harris, those endorsements plainly carried little weight with the vast majority of GOP voters, who stuck with Trump despite misgivings.

In trying to woo Republicans, Harris modified her economic message to focus on minor tweaks to the status quo at a time when most Americans want bolder action to make the economy work better for those in the bottom half and middle. Even in deeply red states, like Missouri, policies historically backed by progressive Democrats — such as a \$15 minimum wage and paid sick and family leave — were easily approved by voters. The notion that Democrats need to move further to the right to appeal to voters has been exposed for the magical thinking it's always been.

Americans are right to believe that the economy is rigged in favor of the wealthy, and Democrats do best when they talk about it in the kind of bold terms that were clearly lacking in this year's campaign as Harris tried, in vain, to entice more Republican voters.

Trump, meanwhile, exploited voter anger over inflation and doubled down on what most economists believe is a radical return to a tariff policy that is guaranteed to increase wealth inequality. Most voters recognized they were still angry over inflation, but they perhaps lacked the economics background to recognize that Trump's proposals would almost certainly make things worse. Americans have signed up to learn that lesson the hard way.



## Letters from Readers

### Biden-Harris show us how mature patriots respond to an election loss

Can you believe it? The Democrats forgot to rig the election!

Truth is, just as in 2020 the election was free, fair, and unriddled. I'm sorry Harris didn't win, but I'm proud that she graciously conceded, and that Biden has promised a smooth transition of power. This is the behavior of mature, responsible patriots, and if the past is any guide, not the kind of behavior that will be much on display in the White House come Jan. 20.

Peter M. Leschak  
Side Lake

### I'll keep singing 'til the end

As a musician, I think I can now empathize with the band on the Titanic. I'll keep playing, hopefully to provide some comfort, but the truth is we're all going to drown. We had a chance to choose a captain who wanted to try to lead us toward safety; but instead, we chose full-steam-ahead into the iceberg. I understand the cultists who are so anxious for "heaven" that they voted for the apocalypse. I don't know why so many other people would rather die than vote for a competent, black woman to steer the ship. At this point it doesn't matter who you voted for, the floods, fires, droughts, hurricanes, and invasive species are coming for us all.

I tried to bail my little part of the cabin, but my solar panels, heat pumps, and recycling are no match for a President who is determined to drill up and burn every last drop of oil and gas on the planet. I tried to vote "Blue" hoping my vote would provide some help for those who have no voice or power over the degradation of their homelands, but there is no comfort now in living in a "Blue" state. Sure,

the folks in steerage - poor, the non-white, the island nations and the Floridians - will drown first, but the whole ship is going down and only Bezos and Musk have "lifeboats." At least we don't have to talk about abortion and IVF anymore: no one is going to want to bring children into this climate disaster.

The legend is that the band played "Nearer My God, to Thee" as the Titanic sank. I'll keep singing 'til the end and I don't think it will matter what song comes up at the end of this disastrous journey. I doubt God will want to be near any of us who allowed this to happen to her beautiful creation.

Amen,  
Phil Brown  
St. Johnsbury, VT

### The Second Coming of the New Pariah

For those of us who voted blue, last week's election results were a catastrophe of the highest order. We don't think of the current president-elect as a savior who will restore America's greatness, we see him as a severely flawed human being with the potential to destroy our democracy, thus wreaking havoc at home and abroad. We are not alone in our thinking. Before the results were even final, a German friend texted: "wtf is going on in the elections!?" Shortly thereafter I got an email from a former student in India: "The news broke on this side of the world, the poisonous powerful clown has won." Later that day, a very dear friend in Paris wrote: "A 78 year-old thug, convicted of multiple crimes, a crook, liar, racist, misogynist, whose pal sells cars and rockets, takes back the reins of the United States." The text from my daughter in Dubai is unprintable. I have since received many such condolences from friends and acquaintances throughout Europe, Asia, Africa, the Americas, Oceania and Australia.

Foreign leaders are compelled

by diplomacy to congratulate the winners of elections. That said, the obsequious post-election statements of UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer, French President Emmanuel Macron, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and many other national leaders do not necessarily reflect their innermost feelings nor, obviously, those of their constituents. To most of our allies, Donald Trump is a dangerous amateur whose rise to power is inexplicable. That his willfully blind base and spineless colleagues afford him this power is a frightful statement about just how low this country has sunk. Every empire that has risen has eventually tumbled. There is no reason why ours won't follow suit. I can only believe that Trump's second term will hasten our demise as his hateful rhetoric and poisonous politics deepen the divide that dumbfounds our allies and gives hope to our enemies. Beware of false prophets!

David Stanton  
Cook



### Your letters

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

We ask that letters be limited to 300 words.

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

Letters are a great way to offer your input to the *Timberjay's* editorial page. We want to know what you think!

## COMMENTARY

# Take a deep breath and then, another...

Six days after the election, feeling baffled about the results and uncertain about the future, I turned to a dear friend for her wisdom. Mary Alice Harvey, 98 years old, was a Quaker in utero, her parents having attended a Quaker meeting for the first time two months before she was born. She grew up nurtured and influenced by Quakers, developing into a woman who lived a life of activism, embodying the values she holds dear. In the



BETTY FIRTH

1950s, she and husband Harvey chose to live in an African American neighborhood in St. Paul, protested real estate redlining, and boycotted businesses that would not hire African Americans. She attended every city council and school board meeting in whatever community she lived in. One of her most satisfying activities was helping people study for their citizenship test in

Duluth from 1990-2020 — for 30 years, until she was 94 years old! She taught them about her favorite topics: American history, civics, and how government works in a democracy. She took them to city council meetings, where they saw that people could stand up and voice their opinions freely. They were fascinated and did not take these anticipated freedoms for granted. Mary Alice said, laughing, "Council meetings were always good entertainment. If you take them too seriously, you get to feeling too bad."

I met her 40 years ago at People Camp, a family camp

sponsored by Friends for a Non-Violent World, and she has been impressing me ever since. She loved to walk and explore her environment, forest or woodland, lakeside or prairie, and often could outlast me. I love to plumb her rich trove of memories, which she delights in sharing.

Her home is now with her daughter and son-in-law on the St. Louis River, where she can enjoy the wildlife that roams, swims, and flies nearby. She speaks of them fondly, like old friends whose habits are well known. Mary Alice grew up on a farm in northern Minnesota with no

electricity or running water. The family cooked on a woodburning stove, which she prefers to modern stoves. "I felt like I had more control. If it was too hot, you put in more fuel or opened the damper. If you wanted to slow the cooking down, you just moved it to the back of the stove."

Her family of origin grew most of their food, plowing with two of the three horses they owned. The third one was a relief hitter, rotating in for plow or wagon duty in the fields when one of the others needed to take a break or pulling the smaller plow and cultivator for the

kitchen garden. Mary Alice said, "We couldn't afford a buggy, but our neighbors had one, and they would share. Their horse was so gentle that as a five year old, I could crawl under its belly and buckle the buckles on the harness."

When Mary Alice was about twelve, one neighbor, a young man, bought a tractor. Her mom lamented, "That's not a good thing. He has headlights on it." That sounded like an improvement to me, but Mary Alice explained, "With headlights,

See **BREATHE...** pg. 5

## Letters from Readers

### Thank you, Kamala!

In the end, she showed us grace, dignity, love, and respect for democracy and country, resilience, and her depth of compassion. She promised a safe, peaceful transition of the executive branch of government. She is not the super-narcissist cry-baby that he is and would have been had he lost AGAIN.

In the end, he was purchased by the world's richest person (now you know what an oligarch is), continued his contempt for anyone who disagrees with him, his contempt for "the tired, the poor, and the huddled masses yearning to breathe free," continued his vile practice of derogatory name-calling of anyone who he sees as beneath him. His peer group of world leaders includes the most authoritative, violent, enemies of freedom – as in our American freedoms of choice, freedom-of-self-determination, inclusion in all its forms, and the concepts of a "Shared Society."

In the end, he will not be in charge. He was purchased, and even now is being directed by the authors of Project 2025. Just consider the appalling appointments that he has already put forth. This will not be good for America, the world, or whatever individual freedoms we now may enjoy.

In the end she will continue

to lead from the realm of democratic opposition, and will show us through her continued grace, dignity, intelligence, and nearly 68 million citizens who know that democracy can work even in the dark future in which we are now entering.

Thank you, Kamala!  
**Orlyn Kringstad Tower**

### America still not ready for a woman?

In my post-election funk, I've been trying to get my head around how things went so horribly wrong, how my country would prefer a candidate such as Trump. And it seems obvious, at least to me, that most of the pundits and talking heads are missing the point. They can say what they want about Biden not "passing the torch" to Harris soon enough, or immigration issues, or inflation and the economy – all contributing factors, no doubt. But they are avoiding the deciding factor, the "elephant in the room" that most don't want to talk about – the fact that this country, even at this late date, well into the 21st century, is still not ready for a female president, especially one of color.

We have a daughter-in-law who is part Latina, a beautiful, brilliant woman who is beyond outraged over what she is seeing around her, by the fact that

a majority of her fellow citizens would prefer a convicted felon and sexual abuser to a woman. What can I say to her? Be patient? Things will get better? I have no idea what to say to her. The sad truth is that misogyny and racism are still alive and well in America. We obviously still have far to go to achieve that "more perfect Union" mentioned in the preamble to the Constitution.

**Lynn Scott Soudan**

### Trump needs to take climate change seriously this time

The latest world climate meeting, COP29, is currently in progress and one would hope that Trump or one of his associates would attend in preparation for his new administration. If he does not change his belief that climate change is a hoax, it will cost this nation and other nations much human grief and large financial burdens. You certainly will think about the consequences of his avoidance of reality when experiencing future hurricanes, tornadoes, wildfires, droughts, floods, blackouts, destruction of homes, offices, factories, infrastructure, disruption of trade routes, not to mention casualties and deaths. There is no doubt that climate change is an increasing occur-

rence and is generating these incidents more frequently.

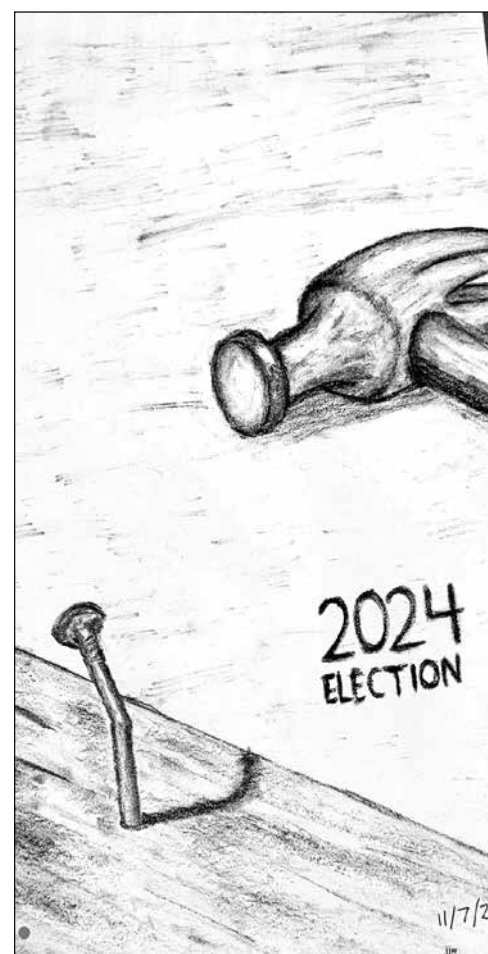
Money spent currently to reduce the warming of the Earth will be a lot less than paying for the destruction and devastation caused by the adverse changes in climate. The cause of climate change, according to 97 percent of scientists, is primarily from carbon emissions, the largest source of detrimental emissions comes from gasoline, oil, natural gas, and coal that are expected to exceed last year's record output. Despite the evidence of the degradation of the environment from fossil fuels, Trump has pledged to boost fossil fuel production. He plans to avoid global climate cooperation and will not address the dire consequences of damage caused by rising global temperatures.

Trump, in his previous administration, rolled back more than a hundred environmental protections provisions. He withdrew from the 2015 Paris Agreement, signed and endorsed by 195 nations.

The impact of climate change occurs without regard to a nation's borders, nor can it be stopped by building walls. Only by cooperation with other countries can the phenomena be curtailed.

