



Hegman in winter...See /4B

**Inside:**  
**Time for a new flag?...** See /3  
**Enter the Easter giveaway...** See /12  
**NW archers to nationals...** See /1B

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VOL. 33, ISSUE 13

April 8, 2022

\$1<sup>00</sup>



## EMERGENCY RESPONSE

# Ambulance Commission weighs shift to ALS service

Greenwood representative airs grievances, leaves meeting

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- Members of the Tower Ambulance Commission looked at ways of moving to a higher level of emergency care, called Advanced Life Support, at their quarterly meeting on April 4, but not before

the newly appointed representative from Greenwood Township immediately aired some complaints and then abruptly left shortly after the meeting started.

The commission was established to deal with the purchase of new ambulances, but in recent years has seen itself in a more advisory role

as the ambulance service has struggled with financial issues. The commission includes one member each from the city, Bois Forte Band, and the townships in the state-mandated ambulance service area.

Before the commission had even approved its agenda, newly appointed Greenwood

representative Rick Stoehr began asking questions about financial issues. Then he asked about funds a Tower city audit had shown to be taken from the ambulance service's operating fund in previous years.

Tower Mayor Dave

See...TOWER pg. 9



## SUPPORTING THE ARTS

# A GRAND NIGHT FOR SINGING

## Ely Spring Musical back in tune for 2022

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY- A packed house enthusiastically welcomed a return to live theater here last Sunday afternoon for a matinee performance of "A Grand Night for Singing."

The 2022 Ely Community Spring Musical, a Rodgers and Hammerstein revue of more than two dozen popular tunes from a variety of successful musicals, was presented last weekend by the Northern Lakes Arts Association and Vermilion Community College.

Performances in the VCC Fine Arts

See...SINGING pg. 11

The cast of "A Grand Night of Singing," top, performed before appreciative audiences last week. Laurie Kess, at right, sang "A Wonderful Guy" in the first act. photos by K. Vandervort



## ELECTION 2022

# Bois Forte primary voters tough on incumbents

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

NETTLAKE-Incumbent office holders typically have a decided advantage in running for re-election, but that wasn't the case in the Bois Forte Band primary election held on Tuesday, as preliminary results had two in

tight races to advance to the June general election while a third appeared to have been soundly defeated.

Secretary/Treasurer David Morrison Sr., District 1 representative Shane Drift, and District 2 representative Peter Boney all faced multiple challengers, necessitating the primary election. The two

top vote-getters for each position move on to the general election in June.

Tribal officials live-streamed the preliminary count and tally of the ballots Tuesday night on the Band's YouTube channel and Zoom, with the last of the ballots arriving from Minneapolis at about 1:15 a.m., Wednesday.

Boney, who garnered 48 percent of the vote against seven challengers in the 2018 primary, failed to hold on to his seat after placing a distant third in a five-way race. Hannah Chosa, who garnered 41.5 percent of the vote, and Robert Moyer, at

See...VOTE pg. 11

## SULFIDE MINING

# 'The metals we mine are the metals you use'

Critics: Twin Metals misled Congress over ore deposits

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL- The fight over the future of the proposed Twin Metals copper-nickel mine continues unabated, despite the recent cancellation of mineral leases critical to the project and proposed mineral withdrawal. The recent Russian invasion of Ukraine has given fresh fodder for the company's arguments about the strategic importance of the metals the proposed mine would produce.

"The metals we mine are the metals you use," reads the home page of the Twin Metals website, and it's an argument that they're hoping catches on as they work to head off efforts by opponents of the mine to win passage of permanent protections against sulfide-based mining upstream of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

"If this country wants to produce its own nickel, it has to do it in Minnesota," said Twin Metals' Chief Regulatory Officer Julie Padilla during March 31 testimony before the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. "We can mine here

See..MINING pg. 9

## GREENWOOD

# Clerk says she did not intend to resign

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP- In an email sent out to Greenwood Board members and the Timberjay on Saturday, April 2, Clerk Debby Spicer said her statements made at the March 24 Reorganizational Meeting "were made under emotional stress" and that she does "not intend to resign my elected position of clerk."

Spicer went on to write, "I have been the victim of continuous vindictive attitude directed to me by Supervisor [Sue] Drobac, and the inaccurate information produced by [Chairman] Mike Ralston that lowered the clerk wage when Drobac was clerk.

The Breitung Clerk salary is \$23,500 per year, and she is asked to keep the office open for 12 hours per week, but she works many more hours than that," Spiver wrote.

See..CLERK pg. 11



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## DRY NEEDLING



CITY OF ELY

City looks to fill vacant emergency management post

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY—City council members here approved an updated job description for the city’s emergency management director position Tuesday night, and agreed to post the position internally within the police department. But at least one council member balked at a 66-percent wage increase for the post as recommended by the employee relations committee.

According to minutes from the March 24 meeting of the employee relations committee, the responsibility for emergency management was part of the fire chief’s job description when it was a full-time position. When the fire department lead position was reduced to part-time, the emergency management duties were not redefined and the position was in flux until police Sgt. George Burger took them over. He was paid \$300 per quarter. Burger left the state last summer and the position has been vacant since then.

Under new duty responsibilities, as approved by the employee

Alarm sounds over 66-percent pay hike recommendation

relations committee, the emergency management director would report to the police chief and be in close communication with the mayor, city council, fire chief and all city personnel. The new director would provide quarterly reports to the city council and would work with all area emergency response agencies, including the emergency preparedness group.

The employee relations committee recommended a pay of \$500 per quarter for the police officer who performed the duties above and beyond law enforcement responsibilities.

“I’m just curious how we ended up with the 66-percent increase in compensation for this position,” said council member Al Forsman. “This (new) person won’t have all the training that would be necessary.”

Ely Assistant Police Chief Mike Lorenz, who was attending the council meeting for Police Chief Chad Houde, could not add any insight on how the pay

amount was determined by the chief, and offered to get more information.

Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski noted that the official job description presented to the council indicated that the compensation for the emergency management director would be determined by the council. “The point was to get the position posted internally within the police department, and if that is something the council wants to negotiate later, that is certainly a route you can go,” he said.

Council member Paul Kess said that with all the responsibilities asked of an emergency management director, “the compensation doesn’t seem excessive.”

Mayor Roger Skraba, added, “I tend to agree. I don’t like comparing to other communities, but I don’t think many have an emergency management director. If we can get one, having one as a police officer is even better.”

Forsman also voiced con-

cerns over a police officer incurring overtime in training and doing the job of emergency management.

Lorenz said most of the training for emergency management is now done online.

“We do training like that when we have time while working our regular shift,” he said.

Langowski added that in conversations with Chief Houde, “We are looking to expand upon what the emergency manager’s role used to be and what the council envisions it to be in the future,” he said. “We are looking at more involvement, bringing the other departments together, bringing the emergency preparedness group together. As part of the intent of the revised job description, compensation is just a recommendation.”

Council members approved the revised job description, and agreed to post the position internally within the police department without stipulating compensation.

In other business, the council:

- Approved hiring Chad Gregerson for the Electrical Line Worker IV position.
- Approved a recommendation from the Ely Utilities Commission to allow Treehouse Broadband to modify their lease and install a new equipment room in the base of the water tower.
- Approved a request from MIDCO Communications to use a portion of the old city garage for equipment storage, at \$300 per month, during their fiber upgrade project in the city.
- Approved the Fourth of July parade route and approved a Music in the Park event for Saturday July 2 in Whiteside Park.
- Approved a temporary liquor license for Northeastern Minnesota for Wilderness for an event in the Chapman Street Pocket Park on Saturday, July 2.
- Approved a temporary liquor license for the Ely Folk School for an event at Semer’s Park on Wednesday, May 11.

ST. LOUIS COUNTY

McDonald to seek reelection

ELY- St. Louis County Commissioner Paul McDonald announced this week that he will seek re-election this fall to the St. Louis County Board.

“Serving the people of the Fourth District has been one of the great honors of my life,” said Commissioner McDonald. “Over my three plus years in office, we have made great progress and I want to do my part to see it continue. The board has put ideas in place to help reconnect students in the schools, established mental health initiatives and continue to promote economic development in the region. The pandemic has been stressful, but we have continued to work to make St. Louis County a better place.”

McDonald was first elected to the St. Louis County Board in 2018 and currently serves as board chair.

“I pride myself on being a team builder and always strive for what is truly best for the residents of St. Louis County. If we all work



Comm. Paul McDonald

together, we can create solutions to many of the issues facing the county,” said Commissioner McDonald. “My passion for our youth, our seniors and our Veterans are at the core of my drive to make our area the best it can possibly be.”

“As the Commissioner who represents a great portion of the mineral area of St. Louis County, I will continue to make the support

of mining and its expansion our top priority as it provides the jobs and tax base that helps our citizens in all walks of life.”

McDonald currently chairs the Northeast Minnesota Joint Powers ATV Board and is vice-chair of the Joint Powers Emergency Communications Board. He also sits on the Voyagers National Park Clean Water Joint Powers Board, the AEOA Board, and many others. “As a commissioner, former educator and community/union activist, I have learned the importance of involvement, persistence and commitment to get things accomplished,” said McDonald. “I was fortunate to spend two years as the Chair of Public Works and Transportation and we invested well over 50 million dollars each year to improve our roads and bridges. St. Louis County is leading the way in the state when it comes to transportation issues.”

A Chisholm native, McDonald has lived the past 33 years in Ely.

Is Minnesota’s flag due for a makeover?

House bill could lead to new design

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- The rumblings that Minnesota’s flag could do with a redesign are being felt in the state Legislature again as a bill introduced last year by Rep. Peter Fischer, DFL-Maplewood, has gained some traction in the current session.

Fischer has been looking into the flag issue since 2017, when two high school students came to him with a list of issues about the design, which does little to easily identify and distinguish Minnesota from the flags of nearly 20 other states. In fact, an association of flag experts, the North American Vexillological Association,



Minnesota’s state seal, set against a blue background, currently forms the basis of the state flag.

has rated Minnesota’s flag among the ten worst flags among U.S. states and Canadian provinces.

“The design is not simple: no child could draw it from memory,” wrote Thomas

See **FLAG...pg. 5**

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# OPINION

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## Editorial

### How about a solution?

Stauber’s toxic approach to politics shows the GOP’s utter lack of ideas

We recognize that politicians occasionally shade the truth and engage in hyperbole. And a few too many are willing to engage in a bit of demagoguery at times. We all learn to take that with a grain of salt. Yet the almost daily dump of nonsense that emanates from the office of Eighth District Congressman Pete Stauber is disturbing, in large part because it demonstrates the congressman’s toxic, partisan approach to almost every issue.

The latest example was Stauber’s response to the Biden administration’s efforts to increase domestic production of critical minerals and metals as a way to reduce the country’s reliance on foreign sources of minerals. Within days of taking office last year, President Biden signed an executive order requiring a review of vulnerabilities in the U.S. supply chain, particularly for critical minerals. Last June, the administration released an analysis that found an over-reliance on foreign sources, including adversaries like China and Russia, in some cases, and the administration has now developed a plan to address the issue.

It’s a multi-faceted approach that includes invoking the Defense Production Act, which will give the administration more tools, including federal funding, to help companies engaged in the mining, processing, and recycling of critical materials, like lithium, nickel, and cobalt.

To hear Stauber tell it, of course, “There has not been a single policy put forward by Biden, including his [recent] announcement, that will bring back domestic oil and mineral production.”

That’s the definition of political nonsense, and it fails to acknowledge that it was Stauber, among other Republicans, who opposed investments in job-creating industries that could help to ramp up domestic mineral production. The Biden administration, for example, recently announced a \$140 million Department of Energy demonstration project to recover rare earth elements and critical minerals from coal ash and other mine waste, potentially creating a whole new industry that could create thousands of new jobs while weaning the U.S. off our dependency on China for rare earths. The DOE will also invest \$3 billion in new technology to refine battery materials such as lithium, cobalt, nickel, and graphite, and to improve battery recycling capabilities.

These new investments were funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, a measure that Stauber voted against, even as he shamelessly tries to take credit for every dollar the new law sends to the Eighth District.

That same law invests tens of billions of dollars to advance our transition to clean energy, which will create tens of thousands of new jobs, address climate change, and help to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, regardless of where they are produced. While those are long-term solutions, the administration is addressing short term supply concerns by releasing oil from the U.S. strategic reserve and pressing our allies to do the same from their own reserves. That will not only help reduce prices at the pump (indeed, they’re already dropping), but will take money out of the Kremlin’s coffers as it pushes down the price of oil globally. In other words, the administration has put forward a comprehensive plan intended to actually do something about the problem in both the short and long-term. Not surprisingly, Stauber is opposed to all of it.

It’s always easy to take potshots. What you don’t hear from Stauber are any actual solutions. The Keystone XL pipeline, a frequent GOP talking point, wouldn’t have produced a single drop of oil in its entire lifetime, and it was designed primarily to ship Canadian crude, not U.S. supplies. And the Twin Metals copper-nickel mine, which Stauber has backed despite its well-established risks to the Boundary Waters, would have, at best, produced a drop in the proverbial bucket in terms of America’s need for strategic metals. And there was no guarantee any of it would have been used domestically since the refining was expected to be done overseas, where it would simply have become part of the same global supply chain we’re currently worried about. What’s more, a Harvard economic study suggested the mine would actually lead to less economic growth, and greater dependence on unsustainable industries, in the Ely area than without it. And that didn’t even consider the devastating impact to the local economy in the event of a major toxic leak. That’s why the U.S. Forest Service opposes the project. It’s high risk with little to no ability to mitigate the damage such a mine could well cause. Even the Trump administration moved to block mining near Yellowstone for some of the very same reasons as with Twin Metals’ project. If Stauber doesn’t believe the science that convinced the U.S. Forest Service, where’s his science showing otherwise?

Rather than serving up demagoguery and pot shots seven days a week, Stauber should start doing the hard job of actually bringing some solutions to the Eighth District. And, by that, we don’t mean photo ops with every Eighth District funding initiative he voted against.



