

the TIMBERJAY



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FLOOD RECOVERY

Cook hopeful for new library

FEMA and the state could pay the full cost of \$2 million proposal

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

COOK- Presented with three options for the flood-damaged Cook Public Library and a need for an immediate response, Cook City Council members on Thursday chose the only one that appeared to make sense –

building a new city library on land outside of the flood plain.

Library director Crystal Whitney, with support from library board president Eric Trip, reviewed options for the library that were requested by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), options outlined

in an engineering analysis complied by SEH.

The first, a \$273,000 rebuild to restore the 77-year-old building to its pre-flood condition and without any modifications for floodproofing, wasn't really an option at all. Cook's flood plain ordinance doesn't allow recon-

Right: Sen. Amy Klobuchar marks the high water point from the flood last June, which inundated the Cook Library. file photo

struction of buildings in the flood plain without floodproofing measures.

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ENTREPRENEURS

Roose reaches out to area businesses

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

REGIONAL- Behind every Iron Range small business is a local entrepreneur willing to risk their own time and investment to create a new venture. Because small businesses dominate the regional economy, the area's rural entrepreneurs create jobs and provide services and products that would otherwise be difficult to find locally.

However, many aspiring entrepreneurs on the Range often struggle to start businesses because they lack the resources their urban counterparts can access.

That's where the Entrepreneur Fund can help. Founded in Virginia in 1989, the Entrepreneur Fund is a nonprofit lender and business advisory organization whose original mission was to help small businesses prosper and diversify on the Iron Range and to grow the region's entrepreneurial culture. The fund's two-pronged approach to fostering business, providing both no-cost business advice and business financing, has proved its viability for more than three decades.

Advice
"Our goal is to help business owners start, stabilize, and expand their businesses," said Emily Roose, whose last name is pronounced "rose." Roose is the Entrepreneur Fund's business advisor based in Ely.

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Emily Roose



COOKING

The recipe master

Babbitt's Crystal Schlueter winning recipes led to book deal

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

BABBITT- Campbell's Cream of Mushroom soup is a Minnesota Thanksgiving meal must-have for many generations of area families, including Crystal Schlueter's of Babbitt. Crystal also happens to be an amateur, though soon-to-be professional, recipe writer, thanks in part to her creative uses for this longtime staple of so many Midwest kitchens.

Last year, when Campbell's invited home cooks to share their favorite holiday side dish recipe using one of their popular cream-based soups, Crystal got to

See...RECIPES pg. 10



Above: Crystal Schlueter poses near a display of her award-winning recipe at the Zup's store in Tower.

Left: Crystal appears on Fox 9 out of Duluth to demonstrate the process to prepare her now-famous quiche.

EMS

Tower cool over fees for sprint medics

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL- The future of an emergency medical response pilot project in the Tower area remains uncertain even as the project is slated to begin sometime early next year in Cook, Orr, and Nett Lake.

The so-called "sprint medic" program is a three-year pilot project funded by a \$6 million allotment approved last session by the Minnesota Legislature. Lawmakers earmarked half of those funds for St. Louis County, which is directing the money to the Virginia Fire Department. The department also operates the Virginia area ambulance service, providing advanced life support service, or ALS, to its coverage area as well as several surrounding services. Representatives of the various ambulance services have met several times in recent weeks to discuss their involvement in the program. "Verbally, all four have MOUs and bylaws waiting for approval," said Erik Jonassen, Virginia's deputy fire chief. "It's been approved on Virginia's end," he said.

Ambulance services in Cook and Orr have also signed on as participants in the pilot program, which will employ roving paramedics who will operate within their designated coverage areas. Under the plan, one paramedic

See...SPRINT MEDIC pg. 9

COVID-19

Region seeing big spike in COVID?

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Northeastern Minnesota appears to be the epicenter for the latest surge in COVID activity, with a 224 percent increase in the viral load in wastewater in the region. That spike in the Arrowhead has left Minnesota as the only state in the country where COVID-19 infections are currently on the rise, according to estimates released last week by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

Meanwhile, data from the Minnesota

See...COVID pg. 9



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Community notices

“Castaway Island Christmas” dinner theater on Friday, Dec. 6, possible matinee on Dec. 7

COOK- “A Castaway Island Christmas” is taking shape this week. Volunteers are cleaning Cook Covenant Church so the church’s Fellowship Hall will be transformed into a tropical paradise for the dinner theater on Friday, Dec. 6 at 6 p.m. Pastor Burton’s script is done, members of the cast have gotten their parts, and rehearsals have started. Decorations are due to arrive next week. A number of surprises are planned for the guests. Bring your cash donation or non-expired canned goods - this is a fundraiser for the Cook food shelf. Don’t miss this fun event, everyone is welcome.

In the event the maximum number is reached for the Friday night dinner theatre, we will add a Saturday matinee on Dec. 7 at 2 p.m. with a dessert. Call 331-442-9463 with your name, phone number, and the number of seats you’re reserving. Thank you for your support of the Cook food shelf!

Trinity Lutheran to hold community lutefisk and meatball dinner on Saturday, Dec. 7

COOK- Trinity Lutheran Church in Cook will hold its 10th Community Lutefisk and Meatball dinner on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 4-6:30 p.m. The traditional Scandinavian dinner will include lutefisk and melted butter or cream sauce, meatballs and mashed potatoes, green beans and rutabagas, pickled herring and cranberries, krumkake and Kranssekake, and lefse and cookies.

The cost is \$20 for adults, \$10 for youth ages 10-17, and free for children under 10. Net proceeds from the fundraiser will support the Cook Flood Survivor/Preparedness Fund and the Church Parsonage Repair Fund. Take out is available but delivery is not available. All are welcome. Trinity Lutheran Church is located at 231 Second St. SE in Cook.

Choralaires to present two Christmas concerts in Virginia in December

VIRGINIA- The Choralaires will present two Christmas concert performances in December. The first concert will be at Gethsemane Lutheran Church on Friday, Dec. 6 at 7 p.m. Gethsemane Lutheran is located at 901 Fourth St. S in Virginia. The second concert will be at Our Saviors Lutheran Church on Sunday, Dec. 8 at 2 p.m. Our Saviors Lutheran is located at 1111 Eighth St. S in Virginia. The Choralaires is a men’s Ecumenical singing group that performs sacred and secular music around the Iron Range. The group will be performing a variety of songs with the full choir along with small groups and solos. A free will offering will be taken for local churches, community projects and music needs.

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

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.

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.

HONORING VETERANS



Patriot’s Pen essay contest winners announced

ELY- Four Ely middle school students won local honors in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Patriot’s Pen essay contest last week. The VFW runs the competition every year with a deadline for entries on the last day of October. The theme for this year was “My voice in America’s democracy.” The essays are judged for their knowledge of the theme, the theme’s development, and

the clarity of the essay’s presentation.

The essay contest begins at the local post level. After the local post competition, winners can advance to the district, state, and national levels. Last year, over 73,000 middle school students wrote essays for the VFW contest.

The winners were Beck Sponholz in first place, Suvi Kari in second place,

and Hayden Weidemann and Natalie Bermel who tied for third place. The students submitted essays of no more than 400 words under the supervision of Ely Memorial Middle School language arts teacher Heather Cavalierp.

ARROWHEAD LIBRARIES

Felt Mitten and Heart Pockets Take & Create Kits available in December

REGIONAL- The Arrowhead Library System (ALS) will be offering Felt Mitten and Heart Pockets Take & Create Kits for member public libraries to distribute Dec. 2-31. This art experience, created by Minnesota Artist Mary Mulari, includes instructions and supplies for creating 6 felt pockets to trim a tree, make a garland, or use as colorful holders for treats, gift cards, or special notes. The pockets can be sewn by hand or machine. Take & Create Art Kits will include simple instructions and all needed materials, including felt, assorted ribbons and buttons, an alphabet to trace for monograms, and ideas for personalizing each pocket.



The link to a YouTube video showing the steps of making the pockets will also be provided. Kits will be distributed at the following public libraries and ALS outreach locations:

- Aurora Public Library
- Babbitt Public Library
- Cook Public Library
- Ely Public Library
- International Falls Public Library
- Mt. Iron Public Library
- Virginia Public Library
- Arrowhead Library System Bookmobile
- Arrowhead Library Sys-

tem Mail-A-Book (*patrons must qualify for Mail-A-Book services, kit may be modified in order to deliver by mail).

This free program is best suited for all ages, but younger children may need help. Please note each location has a limited number of kits - feel free to contact your local library for more information. This program, sponsored by Arrowhead Library System, was funded in part or in whole with money from Minnesota’s Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. To learn more about Arrowhead Legacy Events, please see our calendar at www.alslib.info or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/alslibinfo.

Author Cary J. Griffith at Arrowhead Libraries in December and February

REGIONAL- The Arrowhead Library System is pleased to host Minnesota Author Cary J. Griffith, speaking about his most recent nonfiction book, “Gunflint Falling: Blowdown in the Boundary Waters.” He will also discuss his latest Sam Rivers Mystery, “Dead Catch” (set on Lake Vermilion). This free program is being offered at the following locations:

- Monday, Dec. 2, 3 p.m. - Ely Public Library
- Tuesday, Dec. 3, 10



Cary Griffith



a.m. - Gilbert Public Library

- Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2 p.m. - Aurora Public Library

- Tuesday, Feb. 4, 3:30 p.m. - Virginia Public Library

- Monday, Feb. 10, 3:30 p.m. - Babbitt Public Library

On July 4, 1999, in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW), a bizarre confluence of meteorological events resulted in the most damaging blowdown in the region’s

history. “Gunflint Falling” tells the story of this devastating storm from the perspectives of those who were on the ground before, during, and after the catastrophic event— from first-time visitors to the north woods to returning paddlers to Forest Service Rangers. Griffith is a recipient of the Minnesota Book Award and the Midwest Book Award. This free program is one hour long and is geared towards junior high students (ages 10+) and adults.

This program, sponsored by Arrowhead Library System, was funded in part or in whole with money from Minnesota’s Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (ACFH). To learn more about Arrowhead Legacy Events, please see our calendar at www.alslib.info or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/alslibinfo.

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ELY FOLK SCHOOL
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DECEMBER 7TH 7PM
ELY COMMUNITY CHOIR
ELY 1ST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
“Love is Born” by Minnesota composer, Lloyd Larson! The choir will be accompanied by a small chamber orchestra of talented musicians.

NOVEMBER 30TH
SHOP LOCAL SATURDAY
Ely is well known for its many locally made products, and our stores are filled with Northwoods-style gifts, clothing, outdoor gear, artwork, and artist-made cards. There is something for everyone on your shopping list.

DECEMBER 6TH-8TH
ELY CHRISTMAS
Stop in to local business and peruse their featured products, sales, discounts or special activities.

DECEMBER 7TH 11AM-1PM
MRS. CLAUS PARTY
Come have make some Holiday crafts with Mrs. Claus. Santa will make an appearance too.

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WINTER FUN

2025 Ely Winter Festival pins now available

ELY- The North Country's biggest mid-winter bash — the Ely Winter Festival — is set for Feb. 6-16, and the board of directors and their small army of volunteers are hard at work to make it a success.

The fun begins now with the arrival of the festival's long-sleeved T-shirts and annual festival pin in stores (they're also available online). Pin sales furnish 10 percent of the funding for the festival every year, and they make great holiday gifts. Out of the pin's seven dollar purchase price, one dollar always goes to the arts programs in the schools, rotating annually amongst the departments there. The proceeds this year will help out the instrumental music department.

As always, the International Snow Sculpting Symposium an-

chors the festival. Carvers will go to work with chisels, gardening trowels, pancake spatulas, hole saws, and curry combs beginning Thursday, Feb. 6. Since this is a symposium, not a competition, visitors are welcome to pop by and speak with the carvers as they work. They're a friendly bunch, happy to trade tools, stories, ideas, even hot drinks.

As always, new events are being added almost every day. You can easily keep up by visiting Ely Winter Festival on Facebook, or dropping by the website at www.elywinterfestival.com. At the moment, you can expect ice skating in the park, snowshoe trips to Listening Point and the Lake Hegman pictographs, and hot refreshments also in the park.

Other events parallel the festival to everyone's benefit.

The Great Northern Beard Fest is set for Feb. 6 and 7. The Ely ArtWalk, which turns the entire business community into an outdoor art gallery, runs throughout February. Every imaginable medium is represented, and most pieces are for sale.

Speaking of money, the festival doesn't have a money tree in the back yard. The festival is funded by grants, business sponsorships, fundraising activities, and (mostly individual) donors. The Ely Chamber of Commerce helps out with advertising, but the festival is an independent nonprofit organization not affiliated with the chamber.

The festival just held its Oktoberfest fundraiser, which featured the Largemouth Brass Ensemble, an authentic alphon group, along good food, dancing,

and costumes. The whole thing was a blast and a huge success monetarily so it may be held again next year. In the meantime, sponsorship letters to businesses are already in the mail. If your business didn't get one, contact the Festival Coordinator at 218-365-SNOW (7669). To donate directly, go to the festival website, at www.elywinterfestival.com, and click on the Donate button.

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



COMMUNITY NETWORKING

Conference aims to build connections in community

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- The Ely for Ely Conference, held Nov. 18 at the Grand Ely Lodge, brought over 70 Ely-area community leaders together at the Grand Ely Lodge to network and build connections to help make Ely an even more successful community.

The event organizer, Lacey Squier, manager of Boundary Waters Connect, is an old hand at building community and creating connections between people and groups. Last year, she observed that many of the groups and nonprofits in the Ely area had the same needs and problems that could be better solved through collaboration and networking.

"We're a well-networked community, but there are still silos that groups fall into. I realized that Ely's nonprofits and businesses could profit by breaking across those silos to discover ways to collaborate, thus carving out capacity to achieve untapped potential." Having identi-

fied the need, Squier started a working group a year ago about how to break down those silos. The Ely for Ely conference was one of the results of that effort.

"There are so many different strategies we could adopt for improving our economy or strengthening our community, but all of them require us to work together," said Squier. "My hope was that we'd get 60 people in the room who would be willing to engage with one another. I am thrilled that we had more like 70 people and I'm really proud of how dynamic the engagement level was."

The conference program led the participants through a series of activities designed to break the ice, even for the introverts in the room.