**Gerry Snyder Ely and Simsbury, Conn.**

### A cartoon from a reader...



**Jeff Wilfahrt Ely, MN**

## Commentary

# Three new veterans homes in one year: Minnesota is stepping up to support its veterans

ST. PAUL – Ahead of Veterans Day, Governor Tim Walz released the following op-ed on the state's commitment and efforts to support Minnesota's veterans:



**Gov. Tim Walz**

As a 24-year veteran of the Minnesota National Guard, I know that when you raise your hand to serve, you're not just sacrificing your time. You're sacrificing your health, safety, personal freedoms, and time with family in service to your country.

Minnesota is home to more

than 285,000 veterans who have put their lives on the line to defend their state and country. I can't think of a more noble cause. Now, with over half of Minnesota's veterans over the age of 65, it's time for us to serve them.

When veterans serving our nation finally take their uniform off and return home, we've made the bipartisan commitment in Minnesota to provide them the support and care that properly honors the sacrifices they make,

and that their families make.

That's why I'm proud to say that this year Minnesota became the first state in the nation to build and open three veterans homes simultaneously. These homes, located in Bemidji, Preston, and Montevideo, will serve nearly 200 veterans needing skilled nursing care as they age.

This is a huge step forward in our work to support those who have answered the call to serve. Because as our veterans age, we have a responsibility to ensure they live in a supportive community and receive the care and services they need.

To the communities of Preston, Montevideo, and Bemidji – thank you for taking on this responsibility,

as the five other Minnesota communities where veterans homes are located have proudly for decades. To the local health care providers, caregivers, and county veterans service officers – thank you for embodying what it means to give back and care for our veterans.

I was grateful to take time this summer to dedicate each home and celebrate the years of work that have gone into planning, building, and opening these homes.

While I'm incredibly proud of this effort, I want to be clear that the work continues to support our veterans and military families.

Last month Hennepin County took a critical step toward the goal I set to end veteran homelessness

in the state – becoming the ninth of ten geographic areas in Minnesota to achieve the goal. This is collaborative, bipartisan work to provide the best services and care for our veterans.

We've also laid the groundwork for a fourth State Veterans Cemetery in northwest Minnesota. We've expanded service bonuses for post-9/11 era veterans and Gold Star Families. We're working collaboratively to ensure our veterans are better served than they have ever been in Minnesota.

As long as we have veterans, we're here to care for them. Let's keep up the good work.

## BREATHE...Cont. from page 4

he could work into the night. When you have horses, you have to stop when it gets dark. You also have to take five or ten minutes at the end of the row to let them rest in the shade and take a full hour for lunch to give them a break, a better pace for humans and horses."

Her mom made their own bread, six loaves at a time, and the kids loved to help, carrying their love of bread making into their future lives. She mused about so many things she had learned growing up that were necessary for daily living and self-sufficiency, such as lighting a kerosene lamp, harnessing a horse, planting a garden, canning the produce, operating a wood stove, sewing, knitting, and managing an outhouse. She wondered if

many people had maintained or reclaimed these skills, and I assured her that it was one of things that attracted me to live here: lots of people still know how to do things, how to use their hands, and how to be self-sufficient, at least in some aspects of their lives.

In the late 90s, I had grown weary of the urban clamor I was surrounded by in the Twin Cities, and I looked to the North where I'd learned to sail on Lake Superior, and had felt my breathing deepen and relax, even on the drive up. A new century was on the horizon bringing forecasts of possible calamities with the Y2K bug wreaking havoc on computer systems. It wasn't a driving force behind my decision, but I knew that if systems did malfunction or

collapse, I'd rather be among people who knew how to chop wood, fetch water, and use a wood stove. And I loved the idea of being in a small town where I could get to know people I would see in my daily rounds, shedding the anonymity of the city.

After 25 years, I still love it for those reasons. I've made friends and become acquainted with many people who value what we have here, including people who think differently than I do about some important issues. I left the Minneapolis Friends Meeting behind, found the Duluth-Superior Friends and was delighted to reconnect with Mary Alice.

When I asked her advice for those of us who are feeling concerned about what's ahead in our country and

our world with Trump on the loose, she said, "Work locally, with your school board and city council. Focus on issues important to you. You can't do it all—you'll drive yourself crazy if you try."

"Keep grounded with people you know and in your own neighborhood. It's good to have people you can count on and who count on you. First thing in the morning, do some stretches, yoga, if you like. Get some fresh air. Take a walk. Say your morning prayers. It gets your day started right. Find one or two things every day to laugh about. That helps. And be kind."

Pretty darned good advice, eh? It sure seems to have worked for her.



## the TIMBERJAY

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Week of Nov. 18

**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.

Breitung Town Board- 6 p.m. on Nov. 19. Please note change from regular meeting day.

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

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



**TSHS weekly winner**  
TOWER- The Week 9 winner of the Charlemagne's 52 Club \$100 cash prize is Brad Peterson of Tower.

**History Tidbit:** Tower-Soudan had a streetcar railway near the turn of the 20th Century, from 1889 to 1896. It ran along the north edge of Mill Point, along the Hoodoo Point Road but closer to the river, down Main Street to Alder Street, along some of what is now the bike trail and across the trestle bridge and up along the uphill side of Main Street in Soudan. The trolley was electric and ran multiple times a day to take workers to their jobs.

**Jacob White to speak at Tower-Soudan Civic Club meeting on Nov. 20**

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Civic Club's meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 20 will feature a talk by Jacob White, director of the Ely State Theater. White will talk about the renovation of this historic building, as well as upcoming events, both movies and live performances at the theater. This month's meeting will be at the Lamma Civic Center at 6 p.m. on Nov. 20. The public is welcome to attend.

**St. Paul's hosting a community Thanksgiving dinner**

SOUDAN- St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Soudan will be hosting a free community Thanksgiving dinner on Thursday, Nov. 28 from 2 – 6 p.m. The congregation is taking over the tradition started by the Nelson-Jackson Legion Post, and then continued

by St. James Presbyterian. The meal will be catered by Chef Dan. RSVPs are appreciated by calling Joan or Greg at 218-753-3047 (leave a message). Take-outs will also be available. TVs will be on so those joining the

meal don't miss the football game. The meal is being sponsored by the church, but donations can be made to the Tower Area Food Shelf. All are welcome to attend.



COMMUNITY GIVING

**It's time to start planning for Operation Santa**

TOWER- Donations have started to come in for this year's Operation Santa toy drive, but we still have a long way to go to reach our goal.

Operation Santa is a local fundraiser that purchases Christmas gifts (toys, gift cards, and warm winter items) for children whose families use the Tower Food Shelf. Last year the need was greater than ever, with toys and clothing given to 200 children from 68 families, and thanks to everyone's generosity, we also had enough for small gifts for over 50 students at Vermilion Country School, as well as gift bags we assembled for the senior citizens who use the food shelf.

Take advantage of the great deals, many of which are being offered right now, to bring some joy into a child's life.

We have started to receive some donations, but much more is needed to make sure every child in our community receives gifts and warm clothing this Christmas season.

The effort is organized by the *Timberjay* and the Tower-Soudan Civic Club, with help from many



area groups, churches, organizations, and individuals. If your group or church is planning to donate this year, please contact Jodi at 218-753-2950. This helps with planning!

Lake Country Power's Operation RoundUp® program has once again made a very generous donation to the Tower-Soudan Civic Club to help cover the cost of purchasing warm items for the children.

We are looking for donations of toys, games, art supplies, and sport-

ing equipment for children, and gift cards to either Target or Walmart for our teenagers (\$10 or \$15). Stocking stuffer type gifts and holiday candy are also appreciated. We are always in need of gifts for infants and babies (must be labeled as safe for children under three). Gift ideas for children include games, action figures, building toys, dolls with accessories, craft sets, art supplies (including crayons and markers), sporting goods (basketballs, footballs, playground balls,

sleds), puzzles, cars and trucks, and science kits. Please don't worry about picking out the right gift; I promise there will be a child on our list who will love whatever you pick out!

If you purchase a toy that uses batteries, please also send a spare set! Donations of batteries (especially AA and AAA) are appreciated.

We also accept gently-used holiday decorations and gifts for the adults who use the food shelf. We do assemble gift bags for the senior citizens who use the food shelf, so small gifts for them are appreciated also, such as boxes of Christmas candy, candles, puzzles and puzzle books, holiday scented lotions and soaps, holiday décor, and warm socks.

Donations can be dropped off at the *Timberjay* in Tower, and will be distributed at the food shelf on Dec. 17. Families who use the Tower Food Shelf and have not yet signed up, can call Jodi at the *Timberjay* at 218-753-2950, or email [editor@timberjay.com](mailto:editor@timberjay.com) to get your children on the list.

**Embarrass Fire Department raffle tickets available**

EMBARRASS- Three handmade quilts, created and donated by the Embarrass Quilt Club, are being raffled off as a fundraiser for the Embarrass Fire Department. The winner will be drawn at the Dec. 14 Ice Candle Gathering at the Embarrass Town Hall. Tickets are \$10 each and are available at Trapline Liquors, Embarrass-Vermillion Credit Union Embarrass office, and at the Embarrass Town Hall.

Pictured is Shireen Lee, who was selling raffle tickets, with the three quilts which were on display at the Nelmark last weekend. photo by J. Summit



**Eagles Nest final election results**

EAGLES NEST TWP- Jacki Monahan-Junek was the write-in winner for Supervisor Seat C. David Chiabotti and Brain Harrington won the other two seats, and Keely Drange won the clerk's seat.

**Little Church service and potluck on Sunday, Nov. 24**

VERMILION LAKE TWP- The Little Church will be hosting a Thanksgiving/Christmas service on Sunday, Nov. 24 at 4 p.m., with a potluck dinner following the service.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

The Little Church Committee welcomes everyone and is always looking for people interested in keeping The Little Church preserved and maintained in our community. The church hosts a men's group that meets every Thursday at 9 a.m. for coffee and conversation followed by a women's group that meets every Thursday at 10:15 a.m. All are welcome. The Little Church is located on Wahlsten Rd. Any questions, contact/leave message, for Len Hujanen at 218-749-2014.

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

**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.

**Used clothing donations for DAV**

EMBARRASS- The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) will once again be taking donations of gently used clothing and outerwear during the pancake breakfasts in November and December. These donations support veterans in our area. Donations MUST be packed in white garbage bags. Donations will be taken at Tim-

ber Hall in Embarrass on Saturday, Nov. 2 from 8 a.m. – noon, and Saturday, Dec. 7 from 8 a.m. – noon. Both events are in conjunction with the monthly pancake breakfasts.

**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.

**TOWER CRAFT SHOW**

**HOLIDAY CRAFT SHOW**

**Saturday, December 7**  
**9 a.m. - 3 p.m.**  
**Tower Civic Center**

**Holiday Gifts for All Ages!**  
Christmas baked goods, crafts, treats & lunch  
Get your holiday shopping done close to home

Tables Still Available - \$25 in advance  
Call Jodi at 218-753-2950 for information

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## ELY PUBLIC LIBRARY

## HAPPY TENTH BIRTHDAY!



The Ely Public Library building is ten years old as of last Tuesday. The library held a party on Friday, Nov. 8 to celebrate ten years in a modern building engineered to be energy efficient with hypocaust floors, solar panels on the roof, and EV charging in the parking lot. "I'm happy to report that in the last ten years, we haven't had a single steam leak," joked Ely Public Library Director Rachel Heinrich at Tuesday's Ely City Council meeting, referring to the years before the move to the new building, when the library was at the former community center. The library will be closed this Friday and Monday so the now-ten-year-old carpet can be replaced.

Left: Then-Governor Mark Dayton at the dedication of the library in October 2014. file photo

Right: Christopher David Hanson provided the music for the "Rock the Library" celebration party at the Ely Public Library last Friday evening for the tenth anniversary of the new library building. photo by C. Clark

## In Brief

## Tuesday Group schedule

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

Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

►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



frost on pumpkins, cars waiting for the coming snow

waiting for winter

## AROUND TOWN



Center left: Deb Erdman of the Sweet Fern Soap Company (left) selling her wares to Katie Richards at the annual Holiday Craft Boutique at the Ely Senior Center on Saturday.

Center right: Merdie Merrell (right) with customers buying her homemade breads and baked goods at the Holiday Craft Boutique. Bottom: A color guard of veterans placing the colors at the opening of the Veterans Day Ceremony at the Ely Public Schools. photos by C. Clark

## Libraries

## Ely library

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

## Babbitt library

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

## Support groups

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous

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

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

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

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

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

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

**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.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

## Babbitt Public Library

BABBITT- The library will be closed for Thanksgiving.

