

Early Deadline

Ads and articles for the Nov. 29 paper are due by 10 a.m. on Nov. 25. The paper will be delivered on Wednesday, Nov. 27

Inside:

- Ely cannabis ordinance... See /5
- Hiking the Anglemorm... See /1B
- Deer season updates... See /1B

The TIMBERJAY



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989 VOL. 35, ISSUE 46 November 22, 2024 \$1.50

LEGAL MARIJUANA

Bois Forte cannabis dispensary may open next month

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

VERMILION RESERVATION- After the first Native-owned cannabis dispensary in Minnesota opened in Red Lake in August 2023, the Bois Forte band set the wheels in motion to one day do the same. And while the process has taken longer than many had hoped, the band is now on the verge of

opening a new dispensary on the Fortune Bay grounds, possibly before the end of the year. The dispensary will be located on the old frontage road just north of the Fortune Bay RV Park. To expedite the business, the band purchased a prefabricated 2,000-square-foot building from a Mississippi company for \$318,000. The band plans to sell its cannabis products under the brand name

“Ishkode,” an Ojibwe word which means fire. The dispensary will offer real cannabis flower, pre-rolls, gummies, drinks, legal mushroom options, and more. For the time being, the band will source its cannabis from other tribes, while continuing to explore and develop its own growing operation in the future. Bois Forte Development Corporation Executive Director Drew Ebert told the *Bois Forte*

Right: The new cannabis dispensary is nearing completion on the Vermilion Reservation.

photo by D. Colburn
News in August that it had taken a lot of behind-the-scenes work to move the project forward, and that consultations with a company called Minnesota Roots had been instrumental to See...DISPENSARY pg. 10



BREITUNG

Soudan loses CDBG eligibility

Will need to return some funds already expended

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

SOUDAN- Breitung Township is losing a source of grant funding it has counted on in recent years to help with the costs of infrastructure improvement projects in Soudan.

Community Development Block Grants, which are administered by St. Louis County, are directed to communities, or specific areas in communities, that have a majority of households that are low- or moderate-income. While Soudan has qualified for those grants in the past, a recent survey concludes that’s no longer the case.

This finding came as a surprise to the town board, and it means that a \$75,000 grant awarded for infrastructure work already completed this summer will need to be returned, and that another \$75,000 that was expected for 2025 projects will not be awarded.

While the township, as a whole, has never qualified for CDBG, due to its higher-value lakeshore properties, the residential area in Soudan proper has qualified after the township conducted household income

See...CDBG pg. 9



HANSEL AND GRETEL

Grimm tale comes to life

FIELD TWP—North Woods School, in collaboration with Storybook Theatre, staged a fanciful retelling of the classic tale of “Hansel and Gretel” last Friday at the school.

Storybook Theatre directors and actors Evan Snauffer and Emma Paquette led a week of rehearsals culminating in an afternoon performance for North Woods students and an evening performance for the public, sponsored by North Woods Community Education.

Above: Troop Leader Paul, played by Evan Snauffer, frightens his Adventure Scouts troop with a scary story about an evil witch who lives in the forest.

Right: Tied back-to-back, Hansel, played by Sully Roesch, and Gretel, played by Bonnie Iverson, look to escape from Brunhilda the Witch.

photos by D. Colburn



ELY SCHOOLS

Athletic facilities price tag could top \$17 million

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY—Engineers from SEH presented the school board here with a shopping list of recommended upgrades and repairs to the district’s athletic facilities at its Nov. 12 meeting. The list comes with a “conservative” price tag between \$15.5 and \$17.2 million, or roughly three times the \$5.25 million which the Minnesota Legislature allocated in 2024 for athletic upgrades in the district.

The engineers had evaluated multiple facilities at the school district campus but identified the structural and floor repairs to the Ely Ice Arena as the only “must-do” work for the sake of safety.

Superintendent Anne Oelke said that the district would set up a working group to study which upgrades the district would tackle along with how to finance them.

Athletic assessment

After receiving the news of the Legislature’s allocation of funds for the district, the Ely School Board hired SEH to perform an engineering assessment of its sports facilities over the summer, which the company’s engineers unveiled last week during an hour-long presentation to the board. The firm’s recommendations covered the ice arena, football field, baseball field, softball field, the Memorial High School building gymnasium, the old girls locker room, and the weight room.

SEH broke their suggested repairs and upgrades into high, moderate, and low priorities. The highest priority repairs included the structural repairs to the ice arena, the replacement of the ice arena press box, the replacement of the football field press box and stair structure, an engineered fire-safety sep-

See...ATHLETICS pg. 9

VERMILION COUNTRY SCHOOL

New teaching strategies to engage all learners

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- Teaching philosophies may come and go, but the days of a teacher standing in front of a room and lecturing while students listen and take notes is one that is rapidly moving out of favor.

Vermilion Country School, in

Tower, has implemented the Modern Classrooms Project, or MCP, this year, a teaching system that allows teachers to reach students in multiple ways, while measuring mastery of material in concrete, discrete, and often daily chunks. It allows students to work at their own pace, receive extra in-person help as needed, and

the opportunity to rewatch daily lessons if they fail to meet a lesson’s mastery check, and then retest to show they have mastered a specific lesson.

Teachers create a video of each day’s lesson. Students, who all have

See...TEACHING pg. 9

Right: Kendal Giacomini, of the Modern Classrooms Project, discusses the new program with math teacher Amy Hendrickson.

photo by J. Summit



PIRAGIS
NORTHWOODS COMPANY
piragis.com

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

Your Hometown INDEPENDENT BOOKSTORE where great books always find you!

piragis.com 218 - 365 - 6745 boundarywaterscatalog.com

Contact The Timberjay
218-753-2950
editor@timberjay.com

8 0 4 8 7 9 3 5 1 4 0 5

Community notices

UWNEMN raffle drawing party on Thursday, Dec. 5 at the Sawmill

VIRGINIA- United Way of Northeastern Minnesota is hosting Bucks for Backpacks Cash Raffle Drawing Party at Sawmill Saloon & Restaurant on Thursday, Dec. 5 at 6 p.m. Ticket holders are invited to enjoy free appetizers and additional drawings while they wait to find out if they're a big winner. All proceeds benefit UWNEMN's Buddy Backpacks program. \$100 tickets still available; call or text 218-295-2424.

UWNEMN Veterans Connections Tour of Lights on Monday, Dec. 9

REGIONAL- On Monday, Dec. 9 at 4 p.m., the Veterans Connections bus will depart from United Way of Northeastern Minnesota in Chisholm for the Bentleyville Tour of Lights in Duluth. The bus returns to Chisholm at 9 p.m., and dinner will be provided. This is a free outing for local veterans, service members, and their families, but registration is required. A minimum of 20 people must be registered by Dec. 2 to move forward as planned. Register at www.unitedwaynemn.org/bentleyville or by calling 218-215-2424. Veterans Connections is a free program to encourage physical and mental wellness as well as build community for local veterans across our region.

Lokka Tupa #1, Ladies of Kaleva to hold Christmas celebration Monday, Dec. 2

VIRGINIA- Lokka Tupa #1, Ladies of Kaleva, will hold their annual Christmas celebration at Kaleva Hall in Virginia on Mon., Dec. 2 at noon for members and their guests.

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

COOK- Cook Covenant Church members and friends are busy this week lining up decorations and planning the tropical island menu for the "Castaway Island Christmas" dinner theatre event coming to the Cook church on Friday, Dec. 6 at 6 p.m. Posters are going up around local towns and in Virginia. Reservations are being taken and this year's event seating is limited, so we urge everyone to call or text 331-442-9463 as soon as possible. Please give your name, your phone number, and the number of seats you're reserving. Again this year, this event will be a fundraiser for the Cook Community Food Shelf, so the cost per person is to bring a cash donation or current canned goods (no expired food please) for the Cook Food Shelf.

Community Lutefisk and meatball dinner at Gethsemane Lutheran on Tuesday, Dec. 3

VIRGINIA- You are invited to Gethsemane Evangelical Lutheran's Lutefisk and Meatball dinner along with great fellowship on Tuesday, Dec. 3 from 3 - 7 p.m. For \$20 (children 6-12 are \$8 and children 5 and under free) you will enjoy the best lutefisk with drawn butter and cream sauce, handcrafted meatballs with potatoes and gravy, vegetables and beet pickles, lefse and bread, cupcakes with coffee and milk. For more information please call the church at 218-741-4961. Take-out meals are available and pre-orders are encouraged. Gethsemane Evangelical Lutheran church is located at 901 South Fourth St. in Virginia.

Festival of Trees annual Tour of Homes Saturday, Nov. 23 in Virginia

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.

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).



LUTEFISK AND MEATBALL DINNER

At Trinity Lutheran Church — Cook, MN

SATURDAY, DEC. 7, 2024. 4-6:30 P.M.
231 SECOND STREET SE, COOK, MN 55723. 218-666-5965

Please join us for our 10th traditional Scandinavian dinner! Lutefisk, meatballs, potatoes and gravy, green beans, rutabagas, lefse, homemade bread, cranberries, pickled herring, Kransekake, cookies and more!

Adults: \$20
Youth ages 10-17: \$10
Children under 10: Free

Take-out meals available. Delivery not available.
Net proceeds will be donated to the Cook Flood Survivor/Preparedness Fund and to the Church Parsonage Repair Fund.

NORTHWOODS PARTNERS

Festival of Trees in Ely opens on Nov. 24

ELY- Northwoods Partners' annual Festival of Trees will take place at the Grand Ely Lodge from Nov. 24 through Dec. 8. This will be the 22nd year celebrating the season with this wonderful event. Many talented individuals help transform the Grand Ely Lodge lobby into a winter wonderland.

"It's always amazing to see how our community so generously supports this event by decorating trees, wreaths & beautiful items for our Christmas boutique and other Christmas décor. We are so grateful to all the individuals who help make the Festival of Trees a successful fundraising event. All the proceeds help support programs and services that promote independence and healthy aging. It has become a favorite holiday tradition that makes such a beautiful difference in our community," said Lisa Portman, executive director.

Everyone is invited to the lighting ceremony on Sunday, Nov. 24 at 7:30 p.m. This is a wonderful

way to kick off the holiday season with your family and friends. Begin your holiday shopping at the Northwoods Partners Christmas Boutique. This talented community provides a wonderful selection of hand-made gift items available for purchase. Enjoy taking a stroll through the lighted winter wonderland and place a bid on the beautifully decorated trees or wreaths. The bidding for these decorated items begins at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 24 and continues until noon on Sunday, Dec. 8. Be sure to come back often to check your bid! All winners will be notified to pick up their items at the Grand Ely Lodge.

Also, don't miss the opportunity to purchase an ornament to honor a loved one on the tall white Memorial Tree at the center of the event. Memorial balls may be purchased throughout the holiday season to remember or honor a loved one. This is truly a unique way to celebrate the special people in our lives. The Memorial



Tree will be displayed at the Grand Ely Lodge until Dec. 29. New this year will also be a white-flocked Giving Tree where people are able to make a donation for a specific program that's dear to their hearts. For more information check out the

Northwoods Partners website www.northwoodspartners.org or call 218-365-8019. Happy Holidays from Northwoods Partners and thank you for your support.

ELY WINTER FESTIVAL

Call for artists for the Ely ArtWalk 2025

ELY- There's nothing like art appreciation below zero and the Ely ArtWalk 2025 is coming. From Feb. 1 - 28, 2025, this annual art show will once again be held during the Ely Winter Festival, and will extend the entire month of February. The display of creative talent will continue the annual tradition of turning downtown Ely into an art gallery in the heart of winter. Traditionally, over 45 businesses participate by offering their store windows as a city-wide art show - a true

collaboration between Ely business owners, artists, and art lovers!

The community is invited to celebrate the show with us at the ArtWalk opening. Join us at the Ely Folk School on Friday, Feb. 7 from 4 - 6 p.m. Get out, get social, meet the artists, and enjoy some food and drinks.

Artists who live in the Ely area can register online at www.elyartwalk.org now through Dec. 20. Individual entries are only \$10 and group entries are \$30. Student group entries are free.

100 percent of sales go to the artists.

The Ely ArtWalk is dedicated to the creation, promotion, and appreciation of the arts. This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund - and in part by a grant from Ely's Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust, and by individual and business sponsors.

EMBARRASS

Breakfast with the Grinch and much more on Saturday, Dec. 7



EMBARRASS- This month's pancake breakfast at Timber Hall will feature a visit from the Grinch, along with a holiday boutique and much more. Pancakes and all the fixings will be served from 8 - 11 a.m. at Timber Hall on Saturday, Dec. 7. This is the monthly fundraiser and community gathering for the Embarrass Region Fair Association. Stop by for all-you-can-eat pancakes, your choice of ham or sausage links, juice, and a bottomless cup of coffee. The cost is \$7 for adults, \$4 for children 6-10, and free for children 5 and under.

Donations of gently-used clothing and outerwear are again being taken for the local Disabled American Veterans. Donations should be packed into white garbage bags.

There will be local vendors selling a wide variety of holiday gift items. Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners will also be at the event

to take donations in honor of loved ones as part of their Lights of Love campaign.

The fair association is also collecting new toys and gift cards (Target or Walmart) for the Operation Santa Toy Drive, which serves area families who use the Tower Food Shelf, and for the toy drive organized by the Embarrass-Vermillion Credit Union.

The Memorial Blood Center will have the bloodmobile on site. Save a life by donating blood. Sign up at www.mbcherohub.club/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/73625.

Come meet the Grinch, eat some pancakes, donate some blood (sign up in advance), and do some shopping at the pancake breakfast on Saturday, Dec. 7.

file photo

WINTER AID

State receives \$112 million for heating assistance funding

ST. PAUL- Governor Tim Walz announced \$112 million in federal funds awarded to the Minnesota Energy Assistance Program, administered by the Minnesota Department of Commerce. Funding will provide energy assistance to income-eligible Minnesota homeowners and renters to help keep their homes warm this winter.

"In our coldest months, higher utility bills can put a strain on Minnesotans' budgets," said Governor Walz. "Our Energy Assistance Program makes a big difference in alleviating this pressure, ensuring that Minnesotans get the help they need to make it comfortably through the winter. This funding will continue to lower costs and keep Minnesotans safe."

"The Energy Assistance Program is essential to help Minnesotans have warm, safe homes. We will be able to deliver that warmth to more than one hundred thousand homes this winter season," said Commerce Commissioner Grace Arnold.

Last year, the energy assistance program awarded 129,500 households with energy assistance, providing over \$95 million to households, with an average household benefit of \$736. This year's funding will provide an increase in average household benefits.

Funding also prevented utility shutoffs for 43,000 households, provided emergency heating fuel deliveries to over 10,000 homes, and provided emergency furnace repairs to 6,600 homes.

About two thirds of the benefits go to homes outside the Twin Cities metro area. About 40 percent of households receiving energy assistance in Minnesota had a person over age 60 or had a household member with a disability, and about one in six households had children under age six living in the home.

By applying for Minnesota's Energy Assistance Program, homeowners and renters may also qualify for Minnesota's Weatherization Assistance Program and receive free home improvements to help save energy and ensure a warm, healthy, safe home.

For more information and to apply online visit mn.gov/homes.

CABIN QUILTING

Your North Country
• 5-Star Rated Shop •

Quilting Fabric & Supplies
Longarm Quilting Services, Gifts

Susan Covey • 218-666-3146
227 1st St SW & Hwy 53, Cook MN 55723
cabinquilting@gmail.com

Subscribe (218) 753-2950

ELY

Ely Library feeling blue over carpet woes

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- The Ely Public Library staff was greeted by an unpleasant surprise last Saturday. That's when they opened the boxes containing the facility's new carpeting only to discover that the carpet supplier had sent the wrong color— blue instead of the brown they had ordered. The library was only doing a partial replacement of the carpet, focusing on the areas with the most wear.

"The old carpet had already been torn up and removed," said Rachel Heinrich, library director. "I contacted the library board on Saturday morning and they voted on four different alternatives: leaving the floor bare, putting the torn-up carpet back, installing the blue carpet with temporary glue, and installing the blue carpet with permanent glue. I couldn't locate one board member. One voted for the blue carpet with permanent glue and the rest of the board voted for the temporary glue.

"I didn't want nothing on the floor because it would

be a tripping hazard," Heinrich added. "Putting the old carpet back would also be a tripping hazard."

Following the library board's vote, Heinrich directed the carpet installer, Field of Seams Flooring of Ely, to place the blue carpet with temporary glue.

Carpet replacement

At ten years old, the library's carpet was worn out in its high traffic area, around the stacks near the circulation desk and from the circulation desk back to the meeting area in the southwest corner. The library was closed on Friday, Nov. 15, and Monday, Nov. 18 for the carpet's replacement.

On Friday, the library moved shelves and books out of the way while the carpet contractor removed the old carpet. Saturday was installation day, followed by moving the books and shelves back to their original locations on Monday.

The library's staff of three had help from the city to move the stacks before carpet installation. "Ely Pub-



Ely library staff Jessie Dunn standing on the library's blue carpet that was supposed to be brown. photo by C. Clark

lic Works did a great job helping us out with this," Heinrich said.

"This isn't the installer's fault," Heinrich noted. "It was the distributor that sent

the wrong carpet." Heinrich said that Field of Seams would be contacting the car-

pet distributor about the delivery of the wrong carpet.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Carbon monoxide alarms cause evacuation at The Hub

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- The Ely Area Community Hub was evacuated Wednesday, Nov. 13, after a boiler malfunction triggered the carbon monoxide alarms for the building.

According to a press release from the Ely Fire Department, firefighters were dispatched to the building at 3:54 p.m. after carbon monoxide alarms prompted the evacuation. The boiler that caused the incident had been shut down and isolated by building staff before firefighters arrived.

Using gas monitors and fans, Ely firefighters ventilated the building of carbon monoxide. Once it was deemed safe, the facility was turned back over to the Ely Area Community Foundation and its



The newly-renovated building houses the Happy Days Learning Center. file photo

tenants. The building reopened Wednesday evening and resumed normal operations Thursday.

