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# the TIMBERJAY

Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989

VOL. 33, ISSUE 16

April 29, 2022

\$1<sup>00</sup>



## COUNTY SCHOOLS



## A show of force in contract talks

Teachers make their case at ISD 2142 school board meeting

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- The neutral-colored walls of the ISD 2142 school board room were obscured Tuesday night by a solid wave of red as more than 70 teachers

from across the district descended on the district office to display their solidarity in stalled contract negotiations.

All were wearing bright red t-shirts emblazoned with the union name, "Local #1406 Education Minnesota," the names of all five schools, and the

slogan "Stronger Together." The phrase could have been standing together, as the teachers stood shoulder to shoulder around all four walls of the room and spilled out into the hallway.

Local President Tim Herring spoke first on behalf of the group, reading a letter published in last week's *Timberjay*.

See...ISD 2142 pg. 12

## MINING

## Layoffs start Monday at Northshore

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

BABBITT— Most of the workforce at the Northshore mine here will be on indefinite layoff starting on Monday. About 400 of Northshore's 580 employees will be idled as a result of the shutdown, which comes even as Northshore's parent company, Cleveland Cliffs, is experiencing some of its highest profits in years.

While the community of Babbitt has weathered many plant shutdowns in the past, the latest idling brings an additional level of uncertainty, due to longstanding concerns over royalties affecting the mine's operations as well as restructuring within Cliffs that has reduced the need for iron ore from the company's mines.

In announcing the plant's planned shutdown back in February, Cliffs CEO Lourenco Goncalves had indicated that the company would be shifting production of DR-grade pellets over to the company's Minorca Mine near Virginia. Cliffs had acquired the mine in 2020 as part of its acquisition of Arcelor-Mittal. Goncalves indicated that it could produce the same product for less at the Minorca facility, as compared to Northshore, in part because of a royalty structure in place at Northshore that has clearly irritated the company's CEO.

"Because we are now able to produce (DR) grade pellets at Minorca, and mainly due to the ridiculous royalty structure we have in place with the Mesabi Trust, we will be idling all production at our Northshore

See...LAYOFFS pg. 9

## ORR AREA ROAD DAMAGE



A  
river  
runs  
through it

## Rain, snowmelt lead to heavy runoff, closed roads

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook/Orr Editor

ORR - Snowmelt and excessive rain combined in a perfect storm last weekend to wreak havoc on numerous unpaved North Country roads, leading to numerous temporary closures.

And while roads in the region around Orr were reopened by Monday, heavy runoff flooding into area streams threatened an old rural bridge on Tuesday.

Rain and thunderstorms swept through the region on Friday and Saturday, dropping between three and five inches of moisture in northwestern St. Louis County onto roads already softened and

Above:  
Runoff from storms created this washout along Nelson Road near Crane Lake.

Right:  
A grader pushes fill into another washout area along Nelson Road.

photos courtesy of St. Louis County Public Works Department saturated with snowmelt in the past couple of weeks. The runoff caused washout damage to some roads and flooded others.

King Road running along

See...WASHOUT pg. 9



## EMERGENCY SERVICES

## Unresolved challenges leave North Country EMS groups struggling

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook/Orr Editor

MT. IRON- All of the presenters and attendees at an emergency medical services forum last week at the Range Association of Municipalities and Schools offices were familiar with various aspects of ambulance services, but after

## Directors say services need 'essential services designation'

two hours of pooling their collective wisdom, a sobering theme emerged: without systemic change driven by embracing EMS as an "essential service," the future of emergency medical service in greater Minnesota is in peril.

"We've got to fund EMS as an essential service. Why is EMS expected to either break even or make money?" Virginia Fire Chief Allen Lewis said. "We don't ask our cops to do that. We don't ask our fire departments to do that.

For some reason, EMS is not deemed an essential service. The state and our legislators need to take that up. They need to make the EMS an essential service and they need to fund it. Otherwise, you're going to call one day and you're

not going to get that ambulance, and I'm not being melodramatic."

Lewis, who oversees an area Advanced Life Support (ALS) service, was one of six expert panelists assembled by RAMS Executive Director

Ida Rukavina to lead the discussion.

"We have to combine resources, we have to combine districts, we have to combine services at some point, and we have to start looking into how we deliver what is needed for that patient," Lewis said.

See...EMS pg. 11



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Community notices

Author/illustrator Judith Johnson to speak May 3

HIBBING - Author and illustrator Judith Johnson will speak about “Troll Tales, Folktales with a Finnish Flavor” on Tuesday, May 3 at 2 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, 4010 9th Ave. W. Judith has a PhD in graphic design and taught in the Design Department of the University of Minnesota the last ten years of her teaching career. She says writing and illustrating “Troll Tales” was good therapy and she will explain why. Everyone is invited. A social time with coffee an’ follows the program.

The PasiCats present 105 years of Finnish music on Saturday, May 7

VIRGINIA - The PasiCats present “105 Years of Finnish Music”, a musical journey through Finland’s independence with a century of songs from Olavi Virta to J. Karjalainen on Saturday, May 7 at 6 p.m. at Kaleva Hall, 125 3rd St. N. Tickets are \$10 at the door. The PasiCats use music, accompanied with multimedia, to tell the story of how music in Finland has developed between 1917 and today. Pasi Lautala, the main coordinator of “105 Years of Finnish Music”, grew up in Tampere, Finland. He has been living in the United States since 1996 and has been actively involved in performing Finnish music for the past 15 years. His main motivation for getting involved in Finnish music came from people he met in various activities related to Finland, such as independence day celebrations, etc. While most people in our region know numerous Finnish songs from the first part of the twentieth century, they seem to be unaware of what had happened to Finnish music since then. It was this recognition, and some encouragement from a few close friends, that first led to the establishment of PasiCats, a band that for the past 15 years has played a mix of old and new(er) Finnish music, from folk tunes to rock’n roll in over 100 concerts across the Midwest and beyond. Along with Pasi Lautala, Mike LaBeau, Bob “Paris” Hiltunen, and Tim Havens will also be performing.

COVID-19 shots offered Fridays in Ely

ELY- The Ely Community Pharmacy will continue to offer COVID shots every Friday during their regular business hours of 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. These shots can be first or second doses or a booster. For more information, call the pharmacy at 218-365-8788.

Free children’s vitamins offered in Ely

ELY- The Ely Community Pharmacy has started a new program to offer free vitamins for children. Your child will receive a punch card that can be used each month to refill their bottle of chewable children’s vitamins. For more information, stop in the Ely Community Pharmacy or call them at 218-365-8788.