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

Theresa Miller will perform live for an afternoon of singing and guitar at the library on Wednesday, Nov. 20, at 2:30 p.m. Refreshments provided.

The book club will meet on Monday, Dec. 2, at 2 p.m. The book for discussion will be "Dark Matter" by Blake Crouch.

The library will host a second art class for kids on Monday, Dec. 2, from 3:30-4:30 p.m. The instructor is Amy Lucas with 321 Art Studio. She will lead class participants through a complete painting step-by-step. Please call 218-827-3345 or stop into the Babbitt Public Library to reserve a spot in advance. Walk-ins are welcome if space is available. This class is suitable for kids in grades K-12. No experience is necessary to participate.

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 Friday, Nov. 15, and Monday, Nov. 18 for carpet installation; and on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 28-29, for the Thanksgiving holiday.

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

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

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

On Monday, Dec. 2, at 3 p.m., the library will host a talk for adults by Cary Griffith about his latest book, "Gunflint Falling: Blowdown in the Boundary Waters," about the 1999 blow-

down event in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Griffith is a recipient of the Minnesota Book Award and the Midwest Book Award.

The library will hold an online Kahoot trivia game starting on Wednesday, Dec. 4 at 3 p.m. through Tuesday, Dec. 10 at 8 a.m. on books 1-3 of the "Sweet Valley High" series of book by Francine Pascal. Participants must preregister for the Kahoot so the library can email the link for the game.

The Friends of the Library Book Club for adults will meet on Monday, Dec. 9 at 3 p.m. The book for discussion will be "All's Quiet on the Western Front" by Erich Maria Remarque. You do not need to be a member of Friends of the Library to attend.

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

## Sage Foundation

ELY- Sage Foundation is helping connect hard-working 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.

## 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.

## Holiday Craft Fair

ELY- The Grand Ely Lodge, 400 N. Pioneer Rd., will host its third annual holiday craft fair on Saturday, Nov. 23, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

## Ely Pianist

ELY- Ely's own rising musical star Brooke Pasnick will bring her incredible piano talent to the Vermilion Fine Arts Theater, 1900 E. Camp St., on Nov. 26 at 7 p.m. Tickets range from \$15 (student) to \$25 (general admission). Buy tickets at northernlakesarts.org/tickets.

## Thanksgiving Potluck

ELY- The Ely Folk School Potluck Thanksgiving Dinner is back by popular demand, with two seatings this year, at 11 a.m., and 4 p.m., on Thursday, Nov. 28. Bring whatever

you want to share though it is not required. The Ely Folk School will ensure there will be plenty of turkey so bring whatever you want to share. Sign up for the 11 a.m. or 4 p.m. seatings at elyfolk-school.org/classes.

## Christmas Cantata

ELY- The Ely Community Choir and Chamber Orchestra and the Ely Community Youth Choir will perform the Christmas cantata "Love is Born" by Minnesota composer Lloyd Larson, on Saturday, Dec. 7, at 7 p.m., at the Ely First Presbyterian Church, 226 E. Harvey St.

## Santa Hayride and Bazaar

BABBITT- The Babbitt Santa Hayride and Bazaar will be on Saturday, Dec. 14 at the Babbitt Municipal Building, 71 South Dr. Booth set-up is at 1 p.m. The bazaar starts at 3 p.m. Hayrides start at 4 p.m.

## List your event

Do you have an upcoming Babbitt, Ely, Morse, Fall Lake, or Winton event? Email event details, location, time, place and event cost to [catie.timberjay@gmail.com](mailto:catie.timberjay@gmail.com) by close-of business on the Tuesday the week before the event takes place for a free notice.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

# Orr council pulls the trigger on outsourcing deal

## Water, wastewater management and more turned over to professional firm

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

**ORR** – The Orr City Council made it official on Tuesday – the maintenance department of city government is Orr’s no more.

The council approved a contract with Veolia Water North America-Central to take over the operation of the city’s water and wastewater treatment facilities as well as a host of activities that used to be done by former employee and maintenance director Paul Koch and his staff. The city turned to Ve-

olia after receiving no qualified applications to replace Koch and the need to have a certified person overseeing operations.

At first glance, the \$335,419 contract for 2025 might seem eye-popping, but it becomes quite reasonable when looking at the scope of what Veolia will do. Some highlights of the agreement include:

➤All necessary staff will be employees of Veolia, not the city of Orr. The staff will meet any relevant state requirements for water and wastewater operations.

Council members were advised at a prior meeting that the company would offer a contract and raise to airport manager Ethen Olson.

➤Maintain and operate the water system, including the well house and chemical feed, pressure tank, booster station, water tower, and distribution to approximately 129 connections, and including monthly meter readings. Veolia will also take over utility billing and collections.

➤Maintain and operate the wastewater treatment facility, lift stations, and collection system.

➤Maintain and operate the city airport.

➤Included in the annual fee is \$22,800 for maintenance and repair items and \$15,300 for chemicals.

➤Veolia will install and maintain a computerized maintenance management system to log, schedule, and track completion of required tasks. The company will assess what has been done using a model that can project capital improvement needs out to 50 years, which would save the city some future engineering costs.

➤All routine maintenance

duties for city-owned and maintained facilities performed by Orr city employees will be continued by Veolia-employed staff. Routine maintenance includes, but is not limited to, such things as trash collection, snowplowing, and mowing.

The contract is for a three-year term, with the fee to be negotiated annually.

In other business, the council:

➤Approved a personnel committee decision to switch insurance carriers to Bill Singer at A.T. Group, continuing the same plan.

The change will save the city \$9,471.

➤Approved the St. Louis County Fire Protection Services Contract for coverage of all or portions of eight unorganized townships at an increased level of compensation of \$14,103.

➤Authorized payment of an invoice from Froe Bros in the amount of \$2,762.86 for parts, labor, and three days’ travel for well and lift station repairs.

➤Authorized a donation to the Orr Snow City Festival.

### 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 is celebrating Native American History Month in November with a special exhibit that opened on Nov. 7.

At a reception at the gallery on Nov. 8, guest speaker Heart Warrior Chosa shared how art and culture inspired her coloring books. Music was 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.

#### Kids to perform Hansel and Gretel show at North Woods

**FIELD TWP-** The students of North Woods School, in collaboration with Storybook Theater, will present “Hansel and Gretel” on Friday, Nov. 15 at 6 p.m. in the school’s commons area.

The young thespians have practiced all week under the direction of Storybook Theater professionals and will be ready to bring this fanciful version of the classic tale new life. Actors from second grade on up to 12th grade will be performing.

The production is sponsored by North Woods Community Education.

#### Dollar sale will close out Lions flood recovery center

**COOK-** In an effort to clear out the Cook Lions Club Flood Recovery Center, the club is holding one last deal extravaganza – 99 percent of the items in the store will be on sale for only \$1. The sale will be on Saturday, Nov. 23 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Bigger items such as the refrigerator, dishwasher, hot water heater and stove will

### HELP FOR THE HOMELESS



**In late October, the Cook Lions Club donated several carloads of household goods, cleaning products, and bedding to Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency for use in their homeless and youth shelters across the Iron Range. The club also authorized spending \$500 to purchase items on AEOA’s wish list. submitted**

be priced individually.

“The apple juice will be donated to the Thanksgiving Community Meal in Cook and the rest of the food items will be donated to the food shelf,” said Lions President Steve Kajala. “Our goal is to empty the flood center by the end of November.”

#### Voyageurs campsite reservations for summer 2025 open

**REGIONAL** – Overnight tent camping reservations and houseboat permits for the 2025 summer season at Voyageurs National Park opened today, Nov.15, for dates after May 8, 2025, and can be made online at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or by calling the National Call Center at

877-444-6777.

The use of canoes stationed at all backcountry trails along the Cruiser Lake trail network will now automatically come with overnight backcountry camping reservations. This change ensures access to all related campsite amenities and supports visitor expectations for seclusion in these remote areas.

A shorter, seven-days-in-advance booking window for ten park campsites is available to accommodate short-term trip planners:

➤Rainy Lake (west end):Mio Beach R64 and Nuthatch R21

➤Rainy Lake (east end): Jack Pine Bench R55 and Hitchcock R105

➤Kabetogama Lake:

Fox Farm K50 and Round Bear K29

➤Namakan Lake: Johnson Bay N13 and Hammer Bay South N59

➤Sand Point Lake: South Island S17 and Feldt Channel S5

Stay updated by following Voyageurs National Park on Facebook, and visit the park’s website for additional information.

**Read It  
HERE**



**Baytree-Field 4-H Club members, from left, Aubrey Olson-Stoltenberg, Alice Sopoci, Emma Schuchard, Allison Schuchard, Shelby Olson-Stoltenberg, and Sydney Olson-Stoltenberg met last Sunday to create festive thematic posters for the Cook Community Thanksgiving Dinner. submitted**

### Cook Community Thanksgiving Dinner is set for 38th renewal on Thursday, Nov. 28

**COOK-** The 38th Annual Cook Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, Nov. 28 is open to all, with special invitations to the people of Tower and Orr to join their Cook neighbors for this traditional feast of fellowship.

The dinner will be held from noon-2 p.m. in the Social Hall at St. Mary’s Catholic

Church in Cook. This traditional sit-down dinner is made possible by the efforts of volunteers and the generous donations by local merchant, churches, clubs, contractors, and individuals.

For the homebound in the Cook area who would like a meal delivered, contact Robyn at 952-412-0576 prior to Nov. 28.

North Woods Indian Ed Invites You to

**THE 3RD ANNUAL NORTH WOODS COMMUNITY POWWOW**

All Community members are welcome to join us (on the day of, just sign in at the front office)!

**Friday, November 22, 2023**  
**@ the North Woods Gym**  
 Elementary Session: 1:00-1:45  
 High School Session: 2:00-3:10

**PARENTS OF ELEMENTARY STUDENTS PRE K-4 MUST COME EARLY TO HELP THEIR CHILD WITH REGALIA.**



COUNTY SCHOOLS

# District won't pursue four-day week for next year

## Survey finds the shortened week has considerable support from staff and parents

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook/Orr Editor

**VIRGINIA-** After surveying district patrons about a possible switch to a four-day school week for 2025-26, ISD 2142 Superintendent Reggie Engebritson recommended to the school board on Tuesday that they keep the current schedule for next year while keeping the option on the table for the future.

Engebritson said that the findings from the 1,151 responses the district received for the survey largely favored the switch to a four-day week. Forty-eight percent of respondents, and 47 percent of parents, were strongly in favor of the change, while another 16 percent, and 15 percent of parents, were somewhat in support.

The biggest concerns registered by respondents included a lack of child care options

for Fridays when school would not be in session, the longer school day to accommodate required instructional time, long bus rides, and no transportation for athletes for Friday practices.

Of even greater concern were the number of parents, 111, who said they would consider leaving the district if the switch was made to a four-day week.

"That would involve possibly 209 kids, and at \$10,000 a student that would be over \$2 million that would leave the district," Engebritson said.

The projected amount of funding lost would be nearly four times the amount of money the district anticipated saving by making the change, about \$527,000.

"I realize these are just people considering this so it's not for sure," Engebritson said. "And if we did this, the number of people who might

open enroll (and come to the district) might offset those numbers. But I just want to give you what it looks like now."

Given the questions and concerns, Engebritson suggested that the best course of action at the moment would be to take more time to investigate the four-day option.

"The thought is that maybe we pause on this for a year," she said. "We see that there's support. We want to acknowledge that parents want this, but then take some time to focus on how we would create a school-age (child care) program on Fridays. There are different pots of monies that we could use to fund that, whether it's Indian Ed money for kids who are Native Americans, some early childhood money, some compensatory money, some Title VII money to create a program that maybe would be

some enrichment and remediation for kids on Fridays, plus that child care piece. My recommendation is that we keep talking about it. I need to respond to the staff and to the community to say the survey results came in support, but I feel that we need to still keep looking at it but probably not put it in place next fall."

The recommendation got immediate support from board chairman Lynn Hilde.

"I personally think that's a good idea to continue to look at it for the future," he said. "Aren't Wrenshall and Carlton looking at it?"

Board member Chris Koivisto also voiced his support for the move.

"I have a split household. My wife is adamantly opposed, and I support it, so I have these conversations at the dinner table. I can see that it takes a little bit more discussion. It does take some time to

figure out what it would really look like. Right now, it's just a four-day week. We don't have anything fleshed out at all, and that's tough timing-wise. So, I'll support kicking it down the road and that the polling says that people support it in general. Therefore, we will go into some planning and investigate what it might look like and make it a bigger plan."