The Hub houses several ten-

ants, including Happy Days Learning Center, Northwoods Partners, Well-Being Development, and Functional Fitness. All tenants

worked with their clients to ensure a calm and orderly evacuation.

"I was impressed by the way everyone in the building reacted," said Fire Chief David Marshall. "People were calm. They closed their doors and got out of the building."

Happy Days Learning Center was praised especially for its emergency preparedness. "Happy Days did a nice job ensuring the safety of the children under their care," Marshall added. "The staff began their evacuation even before the carbon monoxide alarms went off on their end of the building."

Marshall noted that Happy Days implemented their emergency action plan, safely escorting infants, toddlers, and preschoolers to a fenced play area adjacent to the building. The children remained

under close supervision while their parents were contacted through an emergency messaging system for early pickup.

No one was injured or ill from the elevated carbon monoxide levels. The building is currently being heated by an alternative heating source while the boiler undergoes evaluation and repair.

"We are entering that time of year when furnaces are kicking on," Marshall noted, "and the importance of having a working carbon monoxide detector cannot be overstated."

In addition to the Ely Fire Department, the Ely Police Department and St. Louis County Sheriff's Office responded to the incident.

REAL ESTATE

Making DREAMS a REALITY!

MEET SOME OF OUR AGENTS!

Joe Rasmussen (621) 270-8911	Sara Powell (218) 780-7737	Andrea Zupaneich (218) 749-0159	Chesteria Reichert-Olson (763) 257-5080
---------------------------------	-------------------------------	------------------------------------	--

ELY - ELY RV RESORT | 20 ACRES

Discover the ELY RV Resort, a 20-acre haven nestled on the edge of Ely, MN. This prime real estate is a golden opportunity for savvy investors looking to diversify their portfolio with a unique property offering endless possibilities. Investment Potential is expanding the current 23 RV sites to even more, potential for constructing condos or mini cabins, ground perfectly suited for geothermal heating, possibility to develop storage units. 23 RV sites with full city water, sewer, and utility hookups 10 pull-thru sites (72' long) with heated utilities, 13 back-in sites.

MLS#147267 | \$1,200,000

Ely (218) 365-8822
Babbitt (218) 827-2288
Aurora (218) 229-8888
Tower (218) 696-2008
Virginia (218) 288-5028
info@zupnorth.com
www.zupnorth.com

VERMILION LAND OFFICE
Real Estate • Appraisals

Looking To Buy Or Sell? Give Us A Call!

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

WE NEED LISTINGS!
Contact us for a free property valuation

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

MOTIVATED SELLER! Perfect opportunity for a new business or make into the home of your dreams! 4,800 sq ft building sits on 15+ acres w/well and compliant septic. Located near Cook, Lake Vermilion, golf course and Arrowhead Snowmobile Trail just down the road. **\$249,000 MLS#146580**

PRICE REDUCED Newer, high quality constructed home near Lake Vermilion and minutes from public accesses! All one floor living with open kitchen/dining/living room, attached heated, oversized garage. Private lot covered w/Norway pine trees and extensive landscaping. **\$599,000 MLS# 147045**

NEXT TIME COME HOME!

JANISCH REALTY

218-780-6644

OPINION

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

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial

Free market failure

Society fails to ask the right questions as data centers consume vast resources

Around the country, Americans can expect to start paying a lot more for electricity — and it won't be due to the transition to renewable forms of energy. The rise in the installation of enormous data centers, which are popping up like mushrooms after a rain, is fueling an astonishing growth in electricity demand that threatens to spike the cost of power as well as derail efforts to electrify our energy system to address climate change.

Data centers are essentially vast warehouses, filled floor to ceiling with computer servers that provide the computing power to facilitate artificial intelligence, store vast amounts of data that we all collectively accumulate “in the cloud,” or generate crypto-currencies, like Bitcoin.

These facilities operate more or less autonomously, producing few jobs, yet the amount of electricity they consume is staggering, often the equivalent of a medium-sized city. By 2030, these centers by themselves could be consuming close to 20 percent of all electricity produced in the country, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Utilities are already straining to meet the demand, and some are now maintaining or re-opening old coal-burning power plants that had been scheduled for shutdown just to feed the rising demand from data centers. Microsoft recently announced that it planned to acquire and restart the nuclear reactor at Three Mile Island that didn't melt down to feed its exploding power needs.

And it isn't just electricity that's being consumed. As an alternative to cooling fans, some of the newer centers are now using water as a coolant, but that can require millions of gallons of water every day, which can put incredible demand on municipal water systems or local aquifers. And the vast quantities of warm water generated by these facilities creates other challenges as well. State and federal regulators fear that the costs associated with upgrading power and water infrastructure is going to be felt by average consumers — and soon.

The explosion in the development of data centers and all of the costs that we will collectively pay is a classic example of a failure of the free market. While we all know that market incentives are remarkably effective at motivating many humans, the notion that “the market” is all-knowing and always leads to the best outcomes for society has been thoroughly discredited.

What's missing in the data center explosion is any public discussion of the costs and benefits to society. Let's think for a

moment about what it is that is being created through this vast appropriation of scarce resources for the construction of data centers. Much of the growth is now fueled by the rush to develop artificial intelligence, even as many of those involved in the rush secretly fear that AI ultimately has the potential to destroy human civilization or eliminate millions of jobs that Americans depend on. So, when do we as a society have the discussion about the merits of AI and the relative costs versus benefits? Market mechanisms focus on profit, while ignoring the far more fundamental questions of why, or who benefits and who is harmed?

While AI is potentially dangerous, most of the other digital flotsam stored in data centers consists of the roughly four trillion cat videos posted to social media, not to mention the hundreds or thousands of selfies that so many Americans retain on their phones, all of which ends up in “the cloud,” which is the plush-sounding euphemism for data centers.

Of course, not all of this “data” is merely inane. We've seen how social media is being increasingly used to undermine our democracy through the systematic posting of disinformation, much of it generated by foreign adversaries, which has become the political currency of much of the far-right in this country.

Perhaps the stupidest use of data centers is for the creation of crypto-currency like Bitcoin, a type of unregulated currency prone to fraud and used widely to facilitate criminal activity. Clearly, not much social benefit there, either.

The “market” says that building more and more data centers is a good thing, because certainly someone is making money from these facilities. Yet, it is easy to argue that society as a whole is a loser in this calculation. Those who live close to these centers suffer from the constant hum of cooling fans. Average citizens are almost certain to pay more for electricity and water in the future as utilities are forced to make expensive upgrades to facilitate the demand from data centers in their service territories. And from the 10,000-foot view, these centers and their incredible power demand is creating a significant roadblock in our fight against climate change. And it's all to facilitate dangerous new technologies, undermine our democracy, create social anxiety among our youth, and generate currency designed for criminals. We, as a society, are clearly failing to ask the right questions.

THANKSGIVING DEBATE



Thank you to the Ely voters for supporting education yet again

I am thrilled to share the wonderful news that our community has come together to support our students, educators, and school programs by passing the capital project levy authorization. This milestone reflects our community's unwavering commitment to ensuring our schools' continued growth, success, and sustainability.

On behalf of the Ely Public Schools, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who took the time to learn about this vital initiative, engaged in conversations, and ultimately cast their vote in favor of investing in our future. Your support means that we can continue to provide educational programs that will have a lasting impact on our students, staff, and families for years to come.

With the approval of the capital project levy, we will be able to:

- Continue to update our aging transportation fleet to keep our buses, vans and Suburbans up to date, dependable, and safe for our students who travel to and from school and extracurricular events.
- Replace our aging fleet throughout the 10-year levy on a 3-year replacement schedule.
- Continue to increase student access and creative practices to personalize learning, purchasing online curriculums, software, and subscriptions that help support student learning.
- Provide professional learning opportunities for staff and expand safety measures to protect our entire district from cyber-attacks.
- Support a sustainable replacement schedule for student and staff devices, textbooks, curriculum, materials, and learning equipment.
- Purchase current curriculum in subjects that have not been updated in 10-15 years.
- Replace and update furnishings and equipment for students to create flexible learning environ-

ments that accommodate students' learning styles and needs. This progress would not be possible without the collaborative effort of so many in our community who believe in the power of education to transform lives.

Thank you again for standing with our schools and supporting this vision for a more robust, brighter future for all. Together, we are building a legacy of excellence that will benefit future generations.

Anne M. Oelke
Superintendent of the Ely Public Schools

Sprint medic program is not the answer

Last week the *Timberjay* reported that the Tower City Council was “skeptical over cost of sprint medic pilot project”, particularly the \$200 charge to the area ambulance service each time a sprint medic responds to an incident. My concerns go beyond that: When the \$3 million in sprint medic seed money runs out, who is going to maintain and replace the sprint vehicle, keep it stocked, pay the paramedic wages, insurance and administrative costs for a service that covers 60 hours per week while leaving 108 hours uncovered? I wouldn't count on the Legislature.

That being said, I am not a fan of the sprint medic plan for a number of reasons, and I'm disappointed that it is the best that the Legislative EMS Task Force could come up with. I would much prefer that our area participates in the plan that the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital and its consultant SafeTech Solutions are working on. The hospital's plan provides 24-hour advanced life support ambulance coverage for Ely, Tower and Babbitt, along with a consolidated, professional administration, something that is critical for modern ambulance services. One of the big bonuses of grouping the three stations together under the ownership of the “critical care” Ely Hospital is that the Medicare payments for ambulance runs jumps from

about 40-percent of actual cost to 101-percent. That helps lead to sustainability!

Again, I'm disappointed in the Legislative Task Force — it's almost like they just threw some money against the wall. They certainly didn't fulfill the well documented recommendations laid out by the 2022 Office of the Legislative Auditor Report on the rural ambulance crisis.

I would recommend that at least for our area, the sprint program be put on hold, that our legislators read the 2022 OLA Report, and when the Legislature convenes in January, apply our share of the money to the very logical pilot plan that the Ely Hospital and Safe Tech is working on. It has a future.

Lee Peterson
Greenwood Twp.



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

Conservatives conquered new media in the election

For all the furor created when both the *Washington Post* and *Los Angeles Times* decided not to make endorsements in the presidential election this year, as *WaPo* owner Jeff Bezos suggested, it was likely much ado about nothing.

“Presidential endorsements do nothing to tip the scales of an election,”

Bezos wrote in an opinion piece justifying his decision. “No undecided voters in Pennsylvania are going to say, ‘I'm going with News-



DAVID COLBURN

paper A's endorsement.’ None. What presidential endorsements actually do is create a perception of bias.”

Bezos's title for the piece was a stinging one for members of the only profession

explicitly named in and protected by the U.S. Constitution, the press: “The hard truth — Americans don't trust the news media.”

To back up his claim, Bezos cited a Gallup poll showing that only 54 percent of Democrats, 27 percent of independents, and a woeful 12 percent of Republicans have a great deal or fair amount of trust in mass media. Indeed, with numbers like that, an endorsement from the *Washington Post* or any other major news outlet would have done little to nothing to persuade voters one way or another.

Meanwhile, an increasing number of people are getting their news through alternative channels — social media and podcasts. The two are differentiated because

social media provides all users with the opportunity to interact with a post, while podcasts provide little to no opportunity for listener interactions.

A Pew Research Center study released on Monday indicates that one-in-five Americans now regularly get their news on social media — X, Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, Truth Social, and others — and that number goes up the younger you go, with four in ten of those under 30 tapping social media for news.

And while debate rages with little research to back it up for now about social

media's ability to persuade undecided voters, there's near unanimous consensus about the medium's ability to motivate a candidate's base, and the clear winner in this regard was Donald Trump. News influencers, those content creators who give their own takes on “news,” are decidedly skewed toward conservatives. The largest, of course, is Elon Musk with over 200 million followers. Musk made over 3,000 posts to his account in October, and X's algorithms amplified his reach across the platform.

But if you pull Trump out of the mix, conservative-oriented influencers still

draw far more attention than liberal-leaning ones. Only one liberal influencer, Carlos Eduardo Espina, an immigrant rights activist, has over 10 million followers with 18 million. Meanwhile the top four conservative social media news influencers — Logan Paul, Jake Paul, Felix Lengyel, and Tucker Carlson — have a combined 69 million followers. Carlson reaches about five times more people through social media than he did on his FOX News talk show. And those numbers are only for their primary social

ELY

Ely City Council hashes out new cannabis ordinances

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- The city council here approved the first reading of two new ordinances governing cannabis and low-potency hemp-based THC products on Tuesday. Most of the details of the ordinances were hashed out during the council's Oct. 29 study session, which was covered in the Nov. 1 issue of the *Timberjay*.

The city will create two new ordinances, one governing operating and licensing for selling cannabis and low-potency edible products (ordinance 381), and one that addresses the zoning and land use restriction for those same businesses (ordinance 383).

Ordinance 383 uses the maximum buffer zones allowed by the new state law, by prohibiting any cannabis businesses within 1,000 feet of a school or 500 feet of a day care center, residential treatment facility, any other cannabis retail business, public park, playground, or athletic field used by minors. Both classes of retailer will be

permitted in zones C-1 and C-2. Other cannabis businesses like wholesalers, production facilities, and growers will be restricted to industrial zones.

The initial version of ordinance 383 also applied the buffer zone requirements to low-potency edible retailers. The council agreed to drop the buffer zone requirements because most of Ely's low-potency edible retailers who are already selling these products I;would likely have to cease doing so, at least in their current locations. The updated ordinance prepared for the second reading on Dec. 3 will reflect this change.

"The ordinance on selling edibles that the council passed last year will be rolled into ordinance 381," city attorney Kelly Klun told the council. Ordinance 381 as presented to the council limited the number of retail licenses for low-potency edibles to ten. It also limited the number of licenses for cannabis retailers to one. After some discussion, the council decided to raise the number of licenses to five. "With the buffer zones, I don't think we can fit five

retailers," commented city councilor Adam Bisbee, who came out in favor of letting the marketplace weed out uncompetitive cannabis retailers at both the study session and Tuesday's meeting.

The city council passed the first reading of both ordinances. Klun will incorporate the changes discussed during the meeting before the second reading and public hearing on the ordinances.

Public hearings scheduled

The city council scheduled a public hearing on the two cannabis-related ordinances for Tuesday, Dec. 3, at 4:30 p.m. The council scheduled a second public hearing for Tuesday, Dec. 3 at 5:15 p.m., for ordinance 378, which updates the city's shoreline stability regulations (city code §11.41). This section currently reads: "In the Shoreland Overlay District, surrounding Miner's Lake, the building permit shall contain a certification by the Applicant that the stability of the land has been investigated and that the land is safe to build on at the

75' (or greater) setback."

The revised ordinance reads: "In the Shoreland Overlay District, surrounding Miner's Lake, the property owner shall be responsible for ensuring the land is safe to build on at the 75-foot (or greater) setback. Furthermore, it shall be the responsibility of the property owner to consult with a geotechnical engineer if the property owner deems necessary. Properties known to or suspected of having inactive mine shafts shall contact the St. Louis County Mine Inspectors Office for further guidance and requirements."

Truth in taxation

The city council approved the city's 2025 proposed budget, with one amendment, and scheduled the Truth in Taxation hearing for the amended budget for Tuesday, Dec. 3, at 6 p.m.

The council also agreed to trim next year's levy increase to 7.25 percent, not the 7.4 percent originally anticipated. That reflects \$5,000 in budget cuts found within the fire department budget.

In other business, the city council:

► Heard the report of Police Chief Chad Houde that the police department will begin to issue citations in earnest for violations of the calendar parking rules "this week."

► Approved the hiring of the Duluth Archaeology Center to conduct a Phase I archaeological survey for the Hidden Valley Mountain Bike Trail extensions for a fee not to exceed \$8,129. The trail work and the archaeological survey are both funded through the Federal Recreational Trail Program which requires archaeological surveys of the projects it supports.

► Approved the second reading of ordinance 382, which will amend the opening time of "on-sale" alcohol retailers on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 8 a.m., to parallel the permitted opening time in state law.

► Approved contracting Premier Pyrotechnics to provide the 2025 Fourth of July fireworks show for \$20,000.

Letters from Readers

America's promise at risk of slipping away

Last week's editorial offered a very good history and analysis of how of the electoral college subverts democracy.

Another issue has been how the chosen electors never exercise their independent judgment in casting their actual votes. That theory wasn't too bad of an idea— they just didn't realize that the process of choosing electors would be subverted by electors who guarantee that they won't exercise their own judgment when it is needed. The es-

sential point, that every citizen's vote should actually count equally, would go a long way towards the essential promise of America.

A simpler choice for voters: Billionaires never — ever — look out for anyone who works for a living. The only time they're paying attention to us is when they're figuring out how to bamboozle us with a shell game of one sort or another. With all due respect - if you voted for Trump, you already knew him. Now you're going to find out what it means.

The Trump administration is about to declare a "national emergency" over immigration. They don't want us to remember — or

ever think — that our immigrant parents, grandparents, or great-grandparents were the people who made America so great. This non-existent "national emergency" is going to be the excuse for using our armed forces against our own citizens under the Insurrection Act.

As part of this scheme, they're already talking about courts-martial to go after the generals — even the retired ones — who had to contend with the impossible evacuation from Afghanistan.

People forget that Trump made the deal with the Pashtun Afghans that gave up the enormous and easily-defended Bagram Air Base ahead of time. The

evacuation had to be done from the smaller and hard-to-defend airport next to downtown Kabul. Biden was stuck with the disastrous terms of Trump's pre-existing deal. Trump is also talking about "review panels" for all the existing senior military leaders, threatening them with dismissal.

The people who came to America had their faults. Ethnic cleansing of our Native Americans and slavery were accepted until we couldn't stand it anymore. But we also need to remember the heroism of people who just couldn't stand being subservient to overly wealthy people who had

inherited their wealth and status. The American Experiment came out of that background.

Let's not go back to where we came from, eh?