"It's hard to build a movement if you don't know who is in it," said Squier, "which is the point of the (conference) exercises ... No matter what strategy we choose to adopt to improve our economy or strengthen our community," Squier said, "having a stronger social network will be the ben-

efit of that strategy. So yes, networking was the primary emphasis of the day."

The conference also included sessions to discuss hot topics for the Ely area and to wrestle with the issue of calendaring the area's many events. The hot topics included items like community engagement and housing.

"If people have a positive experience," Squier concluded, "that is the strategy to help us grow this event next year."

Looking forward

Given a productive day of building connections, the conference organizers have plans to follow up on their success, including another event like the Ely for Ely Conference next year. As a separate follow-up program to the conference, Boundary Waters Connect and the Entrepreneur Fund will host a monthly networking and professional development series starting in January. The program will host meetings on the second Tuesday of every month from 7:30-9 a.m. Meeting locations will



Jess Edberg, executive director of the Dorothy Molter Museum (left), and Lisa Ledel, Well Being Development operations coordinator (right), during a networking exercise at the Ely for Ely Conference.

photo by C. Clark

These events will be free and do not require pre-registration to attend.

The first meeting will be on Jan. 14, 2025, at the Ely Folk School. The topic will be on Ely-specific marketing tactics at the Ely Folk School. The Feb. 11 meeting will be on how to finance a business.

The new networking group is being led by Squier, Abby Dare of the Meadows Gallery, professional life coach Thea Sheldon, Dorothy Molter Museum Director Jess Edberg, Save the Boundary Waters administrative coordinator Jessica Kulik, Entrepreneur Fund Business Advisor Emily Rose, and Ely Chamber of Commerce Business Manager Kristen Switajewski.

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OPINION

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Editorial

Universal school meals

Minnesota students and families are benefitting from this major investment

At a time that we traditionally give thanks with a meal shared with friends and family, it's worth making note of another way that food is making a difference in the lives of many Minnesotans.

A report from the state Department of Education on the impact of the Free School Meals for Kids program, which was signed into law by Gov. Tim Walz in 2023, is worth reading. For those who don't recall, the legislation allows all students to receive a free breakfast and lunch at school by providing reimbursement to schools that participate in the national school lunch program, as the vast majority do.

The program increased the number of students who received school breakfast by 40 percent and school lunch by 15 percent. That's more than 150 million meals served to Minnesota kids in the first year of the program. While many students face challenges at home that can stand in the way of their ability to learn in school, hunger no longer has to be one of them, at least in Minnesota.

And because a combination of state and federal dollars now pays for all school breakfasts and lunches served to students, families with school-aged children stand to save a significant amount of money. According to the report, the free meals program saved Minnesota families over \$267 million last year, or \$1,000 annually per student on average. That includes \$47.7 million in savings for breakfast and \$220 million in savings on lunches.

This is a program that, unlike many, actually targets its savings to middle class families, who typically help pay for government programs without receiving much benefit. In this case, low-income families were already qualifying in most cases for free or reduced-price meals at school. It was middle class families that had to pay full-freight and it undoubtedly was just one more expense that was hitting family budgets during the post-COVID inflation surge. For a typical middle-class family with two kids, the program likely cut their annual outlay for lunches and breakfasts by about \$2,000, according to the report. It's an example of a program that brings direct financial benefit to families.

The program also prompted more schools to take part in the federal school nutrition program, which was a requirement to take advantage of the new state funding. Because of low

federal reimbursements, many school food services were serious money-losers for districts, requiring that funding gaps be back-filled with regular general education dollars. But the new state program has helped most school food services put their budgets back in the black. That was true in part because the new state program more than doubled participation in the federal Community Eligibility Provision program, which offers schools the maximum reimbursement when they provide free meals to all of their students. With outreach from the Minnesota Department of Education, the number of schools now signed up for the federal CEP program jumped from 160 before the new state program took effect, to 410 in the first year after implementation. And more schools will be coming online over the next year or two as they get approved.

It's all part of an effort to ensure that food insecurity and hunger is not an impediment to student achievement. Studies have clearly shown the link between proper nutrition and our ability to learn. Our brains consume a disproportionate amount of the food energy we consume and that is particularly true with young people as they grow and learn. According to the World Food Program USA, poor nutrition "can reduce brain cell production, impact cell size and complexity and even lead to less efficient communication between brain cells." This can result in slower language development, impaired fine motor skills and lower IQ, all of which causes negative impacts on a child's life in and out of the classroom.

Of course, we all know that the type of food matters when it comes to nutrition. While regular meals help, healthy meals help more — and that's why the state of Minnesota is ramping up its support for farm-to-school efforts, which are bringing fresh high-quality produce into our schools. These programs have multiple objectives, helping local producers and growers, providing nutritious food to students, and helping students make connections with how their food is grown.

Here in Minnesota, we're taking steps to ensure that schools can meet the nutritional needs of all students, while teaching them important lessons that will serve them well throughout their lives. That's something we can all be thankful for.



Happy Thanksgiving
Have a Bountiful Holiday

Letters from Readers

Watching the creeping fascism in America

As we watch the next federal administration taking shape and observe actions of the current American government, we should recognize fascism gaining influence.

I use an accepted definition of fascism from my American Heritage dictionary.

FASCISM: A system of government that exercises a dictatorship of the extreme right, typically through the merger of state and business leadership, together with belligerent nationalism.

We will be governed by billionaires and election deniers in a nation that glorifies the military. As a combat veteran I am troubled by our belligerent nationalism as evidenced by our worship of the military. How many times must we watch the choreographed spectacle of Mom or Dad returning from an overseas deployment to surprise a child they never should have left in the first place.

Whether it's Comanches in Texas, Buddhists in Vietnam, or Palestinians in Gaza, America has a long history of slaughtering indigenous populations and then awarding medals to the murderers.

Shame on Americans who would sacrifice freedom for fascism.

**Bob Tammen
Soudan**

Misinformation is increasing antisemitism

Members of the Ely Palestine Solidarity Group don't realize that there has never been a country named Palestine. For centuries preceding World War I, the entire Middle East was under the control of the Ottoman Empire. Following World War I, the colonial powers of England and France carved up the Middle East and drew lines on maps and called them nations and installed rulers. Under traditional

Islamic law, there is no such thing as a nation state under Islam. All of Islam is considered part of the Islamic Caliphate. There is also the tradition that any land once under Islamic control should always remain under Islamic control. All this set the stage for the current conflicts.

As part of the partition of the Middle East, Great Britain became in charge of an area called the Palestinian Mandate, which included all of historic Israel, plus all of what is now Jordan and parts of Syria. Individuals living in that mandate, both Jews and Muslims were sometimes referred to as "Palestinians." Prior to the creation of the modern state of Israel in 1948, Muslims living in the former mandate had no national identity as tribal affiliation was their primary identity. However, beginning in the 1970s, they began to develop a political movement aimed at establishing a Palestinian state for the first time. Those Muslim Arabs who did not become citizens of Israel (as many did) felt stateless in a region that was now filled with nation states, none of which were willing to accept them as immigrants. Those Muslim Arabs gradually realized that if they could be seen as somehow different from all the other Muslim Arabs in the region and self-identified as a "Palestinian people" they could garner sympathy and support for "deserving" their own independent state. Over the years, supported by these fictions, a successful propaganda campaign, and the fertile ground of antisemitism in the Muslim world, in the UN, and increasingly in Europe, their cause has attracted widespread support, including groups in the United States, such as the one here in Ely.

Ely Palestine Solidarity Group clearly is supportive of those Muslim Arabs who identify as "Palestinian." Palestinians are taught to believe that all of what is now the state of Israel rightly belongs to them. Their chant, now echoed by many college students and progressives, "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free," "is a call for

genocidal removal of all Jews from Israel. Is this what the Ely Palestine Solidarity Group supports? Do they also believe that Israel is a "colonial state", an "apartheid state," and that it is committing genocide in Gaza? These are all parts of the Palestinian narrative which have no basis in fact.

A group such as the Ely Palestine Solidarity Group that spreads misinformation about the complicated conflict between Israel and Palestinians (eg. "For almost a century Palestinian people have been forcibly displaced, tortured, abused, dehumanized and murdered by the state of Israel..."), ends up contributing to the demonization of Israel and the spread of Jew hatred. If that seems too strong a statement, look at the huge increase in antisemitic incidents and violence against Jews in the U.S. Don't become a part of that.

**Charles Marsden
Ely**



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

Eugene Coolidge had no kids...

Families tend to create their own traditions for celebrating the Thanksgiving holidays. The tradition in my family when I was growing up was Thanksgiving dinner "at the farm" in Plymouth, Vt., with Eugene Coolidge.



CATIE CLARK

was a cousin of Calvin Coolidge. When my godparents moved to Colorado for work, my family got the keys.

Thus started a time when we spent many of our cold-season weekends at the farm, hunting or skiing or playing

around in the snow. The farm was always under snow, in keeping with the three seasons when we visited: almost winter, winter, and still winter. Vermont is very much like Minnesota in that re-

spect. We hardly ever visited the farm in the summer, otherwise known as the season of poor sledding.

Eugene Coolidge had an arrangement with my godparents where he could continue to use the property for hunting. Like many farmers of his generation, he relied on bagging the legal limit of five bucks and one bear to fill his freezer for the winter. His hunting on the property meant he was around all the time in November. He taught every kid in my family how to shoot and then how to hunt whitetail deer. In March, when the ice started to break up on the local

ponds, Coolidge would take the kids in my family up to the maple grove, uphill from the old upper cow meadow, where his father had built a sugar house. He would collect enough maple sap to fill the evaporator to make a batch of syrup, start up the fire, and then fling cups of boiling syrup out onto the snow where we kids would scramble to pick it up because it turned into instant maple sugar candy.

Because his wife was dead and his kids had moved away to jobs in Massachusetts and New York, my parents included Coolidge in our Thanksgiving dinners.

Eugene Coolidge at dinner was always a treat because he had wonderful stories, told with classic Vermont reticence and humor.

For example, the road past the farmhouse was just a dirt track that was once well traveled as the main road from Ludlow to Rutland. Indeed, as Coolidge related, some of the Green Mountain Boys took that road in 1775 on their way to rendezvous with Ethan Allen in Castleton, Vt., where the American militia force assembled on their way to capture Fort Ticonderoga. As he told the tale, one could almost hear the trudge of leather-soled

shoes as the green-coated Green Mountain Boys marched past the farmhouse, next to the stream that ran down to the Black River.

Eugene Coolidge liked kids and liked teasing them, too. My brother, who was a chatterbox, used to pepper Mr. Coolidge with nonstop questions and sometimes, Coolidge would oblige with one of those classic Vermont wise guy answers that I'm now convinced he saved up just to needle my obstreperous brother.

On returning early from

COMMENTARY

Delivering real relief for northern Minnesota: Property tax reductions for the Range

Northern Minnesota has a rich history built on the backbone of Taconite Mining. For generations, this vital sector has powered our local economy, sustained our communities, and supported Minnesota's prosperity. Now, with the passage of new legislation, we are proud to ensure that the benefits of taconite mining are shared more directly with the hard-working families who call this region home.

Under the tax legislation we passed in 2024, residents in northern Minnesota will see an annual \$515 reduction in their property taxes, fund-



SEN. GRANT HAUSCHILD



REP. DAVE LISLEGARD

ed by the Taconite Property Tax Relief Fund through proceeds from the Taconite Production Tax. This significant relief reflects a principle we hold dear: communities most impacted by and contributing to this industry deserve to see direct benefits from its success.

For decades, taconite mining has generated revenue that supports regional infrastructure, schools, and local governments. While these investments are critical, they don't always translate into tangible, immediate relief for individuals and families. By channeling a portion of taconite tax revenues into property tax reductions, we are closing the gap and ensuring residents feel a direct benefit in their household budgets.

This property tax relief isn't just financial—it's a statement of fairness. Northern Minnesotans work hard, often in challenging condi-

tions, and they deserve to reap the rewards of an industry they've helped sustain. This legislation recognizes the unique role our communities play in Minnesota's mining economy while addressing the increasing financial burdens families face due to rising property taxes.

Beyond providing direct financial relief, this legislation strengthens the fabric of our communities. It supports families who want to stay and thrive in the region, enhances local economic stability, and reinforces the connection between the taconite industry and the people it impacts most.

Moreover, by delivering this relief, we underscore the importance of responsible resource management. Taconite mining is a finite industry, and we must ensure its benefits are distributed equitably and sustainably. This legislation marks a step toward that goal, putting dollars back in the hands of those who live, work, and raise their families here.

This victory would not have been possible without the voices of local residents being amplified by local stakeholders highlighting the severe increases in valuations across our region. We are deeply grateful for

the trust and partnership of northern Minnesotans who understand the importance of preserving the region's heritage while planning for its future.

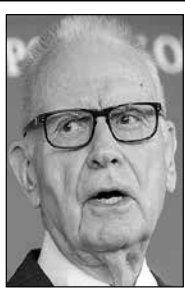
Thank you for your support as we work to secure the future of northern Minnesota and ensure that its residents benefit directly from the success of the taconite industry.

State Representative Dave Lislegard and State Senator Grant Hauschild represent northern Minnesota in the Minnesota Legislature.

COMMENTARY

Don't expect predictable foreign policy in Trump's second term

The voters have spoken, and Donald J. Trump will be the 47th president of the United States. With a Republican-controlled Senate and strong backing in the House, Trump will be in position to implement his agenda, starting in January. What does that mean for foreign policy?



LEE HAMILTON

It's hard to say with certainty. In Trump's first term, from 2017 to 2021, foreign policy was marked by chaos and disputes with our allies. He has promised more of the same: tariffs, confrontations and a go-it-alone approach to dealing with friends and enemies.

But Trump is unpre-

dictable. We can count on surprises.

One of the most urgent questions is, what will happen with Ukraine? Since Russia invaded in February 2022, the U.S. has been Ukraine's staunch supporter. Trump has praised Russian leader Vladimir Putin and criticized U.S. policy. He claimed Russia wouldn't have invaded if he were president and boasted that he could end the war in 24 hours. Ukrainians are right to be worried.

Another crucial issue is U.S. involvement in NATO. Trump has railed against

the organization, threatening, when he was president, to pull back support for the world's most successful military alliance and the most important check on Russian aggression. President Joe Biden made America a reliable NATO partner. Trump may upend that stance.