Ely’s Front Porch publishing monthly journal to showcase local writers

ELY - In a continuing effort to promote the amazing talent in the area, Ely’s Front Porch is introducing its own monthly journal, “A View From The Porch”, celebrating creative writers from Ely and all surrounding areas. If you are from #ElyMN or the #Northwoods, the Front Porch would love to publish your work. Send your submissions to submissions@aviewfromtheporch.org. Attached fiction and poetry should be typed in Word or Pages using Times New Roman 12 point font, and include your contact information and a brief bio (2-4 sentences) for the “About the Author” section. Please limit your submission to your own copyrighted material, and to five or fewer poems or short stories at a time. Selected works will be published in print and to the new website https://aviewfromtheporch.org. Ely’s Front Porch is really excited to showcase local poets and other creative writers in its journal in the same way that the Front Porch itself has served as both gallery and showcase for Ely-area artists and photographers for the past 17 plus years. Good reading ahead. See you at The Porch.

Ely’s Source for Local Art



HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY!

.....Exciting News!

We Have 2 NEW Artists...

Heidi Pinkerton and Marissa Sauer!

Heidi Pinkerton has a special section of her magical large-scale wildlife photography images. She sees wonder in the world around her, and is determined to share it. Stop in and enjoy the “Royal Family”, mother grizzly and her 4 charming cubs.



Marissa Saurer recently introduced herself to the Ely art scene in the 2022 Ely Art Walk and has joined our Gallery family with her linocut prints. She has been a professional designer and illustrator for decades.



3 Special Exhibitions this Summer:

June: Kelly Godfrey, “Through Kelly’s Eyes”

July: Nancy Ensley, “Transparent Nature”

August: Pamela J Davis, “The Art of Beads & Baskets”

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HEALTH

Ely Community Health Center honored and named United Way of NEMN Agency of the Year

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

REGIONAL – United Way of Northeastern Minnesota (UWNEMN) recently presented the Ely Community Health Center with its Agency of the Year honor. At the organization’s Annual Campaign Celebration, UWNEMN Executive Director Erin Shay commended Ely Community Health Center on six years of serving the needs of uninsured and under-insured patients from Ely, Babbitt, Winton, Embarrass, and Isabella, and expanding services over the past year. The clinic has grown from serving 120 patients when it first opened to serving 300 patients over the past year. “The importance of a free clinic in a pandemic can’t be overstated,” Shay said. “The fact that they were able to serve more people than ever with needs as high as they are and expand to provide dental care is truly remarkable.” Ely Community Health Center board members, staff, and providers attended UWNEMN’s



Ely Community Health Center staff, volunteers, and board members, from left, Helen Tome, Mary Bianco, Kristine Mosher, and Peggy Stollee, accepted United Way of Northeastern Minnesota’s Agency of the Year award at their Annual Campaign Celebration March 31 at Minnesota Discovery Center. submitted photo

Annual Campaign Celebration and thanked those in attendance for their support. Board Member Mary Bianco thanked all who give to UWNEMN. “Thank you for supporting us and supporting all the organizations you do,” she said. “We couldn’t do what we do without United Way.” The event marked the end of UWNEMN’s fiscal year, and donors, volunteers, and partner agencies

Ely Community Health Center offers free dental hygiene services

ELY – The Ely Community Health Center in the ECR building (formerly AFU), 111 S 4th Ave. E, provides free dental hygiene services to anyone in need. Call 218-365-5678 or email DentalECHS@gmail.com and they will get back to you. They can also make an appointment for you to see a dentist who will be available at the Ely Senior Center one day per month.

gathered to celebrate the results of the 2021 campaign, which raised more than \$1,880,000.

SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS

Veteran Information Fair: Beyond the Yellow Ribbon on May 12

CHISHOLM - The Hibbing/Chisholm Beyond the Yellow Ribbon is sponsoring their 2nd Veteran Information Fair on Thursday, May 12 from 11a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Chisholm National Guard Armory at 900 W Lake St. During the last few years of COVID closures and shutdowns, finding resources has been challenging. This event will bring a variety of resources back into our local military and veteran community, making connections to resources that many may

have forgotten about or didn’t realize they needed until living through these challenging years. The mission is to assist local service members through a successful transition from military to civilian life, bringing them all the way home while building stronger, more compassionate communities. The 2nd Veterans Information Fair will do this by bringing a variety of providers together in one location, connecting veterans to needed resources. Over 30 providers of military and veteran

resources have already signed up to be available to answer questions about benefits and connect service members, veterans, and families to needed resources. Legal, education, and medical benefit providers will be there to help the military and veteran community maintain a healthy lifestyle, whether they are serving the country today or did so long ago. This year, two DAV and County Veteran Transportation vans are offered to the event. If you live between Interna-

tional Falls and Chisholm or between Duluth and Chisholm call 218-969-7137 and leave a message with your name and address. Space is limited and will be confirmed a couple of days before the event. The Veteran Information Fair is open to all veterans, National and Air Guard service members, and families with proof of veteran/military status. After registering, the following providers will be available, with more providers being added each day.

SUMMER ART CLASSES

Greenstone Arts offering summer art camps

New classes added for teenagers this summer

ELY - After more than 20 years of summer art camp activities for elementary-age students, Greenstone Arts will host their first-ever teen art camp this year. Both camps will be held at the Ely Miner’s Dry Building, 105 Miner’s Landing Rd., located just below the head frame of the Pioneer Mine. “Students will experience a variety of art mediums and can develop their artistic talents under the guidance of professional artist teachers,” said Muffin Nelson, one of the summer camp organizers. The cost for each camp is \$50. “Potential students visiting Ely are welcome to attend,” she added. Applications will be sent home with Ely school students in mid-May and also will be available in early May at the Ely Public Library and at Greenstone Arts www.facebook.com/ElyArtsandHeritage.



Camp for students in grades 1-6 will open Tuesday, June 7 and run for three days from 9 a.m. to noon, each day ending with an art show for the community and parents on Thursday, June 9 at noon. The new teen camp begins on Tuesday, June

14 and will also run for three days from 9 a.m. until noon each day. Camp ends with an art show for parents and the community on Thursday, June 16 at noon. For the elementary students, Gail and Paya DeMarcken will focus on batik; Claire Taylor and Sandy Brandley will assist with watercolor notecards; Nancy Hernesma will guide classes with sculpting and painting a clay stegosaurus; and Judy Fredrickson leads the annual camp T-shirt production. “Watercolor artist Christine Fredrickson is creating several new one-day projects, and we

hope to develop a leather project,” Nelson said. At the teen camp, Cindy Otto will assist with glass mosaics; Bill Defenbaugh will assist with acrylic painting; Zoe Lampman will make clay masks; Sandy Brandley and Claire Taylor will help create watercolor notecards; and Judy Fredrickson leads the T-shirt stenciling project. For those who would like to volunteer or have questions, contact Youth Camp Co-Chairs Muffin Nelson at 218-235-1912, Sue Syverson at 319-610-3812 or Teen Camp Chair Judy Fredrickson at 218-349-9980.