Board member Bob Larson, however, voiced his opposition to the change.

"As I've said before, I certainly indicated that I'm against it, with the idea of children losing one-fifth of their education," he said. "I understand we lengthen our days, but is it the same? What I've been trying to do is to Google it to see what are the good things, what are the benefits, and they talk about some of the benefits coming out of it. I still have my concern about elementary kids losing

something by losing a fifth day, but I think we can look also as to the benefits that can come out of this."

Engebritson noted that with the district's current schedule that includes a shorter instructional day on Wednesdays, they already have a four-and-a-half-day week.

Engebritson noted that the district would also benefit from knowing more about what other districts are planning.

"I do meet regionally with some of the superintendents in the area," she said. "We have a meeting next Wednesday to see where other districts are at. I'm not exactly sure if any other district might be ready to go next year. It's possible, but I'll know more next Wednesday."

## DEFICIT...Continued from page 1

tional cuts. I would like to see between one million and 1.3 million in cuts next year. That's big."

The cuts have to come from the general fund because the rest of the district's \$46.6 million budget is in restricted funds with the money designated for specific types of expenses, such as food service and long-term facilities maintenance. The district, by law, isn't allowed to transfer any of those dollars to the general fund, so cuts in those items won't resolve the problem. Johnson applied that to the issue of staff cuts.

"If you talk about teachers, the average teacher salary at the lowest level, including health care and everything, runs about \$75,000," she

said. "If you think about how many teachers that is to cut, that's a lot, and we're looking district-wide. But I want to make note that food service staff, community ed staff, early childhood staff are paid with funds that are not part of the unassigned fund balance, so cutting anybody in those areas does not help us. The same thing with our Indian Ed staff. They're paid with designated funds that cannot be spent on anything else. So, the pool of staff that we can cut gets to be smaller and smaller."

The shortfall exists in large part due to declining district enrollment, which reduces the amount of state aid the district receives. From a pre-COVID level of about

2,100 students, ISD 2142 has dropped to around 1,800, Johnson said.

"We've got more students that are homeschooled, we have more students that are online. At a little more than \$10,000 per student, we've got a problem," Johnson said.

That loss in students also causes a decrease in the district's levy. While the news may be received well by property taxpayers, the projected 11.77 percent decrease overall includes a \$234,400 hit to the total referendum market value portion of the levy, which contributes to the overall general fund shortfall.

### Legislative aid

Johnson said the district will be working to try to influence the Legislature for

certain changes that would bring more revenue to the district. One of those is in the area of reimbursement for transportation costs.

"Our district is 4,200 square miles. We drive 1.4 million miles in transportation every year for 1,800 kids in five buildings," Johnson said. "We're the largest school district geographically in the state. We talked with (Jeff Anderson of the Costin Group) about a change in the way that they calculate excess transportation for large districts. I think it's 34 percent, but the excess is only to and from school. We have to travel for sports, for extracurricular activities, for field trips, and I don't think it's fair to exclude those miles and costs when they do their

calculations."

A second avenue for change that Engebritson and Johnson discussed with Anderson was how the district could get more benefit by leveraging the seasonal recreational properties for aid replacement.

"The percentage of our seasonal recreational properties in the entire district last year was 41 percent - that's huge," Johnson said. "When we're property rich, we get less aid and more levy because they see our taxpayers as being rich. However, the seasonal rec property owners don't pay on a lot of the levy. If we had a \$1 million operating referendum that we take to the voters and that legislation passes, the state would kick in 41 percent

and then the taxpayers would only have to pay 59 percent." And asking voters to approve a \$1 million referendum to help avoid the damage caused by the huge projected shortfall appears inevitable.

"It's going to be really important to go out for an operating referendum next fall, because passing an operating referendum is going to help the district not to have to cut as many staff," Johnson said. "We're going to have to start on that right away in January - we need to get some of the committees going and things like that."

## CHARGES...Continued from page 1

trees on both private and state property.

According to the statement of probable cause, filed on Nov. 1, the Babbitt Police Department alerted Bermel on Oct. 25 of suspicious activity by Buschman along County Rd. 21 in the Waasa area. Upon inspection on Oct. 27, Bermel found signs of spruce top harvesting and he conducted a stake out at the site the following day.

That's when Bermel witnessed Buschman actively bundling spruce tops on private and adjacent public land. Buschman told Bermel he had permission from the private landowner, who does not live in the area. Bermel contacted the landowner, who indicated Buschman "had asked permission about two to three years ago if he could cut spruce tops and was told 'no.'" The private landowner also said that the only other party to have a key to the locked gate onto his property was the St. Louis County Land Department.

Bermel told the *Timberjay* that a county forester inspected the area in question on Oct. 30, finding about 3.5 acres of fresh-cut spruce. In total, that included about 1,350 tops

from the private landowner's property and 3,900 tops cut from adjacent county land. Subsequent investigation by Bermel revealed that Buschman had sold 3,410 spruce tops to a buyer from Floodwood.

Bermel acknowledged "a lot of good help" from the Babbitt Police Department and the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office in the case.

### Repeat offender

Buschman's most recent encounter with CO Bermel is not a first for either of them. "I've run into Buschman cutting spruce tops for several years now," Bermel said. "He's a habitual offender with no regard for property ownership."

Buschman's record with the Minnesota courts lists 25 different convictions dating back to 2006, and includes three felony drug convictions, one felony for receiving stolen property, and one felony for car theft in Ely.

Buschman's most recent encounter is the first time he has been charged with felony theft of spruce tops. He has been convicted multiple times of offenses related to spruce top harvesting going back to 2019. Bermel was involved

with all of Buschman's spruce top convictions and was the arresting officer for most of them.

Buschman was charged four times for spruce top-related offenses between Sept. 1 and Nov. 1, 2023, resulting in two gross misdemeanor convictions for trespass and damage of property, one gross misdemeanor conviction for theft, three misdemeanor convictions for failing to obtain and carry permission to harvest, and seven misdemeanor convictions for falsifying permission to harvest and sell. Bermel confiscated over 1,500 illegally harvested spruce tops from Buschman and documented the illegal sale of 5,620 spruce tops by him in 2023.

Buschman was convicted of three misdemeanor spruce top-related offenses in 2021 and one in 2019. He was charged with a spruce top-related offense in 2020 which was dismissed in a plea bargain arrangement.

### Black market

Minnesota law states that if a spruce top harvester is going to collect more than 50 spruce tops, 50 birch poles, or 100 pounds of decorative boughs, the harvester must

have written permission from the property owner or from the agency that manages that property. That permission must be with them for inspection while they are cutting and collecting.

"People use spruce tops for holiday decorative arrangements," Bermel explained. "There is a legitimate market for them and people bid on permits to cut spruce tops to

sell. It's a large market and that encourages some to illegally cut them, so there is a lot of spruce top theft."

Bermel encouraged the public to report suspicious activity, which could include people going in and out of black spruce bogs, hauling greenery. He said this is the time of year that spruce top thieves are most active. "Call it in, especially at night,"

Bermel said.

The public can call in suspicious spruce top harvesting activity to local law enforcement, with the Minnesota "Turn In Poachers" hotline at 800-652-9093, or dial #TIP (#847) on a cell phone. DNR also has a smart phone called "MNtip" which automates the tip process.

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LAKE COUNTY

# Emails reveal confusion surrounding Silver Rapids plans

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

LAKE COUNTY — Internal emails obtained by the *Timberjay* through a data request show that representatives of Lake County Environmental Services and the developers seeking to renovate the Silver Rapids Resort property did not clearly communicate as they tried to determine how many new housing units would be allowed as part of a redevelopment of the resort property.

Uncertainty over the number of units and the square footage of the planned new residential units continued right up until Sept. 4, when the Lake County Planning Commission voted to approve the project's conditional use permit and that uncertainty led some county staff to assume that the matter would be tabled for action later in the month. Instead, the planning commission voted to approve the conditional use permit and a preliminary plat at the Sept. 4 meeting largely in line with the wishes of the developers.

That decision led to two lawsuits, which prompted the developers this past week to

hand in their permits while the project plans are revised.

That false start likely could have been avoided had the planning commission opted to take more time to resolve disagreements over the number of units that zoning regulations allowed.

The developers, led by Sanford Hoff, of F.I. Salter, a large Duluth-based real estate development firm, had provided county staff with conflicting information about the size of the units the firm planned to build for fractional sale and a more permissive interpretation of regulations pertaining to the number of units that would be allowed on the site.

Emails between Hoff and Tanya Feldkamp, the county's assistant environmental services director, point to problem. "We were made aware of some inconsistencies in the size of the fractional units," wrote Feldkamp in an Aug. 9 email to Hoff. "The footprint of the structure depicted appears to be 1,488 sf, however, there are two levels of "habitable" space which we were not aware of, because we did not receive

floorplans in the application," she continued. Feldkamp noted that the second floor doubled the habitable space within each unit, which she said would sharply reduce the number of units allowed in both the first and second shoreland "tiers" under the county's ordinance.

Hoff responded on Aug. 14, informing Feldkamp that the cabin plans were not publicly available. "The plans you are utilizing are not the correct plans and are not accurate," wrote Hoff. In the same email, Hoff later claimed that the square footages of the fractional units were significantly less than it appeared because they were not including parts of the home interiors, such as bathrooms, closets, hallways, or storage areas, which he said are not considered "habitable space" under the state's building code.

On Aug. 29, Christine McCarthy, the county's environmental services director responded in part to Hoff's Aug. 14 email, noting that the county considered "conditioned space" as the standard for determining square footage of a structure and that that defi-

nition included bathrooms.

McCarthy also raised a question about the developer's intent to subdivide the units it was building through the use of "lock-outs," and noted that the plans they had submitted showed an additional living room and kitchenette in the lower levels of each unit. McCarthy informed the developers that the use of lock-outs would automatically double the number of units for calculating the density within the shoreland tiers. "It is very important to provide some transparency on your intentions," she said, in her email sent just six days before the planning commission was expected to take up the matter.

Hoff responded in a Sept. 3 email, noting that his team was revising its calculations and would be eliminating the use of lock-outs. Later that same day, Alex Bushey, director of development for F.I. Salter, noted that the development team had revised the square footage estimates to include bathrooms and that the change increased the square footage of each unit to 1,703. Based on the change, Bushey said the team was revising its

request to include 33 units in the first tier and 29 in the second tier.

At 10:55 a.m. on Sept. 4, McCarthy wrote back to Bushey. "I am sorry for not stating this earlier, but we are including the hallways, etc. as well, so we come up with about 2,300 sq. ft. [per unit]," she wrote.

Less than half an hour later, Hoff responded angrily. "Christine — Alex forwarded me the message below. Your new requirement is completely unacceptable! Each time we modify our plans to adjust to your new requirements, at considerable expense, you change the criteria. We are not modifying our plans further!"

"Well — I guess he told me," wrote McCarthy in an email to Lake County Commissioner Rich Sve twenty minutes after receiving the missive from Hoff. In response to a question from Sve, McCarthy said she'd have revised square footages for the board that evening, adding: "Our frustration lies with the fact that we asked for the floor plans multiple times before we got them so we could have had this all figured a while ago,"

she wrote.

## County staff expectations

Throughout their communications with the developers, Lake County planning staff were also in frequent contact with DNR officials over concerns about density of lakeshore development as well as proposed dockage.

DNR area hydrologist Dani Braund, who had been in contact with Tanya Feldkamp for weeks, asked on Sept. 3 if she could submit a letter after the Sept. 4 planning commission meeting. Feldkamp urged her to submit main points by email ahead of the meeting, but said there would likely be more opportunity to weigh in. "The CUP hearing will likely be tabled again tonight, so the complete letter could be included in the packet for the next hearing. Also, since there will be changes with the number of units, the preliminary plat will likely need to be resubmitted, so there is still opportunity for input there," she wrote.

Instead, later that day, the commission approved both the CUP and the preliminary plat in line with the proposal of the developers.

## PERMITS...Continued from page 1

Rapid's motion summarized their thinking on the applications and the motions to dismiss the lawsuits: "(The) defendant is confident that the county's approvals were properly issued but lacks the time to wait for the exhaustion of claims attacking those approvals. So, it surrendered those approvals on Oct. 21... and intends to pursue a course different from the applications that led to those approvals by pursuing improvements or a scaled down project with fewer units."