In the Middle East, combine Trump's unpredictability with the volatility on the ground, and it's anyone's guess what will happen. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu welcomed Trump's election, believing he will be more supportive of Israel and more hostile to Iran than Biden. But what that will look like defies guesswork.

The cornerstone of Trump's foreign policy, according to his campaign

promises, will be to impose steep import tariffs, especially on China and Mexico. Trump says tariffs will pay for his proposed tax cuts and help U.S. manufacturing. But economists say tariffs provoke trade wars, raise prices for consumers and damage the economy.

Of course, Trump won't necessarily get everything he wants. In his first term, for example, he vowed to build a border wall and make Mexico pay for it. That didn't happen. When he imposed tariffs, other countries responded in kind, causing some U.S. exports to plummet.

But Trump's "America First" approach did mark a real change. He angered many of our traditional allies, especially in Europe,

and played nice with our adversaries.

He withdrew from the Paris climate accord, the Iran nuclear deal and several arms control pacts. Biden brought the U.S. back into the climate agreement, but Trump says he will leave it again.

Trump has expressed admiration for autocrats like Putin, China's Xi Jinping and Hungary's Viktor Orban, who suppress dissent and scorn democracy. That worries advocates for human rights and the rule of law. Trump has promised the "largest deportation program in American history," removing millions of immigrants from the U.S. Such a move would be incredibly costly and could cause chaos in Latin America and the Caribbean region.

One of Trump's most worrisome plans is to fire thousands of career government employees and replace them with political appointees. This would be especially damaging at the State De-

partment, where experienced and dedicated diplomats and regional experts are essential for representing America's interests.

Trump values loyalty to himself above all else. With his transactional outlook, he casts every relationship as a "deal" in which there will be winners and losers. Supporters say his unpredictability is a feature, not a bug.

It keeps opponents guessing. The approach may work in business, but it's not suited to governing.

Effective foreign policy requires looking out for our national interests while incorporating American values, including democratic decision-making, human rights and individual dignity. It takes reliability and consistency: Allies and adversaries need to know we mean what we say and will keep our promises.

With a second Trump presidency, we can hope for the best, but there will be no guarantees.

VERMONT...Cont. from page 4

making maple syrup one afternoon, my brother asked over dinner why we had done so.

"Because I was sapped," Coolidge replied.

On another occasion around the dinner table, my brother asked if Coolidge had lived in Plymouth his whole life.

"Not yet," came the predictable response.

Most of the times that we hosted Mr. Coolidge for

dinner were at Thanksgiving. The talk always veered to the subject of hunting because Thanksgiving weekend was always the last day of deer season in Vermont.

In the middle of Thanksgiving dinner, I remember my brother asking, "Mr. Coolidge, did you bag all of your deer yet for this year?"

"Bags are not effective. I use a rifle."

I can remember the year of the best-ever Eugene

Coolidge retort. It was 1971. I was in sixth grade. My brother was in high school. We drove up to the farm the night before and collectively spent the morning prepping for dinner. Mr. Coolidge arrived and we sat down to eat. Of course, my brother had to pepper the old guy with a million questions.

"Mr. Coolidge, did you ever have any kids?"

"Nope." Out popped the answer instantly, though we

all could tell from the look on Coolidge's face that he was wasn't done with his answer. You could almost see the thoughts sorting themselves out in Coolidge's head as he meticulously picked his next words. Then the lips parted as he delivered his next great gem of wisdom.

"Had a wife who had a couple, though."

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the **TIMBERJAY**

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Week of Dec. 2

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 11 winner of the Charlemagne's 52 Club \$100 cash prize is Dora Anderson of Tower.

History Tidbit: In a 1976 Vermilion Lake Township Bicentennial booklet, some history of that area included the following: "The Vermilion Trail passed through the territory and was used by those whose settled near it. This road was named "The Boiler Road" because the first boilers were brought to Tower along this road. The early pioneers built the "Old Road," a wagon road from Tower to the township by way of the present Wahlsten railroad station. No bridge was built across Pike River, and the traveler was forced to ford it at a shallow place; also, a raft was used to cross the river."

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 in Tower. The craft show will feature handmade gifts, homemade treats and holiday specialties, and much more. 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 stop by the *Timberjay*.

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). All are welcome to attend.

Bookmobile stops

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

SHOP LOCAL

Small Business Saturday in Tower on Nov. 30

Shoppers will be entered into raffle drawing for \$500 in gift certificates to area stores

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. Find details and participating businesses in the ad in this 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 to event headquarters (and Santa visiting spot) at the side entrance of the Pike River Products building between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Nov. 30.

Local shops having specials for this event include Ubetcha/Uffda, Nordic Home North, Tower Café, Pike River Products, Zup's Grocery, Rick's Relics, Vermilion Shear Image (Nov. 29 only), HarborView Health and Wellness, Good Ol' Days, Benchwarmer's, D'Erick's, Vermilion Fuel & Food, Soudan Store, and Little Green Pantry.

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 - 2:30 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. 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.



TOWER MINI-PARK

New restroom facility at Tower trailhead, mini-park

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- "This will be good for everybody," said Nancy Larson, who helped write the grants used to fund the new "Green Flush" restroom building being installed at the Tower Train Depot/mini-park area. The new restroom is located by the trailhead to the Mesabi Trail, and near the caboose.

Larson said volunteers who work at the Tower-Soudan Historical Society's Depot Museum often heard requests for a restroom. The civic center restroom was only open limited hours, and the city's mini-park has no facilities.

Public restrooms were also identified as a priority during the public meetings held during the creation of the Tower Area Trails Plan. The civic center/depot location is looked at as a trailhead for the city's bike, hiking, ski, and river trails.

"We were originally looking at putting in a vault toilet," Larson said. "But this unit is connected to utilities and will be open year round."

The city has seen increased use of the Mesabi Trail and of city hiking trails the past few years. The city is also working with Breitung Township on finally getting the "loop trail" completed, which will complete a six-mile paved loop between the communities and two campgrounds.

The Green Flush was purchased with grant funding from the IRRR regional trails program. The cost for the building was \$186,000, plus about \$50,000 for the site prep to connect it to sewer, water, and electrical system. The building contains separate men's and women's flush



toilets, and include sinks and baby changing tables. The toilets and sinks are designed to use 70-percent less water than conventional restrooms. The restrooms are accessible and designed for all ages.

The building will be heated in the winter, so it can be used by snowmobilers on the Taconite Trail, and hikers and snowshoers on the Ancient Cedars Trail.

The Green Flush building arrived in Tower on the back of a large semi-truck, and it was hoisted into place with a crane last Thursday. The restroom building comes completely "furnished." The city is having the plumbing connected to the underground utilities this coming week. The final step is connecting to Minnesota Power, which the city is currently getting scheduled.

The project ties in with other improvements in the area, includ-



ing the creation of the canoe/kayak launch area, and then future plans for a trail connecting the mini-park to the harbor and river areas, plus upgrades to the city's playground area by the train.

"We will be looking at grant opportunities from the IRRR and DNR for these projects," said city clerk-treasurer Michael Schultz,

who said they are looking at playground equipment that is appropriate for older children to complement the playground already in place, as well as the idea of a pavilion for outdoor performances.

COMMUNITY GIVING

Operation Santa donations are needed by Dec. 13

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

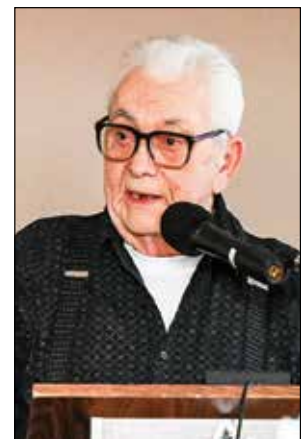
Donations can be dropped off at the *Timberjay* in Tower, and will be distributed at the food shelf on Dec. 17. Families who use the Tower Food Shelf and have not yet signed up, can call Jodi at the *Timberjay* at 218-753-2950, or email editor@timberjay.com to get your children on the list.

BOUNDARY WATERS CONNECT

New Elyites speak at Tuesday Group

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- Once every quarter, Ely's Tuesday Group hosts a session where new Ely-area residents introduce themselves. The most recent batch of Elyites spoke on Nov. 12. Here's a recap of what they said.



Chuck Briem

At 90 years-old, Chuck Briem was the oldest new area resident at the fall installment of "New Elyites" as part of the Tuesday Group gathering. The nagenarian came prepared with a Powerpoint presentation, that began with the tale of eloping with his late wife Shirley in Liberty, Ind. in 1953. The couple had three sons together, and Chuck currently lives with his youngest son, Awen, on

Hanson Road, just off the Echo Trail.

Briem said he had two careers, the first with the Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company, better known as the A&P stores. "I started at 16 sacking groceries with them and I really wanted to be a manager. By age 25, I was managing a brand-new supermarket in Sturgis, Mich. The thing I learned from this is you better be careful about what you pray for because you might get it."

Briem eventually left the A&P, went to college, and then to the seminary, which led to his second career as a pastor. After leading five churches, he then became a United Church of Christ conference minister in Iowa for 22 years before retiring.

Briem spends his time pursuing woodworking, digital photography, geology, and quantum physics. "I like quantum physics. Quantum physics isn't as weird as you think it is. It's weirder!"

He's currently taking two geology classes online and mentioned he was "flabbergasted" by the basalts around Ely. He also showed off pictures of his wood carving and photographs as part of his presentation.

Briem also spends time



out on the area lakes. "I like to fish," he said, then showed a picture of a tiny muskie he had caught. "It's still in diapers, but it's still a muskie," he said.

Laurie Angell

Vet tech Lori Angell spent most of her career working for the veterinary technology program at Madison College in Wisconsin, a fact that eventually led her to Ely. She was attending a conference on sled dog medicine in Duluth in 2010 and a visit to Ely was one of the conference's optional activities.

"I knew nothing about Ely at the time. We got a behind-the-scenes tour of the wolf center, the bear center, Steger Mukluks, Wintergreen ... I knew then and there that I was going to live here someday."

Angell visited Ely often since that time. "But in the

last couple of years, I set my sights on making living in Ely permanent ... I spent my first real winter here two years ago."

She sold her house of 23 years in September and is now here fulltime, renting a place on Jasper Lake, where she lives with her four sled dogs.

"I absolutely love the solitude and everything that goes with being on a quiet lake," Angell said, adding that she loves nature and animals and likes kayaking and yoga. Since moving here, she has also had time to pursue photography.



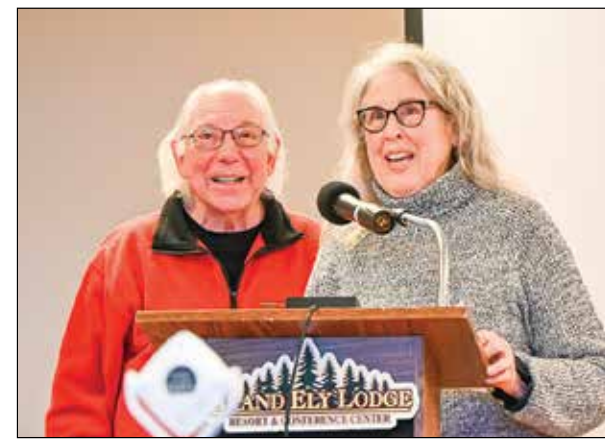
Jessie Brooks

Jessie Brooks, who grew up in the Twin Cities area, is hoping that the third time is the charm for her in Ely. She first lived in the communi-

ty in 1999 while attending the wilderness management program at Vermilion Community College. She moved back in 2004 to finish up the program but returned to the Twin Cities before completing her schooling, then married, and had kids. After her divorce, she decided she wanted to return to Ely, which she did with her three kids, who now attend school here in grades eight, 10, and 12.

Brooks has her own business in Ely as a massage therapist, health coach, and personal trainer. "I have a spot (for my business) above the NAPA store." Brooks has been working as a massage therapist for a decade and recently added the health coaching and training recently to her offerings for clients. "My catch phrase is helping people cultivate a life of wellness through body work, nutrition and fitness."

With three kids, she is always on the go. "When I'm not working, I'm busy driving my kids around to all their sports, baseball and skiing."



Sharon and Bill Kuttler

Bill and Sharon Kuttler moved to Ely after they retired from the dental practice they owned and operated in Dubuque, Iowa. They've been married for 45 years. "We can't quite believe it's been that long because the time just flew by," said Bill.

Bill grew up in Moline, Ill., and Sharon grew up in rural North Dakota outside of Fargo. Bill, who was a dentist, met dental hygienist Sharon when he hired her to work for him.

Bill developed an Ely addiction first, having first come to the area for a canoe trip through Bill Rom's Canoe Country Outfitters. "I remember so much about that trip even today," Bill said, "it was a magic time for me." He returned to Ely and the Boundary Waters many times since then.

When he met Sharon, he broke her into the Bound-

ary Waters experience. "I don't know that she knew more about canoeing," Bill remarked, "but she was at least willing to put up with me. I had learned just enough to know not to jump right into a canoe trip. So, we came up here, rented at a cabin at Kawishiwi Lodge for a week, and paddled our canoe around the lake for a couple of days. And when we were done with that, she said, 'I think we could go camping up here.'"

The Kuttlers decided to investigate moving to Ely after Sharon found Bill tearing up after reading a newly arrived issue of the Boundary Waters Journal.

"What's wrong?" Sharon asked.

"I miss Ely," he replied.

As a result, the couple spent a rainy week in 2023 investigating whether the Ely area would be a good place to retire to. "We

showed up without any reservations" Sharon shared, "which was very rare for us. We stayed at Fall Lake for a week, and it was very rainy. It was also the first time that we had been to Ely when it wasn't just to eat, sleep and paddle ... It was about Wednesday when I looked at Bill and I said, you know, I think we could live here."

They returned to Dubuque after their Ely trip and started the process of downsizing and selling their home. They loaded up a moving truck in February and moved here.

"Everything about Ely has exceeded our expectations," said Sharon. "It was a good choice."

Jen and Jason Rabuck

Jen and Jason Rabuck (pictured above right) came to the podium with a different approach compared to most new Elyite presenters.

Jen told the Tuesday group audience, "I told myself when I came here today that I was not going to talk about work. Work is different than who I am ... Well, yeah, I'm an employee of something, but I'm a wife. I've been a wife for almost 30 years and have been a mom for 23 years. I'm a pet owner of everything from equines in our past to canines and felines in our present."