## Letters from Readers

### The woodchucks are looking for the cheese factory

We always enjoy hearing of new economic activity in the community, especially in the local foods sector, but ever since Chuck Farmer’s article about Chuckling Cheese, it’s been pandemonium here in Linden Grove. An endless line of woodchucks coming out of hibernation are knocking on the door all hours of the night. Where’s the cheese factory? I can’t find these people. I want to work at the cheese factory. They stop by at 2, 3, and 4 in the morning, and I’ll tell you some of the little guys are downright rude. Who knew that local entrepreneurs could trigger a woodchuck revolt? We finally had to put up a sign, “This is not Chuckling Cheese and we don’t know where it is.” And we put a pile of want ads next to the sign.

Kelly Dahl  
Linden Grove

### Was beaver milk cheese a missed opportunity?

Your feature on the fledgling business of raising woodchucks for making artisan cheese was enlightening. Are the entrepreneurs going to start selling stock or are they going to stay privately owned? Hopefully, they might make an appearance at the Earth Fest later this month, along with the “contributing editor,” Mr. Chuck Farmer, who appears to have his finger on the pulse of all things agriculturally innovative. On the more realistic side, there actually was a man and his companion who raised wild beavers in their cabin and on their woodland property in Canada. Born in England, Archie Belaney became an orphan and was taken in by a couple of his aunts as a child. He avidly read all the adventure books and dime novels about First Nations people in Canada and the U.S.

and eventually left Britain and emigrated to Canada to begin life as a woodsman, hunter and trapper with the new moniker, “Grey Owl.” He passed himself off as native or at least part native, and became a legendary conservationist after realizing some furbearers were becoming in danger of extinction. He wrote “Sajo and the Beaver People” and several other books and lectured widely in Canada and Europe. His false claim to be born of the First Nations wasn’t revealed until after his death. His positive influence for conservation, however, lived on even though the public became aware of his false ancestral claim.

As far as can be determined, he and his associates never attempted to exploit the lactation of mother rodents in an effort to make cheese. Too bad, a natural boreal-inspired fromage with “notes of aspen bark and hints of alder tannin” might have become a classic in high-end restaurants.

Mark Roalson  
Hoyt Lakes

## COMMENTARY

### Who are the greatest Americans?

Who are the most important Americans? It’s a question that’s sure to generate lots of disagreement. It might even start some passionate arguments. Everyone has a different idea of who they are.

Most of us would include presidents on the list: George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, maybe Franklin Roosevelt. We might look to America’s founders: Thomas Jefferson and James Madison (also presidents), Alexander Hamilton, Benjamin Franklin and others.

But government leaders aren’t the only ones who made the United States what it is. Inventors and entrepreneurs produce the tools and technolo-

gies that define our lives: Thomas Edison and Alexander Graham Bell come to mind, along with recent figures like Steve Jobs and Bill Gates. Athletes, from Babe Ruth to Michael Jordan, inspire us and capture our admiration. Writers, artists and entertainers help us understand the world and add meaning to our lives. Activists and idealists push America to live up to its ideals.

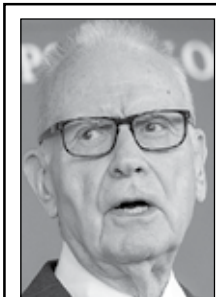
Listing the most important Americans in different categories is one way to approach the question. That’s the tactic Smithsonian Magazine took a few years ago when it named “the 100 most significant Americans of all time.” Building on the work of computer scientists who created algorithms to rate the historical significance of world figures, the

magazine created several lists of the most important Americans, only 11 of them presidents.

One of the most compelling categories was “rebels and resisters.” It included Thomas Paine, the pamphleteer who inspired the American Revolution; Frederick Douglass, the great 19th century abolitionist and orator; John Brown, whose ill-fated raid helped push the conflict over slavery to a crisis; and Martin Luther King Jr., who became the voice of the civil rights movement in the mid-20th century. It included women’s rights crusaders Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Native American leaders Tecumseh and Sitting Bull.

Women were underrepresented on the overall list, not surprisingly given their lack of full citizenship for much of our history. But the

See HAMILTON...pg. 5



LEE HAMILTON

## When a rite of spring became a rite of passage

As a little girl, I spent a lot of time slogging around in rubber boots in search of a puddle or a pond, drawn by some invisible force to the sights and sounds of water. A successful find was always a delight, even if only a trickle.

Early in their marriage, my young parents set a goal to save enough money to move out of the ratty



KATHLEEN MCQUILLAN

little house they were renting and into a house of their own — one with a yard. By the time I, their third child, was born, they had fulfilled their dream. My happiest memories were staged in that yard with its lush lawn and fruit trees.

Their new house was a two-bedroom bungalow, not unlike most others on our gravel road, but

our home on Linville Street felt special. The yard, surrounded by a tall, white picket fence, fostered feelings of safety and comfort like the ones I saw in my storybooks.

Fences were important. They acted as symbolic barriers to the outside world. They set limits, requiring permission from my parents before traveling beyond. Getting permission for nearly everything became the expectation following my father’s death. I guess my mother needed to keep a tight grip on the reins until she was sure her children were strong

enough to hold onto them without her. Another one of those symbolic boundaries was the giant maple tree three houses down. It defined the end of our block — the furthest point to which I could venture away from home.

We didn’t live in a city. Linville was located in one of the few remaining townships where cornfields and wetlands created an obstacle to the ever-creeeping urban sprawl from Detroit’s lower west side. We didn’t have sidewalks. But that didn’t keep me from pulling my wagon along the

well-worn path that ran in front of the neighbors’ fence lines. I never went beyond that maple. In fact, I called it my “mama tree”.

Once I learned to ride my bicycle, I longed to go further. And one day I did. Most enjoyable of all were bike rides right after a heavy rain, at full-speed through the deepest puddles I could find. No longer was I entertained by rerouting little rivulets of run-off from our driveway en route to the ditch.

See PASSAGE...pg. 5



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Tower event an effort to connect businesses with funders

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER— About 50 community members, including business owners and their families, gathered at the Herb Lamppa Civic Center on March 31 for a “Resource Meeting for Tower Area Businesses.”

The event was organized by members of the Tower Economic Development Authority (TEDA) who are hoping a Northland Foundation grant application could spark as much as \$6 million in new investment into the local business economy.

The grant program is being funded by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) and would be overseen by the Northland Foundation’s Main Street Revitalization Program if their proposal is ultimately approved. The program would include a 30-percent grant for projects on Tower’s business



Attendees at the recent event talk with Whitney Ridlon (r) of the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation. photo by J. Summit

corridors that could be used for business growth, new business creation, housing development, addressing blight, and improving energy efficiency. Businesses can work with the Northeast Entrepreneur Fund (NEF) to find loan programs to fund the remain-

ing 70 percent of project costs. The NEF has a wide range of free business planning and training services available, a small grant program to help fund training for recipients of their microloan programs, as well as access to a wide variety of loan programs

provided by other organizations.

“There is a lot of momentum here,” said Victoria Carlson, TEDA member and owner of Ubetcha Antiques.

TEDA member Miranda Kishel, who works for the Entrepreneur Fund and recently opened a business on Main Street, said their committee had asked Tower business owners for ideas for projects.

“Now we need to put details to those plans,” she said.

Kishel asked interested business members to get details for their plans in place by June 30, including detailed cost estimates, to be ready when the actual grant applications are available.

Consultants from Iron Range Resources, Minnesota Power, Arrowhead Economic Development Authority, and local lenders were also on hand to discuss other grant and loan opportunities, available to a wider range of businesses and projects.

“We need to be ready to go

forward if the grant is awarded to the Northland Foundation,” said Kishel.

The Northland Foundation is waiting to hear exactly when and how much grant funding they might be overseeing, but TEDA committee organizers were optimistic that the funding would become available. The Northland Foundation has yet to release a detailed application for the program. Grant funding is projected to become available in late summer or early fall.

Organizers saw the event as a chance for business owners to network, both with each other, and with a wide range of business development services available in the area. Additional planning sessions will be held in April and May.

For more information on the grant program, along with resources available for area businesses, contact Miranda Kishel at mirandak@entrepreneurfund.org.

FLAG...Continued from page 3

Atkins one of the students who contacted Fischer. “Furthermore, the flag uses seven colors, more than the three or four typically recommended, and contains a prominently placed seal. This overly complicated design obfuscates any symbolism the flag intends to convey. Writing ‘Minnesota’ on the flag only makes the problem worse, as effective flags need not write the name of the region they represent to invoke their meaning. Finally, to the average person, Minnesota’s flag is indistinguishable from

19 other state flags, all blue backgrounds with overly detailed state seals.”

Minnesota didn’t have a flag when it became a state, and it wasn’t until the 1893 Chicago World’s Fair that state leaders held a contest for a state flag that could be used in a contest at the fair. The state seal, dating its origin back to territorial days, was chosen to be displayed on a white field, and it remained the defining feature on the banner when it was redesigned in 1957 and again in 1983 when the seal was tweaked and standardized.

The seal itself is problematic for many Natives and non-Natives alike who perceive the imagery on it to be racist. It depicts a white farmer ploughing ground in the foreground, while in the background an Indigenous rider on horseback is riding out of the scene. The stark division emphasizes the triumph of the early pioneers over the centuries-long inhabitants of the land. A 2020 guest column in the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* written by Mark Grindy, bluntly described the message conveyed by the imagery.

“This is not an attempt to honor our heritage or history, but to erase it,” he said. “The truth is, state-sponsored violence against people of color is not merely part of Minnesota history but central to it.”

Fischer notes that the state flag and seal should have an element of branding and be symbols that are instantly recognizable as Minnesota.

Fischer’s bill would create a State Emblems Redesign Commission to “develop, design, and recommend to the legislature and governor a new design

for the official state seal and a new design for the official state flag ... that accurately and respectfully reflect Minnesota’s shared history, resources, and diverse cultural communities.” A target of May 11, 2023 is set for a new flag and seal to be adopted.

The 14-member commission would include four legislators, three public members appointed by the governor, two members appointed by the Indian Affairs Council, one from each of the state’s three ethnic councils — Council on Asian-Pacific

Minnesotans, Council on Latino Affairs, and Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage — and one member each representing the Dakota and Ojibwe communities.

The bill sat in the House State Government Finance and Elections Committee for over a year before the committee passed it along party lines and sent it to the House Ways and Means Committee last week. A companion bill introduced in the Republican-held Senate has yet to be acted upon.

PASSAGE...Continued from page 4

While my mother was preoccupied with managing her household and working hard to support her family, we kids were often left to fend for ourselves. Once chores and homework were done, we were free to roam until Mom got home. “The big woods” was located three blocks away in the direction opposite of my mama tree. That’s where Linville ended and a rugged path cut through a large lowland swamp began, the route to Dean’s Pond — our neighborhood’s proverbial “playground”.

I’d heard stories about this place long before I ever went there. You had to be a “big kid” before venturing that far, something that lacked definition. All I knew was that the big kids got to do a lot of cool stuff. And, I was tired of being called a “scaredy-cat”. One day, my growing curiosity met up with my budding bravery. I decided to test the limits. Not wanting to hear “No”, I kept my plan to myself.

It was a cool spring day when I entered the big woods. I was surprised how

good it felt. I wasn’t afraid. I loved the dark shadows underneath the mounds of brush, and those cast by tall, tall trees. Finally, I dropped my bike along the trail and began walking in. I found hiding places, where I crouched down, just another one of the many critters I’d spotted darting behind dead snags and fallen logs. Intertwined ferns, twigs, and other odd matter became my own secret dens.

Deep pools and marshy shorelines were sanctuaries for an array of aquatic life. Water bugs darted across the surface. Polliwogs swam in abundance below. All around, delicately patterned webs, like lacy white curtains, draped on reeds and branches. This woods was a wonderland and would become my favorite destination to return to again and again.

One day, later that spring, it happened. For some time I’d heard about an occurrence that matched the Fourth of July in its level of anticipation — a kids-only event called “The toad raid.” I had been too

young to have any idea what it was, but I knew it was a big deal. On one particular morning, a din was erupting from down the block — a signal that sent Bobby Blitz peddling furiously from one end of Linville to the other, announcing in his loud screeching voice, “It’s on!!”

With that, every kid grabbed their bicycles and a bucket and headed for the woods. My brother hollered at me to get mine. He’d find some buckets and meet me “out at the street”. We quickly joined the cavalcade of bikes headed for Dean’s Pond.

The closer we got, the sounds from the pond grew more intense. Brave and crazed amphibians jumped indiscriminately in front of our bikes, all headed in one direction. I felt bad for those poor little guys getting crushed beneath our tires, but no one else looked upset, so I pressed on. Some kids were whooping along with the high-pitched chorus of croaking. I heard myself let out a hoot of my own, thrilled to be present for this

rite of spring — the only girl — headed toward Dean’s Pond, a place reserved for boys to build their forts, launch their makeshift rafts, or just “hang out” and do “boy stuff”.

On cue, everyone ditched their bikes, grabbed their buckets and trudged further into the swampy woods. There they were — the music-makers — by the thousands. Toads and frogs, two, three, even four layers deep. Undeterred by our presence, they continued on with their instinctual need to fulfill a law of nature, one that my brother would later explain to me. “It’s all about reproduction”.

Without a moment’s hesitation, we began scooping up, by the bucketsful frogs and toads of every size. Although my memory of what happened next is a little fuzzy, we eventually poured them all back into the pond, completely ignorant of any harm we had perpetrated. Then, soaking wet, covered in mud and frog goo from our heads to our toes, we journeyed home.

I was a yucky mess.

But I didn’t mind a bit. I had just witnessed something truly amazing — one of nature’s spectacular moments. And one of the most exciting experiences I’d ever had.

Since then, I’ve been present for a few more of Mother Nature’s jaw-droppers, not to mention countless smaller-scale spectacles, events still so

profound that the thrill has never left me. And the indescribable awe that only Nature can provide, experiences I hope we can preserve for future generations. Because, honestly, I can’t imagine life without them.

HAMILTON...Continued from page 4

magazine rightfully recognized Helen Keller, Oprah Winfrey, Sojourner Truth, Jane Addams and other influential women.

Religious figures were prominent: Ann Hutchinson, William Penn, Roger Williams, Jonathan Edwards and Cotton Mather from the colonial era and Billy Graham from our own time. “Trailblazers” shaped the contours of the nation: the explorers Lewis and Clark and their guide Sacagawea, the mountaineer and wilderness champion John Muir; and Neil Armstrong, the first man on the moon.