A summary judgment is a decision in a case issued by a judge when none of the facts in a case are contested. A civil case, such as the ones filed here, usually goes to a trial

when facts in a case are contested by one or more parties to a suit and the parties are unable to negotiate a settlement.

Summary judgment motions must be filed in Minnesota 28 days before a judge can decide on them. All four motions were filed on the last possible day for Judge Hylden to issue a summary judgment on the two lawsuits on Nov. 27.

### Fallout

The decision by developers to reconsider their plans for the Silver Rapids site is a victory for local residents, who had strongly opposed the plan as proposed. While most told county officials during the one public hearing on the matter this past summer that they supported redevelopment

of the property, they balked at the scale of the project and the potential impact it might have.

Over 400 area residents had signed a petition last summer seeking the completion of an environmental assessment worksheet, or EAW, a process that likely would have clarified the issues surrounding the number of units that could be built on the property. The conditional use permit approved by Lake County appears to have exceeded the number of units allowed under county ordinance by nearly double, and that fact became a central point in the litigation filed to stop the development.

"This is what happens when local government doesn't listen to its constitu-

ents," said Hudson Kingston, chief legal counsel for the non-profit group CURE. Kingston assisted local residents in petitioning for an EAW, but the county ultimately rejected the position.

"The petition we presented would have prevented any need for a lawsuit," said Kingston. "CURE hopes that the county will be more responsive to its constituents and will follow the law in the



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FEDERAL CHARGES

# Former Orr resident indicted for computer fraud

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

ORR- An April 2023 raid of a rural Orr residence by law enforcement has led to the indictment of 44-year-old Joshua Armbrust on a federal charge of felony computer fraud.

Armbrust, who moved to St. Paul not long after the raid, was arrested by FBI agents at his residence there on Nov. 1.

The indictment alleges that Armbrust accessed computer accounts of a former employer without authorization and used them to mine cryptocurrency, a procedure known as cryptojacking.

Armbrust resigned from his position at Minnetonka-based e-commerce and payment processing company Digital River in February 2020, according to court documents. Between December 2020 and May

2021, Armbrust allegedly accessed his former employer's Amazon Web Services (AWS) accounts without authorization to mine Ethereum, a type of cryptocurrency.

Prosecutors say Armbrust's unauthorized access to AWS led to more than \$45,000 in costs for Digital River. The Ethereum mined in the scheme was directed to a digital wallet and later moved to two Coinbase accounts solely registered to Armbrust. He allegedly liquidated over \$7,000 worth of Ethereum cryptocurrency proceeds into his Wells Fargo bank account.

Mining cryptocurrency involves grouping multiple transactions into blocks with complex calculations required for verification. The process, which typically involves a tremendous amount of electrical power, requires a significant amount of computational heft to solve proof

of work puzzles to add the transactions to a blockchain. Miners typically earn money through awards of cryptocurrency and transaction fees.

Possible legal action against Armbrust first came to light during the April 2023 FBI raid, which Armbrust described to the *Timberjay* at the time as a team of 15-20 agents accompanied by an electronics-sniffing dog from the Hibbing Police Department executing a search warrant at his home along Hwy. 23, about five miles north of Orr.

"They came in like a bull in a china shop," Armbrust said at the time. "They were looking for everything. There's no drugs, there's no nothing. It just seemed like overkill. If they had just showed up with two people, I would have let them come in and do whatever they needed to do." Armbrust estimated the agents were there going through every room in

the house for about six hours. Court documents contain no information of what may have been found during the search, although Armbrust told the *Timberjay* that they took some old flash drives, a media server, and his phone.

A St. Louis County Sheriff's Office official confirmed that week that the search was for evidence related to a possible cryptocurrency crime.

The *Timberjay* contacted Armbrust via email last Friday, who provided some information about his arrest. "I can't really comment on the case itself, but I'd like to comment on the unnecessarily aggressive means in which I was brought in," Armbrust said. "The FBI showed up early in the morning (maybe 6-ish) and surrounded my house with cars and high-powered rifles. They knew I was no threat and that I'm not by

any means a violent person. I would have come in of my own will without the need to point guns at me and my wife. They make a big show and love to show their power. The incident I'm being accused of is also non-violent. I have no history of anything, not so much as a parking ticket."

The *Timberjay* was unable to independently confirm Armbrust's account of the arrest.

Armbrust is charged with one felony count of computer fraud and made his initial appearance on Nov. 1 in U.S. District Court before Magistrate Judge John F. Docherty. He was released on a personal recognizance bond. His formal arraignment is scheduled for Dec. 20 at the Gerald W. Heaney Federal Building in Duluth. Armbrust is represented by Mauzy Law Offices of Minneapolis.

OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE HALL OF FAME

# Potter honored for work in motorized recreation

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

EAGLES NEST— Ron Potter, a longtime community member here, was named to the National Off Highway Vehicle Conservation Council during an awards ceremony in Minneapolis last month. Potter is the president of ATV Minnesota and has long been an active promoter of motorized recreational vehicle use.

Each year, the awards banquet is a major highlight of the annual conference of the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council, or NOHVCC. This year, the list of award winners includes five Minnesota clubs and individuals, including Potter.

Throughout his career, Potter has made many contributions to motorized recreation across the U.S. and Canada, including during

his 37 years at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, working with off-road and snowmobile clubs to plan, design, fund and build trails, and promote safe, responsible riding.

"I don't know of anyone more deserving of the NOHVCC Hall of Fame than Ron Potter," said Dan Kleen, board president emeritus of the NOHVCC. "He has been a champion of our sport in both

his amazing DNR career and as a proven leader of ATV Minnesota after his retirement."

**Right: Dan Kleen, board president emeritus with NOHVCC presented the Hall of Fame award to Ron Potter (left) during a recent ceremony in Minneapolis.**

photo submitted



CULTURE...Continued from page 1

when you put your tobacco in," the adults told the younger class members. "Don't ask for something to be done. Just let the great spirit know what you are happy for. This is for gratitude."

The class is part of a weekly series being led by Anderson Ojala, and they are funded by a grant from

the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council. Ojibwe language is woven into each class. For this class, participants learned both vocabulary and grammar, such as bashkwegin for "leather/hide," zhaabonigan for "needle," and nijitaid for "my sinew."

The classes are free and will be offered weekly through

March. Future classes will include making dreamcatchers and beading. Participants included some families, along with a group of four teens who attend Mesabi East, and had learned about the class from one of their teachers and decided to attend. Information on the classes is available on the Bois Forte Heritage

Center's Facebook page.

Students learned how to separate the sinew into thin threads for sewing, and how to handle the deer skin. While the bags created were simple and unadorned, participants were given ideas on how to embellish them with beads once they were home.

The medicine pouches

were timely with the start of deer hunting only days away.

"You should ask permission to use the land for hunting," participants were told. "The tobacco is for gratitude."

Anderson Ojala teaches Ojibwe classes online and these cultural classes in person. A graduate of Ely

High School, she attended Vermilion Community College and then Bemidji State, majoring in Ojibwe and Indigenous Studies. She is now working on her master's degree at the University of Minnesota in Moorhead.

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## STATE VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

# Ely goes winless in appearance at state

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

ST. PAUL- Last year, the consolation bracket of the Class A state volleyball tournament was a path to redemption for the Ely Timberwolves, who rebounded from a first-round loss to Mayer-Lutheran to defeat Badger/Greenbush-Middle River and West Central Area School for the bracket championship.

Last Friday, however, that same path led to disappointment, as the seventh-seeded Wolves were sent home after dropping their first consolation match against New Life Academy of Woodbury.

The match against the Eagles



involved a heartbreaking reversal of fortune, as the Wolves surrendered a 2-0 match lead to third-seeded NLA and suffered a 16-14 defeat in the fifth and final set to end their season at 28-5.

Everything was going Ely's way after the first two sets. The Wolves shot out of the gate fast in the first set, getting a pair of kills by Charlotte Hegman and a third from Clare Thomas to set the tone with a 3-0 lead. NLA kept within

striking range through the middle of the match, and then the Wolves started creating some distance. Kills by Hegman and Audrey Kallberg, an ace from Thomas, and an NLA error put the Wolves up 23-15, and a kill by Hegman closed out the 25-18 Ely win.

Set two resembled two heavyweight fighters standing toe-to-toe exchanging blows as the score was tied 13 times and included eight lead changes. Tied at 21-21, a pair of NLA errors and a Kallberg kill gave Ely a 24-21 edge, and the Wolves held on for a 25-23 win and a 2-0 match lead.

Ely's stellar performance in the first two sets made it all the more puzzling as fans watched them sputter

in the third. With two all-staters in the lineup, the Eagles found their rhythm as they extended a 6-4 lead to 15-7, finding holes in the Wolves' defense while effectively stunting Ely's offensive attack. The Eagles continued to pile it on, claiming a stunning 25-13 win.

Ely righted the ship after the break in another heated battle, with a Kallberg kill knotting the score at 8-8. But by riding an ace and three consecutive errors by Ely, NLA broke out to a six-point advantage at 14-8. In a contest between teams equally matched when playing at the top of their games, that lead was enough. Ely got back to within three at 22-19, but the Eagles evened the match 2-2

with a 25-19 win.

To say that the fifth set was a torrid affair would be an understatement. Neither team wanted to go home as they battled through 11 ties and four lead changes in the 15-point finale. The Wolves pulled even at 13 and again at 14 on kills by Kallberg. The Eagles got the benefit of the doubt on a close call of a Kallberg shot to the baseline, and the 20th kill of the match by the Eagles' all-stater Marisa Michaelis was the final blow in New Life's remarkable resurrection.

"We came into our game against New Life Academy hungry for a

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



## NATIONAL HONORS

# Voyageur Country ATV named Club of the Year

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Off-road vehicle riders who have cruised the 250-plus miles of trails from International Falls and Orr to Ely and Cook that were created and are maintained by the Voyageur Country ATV (VCATV) club can attest to what a gem, the system is for the North Country, and now riders around the nation know it, too.

That's because VCATV was named the Club of the Year by the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC) at its annual meeting in Minneapolis in October.

NOHVCC is a nonprofit national advocacy organization of off-highway vehicle recreation enthusiasts that provides a broad range of programs, materials,

and information to individuals, clubs, associations and agencies to promote a positive future for responsible OHV recreation. The organization also provided over \$200,000 in grants in 2024 for trail maintenance and improvement projects across the country.

David Halsey, communications director of ATV Minnesota, nominated the Crane Lake-based VCATV for the award, and the club was up against a strong field of nominees. But the list of the 700-member club's accomplishments provided by Halsey was simply too impressive to ignore. Highlights from Halsey's submission include:

► Building positive relationships with the Superior National Forest, Minnesota DNR, state legislators, county commissioners and town leaders in order to plan and create an extensive trail system

**Above: The Voyageur Country ATV bridge over the Beaver River.**

**Right: The trophy Voyageur Country ATV was awarded at the NOHVCC convention in Minneapolis.**

submitted photos

which attracts riders from across Minnesota and surrounding states.

► Creating the first ATV map for the area, showing OHV trails and legal routes on forest roads, and highlighting historical sites such as the Gyppo Shack Trail at the site of a gyppo shack where loggers lived when working in the forest years ago. Working with the Forest Service, club members build custom trail gates, signage, maintenance trailers and other equipment.

► Building a 185-foot-long,



12-foot-wide, \$1.5 million bridge over the Vermilion River, dedicated in 2019.

► The club has added structures at scenic trail destinations, including overlooks, shelters, picnic tables and vault toilets. Currently in construction is the

See **AWARD**...pg. 2B

## GOING ELECTRIC



An electric car charges at a port outside the Ely Public Library.

# Where to charge your car in Ely

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- Many Ely businesses rely on the tourism economy. A small but growing number of those visitors now arrive in their electric vehicles, or EVs, and for them the presence of an available charger in Ely can spell the difference between vacationing at the end of the road or going somewhere else.

While many areas in rural Minnesota are EV charging deserts, Ely is not one of them. Two places in town are currently home to publicly available EV chargers: two at the city's public library and six at the Dairy Queen.

Some local businesses, like Ely's Adventure Inn, have targeted EV users by making chargers available exclusively for their customers. The Adventure Inn currently offers two eight-kilowatt chargers for its guests, while the International Wolf Center offers two seven-kilowatt chargers for visitors when the center is open.