Jen mentioned her love of skiing, hiking and the



Boundary Waters. Not once did she mention her long and successful career working for the National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service. Jason, meanwhile, worked as a horse trainer, blacksmith, and farrier.

They made the decision to move to Ely two years ago, which Jason said was "a long time in the making." The Rabucks have been making the Boundary Waters pilgrimage for many years. It was Jason who talked Jen into their first trip up here.

"We were talking about going on a vacation," Jen related, "and Jason said, 'Let's go to the Boundary Waters and paddle around.' And I was like, 'No, I want something active.'" When the Tuesday Group attendees stopped laughing, Jen related how her rear end was the only part of her that got a rest on that first trip.

The move to Ely really got its start when their daughter left for college.

Jason had gotten out of the horse business in 2022. The Rabucks no longer had horses on their property and Jen's work had evolved where she no longer needed to be tethered to a physical office. Having lost much of what kept them tied to their home in Wisconsin, they asked themselves where they wanted to be, and the answer was Ely and the Boundary Waters. They sold their Wisconsin house of 21 years and made the move in July.

Jason hopes to get back to being a musician. In the past, he has played in blues bands, doing vocals, guitar, and harmonica. He also likes to do all the outdoorsy things Ely is famous for, like hunting, camping, paddling, hiking, and fishing. He makes handmade knives and leatherwork and is looking forward to displaying his stuff in the Ely ArtWalk.

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Youth Boutique and Raffle

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 Boathouse, 47 E. Sheridan St.

Santa Hayride and Bazaar

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

Ely Public Library

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

Babbitt Public Library

BABBITT- 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.

Sage Foundation

ELY- Sage Foundation is helping connect hardworking students with community members who need extra hands with simple labor projects. If you need help moving, stacking firewood, or any other simple project please contact Lou Wiggin at 218- 821-2341.

In Brief

Tuesday Group schedule

ELY - Hosted by Boundary Waters Connect, the Tuesday Group community educational luncheon 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.

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

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2024



overnight it's white snow and turkey for thursday

pumpkin and whipped cream

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.

COOK CITY COUNCIL

City will get new economic development authority

Council to consider annexing border properties that receive city services

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- When the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation board set up a multi-million dollar loan fund to help flood-damaged Cook businesses get back on their feet, they also set in motion something that will benefit the city's economic future for years to come.

That's because the payments business owners make on the low-interest loans won't be going back to the IRRR but will instead go to the city of Cook to create a fund for future economic development projects.

For that to happen, the city will need to establish an economic development authority, similar in some respects to the housing authority but also different. IRRR representative Chris Ismil was at the Cook City Council meeting last Thursday to talk about what an economic development authority can do for the city and the timeline for creating one in Cook.

"We've been working for some time on the EDA planning - it's been a goal of the city to have an economic development authority and now it's really come to the forefront and moving

forward," city administrator Theresa Martinson said.

Ismil referred back to the creation of the \$2.5 million assistance package, \$300,000 of which was designated for Quick Start economic recovery grants.

"To date, \$275,00 of that \$300,000 has been issued to businesses," Ismil said. "The majority of that has been paid out to businesses, with a few that we're still working on some paperwork. And then there's the Cook economic revolving loan fund. There are some businesses already working with the Entrepreneur Fund to access some of those funds to help rebuild and restart their businesses."

"What's going to happen is that those loans are going to be in part repaid, and that money is going to come back to the city," Ismil continued. "Those funds are recruited back into the city through that revolving loan fund. The EDA is a toll or mechanism to use those funds to further advance economic development within your community."

As the process for forming the EDA moves forward, a key date will be Jan. 23, when the public will be invited to attend a public hearing about the proposed entity.

"I would come back with a presentation about the difference between an HRA and an EDA, and why you want the EDA," Ismil said. "That public hearing will really define what an EDA does, what you're able to use the funds for, what the structure of that EDA could look like."

Experienced with the process through their work with other communities, Ismil said the IRRR has all of the basic paperwork in place to share with the city and its attorney to facilitate the formation of Cook's EDA.

"Hibbing has an EDA. Aurora has an EDA and they're working on a \$15 million spec building in their community. They would not be working on a \$15 million spec building without an EDA to help move that industrial park development forward. Tower has an EDA. Some of these communities have capitalized on funding from our agency through their EDAs, funds that you have not been able to access because you don't have an EDA. So this will open up opportunities for your community."

Ismil noted that the recommendation for the authority board would be to have two city council members

and three at-large members.

"You don't want an EDA that's made up of five councilors where it becomes politicized, and they may not have the business experience, because councilors come and go," Ismil said. "We're trying to connect in the business, the finance, the banking (to the board). Folks who understand business and economic development have some of that expertise to come to the table on that while still having some transparency and some accountability."

Ismil also added that while the IRRR is providing a proven EDA framework for the city to use as a model, the council does have the ability to make changes if local circumstances warrant.

If all passes muster, the council would approve the enabling resolution for the EDA and appoint the board at the Jan. 23 meeting. The board would then hold an organizational meeting on Feb. 27, and be ready to hold its first regular meeting by March 13.

Annexations

City council members decided on Thursday that it was time to take a hard look at the idea of annexing properties outside of the city lim-

its that receive city services but don't pay city property taxes to support them.

The issue of annexation was added to the regular agenda by council member Ron Bushbaum. The discussion came after the council discussed and declined a request from Steven and Stacy Ratai to detach two properties from city jurisdiction due to the high taxes being paid for only city sewer service.

Initiating the discussion about annexation, Bushbaum said, "For me, this is a long time coming, and the situation tonight is kind of pushing it forward. There are properties around town that are receiving city services, and for the equalization piece I think it's time for us to attempt to annex them into the city. This morning, I made a list of seven properties that I would imagine receive city services, and this would help us clean up the border of Cook - it's a pretty jagged edge right now."

Bushbaum said he could also think of five additional properties that could potentially be candidates for annexation.

To move forward, Bushbaum said the city council would need to revise the

existing ordinance for annexation of properties, as the language is inadequate to support the needed action.

"It doesn't say anything about annexing properties," Bushbaum said.

Bushbaum proposed specific language to include all properties that receive city services such as water sewer, streets or alleys, lighting, plowing, or any other service as being eligible for the city consider for annexation.

Martinson took the opportunity to remind the council how decisions were made to extend city services to properties outside of the city limit.

"So you understand, administration has never said that those properties should get support without being annexed," she said. "Those are requests that are brought to the city council and the previous council."

Council member were in general agreement with the idea that there should be more equity in the services provided for the taxes assessed and paid, and voted to pass Bushbaum's suggested ordinance language to the city attorney for review and discussion at the next meeting.

U.S. Steel gives \$5,000 for Cook pickleball project

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- When you need a little help, it never hurts to have a connection with the helpers.

That's how the Cook Friends of the Parks (FOTP) managed to get a generous donation of \$5,000 from U.S. Steel for their pickleball court project at the Cook Community Center.

Geographically, Cook sits outside of the area that U.S. Steel's Minnesota Ore Operations-Keetac division typically gives to, but the town had a couple of aces in the hole that tipped the scales in its favor. One was Director of Operational Readiness Mike Bakk, and the other was a dedicated group of employees who make Cook their home.

"We give around Minntac and Keetac, but we do

have over 25 employees that work for U.S. Steel who live in Cook, so that did help get the funds here for this project," Bakk said on Saturday. "And for me, I'm from here, so I tried a little extra hard to convince the right people that this was a worthy donation."

FOTP's philosophy of fundraising is based on the premise that "it never hurts to ask," and emails flew back and forth between FOTP member Jeannie Taylor and Bakk as they worked to make the donation happen.

"Talking to Jeannie, there's been a lot of people who've really worked hard to make this whole thing happen," Bakk said. "We talked about some of the local businesses that have pitched in and that helps us to secure a donation like this. And it's my understanding that hundreds and hundreds of kids

and families pass through here for various activities, like baseball tournaments and such. So that helps, too - it's good to know you're providing a donation that can benefit so many people."

Taylor said there was another person at Keetac who also helped to influence the decision. Tawnya Gustafson.

"She went to school with my daughter and she has a lot to do with the Keetac union," Taylor said. "Their union actually gave \$200. She's the one who said to talk to Mike."

Bakk was in town Saturday to present the check to a group of FOTP representatives young and old, and they gathered beside the ice rink at the center that will be resurfaced for dual use as a pickleball court. And while most except the youngest in baby carriers will continue to remember the happy mo-

ment, there will be a visible lasting reminder of Keetac's gift as well.

"We're going to have a sign up and everybody that's donated \$1,000 or more, their logo will be on the sign," Taylor said. "That's going to be there indefinitely."

FOTP has now raised about \$73,000 toward the estimated \$120,000 project cost, FOTP member Val Annen said.

"We are within range of making our goal," she said. "We're so excited."

The effort has been boosted, too, by new community events geared for fundraising, another of which is coming up in January.

"It's called Cook's Big Chill, and it's going to be Jan. 18," Taylor said. "It will be here (at the community center) and it'll be outdoor and inside activities. We'll have a chili feed, and hope-



Mike Bakk, Director, Operational Readiness, Minnesota Ore Operations - Keetac, presents a \$5,000 donation for the pickleball project to Friends of the Parks members Steve Kajala, Jeannie Taylor and Val Annen, along with future skaters and pickleball players Lucy Hed, Lily and Remy Reing, and Maverick and Hendrix Reing. photo by D. Colburn

fully there will be ice by then. We have a raffle, and we've had businesses donate cash and prizes. Our local businesses are just awesome. The tickets will be ready in about two weeks, and we'll be sitting inside Zup's again selling them."

Calendar

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 Social Hall at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Cook.

This traditional sit-down dinner is made possible by the efforts of volunteers and the generous donations by local 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.

Snow City Christmas coming to Orr Dec. 7

ORR - An event that began its life as the Calvary Lutheran Bazaar in the 1960's continues to delight holiday revelers today as Orr's Snow City Christmas, this year scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 7.

The Orr Fire Department will kick off the day at 7 a.m. at the community center with a pancake breakfast, and vendors will be selling goods from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

The day's biggest event, the Christmas parade, will be at noon, with Santa appearing at Patten's Café from 1-3 p.m.

There will be music in the afternoon at the community center and in the evening at the Orr Muni, and a bean bag tournament from 5-7 p.m., and music performers will be at The Dam from 2-5 p.m. and at the Orr Muni from 8 p.m.-midnight.

NORTH WOODS POWWOW



North Woods School celebrated its third annual community powwow last Friday featuring the Vermilion Singers and many community dancers. Top: Jingle dress dancers were favorites of the students for their bright shine and sparkling tone. Bottom: Powwow royalty included, from left, Junior Princess Cora Goodbird, sixth grade; Senior Princess Hayden Klassy, tenth grade; and Junior Brave Kendrick Ruzic, fifth grade. photos by D. Colburn

LIBRARY...Continued from page 1

However, the estimate provided a base for the second option, an estimated \$1.7 million retrofit of the library to make it resistant to future floods. That plan called for an exterior flood wall to be built around the library, rising two feet above the calculated 100-year flood height. The interior would have been gutted to install a new flood resistant concrete floor and other flood-proofing features.

But as Whitney confirmed with FEMA representatives in a Thursday afternoon phone call, Cook would only receive double the amount of the basic rehab, or \$546,000, leaving the city to somehow come up with an additional \$1.2 million for the project. And since the

building would still be in the floodplain, the city would have to carry flood insurance on it costing \$10,000-\$12,000 a year, Whitney said. And with this option, the library would still need a previously identified new roof and HVAC system at a cost of \$190,000. The library has a grant that will cover half the cost of those items.

Under the third option, the one ultimately chosen by the council, FEMA and the state of Minnesota would pay to have a brand-new building built on property outside of the flood plain. And while the estimate from SEH for doing that was between \$1.7 and \$2 million, Trip told the council that FEMA wouldn't give them a

dollar amount to aim for.

"I tried to get a number, even just a general number, and they would not give us a number," he said. "They simply said that it needs to be reasonable, and that the feds would provide 75 percent of the cost and the state would provide 25 percent of the cost."

Whitney said it was clear what option FEMA preferred.

"They pretty much told us that this is what we should go for, because they don't want a building in the floodplain, period," Whitney said. "We must prove that the cost is reasonable and cost-effective and more beneficial than the other options. We can include in that cost the demolition, the

land purchase, and any of the building costs—SEH has built some of that in and some they did not. We don't have a spot anywhere, so that would be something that we'd have to figure out."

Whitney also suggested that it could be possible under the "reasonable" rationale to consider designing the building to provide new space for city offices.

"We don't have to just use this as a library," Whitney said. "With this option, we could have a multipurpose city building, meaning we could get City Hall out of flooding danger."

Council members responded favorably to the suggestion and acknowledged

that an option that would be fully paid for was clearly the best choice given the huge cost of the alternative. But when asked if they had any additional time to get more information about the multipurpose concept, Whitney's response was a firm no.

"We literally just got off the phone hours ago with a very long FEMA call," Whitney said. "They want to know how the city wants to proceed—they need to know this. They wanted to know it yesterday, so we need to decide."

While the council unanimously approved pursuing the option for a new library building, Whitney reminded them that since FEMA would

be providing the majority financing for the project that they would have the final say on what direction the project will go. But Whitney felt that getting the building out of the flood plain, the closeness in cost between the two viable options, the opportunity to relocate city business functions to a location free from the threat of flood, and removing the need to pay thousands of dollars annually for flood insurance would all work in the city's favor when determining the reasonableness of the proposal now to be more fully developed.

SPRINT MEDIC...Continued from page 1

would serve the Cook, Orr, and Nett Lake area, while the other would serve the Tower area. Paramedics receive a higher level of training than emergency medical technicians, or EMTs, who are typically the most highly trained personnel at smaller ambulance services offering basic life support care.

"The plan is to put a paramedic in a chase vehicle," said Jonassen, who noted that the medic would automatically respond to about a dozen different types of calls that tend to require a higher level of care. The smaller participating services could ask for assistance from the medics for other calls as well, at their discretion.

The concept has been shown to improve EMS response time in urban settings and the pilot program is designed to help determine its viability in rural parts of the state. If successful, the project could become a permanent fixture of EMS response in the region, although how it might be funded in the future remains uncertain.