**Dave Porter
Minneapolis**

Thanks to all who helped with the hurricane relief

We would like to thank the generosity of the Cook Thrift Store for donating four bags of blankets and winter clothing, as well as the Tower Food Shelf's donation of winter clothing, and all other individuals who donated to the North Carolina Appalachia Hurricane Helene

victims. We would also like to thank Carol Aho and staff at Homestead Mills for the storing, packaging and preparing all the donated items for shipping, and all those who donated toward the cost of the shipping. We appreciate everyone who assisted in getting the much-needed items to these victims. We also would like to give out a huge thanks to the North Carolina group for working with us to get the shipment out as fast as we could.

**Sophia Rock, Tower,
and Jeri Bonnette,
Alango**

MEDIA...Cont. from page 4

media feed — most use multiple platforms to get their messages out.


An Edison Research report shows how thoroughly Trump dominated the podcast universe in what many have called the first "podcast election." Foregoing traditions major media interviews, Trump trolled the podcast airwaves instead, making 20 appearances to Harris's eight. Trump had three hours on the Joe Rogan Experience, the largest podcast around with 14.5 million subscribers, and the post of the interview to his YouTube channel garnered over 43 million views. Harris punted on going on Rogan's show. In terms of weekly podcast reach, Trump reached 23.5 million

people per week through podcasters such as The Nerk Boys, Adin Ross, Theo Von, and Bussin' with the Boys, compared to Harris's paltry 6.4 million. As with social media, the podcasters with the largest audiences skew conservative, and a huge component of their audiences are young men. Listening to podcasts has become as much a part of the lives of 18-24-year-olds as watching television. Trump's campaign certainly believes podcasts were instrumental in his surprisingly good showing among younger voters, and many, many political pundits agree. Trump went where youth were listening, Harris didn't. Was it decisive? Hard to say, but AP exit polling showed that

while Trump got 41 percent of the vote of young men in 2016, he got 56 percent of that vote in 2024.

Overall, the electorate made a significant shift to the right this year compared to 2016, enough to put Trump over the top. Whatever the issues, messaging about those issues is important, and there's no way to deny that social media and podcasts were important contributors to a winning campaign strategy. They will likely become more significant in the future, although who can say how social media and podcasts will evolve — those spaces looked far different a decade ago than they do today. If X keeps losing money and followers the way it is right now, it

may go belly up before the next election. Newcomer Bluesky has rocketed to the top of the most downloaded free social media apps as disgruntled X users look for a less politicized alternative. Perhaps liberals will find charismatic podcasters to attract more of their base. What's quite clear is that campaigns that ignore the growing reach and influence of social media and podcasts do so at their peril. There's no reason to think that driving an Edsel campaign is going to propel one into the White House in the age of Tesla. When it comes to social media and podcasts, take heed of the feeds for your campaign to succeed.



**the
TIMBERJAY**

Copyright © 2024 by *The Timberjay*.
The *Timberjay* (PN 16025) is published weekly on Fridays, 51 weeks per year, by *The Timberjay Inc.*, PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Business/Editorial Office at 414 Main St., PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Call (218) 753-2950 to subscribe. E-mail address is editor@timberjay.com. Periodicals postage paid at Tower, Minnesota.

**POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
The Timberjay, PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790.**

This award-winning community newspaper published each week serves the communities of Tower/Soudan, Cook/Orr, and Ely.

Publisher	Marshall Helmberger
General Manager	Jodi Summit
Cook/Orr Editor	David Colburn
Ely Editor	Catie Clark
Office Manager	Michelle Toutloff
Graphics/Ad Sales	Scarlet Lynn Stone
Ad Sales/Sports	Jay Greeney

Official Newspaper:
Townships of Bearville, Eagles Nest, Embarrass, Kugler, Vermilion Lake, Field, Morcom, Leiding, Kabetogama, Crane Lake, Owens, Greenwood, ISD 707, city of Tower.

Member: Minnesota Newspaper Association, Lake Vermilion Resort Association, Lake Vermilion Area Chamber of Commerce, Ely Chamber of Commerce.

Subscriptions Available:
St. Louis County: \$48 year Elsewhere: \$62 year. We accept VISA/Mastercard/Discover/AmEx. NOTE: Changes of address must be sent or called in to the Tower office. Out-of-state delivery may take 2-3 weeks. For prompt out-of-state delivery try the First Class Subscription: \$119 year or \$12 per month.

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

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



dish
Authorized Retailer

DISH: YOUR HOME FOR FOOTBALL

NEVER WATCH ANOTHER COMMERCIAL DURING YOUR FAVORITE PRIMETIME SHOWS

- Add Highspeed Internet as low as \$49.99/month
- FREE DISH Voice Remote
- Streaming INCLUDED, Stream Live TV on up to 5 devices
- Free Next Day Professional Installation (where available)
- Enjoy thousand of shows and movies Included On-Demand
- Gain access to the NFL RedZone with the Multi-Sport Pack

CALL US NOW **1-855-562-4309**

\$300 GET UP TO \$300 OFF YOUR FIRST DISH TV ORDER

SAVE \$160

OMAHA STEAKS WINE
Powered by Laithwaites

12 HOLIDAY WINES

ONLY \$79.99 + BONUS GIFTS



Go to GetOSWine.com/MBAGJF48 or call **1.855.398.5770** and mention code **AGJF002**

Omaha Steaks Wine is operated independently from Omaha Steaks, LLC. Full terms and conditions online. Void where prohibited by law.

Subscribe Today • www.timberjay.com

Week of Nov. 25

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 Dec. 17.
Greenwood Fire Dept.- Training meetings on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

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

Vermilion Country School Board- Meetings posted online at vermilioncountry.org.



TSHS weekly winner
TOWER- The Week 10 winner of the Charlemagne's 52 Club \$100 cash prize is Kay Hanson of Tower.
History Tidbit: Several area mines changed hands and names over the years. The Mud Creek Mine was also the Consolidated Vermilion and Extension Mine later in its period of activity. The LaRue Mine was also known at the Armstrong Mine at another time in history. The Soudan Mine was called the Minnesota Mine for many years.

Little Church service and potluck on Sunday, Nov. 24
VERMILION LAKE
FWP- 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.
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 Lamppa Civic Center. Tables are available for \$25, paid in advance. The Tower-Soudan Civic Club will be selling coffee, treats, and lunch.
To reserve a table, contact Jodi at 218-753-2950 or mail your table fee to Friends of VCS, c/o Jodi Summit, PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790.

COMMUNITY GIVING

Operation Santa donations are needed soon

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). 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 to get your children on the list.

SHOP LOCAL

Small Business Saturday in Tower on Nov. 30

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Area Events Board has been busy preparing for the second annual Small Business Saturday on Nov. 30. Don't miss all the excitement, close to home, one day only. Local businesses are lining up to feature sales on products and services. Watch for details and participating businesses in the ad in next week's paper.

The board will also be raffling off over \$500 worth of gift cards. To enter the raffles, simply bring in a receipt from any of Tower's Main Street businesses dated Nov. 29 or 30, 2024.

Best of all, Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus plan to make a visit to Tower. They will be in the Pike River Products building from 12:30 - 3 p.m. to meet with kids to hear their Christmas requests with time for parents to take keepsake photos. Pike River Products will have hot holiday beverages and treats available. Please check Facebook for exact times of Santa's visit. And it's not a visit to Santa without a candy cane.

The overall goal of this event is to both bring the community together and focus on supporting our local businesses by buying here in your hometown. By shopping locally, you create jobs for your friends and neighbors, stimulate the local economy which can benefit local schools and charities, and is even beneficial for the environment by reducing carbon footprint. The Tower-Soudan Area Events Board hopes to see you on Nov. 30 on Main Street in Tower.



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.

Embarrass Fire Department seeking new volunteer members

EMBARRAS- The Embarrass Region Volunteer Fire Department is seeking new members. The department's roster is shrinking with the retirement of several longtime and experienced firefighters.

"We need you, yes you," said assistant fire chief Eric Garman. "A shortage of willing volunteers is leading ERVFD down the slippery slope of not having enough folks to support operations."

Without enough volunteers, ERVFD will be forced to cease oper-

ations. There are a few alternatives and we as a department will be looking into them.

This isn't just an Embarrass problem, said Garman. "It's nationwide. Volunteer Fire and EMS organizations across the country are suffering from lack of personnel. Of the more than one-million firefighters in the U.S., 65-percent of them are volunteers, according to data from the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC). Of the more than 29,000 fire departments across the country,

almost 19,000 of them are run completely by volunteers."

Garman said he does not wish to see what would happen if the department is forced to disband due to lack of members. "This would lead to longer response times, higher taxes to pay neighboring departments for coverage, and higher property insurance rates," said Garman.

Fire department members are paid mileage for any travel required to take the necessary training classes.

Gear is also provided. Fire department members also earn a pension through the state's public employees retirement association, with yearly credits based on participation at meetings, training and calls. "Sadly, we cannot afford to pay a wage of any kind but there are rewards that money cannot buy," said Garman. For more information, contact Eric Garman at 218-780-5355.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

during the pancake breakfasts in December. These donations support veterans in our area. Donations MUST be packed in white garbage bags. Donations will be taken at Timber Hall in Embarrass on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 8 a.m. - noon. The event is in conjunction with the monthly pancake breakfast.

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.

Bookmobile stops

REGIONAL- The Arrowhead Bookmobile will be in the Tower-Soudan area on Wednesdays: Dec. 4, 2024.

Stops include: Britt (Sand Lake Storage): 9 -

9:30 a.m.; Bois Forte (Boys & Girls Club): 11 - 11:30 a.m.; Greenwood (Town Hall): 12 - 1 p.m.; Soudan (Post Office area): 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.; Tower (Civic Center): 3:45 - 4:30 p.m.; and Embarrass (Hwy 135 & Hwy 21): 5 - 6 p.m.

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

Get Results!

Advertise in the Timberjay!

Northeast Range Fall Band Concert set for Nov. 26

BABBITT- The Northeast Range elementary and high school bands will hold their fall concert on Tuesday, Nov. 26 at 7 p.m. in the Northeast Range School Auditorium. Band director is Christine Mackai. Admission is free but donations are welcome.

Used clothing donations for DAV

EMBARRAS- The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) will once again be taking donations of gently used clothing and outerwear

Cook VFW POST 1757
(218)666-0500
Open Daily: Noon to Closing (Closed Tuesday)
HAPPY HOUR 3:30-6:30 PM
Pull Tabs (Lic #00390)
Thursday: BINGO
Food Served 4:30-5:30 PM
Games Start: 6:30 PM
Friday
BURGER NIGHT • 4:30-7
Burgers starting at \$7
Take-out available
206 1st St SW, Cook, MN

ELY FOLK SCHOOL

Thanksgiving dinner potluck at the Ely Folk School

ELY- No Thanksgiving plans or no one to spend the holiday with? Come have your Thanksgiving face-stuffing event at the Ely Folk School, 209 E. Sheridan St. The Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner is back by popular demand.

Because of the popularity of this event, the folk school will host two seatings this year, at 11 a.m., and 4 p.m., on Thursday, Nov. 28. Bring whatever you want to share though bringing a dish is not required to attend. No one will be turned away. The Ely Folk School will ensure there will be plenty of turkey. Please RSVP for this event. Sign up for the 11 a.m. or 4 p.m. seatings at elyfolkschool.org/classes.

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. 26: Closing out the 2024 Tuesday Group season and Boundary Waters Connect updates with Lacey Squier.

►After Nov. 26, Tuesday Group will be on winter holiday hiatus until January.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2024



the full moon fading added light to dark mornings

mid-November mood

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

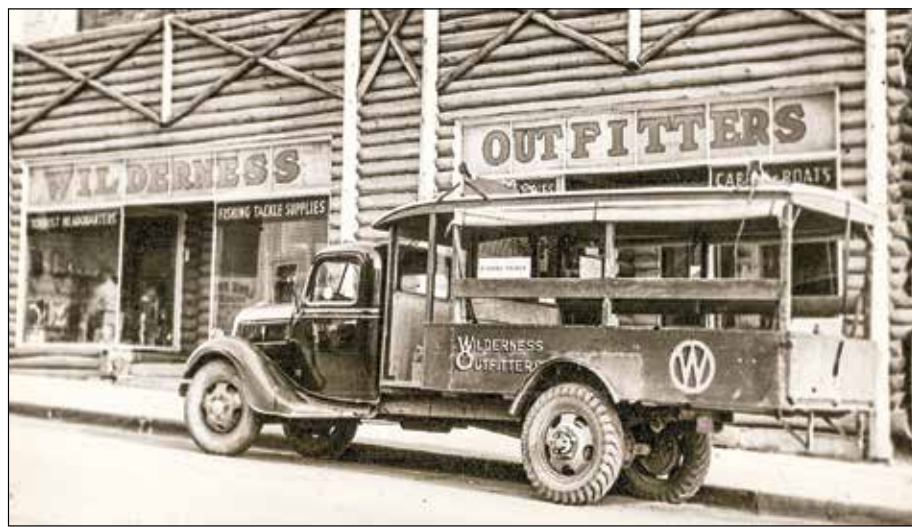
Month: 10-11:30 a.m. at

Ely-Bloomenson Hospital.

Conference Room B.

WINDOWS INTO YESTERDAY

What the Ely-Winton Historical Society can offer



A photo from the Ely-Winton Historical Society picture collection of an Ely outfitting business. submitted photo

by DAVID KESS & KELSEY COOKE
Ely-Winton Historical Society

Our new Executive Director at the Ely-Winton Historical Society, Kelsey Cooke, joins us from West Virginia. She spent last summer as a tour guide at the Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park broadening her knowledge of the area. Cooke's responsibilities for the historical society include managing the accession of museum artifacts and research materials, fulfilling research requests for visitors, leading fundraising efforts, and maintaining and strengthening relationships with residents and visitors alike. She aims to create and expand research opportunities that not only celebrate our history but also invite community participation. The historical society invites everyone to engage with the society's mission, helping to enrich our collective narrative.

role because of the opportunities to engage with the community and to grow my skills as a historian. I'm excited about expanding the scope of the museum's operation.

Volunteering at the historical society offers a unique

opportunity to connect with local history and contribute to meaningful projects. Whether you're passionate about research, education, or preservation, we have a place for you in expanding our program.

We have new opportunities at the historical society. We are looking for volunteers to help us uncover and document local history, docents to guide visitors through the exhibits and share knowledge about the area, and outreach volunteers to assist in building relationships with local schools and organizations.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please reach out to Kelsey Cooke at 218-365-3226, or ewhsmuseum@gmail.com. Join us in preserving our local heritage and making a lasting impact on this community.

Come and explore our museum, our extensive digital picture collection., our

many historical files, and our books. The historical society is located at the Minnesota North College Vermilion campus, 1900 E. Camp St. Ely. Use the middle door marked with "museum" and follow the signs.

The museum has permanent displays such as indigenous peoples, the voyageur era, mining, logging, a Finnish sauna, a mining location kitchen, boarding house bedroom, and an exhibit of health care in Ely. Other displays get regularly changed. A self-guiding handout is available at the door. Ours is a small museum compared to many others, but the limited display space encourages us to change exhibits regularly, giving visitors a reason to keep coming back.



David Kess

We also have CDs and DVDs available for viewing and many books for purchase. Most of these are by local authors. In the historical society office, we have extensive picture files, information files, and a digital file of 23,000 pictures. We often help families with genealog-

ical research and locating obituaries. We have many old telephone books, high school yearbooks, and junior college yearbooks.



Kelsey Cooke

In the lobby outside the office is a display case featuring pictures, artifacts, and a copy of a recent Windows into Yesterday article. This display changes every two months. Another display case contains the many books we sell. Murals further down the hall depict local historical scenes, sauna, and health care in Ely over the years. The other displays change from time to time, such as "Footprints Across the Wilderness." A self-guided handout is available.

During the summer, the historical society sponsors five programs that are free and open to the public.

New hours are being negotiated with the hiring of the new executive director. Hours for the museum and office have recently been Tuesday through Friday, noon until 4 p.m., with longer hours in the summer.

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

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.

Turkey Bingo, Nov. 24

ELY- The Knights of Columbus will hold turkey bingo on Sunday, Nov. 24, at 6 p.m. at St. Anthony's, 231 E. Camp St. in the parish hall (entrance on Third avenue, downhill from Camp St.). Two boards for \$0.25. Every third game will be for a turkey.

Ely Pianist on Nov. 26

ELY- Ely's own rising musical star Brooke Pasmick 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.

Youth Boutique and Raffle on Nov. 30

ELY- St. Anthony's Catholic Church, 231 E. Camp St., will hold a youth

fall boutique sale and raffle on Saturday, Nov. 30, from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

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.

Braver Angels Social

ELY- The Ely Chapter of the Braver Angels Alliance will hold a lighthearted social event open to the public featuring complimentary snacks, beverages, and entertainment by Steve Solkela on Wednesday, Dec. 11, from 5-7 p.m. at the Boat-house, 47 E. Sheridan St.

Santa Hayride and Bazaar, Dec. 14

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.

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

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 an 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 participants through a 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 Thursday and Friday, Nov. 28-29, for the Thanksgiving holiday.

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: Blow-down 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 Wiggins at 218- 821-2341.

PUBLIC WORKS

Road construction season comes to successful end

City of Cook and surrounding area reap benefits from projects big and small

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- There's little more true in Minnesota than the summer months here being referred to as road construction season, and that was certainly the case in Cook and the surrounding area as drivers may have encountered up to eight St. Louis County Public Works projects, large and small, that were completed this year.

"That's kind of how we like to do things here at the county," said engineer Eric Fallstrom. "Over the last eight to ten years, we've shifted to where we like to cluster our projects in areas. We see some economy to scale with how we cluster things, so we just had a ton of work in the area. But I think while there's inconvenience as these things are happening and it can get frustrating for folks, at the end of the day I think we've got some pretty good projects that came out of it."

The largest project in terms of mileage was the re-

surfacing of CSAH (County State Aid Highway) 115 from Hwy. 53 north of Cook all the way over to CSAH 77, more than 20 miles of road-work.

"That was huge, and a good portion of that was federally funded, so that was a really significant reclaim and overlay project," Fallstrom said.

Vermilion Dr.