We are a nation that loves sports, and athletes would be on many of our lists of important Americans; Jim Thorpe, Jackie Robinson,

Muhammad Ali, Billie Jean King and others have inspired us with their skill. Pop icons like Mark Twain, Elvis Presley, Charlie Chaplin and Marilyn Monroe created a distinctly American culture. “Empire builders” Andrew Carnegie, Henry Ford and Walt Disney exemplified the genius of American capitalism.

The Smithsonian list also included Americans whose impact was arguably not positive: Robert E. Lee, who led the Confederate army in a bloody defense of slavery, as well as outlaws and villains like Jesse James, Al Capone and John Dillinger.

Of course, we could argue that our nation owes its greatness to millions of

ordinary Americans who are little known outside their family and friends. Settlers who endured hardship to scratch out a living from the land. Immigrants who crowded into tenements and kept our factories running. Enslaved people who built fortunes for others. Soldiers who fought and died in our wars.

I’ve named a few important Americans, but I’ve certainly left out many deserving of mention. We all have our own ideas about who they are, and we will defend our choices passionately. That’s part of what makes us Americans.




Steve Fields  
Minnesota Attorney

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*the*  
**TIMBERJAY**

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

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

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

Publisher	Marshall Helmberger
General Manager	Jodi Summit
Cook/Orr Editor	David Colburn
Ely Editor	Keith Vandervort
Office Manager	M. M. White
	Michelle Toutloff
Office Staff	Sharon Legg
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**Official Newspaper:**  
City of Tower, Townships of Bearville, Eagles Nest, Embarrass, Kugler, Vermilion Lake, Field, Morcom, Leiding, Crane Lake, Kabetogama, Greenwood, ISD 707.

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

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Week of April 11

**Monday**  
Embarrass Al-Anon Family Group- Hope Lutheran Church, 5088 Hwy. 21, 6 p.m.

Tower City Council- 5:30 p.m. on April 11

**Tuesday**  
Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5:00 p.m. Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is April 19.

Greenwood Fire Dept.- Meetings on the first (business meeting) and third (drill) Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

Greenwood Town Board- 6:30 p.m. on April 12

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

Tower/Soudan Community Bible Study- Thursdays from 6 - 7:30 p.m. at the Tower Elementary School cafeteria. All are welcome. Call 218-984-3402 for more info.

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

**Northern Red Hat Belles to meet April 14 in Virginia**  
VIRGINIA- The Northern Red Hat Belles will meet Thursday April 14 at Grandma’s Grill in Virginia. Please RSVP by April 10 to Pam at 218-753-3006 or Kathy at 218-753-2530. New members, past members, and guests are always welcome.

**Last chance to make a donation for this year’s FoodShare Challenge**  
TOWER-SOUDAN- The Minnesota Food Share March Campaign runs through April 10. The donations received locally are used by the Tower Area Food Shelf to purchase food and household items for families in our area. We always like to remind folks that cash donations can buy many more items through our Food Bank than can be purchased by an individual at the grocery store.

Donations can be mailed to the Tower Area Food Shelf, PO Box 533, Tower, MN 55790 or dropped off at the Timberjay office.

The Tower Area Food Shelf is located in the basement/lower level of the Timberjay building on Main Street, and is open the third Tuesday of the month from 2:30 – 5 p.m. or by appointment. For questions, please contact Marge McPeak at 218-753-3503.

EASTER FUN

Easter egg hunt set for April 16

TOWER- The Tower Fire Department is hosting a free Easter Egg Hunt event on Saturday, April 16 at 10 a.m. sharp at the Tower Civic Center. Over 1,000 eggs, with candy and prizes inside, will be placed for children to find. Food will be provided. The event is being funded by the Tower Firemen’s Relief Association.

All area children and their families are invited to attend.

St. James Presbyterian Church has traditionally sponsored this event, but this year the fire department stepped in to continue this community tradition.

Egg-citing fun at an Easter Egg Hunt from year’s past.



BREITUNG TOWNSHIP

No decision made on filling open supervisor seat

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

SOUDAN- The Breitung Town Board, minus its newly elected member, made no decision on how to fill the vacant seat resulting from Matt Tuchel’s decision not to take the oath of office due to a possible conflict of interest. Tuchel is a full-time employee of the Tower-Breitung Wastewater Board, a joint powers authority between Breitung and the city of Tower.

“We have a couple of choices,” said acting chair Chuck Tekautz.

The Minnesota Association of Townships lays out options for filling a vacancy, including offering the seat to the second-highest vote-getter, or requesting letters of interest to select a temporary board member.

Clerk Dianna Sundahl, who gets a vote on the replacement, even though clerks normally do not vote on town board issues, made a motion to table the issue until the regular meeting in April.

The board did not ask for letters of interest. Retired supervisor Tim Tomsich, who had elected not to run for his seat, did garner 15 write-in votes. Tomsich was present at the meeting but declined to comment on whether or not he would consider filling the seat.

Whoever is seated on the board would serve until the next township election in March 2023.

Supervisor Greg Dostert asked if it was possible to hold that election sooner, during the November general election. But Sundahl said that was not possible because township elections can only be held in March unless residents vote at their annual meeting to move the election to November.

Dostert said he was planning to retire from the board next year. This would leave two open seats to be filled next March, the three-year seat held by Dostert, and the remaining two-year term of the now open seat.

**Police Report**

Police Chief Dan Reing reported there were 61 calls during March, with two arrests, both for DWIs. He issued one speeding citation and conducted three investigations, including one for felony criminal damage to property. He told the board they had one applicant for a part-time office position.

The board approved the purchase of two body-worn cameras. The cost, including cloud storage for five years, batteries, docking, warranty including replacement options, is a little over \$10,000, and will be paid in installments over five years. Reing

said the township has received some donations to help cover the cost, and he is in the process of applying for grants.

**Reorganization**

The board opted to hold off most of the reorganization, including selecting a new chair, until the third supervisor is seated. They did select the *Tower News* as the official paper, since they had submitted the low bid. The board set their regular meeting date as the fourth Thursday of the month at noon, but said this may change when a new member is seated.

**Other business**

In other business the board:

- Heard the Local Board of Appeal is set for May 17.
- Heard the new dump truck should be delivered later in April. The township will sell the old dump truck this summer. They were told there is a good demand for used large trucks at this time.
- Heard the skating rink closed the second week in March due to warm weather. There was a discussion about recruiting adult/parent volunteers to oversee the warming shack, and also to train the teenage warming shack workers on basic first aid.
- Heard that St. Louis County had granted a variance

for Mary Batinich to build an addition onto the existing old garage adjacent to the inn to turn it into a residence.

- Heard the township had received a \$1,949 grant from the state to pay approximately 70 percent of the cost of the newly-acquired voting machine.
- Heard a request from a resident who wants to start a perennial plant growing business at their home in Soudan. The board did not see any issues with the proposal, but they wanted to check with the county to make sure it met zoning requirements.
- Agreed to jointly purchase, with Tower, a new camera head for the equipment used to survey underground sewer and water lines.
- Passed a resolution to apply for funding for the Tower-Breitung Wastewater Board for \$272,000. This will cover a project for the township, and one for the wastewater board (which will repay that portion of the loan). The city of Tower applied for a similar loan for the funding for the new water filtration plant, which will be repaid by the wastewater board. The wastewater board is not allowed to apply for this funding.

Growing

gardens...

**Tower-Soudan Elementary students got a chance to dream about spring when they created a tiny fairy garden during an afternoon community education class taught by Amy Banks.** photos by T. Trucano-Majerle



Ecumenical Good Friday Worship in Tower

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Ministerial group and the Tower-Soudan Area Singers invite the community to attend a “Service of Darkness” by Hal Hopson on Friday, April 15 at 7 p.m. at St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower. This Tenebrae service is appropriate for Good Friday as it takes us through

the final hours of Christ’s life through song, scriptures, readings, and prayer. Candles are extinguished throughout the service to portray the diminishing light of the world as Christ died on the cross. We invite you, the communities, our neighbors, and friends, to join us on Friday, April 15 for this moving Good Friday service. The offering will be donated to the support the Tower Area Food Shelf.

**St. Martin’s Catholic Church Easter Schedule**

Holy Thursday, April 14 – Service at St. Mary’s in Cook at 5:30 p.m.

Good Friday, April 15 – Services at Holy Cross in Orr at 3 p.m. and St. Martin’s in Tower at 6 p.m.

Holy Saturday, April 16 – Service at St. Mary’s at 8 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 17 –

Services at Holy Cross at 8 a.m. and St. Martin’s at 10:30 a.m.

**TSHS to meet on Wednesday, April 20**

SOUDAN-Tower-Soudan Historical Society will hold its regularly scheduled board meeting on Wednesday, April 20, at 1:30 p.m. at Breitung Community Center. The meeting is open to the public, and guests are welcome. 2022 membership

dues (\$10 single; \$20 family) may be paid at the meeting or mailed to TSHS, PO Box 465, Tower MN 55790.

Membership supports the TSHS goals and allows the Society to continue its Vision, Mission, and projects.

COMMUNITY NOTICES



OUR COMMUNITY

ECR auction goes live on Saturday

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – The 44th annual Ely Community Resource online auction, “A Celebration of Artful Living in Ely,” begins live on Saturday, April 9 at 12 noon sharp.

“Ely Community Resource (ECR) youth programs have been supported by Ely’s talented painters, quilters, potters, bakers, photographers, knitters, seamstresses, furniture makers, jewelry makers, and every type of crafter throughout the years,” said Executive Director Julie Hignell.

“Recently, lifestyle items and experiences have been offered at the auction by expert fishing guides, canoe and kayak outfitters, massage therapists, and Minnesota attractions,” she added.

ECR programs partner with Ely Schools to provide academic support in school and after school, enrichment programs that address science and the environment, elementary reading and gardening programs, and college awareness, exploration, and preparation.

ECR also partners with the city of Ely to provide recreation opportunities year-round. “Other important partnerships have developed along with our participation in Ely Community Care Team efforts,” Hignell said. “Those organizations, as well as area churches, have helped us provide for basic needs our youth and families have. In 2022 we will be expanding our mentoring program



A sampling of items in the auction, clockwise from top, includes, “Swag Rose” quilt by Dorothy Sand, “Dancing Cedar Spirits” carved by Bill Godlin, “JFK” Cutting Board by Evan Faltesek, Baron Bich Estate collection of elegant wine and accessories from David Wigdahl, and POTLUCK Vintage and Modern Kitchenware, Douglas Fir (with a history) coffee table or bench by Jeff Kemmer, “Boxed” and elegant handmade cover and handbound journal by Nicole Selmer, Unique Chips or Crudités and Dip Serving Pottery by Dave Bergerud, Just-Right Handbag created by Deb Edwards, wool scarf or table runner woven by Julie Nester, and “Raven at Night” original acrylic painting by Shaun Chosa. submitted photo

in response to increased requests. Distance learning and the accompanying isolation have been tough on young people. We’re so grateful for our compassionate community.”

Referrals and requests for mentors have tripled, according to Hignell. “In response, we have increased staffing and are trying hard to ‘be there’ when we or someone from our small army of caring adult volunteers are needed. ECR is having a busy year supporting our

youth who’ve had a tough couple of years missing social connections and opportunities to grow and thrive.

The fundraiser runs through noon on Monday, April 18. For more information and to participate in the 2022 online auction, go to <https://www.32auctions.com/ECR2022>.

“Our auction is our biggest fundraiser and we are indebted to our generous donors and to all of you who participate,” she said. “Please take advantage of

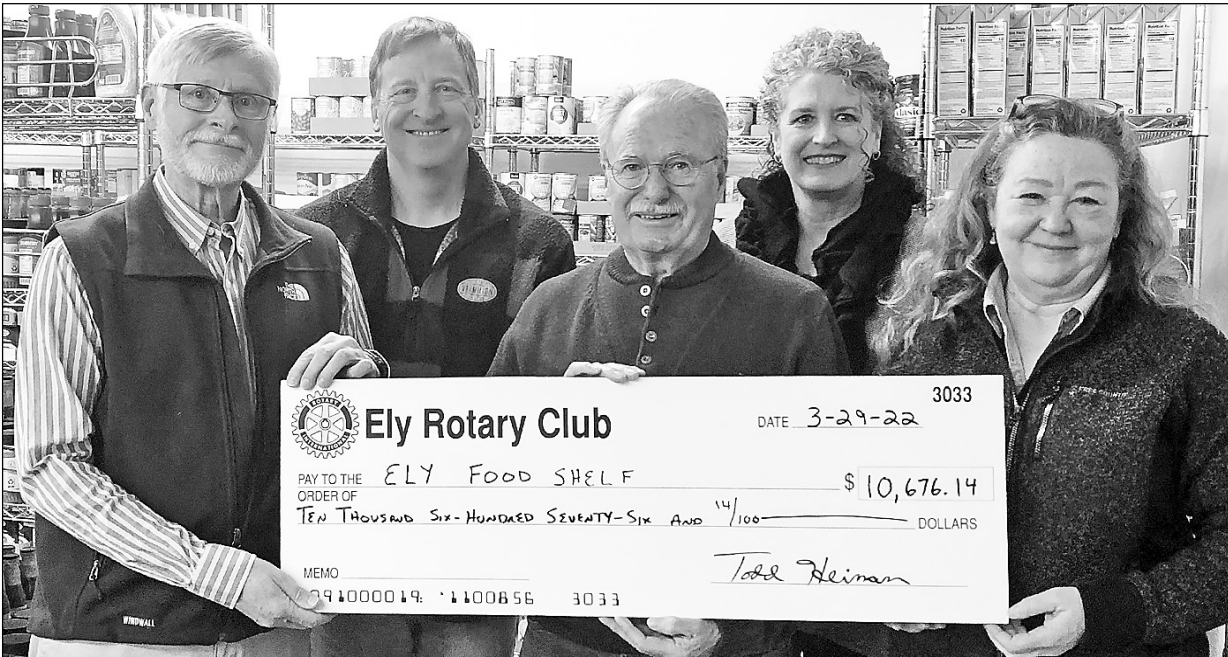
the email address provided on each (auction item) page or the phone number. If you have questions about any of the items just give us a call at 218-365-5254. We have done our best to get good photos of all the beautiful things, but we are certainly not expert photographers. We know that some of the colors are not just right and we would be happy to help you know what you are adding to your home.”