While everyone involved seems to agree that the idea could improve patient care in more serious incidents, members of the Tower City Council are questioning the longer-term impact of the

program on their local ambulance service. They're also questioning why the Virginia ambulance is proposing to charge the local services each time their roving paramedic responds to a call.

Virginia initially proposed charging \$400 for each call that involves their paramedic, but after protests from Tower, Virginia dropped the charge to \$200.

That still isn't sitting well with Tower officials. "I would love to do this, but I'm concerned about the charge," said Tower City Council member Kevin Norby, who has been heavily involved in ambulance issues. He questioned why the city should be expected to pay to conduct a pilot project that appears to have more than sufficient state funding. "Our profit margin is thin as it is," he added.

Norby and others on the council note that the pilot program is funded by state dollars administered through the county. The current budget for the project appears to cover all of Virginia's costs for vehicle and equipment acquisition and operational costs, including staffing costs, at \$49 an hour plus benefits like PERA and deferred compensation. Under the current plan, the sprint medics would

be available between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., five days a week.

The current budget, reviewed by the *Timberjay*, anticipates expenditures of just over \$2 million from a \$2.4 million allocation, leaving approximately \$387,000 unallocated.

Long-term factors

City officials in Tower say past experience suggests the sprint medic program could have a negative impact on department morale. When the city shifted to a paid on-call service in 2018, the service lost some volunteers who felt the use of paid EMTs left them less critical to the success of the ambulance service. "What if they go on too many calls and my members can't keep their skills up?" asked Dena Suihkonen, Tower's ambulance supervisor. "Will they feel they aren't needed anymore?" Suihkonen worries that could leave her service increasingly dependent on Virginia for EMS response if too many existing EMTs opt to serve elsewhere.

Norby agrees. "We don't want to just be drivers for paramedics from Virginia," he said.

But Matt Tuchel, who formerly served as ambulance supervisor in Tower

and remains an EMT on the service, said he doubts that the service's EMTs will feel superfluous, at least at this point. "There are only three EMTs who respond as it is," he said. Those three include Tuchel, Suihkonen, and the service's most active EMT, Steve Freshour. If anything, said Tuchel, the service's EMTs might benefit from working around paramedics, potentially enhancing their skills.

While Tuchel said he hasn't formed a firm opinion on the merits of the program, he said he has a hard time discounting it. "I don't think we're in a strong position for sustainability," he said. "If we have an opportunity to do something different, why not consider it? If there are concerns, let's figure out how we can address them."

While Suihkonen and other city officials agree that the ALS, service provided by the Virginia ambulance is important to patients in the area, they note that the city already calls in Virginia's paramedics when needed, at a cost of \$400 each time. Currently, Tower calls for ALS assistance about once a week on average. And, according to Suihkonen, many of those calls happen outside the

hours that the Virginia sprint medic program currently plans to operate. And city officials worry that if ALS calls are too limited, the sprint medics could well opt to show up at more non-critical calls, which could push the city's costs higher. They note that people who go into the EMS field are often motivated by a desire to help others and won't want to stay away from scenes where they could provide assistance.

Given the limited population in many of the ambulance service territories in northern St. Louis County, the viability of providing a sprint medic program long-term would seem to be in doubt without a permanent source of outside funding. Service fees alone, even at \$1,000 per response, wouldn't come close to covering the basic operational expenses of maintaining a paramedic in any given service area. While a paramedic could potentially cover multiple service territories, a larger coverage area would inevitably slow average response times.

That's been the challenge with ALS service for years in sparsely populated regions. Providing ALS service is costly and without a sufficient patient base, such service isn't viable without support

from taxes or another reliable revenue source.

City wants more information

Suihkonen contends that she lacks the authority to approve the city's participation in the sprint medic program and, at least for now, members of the city council say they don't have enough information to make a decision. While Virginia ambulance officials have held several meetings with ambulance personnel in Tower, Cook, Orr, and Nett Lake, the city council in Tower questioned why Virginia officials haven't reached out to actual decision-makers for the city's ambulance. "I think the rest of the council would like a presentation from Virginia," Norby said. "I'll try to set that up before the next council meeting."

Further discussions could also include area townships to gauge interest in providing some funding to cover the cost of the sprint medics if Virginia insists on charging the local ambulance services. "If the greater community wants to support it, they should come to the table and tell us how," Norby said.

COVID...Continued from page 1

Department of Health does not indicate any significant increases in cases, hospitalizations, or deaths in recent weeks, but those indicators tend to lag behind the growth in viral load in wastewater.

But while the wastewater data is reflective of a regional trend, University of Minnesota epidemiologist Michael Osterholm was largely positive in his assessment of the COVID situation in his regular podcast last week.

"COVID activity remains low and it's about as low as it's been all year," Osterholm said. "We're still in a good but not great place, and what I mean by that is that I'd like to see everything go lower. National wastewater concentrations are still considered low and decreasing in every region other than the Midwest, which has seen a very slight increase over the past two weeks. Hospitalizations, emergency department visits, and deaths all continue to decrease as the XEC variant rises in prevalence, making up 28 percent of U.S. cases in the past week. So far it doesn't appear that XEC is going to be responsible for

any significant increase in case numbers."

However, Osterholm was far less positive in assessing the status of up-to-date vaccinations, with good reason.

"Unfortunately, uptake is very low, why I'm somewhat pessimistic we're going to see major gains in the number of deaths prevented," Osterholm said. "As of Oct. 26, only 14.8 percent of U.S. adults reported receiving the 2024-2025 COVID vaccine. Looking at child vaccination rates, only 6.1 percent of kids six months-to-17 years have received the 2024-25 vaccine." MDH reporting indicates that vaccine uptake in Minnesota lags behind that of the nation at 13 percent. St. Louis County is at 12.7 percent, a small increase from the recently

reported 8.9 percent at the end of October. Those who have not been vaccinated in the past six months are at greater risk of contracting COVID and experiencing adverse outcomes due to waning protection of the vaccine over time.

Those interested in getting a booster should check with their primary health care provider or participating pharmacies for information on availability and possible cost. Many individuals, including those on Medicare, are eligible to have their vaccines covered at no cost.

The federal government continues to provide four free at-home COVID tests for every household. To order tests, go online to <https://covidtests.gov>, or call 1-800-232-0233.

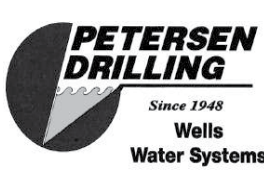


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Steered by a committee of local veterans and servicemembers, United Way of Northeastern Minnesota's United for Veterans initiative seeks to fill gaps in veterans services across the Iron Range, Koochiching County, and Lake of the Woods County. Learn more at: www.unitedwaymnmn.org/united-veterans

RECIPES...Continued from page 1

work and her recipe ultimately won the nationwide contest.

It was hardly her first time. Crystal has entered many recipe contests over the years, and has won or placed in more than 50 national contests so far. While she often enters contests that offer cash prizes, sometimes she enters contests that simply look fun, like this one.

“Growing up in Minnesota,” she said, “you know cream of mushroom soup!”

Her new recipe is featured on a holiday-themed can of cream of mushroom soup, now available in local grocery stores. The recipe is based on a creative use of leftovers that her family enjoyed, now tweaked to add in more fresh vegetables and updated seasonings.

“I try to use fresh stuff if I can,” she said.

She reimagined the traditional green bean casserole into a quiche, based on a recipe she made using leftovers from Thanksgiving. It uses fresh green beans, onions, and baby bella mushrooms, which are first roasted in the oven and then added to a creamy, egg-rich filling, which of course, included a can of condensed cream of mushroom soup. The quiche is topped with toasted panko and “everything bagel” seasoning.

Crystal came to the recipe contest game almost by accident.

“I was in a thrift shop one day buying cookbooks,” she said, “and bought a book about cooking contests.”

That was over 12 years ago. She read that book cover



Schlueter's Everything Quiche can go straight from the skillet to your plate, making it perfect for families on the go.

to cover, and her new passion was born.

Her favorite recipes tend to be those related to her Finnish and Scandinavian roots.

Crystal grew up in Babbitt, graduating from Babbitt High School and studied at Vermilion Community College, but then enlisted in the Navy when she was 18. She initially wanted to serve as a medic, but there was a waiting list to get into medic school, so she served for five years in the military police, including time spent in Iraq during wartime.

She is a self-taught cook, although she learned her way around the kitchen from her mother and grandmother. While traveling around the world in the Navy, she “fell in love with different cuisines and the stories behind them.”

After the Navy, she lived for a time in Colorado before moving back home to Babbitt.

“After living in some big cities, I realized I liked living in the woods,” she said. Her mother still lives in Babbitt,

along with a sister and her family.

Closer to home, she won the *Star Tribune* holiday cookie contest back in 2016, with her Nut Goodie Thumbprint cookies, which is included in the “Great Minnesota Cookie Book (this is a must have holiday baking book in my house, and an updated version was recently published).

“I really love holiday cookies,” she said.

What comes next

Crystal is working on recipes for a new cookbook, that will be published by the Minnesota Historical Society Press in 2026. The book will feature recipes from the Iron Range. She also has a recipe in the fall issue of *Edible Minnesota* magazine, and two more coming out in the magazine’s winter issue. She writes her own articles and also does her own food photography.

Now that she is being paid for publishing her recipes, she said she may no longer be considered a “home cook.” Even so, “I am doing what I love,” she said.

Right now, she is cooking and creating recipes full-time in her rural Babbitt home. She also writes cooking columns for some area newspapers. She also sells homemade cakes, but she said it’s hard to justify the time spent versus the money earned.

Interested in entering a contest?

Crystal said that the website Calling All Contestants is a free place to find cooking contests to enter, <https://callingallcontestants.com>. She also finds contests on social media, like Instagram.

“There used to be more contests to enter,” she said. “They seem to have cooled down a bit.”

Right now, she is waiting to hear if she placed in a \$10,000 cookie contest.

The Campbell’s contest did not come with a cash prize, but did come with a lot of publicity, a nice set of cookware, and 10 cases of her specially-labeled soup, which was donated to the Ely Food Shelf.

Her top contest win was

for a 2022 Heinz Culinary Magic Contest, where she won \$32,000 for a recipe of cauliflower steaks that used two of their new sauces.

Watch Crystal bake her quiche live on the Fox 9 <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=576958195312632>

Make it at home

Everything Quiche made with Cream of Mushroom Soup

Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil (amount divided in recipe steps below)
- 1 cup fresh green beans, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 4 ounces sliced baby bella mushrooms
- 1/2 cup chopped sweet onion
- 1 can (10.5 ounces) Campbell’s® Condensed Cream of Mushroom Soup
- 4 large eggs, beaten
- 4 ounces softened cream cheese
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1/8 teaspoon coarse ground black pepper
- 1 deep dish ready to bake

frozen pie crust in a foil pan (unthawed)

- 1/3 cup panko bread crumbs
- 2 teaspoons everything bagel seasoning
- 2 tablespoons thinly sliced green onion (scallions) (green parts only)

Instructions

Step 1

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F. Drizzle 1 tablespoon oil over a foil-lined rimmed cookie sheet. Top with the green beans, mushrooms and onion. Toss to coat

Step 2

Bake for 30-35 minutes or until the vegetables are softened and just starting to brown, stirring halfway through the baking time. Let the vegetables cool for 5 minutes.

Step 3

In a large bowl, beat together the soup, eggs, cream cheese, Worcestershire sauce, and pepper until thoroughly mixed. Gently stir the vegetables into the soup mixture and pour into the pie crust. Discard the foil and place the quiche onto the cookie sheet.

Step 4

In a small skillet, heat the remaining 1 tablespoon oil over medium heat. Add the panko and cook for 7-8 minutes or until golden brown, stirring often. Spoon the panko over the quiche filling. Sprinkle with everything bagel seasoning.

Step 5

Bake at 400 degrees F for 50-60 minutes or until the crust is golden brown and the filling is set. Let cool for 5 minutes, then sprinkle with scallions.

ROOSE...Continued from page 1

“I talk with between twenty to twenty-five people every week, helping with both start-ups and established businesses ... All our advising is free.”

Roose explained she covers “from the Quad Cities [Virginia, Mt. Iron, Eveleth, and Gilbert] up to the Ely area and everything in between.”

She provides all aspects of the fund’s business consulting services, from business incubation to helping businesses survive tough times. She’s a good fit for the position given her background as a CPA working in business finance. Before she moved to Ely, Roose worked for Deloitte,

one of the nation’s “Big Four” accounting firms.

Roose moved to Ely in 2021 and took a position as a finance team leader at Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital. She began working for the Entrepreneur Fund in June of this year. Since taking her new position, Roose has

already expanded the fund’s outreach in the Ely area, collaborating with Boundary Waters Connect on a 2025 series of business and non-profit outreach meetings for community leaders, with its first session on Jan. 14 (see the Ely-for-Ely Conference article in this issue of the *Timberjay* for more details).

The name Emily Roose may look familiar to Ely-area readers. Roose has served on the Ely Planning and Zoning Commission since early 2022. She has been the commission’s chairperson since last winter and was elected to the Ely City Council earlier this month.

Financing

“Along with our business training and advice, we also provide financing,” Roose told the *Timberjay*. The Entrepreneur Fund is

a nonprofit lender as well as a federally designated Community Development Financial Institution, or CDFI.

CDFIs are private financial institutions vetted by the U.S. Department of the Treasury that deliver responsible and affordable lending to underserved people and communities, like the small towns of the Iron Range.

“We can help local business owners get access to the financial support they need for their businesses,” Roose explained. “We use a variety of funding, including grants and loans from the Small Business Administration and our own loan fund,” said Roose.

The Entrepreneur Fund

The fund was founded to help small business entrepreneurs on the Iron Range. Over the last three decades, the fund has expanded both its staff and

its reach.

“We have over 40 employees,” Roose remarked, “with offices in Eveleth, Duluth, Superior, and Little Falls.” As for the Ely office, Roose works out of the Ely Folk School.

While the fund originally started up in Virginia, today the organization’s reach includes 29 counties in northeast and north-central Minnesota and northern Wisconsin. “The expansion into Wisconsin is new,” Roose explained, “just over the last two years.” The fund’s services also extend to the 12 tribal nations within its service area.

To find out more about what the Entrepreneur Fund can do for a proposed or existing business, visit its website at efund.org, email info@efund.org, or call 218-623-5747.