A project that mixed utility with beautification was the Vermilion Dr. project in Cook. Fallstrom pointed out that it was as much an excavation project as it was laying down new asphalt, curb and guttering.

"The most significant part of the Vermilion Dr. project was really trying to remove some of the more questionable soils that were below, as far as some peat and organics, to just get some good clean sand and gravel material below that roadway," Fallstrom said. "Over the last 15 to 20 years there had been a lot of settlement and frost heaving action. So, we spent quite a bit of mon-

ey and time to get some sub-grade material in there. We dug down about anywhere from four to six feet in depth to get rid of that material."

And in doing all that digging, workers discovered something they hadn't counted on finding – a 500-gallon fuel oil tank near the Cook Building Center.

"We had to kind of pause the project a little bit to deal with that," Fallstrom said. "We had to make sure we were properly remediating that and disposing of the material."

Fallstrom said the Vermilion Dr. project was the only one in the area somewhat affected by the June 18 thunderstorm and subsequent flood.

"Vermilion Dr. hadn't even really been torn into or opened up yet at that point, because the contractor was working on the River St. extension for the city of Cook," Fallstrom said.

The Vermilion Dr. project involved more than just improving the road surface, too, including some

storm sewer improvements, new curb and gutters, an ADA-compliant sidewalk, new lighting, and a redesigned intersection with River St. that's been changed to a four-way stop.

Fallstrom had high praise for the city of Cook, residents and businesses for their cooperation during the project.

"It was one of the easiest projects from a standpoint of fielding calls and complaints," Fallstrom said. "People were super thankful and patient through the project. It's nice when we can work together with the residents and business owners and hopefully everybody will be happy with the outcome here."

Olson Rd.

Daredevil drivers are likely the only ones disappointed by the resurfacing of Olson Rd. from Hwy. 53 at North Woods School to CSAH 24. Double-chip sealed years ago, the pavement had deteriorated to the point that many sections had been managed back to

packed gravel and drivers were constantly on the lookout for the newest potholes.

"There's a use for those double chip-seals in certain applications, but at some point they get to the point where it's just tough for our maintenance forces to continue – do you patch it? Do you reclaim it back to gravel?"

The repaved road is safer for all traffic now, but particularly so for the buses transporting students to the school, Fallstrom said.

Other notable projects completed in the area include:

►Beatty Rd. east of CSAH 24 north of Cook, then continuing south on Vermilion Lake Rd. to the intersection with CSAH 115. The entire four miles was paved, and the work included culvert replacements and grading.

►CSAH 22, four miles west from the intersection of Hwy. 1 and Hwy. 53 to the intersection with Samuelson Rd.

►A culvert replacement

project for 11 culverts from the intersection of E Lind Rd. and Samuelson Rd., proceeding north on Samuelson Rd. and winding its way to the intersection with Hwy. 53.

►A bridge on Samuelson Rd. (CSAH 25) over the Rice River, three miles southwest of Cook, was completely replaced.

►A bridge on Three Rivers Rd. (CR 958) that spans the Rice River, approximately 3.8 miles southwest of Cook, was also completely replaced.

Fallstrom noted that the extent of the work was made possible through the foresight of county commissioners and Public Works Director Jim Foldesi who advocated for the half-percent transportation sales tax that collects \$13-15 million annually for road and bridge projects.

"That's what helped move these projects along," Fallstrom said. "People want to see results with their tax money, so it's good these projects are happening."

FLOOD DONATIONS GIVEN OUT



Cook Lions Club members Nicole Hed and Steve Kajala began distributing flood recovery checks on Tuesday, including this one to John Simonson. photo by D. Colburn

HANSEL AND GRETEL AT NORTH WOODS SCHOOL



The North Woods School production of *Hansel and Gretel* on Friday had plenty of roles for fanciful creatures.

LEFT: Hungry birds Jasper Iverson and Christopher Koch prepare to gobble up bread crumbs left by Gretel.

RIGHT: Forest flowers Charlie Holter, Josey Pascuzzi, Vera Bryson, Chloe Ditter, and Clementine O'Brien sing about their plight. photos by D. Colburn



Calendar

Dollar sale is Saturday at Lions flood center

COOK- Bucks will be flying on Saturday, Nov. 23 at the Cook Lions Club flood recovery center as the club tries to liquidate its stock of donated items in a "One Buck Sale" from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the former Franks Pharmacy building at 1 Vermilion Dr.

Most items will be sold for \$1, with appliances and furniture priced as marked. The sale is cash and carry only, and all items must be picked up before 2 p.m. Everything must go, so head on down with your bucks in hand for some great deals.

Public event will focus on post-flood resources

COOK- People interested in learning more about resources that are available to

those impacted by the June flood are encouraged to attend "Rebuild and Recover," a post-flood resource event at the Cook Community Center on Tuesday, Nov. 26 from 4-6 p.m.

Information from local service providers about next steps will be available, including support and other resource information.

Attendees will receive no-cost swag bags and snacks from Rose Cottage Bakery will be served.

Bear River Christmas Bazaar coming up on Nov. 29-30

BEAR RIVER- The Bear River Christmas Bazaar on Friday, Nov. 29 and Saturday, Nov. 30 is a great opportunity to work off all those added calories from Thanksgiving dinner by shopping for unique Christmas treasures.

Held at the Old Bear

River School/Community Center, the doors will be open on Friday from 4-8 p.m., and on Saturday from from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

The Bazaar is where you will be able to begin your Christmas shopping in earnest. It's a place where you will find all sorts of local, hand-made decorations and gift items. In addition, there will be a delicious homemade chili meal available to eat-in or take -out.

If you have a crafty niche and would like your goods displayed for sale, please call or text Janelle Driscoll at 307-996-6541 no later than Nov. 27 to get on the vendor list.

The school is located at 12512 Hwy 22, at the intersection of Hwy 22 and Hwy 5. The school is handicap accessible. For more information, contact Gloria at 218-966-2817 or Janelle at 307-996-6541.

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.

Thanksgiving dinner in Cook on 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 So-

cial 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 merchants, 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.

Church to stage dinner theatre

COOK-On Friday, Dec. 6, take in the fifth annual dinner theatre "A Castaway Island Christmas" at 6 p.m. at the Evangelical Covenant Church. Great food and fun, with the price per seat a generous freewill donation with all proceeds going to the Cook Area Food Shelf. Call 218-666-5892 for reservations.

NORTH WOODS SCHOOL HONOR ROLL FIRST QUARTER 2024-25

A Honor Roll

- Seniors**
Trajen Barto
Rory Bundy
Addison Burckhardt
John Carlson
Ryder Gibson
Aidan Hartway
Talen Jarshaw
Cody Kirkman
Sheyenne Schuster
Amber Sopoci
Richard Swinson
Lydia Trip
Ronald White

Juniors

- Lincoln Antikainen
Lauren Burnett
Josephine Carlson
Brynn Chosa
Marriah Glowaski-Kingbird
Isabelle Koch
Brittin Lappi
Victoria Mathys
Rogelio Noyes
Isabel Pascuzzi

Sadie Spears

Sophomores

- Alethea Bangs
Corralyn Brodeen
Kaelyn Ehrbright
Emarie Gibson
Andrew Hartway
Carson Johnson
Ella Kruse
Sophia Mathys
Aiyeshia Mohamed
Hunter Schwarzenberger
Donald Villebrun
Kaycee Zupancich

Freshman

- Gage Aune
Sophia Bangs
Zoey Burckhardt
Carsyn Burnett
Sawyer Glass
Cyrus Johnson
Rebecca Koch
Aubrey Olson-Stoltenberg
Vincent Pascuzzi
Alice Sopoci

8th Grade

- Savannah Abts
Olivia Baumgartner
Anelise Brodeen
Michaela Brunner
Tessa Burnett
River Deatherage
William Flores-Leander
Josie Gibson
Laurin Glass
Lila Kajala
Buckley LeForte
Cooper Long
Lucas Robinson

7th Grade

- Brayden Amundson
Katherine Hanson
Jordan Herdman
Jackson Long
Aaron Mathys
Sydney Olson-Stoltenberg
Kaidence Scofield
Reece Whitney
Daniel Zupancich

B Honor Roll

- Seniors**
Nicholas Abramson
Susan Aderman
Chloe Anderson
Kalvyn Benner
Kathleen Doten
Nia Gaskell
Nevada Gauthier
Kaden Gornick
Mya Kinsey
Jaida Lambert
Jay Mattson
Louie Panichi
Selena Ramos
Lakota Villebrun

Juniors

- Levi Chaulklin
Rowan Christian
John Danielson
Scott Morrison
Anna Nelson
Celine Reis Cajé
Alexander Schelde
Payton Scofield
John Warren

Charles Wipf

Sophomores

- Jack Anderson
Kessa Arms
Grace Bundy
Presley Chiabotti
Abigail Dargontina
Jackson Hendricks
Khloe Holland
Jett Lambert
Victoria Phillips
Nathan Ploof
Caleb Rutchasky
Cash Rutchasky
Latise Strong
Aiden Woitel
James Yernatch

Freshman

- Colt Chosa
Jonathon Hampson
Sophia Hoffman
Cedar Holman
Brittan Koskela
Tysen Lenzen
Joshua Long

- Evangelina Mathys
Kalle Nelson
Cassidy Pinski
Peyton Swanson
Evalyn Thiel
Donelle Villebrun

8th Grade

- Kayla Dougherty
Beau Fabish
Kaleb Gornick
Elias Sheffer
Brady Swanson
Ashlyn Woitel

7th Grade

- Clark Danielson
Rylie Gibson
Lanara Guenther
Lauren Hampson
Brock Long
Jackson Pliml
Weston Quam
Savannah Villebrun

ATHLETICS...Continued from page 1

aration between the football stands and the vehicle storage facility underneath, the repair of the football field lighting towers, and the lighting in the high school gym.

Ice arena

The engineers rated the 52-year-old building as in "fair to poor condition" overall, but cited the three structural columns on the building's west side, which are either severed or compromised, as the highest priority for repair. The columns are currently undergoing a temporary fix to stabilize the structure in case of an extreme snow event, to prevent the column from failing until a permanent repair can be put into place. The temporary repair should be completed before the end of November. The firm also recommended the retrofit of the foundation along the entire west side of the building.

Some of the ice arena floor has also settled and engineers are recommending the replacement of the settled floor slabs. SEH is also suggesting replacement of the press box, which was added

to the ice arena after it was built. They said an engineered press box constructed to meet current structural code standards would be an option.

The firm also encouraged the replacement of the HVAC systems, a new roof, new siding, new dasher boards and netting, new accessible bleachers, ADA-compliant restrooms, and a new parking lot. SEH put the total price tag for the work at between \$5.52 and \$5.97 million.

Football field

The stands for the football field were built in 1939 and several portions of the structure need repair, including the stair on the west end and the press box. The foundation and floor are damaged in places, while the bathrooms have exceeded their useful life and are not ADA-compliant. The stand railings do not meet code and the field itself "exhibits slope inconsistencies and the perimeter fence needs replacement or repair. Other than the listed repairs, engineers at the board meeting stated that "the building where people sit is in good condition."

SEH outlined both renovation and replacement options for the football field with estimated costs between \$5.13 and \$5.66 million for renovation and repair, an additional \$1.26 million for installing a synthetic turf field, and \$825,000 to replace the grandstand with modern bleachers.

Some of the options for repairing or replacing the grandstand would affect the pickleball courts. SEH suggested moving the pickleball courts to a new location by the softball field, which might not be doable without the city of Ely's agreement since the available location is city property. The Little League field and the infield of the softball field are currently on city property.

Ball fields

SEH recommended regrading and new irrigation and drainage systems for both the softball and baseball fields, or the installation of synthetic turf. The firm also recommended new ADA-compliant restrooms and other accessibility improvements, a

new batting cage, new utility lines, structure upgrades, and other improvements.

Costs for the baseball field were estimated between \$3.52 and \$4.19 million with an additional alternative cost of \$1.04 million for synthetic turf. Costs for the softball field were estimated between \$533,800 and \$586,600 with an additional alternative cost of \$640,800 for synthetic turf.

Other work

SEH recommended replacing the lighting in the high school gym, a new electrical control panel, new balcony railings, and a light-weight acoustical finish to the ceiling. The firm estimated the costs for that work at between \$314,750 and \$364,500.

The engineers also recommended a complete renovation of the old girls locker room, with new plumbing, lighting, acoustic ceiling, lockers, and accessible bathroom, shower, and changing stalls. Cost estimates were between \$347,900 and \$402,500.

SEH also recommended upgrading the lights and acoustic ceiling in the weight

room, with estimated costs between \$33,600 and \$41,300.

Other action

In other business, the school board:

► Approved the request of high school math teacher Tim Omerza for a medical leave of absence from Sept. 30 through March 21, 2025.

► Accepted the resignation of Tim Omerza as Assistant Boys Basketball Coach for the 2024-25 season effective immediately.

► Approved the extracurricular assignment of Emmett Penke to the Gamers Guild, as recommended by Principal Anne Oelke.

► Heard the report from Facilities Director Tim Leeson that the Phase II Completion Project construction was nearing its end. Leeson cataloged the work left to do as "four windows, a dozen blinds, reglazing, painting, and some plaster."

Leeson also reported that the district's new school bus was scheduled for delivery on Wednesday, Nov. 13. School board member Tony Colarich inquired about the trade-in

value for the old school bus. Leeson said it was \$1,500.

► Approved moving the study session on Nov. 25 from 6 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

► Approved moving the Dec. 23 study session to Dec. 16 at 6 p.m.

► Approved the agreement between ISD 696 and the city of Babbitt for the use of the city's ice arena from Oct. 21 until Nov. 30. The school district will pay \$80/hour to use the arena. The Ely Ice Arena is currently unavailable for hockey practice through the end of November because it is undergoing structural repairs.

► Approved donations from the Ely Educational Foundation for \$30,650, for the following items: door signs, more seating booths for the commons area mezzanine, the robotics program, teaching smart boards, two hoops for the playground, an exercise bike, and the eighth-grade field trip.

CDBG...Continued from page 1

surveys.

But the most recent survey, conducted this fall, showed just 42-percent of households met the low-to-moderate income threshold, which is calculated on a sliding scale based on household size, with the moderate-income cap starting at \$53,350 and moving upwards to \$100,000.

"It is very unfortunate to lose funding we already had in place," said chairman Tim Tomsich. "So, we won't be advancing the Center St. project for next year."

Clerk Amber Zak said reluctance from some residents to disclose their household income was a problem.

"It was hard to get the surveys back," she told the board. "Quite a few people

didn't want to tell their income."

Zak noted that the survey information is not attached to a household name or address.

"Not enough people understood," she said. "We need to think of a better way to do it. People didn't think it was any of our business."

Supervisor Erin Peitso said she received calls from residents with questions on the survey, and that once she explained it, they were willing to fill it out.

"We are not being nosy," she said.

A change in demographics in Soudan may also be changing household income levels.

"Ten years ago, our population was more elderly," said

Zak. "Now a lot of homes are being purchased by people who vacation here."

"This is another difficult hurdle to overcome to continue to maintain our infrastructure," said Tomsich. "In order to apply for 2026 funding, we will need to do the survey again next fall."

The loss of CDBG funding means that the current plans for 2025 projects will need to be changed. The continued need for improvements on Center St., to address water drainage and flooding, will be put on hold, Tomsich said. Work done in the area this summer uncovered larger problems that still need to be addressed.

The board did not address how they will fund the \$75,000

shortfall in this summer's projects. The township did raise its 2025 levy to dedicate \$40,000 more for funding road projects.

The plans to upgrade and pave Echo Point Rd. will also need to be adjusted. The township had asked IRRR for \$750,000 for this project, but this project was not approved for funding at this month's IRRR meeting. "They asked us if we could split the project into two phases," said Tomsich. The fact the township will not be getting CDBG money for the Center St. project also impacts that funding, because the IRRR was using that funding as part of the township's matching funds.

"We will need to send the

IRRR updated figures," said Tomsich, "and see what other funding we can leverage for the Echo Point Rd. project."

Loop trail

The township did receive some good news on the joint application with the city of Tower to complete the paved loop trail between Tower, Soudan, and the two public campgrounds. The pre-application to the MnDOT program that would fund 100-percent of construction costs was accepted, with the full grant application due in early January. Engineer John Jamnick said the engineering details needed for the full application are almost complete, with a total cost of \$853,000. That would leave a shortfall of about \$60,000

for engineering costs. The project has received \$40,000 in grants already for some of the engineering work on the project.

The city and township will apply to the IRRR for a grant to cover half of the \$60,000 needed to complete the project, and then split the costs of the remaining \$30,000.

Jamnick said he feels the cost estimates for the project are accurate, since they have done similar trail projects this past year, including the paved trail improvements by McKinley Park.

TEACHING...Continued from page 1

a school-issued laptop, watch the video, then have the opportunity to ask questions and get help, if needed, to understand the core concepts being taught. It also frees up classroom time for hands-on learning, projects, and experiments.

At the end of each class, students take a quick mastery check, and if needed, will be prompted to review the lesson again, either independently or with help from a teacher or support staff, and then retest to get credit for that lesson.

On Monday, Kendal Giacomini, from the MCP, was working in-person with the teaching staff, observing teachers, reviewing teaching plans, and helping teachers access support from others in the MCP program. An experienced math teacher, she used MCP in her own classrooms, and now works full-time as a mentor for teachers around the country who are using the method in their classroom.

"This is a very different school environment," Giacomini said, noting that the mission of VCS aligns very well with the goals of Modern Classrooms.

"This is a new model of teaching and a new model of learning," she said. "It does take time to implement."

The Modern Classrooms Project is a teacher-built, research-backed model that responds to every student's need. Teachers and support staff at VCS completed online training in the method over the summer, and they have now implemented it in their classrooms.

Math teacher Amy Hendrickson, who has 30-years of experience in the classroom, said she likes learning new things, but more importantly, her students like it. The method allows her to spend more time helping students. The school's schedule was organized to make sure the teachers have adequate prep time to prepare their video

lessons each week.