Included in the 2022 auction are: Art Lesson and Boxing Lessons,

Certificates for fun and Learning, certificates for spa services, massages, accupressure, etc., elegant and delicious food, fitness advice, furniture, handmade candles and soaps, handmade clothing, jewelry, paintings, linoleum cuts, pen and ink, vinyl on glass, photographs, pottery, quilts and decorative quilted art, specialty woodworking (all useful AND decorative), sporting goods, stained glass, very special handmade knives, and weaving, knitting, and crocheting.

Ely Rotary Club benefits Food Shelf

The Rotary Club of Ely recently presented a check for more than \$10,000 to the Ely Area Food Shelf from this year’s Rotary Penny Jar collection. Shown from left, Rotarians Kurt Soderberg, Todd Heiman, Pat Warner, Heather Fitzgerald, and Ely Area Food Shelf Director Nancy Schwartz. submitted photo



Ely Police Department Activity Report March 15-31, 2022

Arrests/Citations:

Domestic Assault- Individual arrested for Domestic Assault.

Suspicious Activity- Officers were contacted about a group of people in the roadway. Officers were unable to locate the people.

Extra Patrol- Officers were requested for extra patrol.

Public Assist- Officers assisted a person get their vehicle out of a snowbank.

Medical- Officers assisted the Ely Ambulance with a medical.

Damage to Property- Officers were contacted about damage to a snowmobile. This case is under investigation.

Medical- Officers assisted the Ely Ambulance with a medical.

Unwanted Person- Officers took a report of a person on private property the prior day.

Public Assist- Officers assisted an individual get fingerprints for employment.

Suspicious Activity- Officers were contacted about a group of people in the roadway. Officers were unable to locate the people.

Extra Patrol- Officers were requested for extra patrol.

Public Assist- Officers assisted a person get their vehicle out of a snowbank.

Medical- Officers assisted the Ely Ambulance with a medical.

Damage to Property- Officers were contacted about damage to a snowmobile. This case is under investigation.

Medical- Officers assisted the Ely Ambulance with a medical.

Unwanted Person- Officers took a report of a person on private property the prior day.

Security Alarm- Officers responded to a security alarm and determined a dog to be the suspect.

Public Assist- Individual applied for a permit to purchase.

Security Alarm- Officers responded to a security alarm and determined an employee set off the alarm.

Public Assist- Individual let back into their residence.

Public Assist- Officers assisted an individual get fingerprints for employment.

Public Assist- Individual let back into their residence.

Medical- Officers assisted the Ely Ambulance with a medical.

Unknown Trouble- Officers were called about an unknown problem. Officers determined the problem to be phone issues.

Suspicious Activity-

Officers located a person on a roof. Officers talked with the person who agreed to go inside for the night.

Check Welfare- Officers were contacted to check on a person that appeared unhealthy. Officers determined the person to be fine.

Runaway- Officers located a child that ran away from home.

Security Alarm- Officers responded to a security alarm and determined an employee set off the alarm.

Motor Vehicle Crash- Officers were contacted about a two-vehicle crash that happened earlier in the day. Both vehicles had minor damage and there were no injuries.

Public Assist- Individual let back into their residence.

Suspicious Activity- Officers were called about a loud banging noise. Officers located a person working on prop-

erty. The person agreed to call it a night.

Disturbance- Officers were contacted about two individuals arguing. Officers mediated the situation.

Check Welfare- Officers were called about a person sitting in the middle of a road. Officers were unable to locate anyone.

Disturbance- Officers were contacted about an intoxicated person yelling at people. Officers were unable to locate the person.

Motor Vehicle Crash- Officers were contacted about a two-vehicle crash. Both vehicles had minor damage and there were no injuries.

Public Assist- Officers assisted an individual get fingerprints for employment.

Paper Service- Officers served a paper to an individual for trespassing.

In Brief

Childcare needs addressed in Ely

ELY – The Ely Community Care Team, in collaboration with St. Louis County childcare staff, will host a Childcare Informational Meeting on Monday, April 11, beginning at 4 p.m. at the Grand Ely Lodge Sunrise Room.

According to Heidi Favet, Care Team leader at Essentia Health, the lack of local childcare as a health and wellness issue is growing in the region.

CCT and county officials will provide information on resources available to get started in daycare in the Ely area.

For more information, email Favet at [heidi.favet@essentiahealth.org](mailto:heidi.favet@essentiahealth.org).

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2022



moody spring weather variations on a theme

soon to see lakes melt

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 Noon-6 pm  
Tuesday Noon-6 pm  
Wednesday Noon-6 pm  
Thursday Noon-6 pm  
Friday Noon-5 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.  
**SUNDAY NIGHT AA -** at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church is cancelled.  
**ELY WOMEN’S OPEN AA -** Every Monday at noon at Ledgerrock Church, 1515 E. Camp St., Ely.  
**BABBITT AA - 7 p.m.** Tuesdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church  
**AL-ANON -** Sundays 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church in Ely. For persons who encounter alcoholism in a relative or friend.  
**BABBITT AL-ANON** Thursdays, 7 p.m., at Woodland Presbyterian.  
**CO-DEPENDENTS’** 12-step support group, noon Fridays, St. Anthony’s Catholic Church, Ely.  
**ADULT BASIC EDUCATION GED** - Study materials and pre-test available. Call 218-365-3359, or 1-800-662-5711.  
**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







## TOWER...Continued from page 1

Setterberg, who was in attendance but does not sit on the commission, said the city was still reviewing the information.

“We still don’t know what the total is,” Setterberg said. “We are working on this.”

Eagles Nest representative Larry McCray reminded Stoehr that the commission’s job was to oversee rig replacement.

Ambulance Supervisor Dena Suihkonen repeated that none of the possibly transferred money was from the rig replacement fund.

“I made a commitment to the people of Greenwood to serve in their best interests,” said Stoehr. “It is unfortunate that you folks are having the troubles you are. We are glad to work with you, but I can’t commit to anything now.”

Stoehr also was upset with the draft ambulance subsidy agreement contract for 2022 that made changes to an indemnity clause that was inserted at the request of Greenwood Township last year.

“Greenwood Township paid a lot of money for the indemnity clause,” Stoehr said.

Tower commission representative Kevin Norby said that the city attorney wanted changes to the clause and said the two attorneys could talk to each other to resolve the issue. The city’s attorney felt the clause was too broad, and assigned too much responsibility to the city, even for liability that might not be directly related to ambulance personnel on scene. The city put forth draft language that called for mutual indemnification. The agreement also calls for the city itself to maintain general liability insurance for its services and to include the townships and

Band as additional insured. The contract was presented as a draft, not as a final document.

Greenwood resident Lee Peterson, a frequent ambulance service critic, then asked why the ambulance service had not presented a business plan to the commission, something it had planned to do last year.

Peterson was told there was to be no public comment at the meeting, and at that point, both Peterson and Stoehr left.

After Stoehr was gone, Setterberg noted that the business plan that the city has been working on, with some outside assistance, was almost ready for review.

### Serious discussions

Commission members, minus Stoehr, then jumped into a long discussion of issues related to the ambulance service.

The service is facing multiple challenges right now, including:

- Affording a new ambulance.
- Financing the cost of paid on-call staffing 24/7.
- Increasing the level of care provided (ALS service with paramedics) to meet demand from an aging population.

On a positive note, Suihkonen said the service is currently well-staffed with both EMTs and EMRs, and also gets support from trained First Responders from Eagles Nest and Greenwood townships.

Suihkonen told the commission her staff is seeing a lot more serious medical calls, including active heart attacks, strokes, and diabetic emergencies.

“Ambulances are great,” she said, “but without people who can work the equipment they are just pieces of metal.”

The service by all

accounts has been busy, with a record number of calls the first quarter, and also has logged over 90 percent of its hours with two employees on call. But the push to have the service fully staffed 24/7 has come at a cost, with on-call employees paid \$11 per hour, far higher than the on-call rates paid in other small neighboring services.

While the staffing plan has allowed the service to avoid missing calls this year, it is also operating at or below a break-even basis.

“Our balance is low right now,” said Suihkonen. “But we do have \$114,570 in the ambulance replacement fund.”

Over 85 percent of the service’s calls are paid through Medicare or Medicaid, which pays a flat rate well below that paid by private insurers. The service has gotten permission to charge a flat \$150 rate, paid by Medicare, for calls that only require treatment at the scene, such as a lift assist, and the city has approved raising the rates for private-pay insurance patients as of March of this year.

The service has been analyzing the financial impact of transfer calls, when patients are moved from hospital to hospital, usually when they require a higher level of care. The service will only respond to a transfer if adequate personnel are left in Tower to respond to a 911 call.

The miles put on the ambulances for these non-emergency calls has been an issue with commission members, who have required the city to pay a \$1.66 per mile rate back into the ambulance subsidy account for transfer miles logged. This charge has been an additional financial drag on the service’s

bottom line. Suihkonen noted the service had not made those payments so far in 2022, because the income is not available. At the current rate of transfers, the fees would total about \$20,000 a year from the service’s general fund into the rig replacement account.

Suihkonen said the service is mostly taking transfers that involve local patients and is not doing any long-distance runs. The service has done 14 transfers so far this year.

### Moving to Advanced Life Support (ALS)

McCray noted that it was outside the scope of the commission to plan for the future of the service, but said he wanted to put forward some ideas. McCray is a retired firefighter and paramedic, and currently serves as the fire chief in Eagles Nest Township.

He urged the group to look forward, not backward.

“Where are we going to be sitting in three to five years?” he said. “Are we still going to be sitting here figuring out how to go from \$15 to \$16 per capita, are we still going to be fighting with Tower about the bucks they lost years ago? I am going to be honest. What I am really thinking about is an ALS service and how we get there.”

McCray said such a move would be challenging, both financially and staff-wise. Area ambulance services that provide ALS service have trouble keeping trained paramedics on staff because many leave for better-paying positions in urban areas. Another challenge is reducing response times, which would mean staffing ambulances in other parts of the service area besides Tower.

“It is going to take

some thinking out-of-the-box to get there,” he said.

The first step would be the creation of a regional ambulance commission with joint powers authority, he said.

“This would grow the service into something we could all be proud of,” he said.

Funding would need to be done differently also, he said. A small tax levy based on property value would bring in additional revenue, because it wouldn’t be tied to the number of full-time residents.

He said such a move would take the burden away from one city.

“I don’t want to steal anything from Tower,” he said. “But if we want to grow this thing, it needs to be bigger than what the city can generate.”

It would be possible to train the current staff of EMTs to the paramedic level with mostly in-house effort, others said.

The commission members decided to go back to their boards to float the idea of forming a regional commission, and possibly set up a new ad hoc committee to work on the idea.

“We would have more ambulances, better equipment, and could do more rescues,” said Suihkonen. “If we can start fresh, all the old stuff goes away.”

“We need to change the narrative,” said Vermilion Lake representative Frank Zobitz.

### Other business

In other business, the commission passed a motion to get requests for information from manufacturers for purchasing a third ambulance with a new chassis, refurbished box, and an auto-load cot. Suihkonen said the earliest an all-new ambulance

could be available would be in 2024, but a refurbished model would be available in 2023.

The commission did not seem eager to rescind the requirement of the \$1.66 per transfer mile.

“When we are having to pay for 24/7 coverage,” said Suihkonen, “having the transfers helps with money for salary costs.”

She noted that the EMSRB study done on the service last year recommended the discontinuation of that charge, which they said was not seen in other ambulance services they had studied.

“The EMSRB report said the per capita needs to be increased and the \$1.66 eliminated,” she said. “It said we need to look at our overall funding for operations, not just capital purchases. If we were all working together to make sure the service is the best it could be, we would be better off than arguing.”

Suihkonen said it does bother her that the service has not been able to afford to pay the \$1.66 fee into the account. “We can’t make money out of thin air,” she said.

Norby said the service is running as lean as possible.

“Our people have a lot of pride in their service,” said Suihkonen. “But when people walk out of the meeting without listening... it is people looking down and saying you are not doing enough.”

“We are there for our community,” said Suihkonen. “We need our community to be there for us.”

The next ambulance commission regular meeting was set for Monday, June 27, a week early due to the first Monday falling on the Fourth of July.

## MINING...Continued from page 1

better than anywhere else in the world. But the United States will not be able to do that under the current regulatory process that is unpredictable, subject to political manipulation with changing rules in each administration, and in conflict with the priorities of our nation.”

Padilla argued that the Biden administration’s recent cancellation of the company’s mineral leases was contrary to the administration’s stated goal of expanding domestic production of key minerals and metals and would take “virtually all of our country’s nickel, cobalt, and platinum group metals off the table.”

Padilla told D.C. lawmakers that northeastern Minnesota’s geological formation, known as the Duluth Complex, contains 95 percent of the known U.S. nickel resources, 88 percent of its cobalt, 75 percent of its platinum group metals and about a third of its copper.

“A domestic source for critical minerals means Minnesota,” said Padilla.

Yet opponents of the Twin Metals proposal accuse Padilla of misleading lawmakers, noting that Twin Metals’ proposed

mine involves only a fraction of the mineral resources associated with the Duluth Complex. Of approximately 18 known concentrations of mineralization along the northern edge of the complex, most lie outside the Boundary Waters watershed and are not affected by the proposed federal mineral withdrawal that would impact Twin Metals, a subsidiary of the copper mining giant Antofagasta. Twin Metals opponents note that the four deposits controlled by the company, constitute only about 6.5 percent of the sulfide mineralization believed to exist within the Duluth Complex. At the same time, the location of the proposed mine would pose a greater risk to the Boundary Waters than the development of other known deposits.

When questioned about the environmental risks to the Boundary Waters posed by the Twin Metals project by New Mexico Sen. Martin Heinrich, Padilla seemed to acknowledge the poten-

tial for damage. “These are industrial activities,” she said. “Every human activity involves risk.” She went on to compare it to the risks she might incur by not wearing a seat belt.