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- 1-3 PM KID’S CARNIVAL GAMES
- 2 PM LEGION BAR OPEN
- 2-5 PM MUSIC AT THE DAM BY UNCLE ERIC
- 4 PM POPCORN & MOVIE “ANGELA’S CHRISTMAS” AT CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
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LEGAL CANNABIS

Rejections spark controversy ahead of license lottery

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL - Minnesota's Office of Cannabis Management, or OCM, has ignited a firestorm of criticism after rejecting two-thirds of applicants vying for the state's first social equity cannabis business licenses. The contentious decisions come as the agency prepared to hold a lottery on Tuesday to determine who will operate the initial batch of non-Native legal marijuana businesses in the state.

Last week, OCM announced that 1,169 of the 1,817 social equity applicants pre-approved in September had been disqualified. Reasons cited included failure to meet legal standards, insufficient documentation, and failure to comply with ownership requirements. Some were accused of "flooding the zone" by submitting multiple applications, a tactic allegedly used by bad actors to increase their chances in the lottery.

Notably, only 802 in the pre-approved applicant pool were Minnesota residents.

OCM Interim Director Charene Briner defended the process in a statement.

"While the disappointment is understandable, the basic proxy for readiness is your ability to submit a successful application," Briner said.

Social equity challenges

The social equity licenses aim to provide opportunities for individuals harmed by cannabis prohibition, veterans, and residents of high-poverty areas. Applicants who win a license will be able to secure investors, landlords, and necessary approvals to start operations. Cultivators will be allowed to begin planting immediately to prepare for the retail cannabis market expected to launch next spring.

While the program seeks to level the playing field, the high rejection rate has raised concerns about fairness and transparency. Edina-based

attorney Carol Moss, whose firm advised 15 applicants, told *MPR News* that roughly half were rejected.

"The most frustrating thing is that these are clerical errors, ones that would take five minutes to fix," Moss said.

Applicants who were allowed to correct deficiencies during an earlier review period expressed relief, but others, including Moss's clients, say they were not given the same opportunity.

Legal challenges emerge

The rejections have spawned a wave of lawsuits, with several applicants alleging the process was arbitrary and lacked transparency. In a lawsuit filed in Ramsey County District Court, plaintiffs Jodi Connolly and Cristina Aranguiz argue the denials were "arbitrary and capricious" and demanded a halt to the lottery while their case is heard.

Other lawsuits contain similar allegations, claiming that OCM failed to follow

statutory requirements and did not provide clear reasons for the rejections. Many rejection letters reportedly contained no explanation at all for the decision, while others lacked sufficient detail.

OCM responded to the legal actions sharply, accusing some plaintiffs of attempting to manipulate the system. In a press release, OCM officials described the legal action as an effort to "thwart the ambitions and dreams of legitimate social equity candidates."

Application fraud

OCM claimed that they had discovered numerous cases of alleged system abuse, including applicants who submitted identical business plans, used fake addresses, or posed as straw entities for out-of-state interests. Some applications were flagged through whistleblower tips, including one that exposed a recruitment scheme to flood the lottery with straw applicants.

Applicants found to be engaging in fraud or other

violations may be barred from future licensing opportunities, OCM officials said.

Critics argue that OCM's process lacks consistency and clarity, noting some applicants had a chance to correct errors while others did not. State law prohibits appeals of application denials, though rejected applicants may request a record review within seven days.

Defending the process

State lawmakers who led the push for the legalization of adult-use marijuana praised the OCM's efforts to uphold equity and integrity in the social equity licensing process.

Briner said that the strict review process ensures the legitimacy of the applicants moving forward.

"We want to make sure the right universe of fully qualified and vetted applicants are in the mix," she said.

Local implications

Unidentified pre-approved applicants from Tower

and Ely will be hoping to secure one of 100 cannabis microbusiness licenses to be awarded. A third area applicant from Cook will compete for a smaller set of 23 cannabis mezzobusiness licenses. This type of license allows a holder to operate in multiple locations and have greater square footage than with a microbusiness license. It is unknown if any of the three area applicants were among the group that was rejected.

The lottery for the initial 282 social equity licenses was scheduled for Tuesday, barring any court intervention.

Licenses in nine different categories were to be determined in Tuesday's lottery, which was scheduled to be livestreamed on OCM's YouTube channel. A second lottery to determine more social equity licensees will be held early next year.

MinnPost contributed to this article.

WORD TO THE WISE

Consumers warned to be wary of scams during the holidays

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL - 'Tis the season to be jolly, unless you're the victim of an increasing number of scams during the holiday season.

The Minnesota Department of Commerce issued multiple scam alerts this past week targeting state residents, with gift card scams topping the list.

Gift cards have become

popular stocking stuffers and presents, allowing receivers to choose their own desired items from specific vendors. But with monetary value, cards have become targets of exploitation for scurrilous scammers.

Contacts are made by phone, email, text messages, and social media from scammers who pose as a legitimate business, government agency, or nonprofit organization. They may also impersonate

friends or acquaintances to gain trust. A scammer may claim that they're owed money on an account, or that they may urgently need a gift card for business purchases. After people purchase gift cards as directed by the scammer, they're told to provide the card numbers and PINs to resolve any alleged issue.

A new wrinkle to phone gift card scams and other phone scams is the use of artificial intelligence to make

a voice clone of someone a person knows. Using a cloned AI voice increases the likelihood that a target may believe they're talking to someone they know who can be trusted.

The Department of Commerce emphasizes that no legitimate business, government agency, or person will ever ask you to make payments or send money using gift cards.

For routine purchases of gift cards, buyers should always inspect the card for

any signs of tampering. If something appears unusual, contact the customer support number on the back of the card.

Utility company scams

As the weather gets colder, utility scams become an increasing threat. If a caller says they're from your gas or electric company and threatens to immediately shut off your service, it's probably a scam. You should:

▶ Hang up and call the

utility company phone number on their website or your utility bill. Don't call back the person who called you. Those call-back numbers are fake.

▶ Never pay with gift cards, cryptocurrency or wired money. Your utility company won't ask you to pay that way.

▶ If you're behind on your utility bills, ask your utility company for help: Ask for a payment plan and apply for the Energy Assistance Program.

Tower's 2nd Annual Small Business Saturday

Saturday, November 30

Participating Main Street businesses include:

Stop at Tower's Gathering Gallery

9 AM-3 PM (Please use side entrance)

• **Enter the Drawing** for a chance to win one of the many gift cards or gift baskets donated by local small businesses; **DRAWING held at 3 PM.** Bring in your receipt from any Main Street business dated 11/29 or 11/30 to be entered. Multiple entries allowed, one prize per person.

• **Santa & Mrs. Claus will be here greeting children & providing a photo-op from 12:30-2:30 PM. Rumor has it Santa's elf will be along with goody bags for kids!**

Benchwarmer Grille: Cheeseburger & fries for \$10.50 + \$3 rail drinks & domestic bottles; sweatshirts also for sale, great gift item!

D'Erick's Tower Liquor: Shop our off-sale selection & turn your receipts in to win our bloody mary basket.

Good Ol' Days Bar & Grill: \$1.00 off tap beers & well drinks.

Harbor View Health and Wellness: Open 10-4, sales up to 50% off in-store, minimal exclusions apply +10% off first Obagi Skincare order + \$99/month Skin Club memberships providing discounts & additional savings just for members + gift basket drawing.

Little Green Pantry: Healthy food, large variety of gifts, & antiques. Open 10 AM - 4 PM.

Nordic Home North: 10% off all Christmas products, \$100 off already reduced floor model chairs, and hot chocolate & Nordic goodies.

Northern Lights Salon & Co: Purchase \$75 in gift cards, receive \$10 gift card for free, plus 10% off all in-stock products.

Pike River Products: We will pay your tax on Saturday, November 30.

Ricks Relics: 40% off art & books!

Soudan Store: 25 cents off/gallon of gas with mention of this ad.

Tower Cafe: Breakfast buffet served 8 AM-12 PM featuring biscuits & gravy, pancake bar, chef highlights: \$18.95/person, \$15.95/65+ \$12.95/12 & under.

UBetcha Antiques & Uffda Gifts: We will pay your sales tax on sales Friday/Saturday/Sunday, Nov. 29, 30 & Dec 1.

Vermilion Fuel & Food: Save 15% on all in-store purchases (excluding lottery) with mention of this ad!

Vermilion Sheer Image: Gift cards are a great option! We'll be open Friday, November 29, stop in to pick one up.

Zup's: Pick up your Zup's gift card for that hard-to-buy for person. Who wouldn't love a gift card for some of their homemade Lake Vermilion bratwurst, stuffed chicken, hot bologna or stuffed porkchops.

And... For that hard-to-buy-for person...gift certificates for groceries, gas, & personal services are a great option, at the above businesses but also check out Bob's Service, Vermilion Golden Rule Lumber, Northwoods True Value, Timberjay, Tower News, Creative Images Tattoo & Leann's Beauty Salon.

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NORTH WOODS SCHOOL



Above left: Elementary students dance around the Vermilion Singer's drum.

Above: Raymond Boshey (left) and Kingston Ruzic (right) dance around the drum, followed by Bois Forte Tribal Council Member Shane Drift.

Left: Brynn Chosa swings her shawl.

photos by D. Colburn

Powwow at North Woods

FIELD TWP- The third annual North Woods Community Powwow, held on Friday, Nov. 22, was the culminating event for a week of activities celebrating Native American Heritage Week at the school. Students from Tower-Soudan Elementary also attended this special event.





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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.

Santa's Workshop

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7:00 PM





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2024 FIREARMS DEER SEASON

Deer harvest shows consistent improvement across the region

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Deer registrations are up over last year in 12 of the 13 deer permit areas in northeastern Minnesota, but DNR wildlife managers are cautioning that hunters shouldn't read too much into the increase, at least for now.

The DNR released comparison data for deer permit areas across the state this past week and the numbers, along

with hunter observations, suggest that last winter's record warm conditions boosted deer survival.

Deer registrations in the 13 permit areas in the Arrowhead region were up 12 percent over last year, according to DNR data reviewed by the *Timberjay*. The only permit area to see a decline was PA 177, where the DNR had slashed antlerless permits this year. "I did expect to see a decrease in harvest there," said Jessica Holmes, DNR Tower area wild-

life manager.

While the increase in registrations is largely consistent across the board, Holmes notes that the increase is fairly small and could be a reflection, at least in part, of the exceptionally mild weather hunters experienced during the regular firearms season, which likely kept hunters out on the stand longer than in years with more typical weather.

See DEER HUNT...pg. 2B



John Eloranta was pleased with this beautiful ten-point buck that he shot near his parent's home in Vermillion Lake Township.



2024 FIREARMS DEER SEASON

Patience pays off

Brex McCormick, of Cook, tops his dad on his first deer hunt

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK—Forten-year-old Brex McCormick of Cook, shooting his first big buck two weekends ago was the easy part of the hunt. The hard part?

Waiting. "It really was hard because you have to be quiet and get up every morning really early and stuff," Brex said. "It's pretty hard for me because I'm very energetic. I like to do a lot of things and I like to play a lot. So, it's kind of hard to just sit still in a little enclosed stand."

And Brex had to endure more than just a couple of weekends waiting for his shot.

"We saw some deer on opening day, and then it was pretty quiet for quite a few days," said Brandon McCormick, Brex's dad. "Brexton is homeschooled, so we were able to put in quite a bit more time - I think before shoot-

"It was really hard because you have to be quiet and get up every morning really early and stuff."

Brex McCormick

ing that deer we had probably about 35 hours in that stand." The pair began preparing for Brex's first deer hunt last year when Brandon bought a gun for him.

"We bought it last year and sighted it in," Brandon said, "and that's when we mainly practiced. This is the first year he started hunting with me with his own gun."

But Brex also prepared by taking the initiative to watch a lot of deer hunting videos on YouTube.

"Brexton actually did his research in leading up to season," Brandon said. "We've also looked at the pictures that show where to properly shoot deer, but he actually took it upon himself to watch YouTube videos to learn to make good shots and not take bad shots."

Brex said he only practiced for a couple of hours with the gun this year before the McCormicks headed out to a brand-new tree stand on their property north of Cook. And when the two got into the stand, they made a pact.

"We had a rule that it had to be at least six points or bigger for his first deer," Brandon said. "We passed on a couple of spikes over the season. The numbers are way down, so that's another reason we were waiting for a nice one, just to let some of them hopefully grow up."

That also was a little hard for Brex when they saw their first buck.

"I was pretty excited - I wanted

Above: Brex McCormick poses with the eight-point buck he shot while hunting with his father north of Cook two weekends ago.

submitted photo

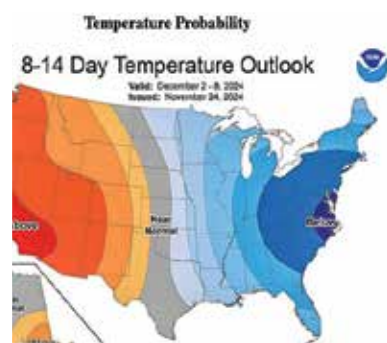
to shoot it, but we had our rule that it had to be six or more, so I was like, 'Yeah, I'll let it go - we'll let it grow a little bigger,'" he said.

But their patience finally paid off on the morning of Sunday, Nov. 17. A doe and fawn they were watching let them know a buck was nearby.

"She had her head up, and she took two big steps forward and she was looking at the trail that we had, and then they both just sprinted out of there," Brex said. "That's when we knew there had to be a buck there."

"It was kind of fun because we had time for it all to play out,"

See PATIENCE...pg. 2B



After months of consistently above-average temperatures, the area is expected to see below-average temperatures heading into early December.

WEATHER

Area still in drought even as pattern change heralds more typical weather

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Last week's rainfall wasn't enough to lessen the drought status across northern St. Louis and Lake counties, although areas to the south did see some improvement thanks to widespread rain totals of 1-3 inches.

Most reporting stations in northern parts of the county saw between a half-inch and an inch of rain from Nov. 19-20, the first significant precipitation in nearly a month. The area has been in severe drought since October, although that's mostly reflected in lake and stream levels, which remain low, rather than fire danger.

With colder temperatures now settling in, the impacts of continued dry weather will be harder to detect for the next several months, whether or not the area receives much additional precipitation over the winter months.