Giacomini, who observed Hendrickson's classroom, said she had good base implementation of the program, and now was working on building on that base. One of Giacomini's goals with the site visit was to connect teachers to mentors teaching similar classes.

"The goal is to connect teachers with resources and mentors, so they don't need to build every lesson from scratch," Giacomini said.

School director Sam O'Brien said students might not know their teachers are using the Modern Classroom method, but they are finding it easier to complete their lessons at their own pace, and get help as needed.

"Students have told me it is very helpful to be able to go back and watch a lesson again," O'Brien said. "And we have support staff in place to help a student, to watch the lesson with them, and review the material with them."

O'Brien said at first some teachers were a little apprehensive about recording their lessons, but soon they saw how useful it was.

"It is more work up front," O'Brien said, "but then it has gotten easier as they go on and get more experienced."

Science teacher Sam Magnuson said the videos are a small, but important, part of his teaching, since they free up time for hands-on activities and other work in the classroom.

The bonus is that the lessons recorded this year can be used again the next year when the same class is taught, with the option to add more details and information to that class's curriculum. And once this framework is in place, students would also have the ability to work ahead, completing classwork and freeing up time for individual projects and more advanced learning.

O'Brien said it can seem

isolating for a teacher to be doing something so different, but teachers will be networking with other MCP teachers around the country, through online forums.

"It's a sustained movement," he said. "There is a lot of research on this method."

The Modern Classroom Project receives funding from the Bush Foundation to help train teachers in the method. Teachers also have the option of becoming a certified MCP teacher, which will give them the opportunity to mentor other teachers in the techniques.

O'Brien said he sees students gaining confidence in their learning. It also helps, he said, that this method is now being used in all their academic classes.

"Students still like to know what is expected every day," O'Brien said. "Students are getting more confidence, and they are learning how to meet their goals."

The mastery tests let teachers know where each student is at and gives them a chance to set up small group settings to review concepts if needed, and then gives them the opportunity to retest to show they have mastered that day's concept.

The daily mastery checks also give them the practice needed to succeed on end of term testing.

Ninth-grader Remy McDonough said he likes being able to go back and rewatch a lesson video and take more notes. He also said it leaves more time for hands-on learning than last year. Remy is taking Geometry and Trigonometry this year, and said he has more one-on-one time with his teacher, and there are other support staff available to help with his questions.

The video lessons are also a great tool for students who have missed some days of school, since they can access the exact same lessons they

would have gotten if they were in the building, and frees up time for the teacher who doesn't need to reteach the lesson.

Blended learning

The method is also a crucial piece of the school's new blended learning program. Students in this program work independently at home, and meet in-person with a teacher, either at the school or in a

public place nearby their home, each week. The blended learning program, aimed at older high school students, allows students to hold part-time jobs, or do part-time PSEO along with their high school classes.

"Students are accessing the same lessons as in-school students each week," said O'Brien. "When they meet in person with their teacher, the time is more efficient." The

teacher reviews the mastery checks in person and sees what material the student did not understand, and then is ready to review those lessons if needed.

Blended learning students also participate in school field trips, along with special activities planned just for blended learners each week.

**Gather
and
Give Thanks**

**Join us for the 38th Annual
Community
Thanksgiving Dinner**

Thursday, November 28
St. Mary's Catholic Church
Social Hall in Cook

**Serving
Noon to 2 PM**

CITY OF ELY

Errant fuel delivery provides warning to homeowners

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY— Residents here heard a cautionary tale at last week's city council meeting, care of Ely Fire Chief David Marshall, who reported that a Chapman St. residence had 150 gallons of fuel oil mistakenly pumped into its basement.

Homeowner James Wicklund had replaced his old fuel oil furnace with a propane unit but had not yet removed the fill pipe from the side of his house. His fuel oil tank had been removed so the delivered fuel oil ended up on the floor of his basement.

According to the Ely Police Department report on the incident, Wicklund was out and returned home before 1 p.m. to find a delivery notice from Edwards Oil and Propane stating they had delivered 150 gallons of fuel oil to his home. The notice included a bill for the fuel and a note stating: "Please check fill pipe and vent pipe connections in basement. They seem to be loose and could cause a leak if not tightened."

Wicklund reported that most of the fuel had gone down the floor drain but that the house smelled of fuel oil and possessions in the basement were coated with the heavy fuel.

Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski said after the meeting that residents who have converted to propane or heat pumps should be

sure to remove their old fuel oil fill pipes or fill them with spray foam to prevent this sort of mishap from happening. "A locking file pipe cap won't stop a fuel oil delivery person from using a pipe wrench to pop the lock," Langowski said.

In other business, the council:

► Heard the report from Ely Police Chief Chad Houde that calendar parking was now in effect and advised that residents warn any visitors to park on the correct side of the road when coming to Ely. Calendar parking rules are simple: park on the odd-numbered sides of city streets on odd-numbered days and on even-numbered sides on even-numbered days.

► Heard the report from the Ely Board of Adjustment that it had approved a conditional use permit to Tanner Spicer, representing Voyageur North Outfitting and T-N-S Adventure Properties LLC, for the property at 115 N. 21st Ave. E., to develop it as a resort with four 499-square-foot log cabins, up to three RV sites, green space, and other amenities. The property is zoned as "Residential Transition" which allows resorts with "Conditional Use Permits only."

► Approved a change to the right-of-way vacation language in city ordinances and the relocation of the related fee to the consolidated fee schedule, directing the city attor-

ney to update the city's ordinances accordingly. The proposed vacation fee increase from the Oct. 29 city council study session was from \$170 established in 2004 to \$300.

► Approved a recommendation from the planning and zoning commission for the city council to explore ways to fund a "de-pave initiative" to encourage private landowners to remove pavement and replace it with native flora or permeable pavers.

The motion passed with a 6-1 vote, with city council member Al Forsman opposed.

► Approved a development agreement to renovate the old railroad depot property, formerly used by an outfitter. The agreement sets time limits for the developers to finish work on the property and establishes the city as the fiscal agent for any redevelopment and environmental cleanup grants the project receives.

► Approved a change to the language in city ordinances on secondhand goods to remove mentions of wrecked or dismantled motor vehicles and junk or salvage yards, directing the city attorney to update the city's ordinances accordingly.

► Approved a change to City Code §11.41 (land stability) to read: "In the Shoreland Overlay District, surrounding Miner's Lake the property owner shall be responsible for ensuring the land is safe to build on at the 75-foot or greater setback. It shall

be the responsibility of the property owner to consult with a geotechnical engineer if the property owner deems necessary. Properties known to or suspected of having inactive mine shafts, shall contact the St. Louis County Mine Inspectors Office for further guidance and requirements."

The change was recommended by the planning and zoning commission after the city consulted with the DNR over jurisdiction over the city's shoreline ordinances. The city council directed the city attorney to update the ordinance language.

► Rejected a motion to include a new dumpster enclosure ordinance in the city code. "There is no reason for this, said Forsman during discussion on the change. "None of the businesses in town would be able to comply with this."

The failed motion was followed by a successful one to send the proposed ordinance language back to the planning and zoning commission.

► Approved the use of Whiteside Park by the Tour of Minnesota on June 16-June 18, 2025. The tour participants will use facilities at the Ely Public Schools for showers.

► Nominated city council member Angela Campbell to the board of directors of the Range Association of Municipalities and Schools.

► Approved the creation of an "Ely Green Team" subcommittee to

the Ely Parks and Recreation Board. The new subcommittee would work specifically on advancing Ely's placement in Minnesota's Green Steps program. The city is already a Green Steps city and has taken several of the measures to advance in the program but has no current mechanism to file the paperwork to receive recognition for work already done. The new subcommittee would take on that roll as well make recommendations for how the city can make further advancements in the Green Steps program.

The subcommittee will have eight members, seven who would vote and the Ely Planning and the Zoning Administrator, who would have no voting privileges.

► Approved the following claims for payment: \$745,053 for the city and Ely Utilities Commission through Nov. 12, and \$362,192 for pay estimate No. 5 from Max Gray Construction for the Ely regional trailhead building. The council also tabled a \$1,760 invoice from SEH for work on the Prospector ATV trails until the city receives the matching funds for the work.

► Approved the first amendment for the additional architectural and engineering services proposal for the Ely Area Ambulance service garage. The proposed amendment must also

See...COUNCIL pg 11

ST. LOUIS COUNTY

Geothermal field approved for use at regional landfill

VIRGINIA- The St. Louis County Regional Landfill in Virginia will soon be using the trash disposed there on a daily basis as a source of energy. County leaders, last week, held a ribbon cutting at the landfill's new geothermal field, the first of its kind in the state.

"The concept is simple," said Dave Fink, St. Louis County Environmental Services Director. "As garbage decomposes, it naturally produces heat. We are now able to capture that energy and will use it to heat our leachate treatment plant, which is the next phase of this project."

The newest cell at the St. Louis County Landfill spans 10 acres and has a specialized liner with coils at its base. The



Left: St. Louis County Commissioners take part in a ribbon cutting for the new geothermal field at the regional landfill in Virginia.

submitted photo

geothermal liner added only \$33,000 to the cost and is expected to pay for itself within the first year of operation.

More significantly, the project is seen as a blueprint for future waste management facilities, including the county's new campus being planned for construction in Canyon.

geothermal liner will collect the heat produced by the decomposing waste above it, which is expected to reach 120 degrees. That energy will then be transferred to the leachate treatment plant that will be constructed approximately a quarter of a mile away. Construction of the leachate treatment plant is currently out

for bids and is expected to be operational in 2026.

The total cost to construct the new cell is \$3 million. The

"In this area, where we have the cleanest water in the state, we want to make sure we protect it," said St. Louis County Board Chair Keith Nelson. "I am so proud of our staff for their forward-thinking work to remove forever chemicals from leachate at our landfill."

Leachate is the liquid that passes down through a landfill, picking up contaminants in the process, including the dangerous "forever chemicals" known as PFAS. The St. Louis County landfill currently treats

five to six million gallons of leachate per year, containing it in two large holding ponds and then dispersing it over large grass fields. The new leachate wastewater plant will instead treat the leachate using a system of filters and other proven treatment technologies.

Nelson credited his fellow commissioners for supporting this project. "While others question the cost of doing something, we are asking, 'what is the cost of not doing something?'"

DISPENSARY...Continued from page 1

the endeavor.

"Minnesota Roots has been critical in helping us establish policy and operations, introductions to vendors for all of our needs. They assist in negotiations for all things related to the dispensary, grow, and product," Ebert said.

Minnesota Roots officials estimated that Bois Forte could be looking at monthly gross revenues of \$90,000 to \$100,000 at the Fortune Bay site. "Minnesota Roots has many success stories," said Ebert. "Fortune Bay is already a destination location for winter or summer activities, plus the casino. Now people coming up (will) have access to real weed because of this new amenity that we have."

But the extra traffic to Fortune Bay is no guarantee of success, as the band discovered with a smoke shop in the resort selling hemp-derived edibles and beverages that failed less than a year after opening.

But the band may have longer than originally anticipated to establish a customer base free from local competition as the state's effort to establish its system of licensing cannabis vendors has also lagged behind its original timeline. Minnesota is reportedly on pace to be the fifth slowest of 23 states to go from legalization to legal sales. Officials in the state Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) have stated that cannabis sales will begin in 2025, but several prospective vendors in October told FOX9 News in St. Paul that they are growing increasingly skeptical that they'll be in operation before 2026 given

the delays in implementation of the state regulatory system. OCM has said it expects a second lottery for the current group of social-equity applicants to take place by March 2025.

With the new dispensary, the Bois Forte band hopes to reverse its fortunes from prior attempted business forays into purchasing hardware stores and building a convenience store in Eveleth that did not come to fruition. Band leaders have consistently expressed the need to expand business revenues produced by Fortune Bay and the band's convenience stores for the benefit of band members and tribal services.

The band had hoped to open the new dispensary by the end of September and create a second one at the C-Store in Nett Lake, but the C-Store project has been put on hold for the time being as efforts have been focused on the final pieces needed to get the Fortune Bay location up and running, hopefully by mid-December. Ebert is confident that the dispensary will be a solid addition to the band's business portfolio.

"I'm excited about the real potential our dispensary will have," he said. "I understand the concerns that have been raised, but given the expertise Minnesota Roots brings to the table, and growing market demands I am confident the dispensary will be a win for us and the future grow operation will be an even bigger win for us."

The Bois Forte News contributed to this article.

EXTRA CARE

between *here* and *there*



EBCH Transitional Care makes you feel at home

Your road to recovery doesn't have to go straight home.

When you need a little extra care after a surgery, major illness, or injury, experience the comforts of home in the safety of the EBCH transitional care program.

For patients who need a little extra time to heal and recover, and a little extra TLC to feel more confident to manage their care when they get home, enjoy transitional care (formerly known as swing bed) and rehab services at Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital.

EBCH
Ely-Bloomenson
Community Hospital

Ask your doctor or discharge nurse about recovering closer to home at EBCH Transitional Care.
To learn more, visit ebch.org or call 218-365-8758.

ST. LOUIS COUNTY

Massive gravel pit operation went unpermitted for months

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

MORSE TWP— For months, the sounds of excavation and trucks hauling has echoed along Wolf Lake Road west of Ely as thousands of truckloads of fill have been removed and hauled west as part of the construction of a new state off-road vehicle campground near Soudan.

The production and hauling has been undertaken by Low Impact Excavators, of Ely, which is serving as a subcontractor to the general contractor on the campground project, Superior-based Nordic Group. So far, the company has hauled about 45,000 cubic yards of fill for the project, or the equivalent of about 4,500 truckloads. Hauling is expected to continue for some time with an engineer's estimate of 80,000 cubic yards of granular fill and 10,000 yards of Class 5 to complete the facility.

Through the months of intensive gravel removal, the pit, on land owned by Jim Boals, has been operating without a county-required permit. After receiving a complaint from a neighbor along the road about the noise and truck traffic from the operation, the *Timberjay* inquired with St. Louis County about the operation only to find that county officials were unaware of it. Under the county's ordinance, only small private pits utilized by landowners for their own purposes, are exempt from permitting.

Given the scale of the gravel removal in question and its use for a public project, St. Louis County required Low Impact to obtain a performance standards permit, which county officials issued on Nov. 7. The permit is good for two years and allows the gravel removal for the purposes of a public project only. Private commercial use of the pit would require a conditional use permit and a public hearing according to the county ordinance.

The county issued no fine for the failure to obtain permitting earlier in the year when hauling began. "Our goal is always to gain compliance, which in this instance



has now happened," said St. Louis County spokesperson Dana Kazel.

That didn't sit well with

Gary Smith, a resident near the pit, who complained that the trucks that frequently make dozens of trips a day hauling

the next time.

from the pit have been driving too fast for the conditions on the winding road. He blames the truck traffic for the death of his 13-month-old lab, named Rainy, although he acknowledges he didn't actually witness the incident that killed his dog.

Smith said there are several entrances onto the road which can be difficult to see and he's worried that the trucks, whose drivers may not be familiar with the situation, could hit a person

the next time.

More questions

The campground project has required an enormous amount of fill in part due to shallow bedrock, according to Sara Joy Berhow, spokesperson for the DNR's parks and trails division. The bedrock limited the DNR's ability to excavate and so required the extra fill to meet the necessary grades for the project.

While the bulk of that fill came from an unpermitted pit, the DNR's contracts puts the onus for compliance with permitting on the contractors. Section 01 30 00 of the con-

tract, titled Administrative Requirements, lists the following under Codes, Permits and Regulatory Requirements: "2. All other building permits, mechanical permits, plumbing inspection applications, sprinkler permits, licenses, inspection fees, dewatering permits, or other requirements of governing bodies that have jurisdiction over the project, shall be secured and paid for by the Contractor."

The *Timberjay* referred questions and offered an opportunity for comment to Low Impact Excavating. The company did not respond as of press time.

JUST ANNOUNCED!

HOLIDAY SAVINGS START NOW!!

CHECK OUT THE SELECTION AT FORD OF HIBBING

<p>2024 F150 STX CREW CAB 4X4</p> <p>\$54,400 MSRP -\$2,000 STX DISC \$52,400 -\$2,521 FOH DISC \$49,879 -\$2,500 RETAIL CUSTOMER CASH -\$1,000 BONUS CUSTOMER CASH -\$1,000 BONUS CASH</p> <p>\$45,379+TTL</p> <p>*Must Finance Thru Ford Credit O.A.C **Price May vary Due to Optional Equipment & Models</p> <p>37 IN STOCK**</p> <p>20" Aluminum Wheels EcoBoost Block Heater #26063</p>	<p>2024 F150 XLT CREW CAB 4X4</p> <p>\$60,715 MSRP -\$2,000 XLT MID DISC -\$4,718 FOH DISC \$53,997 -\$3,750 RETAIL CUSTOMER CASH</p> <p>\$50,247+TTL</p> <p>*Price MAY vary Due to Optional Equipment & Models</p> <p>37 150's IN STOCK**</p> <p>EcoBoost Extended Range Fuel Tank Heated Seats #26035</p>
<p>2024 BRONCO SPORT BIG BEND 4X4</p> <p>\$34,465 MSRP -\$1,100 SPECIAL PKG DISC \$33,365 -\$750 RETAIL BONUS CASH -\$2000 RETAIL BONUS CASH \$30,615 EVERYONES PRICE -\$1,000 JEEP CONQUEST CASH*** ***Must own or lease a 1995 or Newer Jeep Vehicle \$29,615+TTL. CONDITIONAL PRICE*</p> <p>*Must Finance Thru Ford Credit O.A.C **Price MAY vary Due to Optional Equipment & Models</p> <p>+5.9% @ 66 MOS*</p> <p>#26010 Heated Seats Wireless Charging 14 ON HAND**</p>	<p>2024 ESCAPE ACTIVE AWD</p> <p>\$34,155 MSRP -\$1,224 FOH DISC \$32,931 -\$2,000 BONUS CASH -\$500 APR CUSTOMER CASH* -\$2,000 FLEX BUY BONUS CASH +1.9% @66 MOS*</p> <p>\$28,431+TTL</p> <p>*Must Finance Thru Ford Credit O.A.C **Price MAY vary Due to Optional Equipment & Models</p> <p>27 IN STOCK**</p> <p>Remote Start Heated Steering Wheel Adaptive Cruise Control #25990</p>
<p>2025 EXPLORER ACTIVE 4X4</p> <p>\$48,105 MSRP -\$1,432 FOH DISC -\$1,000 RETAIL CUSTOMER CASH & -\$2,000 BONUS CASH</p> <p>\$43,673+TTL</p> <p>Remote Start Heated Steering Wheel Heated Seats #26059</p>	<p>2024 EDGE SE AWD</p> <p>\$41,705 MSRP -\$1,727 FOH DISC -\$4,000 CUSTOMER CASH</p> <p>\$35,978+TTL</p> <p>Black Appearance Pkg. 19" Gloss Black Alum. Wheels #25811</p>

COUNCIL...