The U.S. Forest Service, which has requested the mineral withdrawal, used stronger language in its arguments for the mineral withdrawal, noting that the Twin Metals project posed unacceptable risks to a key federal resource and that the wilderness restrictions within the Boundary Waters would make mitigation of downstream pollution difficult if not impossible to undertake.

Heinrich asked another witness at the hearing, Dr. Paul Ziemkiewicz, an expert on acid mine drainage, about the risks posed by the Twin Metals proposal. “By definition, it is wet enough to cause acid mine drainage,” said Ziemkiewicz, “so unless you put a plastic cover over all the rock on the site, it

will produce acid.”

Critics of the proposal argue that Twin Metals isn’t being truthful.

“Twin Metals has spun a tale about the need for its mine to power a clean energy future and our domestic security,” stated the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters in a press statement. “The truth is sulfide-ore copper mining in this location would sacrifice the Boundary Waters while producing an insignificant amount of metals compared to United States demand.”

While the Duluth Complex, which stretches in an arc from near Duluth nearly to the Gunflint Trail, is known to be home to a large volume of sulfide mineralization, only relatively small pockets are believed to be potentially economically viable. Twin Metals, for its part, has yet to produce a financial document that shows its current mine plan can be undertaken profitably.

Supporters of more domestic mining, like Sen. Joe Manchin, the West Virginia Democrat who chairs the committee, argue that the U.S. needs to do more to reduce its reliance on countries like China and Russia. “It makes no sense to remain beholden to bad actors when we have abundant resources and manufacturing know-how here in the United States,” said Manchin in opening remarks at the hearing. “The administration needs to help make responsible mining and refining possible here rather than making it more difficult and challenging.”

Manchin, the owner of a West Virginia coal company, has been an outlier in his own party over his reluctance to wean the country off dirty forms of energy production.

Manchin also stressed the need for creating processing capacity in the U.S., so minerals mined

domestically or in allied countries don’t need to go to China for refining. “We need to make sure we’re not exporting our own critical minerals for processing somewhere else,” said Manchin.

As it stands currently, companies proposing to mine copper-nickel in northeastern Minnesota expect to ship their metal concentrates outside the U.S., most likely to China for refining, a plan which could undercut their arguments about the strategic importance of their production.



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# Does the Ely school district need new branding?

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – ISD 696 officials were recently presented with a logo and branding design proposal by a local business owner. The idea behind the effort is to bring more consistency to the district’s presentation for signage, marketing, school uniforms and anything else that identifies the Ely school district.

Ely graphic designer Kara Polyner presented the idea to school board members last week with a timeline of launching the rebranding to coincide with the grand opening of the school building and renovation project this fall.

“The timing of this is what we are trying to bank on,” Polyner said, “to kind of relaunch a new identity for the school. There really isn’t much current, cohesive, consistent branding going on right now.”

In her business, Polyner said she focuses on brand identity and creating a consistent image, “So that for anybody who comes across the school or organization it is easily identifiable, whether it is a sporting event, driving by the school, the school’s website, or social media,”



she said. “All that is creating a consistent image and they immediately recognize it as the Ely school district,” she said.

In material presented to board members, Polyner continued, “Just like for a business, first impressions matter, and your identity is as important as the work that you do on the inside. It can give the feeling of a professional organization that cares about how it is perceived and wants to make sure it is putting its best foot forward.”

She offered a brand identity package including multiple and varied logos to use in a variety of contexts.

“A color palate is crucial. You can use many colors, as long as it is consistent,” Polyner said. “Consistent type fonts or style of letters and patterns are also important to create a consistent image.”

She proposed that the

school form a committee to work on the branding project. Potential members could include a school board member, school principals, athletic director, a couple of students and a couple of coaches.

“These stakeholders should have a say in how the school is branded. Six to eight people meeting several times in the coming months could get the project ready to launch by July 1 to coincide with the school building project completion and the opening day of the new school year,” Polyner said.

A list of the logo designs and variations for the new branding includes stationery, handbook covers, social media headers, vehicle graphic designs, hallway, commons area décor designs, school pride programs, extracurricular programs and rosters, a unique and custom paw print, wayfinding signs for interior and exterior areas and main school signs.

Polyner offered a discounted cost of \$3,500 from the normal \$5,000 package. “I am discounting this because of the pure investment in the community that I have, and I have two daughters in the school system,” she said.

ISD 696 temporary board chair Rochelle Sjoberg stressed that the school district did not approach Polyner on the proposal. “I’m not going to speak for the board, as this is just informational. If the board should decide, we will look at doing something at a later date,” she said. No other school board member commented.

## Teaching staff trimmed

For the second time in two meetings, school board members continued making budget cuts. Teaching staff, equaling nearly the equivalent of two full-time positions, were cut by the board at their March 28 meeting.

Earlier last month, in another budget reduction move, school board members rescinded the seven-period school day for the 2022-23 school year in favor of a six-period school day.

The teacher cuts include:

- One German II teaching position, 0.171 FTE.
- One Grade 8-10 social studies teacher, 1.0 FTE.
- One Grade 6 math and social studies teacher,

0.686 FTE.

Board members unanimously approved the teaching cuts on a 4-0 vote with no discussion. Newly-appointed board member Chad Davis will take his seat at the table at the April 11 meeting, replacing Darren Visser who moved out of the district. Board chair Ray Marsnik was absent from the meeting as he recovers from injuries sustained in a vehicle accident.

Budget cuts could continue as board members look to solve an estimated \$600,000 shortfall this year. Enrollment declines in recent years, from nearly 600 students in 2017 to about 530 students when school started last September, have contributed to the budget challenges.

## Other business

In other business, the board:

- Approved spending \$2,000 from the FY 2022-23 budget to help fund the Ely Community Education’s \$4,600 expenditure to resurface and paint the pickleball courts.
- Accepted the resignations of elementary teacher Megan Devine and band teacher Sarah Mason. In her resignation letter,

Devine, who has taught at Washington School for 19 years and is currently on a leave of absence, said she is seeking to take her education career “in a different direction.” Mason said she has accepted a graduate assistantship at James Madison University as she pursues a Master of Music degree with a concentration on conducting.

➤ Granted science teacher Todd Hohenstein a leave of absence of at least three years from his position at ISD 696 starting with the 2022-23 school year.

➤ Accepted the resignation of paraprofessional Asia Norman, effective March 24.

➤ Hired Tracy Anderson as American Indian Education Liaison, effective March 15.

➤ Hired Carl Moger as full-time custodian, effective March 21.

➤ Received notice of intent to negotiate from bargaining units representing the district principals and confidential/supervisory employees.

➤ Heard an update from school board member Tony Colarich who said Marsnik “is doing well and hopes to be back soon.”

## CITY OF ELY

# Economic opportunities continue to develop in Ely

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – This community’s first client for a new Commercial Development Corridor Assistance Loan Program, and new economic development potential in light of a longtime tenant vacating a city-owned property, highlighted a recent meeting of the Ely Economic Development Authority (EEDA).

Ely city council members, acting as the economic development authority, met with economic developer and consultant John Fedo late last month. He submitted the first applicant, Northern Toboggan Co., for approval in the new commercial loan program.

“We are hoping that this program will literally add new employees, as well as a (business) expansion aspect,” he said.

The EEDA Development Corridor Program provides a loan and forgivable loan/grant for an up to a \$75,000 project to qualified applicants to be used for substantial physical improvements to Ely businesses to expand employment and increase



Northern Toboggan Co. is located next to Wintergreen Northern Wear in Ely. file photo

the local tax base.

“The improvements must provide for expansion of an existing or new business to provide additional employment,” Fedo said. Improvements could include heating, electrical, insulation, exterior ADA access, or other improvements. “The improvements must be necessary to expand the business and provide for additional employment,” he said.

One third of the total project is funded through an EEDA commercial loan.

Another third is funded through a forgivable loan/grant from the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation. In order to be eligible for loan forgiveness, the business must hire at least one full-time employee at a minimum of \$15 per hour for a period of at least two years. If those

conditions are not met, the business will have up to six years to pay off the loan at a rate of two-percent interest.

One third of the loan program will include private funding, equity or bank loan.

“Funding for this Commercial Development Corridor program takes into account unspent COVID funds for economic development to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) that were not used in the metro area,” Fedo said.

Northern Toboggan Co. is the second tier of the Wintergreen Northern Wear business recently acquired by the Jackson Herron family, doing business as Northern Goods Co LLC, based in Warroad.

“I introduced this program to him right around

Christmas time and it took a while to get all the pieces in place,” Fedo said. “This is a \$20,000 project. They are looking at expanding their activity. They have manufacturing and distribution of a variety of goods online. They want to incorporate that into a retail center. They look to open that up in the log cabin building next to Wintergreen. There is some renovation to the building, marketing, and traditional elements that go into a retail setting. The cabin has some aesthetic appeal but it has some immediate needs. They also have a rental program with their Northern Toboggan products that they want run through this facility.”

“The aspect that we like a lot is, obviously, their reinvestment in this community of an existing business and also a new business, but they are also adding two new employees,” Fedo added.

Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski added, “The intent of this program is for those businesses that are making capital investments and improvements to their facility to add additional employees. This is in line with the Business

Energy Retrofit (BER), and helping businesses that are trying to expand. It is not a big amount of money, but a \$25,000 grant on a \$75,000 project is significant.”

EEDA members unanimously approved the loan application.

“Two additional applications have been received,” Fedo added, “that more than qualify for this program which occurs within our commercial corridor downtown.” He did not identify the two other applicants. “We are hoping to hear within the next couple of weeks if those loan packages are approved by DEED, and if we qualify to administer those loans.”

## Upcoming vacancy

City officials were notified last month that Carlson Wagonlit Travel, a tenant in the Ely business park for more than 20 years, will terminate its lease this fall.

“It didn’t come as a surprise to us, Langowski said. “It has been a trend in the work-from-home environment, especially since COVID, but it is concerning.”

CWT, also known as Sato Travel, at one time had more than 100 employees at its location on Miners Drive.

The building has two other tenants, the Veterans Affairs health clinic, which recently completed a major expansion project and renewed a 10-year lease, and the Minnesota Department of Revenue, which has also fluctuated in employee numbers as more staffers work from home, but is looking to renew a long-term lease.

“We operated at a very small margin,” Langowski said, “and we tried to keep the lease as reasonable as possible to keep those jobs in Ely.” The lease space has been remodeled several times to accommodate the business’s shrinking staff base, he added.

Mayor Roger Skraba voiced his enthusiasm for new economic devel-

opment in losing the business park tenant. “My bells are ringing, that is, this is marketable,” he said. “I can see for some of the people moving to Ely, there is fiber running to the premises. I am optimistic about this.”

## North Woods Kids Fishing Derby

Ely Chamber of Commerce executive director Eva Sebesta updated the authority on the new North Woods Kids Fishing Derby coming to the Ely community in June.

First developed in 2019 by the chamber’s Events Coordinator Bureau, city of Ely, Merchant Committee, Incredible Ely, and Ely Area Tourism Bureau, the event will get off the ground on Saturday, June 11 at Veterans on the Lake Resort.

“We are going to have as many as 40 kids, aged 6-14, participating in four different categories, including fishing, a skills component, water education, and art, all on Fall Lake,” said Sebesta.

“It is completely barrier-free out there, so anyone with potential physical limitations will be able to get around just great,” she said. “We will have four different skills areas, including casting, knot-tying and things like that.”

“We are working with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to participate in the water education part. We are also involved with the DNR’s Fishing in the Neighborhood program, and we have donated 40 fishing rods and reels so each participant will go home with a new rod and reel, a T-shirt, and a bag full of all sorts of fishing bling things.”

She asked for volunteers to help with the activities. “We are hoping area veterans will join us for the day,” Sebesta said. There is still snow on the ground but it will soon be open-water season.” Registration will open May 1.

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EOE





SINGING...Continued from page 1

Theater continue Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 7-9 at 7 p.m.

“We are thrilled to be back onstage,” Artistic Director Sarah Skelton said as she directed her 17th Ely Spring Musical. Public health concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic forced the shelving of many community events. “We were forced to shut down in Spring 2020 just one week before opening and we suspended production in 2021,” she said.

“The cast, directors, orchestra and crew have been extra-magical this year, and I am so grateful for their talents and supportive spirits,” Skelton said. “In the midst of darkness, light twinkles though.”

Dressed in formal wear and lots of sparkling dresses, the cast combines Ely Community Musical theater veterans with several new faces, featuring accomplished singers in every voice part, including a mix of Ely Public School students, Matthew Janeksela, Gabe Mann, and Alison Poppler, VCC student Gerald Olarinde, Ely, Tower, Babbitt and Nett Lake teachers, Jim and Ruth Lah, Sarah Mason, Karin Schmidt, Crystal Poppler, and Ryan Bajan, and community members, Linda Bajan, Crystal



Above, “Stepsisters’ Lament” was performed by cast members, from left, Sarah Mason, Susan Laine, Emily Weise, Karin Schmidt, and Crystal Poppler. Peter Kess and Crystal Chopp, at right, sang “Surrey with the Fringe on Top.” photos by K. Vandervort

Chopp, Justine Carlson, Anne Folz, Laurie Kess, Susan Laine, Emily Weise, Todd Crego, Ian Lah, and Peter Kess.

The show opened with the full ensemble performing “Sounds of the Earth.” Soloists, duos, just men and just women performed more than a dozen popular tunes from musicals, including The Sound of Music, Oklahoma!, Cinderella, South Pacific, and more. After a brief intermission, the cast returned onstage for another ten pieces. The full ensemble closed with the

title tune, “A Grand Night for Singing.”

Skelton is joined backstage by Marcia Homer as music director, Peter Kess as set designer, Laurie Kess as costumer and Greg Mann as lighting director.

Choreography is provided by Ian Lah, Crystal Chopp, Jim Lah, Laurie Kess, and Sara Skelton.

The orchestra, set up on stage rather than in the pit, includes Mike Rouse and Barb Litchfield on keyboards, Nina VanGelder, flute, Sarah Mason, clarinet and saxophone, Lynn

Evensen, bass, Margie Miller, harp, and Richard Dunstan on drums.

Backstage help for the production includes Morgan Sauls and Charlie Ah Sani, lights, Asmaa Myran, sets and costumes, and David Radke and Carly Wogen, sets.