Other places near Ely, like Bear Head State Park, the YMCA's Camp Northern Lights and Camp du Nord, the Fall Lake Campground, and the South Kawishiwi River Campground, also offer charging stations.

### Hurry up and wait

Not all EV chargers are the same. Chargers are divided into three levels. Level one chargers are the slowest, based off household 110-volt current. These low-wattage chargers are inexpensive to install in a home garage but they are designed for overnight charging, not for drivers who are looking for a quick "fill-up."

Level two chargers use 220-volt

See **CHARGING**...pg. 2B

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PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

IRRRB approves millions for North Country projects

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL - The Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Advisory Board met on Tuesday to review a number of projects significant to the North County, including multi-million-dollar projects authorized in the 2024 legislative session, as well as authorize rebates to the mining companies who pay taconite production taxes to fund the agencies' programs.

and-bolts infrastructure that make our communities strong. Securing funding for critical infrastructure needs in our communities is one of my most important responsibilities, and I'm proud to say that we delivered on that."

million water infrastructure project. The project consists of city-wide street infrastructure upgrades, including utility replacement, drainage improvements, water line intake replacement, bituminous pavement and curb and gutter installation in a residential neighborhood. The city's water pump house, intake structure and intake line were constructed over 90 years ago. The intake line runs approximately 25,000 feet from Burntside Lake to the municipal water plant located in the northwest corner of Ely. Replacement of the infrastructure is necessary to ensure reliable water supply to the city.

Biwabik flood damage

During the June flood, the city of Biwabik experienced a ruptured water line and a natural gas line was exposed. To provide ongoing protection to these services, the advisory board approved a grant of \$6.18 million for the Embarrass Diversion Channel for ongoing repairs to the area. The funds will provide for long-term design, mitigation, restoration, land maintenance and construction, as well as slope stabilization, protection of the surface flow zone, and riprap. The project has already received \$1.5 million from the Minnesota Capital Asset Preservation and Replacement Account, with an application for additional emergency funding from FEMA pending.

Education grant

The Itasca and Eveleth campuses of Minnesota North College will be getting significant assistance with three occupational training programs that will benefit area students through a \$982,719 Academic Program Revitalization and Growth Strategies grant. The engineering program at the Itasca campus will be revamped to utilize an innovative high-quality engi-

neering education model that is intended to be financially self-sustaining and retain more talent within the region. Students in the Itasca campus Associate Degree Registered Nursing Program will be trained in a new high-quality nursing simulation laboratory that will help to align the program with educational experiences in Grand Rapids, Hibbing, and International Falls. Northeastern Minnesota ranks second in the state in demand for registered nurses. The welding program at the Eveleth campus will get upgraded safety features and lab space featuring advanced technologies, and will also receive mobile trailers to provide on-site training across the region.

million for buttressing of a tailings storage facility.

- Minorca Mine, \$698,171 for a tailings basin decant structure to separate water associated with fine tailings to be reclaimed for plant use, and including a new down line booster pumping station.
- Northshore Mining Company, \$845,852 to fund the replacement of the facility's antiquated limestone mill, replacing the filter and softener for a steam boiler system, and modernizing the west pellet plant elevator.
- U.S. Steel - Keetac, \$1.291 million to install new equipment to improve the quality of the existing concentrator, including a high-intensity grinding mill.
- U.S. Steel - Minntac, \$3.165 million to replace crusher dust collectors to meet new silica air quality requirements, and to convert two concentrating lines with new cyclone clusters, sumps, pumps and piping for material processing and handling.
- United Taconite Mining Company, \$1.182 million for upgrades to crusher feeds and screens and tailing pipelines.

AWARD...Continued from page 1B

Military Crossroads Shelter, which will include flagpoles and flags of the military branches.

- The club has received a U.S. Forest Service Eastern Region Honor Award for its collaborative efforts with the Superior National Forest, and a national Small Projects Award from the Coalition for Recreational Trails for its Vermilion Falls Trail and 256-foot elevated boardwalk.
- VCATV helped create and is a member of the Northeastern Regional ATV Joint Powers Board to coordinate planning, permitting, design, and construction activities of the various ATV trail system networks throughout northeastern Minnesota.
- VCATV's trail system has had a significant economic impact on the

region by greatly increasing tourism to lodges, resorts, campgrounds, and businesses in the area. An economic impact study found that the total contribution of ATV riding to the economy of three counties during 2023 was \$36 million. Visiting riders spent \$144.10 per person per day.

- The club has come up with innovative ways to raise funds for its trail and bridge projects. They include two "Wall of Fame" kiosks built to hold names and messages of members and visiting riders. The club requests a donation of \$500 or more for each plaque. Some groups of friends have donated \$1,000. Over \$50,000 has been raised to date.
- The club is very involved with ATV Minnesota, with a number of

members on the ATV Minnesota state Board, serving as committee chairs, and advocating for state funding.

- VCATV promotes safe, responsible ATV riding and has DNR-certified ATV Safety Instructors for youth safety training, and trail ambassadors.
- "For these and many other achievements, Voyageur Country ATV has greatly contributed to creating a positive future for ATV recreation in



Right: The Pelican River overlook, one of many projects undertaken by the Voyageur Country ATV Club, which recently won the national award as Club of the Year, as selected by the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council.

WOLVES...Continued from page 1B

win knowing that we needed to win to play on Saturday," said Ely Head Coach Megan Wognum. "We did a phenomenal job hitting around their block, manipulating every ball, and capitalizing on every possession. We won the first two sets and fought incredibly hard until the end of the game."

The loss put a damper on numerous strong individual efforts by the Wolves. Ely had four players with double-digit kills, with Kallberg nailing a team-high 19, Lilly Rechichi scoring 15, and Thomas and Hegman collecting 11 each.

Rechichi converted 26 percent of her total scoring attacks to lead the team in that category. As a team, Ely had six service aces, five of those coming in the first set and none in the final three. Kallberg and Rechichi topped the team in digs with 15 each, followed by Sadie Rechichi with 12. Gretta Lowe had 49 set assists.

tournament.

But the Wolves gave the Vikings all they could handle in a match where small runs made all the difference. Ely got off to a slow start in the first set as they trailed 6-1, but then righted the ship and played the Vikings even through 19-14 before the Vikings closed out the 25-17 win with a 6-3 run.

The second set was a scorcher, with neither team yielding as the score was tied 11 times through 20-20. But Minneota all-stater Elvia Faris scored on a kill to get the Vikings on a roll, and despite

two Ely timeouts Minneota scored five consecutive points to win 25-20.

By the time Minneota had taken a 15-10 lead in the third set, it was clear that the Vikings had no chinks in their armor that Ely could exploit for a match-saving rally, and Minneota advanced to the semifinal round with a 25-16 win.

Ely's own all-stater Lilli Rechichi led the Wolves' attack with 11 kills, followed by Audrey Kallberg with eight. Clare Thomas and Peyton Huntington tied for the

most digs with 13 each. Lowe had 27 set assists.

"The girls were a little nervous but quickly shook the nerves away when they touched the floor for warm-ups," Wognum said. "We battled with them and hung in there. There were some really great things that came out of that game. Our defense in this game was the best we have played all season. It was amazing to see them show up defensively. Clare Thomas really showed up and left it all on the floor."

And while the Wolves left

the tourney a day earlier than they wanted to, the experience sparked a hunger to return next year and do better.

"I am so proud of everyone on our team," Wognum said. "They all played an important role in our season. It's fun to hear some of the players talking about next season and how they are ready to put the time in to make improvements."

CHARGING...Continued from page 1B

and the same type of outlet as a household drier. According to J.D. Powers, home installation of a level two charger in 2024 ranges from \$500 to \$2,000.

The commercial chargers in Ely are all currently level two, although the chargers at the Ely library, powered by a five-kilowatt array of solar panels on the library's roof, has a lower capacity than others. The use of the chargers is free but users are limited to just two hours.

Kingston has a level 2 charger installed in his garage. If he charges his Hyundai Kona Electric on his level 2 charger, "I charge it once overnight and that's good enough to get to the (Twin) Cities; but for road trips, it's best to find direct current fast chargers."

Direct current fast chargers, or DCFCs, are known as level 3 chargers or superchargers. The current gold standard for EV chargers is the Tesla supercharger network with its 72- to 250-kilowatt charging stations. Teslas are heavier and they have larger batteries than other EVs and they take longer to charge as a result. Despite this, a Tesla 250-kilowatt supercharger can add between 150 to 200 miles of range in 15 minutes.

charging network, which Ford touts as the largest public network in North America, has a supercharger located at the Lundgren Ford dealership in Eveleth.

"Our charger is a level three DC fast charger," said Paul Swenson at Lundgren. "It's not restricted to Fords. It's available to the public for any EV with the right plug or adaptor at \$0.55 per kilowatt-hour.

**Cost**

A level one or two charger at a residence is the most cost-effective way to charge an EV. "A lot of utilities have discounted rates in the off hours," according to Kingston. "That cost savings makes running an EV significantly less expensive than an internal combustion engine."

Using Ely's residential electricity rate of \$0.1085 per kilowatt-hour to charge a Tesla with a 75 kilowatt-hour capacity battery, would cost \$8.14. Assuming a 250-mile range for a Tesla Model 3, the cost of driving that home-charged Tesla in Ely would be 3.4 cents per mile.

Charging the Tesla at the level two chargers at the Ely Dairy Queen costs \$0.26 per kilowatt-hour, for a total of \$19.50, or 7.8 cents per mile. There is also considerable time involved. It can take 8.5 hours to charge that Model 3 from empty to full using a level two charger.

For comparison, the cost to charge that Tesla Model 3 would be \$41.25, or 16.5 cents per mile, at Lundgren Ford in Eveleth. An internal combustion engine car with gas mileage of 20 miles/gallon costs about 15 cents per mile to run, assuming a gas price of \$3/gallon.

It is funded with the state's \$47 million share of the \$14.7 billion settlement between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Volkswagen over air pollution violations.

Ely and a company called ZEF Energy are working together to obtain an MPCA grant for a fast charger. The city will install it at the Ely Regional Trailhead building, which is currently under construction on the west edge of the city. The MPCA grant will pay for ZEF's costs to install a level three charger.

Level three chargers aren't cheap and are out of reach for most people to install in their garages. According to J.D. Powers, the 2024 cost for an entry-level 50-kilowatt supercharger is \$50,000 and more than four times that for one with 250-kilowatt capacity, depending on local power infrastructure. The costs can go up dramatically if electric utilities need to be extended to a new charger site.

requirements, but we'll meet those if we put the charger at the new trailhead building."

The program Langowski referred to is the Inflation Reduction Act Direct Pay program that offers a combination of grants, forgivable loans, and tax credits. The requirements are items like 24/7 access, free parking, and public restrooms.

"The grant deadline isn't until June 24, 2025, so we have plenty of time to apply," Langowski added. Ely won't be home to a level three charger in 2024, and maybe not 2025 depending on the timing of grant awards and construction crews.

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# Outdoors

Our lives in the  
Northwoods

## 2024 FIREARMS DEER SEASON

# Buck numbers up slightly in North Country permit areas

Last winter's record mild conditions likely boosted deer survival; buck harvest is up ten percent over 2023 hunt

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Hunters have registered a few more bucks over the opening weekend here in the North Country, at least as compared to the previous two years— and that's a sign that deer numbers may finally be on the upswing after last year's record mild winter.

Through the Monday following the Nov. 9 opener, hunters had registered 1,450 bucks in the nine permit areas tracked annually by the *Timberjay*. That's up from the 1,326 bucks registered at the same point in the season

last year.

The number of antlerless deer registered by hunters in those same permit areas declined over last year, but that's primarily a reflection of the lower number of antlerless permits issued by the Department of Natural Resources. Hunters in the area had registered 253 antlerless deer as of Monday, compared to 398 last year at this point.

Wildlife managers typically look at buck registrations as the best way to gauge changes in the deer population.

Most of the gains in the buck harvest came from three permit areas. PA 178 saw the biggest jump, with hunters

registering 493 bucks through the first Monday compared to 385 at the same point last year. Hunters in PA 109 registered 125 bucks, up from 99 in 2023, while hunters tallied 181 bucks in PA 176 compared to 163 last year. Most other permit areas reported very similar numbers to last year, although PA 177, normally one of the more productive permit areas in the region, saw another decline, with hunters registering just 141 bucks, compared to 173 at the same point last year.