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GREEN ENERGY

Solar power project in the works in Breitung

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

BREITUNG TWP — A locally-based solar development company is working with the Tower-Breitung Wastewater Board to install a 5-megawatt solar project near the Tower-Soudan water tower. The company, known as Vermilion Solar Energy, and the TBWWB signed a development agreement last fall that envisions construction of the solar installation in 2023. If ultimately built, the company estimates the project would generate about 7,000 megawatt-hours of electric power in a year, or enough to power at least 600 typical homes. A lease rate for use of the property has not yet been negotiated. The project is being spear-

headed by Eric Norberg, the former president of Allete Clean Energy, who retired in 2016. Allete Inc. is the parent company of Minnesota Power, among other entities. Norberg and the TBWWB have been in discussions about the potential project for nearly a year. They signed the development agreement last September. At the time, the company did not yet have a power purchase agreement in place, but they hope to work with either Minnesota Power, Great River Energy, or Lake Country Power. The project would entail the installation of hundreds of solar panels along an open, southwesterly facing slope that starts just southwest of the communities' water tower. It would also include the installation of racking, invert-

ers, metering, and battery storage, according to the development agreement. The agreement did not include an estimate of the project's construction cost. As part of the development, the St. Louis County Planning Commission approved a rezoning of the property back in December, converting it from residential to mixed use, which will allow the solar installation. The Timberjays sought comment from Norberg for this story, but he was unavailable as of press time.

Right: This open field near the Tower-Soudan water tower could be the location for a major new solar power installation.



MINING LITIGATION

Supreme Court to review PolyMet permit decision

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Minnesota's highest court has agreed to review an appeals court decision from last January that determined that the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency did not violate the law when it asked federal regulators to hold off on issuing written comments about a permit for the proposed PolyMet copper-nickel mine near Hoyt Lakes. The Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, Water Legacy, and the Fond du Lac Band had asked the Supreme Court to take a second look at the appellate ruling, which had provided a mixed verdict on PolyMet's water discharge permit. Environmental plaintiffs had argued that the MPCA's efforts to discourage the Environmental Protection Agency from issuing written comments on PolyMet's draft water discharge permit was an intentional effort to avoid negative publicity and to keep critical comments out of the administrative record. Lower courts had agreed that the MPCA had sought to avoid public scrutiny surrounding the issuance of the permit and concerns that the EPA

had expressed about its compliance with the Clean Water Act. Yet, the lower courts had determined that the MPCA had not broken any law and, therefore, its actions did not constitute a procedural irregularity that could lead to reversal of a permit. In seeking Supreme Court review, the environmental plaintiffs were joined by several "friends of the court," including the federal union that represents EPA workers, two Minnesota-based administrative law judges, the Minnesota Center on Government Information, and a Minnesota well owners association. "Minnesotans were shocked to learn that our state agencies suppressed EPA employees' concerns about the water pollution permit issued to PolyMet and kept them out of the public record," said MCEA CEO Kathryn Hoffman. "At the Minnesota Supreme Court, MCEA will make the case that these violations of Minnesota law and rules resulted in a fatally flawed permit that doesn't protect our water or the people downstream." In addition to a review of the lower court ruling on the MPCA's actions regarding EPA comments, the high court will consider whether

the lower court erred when it determined that the PolyMet permit did not require water-quality based effluent limits. The high court review will not include a second look at several other issues addressed in the earlier Court of Appeals ruling, issued in January. That includes the appellate court's requirement that the MPCA assess whether the company's anticipated discharges to groundwater could meet the definition of a surface discharge under the standard set by the U.S. Supreme Court in the 2020 case of County of Maui v. Hawaii Wildlife Fund. The MPCA had declined to establish water quality standards in the PolyMet permit for groundwater discharges, believing that they were not required. But the U.S. Supreme Court ruling established the precedent that groundwater discharges may be subject to the Clean Water Act's provisions if they are the functional equivalent of surface discharges. The appellate court had sent the matter back to the MPCA to make such a determination. The state Supreme Court has not yet set a date for oral arguments.

News briefly

Norri wins GOP nod for 7B seat

REGIONAL — Longtime Virginia resident Matt Norri won the Republican endorsement to challenge District 7B Rep. Dave Lislegard, DFL-Aurora, this past Saturday. The district includes a significant portion of St. Louis County, including the cities of Virginia, Chisholm, and Eveleth, as well as rural townships like Pike, Embarrass, and Wuori. "It's an honor to earn the trust and support of my Republican neighbors and to be the Republican-endorsed candidate for District 7B," Norri said. "I'm running to restore the Range and bring real leadership to our district — for too long Dave Lislegard has been voting against our way of life, siding with metro Democrats to raise the gas tax and embrace harmful energy policies that would end mining as we know it in Minnesota." Norri is a fourth-generation Iron Ranger whose family owned and operated Norri Distributing for many years before selling the company to D&D Beverages. He lives in Virginia with his wife Tara and their two children.

Winton man injured in 169 crash

VERMILION LAKE TWP — A driver who apparently fell asleep at the wheel ended up in a Virginia hospital on Tuesday after crashing his vehicle on Hwy 169. Shawn Darwin Hill, 42, of Winton, was driving northbound near the Koski Rd. intersection at about 1:30 p.m. when his 2007 Chevrolet Cobalt crossed the center line, went into the west ditch, and crashed into some trees, according to the Minnesota State Patrol crash log. The report stated that the cause of the crash was Hill falling asleep. Hill was wearing a seatbelt and the Cobalt's air bag deployed. He was transported to Essentia Health-Virginia with non-life-threatening injuries.

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# OPINION

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## Editorial

### Dissembling about race

Scott Jensen has an ulterior motive for spewing nonsense about school lessons

*Empathy: the ability to understand and share the feelings of another.*

Will Minnesotans really elect a governor who doesn't tell us the truth?

That's a legitimate question after the leading GOP candidate for governor spoke to a packed house at the Ely Senior Center recently. Not surprisingly, Jensen riffed on what is currently one of the right's most popular falsehoods—that grade school students are being systematically indoctrinated with a masters or PhD-level legal theory taught, in reality, by only a handful of universities in the country.

“Stupidity is Critical Race Theory,” Jensen told the assembled Elyites during his appearance earlier this month, despite the fact that Jensen clearly hasn't a clue what he's talking about. CRT, of course, has simply become right-wing shorthand for any instruction on American history that touches on this country's ill treatment of its Black citizens. From slavery to Jim Crow, from the Tulsa massacre to the lynching of tens of thousands of Black citizens, to redlining, the White establishment in this country has systematically enacted laws and instituted practices that oppressed Black Americans for centuries. That's not Critical Race Theory. That's American History 101. And, sadly, it isn't entirely history, even in 2022.

None of this was particularly controversial in public schools in the past. Schools have routinely taught about this aspect of America's history at least since the 1960s. What has changed is the fervency on the right for taking America back to an era when people of color had little political power. Part of that battle is being fought at the ballot box, with the Supreme Court's weakening of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, and the Big Lie of a presidential election stolen by Black election judges and voter fraud in some of our major cities.