Tickets are available online through the Northern Lakes Arts Association’s website at [northernlakesarts.org](http://northernlakesarts.org) and are also available at the door. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for NLAA members and \$8 for students.



VOTE...Continued from page 1

33.8 percent, will move on to the general election. Boney came in a distant third, with 13.5 percent of the vote. Robin Geshick and Tim O’Leary each captured less than 10 percent of the ballots cast.

The Secretary/Treasurer position was the most hotly contested race of the evening, with only

19 votes out of 458 cast separating the three candidates. Incumbent Morrison came out on top with 35.8 percent of the vote. If the numbers held up after Wednesday’s certification tally, then Morrison will face Tara Geshick in the general election. Geshick edged challenger Tracey Strong Dagen 32.5 percent

to 31.7 percent, a margin of only four votes.

Simona Benner received the largest share of votes for the District 1 seat with 34.4 percent. Drift will have the chance to retain the seat in the general election after coming in a close second at 31.6 percent, comfortably ahead of third-place finisher

Dave Villebrun with 19.8 percent. Millie Holmes received 17.2 percent.

All vote percentages reported here were recalculated by the *Timberjay* after discovering a possible calculation error in the preliminary results posted by election judges shortly before 2 a.m. Wednesday and are slightly lower than

those posted. The possible errors should not have impacted the actual number of votes received by each candidate.

A second count and certification of the results by the Band’s election board was scheduled for later Wednesday, after which final official results will be available.

Any candidate who wishes to have the ballots recounted for their race must file their request with the election board by Friday, according to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe election ordinance.

The general election is scheduled for June 14.

CLERK...Continued from page 1

It can be noted that the two positions are not comparable. Breitung Township is much more comparable to a small city with its own maintenance department, township roads to maintain and plow, water and sewer infrastructure, police department, hockey rink and baseball field, and a campground.

Spicer said she was angry and hurt that the board continues to support the downgrading of the position to 12 hours a week, and singled out Drobac, who formerly served in the role.

“Of all people,” Spicer wrote, she “is aware of the statutory duties

and the board-imposed duties cannot be completed in just 12 hours.” “I will continue to do the duties of Clerk to the best of my ability.”

At some point last week, the Greenwood Board also received a letter of resignation from current Treasurer Belinda Fazio.

The Greenwood Town Board posted a notice for a special meeting on March 31 before receiving this email, and set a special meeting for Wednesday, April 6 at 6:30 p.m. to appoint a clerk to finish the current clerk’s term and a treasurer to complete the current treasurer’s term.



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News in Brief

Home destroyed by fire

WAASA TWP—A home and garage located at 3820 Hwy. 21 in Waasa Township were destroyed by fire on March 30. No one was injured during the incident, but the residence was a total loss. Embarrass, Babbitt and Tower fire departments assisted at the scene, along with the Babbitt Police Department and St. Louis County Sheriff’s Department.

According to a report in the *Duluth News Tribune*, the house was a single-family rental owned by Timothy Westvik, who said the fire possibly started in a chicken coop behind the house.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation.



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Stores in Ely, Babbitt, Tower and Cook





U.S. CENSUS

## 1950 household data now available online

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Want to get a small glimpse of what life was like in the North Country in 1950, or learn a little about your relatives and ancestors from that day and age? The April 1 release of the 1950 U.S. Census forms listing house-by-house information about people living there will let you do just that.

Genealogists in particular have been awaiting this release for the past decade. Federal law

mandates that individual household information can't be released for 72 years after a census is taken to provide a level of protection of confidentiality. Researchers using websites like Ancestry and FamilyTree have been able to access the forms through 1940 but have had to rely on other records when trying to track down information after that year.

Now, more than 6.5 million digital images of 1950 census forms and maps are available and searchable online at [1950census.archives.gov](https://www.1950census.archives.gov), a page developed

by the National Archives to allow free and easy access to the records. However, everyone won't have the same ease or luck in finding what they're looking for, but there are numerous aids available to help people zero in on their targets.

**What's there**

The 1950 census was the last one where almost all of the household information in the country was collected by census takers going door-to-door to talk with residents to get the information



to fill out their forms. For each census, the information gathered has been somewhat different from

the previous one, and 1950 is no different.

The street and house or apartment number is listed, as well as if the house is on a farm or a lot over three acres in size. The head of the household is listed by first and last names, and other family members are typically listed by first name only. Full names are listed for servants or lodgers living in the house. For each individual, their race, sex, age on their last birthday,

*See CENSUS...pg. 2B*

**These six North Woods archers will be traveling to Utah at the end of April to represent the team and school in the NASP Western Nationals competition.**

**They are, from front to back, Buckley LeForte, Kaidence Scofield, Brady Swanson, Michaela Brunner, Cooper Long, and Merilee Scofield.**

**Below: After munching on pizza and receiving awards at their end-of-season banquet on Sunday, North Woods archers line up for some fun target shooting for prizes.**

photos by  
D. Colburn



COMPETITION

## North Woods archers qualify for nationals

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- Six North Woods archers qualified for the National Archery in the Schools Western Nationals in Utah by scoring top-ten placements in state tournament competition in Duluth on March 25-26.

Grizzlies Buckley LeForte, Kaidence Scofield, Brady Swanson, Michaela Brunner, Cooper Long, and Merilee Scofield will shoot off against more than 1,200 fellow student archers in the Mountain America Center in Sandy, Utah, on April 29-30. The NASP is returning to in-person Western and Eastern national events after holding a virtual tournament last year due to COVID-19.

Emily Nelson is president of the North Woods Archery Club, and sending kids to national tournaments is something they've come to expect, she said. "You can either qualify as an individual or a team," Olson said. "This year we have individual qualifiers. We've had

“When you go to nationals, there's a thousand kids shooting at one time. Just the sound of it is really cool.

**Emily Nelson  
North Woods Archery Club**

whole teams qualify, like the whole middle school team or elementary or high school."

"Regular season meets are typically hosted at school, so taking the team to the state event at the DECC in Duluth is a fun and different atmosphere for the kids to experience," Nelson said, "but nationals is a whole other level entirely."

"When you go to nationals there are a thousand targets set



up and then there's a thousand kids shooting at one time," she said. "Just the sound of it alone is really cool."

Fifth-grader Buckley LaForte has lofty aspirations for when he gets to Utah. He's shot a compound bow for a couple of years, he said, and while switching to the uniform competition bow required by NASP was a little tricky at first, he's adapted well.

"I'd like to shoot in the high 280s, or maybe 290," he said,

marks that would be just short of perfection.

This is the first year that fifth-grader Michaela Brunner has had a bow in her hand, and she said she didn't expect to do as well as she has. She said it's fun and that she likes the mix between group and individual practice.

"It doesn't take up all that much time," she said. "We normally have Sundays here

*See ARCHERS...pg. 2B*

### COMMUNICATIONS



**This "monopole" cell tower was under construction this week near Everett Lake, on the Echo Trail.**

photo by M. Helmberger

## Echo Trail cell tower makes sudden appearance

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

ECHO TRAIL— The sudden appearance of a 195-foot communications tower near Everett Lake has local residents here both concerned and surprised about the lack of public notice.

"We were blindsided," said Quent Lauer, who lives on Everett Lake, about eight miles up the Echo Trail from Ely. "We just woke up one morning and saw this huge tower going up."

New communications towers are hardly unusual these days, but the St. Louis County ordinance used to require a conditional use permit for such projects, and such permits required a public hearing and notification of nearby neighbors.

But the county board changed that process in 2015, when it adopted a new zoning ordinance, known as Ordinance 62. The earlier ordinance, adopted back in 1993, did require a conditional use permit for communications towers, according to Jennifer Bourbonais, land use manager for St. Louis County Planning and Community Development. The CUP process requires a public hearing and notification of neighbors.

The updated ordinance dropped that requirement, however, in favor of what are known as "performance standard permits," which can be issued over-the-counter as long as they meet a minimum set of pre-defined standards or criteria. Public notification is no longer required, which is why neighbors near the facility were caught off-guard.

A company out of Rochester, Minn., known as TowerCo., commissioned construction of the 195-foot "monopole," which will be located inside a 50' by 50' fenced

*See TOWER...pg. 2B*



Merilee said she didn't

Randy Long's son, fifth-grader Cooper, also qualified for nationals, and he has two more sons on the team, fourth-grader Brock and senior Eagen. Long has been one of the team's coaches for 12 years.

Getting all the necessary equipment and traveling to tournaments near and far involves a good deal of expense, but because

One of the team's biggest sources of revenue is selling Zup's pasties, she said. This year the team sold 1,314 pasties, earning

"Archery is like no other sport," Long said. "It

takes funding and a lot of community effort to keep it going, and it takes a lot of coaches. There's a lot of hands-on involvement. The community has done an excellent job helping us through our pasty sales and giving donations so that we can purchase equipment each year from bows to targets and target faces. They've even provided enough funding for us to buy (an equipment) trailer for the team."

Also included in the digital release are maps and descriptions of the census enumeration districts, what are commonly known today as census tracts.

The National Archives site also has a page devoted to the 1950 census, in addition to the actual search and resource page, [1950census.archives.gov](http://1950census.archives.gov). While having background information is useful, most will want to dive into searching quickly.

The search included three results, all from Nett Lake. A Frank P. Villebrun showed up on both a standard survey and an IRS A

Take the Villebrun search and the IRS form.

Once you're in, you pick the number of the line that needs to be corrected and then enter the correct spelling. The form itself, as a 72-year-old scanned image, isn't changed, but

A link on the “Resources” page of the site, “Finding Aids,” will help you understand and navigate the enumeration district map collection. Another link on the page will intrigue historians – it goes to a list of all of the training videos produced for the 1950 census workers and the general public, that can be viewed online at the National Archives website.

Access to wireless communications has been an issue for first responders along the Echo Trail and adjacent portions of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. The St. Louis County Rescue Squad, in particular, has struggled at times to communicate while undertaking wilderness rescues in the western portion of the BWCAW. The new tower is expected to significantly improve the communications in that area.





HELPING RESIDENTS

Local Social Security offices have resumed in-person services

REGIONAL- Local Social Security offices will restore in-person services, including for those without appointments, on April 7. However, scheduled appointments are strongly encouraged by visiting [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) or calling toll-free 1-800-772-1213. Deaf or hard of hearing may call Social Security’s TTY number 1-800-325-0778. Customers who walk in without appointments may encounter delays and longer waits. Offices tend to be busiest first thing in the morning, early in the week, and during the early part of the month.

Since many have health vulnerabilities, certain safety measures including masks, physical distancing, and self-health checks for COVID-19 symptoms are required. If needed, masks are available. Please visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/coronavirus/gethelp](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/coronavirus/gethelp) or [www.socialsecurity.gov/online](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/online) services.

Most Social Security services are available to the public online at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) and with a My Social Security account, or by telephone. Most services do not require the public to take time to visit an office. Create a My Social Security account, a personalized online service, at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount) to access personalized services, such as replacement Social Security cards. If already receiving Social Security benefits, direct deposits can be started or changed online, a replacement SSA-1099 can be requested, and if proof of benefits is needed, a current benefit verification letter can be printed or downloaded. Those not yet receiving benefits can use an online account to get a personalized Social Security statement, which provides earnings information as well as estimates of future benefits. The portal also includes a retirement calculator and links to information about other online services, such as applications for retirement, disability, and Medicare benefits.

Obituaries and Death Notices

**Richard T. Johnson**

Richard Theodore Johnson, 80, of Cook, passed away on Sunday, April 3, 2022, at his home surrounded by his loved ones. A Celebration of Life will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 23 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. Military Honors will be accorded by the Cook VFW Post 1757 Honor Guard and the Orr American Legion Post 480 Honor Guard. A lunch will be held immediately following the service at the VFW in Cook.

**Steven V. Peterson**

Steven Victor “Steve” Peterson, 69, of Lake Vermilion-Tower, formerly a longtime resident of Virginia, died on Saturday, March 26, 2022, in his home with family at his side. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Friday, April 1 at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Virginia with Rev. Father Brandon Moravitz as celebrant. Burial will follow at a later date in Calvary Cemetery in Virginia. Family services provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by his wife, Christine “Chris” Weiss Peterson; son, Joel (Jill) Martinson of Lake Vermilion-Tower; siblings, Frank (Jan) Peterson of Virginia and Kathy (Tony) Zavodnik of Soudan; numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and many friends.

**Eugene Whiteman Jr.**

Eugene Whiteman Jr., 64, of Duluth, originally of Nett Lake, passed away peacefully at Solvay Hospice Center in Duluth on Monday, March 28, 2022, after a recent diagnosis of cancer. A Traditional Wake was held on Thursday, March 31 and the Traditional Service was held on Friday, April 1, both at the Bois Forte Government and Services Center. Spiritual Advisor was Vernon Adams Sr., with Clint Miller as his assistant.

He is survived by two sons, Geno and Garrett Whiteman; grandchildren; brothers, Jerome, William “Bill” (Julie) and Steven; numerous nieces and nephews; special friend, Ruth; and many friends in the Duluth area.

**Eileen E. Poczekaj**

Eileen Edith Wulf Poczekaj, 79, of Orr, passed away on Monday, March 28, 2022. The family would like to thank the staff at Carefree Assisted Living for their wonderful care. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Thursday, April 7 at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Orr. Arrangements were with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

She is survived by her sister, Norma Sophie of Baraboo, Wis.; godson, Alan Woehrle; numerous nieces and nephews; and lifelong friends and second family, Jack and Carol Woehrle and family.

**Linda F. Parson**

Linda Fay Jackson Parson, 81, of Buhl, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, March 23, 2022. Services will be held on Saturday, April 9 at Zion Lutheran Church in International Falls. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. with services starting at noon and a luncheon to follow.

She is survived by two children, Thomas (Pam) Parson of Tower and Carrie (Sean) Huffman of Woodinville, Wash.; eight grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

PUBLIC NOTICE

**STATE OF MINNESOTA  
COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS  
SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
DISTRICT COURT  
PROBATE DIVISION  
Court File No.  
69VI-PR-22-49**

**NOTICE AND ORDER OF  
HEARING ON PETITION  
FOR PROBATE OF WILL  
AND APPOINTMENT  
OF PERSONAL  
REPRESENTATIVE AND  
NOTICE TO  
CREDITORS**

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

BY THE COURT  
Andrew R. Peterson  
Judge of District Court  
Amy Turnquist, Court

Administrator  
Chelsea Opdahl, Deputy

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

*Published in the Timberjay,  
April 8 & 15, 2022*

**KUGLER TOWNSHIP  
NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING**

The Kugler Town Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 20, 2022, at 6 p.m. at Kugler Town Hall.