While buck registrations were down

See **OPENER**, pg. 5B



### Area Deer Harvest

Results through Monday, Nov. 11

Year	Bucks	Antlerless	Total
2021	1,684	488	2,172
2022	1,188	323	1,509
2023	1,326	398	1,724
2024	1,450	253	1,703

Preliminary combined harvest totals for permit areas in the North Country, including 107, 109, 117, 118, 119, 130, 176, 177, and 178.

## WINTER & WOLVES

# North Dakota case study shows impact of winter without wolves

I've received considerable comment over the past few weeks in response to my two-part series looking at the causes of the decline in the deer population in our region. I was surprised that it was mostly positive, since I recognized that I was challenging some pretty deeply-entrenched views.

The one major factor that I did not address in the series was the impact of winter, which I believe indisputably is the single most critical factor in white-tailed deer survival in our area. In part, I didn't address it because I had done so before and because I think most people already recognize that winter conditions play a major role in deer mortality.

I recognize, however, that many see a direct connection between winter conditions and wolves and believe that, in the absence of wolves, most deer would survive even under harsh winter conditions.

That's why I thought it would be worthwhile to note an interesting story that appeared last year in the state-published *North Dakota Game and Fish* magazine.

Titled "Toll of a Tough Winter," the story reported on the devastating impact of the winter of 2022-23 on deer populations in southeastern North Dakota. It's a prairie region and with lots of snow on the landscape that winter, biologists flew hundreds of hours to monitor populations of both white-tailed and mule deer, which they can see quite easily from the air because of the open landscape. The researcher who wrote about it was observing in two management areas and they flew regularly from Jan. 10-April 7.

During that period, they documented a decline of 51 percent in the white-tailed deer population and 84 percent in the mule deer population. And the report's author noted that even some of the deer that were still alive as of their last flight didn't appear able to stand and were almost certain to succumb to the starvation they experienced.

And keep in mind this very important fact: All of this happened in a region completely lacking in wolves.

Quoting one of the biologists who monitored the deer numbers, the story continues: "As difficult as something like this is to watch, [Jason] Smith said with little quality winter wildlife habitat on the landscape, the reality, especially during a winter like the last, is oftentimes staggering."

Compounding the problem, according to the story, was that deer in the region had gone into winter in relatively



MARSHALL HELMBERGER



WHERE THERE'S A WILL, THERE'S A WAY

# Skiing for every body

Volunteers key to the adaptive ski program at Giants Ridge

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

REGIONAL- Drew Rouse of Babbitt, age 27, never imagined he could learn to ski. Rouse survived a traumatic brain injury when he was 18 months old and its aftermath left him with permanent physical challenges.

In January 2023, however, Rouse overcame that supposed limitation, thanks to an adaptive ski program at Giants Ridge which teaches those with disabilities how to ski or snowboard. In 2023, four volunteers helped Rouse conquer the slopes with the help of volunteers. Along the way he needed as many as four volunteers to make it down the slopes, but by the time the six-week program was done, he was skiing well enough that he was accompanied by just one volunteer. His instructors were optimistic that maybe Rouse would be able to ski without help in 2025.

"I had to learn how to fall; that was a little scary," Rouse told the *Timberjay*, "but it's fun!"

### Run by volunteers

The adaptive skiing program at Giants Ridge in Biwabik is one of two run by Northland Adaptive Recreation, which has been active for 30 years in northeast Minnesota, according to Eric Larson, the organization's program manager. "I helped start the program at Giants Ridge. We had around 15 volunteers last year and I'm excited that this year, we already have 15 more, plus our partnership with Mark Carlson and his students at Minnesota North

College-Vermilion." The program's participants and students converge on Giants Ridge from throughout the Arrowhead region, some traveling over 100 miles to assist.

The volunteer numbers are crucial to the program's success. To recruit and retain volunteers, Giants Ridge offers them a discounted season ski pass.

"The more volunteers we have, the more participants we can accommodate," said Shelley Aho, the coordinator for the Giants Ridge program. "It's low commitment in terms of time, on Sundays from late morning until 2 p.m. between Jan. 12 and March 2. All levels of skiers and snowboarders are welcome to volunteer. This is a great volunteer opportunity, especially for good skiers looking for a challenge."

Aho is typical of the volunteers working with the nonprofit. She started with the program at Giants Ridge 21 years ago, when she was an occupational therapy student at St. Scholastica. Today she works in that field for Essentia Health. She became the coordinator for adaptive skiing at the ski area in 2021.

### Rave reviews

"This adaptive ski program has wonderful volunteers," Drew Rouse's mother Billie told the *Timberjay*. "They've given a gift to our whole family by teaching Drew how to ski. They never treated Drew like an 'other' or a 'less-than' or a

See **SKIING**, pg. 5B

**Above: A group of volunteers with Northland Adaptive Recreation, which operates the adaptive ski program at Giants Ridge. The program enables those with physical handicaps to enjoy downhill skiing with assistance from volunteers and modified equipment.**

**Below: A volunteer offers a helping hand to a moderately disabled skier still learning the ropes. The adaptive ski program is sponsored by Lakehead Constructors.** submitted photos



See **WOLVES**, pg. 5B



**WOLVES**...Continued from page 4B

poor condition because of drought that began in 2001 and didn't ease until late 2022. Drought impacts the nutritional content of deer browse and forage and that's not just the case in North Dakota. We've experienced drought with increasing frequency in recent years and that undoubtedly means deer in our region have been going into winter without the fat reserves they might have in a year with more rain.

And a bad winter, such as we experienced here in 2022-23 as well, has an effect that compounds, as the North Dakota story relates. "In a winter like we just had, generally what you lose first are the young-of-the-year and then reproduction. So, you're losing that recruitment cohort and then you're probably going to lose some of the reproduction side of things because those does are in poor health, and aren't going to probably carry fawns to full term," Smith said. "And then, depending on how our summer season goes, if we head right into a drought, what's their condition going to be like going into the breeding season?"

As this story relates, there are critical factors that have a major impact on deer survival with or without wolves. They have an issue with winter cover in North Dakota since open, snow-covered fields offer poor habitat for deer. And while we certainly have better cover here in northeastern Minnesota, as I noted in the first installment of my series, the quality of our winter cover has diminished, particularly

on the public lands that dominate our area. That's a point that DNR biologists in our region have been making for several years.

While we have better cover compared to the North Dakota plains, we also tend to have significantly deeper snowpack and our snow often lingers later into the spring. And when the snow melts in North Dakota, it typically exposes waste grains left behind from the fall harvest. Here, it can take weeks after the snow leaves until we start seeing new herbaceous growth that provides any nutritional boost.

What this demonstrates is that the issues we've been experiencing— declining habitat quality, more frequent drought, and denser snowpacks because we now see more rain during winter storms than we ever used to, is all playing a role in slowing the recovery of our deer population. In our region we've always had wolves and we've had a high wolf population for decades. Yet, at the same time, we enjoyed record high deer populations when we had a beneficial mix of good habitat along with more benign weather conditions. These are the factors that make the biggest difference for deer, and that's as true in an area, like ours, with a high wolf population as it is on the plains of North Dakota, where wolves were wiped out long ago.

If you'd like to read the entire story from *North Dakota Game and Fish*, you can find it here: <https://gf.nd.gov/magazine/2023/jun/toll-of-a-tough-winter>.

**OPENER**...Continued from page 4B

over the opening weekend in PA 177, DNR conservation officer Sean Cannon, who serves the Cook area, said hunters he'd spoken to reported seeing more deer than last year, even if buck numbers were down slightly. PA 177 includes farm country in the Little Fork River valley in and around Cook, extending

east to the easternmost point of Lake Vermilion.

Looking ahead to the second weekend, the forecast calls for mostly cloudy conditions with highs in the mid-40s and lows either side of freezing. The average high for the second weekend is 35 degrees with an average low of 16.

**LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST**

from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
47 32					47 37					44 27					46 30					40 32				
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.
11/04	46	38	0.03		11/04	48	37	0.09		11/04	48	35	0.06		11/04	48	41	0.00		11/04	48	37	0.00	
11/05	48	36	0.07		11/05	49	38	0.00		11/05	48	38	0.01		11/05	39	34	0.00		11/05	49	37	0.11	
11/06	39	29	0.00		11/06	39	25	0.00		11/06	40	28	0.00		11/06	45	27	0.00		11/06	40	23	0.00	
11/07	44	na	0.00		11/07	44	24	0.00		11/07	42	27	0.00		11/07	50	36	0.00		11/07	45	24	0.00	
11/08	49	na	0.00		11/08	48	29	0.00		11/08	48	32	0.00		11/08	46	28	0.00		11/08	49	31	0.00	
11/09	47	na	0.00		11/09	48	24	0.00		11/09	49	28	0.00		11/09	48	30	0.00		11/09	47	22	0.00	
11/10	49	34	0.02		11/10	50	30	0.14		11/10	49	28	0.04		11/10	46	41	0.00		11/10	50	33	0.10	
YTD Total	25.49				YTD Total	26.41				YTD Total	26.63				YTD Total	NA				YTD Total	28.01			

**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](mailto:marshall@timberjay.com). So go out and have a great time. And let us know how you did!

**SKIING**...Continued from page 4B

project. They treated him like he was just another person learning how to ski, with respect, kindness, and so much joy and laughter ... They were focused on making sure that Drew was a success."

The program depends on its volunteers. Anyone who is interested in helping others with physical challenges learn to ski should send an email to Eric Larson at Northland Adaptive Recreation at [eric.larson@mdfoundation.org](mailto:eric.larson@mdfoundation.org).

**Learning to ski**

Those with disabilities who would like to learn how to ski or snowboard are welcome to enroll in the program. Spots are limited every year, depending on how many volunteers are available.

"We can take kids as young as five or six," Aho said. "We do screen participants and there is a weight limit on the bike skis." Depending on demand, the program may select participants by lottery if there are more applicants than openings.

The program charges a fee. Last year, it was around \$200 according to Aho. Scholarships are available if finances are a barrier.



Volunteers work with another skier. Equipment is modified for each skier based on their particular needs.

submitted photo

"No one is turned away if they can't afford the fee," Aho said.

Anyone wishing to try the adaptive skiing program should email Tyler Vandal at [tyler.vandal@mdfoundation.org](mailto:tyler.vandal@mdfoundation.org).

Northland Adaptive Recreation does more than teach skiing and snow-

boarding to those with disabilities. The organization also runs other recreation programs throughout the year, including biking, kayaking, climbing, swimming, diving, and archery. The group is under the umbrella of the nonprofit Miller-Dwan Foundation of Duluth.



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EMPLOYMENT



DEPARTMENT OF IRON RANGE RESOURCES & REHABILITATION ACCOUNTING OFFICER COORDINATOR Permanent, Full-Time Job ID: 81640

The Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation is seeking to fill the permanent, full-time position of Accounting Officer Coordinator. This position oversees and develops the state's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), biennial budget, capital budgets, fixed asset inventory, and the agency investment portfolio.

This position is located in Eveleth, MN and is eligible for limited telework. Occasional travel is required.

Learn more and apply online at mn.gov/careers Job ID: 81640 Application deadline: Nov. 25, 2024

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PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION COURT FILE NO: 69VI-PR-24-201

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION OF INTERESTACY, DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP, APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of David Oliver Saukko, aka David O. Saukko, and as David Saukko, Decedent

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on December 16, 2024, at 9:30 a.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at 300 S. 5th Ave., Virginia, Minnesota, for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of heirship of the Decedent, and for the appointment of Paul N. Saukko, whose address is 7049 Moilan Rd., Eveleth, MN, 55734 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration.

Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate, including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

BY THE COURT Andrew Peterson Judge of District Court Jennifer Miller, Court Administrator Chelsea Opdahl, Deputy

Attorney for Petitioner Angela E. Sipila Sipila Law Office, LLC 412 1st St. S. Virginia, MN, 55792 Attorney License No: 024501x Telephone: (218) 741-5000 FAX: (218) 741-5000 Email: ange@sipilaw.com

Published in the Timberjay, Nov. 15 & 22, 2024

01113 - ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

St. Louis County Schools 10248 Olson Road, Cook, MN 55723

Bids close at 2:00 P.M. (local time) on Tuesday, December 3, 2024

On behalf of the School Board of the St. Louis County School District 2142, bids for construction of the North Woods School Wastewater Treatment System, located at 10248 Olson Road, Cook, Minnesota until 2:00 PM (local time) on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, in accordance with the specifications set forth herein and the "other" terms, conditions and instructions to the specifications. All bids received after the time stated will not be considered.