What is likely to be noticeable is the apparent change in the weather pattern that is expected to bring average-to-below-average temperatures to the region well into the first half of December. The North Country has experienced one of the warmest fall seasons (Sept.-Nov.) on record with only a handful of days of below average temperatures over the past three months.

According to the national Climate Prediction Center, however, Minnesota can expect to see temperatures running below average through at least the first ten days of December. The average high in the area on Dec. 1 is 26.9 degrees F, with an average low of 7.7 degrees above. That will cool to an average high of 18.2 degrees and a low of minus-5.2 degrees by Dec. 31.

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GIRLS BASKETBALL

Ely drops first game in what may be a rebuilding year

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

ELY- When a basketball team graduates the likes of a Grace LaTourell, a Hanna Penke, and a Sarah Visser all at once, a trio that led the Ely Timberwolves to exciting sectional tourney play the past three years, it helps to have someone on the sidelines who knows all about Ely basketball tradition as this year's squad seeks a new direction.

The Wolves have that in new head coach Tomi Cole, who inherits the reins from Max Gantt. Cole, the daughter of beloved boys' coach Tom McDonald, was a big-time scorer for Ely in her prep career, then went on to play and coach college hoops, including a stint at the helm at then Vermilion Community College.

The new-look Wolves drew a stout test against Cromwell for their first game



Left: With teammate Gretta Lowe in hot pursuit, Ely sophomore Lydia Shultz leads the Wolves on a fast break on Friday against Cromwell.

photo by D. Colburn

A quick 10-2 Cromwell run aided by multiple Ely turnovers gave the Cardinals a 19-11 cushion, and the Wolves struggled to keep the game close the rest of the half. But right before the buzzer Ely got a nifty score under the bucket from sophomore Greta Lowe and a trey from junior Zoe Mackenzie, and senior Maija Mattson was fouled as time expired and dropped in a pair of charities to go into the break trailing 28-20.

The Wolves stayed within single digits of the Cardinals for most of the second half. But a pair of turnovers that led to fast break scores for Cromwell upped the lead to 44-30 with 3:43 remaining. Ely would get only a two-pointer from

Shultz the rest of the way as Cromwell pulled away for a 52-32 win.

Play was stopped briefly midway through the second stanza to recognize Cromwell's Isabella Anderson, who scored her 1,000th career point. The Wolves were effective in containing the Cardinals' senior forward, who finished with only four points. Shannon Lund led Cromwell with 16.

Cole will likely be on the hunt for a scorer to drive the Wolves' offense after no Ely player scored in double digits. However, Ely had a balanced attack, with Mackenzie, Lowe, and Penke each chalking up six points and Shultz and senior Clare Thomas notching five each.

With two eighth graders and eight sophomores and only one junior and two seniors on the roster, Cole knows it will take awhile for the new-look Wolves to gel.

"We've got a lot who are coming off a lot of junior

varsity time, and for a first game against a really good team that's got a lot of experience I think we hung in with them for a while," Cole said. "It's fun to see everything coming together. Obviously we're trying to rebuild after we lost three stellar seniors, so this was a good test against a good team, and we've just got to improve moving forward."

Given the early turnovers, Cole said that discipline is going to be key to the team's development.

"We have the right ideas, we just weren't making the right plays," Cole said. "They work hard, they hustle. There's going to be some tough games, but there's also teams that we should be in control of and hopefully take care of handling. There's just those minor lapses of judgment that we had tonight."

The team will be on the road against Two Harbors on Tuesday, and will have a week off to fine tune things before hosting Mesabi East on Dec. 3.

PATIENCE...Continued from page 1B

Brandon said. "It's not like it just appeared and it was a quick shot thing. We could see a deer probably 75 yards up in the woods, but at that time we couldn't tell what it was. He actually started walking down the trail and Brex was able to get his gun up and scope it out. It stopped a few times, so it was a waiting game, too."

Brex said he got a little excited but not nervous as he lined up on the deer, and it wasn't until after his shot rang true, hitting the eight-point buck at the top of its heart, that the emotions really took over.

"He knew right away that he hit it," Brandon said. "But I would choose that over shooting my own deer any day - it was so much fun. For his first year and the way it all played out, I don't think you could write it out any better than the way this happened."

whole time of us sitting there, the anticipation, that's where a lot of the excitement was. I think he was shaking the whole time, even when we found it. He just kept saying, 'I can't believe I shot a buck, I can't believe I shot a buck.'"

The McCormicks are having the head shoulder-mounted, and Brex will have bragging rights over his dad, at least until next season.

"I've shot a fair amount of deer over the years and I have one that I've actually mounted, and the one he shot is bigger than mine, so he beat me in that," Brandon said. "But I would choose that over shooting my own deer any day - it was so much fun. For his first year and the way it all played out, I don't think you could write it out any better than the way this happened."

DEER HUNT...Continued from page 1B

Holmes did, however, offer some encouraging reviews. "I have heard from deer camps that were seeing more deer this year, especially that yearling age class," she said. Those yearling deer would have been fawns last

winter, a time when fawn mortality can be high during more typical weather conditions. Those yearling deer should go into this winter in good shape after a wetter-than-average summer and an exceptionally mild fall.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Wednesday					Thursday					Friday					Saturday					Sunday				
Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.
26	14				22	9				17	5				16	4				16	6			
11/18	38	27	0.00		11/18	39	23	0.00		11/18	43	28	0.00		11/18	43	23	0.00		11/18	39	23	0.00	
11/19	50	na	0.49		11/19	49	26	0.64		11/19	48	27	0.00		11/19	48	24	0.71		11/19	50	22	0.92	
11/20	46	31	0.13		11/20	47	32	0.06		11/20	46	31	0.00		11/20	47	32	0.29		11/20	47	32	0.00	
11/21	36	29	0.00		11/21	35	30	0.00		11/21	36	31	0.00		11/21	36	28	0.00		11/21	41	32	0.00	
11/22	40	32	0.00		11/22	41	32	0.00		11/22	38	32	0.00		11/22	40	31	0.01		11/22	42	31	0.00	
11/23	36	26	0.00		11/23	34	25	0.00		11/23	34	30	0.50		11/23	33	26	0.00		11/23	na	na	0.00	
11/24	28	22	0.00		11/24	28	24	0.00		11/24	30	20	0.00		11/24	27	23	0.00		11/24	27	23	0.00	
YTD Total			26.20		YTD Total			26.18		YTD Total			26.35		YTD Total			NA		YTD Total				29.13

MINNESOTA STATE PARKS

Work off those Thanksgiving calories

State parks to waive all entrance fees on Friday, Nov. 29

REGIONAL—If you overdid it on Thanksgiving, consider working off some of those extra calories at a state park near you.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is waiving entrance fees to all 73 state parks and recreation areas the day after Thanksgiving, Friday, Nov. 29. This "Free Park Day" is one of four days each year when the DNR waives the requirement for a vehicle permit for state parks and recreation areas. The goal of Free Park Days is to encourage Minnesotans to get outdoors and enjoy the health and wellness benefits of spending time in nature.

"During the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, Minnesota state parks and recreation areas are the perfect places to enjoy the tranquility of nature," said Ann Pierce, director of the DNR Parks and Trails

Division. "We encourage people to get outside with friends and family after Thanksgiving gatherings to enjoy the calming sights and sounds of nature. With cooler weather, quieter trails, and unique wildlife activity, visitors can experience Minnesota state parks and recreation areas in a new light."

Outdoor recreation options in late November include hiking, biking, nature photography, birdwatching and wildlife watching. Even though peak fall colors have passed, late fall offers scenic vistas and peaceful trails. This time of year is perfect for spotting birds and wildlife that are easier to see after the leaves have fallen from trees. Look for deer and foxes that are more active in cooler weather, and waterfowl along lakes and rivers.

Visitors are encouraged to plan ahead and arrive pre-



All Minnesota state parks will offer free park access to the public on Nov. 29. It's a great way to work off some of those extra Thanksgiving calories.

pared for their visit. Check visitor alerts and find directions on state park webpages (mndnr.gov/park-list).

Download the Avenza app and the geoPDF map before the trip. The app and maps are free, and maps will display a user's current location even when not connected to the internet or cell service. Find informa-

tion on the DNR's geoPDF map webpage (mndnr.gov/geoPDF). Visitors without a smartphone should look for paper maps outside the ranger station.

The weather forecast is calling for colder temperatures than we've experienced lately, so dress appropriately for the conditions and be sure to pack water and snacks.

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FALL PREVENTION



Obituaries and Death Notices



Alan Sam

Alan Sam, 42, of Duluth, formerly of Tower, passed away on Thursday, Nov. 21, 2024. A wake was held on Sunday, Nov. 24 and a tra-

ditional service was held on Monday, Nov. 25, both at the Vermilion Wellness Center in Tower. Arrangements were with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Alan was born in Duluth on Aug. 9, 1982, to Terry Dupree and Linda Sam. He grew up in Tower, attending school and graduating from Tower-Soudan High School in 2001. He worked for Fortune Bay Casino in various departments for many years.

Alan enjoyed being an uncle. He had numerous nieces and nephews whom he would take on outside adventures. Alan enjoyed being outdoors doing any type

of activity. He also enjoyed walking and spending time by the lake. He was the nicest guy you could ever meet. He enjoyed helping people out, often volunteering his time even if they did not ask.

Alan is survived by his siblings, Terry Lightfeather Sr., Teresa Lightfeather, Duane Sam, Krissy Sam, Naomi Hanks, Christina Dupree/Boshey and Tara Taylor; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Terry and Linda; and adoptive mother, Geraldine Hanks.

Helen L. Arola

Helen Louis Picek Arola, 97, of Virginia, formerly of Idington, passed away on Monday, Nov. 18, 2024. There will be a private family interment at a later date. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

She is survived by her children, David (Janis) Arola, Sandra (Lyndon) Nurmi, Sharon (Glen) Aune and Susan (Tim) Waataja; sister, Katherine Aune; sisters-in-law, Donna Picek and Margaret Picek; grandchildren, Theresa (Jason) Bush, Zachary (Michelle) Aune, Connie Cuffe, Janet (Craig) Merten,

Kyle Arola and Dr. Paul Nurmi; five great-grandchildren; four step-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren.

Russell E. Long

Russell Eugene Long, 81, of Ely, passed away on Thursday, Nov. 21, 2024, at Carefree Living in Ely. Arrangements are pending with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

Tod Polley

Tod (Leon) Polley, 74, who was born and lived his entire life at Polley's Resort on Lake Vermilion, passed

away peacefully on Friday, Nov. 22, 2024. A service is being planned and will be announced when finalized. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

He is survived by his daughter, Sena (Terry) Ostrander; granddaughters, Abigail and Addison; nephews, Marc Russell and Ross Polley; nieces, Regan Russell and Christina Plaut; extended family, Charlene, Carlotta, Josh, more "grandkids" and cousins.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Arrowhead Transit offering improved schedules, real-time tracking, and new payment options

REGIONAL- As Arrowhead Transit celebrates its commitment to serving the communities of Northeastern Minnesota, we are thrilled to announce a series of technological improvements designed to enhance public transportation services. These advancements reflect our dedication to not only meeting the needs of our riders but also pushing Greater Minnesota forward.

In a world where technology is ever evolving, we recognize the importance of integrating innovative solutions into our transit systems. By doing so, we aim to create a more efficient, reliable, and user-friendly experience for all new and current passengers.

Enhancements that are on the horizon include:

► **Mobile Payment Solutions:** We are excited to introduce mobile apps and in-app payment options, making it easier for riders to access our services without the hassle of cash transactions. This modernization is part of our commitment to improving the overall rider experience.

► **Improved Scheduling and Tracking:** Our enhanced scheduling system will allow passengers to plan their



trips with greater ease. Real-time tracking capabilities mean that riders will always know when their bus is arriving, reducing wait times and increasing confidence in our services. Think Uber or Lyft!

► **Accessibility Upgrades:** We are prioritizing accessibility in our technological upgrades. Features will be implemented to ensure that all riders, including those with disabilities, can easily navigate our transit options.

Arrowhead Transit values the voices of our community members and will

actively be seeking feedback to inform these technological enhancements. We will host upcoming Q&A sessions to engage with the public, address any questions, and continue to gather insights to refine our services.

"We are excited to implement these technological advancements that will enhance public transportation for everyone in our region," said Dominick Olivanti, marketing and public relations at Arrowhead Transit. "These improvements align with our mission to push Greater Minnesota forward

and ensure that our services remain relevant and accessible."

As we embrace these changes, we encourage our community to stay informed about the latest updates. For more details on our technological improvements and how they will enhance your experience with Arrowhead Transit, please visit our website at arrowheadtransit.com.

Comments sought on updated air permit for Peter Mitchell pits

REGIONAL — The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is seeking public comment through Dec. 15, on an updated draft air permit for Northshore Mining's Peter Mitchell Pit that seeks to control fugitive dust and other particulates leaving the mine.

"Fugitive dust" refers to particulate matter that has become airborne by wind or human activities and is not emitted from a stack, chimney, or vent. Blasting operations, in particular, can disperse large amounts of dust into the air, which can be blown by winds for miles at times.

Because fugitive dust particles are very small and can be easily inhaled, they can enter the respiratory system and increase the risk of respiratory and cardiovascular effects particularly in young children, the elderly, and persons with respiratory problems resulting in serious breathing problems.

According to the MPCA, it has been scientifically proven that fugitive dust has the potential to adversely affect the environment by causing regional haze, reducing plants' ability to photosynthesize, and

cause nutrient loading to aquatic ecosystems.

Key updates to the Northshore permit include:

► Adding blasting and contractor activities as sources of fugitive dust and gases.

► A fuel restriction that allows the burning of only propane and natural gas in shop boilers.

► Compliance monitoring requirements that have been added to the fabric filter controlling the mine's ore crusher.

► Submission of modeling results from Northshore for fine particulate matter.

Comments

To ensure sources of air pollution comply with the Clean Air Act, the MPCA invites public comments on the operating permit for this facility through the Smart-Comment page, which can be found at <https://mpca.commentinput.com/?id=d-CEuKtRx2U>.

The 30-day comment period started Nov. 15 and will continue through Dec. 16. The MPCA will consider comments as it revises and finalizes the permit.



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Please note that the pharmacy will be closed on Wednesday, December 25th, and Wednesday, January 1st to allow our staff to enjoy the holidays with their families. We wish you a safe and joyful holiday season!