But the right has long understood the value of the long game when it comes to politics, hence their interest in the classroom and their fear of teaching White students about America's treatment of people of color. Whether it is teaching of the genocide against Native Americans, the internment of Japanese-Americans during WWII, or the centuries of Black bondage in a country that claimed to stand for the credo that “all men are created equal,” it appears the party of Trump fears such lessons could generate improper attitudes in White children. Improper attitudes, like empathy.

If there's a notable consistency with the party of Trump, it is a reliance on cruelty and

the notion that empathy is for the weak. Trump has always stood for taking whatever he wanted, without regard of the consequences to others. His supporters have mistaken his sociopathy for strength. Many Russians have made the same miscalculation about Vladimir Putin.

Republicans fear that White students who study a reasonably accurate portrayal of American history might develop an understanding, if not empathy, for the different realities that people of color have long faced in America. They recognize that truly educated students might not accept the right's farcical claims that Whites are somehow the oppressed race in this country today. Indeed, they might actually support laws and policies intended to provide true equal opportunity for people of color, a notion that's anathema to the party of Trump.

So, in states across the country where Trump Republicans are in charge, legislatures are passing laws that prohibit the teaching of any lesson that could make White students feel “discomfort.” In Florida, the law even prevents private businesses from engaging in diversity training that might make a worker feel discomfort on account of their race.

There is, of course, a word for that feeling of discomfort that comes during such lessons. While no one today is responsible for the injustices of the past, that twinge that some people feel nonetheless is their conscience at work. Conscience is something that our society used to view as an asset. But not these days, at least not for some. There's a reason that the party of Trump mocks the Bushes, who coined the term “compassionate conservatives” and talked of a “kinder and gentler” nation. When we act out of empathy or conscience, it is a reflection of our kinder and gentler selves. The party of Trump sees no advantage in laws, policies, or actions undertaken in consideration of others, particularly if those others are people of color.

Before Minnesotans allow themselves to be fooled by Scott Jensen's false claims about CRT, they should ask themselves what kind of Minnesota they want in the future. If Jensen or another like him is elected governor of Minnesota, our schools will almost certainly face intense pressure to white-wash the teaching of American history. Such a policy, of course, is merely a means to an end. Ultimately, Jensen and his political allies seek to deny people of color a seat at the political table in Minnesota. Denying school children an understanding of the past is just a piece to that puzzle.



## Letters from Readers

### Thanks for the excellent coverage of the spring musical

Thank you so much for the excellent support and coverage you provided for the Ely Community Spring Musical A Grand Night for Singing.

Keith Vandervort is always great about giving us plenty of press for upcoming productions and also gave us several featured photos over the course of multiple editions.

We sincerely appreciate the support for the arts in general and for Northern Lakes Arts Association in particular from the *Timberjay*.

**Sara Skelton**  
Artistic Director  
Community Spring Musical

### Thanks for coverage of egg-making class

Your article on the Ukrainian egg-making class was extremely educational and informative. I am very impressed with the cadre of artists who live in our area.

Thank you so much. Happy spring.

**Mary Batinich**  
Soudan

### Party hearty, but play fair and be nice

I was five years old when my father held me on his shoulders so I could see President Harry Truman speaking from the platform of a Great Northern train passing through Fargo on its way to Seattle. Truman was stumping for presidential candidate Adlai Stevenson in 1952.

I watched presidential candidates John F. Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, and Stuart Symington at a campaign rally in 1960. I was 13, and I was smitten by young, straight-talking JFK. I met him—without an entourage—as he was coming down the stairway on the way to the restroom at the Fargo Civic Center. Handsome and charismatic.

And ever since then, I've been making phone calls, knock-

ing on doors, giving rides to the polls, or raising money for people from George McGovern to Joe Biden and others in between and up and down the ballot.

My party is the Democratic Party.

Your party may be something else—the GOP or some other party—and that's OK. We're all in this democracy together, and that's great. It's an American tradition.

Let's make it friendly, clean, and fair. And fun—that's what parties are for, after all.

So, exactly 70 years after my first campaign, I'd like to share some cool snippets I took away from the St. Louis County Organizing Unit 3 DFL Party convention held last Saturday in Hermantown, where I joined others to hear from candidates throwing their hats into the ring and putting their values forward in the electoral process.

All politics is local, they say. The candidates we'll probably be hearing the most from this season are our local legislative candidates: Rob Ecklund, of International Falls, who's running for re-election to the House in District 3A, and Grant Hauschild, from Hermantown, who's a candidate for an open seat in Senate District 3.

Rob, who's getting to be an old friend of mine, was there, sharing his experience knocking on doors (his favorite campaign activity) and talking about what he's been working on as chair of the Labor, Industry, Veterans and Military Affairs Finance and Policy Committee in the House, as well as DFL priorities for funding for education, home care, the environment, and suicide prevention.

Grant told us his start in politics was when he was 13 or 14 and he had to ask his mother to give him a ride to a campaign event—in Fargo, of all places. I was a political friend of his grandparents 40 years ago in North Dakota. We were farmers in the same county. Ah, the long arc of political life.

“Nothing is more important now than saving our democra-

cy,” Rep. Mary Murphy told the group in a short, fiery call to action to convention delegates.

“We have to stay together, listen to each other, and have to speak out,” said Murphy, who is running for re-election in House District 3B.

Murphy, the longest serving female legislator in Minnesota history, sounded as strong and passionate as I'm sure she was back in 1976, when she was one of a big surge of women legislators elected all over the country.

“I'm in the democracy business,” Secretary of State Steve Simon, who's running for re-election, said last Saturday. “And I'm an optimist. 2020 was a stress test for our democracy, and we passed that test with flying colors. We were No. 1 in voter turnout for the third time in a row.”

“People are tired of political extremism, which is dividing our communities,” said Rep. Jen Schultz, of Duluth, candidate for the DFL endorsement for the seat now held by Rep. Pete Stauber. “We need to earn back their trust.”

“I've had eight years in the state legislature, getting things done working with all parties,” she said. “I will focus on your needs, your family's needs, the needs of your community,” Schultz told the group. “Call me, and tell me what you need, and I'll work in Congress to get that done. Here's my cell phone number: 218-340-5686. Call me.”

Delegates also elected officers and a board of directors, adopted resolutions, and elected delegates to go to the Congressional District State Conventions, and adopted a new constitution for the newly redistricted organizing unit. That's what parties do.

So, whatever your party—come together, meet new people, and learn from one another. Be inspired and go out and work for your cause.

Play nice. Play fair. Have a good time.