Continued from page 10

receive the approval of the Ely Area Ambulance Joint Powers Board.

Approved the first reading of Ordinance 382, Chapter 5, Section 5.41, Alcoholic Beverages Licensing and Regulation, which amends the timing of on-sale Sunday liquor sales from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

HUGE SELECTION OF FRESH TRADES

<p>2021 F150 PLATINUM 40K MI</p> <p>\$47,471 #8228</p>	<p>2006 GRAND MARQUIS LS</p> <p>\$3,980 #8189A</p>	<p>2016 EXPEDITION XLT 105K MI</p> <p>\$15,712 #25893A</p>	<p>2022 PACIFICA TOURING</p> <p>\$20,998 #8235</p>	<p>2019 ESCAPE SEL AWD 52K MI</p> <p>\$18,541 #8251</p>
<p>2014 RAM 1500 LIMITED 59K MI</p> <p>\$24,710 #25954B</p>	<p>2018 EXPLORER BASE 88K MI</p> <p>\$16,512 #25887A</p>	<p>2016 EDGE SPORT AWD 85K MI</p> <p>\$17,390 #8250</p>	<p>2021 EDGE TITANIUM AWD 51K MI</p> <p>\$24,684 #8222</p>	<p>2024 MAVERICK AWD TREMOR</p> <p>\$31,390 #8243</p>
<p>2010 F150 LARIAT CREW</p> <p>\$9,452 #8255A</p>	<p>2023 TUCSON SEL AWD 38K MI</p> <p>\$23,980 #8265</p>	<p>2022 EDGE TITANIUM AWD</p> <p>\$25,972 #8253</p>	<p>2017 SANTA FE SPORT AWD</p> <p>\$4,390 #25672B</p>	<p>2017 XTS AWD</p> <p>\$10,423 #8229A</p>
<p>2014 F150 XLT CREW</p> <p>\$9,743 #25921B</p>	<p>2024 F150 XLT CREW 2K MI</p> <p>47,954 #25910A</p>	<p>2020 ESCAPE TITANIUM AWD</p> <p>\$22,412 #8254</p>	<p>2023 ROGUE SV AWD 16K MI</p> <p>\$25,980 #8267</p>	<p>2018 EXPLORER XLT 54K MI</p> <p>\$22,742 #8263</p>
<p>2021 EXPLORER XLT AWD</p> <p>\$23,408 #25989A</p>	<p>2021 EXPLORER ST 33K MI</p> <p>\$39,987 #8246</p>	<p>2015 EQUINOX LTZ AWD</p> <p>\$9,980 #26050A</p>	<p>2019 TAURUS LIMITED</p> <p>\$13,741 #25968A</p>	<p>2018 EXPLORER LIMITED AWD</p> <p>\$21,972 #25999B</p>
<p>2012 FUSION SEL AWD</p> <p>\$10,980 #26003A</p>	<p>2022 SILVERADO LT CREW</p> <p>\$27,372 #25852A</p>	<p>2023 SIERRA 1500 SLE</p> <p>\$11,980 #25805A</p>	<p>2017 RAM 2500 SLT CUMMINS</p> <p>\$22,412 #26016A</p>	<p>2019 GRAND CARVAN GT</p> <p>\$15,974 #8249</p>
<p>2019 FLEX SEL AWD 59K MI</p> <p>\$21,742 #8260</p>	<p>2013 FOCUS SE 47K MI</p> <p>\$8,972 #8247</p>	<p>2008 HIGHLANDER SPORT AWD</p> <p>\$7,980 #25889A</p>	<p>2001 ESCAPE XLT</p> <p>\$4,784 #8240A</p>	<p>2012 F350 LARIAT W/PLOW</p> <p>\$29,390 #25999D</p>

Ritchie Automatic Livestock Waterers and Parts
HIBBING FEED and SEED
262-3049

PETERSEN DRILLING
Since 1948
Wells Water Systems

- PUMPS
- WELLS
- HYDRO-FRACKING

1-800-662-5700
Spring Park Rd.
Mt. Iron, MN 55768

	LEIGH LONSON	TIM CARRUTH 218-212-7202	RYAN AULTMAN 218-293-4606	JAMI HENDRIX 218-293-4636	ERIC GRAFF 218-293-4627	MIKE DAY 218-293-4637	TEIGAN BOSARGE 218-293-4596	BLAKE PLUMMER 218-293-4625	JEFF HALSNE 218-293-4624	2627 Hwy 169 218-262-3881

BREITUNG TOWNSHIP

Good summer for camping, but rates headed up for 2025

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

Soudan- McKinley Park Campground manager Susie Chiabotti said the 2024 season was a surprisingly good one, even after the June 19 flood left a mess and destroyed a dock at the campground.

"Revenues were up by \$11,176," she said, "and expenses were only up by \$346."

The township was able to get the campground up and running quickly in the wake of the flood, and for that, Chiabotti had nothing but accolades.

"The township was awesome," she said. "If you had asked me on June 19, I

would have said we couldn't have saved the year. Our maintenance crew was always there, we are so lucky to have them," she said.

Chiabotti suggested the township keep the long-term camping rates stable for 2025, since they had been increased the last two seasons.

But the town board felt that with the township increasing its levy by seven percent this year, and with the added maintenance expenses incurred this summer due to the flooding and to the routine upkeep being done, that it was only fair to increase the rates.

Improvements at the campground this year included replacing the roof on the campground store, a new

playground and dock, bringing the dump station up to code, and the regular maintenance on the electrical sites.

"We are spending more time down there," said chairman Tim Tomsich.

Chiabotti also said they are seeing more and more campers bringing bicycles, and the upgrades done to the bike trail were put to good use.

The board thanked Chiabotti for her work managing the campground, and they were happy to hear that she will renew her contract for a final year.

The township-owned campground offers seasonal, monthly, weekly, and daily rates. The beach is a popular spot for area families, and the new playground was put to good use all summer, she said. Boat launch fees, even with the dock out for several weeks, were on par with last year.

"Fishing was wonderful this year," she said, noting that the fish cleaning shack could use some minor upgrading for next year.

The board opted to increase seasonal rates by \$400, to \$4,000. Monthly rates will increase \$100, to \$1,200 for electric sites and \$800 for non-electric sites. Weekly rates will increase by \$25 to \$350 for electric and \$225 for non-electric. Daily rates are going up \$5, to \$55 for electric and \$35 for non-electric sites. Winter storage rates will remain at \$600, and boat launch fees are remaining the same at \$10 or \$70 for the season.

Police contract

The township is working with the city of Tower on next year's police contract and asking for help in covering the cost of part-time staff, which the township currently funds itself. Tomsich said the township is asking the city to split the cost of 500 hours of part-time work with the township. Currently the city only pays for part-time work if it is requested by the city, such as Fourth of July coverage.

"Most of the major calls and arrests are in Tower," noted police chief Dan Reing.

Administrative work required after an investigation



The new playground was a highlight of the season for area children and campground visitors. file photo

or arrest keep Reing in the office and keep him away from patrolling. Reing has asked the township to look at hiring a very part-time employee to help with some administrative tasks.

"There are a lot of expenses that Tower isn't covering," said Tomsich, who added the council will be discussing the issue at their December meeting.

In other police department business, the town board heard that long-time part-time officer Jim Battin is retiring.

"We appreciate his contributions to the township and to the department," said Reing. "We are formally retiring his badge number 155. The badge will permanently be assigned to Officer Battin."

The department's taco fundraiser was a huge success, with over 200 people served. The proceeds will be used for programs for area youth, and possibly for other department equipment needs, said Reing.

Water commission

The board took the first step of disbanding the township's water commission, and creating a township department to take over those duties. The water commission was created as a separate entity from the township back in the 1950s, when the township first started selling water to the city of Tower. It

was kept separate to ensure that costs for maintaining the systems were not paid from general township funds, but only by users of the system, which served Soudan proper.

With the recent passing of long-term water commission president Jim Hill, and neither of the two remaining commission members willing to take over leadership, the commission voted to merge the duties into a township department, with the billing and expenses kept separate from other township expenses. Jorgine Gornick, who was doing the billing and financials for the commission, is expected to be named as the account manager, and the new department would reimburse the township for other time spent managing the department.

The changeover will take effect on Jan. 1, 2025. The board plans to designate one of its members to oversee the department. Gornick has been asked to put together a job description for the account manager. The rate of pay is yet to be set.

The board was not sure if the commission was established by ordinance. Clerk Amber Zak will research the issue. If an ordinance is found, it will need to be rescinded. Otherwise, the board will just need to pass a resolution creating the new department.

Other business

In other business the board:

- Passed a resolution creating a no-parking zone on the west side of Stuntz Bay Rd. from Jasper St. up the hill for approximately 300 feet. Parking will be allowed on the east side (the side of the street with adjacent housing). The change is needed because of the width of the new road.

- Approved change orders on the Stuntz Bay Rd. project. All costs are being covered by the DNR.

- Heard that the St. Louis County Board will hold their Tuesday, Jan. 14 board meeting at the Breitung Community Building at 9 a.m. The public is welcome to attend.

- Is still waiting to hear on the township's FEMA funding application, but Zak said it sounds like the engineering costs incurred will also be covered. The township still has a few invoices to submit, but most of the information is already in place.

- Heard that the Thompson Farm Rd. project is on track for completion next summer.

- Will hold their next regular meeting on Thursday, Dec. 19 at 6 p.m.

 Mail



Outdoors

Our lives in the Northwoods

2024 FIREARMS DEER SEASON

Buck numbers continuing upward trend

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—Minnesota's record mild winter last year undoubtedly improved deer survival here in the North Country, but it appears to have made an even bigger difference than wildlife managers were expecting.

Through the first ten days of the season, the buck harvest across the nine permit areas tracked by the *Timberjay* appears to be up noticeably, accelerating a trend first seen through the first three days of the 16-day regular firearms season. If current trends continue, the

region's buck harvest could be the highest since 2021, the year before two back-to-back tough winters sent deer numbers in the Arrowhead plunging.

Across the northeast region, hunters had registered 20,353 deer as of Monday, Nov. 18. That's up ten percent over last year, although it's still about 11-percent below the five-year average for the region.

The biggest gains are being seen in areas just south of the Mesabi Iron Range and in the border country near International Falls. In PA 178, hunters had already registered 974 bucks, or more than the 949 registered in the

entire season last year. In PAs 107 and 109, located around and south of International Falls, hunters had registered a combined 746 bucks through the first ten days of the season this year, or about 90 percent of the 833 bucks registered for the entire season last year. While hunters typically register a sizable majority of their deer in the first ten days of the season, the buck harvest in those two permit areas is almost certain to exceed last year's numbers.

To the east, in PA 119, buck registrations were also running ahead of

See DEER HUNT...pg. 2B



Area Deer Harvest

Results through Monday, Nov. 18

Year	Bucks	Antlerless	Total
2021	3,547	621	4,168
2022	2,430	580	3,010
2023	NA	NA	NA
2024	3,098	417	3,515

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



BOUNDARY WATERS EXPLORATIONS

Hiking the gray season

The Anglemorm Trail proved too big a trek for a November hike

I've been walking with friends in a season of gray. That period between the falling of the leaves and the coming of the snow has become longer than it used to be and we've been making the best of the astonishingly mild conditions to explore the variety of hiking trails in the Boundary Waters.

On the opening day of this year's firearms deer season, I wasn't in my deer stand. Instead, a friend and I were on the Anglemorm Trail, which runs north from the Echo Trail, about 15 miles north of Ely. According to the Forest Service, it's a 12-mile loop trail, but they don't tell you that the loop starts nearly three miles into the hike, which makes it more like 20 miles to do the entire loop and make it back to your car. That's a haul, especially in the short days of November. And, unlike the Powwow Trail, which we had hiked a couple weeks earlier, the Anglemorm Trail is too rough for trail running in most places, which could have allowed us to cover the ground during daylight hours. Add in the delays for a wrong turn and for taking off shoes to traverse a stretch of



MARSHALL HELMBERGER



water over a boardwalk and a 20-mile trek simply wasn't in the cards.

Yet the Anglemorm Trail rarely disappoints, at least those portions of the trail that I've actually walked over the years. From

See ANGLEWORM...pg. 2B

Top: A view to the north from an overlook on the east side of Anglemorm Lake.

Above: The dead grass along a wilderness drainage takes on a golden hue in a brief peak of sunshine.

photos by M. HelMBERGER

TRAILS

New nonprofit dedicated to BWCAW trail preservation

REGIONAL—A new Minnesota nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the history of wilderness trails in the Boundary Waters is now accepting charter membership.

It's called Boundary Waters Heritage Trails, or BWHT, and the new group is hoping to "to educate and preserve the history of wilderness trails as a resource for all future generations to experience and enjoy," according to a press statement issued last week.

Safeguarding wilderness trails in the BWCAW through education, lobbying and organizing volunteers for trail maintenance has been vital to keeping the trails open for the public. While many of the trails have been returned to use, there are still many miles of hiking trails that have been removed from inventory by the U.S. Forest Service and waiting to be reopened for hikers and backpackers.

Volunteers who maintain hiking trails in the BWCAW play a critical role in assisting the Forest Service to meet the legislative requirements of the National Forest Trail Systems Stewardship Act. On the Powwow Trail itself volunteers contributed in excess of \$300,000 in labor to spruce up the trail from deadfalls caused by the Pagami Creek megafire and new jack pine growth.

"One interesting thing we found as we delved into the heritage of the trails, was that before recreation, there were loggers, and before loggers there were trappers and Indigenous communities in what today is the BWCAW and the Superior National Forest," said Martin Kubik, one of the founders of the new organization. "There were fire lookout towers, and even a proposal for a railroad line from Ely to the Gunflint Trail. This is why we encourage historians, researchers, and those interested in writing or doing field work to become part of this effort by joining the BWHT," said Kubik.

BWHT speakers are available to present at schools, to historical societies, folk schools, and outdoor groups alike.

Boundary Waters Heritage Trails invites outdoor and history enthusiasts to a charter membership. Apply at website bwheritagetrails.org. For more information, contact Martin Kubik, email: martin.kubik@bwheritagetrails.org, cell: 651-214 5849.

MAKE US YOUR FIRST STOP. DON'T MISS SPECIAL HOLIDAY SAVINGS ON MILWAUKEE®.

THE IRON RANGE'S MILWAUKEE TOOL DESTINATION

pohaki

SERVICE. QUALITY. GOOD PEOPLE.

804 N. 6th Avenue | Virginia | 218.741.3014

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather



Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
11/11	47	na	0.04		11/11	46	33	0.05		11/11	46	34	0.03		11/11	39	25			11/11	46	32	0.00	
11/12	37	na	0.00		11/12	38	18	0.00		11/12	39	23	0.00		11/12	45	25	No		11/12	44	19	0.00	
11/13	44	na	0.00		11/13	42	25	0.00		11/13	42	24	0.00		11/13	39	36	precip		11/13	41	24	0.00	
11/14	40	37	0.02		11/14	41	36	0.02		11/14	41	37	0.12		11/14	43	37	data		11/14	41	35	0.15	
11/15	43	35	0.01		11/15	43	34	0.00		11/15	42	35	0.05		11/15	48	36	at press-		11/15	43	35	0.05	
11/16	50	na	0.00		11/16	50	30	0.00		11/16	44	32	0.01		11/16	50	36	time		11/16	49	27	0.00	
11/17	48	na	0.02		11/17	50	38	0.00		11/17	49	34	0.01		11/17	45	30			11/17	50	37	0.00	
YTD Total			25.58		YTD Total			26.48		YTD Total			26.85		YTD Total			NA		YTD Total				28.21



Vince Kajala, of Cook, shot this huge ten-pointer on family property near Cook. During past seasons, his father and grandfather had previously shot large deer in the same spot.

DEER HUNT...Continued from page 1B

last year's total harvest, with 249 bucks registered through Monday compared to 228 for the entire season in 2023. In PA 176, hunters had registered 410 bucks through this past Monday and should easily surpass last year's total buck harvest of 459. At the current pace, most other permit areas in the region should match or exceed last year's buck registrations. The number of antlerless deer registered by hunters in local permit areas appeared down slightly 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 417 antlerless deer as of Monday. Wildlife managers typically look at buck registra-

tions as the best way to gauge changes in the deer population and the latest numbers are encouraging. With an exceptionally mild fall season to date, deer should go into winter in better shape than usual. The area typically has snow cover by the first half of November, but the region has seen virtually none of the white stuff to date. While temperatures were forecasted to finally cool closer to seasonal norms, extended forecasts continue to show no major cold outbreaks or snowstorms that could present a challenge to deer. The forecast for the final weekend of the regular firearms deer season calls for cloudy conditions, with a chance of snow Sunday and a high both days around freezing.