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Love is Born

A Christmas Concert performed by Ely Community Choir and Chamber Orchestra with a special performance by the Ely Community Youth Choir

Celebrating the Mystery and Wonder of Christmas by Lloyd Larson

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Ely 1st Presbyterian Church, 226 East Harvey St.

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UNITED WAY

Registration open for United for Veterans Retreat

Open to local veterans, servicemembers, and their loved ones Jan. 17-19 at Grand Ely Lodge

REGIONAL – United Way of Northeastern Minnesota (UWNEMN)'s United for Veterans Retreat will be held Jan. 17-19, 2025, at Grand Ely Lodge. Organizers and veterans alike are looking forward to the event. Registration for the event for veterans and their family members is open now at www.unitedwaynemn.org/ufv-retreat.

Priority will be given to veterans and service members in UWNEMN's service area (Iron Range, Koochiching County, and Lake of the Woods County). Registration is \$25 for veterans and service members, \$50 for non-veteran adults, and \$20 for children ages 6-17 (children 5 and under are free) and includes two nights' lodging, meals (dinner Friday, breakfast/lunch/dinner Saturday, and breakfast Sunday), speakers, and indoor and outdoor activities.

The retreat

"There was something really special about the last retreat that I hope is recaptured this year and continues each year," said UWNEMN Community Impact Coordinator Michelle Lampton.

Lampton attributes the "something special" in part to its inclusivity. Veterans and service members can attend this retreat individually, bring a significant other, or bring their family members.

The upcoming retreat agenda was created with input from UWNEMN's United for Veterans committee, comprised of local veterans and servicemembers. It in-

cludes outdoor activities like snowshoeing and cross country skiing, indoor activities like felt hat making and visits to the International Wolf Center and/or Ely Historic State Theatre, and presentations from local Veterans Service Officers and veteran and motivational speaker John Kriesel.

A recipient of the Purple Heart and Bronze Star, Kriesel survived a roadside bomb attack in Iraq that took both of his legs and two of his friends. He now advocates for fellow veterans and speaks about the lessons he learned from his remarkable journey.

"Feedback shows that these retreats are making a profound and lifechanging impact on those in attendance," said Lampton. "We aren't just hoping but are expecting the same in 2025."

Retreat experience

Local U. S. Navy veteran Steve Biondich walked by the 2023 United for Veterans Retreat flyer on the bulletin board at his workplace, Cleveland-Cliffs Minorca Mine, several times before he stopped and decided to register to attend with his family.

"For whatever reason, I decided to give it a try – the price was right," he said.

Biondich is no stranger to veterans' programs or services. He joined his local American Legion just one month after returning to the Iron Range from serving as a

U.S. Navy quartermaster on a carrier ship and has been involved with a myriad of veteran and community groups ever since. He was familiar with UWNEMN's United for Veterans initiative - but this was the first time he signed up to participate in one of its programs.

"I'm used to being the organizer, but it felt good to participate," he said. "And now that I see what United for Veterans does...it opened a whole new door for me to get more involved at the community level."

Attending the retreat was moving and somewhat unexpected for Biondich.

"I've been to a million workshops and conferences, but nothing like this purely veteran focused," he said. "There was no pressure to participate, but the difference was everyone was there because they wanted to participate."

Biondich said he reconnected with old friends and made new lifelong friends at the retreat. He was surprised by the range of participation – "from people fresh out of the military all the way to a World War II veteran," he said.

"To talk to someone who was in the Air Force before it was the Air Force was pretty cool," he added.

The option to invite family members also made a difference for Biondich. He recalled a day he and his son snowshoed while his wife worked on crafts – each



partaking in activities that matched their interests and still connecting with other veterans and their family members in the process.

"It was just done absolutely perfectly," Biondich recalled. "You could tell there was thought put into each element."

Perhaps the longest lasting impact the retreat had on Biondich was the retreat speaker's presentation on PTSD.

"It opened my eyes to what PTSD is like for others, and I'm so thankful," Biondich said. "I'm able to use what I learned when talking to other veterans. It was a very valuable learning experience."

Since attending the retreat, Biondich has become more involved with UWNEMN and United for Veterans, most recently assisting with Minorca Mine's workplace giving campaign, packing Buddy Backpacks, and spreading the word about the upcoming United for Veterans retreat. This winter, he will also volunteer to deliver United for Veterans holiday meal kits to homebound veterans across



the region.

"Thank you to whoever hung that flyer," he said, reflecting on what started it all.

Donations

UWNEMN has been fundraising for the retreat to keep costs as low as possible for attendees. The organization is accepting donations from individuals to support the retreat in honor of Minnesota's statewide "day of giving." Give to the Max Day (November 21) and Giving Tuesday (December 3), the philanthropic counterpart to Black Friday and

Cyber Monday.

To date, donations have been contributed by the Veterans Community Thrift Store and two anonymous individuals to support the United for Veterans retreat. To learn more about UWNEMN and United for veterans, visit www.unitedwaynemn.org/united-veterans, email michelle@unitedwaynemn.org, or call 218-215-2424.



Festival of Trees at Grand Ely Lodge continues through Dec. 8 with a silent auction, a holiday boutique, and memorial ornaments. The event is a fundraiser for Northwoods Partners. photo by C. Clark

Ely Community Choir readies for Christmas concert on Dec. 7

ELY- It's a Tuesday evening in Ely, and a group of people of varying ages start to gather. Their ages range from high school students and recent graduates to people in their 70s and 80s ... and every age in between. Soon, the laughter and friendly conversation subsides, and the sounds of voices singing in harmony rises in the room ... the rehearsal is beginning. This gathering of singers and instrumentalists comprise the Ely Community Choir directed by Mike Rouse. They are rehearsing the new cantata, "Love Is Born," for a public performance at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7 at the Ely First Presbyterian Church.

"Love Is Born" is a new work freshly published this year by the well known composer Lloyd Larson. As an aside, Larson was a classmate of Rouse at Anderson University and now resides in the Minneapolis area.

"Love Is Born" is a musical journey from dark to light; from hopelessness to fulfilled promise. This musical is a blending of original and familiar melodies that underscore the timeless message of the birth of Jesus and His message of hope, peace, joy, and love.

The Ely Community Choir consists of 33 vocalists of all ages and a small chamber orchestra of five local instrumentalists. The choir and orchestra would like to thank the Ely Presbyterian Church for the use of their facility for this performance.

This will also be the premier for the newly formed

Ely Community Youth Choir. This small group of enthusiastic elementary singers will open the concert with one or two selections of their own and then join the adult choir for one song in the cantata.

Admission to this performance will be by donation at the door. Any donations will be greatly appreciated to help offset the considerable cost of the scores, the orchestration, and advertising. We are also looking for donors who would be interested in helping secure the longevity of the Ely Community Choir. This is the choir's second performance in the last few months. This summer, the choir and chamber orchestra performed "The Song Everlasting," a cantata based on American Folk songs. Ely First Presbyterian Church helped purchase the music for last summer's concert, and Rouse and his wife Billie have shouldered the expense for "Love Is Born." They look forward to many more performances for our community over the next months and years. If you are interested in donating to the Ely Community Choir or joining the choir, you can contact them at ElyCommunityChoir@gmail.com for more details.

So, please join the Ely Community Choir and Orchestra on Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. This is a wonderful way to start the Christmas Season.

2024 Turkey Contest winners announced

REGIONAL- The *Timberjay* would like to thank all the participating businesses in this year's Turkey Give-away and congratulations to all of this year's winners.

Orr

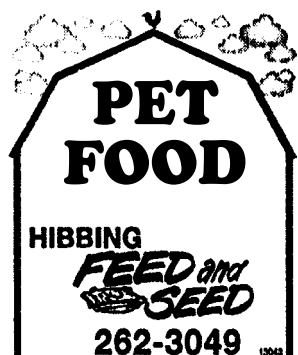
Orr Municipal Liquor Store – Chris Kier
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Nervous to say anything political around the table this holiday season?

Come join the Ely-Palestine Solidarity Group on Dec. 1 from 4-5 pm at the Grand Ely Lodge. We will share tools to engage in tough conversations with loved ones. If you can't attend, please check out this resource:

<https://www.protectpalestine.org/tough-questions>. Please reach out on Facebook with any questions.

Hope to see you Sunday!



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.

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SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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SNOWFLAKES
 by Japheth Light

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

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

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Super Crossword NOT A SINGLE SPOT

ACROSS

1 Hoover, e.g.
 7 Hertz rival
 12 Military vehicle for recon
 20 Roma's place
 21 Go into a major tizzy
 22 Worth of a security at its face
 23 Rare musical gift
 25 Being filmed
 26 Aug. follower
 27 Feel awful
 28 Tree's anchor
 30 Sandbox toy
 31 Elicitor of a rave review
 39 Newton and Asimov
 41 Beats of life
 42 Klutzy sorts
 43 Naiad or dryad
 44 Plant swelling
 46 Ben of "Zoolander"
 49 Mint quality
 54 "13th" director
 DuVernay
 55 Styne of song
 56 TV spots
 57 Vaper's item
 58 How-to unit

59 Catch sight of
 60 Ostrich's kin
 61 Big name in cosmetics
 64 Big bees
 66 Rainforests and such
 69 Round one of the corners in Monopoly
 72 Mets' div.
 73 Vast span
 74 Awful review
 77 First-aid plant
 78 Purplish berry
 79 Derby, e.g.
 80 Buffalo's county
 81 Aladdin's monkey pal
 82 Excellent etiquette
 88 Wasn't penned up
 90 Levi's, e.g.
 91 Start
 92 Singer Celine
 93 Green sushi condiment
 96 "M*A*S*H" actor David Ogden —
 97 Famed Steelers play of 1972
 102 Cole Porter's "— Love"

103 "I got — in Kalamazoo"
 104 Toothpaste tube inits.
 105 — kwon do
 108 O.J. Simpson trial judge
 111 Activity that will be unsuccessful when applied to this puzzle's theme?

7 Cider fruit
 8 Chou En- —
 9 Picnic pest
 10 Emceeing aid
 11 Earthy hues, to Brits
 12 Satirizes
 13 Division of a long poem
 14 Tolkien brute
 15 Coll. in the Old Dominion State
 16 Home of the NFL's Bucs
 17 Symbol of a fresh start
 18 Gold-related
 19 "Royal," in 20-Across
 24 Up to, in brief
 29 Metal in rocks
 32 Small error
 33 German for "eight"
 34 Design detail
 35 — wrestling
 36 Strategy
 37 Quaint newspaper section
 38 Primary
 39 Dressed for nighty-night
 40 IHOP topping
 44 Result
 45 — Moines
 46 Autograph: Abbr.

47 All tied up
 48 Sharp knocks
 50 "You are not!" retort
 51 Noble acts
 52 "All booked up, sorry"
 53 Model Tequila
 58 Catch sight of
 60 Liverpool loc.
 61 Purple flower
 62 — acid (fat substance)
 63 Irish actor Stephen
 64 Allowance
 65 Sizable vase
 66 Put to work
 67 A single time
 68 Sports sides
 69 Early TV host Jack
 70 "Dark Angel" star Jessica
 71 Healthy intellectuals
 74 Introducing
 75 Broadcaster
 76 Aeries, e.g.
 78 Big primate
 79 Clutch sitter
 80 Film scorer
 Morricone
 82 — Z (old Camaro)
 83 List of options

84 Partly open
 85 Neuwirth of "Cheers"
 86 Nonclerical
 87 "Me? Never!"
 89 Husbands-to-be
 93 Tots' haulers
 94 — discount
 95 Smartphone pic, often
 96 Railing sites
 97 Sunni's faith
 98 Animated 2016 Disney film
 99 After a time
 100 Sup at home
 101 Adobe Acrobat file
 106 Forever — day
 107 "Manhattan Beach" novelist Jennifer
 109 Sooner than, poetically
 110 Sch. in Terre Haute
 112 Gig hookup
 113 FedEx rival
 114 Zodiac lion
 115 Dallas Stars' org.
 116 "Yabba dabba —!"

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

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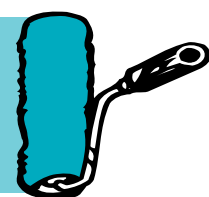
— King Crossword —
 Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.

EFT	TWA	BRUT
BORG	RIC	ROLE
BOER	ASH	ACME
STEAD	HORN	
NIA	OLDHAT	
SUNDECK	SLOPE	
OREO	TED	OPEL
AGAPE	GRUYERE	
REPELS	SPA	
NICE	SLUMP	
CHAT	ROA	THAI
BARN	ANY	YULE
SNAG	PAN	HIT



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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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EMPLOYMENT

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 lwestrack@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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Find It Here 753-2950

SNOWFLAKES

solution

Super Crossword

Answers

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

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Newt
- 4 Former Delta rival
- 7 Very dry
- 11 Bjorn of tennis fame
- 13 Documentarian Burns
- 14 Portrayal
- 15 Afrikaner
- 16 Fire sign?
- 17 Pinnacle
- 18 Lieu
- 20 Trumpet
- 22 Actress Vardalos
- 24 Trite
- 28 Basking venue
- 32 Skiing spot
- 33 Twistable treat
- 34 TV's Danson
- 36 Autobahn auto
- 37 Open-mouthed
- 39 Swiss cheese
- 41 Wards off
- 43 Resort
- 44 Pleasing
- 46 Batter's dry spell

DOWN

- 1 Recedes
- 2 Shoe insert
- 3 Shade provider
- 4 -la-la
- 5 Desire
- 6 Sneeze sound
- 7 Basis for repeat purchases
- 8 Sinbad's bird
- 9 City on the Danube
- 10 Golf peg
- 12 Banner at a new store
- 19 Conk out
- 21 "Kidnapped" monogram
- 23 Play part
- 25 Aspiration
- 26 Mimic
- 27 Prefix with conference
- 28 Fly high
- 29 Incite
- 30 Tide type
- 31 Small barrel
- 35 Hosp. workers
- 38 Football's Manning
- 40 Boom times
- 42 Discard
- 45 - St. Vincent Millay
- 47 "Nope!"
- 48 Algeria's neighbor
- 49 Artist Mondrian
- 50 "CSI" ailer
- 51 Solo in space
- 52 Altar constellation
- 54 Novelist Rand

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