**Leah Rogne**  
Greaney

# Tax proposals reveal the parties' stark differences

Minnesota currently has a \$9.25 billion budget surplus, a low state unemployment rate, and increasing corporate profits, all indicators the state has recovered strongly from some very challenging days during the low point of the pandemic. Still, significant difficulties remain



**ROB ECKLUND**

for workers and families, especially costs that continue to rise. Minnesotans notice higher prices at the grocery store and at the gas pump daily, and are paying more for major expenses like health care, child care, and housing.

House DFLers are taking the opportunity our surplus gives us to develop

a tax plan strengthening the way of life for workers, families, and seniors, especially those who have been working harder, but seeing their dollar not go as far due to high costs and wages that while rising, aren't keeping up.

Considered in totality, the proposals in the plan represent the largest property tax cut in the last 20 years. House DFLers are expanding the Homestead Credit and reforming the Renter's Credit, resulting in \$275 million in annual direct property tax

cuts. Local Government Aid and County Program Aid increases will also help keep property taxes in check while ensuring important public services can continue, as will my legislation to increase Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) payments for counties and modernize the formula.

Our plan helps young families with a \$3,000 Great Start Child Care tax credit for each child five or younger, an increase in the Student Loan credit to \$1,400, and a \$325 child tax credit rebate for

each child 17 or younger. As an example, a married couple who rents, with two kids, and earns less than \$140,000 jointly would see \$7,300 in savings, making a huge difference in a world where they're struggling with high costs.

Meanwhile, Senate Republicans have put forth a proposal tilted in favor of the richest. In fact, over 500,000 Minnesotans would see no benefit at all from the Republican proposed income tax

See **ECKLUND...pg. 5**



COMMENTARY

Signs that bipartisanship isn’t dead just yet

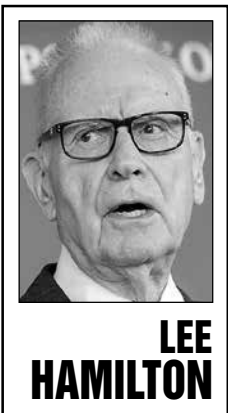
Is bipartisanship dead? Sometimes it seems like it is. Watching Democrats and Republicans fight over nearly everything, you’d think they can’t agree on the difference between day and night.

Witness the partisan reaction to President Joe Biden’s nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court. An eminently qualified jurist who would be the first Black woman on the nation’s highest court, she faced nearly unanimous opposition from Republicans.

When I was first elected to Congress, Supreme Court nominees were approved by voice vote in the Senate, without even a record of who voted for and against. Later, three of President Ronald Reagan’s appointees were approved unanimously. Things have changed.

Look beyond the headlines, however, and you’ll find evidence that bipartisanship is still alive, if not always well. Republicans and Democrats may deadlock over high-profile matters, but they can still work across the aisle to make progress on many issues.

Bipartisanship is popular with the public, which likes to know that legislation has support from both parties. Polls find that overwhelming majorities of the American people consider bipartisanship important. And for good reason. It’s very difficult, in our system of government, to get anything passed – and to get it implemented – without some bipartisan support. Legislation doesn’t need overwhelmingly bipartisan support to be effective, but even a few votes from the other side can



LEE HAMILTON

make a difference. Bipartisanship isn’t just popular; it’s necessary.

Yet there isn’t any doubt that we live in a politically polarized time, and what we see in Washington reflects that. Thanks to social media and partisan cable news outlets, Americans increasingly live in partisan bubbles, having little contact with people with different views.

Congress reflects those divisions, and it can from time to time, exacerbate them. This is a critical election year, with control of the House and Senate up for grabs. Politicians know that stoking outrage by attacking their opponents is a good way to raise campaign funds, boost turnout, and win elections. Conflict gets attention, and attention can increase the benefits of conflict.

Often in the past, U.S. politicians fought bitterly over domestic issues but united around a bipartisan foreign policy. A popular maxim after World War II was that “politics stops at the water’s edge.” That’s no longer

the case, and it hasn’t been for a while.

Certainly, Americans have been united in their outrage at Russia’s unprovoked and brutal war against Ukraine. Nearly every member of Congress condemned it, Congress approved billions of dollars in military and humanitarian aid for Ukrainians, and Republicans and Democrats mostly supported Biden’s imposition of sanctions on Russia. But lawmakers struggled to respond legislatively, and some Republicans cited the war to question Biden’s leadership.

Partisan headwinds blocked some of Biden’s domestic priorities, including ambitious efforts to create jobs, fight climate change, protect voting rights, reform immigration laws and strengthen gun control. But other worthwhile measures have won support from both Democrats and Republicans, often without a lot of attention.

Congress reauthorized the Violence Against Women Act, adding the language to a govern-

ment spending bill. It overwhelmingly passed legislation to reform Postal Service finances. Both the House and Senate have passed versions of a bipartisan act aimed at investing in semiconductor production and helping the U.S. compete with China.

Congress banned companies from forcing their employees to settle sexual assault or harassment claims with arbitration, a practice that hushed up the claims and kept them out of court. And the idea of banning stock trading by members of Congress has gained traction.

These bipartisan success stories – and there are others – often required lawmakers to compromise and work with their political adversaries, but that’s the way our system of government was designed to work. Bipartisanship isn’t dead, and by strengthening it we will make our political system work better.

THE PRICE OF POWER

Lake Country Power defends rate hike at annual meeting

COHASSET— More than 300 Lake Country Power members and guests heard how pandemic-related issues have increased costs for the rural electric cooperative, prompting the first electric rate increase in six years.

“Material costs and supply chain issues are creating very real problems for us,” said Lake Country Power General Manager Mark Bakk. “The cost for materials we use for the distribution system has skyrocketed more than 30 percent from pre-pandemic levels. What you feel at the gas pump, is what we also

feel, which is mostly diesel fuel in our case.”

Bakk also noted that the supply chain for materials is delayed by months, or even years, and that vendors are sometimes unable to quote a price for necessary materials upon request.

While external factors are beyond what the co-op can control, there is some good news. Bakk said Lake Country Power achieved its best-ever score for the average number of minutes of outage time each member experienced over a 12-month period. The co-op also scored well

in the average amount of time it takes for line crews to restore an outage.

Lake Country Power’s internal tree and construction crews are helping the co-ops save money that used to be paid to contractors. In 2021, the cooperative’s tree crews saved LCP nearly \$250,000 while the construction crews pushed the one-year savings for their projects, age-related line replacements and outage restoration assistance, to over \$1 million.

Bakk expressed his gratitude to members for ranking Lake Country Power with its highest-ever

member satisfaction American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) score of 77 in 2021. “Thanks for your support, and rest assured that I will always lead this cooperative with your best interests in mind,” he said.

Annual meeting videos can be found on Lake Country Power’s website, [www.lakecountrypower.coop](http://www.lakecountrypower.coop), or the co-op’s You Tube channel, [www.youtube.com/lakecountrypower](http://www.youtube.com/lakecountrypower), starting the week of April 25.

Director election results were announced to fill three-year terms.