ANGLEWORM...Continued from page 1B

the parking lot, the first mile or so is a steady downhill into the Spring Creek valley, a rift that runs in a near-perfectly straight line from near Crooked Lake to the north arm of Burnside. The last time I had hiked the Anglemorm, high water had washed out the crude wooden planking that served as a bridge and the high rushing water prompted an unexpected turnaround. Fortunately, the planking was back in place and we made it across the creek this time and began the slow climb out of the valley. While the warming climate has brought changes to parts of the Boundary Waters in recent years, the Anglemorm trail mostly passes through the kind of forest normally associated with the boreal woods, a forest floor deep with lush green moss, under a canopy dominated by pine and spruce, with scattered birch and aspen. The only exception were the south-facing slopes, where the landscape turned almost immediately to maple and scrub oak, evidence of the difference drier and slightly warmer conditions can make on the boreal edge. The terrain is up and down, with ridges and some surprisingly steep valleys aligned on a roughly north-to-south trajectory. It was a reminder of my favorite description for the terrain here on the Canadian Shield— regionally flat, locally rugged.

Such conditions definitely slowed our pace. We could see pretty quickly that our progress on the map was less than anticipated so we tried trail running in a few places where the trail was less rocky. But such areas were few and short and much of the rest of the trail was too full of rocks and roots to make running safe. The last thing you need miles into a Boundary Waters trek is a turned ankle. Like many Boundary Waters trails, you need to pay attention along the way. While the trail is mostly easy to follow, there are always disappearing trails that continue straight whenever the trail takes an unexpected turn. We found a couple of those and actually followed one along an increasingly steep slope until it finally disappeared. These false trails always fade away eventually and



A surprise find in the BWCAW

There's something you don't see every day in the Boundary Waters slowly rusting into the forest about 200 feet from the campsite on the east side of Anglemorm Lake—two large tanks, which appear to be old underground fuel tanks, with a large, old-style fuel pump leaning against one of them. According to one 20-year-old online post I found on bwca.com, the tanks and assorted

other metal junk (like lots of old barrels, bedsprings, etc.) are the remnants of an old logging camp that operated in the area back in the 1920s or so. If anyone knows where I could find more details or photos of this old logging camp, I would appreciate hearing about it for a possible history story. You can email me at marshall@timberjay.com.

it's interesting to see how long it takes to do so. It's usually no more than a couple hundred feet although I'm always one who takes it to the bitter end before recognizing that I've made a wrong turn as the trail finally disappears entirely. We were nearly three miles into the hike when we reached a junction where the two sides of the loop trail come together. A third path, what is essentially a long portage trail from Trease Lake arrives there as well, giving a hiker three options to choose from, all currently unmarked just to keep things interesting. I'd been there a couple times before so I knew which way to go. We opted to travel up the east side of the loop, which in my experience has the nicer overlooks once you reach Anglemorm Lake. About four-and-a-half miles into the

hike we reached the lone campsite on the east side of Anglemorm Lake. From the map, it was apparent that we were less than a quarter of the way around the loop, so we opted to make a fire and have some lunch before turning around. The trail, according to the map, continued on for many miles, past Whiskey Jack Lake and north around Home Lake before returning to the south along the west side of Anglemorm. We wouldn't have made it out until well after dark and with the trail challenging at times to follow even in daylight, we didn't want to have to rely on moonlight to make it back. While I always carry some emergency supplies on treks into the wilderness, prudence has meant I've never had to use any of them. I intend to keep it that way.

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
On the corner of Church and Main in Soudan

THANKSGIVING DINNER

Thursday, November 28
2 to 6 p.m.

Eat-in or Take-out
RSVPs appreciated
(the football game will be televised)

218-753-3047
leave a message

NO CHARGE...
but donations
can be made to the
Tower Area Food Shelf

Subscribe to the
TIMBERJAY!
Call
218-753-2950

LAST CHANCE...
to get Lake Vermilion Clothing
and Gifts for the Christmas season!

40-50% Off
Nov. 1 thru 27
Closed for December...SO BUY NOW!

Hours: Mon-Fri 9-5; Sat & Sun Closed
(218) 753-4190 • 6143 Pike Bay Dr, Tower
E-mail: aronsonboatworks@frontiernet.net

Year End SALES EVENT
Limited Time

ORANGE TAGGED PRE-OWNED INVENTORY MUST GO!

LUNDGREN.FORD.COM
EVELETH, MN | 218-744-4821

Scenic Rivers Clinics

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

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

Same Day Appointments Available

24-Hour Emergency Care
in Cook and Bigfork

(877) 541-2817
www.ScenicRiversHealth.org

Obituaries and Death Notices

**Michael Leino**

Michael "Mikko" Leino, 72, of Ely, passed away peacefully on Monday, Oct. 7, 2024, after a brief battle with cancer and complica-

tions from an ongoing heart condition. There will be a memorial service at Kerntz Funeral Home on Wednesday, Nov. 27 at 2 p.m. Memorials are preferred to the Ely Area Food Shelf.

Mikko was born on Dec. 23, 1951, and was a lifelong resident in the Ely area. He lived most of his life on Burntside Lake, his favorite place; his home was a central place for his family and friends to gather. He was the son of Lauren and Irene Kivisaari Leino.

An electrician by training, he worked in multiple roles at the Northshore Mine (and its earlier iterations)

and completed his career as a supervisor in the drilling department. Between the various disruptions in the operation of the mine, he worked in jobs from operating heavy equipment at a local salvage yard to doing small engine repair, along with several diverse jobs in between.

Mikko was universally well-liked and relied upon by family and by numerous cabin owners along the south shore of Burntside Lake where he oversaw and maintained their properties. He was always ready to share his wide-ranging knowledge and practical skills. He was a good man and will be missed

for many things including his wild blueberry pies, expert boat rides, and love of saunas.

Mikko is survived by his siblings, Judith Horns (James), Richard Leino (Jackie), Philip Leino and David Leino (Susan); close cousins, Walter Leino (Norma), Ronald Leino (Rhonda) and Pamela Leino-Mills; and many nieces, nephews and cousins who will miss him greatly.

Alberta D. Larson

Alberta Dianne "Birdie" Bergman Gustafson Larson, 76, of Cook, passed away un-

expectedly on Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2024. A celebration of life will be held at the VFW in Cook on Saturday, Jan. 4, 2025, from 1 to 4 p.m.

There will be a private family interment held in the spring. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

She is survived by her children, Carrie (Scott) Erickson, Tara (Kevin Jacobson) Gustafson and Ryan (Jill) Gustafson; grandchildren, Samantha (Jeremiah) Stone, Hailey (Adam) Rich, Jacob Erickson, McKenzie (Lance Borkowski) Gustafson and Kaiden Kachinske; great-granddaughters,

Rilee Ann Stone and Ilya Mae Rich; a great-grandson due any day; sister, Shelly (Jason) Nelson; brothers, Alden Bergman, Galen (Doreen) Bergman and Brian (Gail) Bergman; best friend, Linda Troseth; and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

Roland E. Fowler Jr.

Roland Eugene Fowler Jr., 62, of Embarrass, passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2024. Range Funeral Home of Virginia is in charge of arrangements.

HEALTH CARE

Nursing facility shortage worsens in rural Minnesota

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Baby boomers and their families will find it increasingly difficult to access nursing facility care in rural Minnesota in the years ahead, as demand will continue to grow while supply is expected to dwindle.

That's the conclusion of a newly released report from the Center for Rural Policy and Development based on a review of the Minnesota Department of Health's provider data. While urban areas also have shortages of care, the problem, as with many other social support systems, is more acute in rural Minnesota.

"We are hearing frequently from rural leaders and residents that access to home care is becoming difficult, assisted living may be too expensive if it even exists in a rural area, and that nursing facilities are either shrinking the number of beds they have available or closing completely," said senior researcher Kelly Asche. "Many of these declines are due to facilities closing and not just operators shrinking the number of beds available. And all of this is happening while demand for these beds is increasing and is expected to keep increasing until 2045. The long-term care industry is critical for providing care to our loved ones when their needs surpass what a family member can provide."

To illustrate the urban/rural divide, peak demand for long-term nursing care in urban areas is not expected to peak until 2055, while in rural counties with higher percentages of elderly the demand will

peak much sooner, in 2037. Counties with an urban/rural mix will see peak demand come in 2047.

St. Louis County falls in the middle, according to the report, with demand for 1,242 nursing facility beds in 2047 to serve a 65 and older population of 44,000.

Nursing care bed capacity has been on a steady decline since 2005, with a greater percentage of losses occurring in rural Minnesota. St. Louis County has seen a 28.1 percent drop, and rates vary in surrounding counties from 20.7 percent in Itasca County to 47 percent in Koochiching County and 21.3 percent in Cook County to 33.9 percent in Lake County.

The loss of skilled nursing beds in rural counties has been fueled by a greater percentage of facility closures versus idled beds. Entirely rural counties had 26 percent fewer care facilities in 2024 than in 2005, while the drop in urban care facilities was only nine percent. As a mixed county, St. Louis County has fared better than most, showing a net decline of only one facility, 19 to 18, since 2005.

Two factors

Asche identified two factors in the report that have contributed to the decline in skilled nursing care, the first being the growth in assisted living facilities and home and community care-based agencies.

Years ago, nursing facilities were the go-to option for post-surgery rehabilitation, dementia care, care for individuals with less severe physical disabilities, and people with mental disabilities. That began to change in the 1980s with a growing negative public perception of nursing facilities, the report says.

Changes in technology, policy, and payments have shifted a large portion of the clients once served by nursing facilities into less intensive alternative care arrangements, leaving the most dependent and expensive to care for clients to nursing facilities.

"It used to be common that there were individuals staying at nursing homes that would still have drivers licenses and were still mobile. Now, it's not uncommon to walk into a nursing facility and everyone needs a wheelchair," Care Providers of Minnesota's Todd Berstrom told investigators.

Rural nursing care operators are facing a growing financial crisis, as rising costs and stagnant payments strain their ability to remain viable.

"Cost of supplies are up, wages are up, but payments have not increased enough," said Kari Swanson, CEO of Cornerstone Nursing and Rehab Center, which serves Bagley, Fosston, and Kelliher. "Lots of rural facilities are small and can't cut anymore corners or scale down enough to make the finances work."

While the shift toward more acute care in nursing homes reflects changing preferences, which has sparked positive growth in assisted living and home-based care, those options primarily serve individuals with less severe or chronic conditions, researchers say.

Skilled nursing facilities remain critical for patients with more complex needs, but their sustainability is threatened by a lack of diverse revenue streams to offset the high costs of care, raising concerns about the future of rural long-term

care.

The second significant factor cited in the report is the ability to find workers. It's a problem common to all facets of rural health care, one exacerbated during the COVID pandemic. As the pandemic has waned more people have returned to the workforce, but the shortfall remains critical. In northeast Minnesota, the study found 1,226 job vacancies for registered nurses, nursing aides, and personal care aides with increasing demand in upcoming years, the shortages are projected to get worse.

This is occurring at a time when rural Minnesota is facing an historic shortage of workers overall. While other industries have been able to increase pay and benefits to attract workers, nursing facilities can't compete because their revenue is locked in by Medicare, Medicaid and state policy.

Nursing facilities that try to "grow their own" employees by offering education incentives often lose those employees to other health care providers.

And in April, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services released new standards that will require more hours of staffing for registered nurses and nurse aides, standards that only one in five nursing facilities currently meets, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation. Rural facilities have until 2029 to meet the standards and may qualify for waivers from some or all of the requirements.

Another agency that could affect nursing facility staffing is the Minnesota Nursing Home Workforce Standards Board, created by the Legislature in 2023. Sparked in

part by the exodus of health care workers caused by the COVID pandemic, the board is tasked with creating minimum employment standards to protect the health and well-being of nursing home workers. One area they are required to address is wages, which are generally considered to be too low in nursing facilities. Should the standards board implement higher minimum wage requirements for nursing care workers, smaller facilities in particular may find it difficult to remain financially viable.

The report also notes that assisted living facilities and home care won't be able to address the growing need for skilled nursing beds due to the different populations they serve, and that the growth of assisted living facilities in rural areas of the state has not kept up with the decrease in nursing beds.

The nursing facility problem will only grow as demand for services increases over the next 20 years, the report concludes. Rural areas, with their larger senior populations, are going to feel the pinch first, which means they also have the least amount of time to prepare. Raising standards and pay could help facilities and agencies provide even better service, but the data show that these changes can't be done based on the current business model. The economies of scale are such that without a large population to spread the risk over, long-term care facilities will only continue to struggle and close, leaving fewer and fewer options for rural residents.

COMMENTARY

20 years of living united at United Way of NE Minnesota

Erin Shay, executive director, celebrates her 20th year working for the organization

Nonprofit work isn't for those who tire easily. The victories and struggles we face - of the individuals we serve, our own, and those of our region - come in waves, each felt as strongly as the next.

Growing up on the Iron Range instilled in me a deep love for this region and a tenacity that has helped me navigate the highs and lows to better serve our communities over the past 20 years with United Way of Northeastern Minnesota (UWNEMN).

In every step of this journey - from resource and marketing coordinator to executive director, from region-wide layoffs to our first \$1 million raised, from



**Executive Director
Erin Shay**

leaders and passionate problem solvers.

Together, we've kept critical agencies afloat, created programs when none existed, and united communities to tackle pressing issues like veterans' services, childhood hunger, and child-care access.

a two-person team in a single room to a team of eight with our own food and essentials warehouses - I've had the privilege of working with inspiring

Along the way, I've learned invaluable lessons about the people of this region, our challenges, and our strengths. The greatest asset of the Iron Range is, without a doubt, its people. Each challenge has presented an opportunity to grow, build resilience, and learn. I've come to understand the vital yet often misunderstood role nonprofits play in building healthy communities, the intricacies of key industries, and the complexities of legislative processes.

Most importantly, I've learned how to listen to understand people and their unique life experiences. In doing so, the experiences of the thousands of people we've helped and those who've helped us have shaped me in ways I never

could have imagined.

Through it all, one thing stands out above the rest: gratitude. I am grateful for the truly remarkable team I work with, the area partners who roll up their sleeves alongside us, and the opportunity we have each day to restore hope for those who need it most.

I often think of the local children we unite to help. Who among them will grow up to be the next trailblazer in our community?

Hope, gratitude's constant companion, is what drives us. It's the reason we wake up every morning and what helps us sleep at night. There will always be more work than can ever be done. But the steadfast spirit of the Iron Range keeps us going.

It has been my humble

pleasure to learn from, support, and collaborate with countless changemakers, all working toward the same goal: thriving residents and communities.

I'm proud to be from

this area, honored to serve it, and forever grateful for your support along the way.

GIVE A LITTLE, GET A LOT
with Just A Taste!

REG. \$34.99
NOW \$24.99
+\$5.99 SHIPPING
#PROGB - Just A Taste Gift Box

SAVE 38%

Affordable, Delicious & Ready to Ship

4 Fruit Varieties & Snacks to Share!
Treat a special friend, teacher, neighbor or co-worker to a personal-sized sampling of Pittman & Davis's most loved fruits and sweets. This affordable gift box introduces your recipient to our famous premium fruit.

- 1 Navel Orange
- 1 King Comice Pear
- 1 Rio Ruby™ Red Grapefruit
- 1 Fuji Apple
- 2.5 oz. Gourmet Chocolate Chip Cookies
- 5 oz. Honey Roasted Peanuts

Satisfaction completely guaranteed. Order by Dec. 15, 2024 for GUARANTEED Christmas delivery. Limited time offer, good while supplies last. Not valid with any other offer. Limit 5 boxes per customer.

CALL 1-844-638-0166
OR VISIT PITTMANDAVIS.COM/P5YF79
Order Item #PROGB, mention Code P5YF79

PITTMAN & DAVIS • HARLINGEN, TX 78552

INJURED?
We've Helped Thousands
Get Compensation

**Contact Us Today
For Free Advice**

Car Accidents
Personal Injury
Workers' Compensation

218-963-5393
www.FieldsInjury.com

Steve Fields
Minnesota Attorney

FIELDS
INJURY LAW

SANTA PIZZA TRAIN

2 Hour Train Ride, Personal Pizza, Soda or Water,
Visit to Santa's Private Car for Family Photos,
Hot Chocolate and a Cookie

Adult \$50 (13+) • Child \$40 (age 2-12)

Sat 11 am, 2 & 5 pm Sun 11 am or 2 pm
Nov. 16 through Dec. 22, 2024

Reservations 715-635-3200
www.spoonerride.com

HOLIDAY WINE TRAIN FOR ADULTS

DISCOVER AMERICAN EXPRESS VISA

66639 Dilly Lake Rd. • Trepo, WI

Pittman & Davis
Since 1908

IC: P5YF79

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

GREAT BENEFITS PACKAGE! Full time positions are eligible for low cost medical and dental insurance, employer paid life insurance, short-term and long-term disability, pre-tax flexible spending accounts, retirement plan, tax-deferred compensation, sick leave, paid personal days.

AA/EOE, Veteran Friendly 11/22

ELY PUBLIC SCHOOLS POSITION OPENING Long-Term Substitute Paraprofessional

Ely Public Schools District is looking for a long-term substitute paraprofessional starting immediately through March 21, 2025. We are an EC - Grade 12 district, seeking an energetic, self-starting, personable, and highly motivated individual. Background check required.

Qualifications include: Associate's Degree/equivalent or complete a Para Pro exam with a passing score (www.ets.org/parapro) Preferred experience working with school age children Evidence of ability to work cooperatively and communicate effectively in a collaborative setting Ability to perform job description duties

Application available at: www.ely.k12.mn.us A complete application must include the following: District Non-Licensed Application Resume

Rate of Pay: \$17.24/hour Hours: 31.5 Hours per week, student contact days

Return materials to: Ely Public Schools, Attn: Superintendent, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731 or email lwestrck@ely.k12.mn.us. Contact Principal/Superintendent Anne Oelke at (218) 365-6166 ext. 1724 or aoelke@ely.k12.mn.us with any questions.