Christopher Suihkonen, Town Clerk

*Published in the Timberjay, April 8, 2022*

**LOCAL BOARD OF APPEAL  
AND EQUALIZATION  
KUGLER TOWNSHIP**

**Important Information Regarding Property Assessments.**  
**This may affect your 2023 property taxes**

**Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeal and Equalization for Kugler Township shall meet on Wednesday, April 20, 2022 from 10 - 11 a.m. at the St. Louis County Service Center, 3020 Miners Dr. E, Ely, MN**

The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether taxable property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor, and to determine whether corrections need to be made.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you disagree with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the local board of appeal and equalization. The board will review your assessments and may make corrections as needed. Generally, you must appeal to the local board before appealing to the county board of appeal and equalization.

Any questions, call Paul Cherry at 218-365-8235

Chris Suihkonen, Kugler Township Clerk

*Published in the Timberjay, April 8 & 15, 2022*

**BEARVILLE TOWNSHIP  
LOCAL BOARD OF APPEAL AND  
EQUALIZATION NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeal and Equalization for Bearville Township shall meet on Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. at the Bearville Town Hall (13971 Hwy. 22, Bearville Township). The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether taxable property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you disagree with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization. The board will review your assessments and may make corrections as needed. Generally, you must appeal to the local board before appealing to the County Board of Appeal and Equalization.

The Bearville Township Local Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting will be held in person at the Town Hall. The Bearville Township Board encourages those wishing to appeal their valuation to contact the Itasca County Assessor prior to the meeting with their concerns.

Kathy Cressy, Bearville Town Clerk

*Published in the Timberjay, April 8 & 15, 2022*

**KABETOGRAMA TOWNSHIP  
Important Information Regarding Assessments and Classification of Property  
This may affect your 2023 property tax payments.**

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeal and Equalization of the Township of Kabetogama shall meet on April 14, 2022 from 10:00 a.m to 11:00 a.m. at the Kabetogama Town Hall, 9707 Gamma Rd., Kabetogama, MN, 56669. The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether taxable property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor, and also to determine whether corrections need to be made.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concern. If you are still not satisfied with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the local board of appeal and equalization. The board shall review the valuation, classification, or both if necessary, and shall correct it as needed. Generally, an appearance before your local board of appeal and equalization is required by law before an appeal can be taken to your county board of appeal and equalization.

*Published in the Timberjay, March 25 & April 8, 2022*

**Ely Area Food Shelf March Campaign 2022**

**BUILDING & NOURISHING COMMUNITY**

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—Clinics—**

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Appointments Available**

Scenic Rivers is now scheduling appointments for individuals to receive COVID-19 vaccinations at our medical locations following state eligibility guidelines. Supply is limited and call volumes are high, so we appreciate your patience. If you believe you meet the MN state vaccine eligibility requirements, please call the number below to schedule an appointment.

**Cook Medical  
Vaccine Scheduling**

20 5th St SE  
(218) 361-3297

**Tower Medical  
Vaccine Scheduling**

415 N 2nd St, Suite 2  
(218) 753-2405

**1-877-541-2817**  
[www.ScenicRiversHealth.org](http://www.ScenicRiversHealth.org)

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Cook Hospital





# Outdoors

Our lives in the Northwoods

WILDLIFE RESEARCH

## Moose survey offers hopeful signs of recovery

DNR estimates region’s population at 4,700 animals, highest since 2011; cow-to-calf ratio the best since 2005

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— There were hopeful signs in the Department of Natural Resource’s latest aerial moose survey, results of which were released on Monday. The survey, which was canceled in 2021 due to COVID-19, showed an increase in the population estimate, and a

strong calf-to-cow ratio that suggests the population could be improving its reproductive success.

DNR officials note that the latest population estimate of 4,700 animals in the region’s primary moose zone does not represent a statistically significant change from the 2020 population estimate of 3,150 animals. However, the 2022 estimate is the

highest since 2011 and, at a minimum, it points to continued population stability in the population, if not modest growth.

The calf-to-cow ratio was the most hopeful sign in the study, showing an average of 0.45 calves per female, the highest ratio since 2005, when the region’s moose population was estimated at 8,160 animals and was con-

**Right: A small herd of moose seen from a spotter plane used in the aerial survey.**

file photo/M. Schrage

sidered healthy. In the most recent survey, conducted from Jan. 6-14, moose calves made up 19 percent of the total population, also the highest since 2005.

See **MOOSE...** pg. 5B



BOUNDARY WATERS IN WINTER



## Hegman’s rock

Colored rocks, pictographs, ice formations and the vast silence of the North in winter

Silence is the first thing. A slight fog and a fine fall of snow sit like a heavy blanket as I ski across the ice to reacquaint myself with the impressive rock face on North Hegman Lake, keeping all sounds at a hush. There’s no discernible wind and the light shushing of my skis and rhythmic soft tick of my ski poles are the only sounds I hear.

I’m headed toward the well-known pictographs, but I know they’ll get only a moment’s glance before I turn my attention to the multi-colored palisade that has been home to the drawings for who knows how many generations. Multi-colored granites, scores of different lichens, and the inevitable ice formations, made all the more spectacular this year after our unusual mid-December rain event, always seem to draw me in.

It’s Monday morning, April 4, and I’m not in the office as I typically would be this time of the week. Yet, it seems there has to be at least one benefit from carrying the responsibility of assembling the *Timberjay*’s

Outdoors section week after week, and it’s hard to write about the outdoors if you’re stuck in the office. I normally do my gallivanting on the weekends, but the maple sap is running and I’ve been stuck close to home tending the boiling fires.

So here I am on a Monday and it seems I have the Boundary Waters to myself, which is how I like it. April is considered a shoulder season in the wilderness, but it usually offers some of the best skiing of the entire season, especially when the crusted snow is hard and fast.

I’ve been to the Hegman lakes many times, in both summer and winter. They’re quintessential Boundary Waters lakes, ringed with big pine and the same kind of black-jack forest (black spruce and jack pine) that stretches north from here until the forest fades to tundra. It’s the rock that always stands out for me on these lakes. On South Hegman, it’s the lake’s eastern bay that holds the surprises, the picturesque water fall that drops over a ledge when the water is high enough, creating a burbling

See **HEGMAN...** pg. 5B



MARSHALL HELMBERGER



Top: The North Hegman rock face, slightly distorted from the panorama mode of an iPhone.

Above left: The famous pictographs found toward the southern end of the rock face.

Above: Icicles hang down from the overhanging rock face, one of a number of ice formations in place this week.



Above left: A pair of swans appear out of an ice formation along the rock face.

Above: Reflections of trees in the stream that connects North Hegman to South Hegman.

Left: Looking to the east through snow and fog on South Hegman Lake.

photos by M. HelMBERGER





# WHITENOSE SYNDROME

## Fish and Wildlife proposes endangered status for northern long-eared bat

REGIONAL— The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has announced a proposal to reclassify the northern long-eared bat as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act. The proposed rule, announced March 22 in the Federal Register, is open for public comment through May 23.



to offset negative forest management impacts on bats. The Incidental Take Permit associated with the HCP will be the DNR’s method of ensuring forest management activities on DNR-administered land in endangered bat habitat are planned to conserve bats.

The Minnesota DNR expects that the HCP will be posted on the Federal Register this coming summer for public comment. If any of Minnesota’s bats are reclassified as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act, forest landowners will need to consider the effect of their activities on the endangered bats.

Participation in the HCP will be an option for some landowners to demonstrate compliance.

Comments must be submitted directly to the USFWS, either electronically through the Federal Register or by U.S. mail (see Federal Register webpage for details). The USFWS is also hosting a public information meeting and public hearing on April 7.

The Minnesota DNR, in partnership with the Wisconsin DNR and Michigan DNR, is nearing the final stages in the development of the Lake States Forest Management Bat Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). The HCP describes the potential positive and negative impacts of forest management on bats and biological objectives that will be implemented

## LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
36 16					44 21					46 28					44 24					44 28				
Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
03/28	21	-11	0.00		03/28	20	-12	0.00		03/28	20	-5	0.00		03/28	34	-8	0.00		03/28	20	-14	0.00	
03/29	35	-11	0.00		03/29	35	-13	0.00		03/29	34	-6	0.00		03/29	41	27	0.00		03/29	35	-13	0.00	
03/30	41	27	0.11	1.3"	03/30	40	26	0.22	0.5"	03/30	41	26	0.03	0.3"	03/30	34	28	0.00		03/30	41	26	0.06	0.5"
03/31	33	24	0.18	1.4"	03/31	32	23	0.12	0.4"	03/31	32	22	0.27	5.0"	03/31	36	21	0.00		03/31	32	22	0.16	1.4"
04/01	36	5	0.00		04/01	35	2	0.00		04/01	34	8	0.02	0.2"	04/01	46	7	0.00		04/01	36	3	0.00	
04/02	46	4	0.02		04/02	46	2	0.00		04/02	45	6	0.01		04/02	36	30	0.00		04/02	45	4	0.02	
04/03	39	24	0.00		04/03	38	18	0.00		04/03	39	19	0.00		04/03	39	24	0.00		04/03	38	17	0.00	
YTD Total			2.27	77.7"	YTD Total			2.84	50.7"	YTD Total			3.12	85.8"	YTD Total			NA	NA	YTD Total			3.37	62.8"

## HEGMAN...Continued from page 4B

seasonal brook that spills down a jumble of boulders, destination unknown. On the bay’s opposite shore, there’s the gigantic slab of granite that sheared off the ledgerrock and slipped down, creating a slot cavern that usually has signs of use by the local wildlife.

On North Hegman, the rocks almost demand your attention. On the western shore, just south of the lake’s palisade, there’s a maze of giant boulders. Their origins have always been unclear to me, but I stop to marvel each time nonetheless at the rocks and the trees that seem to twist their way around them. That any trees survive here, much less grow tall, is equally a mystery, given that so much of the surrounding terrain appears to be little more than lichen-covered bedrock.

Then there’s the rock face itself, a 150-foot-long palisade located just south of the narrows into Trease Lake. It’s a destination for hundreds, if not thousands, of visitors a year, and I can only imagine as much for the overhanging monolith as the famous drawings of man-god, moose, and wolf. On this trip, it was the dangling ice formations that drew



A brief break in the light snow as the sun breaks through momentarily on North Hegman Lake.

me in, step by step. Impressive from a distance, they became more so as I moved closer and closer, finding new detail with each step.

And everywhere, there were snow fleas, those tiny springtails that claw their way to the snow’s surface this time of year to feed on a winter’s worth of snow mold and other detritus. I came to the conclusion that there were more snow fleas on the icy surface of either of the Hegman lakes than there are humans on Earth. The snow fleas were everywhere, on the snow, on the exposed rocks, on

the trees, even on the ice formations hanging from the palisade.

That’s one of the things about taking a trip in the Boundary Waters, even if it’s just a two-hour ski on a Monday morning break from the office. The experiences, images, and memories come flooding, whether from the grandeur of a giant rock face to the tiniest specks bouncing on top of the snow. Profound silences. Mystery rocks. Ancient drawings. Ice formations. And trillions of snow fleas. Monday’s not so bad, after all.

## MOOSE...Continued from page 4B

In total, researchers observed 373 moose during their survey of 53 plots and found moose on 75 percent of the plots flown.

The region’s moose population has been under intense scrutiny since an apparent population crash beginning in 2010. By 2013, the DNR’s aerial survey pegged the region’s moose population at an anemic

2,760 animals, a finding which prompted at least a temporary end to the state’s moose hunting season. That estimate now appears to have been an outlier, although subsequent surveys confirmed that the region’s moose population has declined from its peaks in the 2000s.

The 2022 survey results represent the 11th year in a row that

suggest population stability, albeit at a lower population level than was once found in the region.

Both the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and the 1854 Treaty Authority contributed funding and personnel for the 2022 annual survey. The survey is available on the DNR’s moose management page ([mndnr.gov/moose](http://mndnr.gov/moose)).



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TO A LONG  
LASTING SMILE

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renovations from  
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## It's time to build up our financial resources at the Ely Area Food Shelf

Each March food shelves across Minnesota take part in a statewide effort to raise money and food donations so that our hungry friends and neighbors have food. This grassroots effort is called the March Campaign and this its 41st year.

*We provide food to almost 10% of our friends and neighbors throughout the year and we need your help to do it.*

### How can you help? We're glad you asked...

- **Give \$.** We can't purchase food without it. Donate online at [elyareafoodshelf.org](http://elyareafoodshelf.org) or by mail to Ely Area Food Shelf, PO Box 786, Ely, MN 55731.
- **Give food.** Non-perishable food is always welcome and can be dropped off at 15 W Conan St. Mon.-Thu. from 9:30-11:30 a.m. or in the red bins at Zups and the Library. Garden produce donations are also welcome but can only be received on the third Wednesday of the month.
- **Give time.** Volunteering at the Ely Area Food Shelf is fun and rewarding. We have a pool of 70 volunteers and most have been volunteering over 10 years.
- **Ask.** As we move forward into a time of potential food shortages please ask your friends and neighbors if they need food and offer to come with them to the food shelf. I think we can all agree that no one in our community should be hungry.

Ely Area Food Shelf March Campaign 2022 runs through April 10.  
We thank you in advance.

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EMPLOYMENT

POSITION OPENING  
Ely Public Schools  
High School Science Teacher  
1.0 Full Time Equivalent (FTE)

Ely Public Schools is accepting applications for a Grade 7-12 Science Teacher beginning the 2022-2023 school year; competitive salary and fringes as per the master agreement. Background check required.

Qualifications include:  
➤ Current Minnesota 7-12 Life Science teaching license  
➤ Teaching experience preferred  
➤ Excellent communication skills including verbal and written

Responsibilities:  
➤ Demonstrate knowledge of subject matter through effective teaching practices, with expectations of high student achievement.  
➤ Assess student progress, modify instruction, and improve student learning.  
➤ Communicate and collaborate with parents and the school community to foster individual student success and growth.  
➤ Plan, organize, and teach competency-based science courses.  
➤ Demonstrate effective classroom and equipment management.