District 2 candidate, Michael Forsman of Ely, ran unopposed and received 624 votes.

Members in District 4 and District 8 did not receive a director ballot because no members petitioned to run for the board of directors by the filing deadline on Feb. 9.

“We did not feel it proper or in the best interest of the cooperative to appoint any members to those two districts,” said Craig Olson, board president. “The seven active directors will oversee any cooperative business that may occur in those open

MUSIC IN CONCERT

Wilco to perform in Grand Rapids

GRAND RAPIDS - The 400 Unit, Emmylou Harris, and many others.

Shovels and Rope is an Americana duo based in Charleston, S.C., who bring a mix of traditional folk, country and downright rock and roll. A festival favorite across the country, the band is best known for their energetic live performances. Out with a brand new album this spring, Manticore, Shovels and Rope will be sure to deliver all of the goods on the banks of the Mississippi.

Chastity Brown, a Tennessee-raised, Minneapolis-based roots musician, has been covered by NPR, Rolling Stone, Paste Magazine and more, touring with the likes of the Indigo Girls and Ani DiFranco. Releasing a

brand new album this spring, “Sing to the Walls”, Brown will be on tour with Valerie June this summer.

Wild Horses is a crowd favorite from last year’s festival, an up-and-coming Americana band from Grand Rapids featuring several local musicians: Jed and Ariana LaPlant, McKeon Hugh Roberts and JJ Snell. Wild Horses has quickly garnered a fervent and loyal fan base, filling the Wilcox Theater at the Reif Center this winter, and packing houses wherever they play. They made their debut as a band on the West Stage of Grand Rapids Riverfest last year, and will be making their main stage debut in 2022. Keep your eyes on this band.

The festival will con-

tinue to be located in downtown Grand Rapids, and will be shifting to a new community amphitheater on the grounds of the Grand Rapids Area Library, allowing for ample green space and closer proximity to the Mississippi River.

Tickets for the Grand Rapids Riverfest go on sale Saturday, April 30 at [www.grandrapidsriverfest.com](http://www.grandrapidsriverfest.com). Tickets are \$99 for adults, \$29 for kids 11-17, and free for children 10 and under. The first 500 ticket buyers have the option of Early Entrance to the festival to claim a spot. Follow Grand Rapids Riverfest on social media for all of the latest updates.

ECKLUND...Continued from page 4

changes. Their proposal to entirely eliminate the social security income tax will have an oversized benefit for the richest. While we all want to help seniors better afford their lives, a more targeted approach – including measures to help seniors stay in their homes and assure they have access to quality health care – will give us a better bang for the buck. Under the DFL plan, no senior citizen who earns \$75,000 or less per year will pay a dime in income tax on their Social Security payments.

Don’t get me wrong: I don’t object to people being successful. But when middle class folks are struggling, we need to

prioritize our resources where we can have the most benefit. When young families are struggling to afford child care, their mortgage payments, and student debt, millionaires don’t need a tax cut. Using such a sizable chunk of the surplus for oversized tax cuts also squeezes out investments needed to help make Minnesota schools once again world class, tackle health care costs, deliver greater investments in public safety, and other priorities to build a state that works better for everyone. This is illustrated by Senate Republicans’ lack of meaningful investment in schools this year.

We have choices to

make, and our choices should be based on our shared values as Minnesotans. The value that hard work ought to be rewarded. The value that everyone deserves a fair opportunity to succeed. The value that everyone deserves access to quality health care, excellent education, and a place to call home.

To move any legislation to the governor’s desk will also ultimately take a degree of compromise. Knowing this, it’s deeply disappointing to see the initial proposal from Senate Republicans so tilted in favor of the very wealthiest as opposed to families, workers, and senior citizens who deserve a level playing

*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](mailto: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
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Ely Editor	Keith Vandervort
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**Official Newspaper:**  
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**Moving? Questions about your subscription? Call the Tower office at (218) 753-2950.**



Week of May 2

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

**Tuesday**  
Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5:00 p.m. Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is May 17.

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

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

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).

Cemetery clean-up day in Vermilion Lake Township on April 30

VERMILION LAKE TWP- Vermilion Lake Township is holding its annual cemetery clean-up day on Saturday, April 30 starting at 1 p.m. Rain date will be May 7. Please bring shovels and rakes since the township supply is limited.

Subscribe to the  
TIMBERJAY!  
Call  
218-753-2950

Tower-Soudan area schools celebrated Earth Day last Friday.  
**Right: Pat Helmberger visited with students at Vermilion Country School, talking about the plastic pollution and steps students can take to reduce their plastic use. Students also did a roadside cleanup, and watched a documentary about plastic pollution.**

**Below: Tower-Soudan Elementary first-graders decorated paper bags that are now being used at Zup's Grocery Store. Pictured are Ayva and Sri.**



COLLEGE NEWS

Max Helmberger receives PhD in Entomology

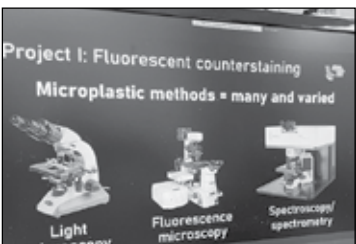
TOWER— Max Helmberger, a 2011 graduate of Tower-Soudan High School, is now Dr. Helmberger. The 27-year old son of Marshall Helmberger and Jodi Summit has successfully completed his PhD in entomology at Michigan State University in East Lansing after his final dissertation, “Soil invertebrate interactions with microplastic pollution,” was accepted by faculty on April 19.

During nine years of higher education, Helmberger has charted a diverse path, including extensive experience in teaching, as well as educational game design (both tabletop and online), in addition to his research on soil invertebrates. Helmberger pioneered the use of claymation to create educational videos on the life cycles of soil organisms and won numerous awards for those short films, including from the Entomological Society of America and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Those videos, which are designed for non-scientists, range from 1-3 minutes in length, and can be viewed on YouTube by searching for Max Helmberger.

Helmberger began his college career at age 16 at Vermilion Community College and finished his Bachelor of Science degree at



the University of Minnesota-Duluth, where he graduated summa cum laude. He went on to earn his Master of Science degree at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, although he spent most of his time at the Cornell field station in Geneva. While there, he studied soil ecology, with an emphasis on entomopathogenic nematodes, taught undergraduate courses, and worked for the New



**Left: Max Helmberger**  
**Above: A screenshot from his PhD presentation.**  
**Below: One of his claymation videos.**

York State Extension Service. Helmberger was honored for his work while at Cornell, winning the Asa Fitch Memorial Graduate Student Award, an annual award presented to an “outstanding graduate student” by the Entomological Society of America’s eastern branch.