The Request bidding documents are available at www.QuestCDN.com. Reference Quest Number 9406193. To be considered a plan holder, register with QuestCDN.com for a free Regular membership and download the documents for a cost of \$22.00. Downloading the documents and becoming a plan holder is recommended as plan holder's receive automatic notice of addenda, other contract document updates and access to vBid, online bidding via QuestCDN. Interested parties may view the bidding documents at no cost prior to deciding to become a plan holder.

The Project consists of upgrades to the wastewater treatment system on the property at 10248 Olson Road, Cook, Minnesota.

Bid Documents are available for Bidders, suppliers and subcontractors through QuestCDN.com, reference Quest Number 9406193. Documents may also be viewed at the Minnesota Builders Exchange, Suite 1123, Glenwood Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55405. Phone: 612-381-2620, www.MBEX.org

Each bidder shall submit with the bid, a bid bond, made payable to St. Louis County School District, in the amount of five percent (5%) of the maximum amount of its bid.

All vendors entering into a contract with the District for \$10,000 or more are to provide a Labor and Material Payment and Performance Bonds for 100% of the contract. Bonds must be furnished within 10 days of notice of award of the Contract.

Contract is subject to compliance with the applicable Schedule of Prevailing Wage issued by the Minnesota Department of Labor & Industry.

There will be a pre-bid meeting and walk-through on Tuesday, November 19th, at 11:00 a.m. Meet at the North Woods School wastewater treatment facility, at 10248 Olson Road, Cook, Minnesota.

Bids may not be withdrawn for sixty (60) days after the scheduled closing time for the receipt of bids without the consent of the St. Louis County School District. The School Board reserves the right to accept any bid, to reject any or all bids, to waive irregularities and informalities in the bidding procedures, and to act in its best interest.

Published in the Timberjay, Nov. 15, 2024

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION COURT FILE NO: 69VI-PR-24-206

Estate of Eliina Sarah Leete-Fuhr, aka Eliina Leete-Fuhr, Decedent

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR SUMMARY ASSIGNMENT OR DISTRIBUTION AND FOR FORMAL PROBATE OF WILL EXEMPT ESTATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that a petition has been filed requesting that the Estate assets be summarily assigned.

Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper, and if no objections or claims are filed or raised, the Court may issue a decree distributing or assigning the Estate's assets.

It is Ordered and Notice is now given that the Petition

will be heard on December 16, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. by this Court at 300 S. 5th Ave., Virginia, Minnesota. \*This hearing will be held remotely via Zoom Technology.

Notice is further given that (subject to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

BY THE COURT Andrew Peterson Judge of District Court Jennifer Miller, Court Administrator Chelsea Opdahl, Deputy Attorney for Petitioner

Angela Sipila Sipila Law Office, LLC 412 1st St. S. Virginia, MN, 55792 Attorney License No: 024501x Telephone: (218) 741-5000 FAX: (218) 741-5000 Email: ange@sipilaw.com

Published in the Timberjay, Nov. 15 & 22, 2024

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION COURT FILE NO: 69VI-PR-24-205

NOTICE AND ORDER FOR HEARING ON PETITION FOR DESCENT OF PROPERTY

Estate of Sally Ann Truman, aka Sally Ann Leete, Decedent

A Petition for Determination of Descent has been filed with this Court. The Petition represents that the Decedent died more than three years ago, leaving property in Minnesota and requests the probate of Decedent's last Will (if any), and the descent of such property be determined and assigned by this Court to the persons entitled to the property.

Any objections to the Petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper, and no objections are filed or raised, the Petition may be granted.

IT IS ORDERED and Notice is further given, that the Petition will be heard

on December 16, 2024 at 9:30 a.m., by this Court at 300 S. 5th Ave., Virginia, Minnesota. \*This hearing will be held remotely via Zoom Technology.

1. Notice shall be given to all interested persons (MINN. STAT. § 524.1-401) and persons who have filed a demand for notice pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-204.

2. Notice shall be given by publishing this Notice and Order as provided by law and by: Mailing a copy of this Notice and Order at least 14 days prior to the hearing date.

BY THE COURT Andrew Peterson Judge of District Court Jennifer Miller, Court Administrator Chelsea Opdahl, Deputy

Attorney for Petitioner Angela E. Sipila Sipila Law Office, LLC 412 1st St. S. Virginia, MN, 55792 Attorney License No: 024501x Telephone: (218) 741-5000 FAX: (218) 741-5000 Email: ange@sipilaw.com

Published in the Timberjay, Nov. 15 & 22, 2024

CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

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

IJGZTBZS VZO IAAM QAJS EGGT YG LA. INY YVAM, W'QA IAAM QAJS EGGT YG IJGZTBZS.

- AYVAP LAJLZM

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WORD LADDERS

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

MIXED

Blank lines for word ladders between MIXED and SIZED

SIZED

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Super Crossword

Answers

Grid of crossword answers: RAHS, MAGIC, BUTTS, SAMS, ASEA, OSAKA, OPRAH, ADEE, WHATPOSTEDNOTICE, NUNN, VEAL, EATON, TBOLTS, STY, WASON, THEW, ALLOFTHE, HODA, HERE, SEN, VALISES, AROMA, CZAR, XING, MUSICSTORETHAT, DENSER, USEDTO, CRANES, RELAY, ERICA, ALDRIN, HAVE, OFFEREDONLYFORTYFIVES, GLOW, RELIEF, RASTA, RUNES, SLOWUP, ORELSE, EXTRAS, ANDLONGPLAYING, ILLER, ESAU, DEFOG, SPRAGUE, SPA, ETRE, SERE, PHONOGRAPHER, RECORDS, LED, LOSING, SARAN, SUZI, IBIS, ALLSALES, AREVINY, L, TINE, REAMS, MEDAL, NERO, SASS, DANSE, YESES, ESSO

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: K equals F

RK SDF CMRVCSWP QGCHCQSWHL CHW PHCDM FM SGW LCVW QCHSFFM KHCVW, R'P QCUU SGWV QWU VCSWL.

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Platters
6 Chum
9 Club -
12 Put on - (act)
13 Expert serve
14 Navarro of "The View"
15 Gettysburg general
16 William on "Star Trek"
18 Vatican term
20 Folklore monster
21 Blackbird
23 Airport screening org.
24 Offered one's seat
25 Taverns
27 Plant life

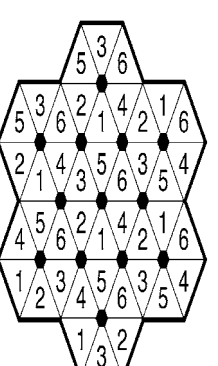
11x11 crossword grid with numbers 1-57 indicating starting points for clues.

- 29 Perfect place
31 Zesty dips
35 Blood line?
37 Model in a bottle
38 Future oak
41 Luau instrument
43 Canine greeting
44 Wander
45 Pencil end
47 Subtle variation of color
49 Spanish snacks
52 Feedbag morsel
53 Memo letters
54 Levels
55 SSW opposite
56 Feeling down
57 Transmits
8 Tony winner Salonga
9 Chutney fruit
10 January, to
11 Challenged
17 Sums
19 Equally distant
21 Dhabi precedent
22 Rebel Turner
24 Madrid Mrs.
26 Went easy on
28 Japanese seaport
33 Football filler
34 Suntan lotion letters
36 Overblown
38 Incendiary crime
39 "Over There" composer
40 Egg-shaped
42 - Park, Colorado
45 "May It Be" singer
46 Roof edge
48 Conditions
50 Moreover
51 Snake's sound

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SNOWFLAKES solution





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**SUPPORT GROUPS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**SNOWFLAKES**  
 by Japheth Light

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ♦♦♦  
 ♦ Easy ♦♦ Medium ♦♦♦♦ Difficult

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**Super Crossword** **WAX SHOP**

**ACROSS**

1 Cheer shouts  
 5 Specialty of Penn & Teller  
 10 Meddles, with "in"  
 15 Golfer Snead and politician  
 26-Across  
 19 On the ocean  
 20 Port in Japan  
 21 TV's Winfrey  
 22 "Zip- -Doo-Dah"  
 23 Start of a riddle  
 26 Four-term Georgia senator  
 27 Calf's meat  
 28 Make a dining surface of  
 29 Fastening bars with crosspieces  
 31 Hog hangout  
 33 Riddle, part 2  
 38 Kotb of morning TV  
 40 In this place  
 41 Sun Yat-  
 42 Travel bags  
 43 Nice scent  
 45 Government bigwig  
 47 Deer - (street sign)

48 Riddle, part 3  
 53 More tightly packed  
 58 In the habit of  
 59 Common origami birds  
 61 Pass on  
 62 Durance of "Smallville"  
 66 Astronaut Buzz  
 68 Own  
 69 Riddle, part 4  
 75 Shine  
 76 Alleviation  
 77 Worshiper of Jah, for short  
 78 Bits of Viking script  
 80 Decelerate  
 82 Ultimatum ender  
 87 Bonuses  
 89 Riddle, part 5  
 93 Robert of "The Sopranos"  
 95 Twin brother of Jacob  
 96 Clear mist from  
 97 Sci-fi writer L. - de Camp  
 101 Place to get a mud wrap  
 104 To be, in Toulon  
 106 Sahara-like

107 End of the riddle  
 111 Directed  
 112 In last place, say  
 113 Plastic wrap  
 114 Rock bassist Quatro  
 116 Stork's kin  
 117 Riddle's answer  
 124 Fork feature  
 125 Extracts juice from  
 126 Olympics award  
 127 Depraved emperor  
 128 Wise off to  
 129 Ballerina's field, in France  
 130 Affirmative answers  
 131 Gas brand in Canada

9 Military pupil  
 10 Infant's sock  
 11 Northern part of an urban area  
 12 Robbins of "underground comix"  
 13 Tic- -toe  
 14 Kind of sheepdog  
 15 Maalox's company  
 16 Grown-ups  
 17 Crème de -  
 18 Feels  
 24 Furry "hand"  
 25 Slangy refusals  
 30 Ray who portrayed the scarecrow in "The Wizard of Oz"  
 31 Famed orca, once  
 32 Bagel shape  
 34 Faith faction  
 35 Rice-shaped pasta  
 36 On or about  
 37 56, to Caesar  
 39 In the hub of  
 44 One- (brief drama)  
 46 Part of R&R, for short

47 Nissan model until 2015  
 49 More peeved  
 50 Amount of food carried in a cafeteria  
 51 50%  
 52 Slashed words of choice  
 54 Old soda brand  
 55 Czech, e.g.  
 56 Roof feature  
 57 Seedy loaves  
 60 Perches  
 63 3/15, e.g.  
 64 Stiff shirt part  
 65 It's negatively charged  
 67 Sleep aid brand  
 69 Hideous giant  
 70 Continuous change  
 71 It might be boldface  
 72 Fancy jug  
 73 Prurient unit  
 74 Capacitance unit  
 79 Broadway's "Miss -"  
 81 Edgar Allan -  
 83 Pair for vision

84 Rescue ropes  
 85 Sleep noisily  
 86 Goaded (on)  
 88 Habitually lazy sort  
 90 Tiny fraction of a min.  
 91 Cat, in Spain  
 92 Sound from a 91-Down  
 94 Always, to poets  
 97 Cracks  
 98 Extreme fear  
 99 Cello bow rub-ons  
 100 Liquour flavors  
 101 Cramps, e.g.  
 102 Sentence structure  
 103 - Sea (salt lake in Asia)  
 105 1950s Fords  
 108 C.S. Lewis lion  
 109 Foe Tahoe, e.g.  
 110 Chevy  
 115 Web mag  
 118 Grassy tract  
 119 Spot  
 120 Spots  
 121 Actress Issa  
 122 52-wk. spans  
 123 Lav, in Leeds

**DOWN**

1 Coarse  
 2 Campfire residue  
 3 Large amount of medicine  
 4 Surfeit  
 5 Bread  
 6 Horse relative  
 7 Gun, slangily  
 8 1950s prez

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**Weekly SUDOKU Answer**

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

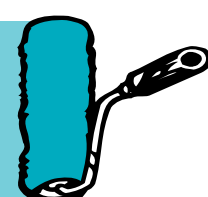
**Find It Here**

**Solution time: 26 mins.**

DISCS PAL MED  
 ASHOW ACE ANA  
 MEADE SHATNER  
 PAPAACY OGRE  
 ANI TSA STOOD  
 BARS FLORA  
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