Application review to begin: December 4, 2024; open until filled. Published in the Timberjay, Nov. 22 & 29, 2024

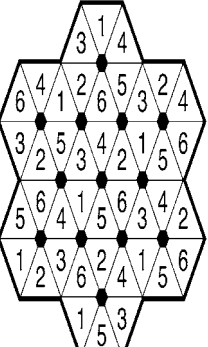
Super Crossword

Answers

Grid of crossword answers: PAPERS, ADIDAS, HEADIER, AMULET, SALEMS, ENLARGE, CYBILL, PROPERTY, DAMAGE, TIE, ITSON, ESE, ENOS, BASECOACHES, ANIMA, ELI, SIX, ADM, RIBKNIT, AGES, VEHICLE, EMISSIONS, CANOE, ENS, ARC, MOTIVE, HEARTS, SPECIALIST, RESET, ECARD, CTN, RGB, ESS, EMIR, KISS, GOODBYE, ESTE, NON, REE, LOO, AIROF, ABATE, SPOTLIGHT, EFFECT, MISADD, ATM, SPA, FINER, ELECTRON, CAMPAIGN, EDDA, LECTERN, ADE, FEW, TEM, ATWAR, THUNDERGODS, MANO, BAN, PLATO, DIE, IDENTITY, CRISIS, LETSUP, NEWCOKE, REFILLE, ESTATE, INTEGER, OPENED, STOLEN

CryptoQuip answer: What do you call somebody who stops using an illness-treating substance? A medicine dropper.

solution



Call 753-2950 to subscribe to the Timberjay!



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.

This hearing will be held remotely via Zoom Technology.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 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

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

IMPORTANT PROPERTY TAX HOMESTEAD NOTICE This will affect your 2025 property taxes & eligibility for Property Tax Refund. Have you purchased or moved into a property in the past year? Contact your county assessor to file a homestead application if you or a qualifying relative occupy the property as a homestead on or before December 31, 2024. What is a qualifying relative? For residential or agricultural property, a qualifying relative includes the child, grandchild, sibling, uncle, aunt, nephew, or niece, parent of the owner or of the owner's spouse. When do I apply? You must apply on or before December 31, 2024. Contact the assessor by December 31, 2024 if the occupancy or use of the property you homestead has changed in the past year. If you sell, move, or for any reason no longer qualify for the homestead classification, you are required to notify the county assessor within 30 days of the change in homestead status. For information, contact one of the following County Assessor's Offices: Duluth Offices...218-726-2304 Virginia Office...218-471-7147 Hibbing Office...218-312-8389 Ely Office...218-365-8236 Cook Office...218-471-7705 Long distance (within St. Louis County) 1-800-450-9777

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS BOIS FORTE - SO 3 PH 2 DNR OFFICE BUILDING NETT LAKE, MINNESOTA. The Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Indians will receive sealed bids for the "BOIS FORTE - SO 3 PH 2 DNR OFFICE BUILDING", until 2:00 p.m., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2024, at the office of the Nett Lake Tribal Government Center, 5344 Lakeshore Drive, Nett Lake, Minnesota, at which time all Bids will be publicly opened, and read aloud. All bids must be sealed and clearly marked, "BID FOR: BOIS FORTE - SO 3 PH 2 DNR OFFICE BUILDING", along with bidder's name, and must be accompanied by a certified check or bidder's bond in the amount of five percent (5%) of the net base bid amount, payable to the order of Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Indians, as warranty that the successful bidder will enter into a contract and furnish the usual Bonds (Performance Bond and Labor and Material Payment Bond) as required by the Specifications within ten (10) days after Notice of Award of Contract. Bid Documents (plans and specifications) will be available electronically beginning November 18th, 2024. Free access to the plans & specifications may be obtained by contacting DSGW Architects, Inc., (218) 727-2626. Bid Documents may also be examined at the builder's exchanges of: Minnesota Builders Exchange, Construct Connect, and Dodge Data & Analytics. Pre-printed plans and specifications will not be provided. No Bidder shall modify, withdraw or cancel their Bid or any part thereof for sixty (60) days after the date designated for the receipt of bids. The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any irregularities and informalities therein and to award the Contract to other than the lowest bidder, if in their discretion the interest of the project will be best served thereby. A Pre-Bid meeting will NOT be held, but contractors are welcome to visit site conditions at the project site, 12831 Nett Lake Rd, Orr, MN 55771. Please check in with personnel upon arrival. Published in the Timberjay, Nov. 22 & 29, 2024

Even Exchange by Donna Pettman. Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters. 1. VW nickname ___ E ___ Ringo, for one ___ A ___ 2. Sunday meat ___ A ___ Perch like a bird ___ O ___ 3. Counterfeiter ___ G ___ Previous ___ M ___ 4. Hair parlor S ___ Eagle's claw T ___ 5. Full of energy ___ E ___ Tiny canine ___ U ___ 6. Play blackjack ___ M ___ Muddle ___ R ___ 7. Writing plume ___ L ___ Bed covering ___ T ___ 8. Bet ___ G ___ H2O ___ T ___ 9. Lender ___ A ___ Golf sand pit ___ U ___ 10. Skewer ___ K ___ Backbone ___ N ___ ©2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

King Crossword

ACROSS 1 Clutch 6 Modern messages 11 "Queen of Soul" Franklin 12 Used a modern car service 14 Irish singer O'Connor 15 More promising 16 "- Mine" (Beatles song) 17 "Zorba the Greek" star 19 Hit CBS series 20 Morning droplets 22 Pump up the volume 23 Bit of dust 24 Road curves 26 Test monitor 28 Wardrobe malfunction 30 Sharing word 31 Driving instructor? 35 Flavor 39 "Les Etats-" 40 Hosp. areas 42 Earth sci. 43 Astern 44 "Star Trek" doctor 46 Computer acronym 47 Band aide 49 Fly 51 Blood givers 52 Evening prayer 53 Newbies 54 Perfume compound DOWN 1 Tony winner 2 Extends, as a lease 3 Devoured 4 Cager O'Neal, for short 5 City near Venice 6 Start playing for pay 7 Black, in verse 8 Ballot marks 9 Lingerie fabric 10 Handles 11 Stage comment 13 Less damp 18 Little rascal 21 Feudal farmers 23 Jazz singer Carmen 25 Use a straw 27 Ump's call 29 Method 31 Sentry 32 Walking 33 Lengthy list 34 Tolkien creature 36 Abrasion 37 Horn blower 38 Gantry of fiction 41 Italian wine 44 Surrealist Joan 45 Saint Laurent of fashion 48 "Le Coq -" 50 Follower (Suff.)

Weekly SUDOKU by Linda Thistle. Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine. DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦♦ Moderate ♦♦♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦♦ HOO BOY! © 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.



TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

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

AUTOMOTIVE

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

HAIR CARE

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

PET CREMATION

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

WANTED

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

NEW STEEL ROOFING

BRAND NEW FABRAL STEEL ROOFING- All standing seam. \$1 per lineal foot (\$75 per square). Delivery available • 69 PIECES of 26 gauge (26G), green, 12' long, 16" wide, covers 92 ft. • 68 PIECES, 14"1" long, 26G, clear/galvanized, covers 90 ft • 36 PIECES, 13"6" long, 26G, clear/galvanized, covers 48 ft. • 18 PIECES, 11"1" long, antique bronze, covers 24 ft. • 56 PIECES, lt. gray, 18' long, 24G, covers 74 ft. Trailside Steel LLC. Call 507-251-5704. 11/22v

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.

Even Exchange

- 1. Beetle, Beetle 6. Gamble, Garbie
- 2. Roast, Roost 7. Quill, Quill
- 3. Forger, Former 8. Wager, Water
- 4. Salon, Talon 9. Banker, Bunker
- 5. Peppy, Puppy 10. Spike, Spine

CryptoQuote

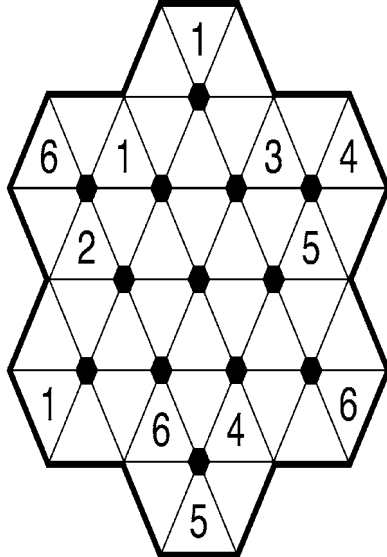
Perhaps the world's second-worst crime is boredom; the first is being a bore. — Cecil Beaton

Find It Here

Solution time: 21 mins.

GRASP TEXTS
ARETHA UBERED
SINEAD ROSIER
TIME QUINN CSI
DEWS AMP MOTE
ESSES PROCTOR
RIP OUR
GOLFFRO TASTE
UNIS ORS ECOL
AFT MCCOY ROM
ROADIE AVIATE
DONORS VESPER
TYROS ESTER

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



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆
◆ Easy ◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆ Difficult

© 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

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: N equals S
IPJF MW OWT LJBB NWGUSWMO
IPW NFWZN TNRVK JV RBBVUNN-
FXUJFRVK NTSNFJVLU?
J GUMRLRVU MXWZZUX.
© 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

Weekly SUDOKU Answer

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

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

MARINE
MOCCASIN POINT MARINE
4655 Moccasin Point Rd Lake Vermilion
218-753-3319
Storage, Boat Rentals, Service/Repairs/Sales Mechanic on Duty
moccasinpointmarine.com
YAMAHA
MERCURY OUTBOARDS
Frank's Marine Sales & Service
Mercury, Crestliner, Lund
www.franksmarinesales.com
frankmarine@centurytel.net
Hwy 53, Orr • Call 218-757-3150

LAND FOR SALE
REMOTE 85 ACRES off Doig Road, 6 miles west of Babbitt. Easement access to your own private wilderness. Asking \$43,000. Call Robert 651-982-2808. 12/6v

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

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

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

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

Your local source for news, music and entertainment!
91.7 KAXE
Northern Community Radio
90.5 KBXE
91.7fm - Grand Rapids
90.5fm - Bemidji
89.9fm - Brainerd
kaxe.org

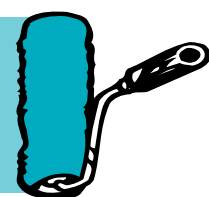
Super Crossword "TAKE THAT!"

- ACROSS**
1 Printed news sources
7 Rival of Nike
13 More potent, as liquor
20 Supposed evil repeller
21 Stephen King's "— Lot"
22 Grow bigger
23 "The Client List" actress Shepherd
24 Result of vandalism
26 Match draw
27 "Them's fightin' words!"
28 Suffix with Canton
29 Right fielder Slaughter
30 Officials at first or third
34 Inner self, to Jung
36 Quarterback Manning
37 Eight minus two
38 Nav. officer
40 Sweater with a pattern of raised bands
45 Ripens
47 Auto exhaust and such
52 River craft
54 Nav. officer
55 Rainbow, e.g.
56 Incentive
57 Cardiologist
62 Return to 000
63 Digital holiday greeting
64 Shipping box: Abbr.
65 Digital color inits.
67 Suffix with host
68 Kuwaiti royal
71 Peck upon parting
75 Italy's Villa d'—
76 Prefix with partisan
77 Singer Des'—
78 English lav
79 Have an — mystery
81 Peter out
83 Belief that people are noticing you more than they really are
90 Total up wrongly
92 Source of 24/7 \$20 bills
93 Hot tub site
94 More subtle, as a point
95 Presidential hopeful's bid
100 Old Icelandic literary work
101 Dais stand
102 Suffix with cannon
103 "Oh, gross!"
105 President pro —
106 Fighting it out
108 Thor and Indra
113 Spanish for "hand"
117 Forbidden
118 "Symposium" philosopher
119 Peter out
120 Personal psychosocial conflict
123 Subsidies
127 Pop flop of 1985
128 Catalog again
129 Manorial home
130 Whole number
131 Unlocked
132 What the starts of nine answers in this puzzle might be
DOWN
1 Lobby gp.
2 Comedian Poehler
3 Saloon
4 Upper crust
5 Holy artifacts
6 Canonized ninth-century pope
7 Savory jelly
8 — Vader
9 "You beat me this game"
10 Removal from office
11 Prayer ender
12 Russ. or Ukr., formerly
13 Prompt for the iPhone's personal assistant
14 Nativeness to a certain region only
15 In the style of
16 Agatha Christie's title
17 Tehran locale
18 Kellogg's waffle
19 "Cheers" actor Roger
25 Eight plus two
30 Ocean liner?
31 Pond slime
32 Tuscan city
33 Wood splitter
34 Oto or Hopi
35 Sponge up
39 Give a poker hand, e.g.
41 Toy with a tail
42 Sounds
43 Build a financial portfolio
44 Fly of Africa
46 More miffed
48 Gives ear to
49 "Ltd." cousin
50 15-season CBS series
51 They often work with DJs
53 List-limiting abbr.
58 "For heaven's —!"
59 Snoops
60 Keep — head (stay calm)
61 "Have a bite"
66 Richard of "Primal Fear"
68 Nail coating
69 Item hanging above a crib
70 "Be there shortly"
72 Small racer in a groove
73 Grew irate
74 Religion in 17-Down
75 Escort in "The Hunger Games"
77 Brew colored from oxidation
80 Slightly amiss
82 Social skill
84 Pot's partner
85 EarthLink or MSN
86 High no. for a valedictorian
87 "Is there no — this?!"
88 Handed over
89 Trolleys
91 All-terrain motorcycle
96 How Jesus walked, miraculously
97 Aetna alternative
98 What a H.S. dropout may earn
99 Syringe parts
104 Most crooked
107 At least one
109 Welcomes to one's home
110 Of service
111 Snooped (around)
112 Arrive at
113 Skirt style
114 Yemen city
115 Pond wriggler
116 Previously
118 Job of some cooks
121 Dress fancily, with "out"
122 — -Magnon
124 Maglie of the old Giants
125 Adaptable truck, in brief
126 Corral

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12		13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20								21							22					
23								24						25						
					26									28				29		
30	31	32												34					35	
36																				
45																				
52																				
57																				
68	69	70																		
76																				
81																				
90																				
95																				
101																				
113	114	115	116																	
120																				
127																				
130																				



HOME IMPROVEMENT GUIDE



BUY NOW BEFORE TARIFFS START

RECLINERS & RELAXERS



Nordic Home North

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

Premium Wood Pellets



40 lb. bag
\$8.99 a bag



COOK BUILDING CENTER
10 N River St. Cook MN 55723

Winter Hours: M-Fri: 7-5,
Closed: Sat. & Sun
Phone/Fax: 218.666.5344
info@cookbuildingcenter.com

Trusted. Local. Experts



218-800-ROOF • Insured • License #BC785662

Tekautz Mechanical

Heating, Air Conditioning, Refrigeration
Repair & Install

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



YOU CALL, WE HAUL!

Anderson Barging, Inc.

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

Covering all of the
Lake Vermilion Area

Cell 218-780-4955
www.andersonbarging.com

Don't Let Winter Get You Down!

We've got what it takes to get you through...



**SHOVELS
ICE MELT
SAND IN A TUBE**

We are a UPS Shipping Drop-Off

VERMILION LUMBER

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



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.

AQELNAB PLQ VJEOX' B
BQRJMX-VJEBP REFKQ FB
IJEQXJK; PLQ HFEBP FB
IQFMW N IJEQ.
- RQRFO IQNPJM

©2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

AUTOMOTIVE

Ely Auction
SERVICE, LLC

AFFILIATE OF 2 RIVERS AUCTIONS

2009 Ford Fusion SEL

165,000 miles,
leather seats,
sunroof, 3.0 V6
engine



\$3,795

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

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



Let these professionals help with
your next home improvement project

TSAA Auction Thank You!

The Tower-Soudan Athletic Association, Friends of Vermilion Country School, Tower-Soudan Elementary PTO, and Tower-Soudan summer youth baseball programs would like to thank the following businesses and individuals for their wonderful donations to this year's auction fundraiser.

We had record attendance this year (it was a full house), and we raised over \$8,500 for programs that will help our Tower-Soudan youth!

Thanks to the Wilderness for hosting and catering the event. Their staff is always a pleasure to work with, and the food was superb. Thanks to LuAnn Zaudtke for being an amazing auctioneer as well as providing karaoke. The bidding during the live auction was fierce this year, but there were a lot of lucky and very generous winners! And most of all, thanks to all who attended and made the event a success! The plinko and wheel of fortune games, built many years ago by shop students at the Tower-Soudan High School, got a good workout!

Thanks to our volunteers Stephanie Ukkola, Ed Swanson, Marshall Helmberger, Sam O'Brien, Gen Bjorgo, Sarah Flores, Kalee Bjorgo, Brianna Broten, Michelle Toutloff, Joan Dostert, Muriel Scott, and Jodi Summit. Thank you to the Timberjay for donating advertising, the programs, posters, and needed office supplies.



Gruben's Marina, HarborView Spa, IBI Construction/Greg Dostert, Immanuel Lutheran, Jill Berg and Katie Harmelink, Jodi Summit, Kay Vandervort, Lamma Mfg., Leigh Lillquist/Small Lots Wine Co., Little Green Pantry, Nordic Home North, Marjo Motel, McKinley Park Campground, Michelle and Dave Toutloff, Micki Ferguson and Linda Bristol, Mickey White, Nancy Larson, Northern Lakes Arts Association, Northwoods True Value, Northern Lights Salon, Pebble Spa, Pier 77, Pike River Products, Piragis Northwoods Co., Sarah Flores and Des Larson, Robin Majerle, Scenic Rivers and Michelle Kosnitch, Shelby Vaske, Shoes & Things, St. Martin's Church, Sulu's, Susan Norha, The Timberjay, Tower Café, Tower Car Wash, Tower-Soudan Agency, Ubetcha/Uffda, Vermilion Club, Vermilion Design Works, Vermilion Fuel and Food, Vermilion Land Office/Steve Abrahamson, Vermilion Shear Image, Vermilion Storage/Dosterts, Wilderness Golf Course, Marjory Wood, Zup's- Tower, Lloyd McIntire, Rick's Relics, Living Well Therapy, Cathy Wright, Little Blessings Gift Shop, Marshall Helmberger, Pins and Needles, Zup North- Tower office/Chessica Olson, and anyone else we may not have gotten recorded!



Jodi Summit and Stephanie Ukkola, Event Co-Chairs