He began his doctoral studies at MSU four years ago, where he was awarded an MSU Distinguished Fellowship as well as an MSU Michigan Endowed Project Fellowship. While at MSU, Helmberger won the prestigious Harlo Mervyn Memorial Excellence in Teaching Award in 2020 for his outstanding work with stu-

dents.  
Helmberger has presented numerous papers at scientific conferences around the U.S. and has had seven studies published, to date, in scientific journals. He’s also been invited by several publications to participate in peer review of other scientific papers.

Over nine years of research, study, and teaching, Helmberger said his favorite parts were having the opportunity to design his own lectures and mentoring undergraduate students.

Looking back, he credits several local teachers as particularly influential with him, including Ryan Lindsay, who formerly taught science at Tower-Soudan, and Craig Tikkanen, who taught soils and hydrology at Vermilion Community College. He said it was Marja Nelson, also at VCC, who encouraged his interest in teaching.

Helmberger is currently interviewing for a number of opportunities, including post-doctoral fellowships at various universities as well as college teaching positions.

He hopes to spend part of the summer back home near Tower.

Northeast Range

3rd Quarter Honor Roll

A Honor Roll

Grade 7

Thomas Aldrich  
Eva Morgan  
Emilia Swenson  
Trevor Zaitz

Grade 8

Tuuli Koivisto

Grade 9

Adeline Klatt\*\*  
Danica Sundblad

Grade 10

Aubree Gerlovich  
Abby Koivisto  
Ruby Milton

Grade 11

Crystal Anderson\*\*  
Mariah DeJoode  
Layne Kaufenberg\*\*  
Jacob Mackai  
Logan Meskill  
Jennie Nelson  
Hope Williams  
Jonathan Zaitz\*\*

Grade 12

Audrey Anderson\*\*  
Erin Backe  
James Brown  
Wyatt Gorsma  
Joscelyn LaSart  
Thia Lossing  
Rylan Poppenhagen\*\*  
Hannah Reichensperger\*\*

\*\* indicates 4.0 GPA

B Honor Roll

Grade 7

Jordan Haburn  
Henry Lenz  
Makenzie Little  
Leo McKrahl  
Raenna Medicine-Strand  
Mason Molden  
Kellin Pratt  
Brayden Warren

Grade 8

Hannah Aldrich  
Karsynn Bird  
Avery Buschman  
Nevaeh Evridge  
Ryland Sandy  
Jada Medicine

Grade 9


Noah Backe  
Luca Brown  
Joshua Burton  
Ethan Howard  
Chelsey Nelmark  
Clarissa Schlie

Grade 10

Natalie Backe  
Edee Flug  
Hailey Lindquist  
Grade 11  
Morgan Bush  
Owen Koivisto  
Josephine Powell  
Kassidy Turner

Grade 12

Amara Lampton  
Markus Maki  
Ryan Milton  
Hunter Porisch  
Nicole Schlie  
Jenna Smith  
Owen Warlof  
Calvin Winger



COVID-19  
VACCINE

COVID Vaccine Clinic at  
Vermilion County School

1 Enterprise Drive, Tower, MN 55790  
Thursday, May 5, 12:30-3:30pm

St. Louis County Public Health is administering:

- **Pfizer vaccine** (for ages 12+) - 1st and 2nd doses; boosters for anyone eligible age 12+; 3rd doses for immunocompromised individuals; 2nd boosters for anyone eligible ages 50+.
- **Pfizer vaccine** (for ages 5-11) - 1st and 2nd doses  
*A parent or guardian MUST ACCOMPANY any child under the age of 12 and a parent or guardian must sign a consent form for any child under the age of 18 to be vaccinated.*
- **Moderna vaccine** (for ages 18+) - 1st and 2nd doses; boosters for eligible individuals; 3rd doses for immunocompromised individuals; 2nd boosters for anyone eligible ages 50+.
- **Johnson & Johnson vaccine** (for ages 18+) - initial doses; boosters for eligible individuals.



All Minnesotans age 12 and older are recommended to get a booster shot. The timing of your booster shot depends on the vaccine you received for your initial vaccine series: If you received Pfizer or Moderna initially, you should get a booster after five months. If you received Johnson & Johnson initially, you should get a booster after two months. *Note that the Pfizer booster is the only vaccine currently approved for 12-17 year olds.*

People age 50+ (or younger if immunocompromised or other special circumstances) are eligible to receive a second booster dose of Pfizer or Moderna if at least four months have passed since the first booster. Learn more about eligibility: [Boosters / COVID-19 Updates and Information - State of Minnesota \(mn.gov\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/prepmod/health.state.mn.us/appointment/en/reg/1152957605)

Please register for your appointment here:

<https://prepmod.health.state.mn.us/appointment/en/reg/1152957605>

Vaccine is offered at no cost.  
No need for insurance.  
All information provided is confidential.





WINDOW INTO YESTERDAY

# A history of Ely boarding houses: Part II

by DAVID KESS  
and MARGARET SWEET  
Ely-Winton Historical Society

ELY - Boarding houses, a real institution here 100 years ago, are now nonexistent in this community. Perhaps it would be helpful to clarify just what a boarding house was. It provided room and board (three meals a day) laundry, and cleaning services. Occasionally some tenants shared not only the same room but the same bed as miners worked in shifts.

In contrast, roomers got a sleeping room but no meals or laundry services. Some families kept a few boarders. These are not counted as boarding houses.

We know of at least some of the larger boarding houses in Ely. The largest of which was the Adam and Liina Mattala’s house at 14 W Chapman St. It took twelve women to cook, bake, clean, do laundry (including many woolen pants, shirts, socks, and long johns), and shop. Board included three hearty home-cooked meals besides coffee and fresh baked goods several times a day. Plenty of potatoes, fresh meats, fish, and vegetables graced the tables plus cake, cookies, and always Finnish biscuit, now called pulla.

The single men eventually married and moved



Lassila House, 201 W Sheridan St.



Yadlosky House, 324 S. Fourth Ave.

elsewhere, establishing families. Boarding houses became rooming houses and then apartment houses. The Mattala house was bought and remodeled by Joe Lozinski.

On W Sheridan, at #118, was Mrs. Victor Juhola. Her baked goods became legendary.

Hilja Lassila’s large

boarding house was at 201 West Sheridan. It sits across the avenue from the Canoe on Inn, formerly the West Gate Motel, and now is a part of the motel.

Back on W Harvey, at #23, was the boarding house of Gust P. and Fiina Maki. This house has been completely remodeled and is now a single-family



Maki House, 23 W Harvey St.

home.

Little is known of the history of the Yadlosky house at 324 4th Ave S. Large as it is, it was moved to that location from Section 30. At its original location, it had been an infirmary run by a Dr. Myers. In its new location, the rooms were made into three apartments. Who operated the boarding house and in what time-period, is unknown.

The only known Slovenian proprietor of a boarding house was John Koprivetz. This building stood at 4 W Shagawa Rd. Shagawa Road was known as Lawrence Street during most of its existence. Currently there are two parallel West Shagawa Roads, causing confusion to visitors.

