Caution urged in northeastern Minnesota lakes
Warm temperatures, recent rainfall can alter ice strength

LINDA TYSSON
MESABI TRIBUNE

BLUh — Carla Dombrowski, owner of Billy’s Pit Stop Pub ‘n’ Grub, had planned to make a free Thanksgiving dinner for all. Veterans Robert Walker and Daniel Neumann had once done a similar dinner at the Virginia Servicemen’s Club. Dombrowski, Walker and Neumann had a conversation, and the upshot of their talk was a sizable donation for the Minnesota Veterans Home in Silver Bay, thanks to area organizations and businesses contributing to the project.

As Neumann said, “What started as a stop for a beer after dog walking, turned into a plus in so many ways.”

He said, “Carla had mentioned that the cafe was having a Thanksgiving meal. I was one of those that was supposed to do a similar dinner at the Virginia American Legion post way back in 1998. We mentioned that the first one was free, and the second year we were talking into accepting good-will donations. After presenting my request to put on a dinner open to all veterans and family, we got permission to do so. Almost everything was donated and the cost was minimal. We served 87 meals at the post and also delivered to veterans who were homebound. I do not remember all the people or businesses that pretty much gave us what we needed, although the one that sticks in my memory is from Sundra Gulen, who made 20 pumpkin pies from scratch. We did not expect such generosity, but people were just wonderful.”

Dombrowski thought what Neumann and Walker had done “was a good idea and wondered if she could do the same.” Neumann said. He and Walker told her they had suggested those who came to the dinner give free-will donations and said “we sent the money to Veterans on the Lake in Ely.” He told Dombrowski they could do the same thing at her business if she is interested.

Buhl business owner, vets raise funds for those who served

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