Application available at: [www.ely.k12.mn.us](http://www.ely.k12.mn.us)

A complete application must include the following:

- Cover letter
- District Licensed Application
- Resume
- Copy of official transcripts
- Current Minnesota teaching license
- 3 letters of recommendation

Return materials to: Ely Public Schools, Attn: Superintendent, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731 or email [mwognum@ely.k12.mn.us](mailto:mwognum@ely.k12.mn.us). Contact Memorial HS/MS Principal Megan Anderson at 218-365-6166 ext. 1726 or [manderson@ely.k12.mn.us](mailto:manderson@ely.k12.mn.us) with any questions.

Start date: August 30, 2022

Application review to begin: April 14, 2022; open until filled.

*Published in the Timberjay, April 1 & 8, 2022*



HELP WANTED: Would you like to work outside? Would you like to work on the lake? Docks on Wheels, in Ely, is looking to fill a variety of positions. All positions require the ability to lift 50 lbs continually. Starting pay is \$15.00 per/hr. Stop in and apply or call 218-365-6210 to schedule an interview. 4/15

POSITION OPENING  
Ely Public Schools  
K-12 Band/Classroom Music Teacher  
1.0 Full Time Equivalent (FTE)

Ely Public Schools is accepting applications for a 1.0 FTE K-12 Band/Classroom Music Teacher beginning the 2022-2023 school year; competitive salary and fringes as per the master agreement. Background check required.

Qualifications include:  
➤ Current Minnesota teaching license in K-12 Instrumental and Classroom Music  
➤ Teaching experience preferred  
➤ Considerable knowledge of music, instruments, and music curriculum areas  
➤ Considerable skill in classroom management and organization  
➤ Excellent communication skills including verbal and written

Application available at: [www.ely.k12.mn.us](http://www.ely.k12.mn.us)

A complete application must include the following:

- District Licensed Application
- Resume
- Copy of official transcripts
- Current Minnesota teaching license
- 3 letters of recommendation

Return materials to: Ely Public Schools, Attn: Superintendent, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731 or email [mwognum@ely.k12.mn.us](mailto:mwognum@ely.k12.mn.us). Contact Memorial HS/MS Principal Megan Anderson at (218) 365-6166 ext. 1726 or [manderson@ely.k12.mn.us](mailto:manderson@ely.k12.mn.us) with any questions.

Start date: August 30, 2022

Application review to begin: April 13, 2022; open until filled.

*Published in the Timberjay, April 1 & 8, 2022*

NORTH AMERICAN BEAR CENTER  
NORTHWOODS ECOLOGY HALL  
NOW HIRING!

The North American Bear Center has a great job opportunity for individuals looking to work in an exciting family environment! We are searching for people with a positive attitude, who have experience working with the public, to fill our sales associate positions for our 2022 season.

Hours will include weekdays and some weekends between 9 am-6 pm. We offer competitive wages and employee perks. Valid driver's license is a must, along with the ability to pass a background check.

If you are interested in applying for this position, stop by the North American Bear Center (located just 1 mile west of Ely off Hwy. 169) to pick up an application Mon-Fri between the hours of 9 am-2 pm or email your resume to [mhietala@bear.org](mailto:mhietala@bear.org). 4/15



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\$30.83-\$37.75 Hourly Apply by 04/19/2022

[www.stlouiscountymn.gov](http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov)  
or call 218-726-2422

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PT Dietary Aide/Cook

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FT Medical Lab Tech

Radiology

FT Radiologic Technologist (\$4,000 Sign-On Bonus)

Care Center

FT & PT Nursing Assistant (Wage starting at \$17.36/hr - \$1,500 Sign-On Bonus)  
FT & PT RN/LPN (\$4,000 Sign-On Bonus)

Activities

PT & Casual Activities Assistant

Environmental Services

Casual Laundry Aide  
FT & Casual Housekeeping & Laundry

TO APPLY:

[www.cookhospital.org/join-our-team/](http://www.cookhospital.org/join-our-team/)

More Info? Contact Human Resources

218-666-6220

[humanresources@cookhospital.org](mailto:humanresources@cookhospital.org)

The Cook Hospital & Care Center offers competitive pay and benefits including PERA retirement, Health and Dental coverage, Life and LTD.

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Justice Dept. agency
- 4 Physician's nickname
- 7 Grating
- 12 Vintage
- 13 Away from WSW
- 14 Mountain crest
- 15 Set afire
- 16 Yosemite peak featured in "Free Solo"
- 18 "CSI" evidence
- 19 Dewy
- 20 Billboard
- 22 Swiss peak
- 23 Bloke
- 27 Author Fleming
- 29 Abrasion
- 31 Planet circlers
- 34 Heart line
- 35 Coffeehouse bill collector
- 37 L-P link
- 38 Utah ski resort
- 39 "Yoo- —!"
- 41 Pottery oven
- 45 Quotable Yogi
- 47 Eastern path
- 48 Bygone Cadillacs
- 52 Copper head?
- 53 Tierney of "The Affair"
- 54 Superlative

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11
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15				16			17					
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48	49	50	51							52		
53						54				55		
56						57				58		

- 7 Engrossed
- 8 "Exodus" hero
- 9 Fixed
- 10 Sch. org
- 11 Hankering
- 17 Nile vipers
- 21 Martial arts warrior
- 23 Swindler
- 24 Guffaw syllable
- 25 Suitable
- 26 Green shade
- 28 Simile part
- 30 Paint container
- 31 1959 Kingston Trio hit
- 32 Texas tea
- 33 Choose
- 36 Mother of Zeus
- 37 Gloomy
- 40 Sequence
- 42 Tuscany setting
- 43 Hard work
- 44 Seasonal songs
- 45 Thin nail
- 46 Nick and Nora's dog
- 48 Ambulance initials
- 49 Napkin's place
- 50 Payable
- 51 Mine material

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PUBLIC NOTICES

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS  
SIXTH JUDICIAL  
DISTRICT COURT  
PROBATE DIVISION  
Court File No.  
69VI-PR-21-120

Estate of Nancy Jean Wall aka Nancy Jean Wall Glowaski, aka Nancy Jean Longhenry, Decedent

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION OF INTESTANCY, DETERMINATION OF HEIRS, AND PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE OF CREDITORS

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on May 4th, 2022 at 9:00 a.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at 300 5th Ave South, Virginia, Minnesota, for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of heirship of the Decedent and the appointment of John F. Longhenry whose address is 13339 185th AVE NE, Foreston, MN 56330 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration.

Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power

to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

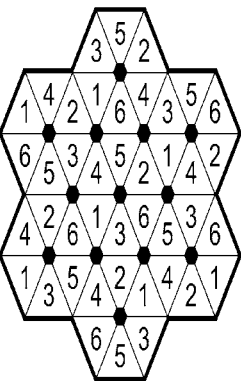
HEARING WILL BE HELD VIA ZOOM

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

Dated: 03/25/2022  
BY THE COURT  
/s/ Andrew R. Peterson  
Judge of District Court  
/s/ Amy Turnquist  
Court Administrator  
Chelsea Opdahl, Deputy  
  
Petitioner  
John F. Longhenry  
13339 185th AVE NE.  
Foreston, MN 56330  
Telephone: 763-268-2359  
Email: [longhenryjohn@gmail.com](mailto:longhenryjohn@gmail.com)

*Published in the Timberjay, April 8 & 15, 2022*

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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.

ELY CO-DEPENDENTS MEETING- Fridays at noon-St. Anthony's Church Classroom 3-Use west side entrance. For more information go to [coda.org](http://coda.org) on the web.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS- Meetings every Wednesday at 4:30 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.

**Call 753-2950 to subscribe to the Timberjay!**



AA-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.

VIRGINIA AA WOMEN'S MEETING- Ladies by the Lake. Tuesdays at 12 noon. Peace United Methodist Church, 303 S 9th Ave, please use side door and parking.

**Find It Here 753-2950**

**King Crossword**  
*Answers*  
Solution time: 26 mins.

FBI	DOO	RASPY
OLD	ENE	ARETE
LIT	ELCAP	TIAN
DNA	MOIST	
SIGN	ALP	CHAP
	IAN	SCRAPE
MOONS	AO	RTA
TIP	JAR	MNO
ALTA	HOO	KILN
	BERRA	TAO
ELD	ORADOS	ABE
MAURA	EST	LOL
SPEED	REA	YRS

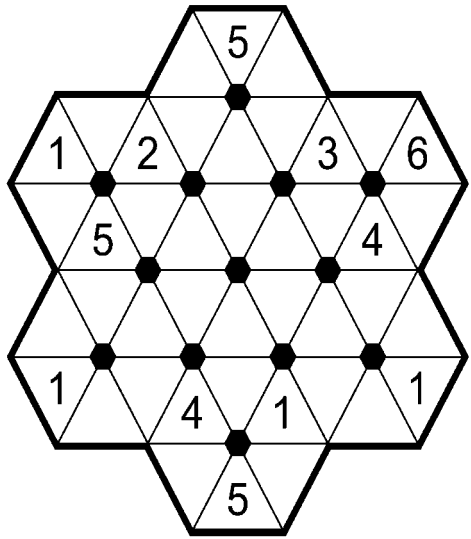
**Adverstising PAYS OFF!**



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subscribe to the  
**Timberjay!**

**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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**Weekly SUDOKU**  
Answer


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

**Try out the Timberjay classifieds**  
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**SUPPORT GROUPS**

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](http://www.district8online.org).

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

**Super Crossword**

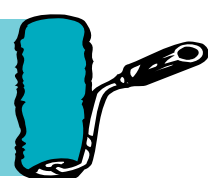
**ACROSS**  
1 Shoshone woman who accompanied Lewis and Clark  
10 Hebrew holy text  
15 Chicago hub  
20 Rembrandt painted with them  
21 You RSVP to it online  
22 Tempos  
23 Eton and Hogwarts  
25 RAM units  
26 Nastase of tennis fame  
27 The sun, e.g.  
28 Hooded viper  
30 Get higher  
31 Long-necked beast  
35 Companies with cabbies  
39 Give the details of  
42 Kite's home  
43 Suffix with human  
44 Skilled thief, slangily  
48 Adds on  
52 Positive vote in Congress  
53 "What's the —?" ("Care to explain that?" slangily)  
54 Vow  
56 Dried up  
57 Weightlifting units  
59 Cuddle (up)  
62 "Stay" singer  
64 Teensy  
65 Bug B Gon's brand  
67 Abbr. on an airport uniform  
68 Jacob Bronowski book about human history, with "The"  
71 Platoon unit  
73 German wine region  
75 Equipper of horse hooves  
76 Carnival vessels  
79 Backpacked beast, maybe  
82 "Chicago" showgirl Hart  
84 — polloi  
85 "Toodles!"  
86 Club get-togethers  
89 Bleacher feature  
90 PC brand  
92 Part of DJ  
94 Plant-based salve for treating bruises  
96 Longtime CBS series  
97 10th month, in German  
99 Many golf hits onto the green  
103 Comic actor  
104 Sweetheart  
105 Sitting Bull's tribe  
106 Hoped-for result of a throw to a receiver  
111 Frosty and the like  
115 Face defacer  
116 Tofu base  
117 Negative votes in Congress  
120 Green Hornet's aide  
121 Gut  
123 Trip associated with the starts of seven answers in this puzzle  
129 With 6-Down, boxing legend's daughter  
130 Devilish grin  
131 Native of the Raiders' home  
132 Fidgeting  
133 Literature Nobel  
134 Event for unloading household items in an urban area  
135 Literature Nobel  
136 Garlicky mayonnaise  
137 "— de Lune"  
138 Lot statistic  
139 Jupiter, e.g.  
140 See 129-Across  
141 Took the gold  
142 Units of work  
143 Aide: Abbr.  
144 Native of Iran's capital  
145 — -lacto diet  
146 '16 Olympics city  
147 Finally  
148 Literature Nobel  
149 Hermann  
150 The sun, e.g.  
151 Hoedown excursions  
152 Stuffy story  
153 Singer Della  
154 Snaky curves  
155 Tabby  
156 Divine seers  
157 Grub  
158 Small flutes  
159 — terrible (hellion)  
160 Crosses (out)  
161 Analogy part  
162 Pooh-bah  
163 Anklebone landmark  
164 Folding craft  
165 Poi plant  
166 Australian landmark  
167 Stayed silent  
168 Dress finely, with "out"  
169 Oodles  
170 Taos locale  
171 Most bleak  
172 Not hidden  
173 Niels quaff  
174 Feng —  
175 Steer catcher  
176 Japan finish?  
177 Niels with a Nobel  
178 Brewer's kiln  
179 Revlon rival  
180 Yard third  
181 Cul-de-sacs  
182 Mil. missions  
183 Elaine in Trump's Cabinet  
184 Commotion  
185 Owns  
186 Capital of Yemen  
187 Makes glossy, as one's hair  
188 Discord deity  
189 Street vehicle  
190 "Danke —"  
191 Retina parts associated with monochrome vision  
192 D-Day city in France  
193 About  
194 "Humbug!"  
195 Golf norm  
196 Shrub shapers  
197 Sadie — Day  
198 Miami Heat great Wade  
199 Small hand drum of India  
200 Shark's place  
201 Not ignited  
202 "— -daisy!"  
203 Prefix with payment or partisan  
204 Sister of Eva and Zsa Zsa  
205 "I Love Lucy" neighbor  
206 — Dame  
207 I problems?  
208 Bleacher feature  
209 "Whoopee!"  
210 Shark's place  
211 Weightlifting unit  
212 MGM rival  
213 Waitress at Mel's Diner  
214 Racing circuit

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129									130						131						
132									133						134						





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**CONGRATULATIONS**  
Congratulations Jeff, Stephanie and Alex Boness, the new owners of "Cornerstone Preschool" in Duluth from Steve Bragg, Business Broker

Jeff, Stephanie and Alex are planning to increase their number of students and will be looking for additional help in the coming spring months, including a cook and teachers.

**Calhoun**

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## Super Crossword

**Answers**

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

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