Boarding houses were true business establish-

ments in their day. They served a real need with the immigrant population, one that has passed into history with little notice. Their written history is extremely scant. The only reminders are the over-sized houses now put to other uses by their owners.

This “Part Two” of the history of boarding houses, may be seen in the lobby area of Vermilion Community College. The Ely-Winton Historical Society office and museum, located at Vermilion Community College is open to the public Tuesday through Friday from Noon until 4 p.m.

For more information on this display as well as many others, please call the office at 218-365-3226 or email us at ewhsmuseum@gmail.com.

### Tuesday Group schedule

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

► May 3 -- Meet New Elyites.

► May 10 -- On Facilitating a Dialogue with Nature with Rachelle Elizabeth. Rachelle Elizabeth will share her work on how aesthetic dialogue can create a relationship with nature or the more-than-human-world, toward the healing of both humanS and nature.

### Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2022



soon to see flowers  
daffodils first then tulips

a winter’s waiting

ISD 696

## A Night at the Movies: Ely High School Prom is Saturday

ELY – The 2022 Ely High School Junior-Senior Prom will be held Saturday April 30 at Ely’s Historic State Theater.

Organizer Amy Kingsley and other volunteers are looking to make this year’s event a community celebration, keeping in mind that COVID-19 public health protocols remain in place.

Prom attendees are planning to visit the Boundary Waters Care Center and nearby Carefree Living facility on Saturday afternoon, beginning at 2:45 p.m. Those taking part



in the event were required to present COVID screening updates at an informational meeting, and will have their temperature checked and will be required to wear a mask during the visits,

Kingsley said.

A picture session at the Ely State Theater, and a run-through practice, if necessary, will be held from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Attendees will need to have a completed picture form to get pictures. The pictures will be on a first-come, first-photographed basis on the stage of the Ely State Theater. The State Theater will be cleared out at 4:30 p.m. sharp to prepare for the Grand March.

“This would be a wonderful opportunity for friends and family who are not attending the Grand

March to get up close and personal to the prom-goers,” Kingsley said. “The stage will be decorated and everything will look amazing.”

The Grand March this year is by ticket only and seating is limited. “All tickets were given to Ely students so contact your student for a ticket,” she said. This event will be chaperoned by Kingsley and Andy Messerschmidt, Autumn and Patrick Boedeker, Janelle and Eric Hart, and Jennifer Kerntz.

The Grand March will be livestreamed on

the Ely Public School District 696 Facebook Page and ELY-TV, courtesy of Todd Crego, at 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 30.

According to Kingsley, a tentative cruise through town by Prom attendees is being scheduled to take place from 6-7 p.m.

Join the Prom Paparazzi Walk. Line the sidewalks of Sheridan Street as the prom-goers walk from Insula to Ely’s Historic State Theater at 8 p.m.

For questions, please contact Amy Kingsley at akingsley@ely.k12.mn.us.

### 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 canceled.  
**ELY WOMEN’S OPEN AA -** Every Monday at noon at Ledgerock 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

### Ely celebrates Arbor Day Saturday

ELY – This community’s Tree Board, the Friends of the Trees of Ely, and Ely Community Resource (ECR) will gather Saturday, April 30 to celebrate Arbor Day.

They are welcoming fellow fans of trees to gather by the Whiteside Park band shell at 9 a.m., to get a brief lesson on how to mulch and care for young trees, then split up to get the city’s trees ready for summer.

They will regroup around 11 a.m. either in the park or at Ely Presbyterian church (depending on weather) for a free lunch courtesy of ECR and a reading of the Arbor Day

### Dental hygiene services offered

ELY – The Ely Community Health Center in the ECR building, (formerly AFU) is providing free dental hygiene services to anyone in need. Call 218-365-5678 or email DentalECHS@gmail.com and they will get back to you. They can also make an appointment for you to see a dentist who will be available in the Ely Senior Center one day per month.

## Ely Police Department Activity April 1-15, 2022

### Arrests/Citations:

Traffic Stop- Individual arrested for 4th Degree DWI.

### Complaints:

Damage to property- Officers were contacted about an intoxicated person who was trying to enter a residence. This case is pending investigation.

Public Assist- Officers assisted an individual get back to their residence.

Public Assist- Officers assisted a person get their property out of a residence.

Check Welfare- Officers were contacted to check on an individual that was not answering the phone. Officers located the individual at their residence.

Security Alarm- Officers responded to a local business for a security alarm. Officers determined the alarm to be accidental.

Medical- Officers assisted the Ely Ambulance with a medical.

Mental Health- Officers were called about a person experiencing a mental health crisis. Officers assisted the person and they agreed to get medical care.

Public Assist- Application for a permit to purchase.

Trouble Neighbor- Officers were contacted about a barking dog. Officers contacted the owner and they were working on a solution.

DOA- Individual located deceased in his residence.

Scam- Officers were informed of a scam related to Publishers Clearing House.

Public Assist- Application for a permit to purchase.

Trouble Unknown- Officers were contacted about a phone line that was causing static. Officers determined this to be phone problems.

Mental Health- Officers were called about a person experiencing a mental health crisis. Officers assisted the person and they agreed to get medical care.

Theft- Officers were contacted about a theft. This case is pending investigation.

Medical- Officers assisted the Ely Ambulance with a medical.

Crash with an Animal- Officers were contacted about a vehicle that hit a deer. The driver was not injured. No information available on the deer.

Suspicious Person- Officers were called about a person who was walking around a business for the last few days. This case is under investigation.

Vehicle Crash- Officers were called about a two-vehicle crash with minor damage and no injuries.

Call Back- Officers were requested to call a person about how to file a complaint on a local business. Officers assisted with

giving them a phone number.

Unwanted Person- Individual was unwanted at a local business. Officers transported the person back home.

Vehicle Crash- Officers were called about a two-vehicle crash with minor damage and no injuries.

Loud Music- Officers were contacted about loud music. Officers arrived and did not locate the sound of music.

Mental Health- Officers were called about a person experiencing a mental health crisis. Officers assisted the person and they agreed to get medical care.

Security Alarm- Officers responded to a local business for a security alarm. Officers determined the alarm to be accidental.

Fraud- Officers were contacted about theft of fraudulent checks.

Check Welfare- Officers were requested to check on an individual that made suicidal comments. Officers located the individual who said their account online was hacked and she did not send it.

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

Public Assist- Letter of good standing sent.

Public Assist- Canadian Firearms letter sent.

Medical- Officers assisted the Ely Ambulance with a medical.



CHILDREN'S THEATER

Clever, joyful 'Pan'-demic flies into North Woods

Peter Pan gets some twists in Prairie Fire play at school tonight

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- Prepare to experience “Peter Pan” like never before, as North Woods School students are hard at work with professionals from Prairie Fire Children’s Theatre for the fun-filled performance to be held tonight at 6:30 p.m. in the school commons.

Jeremy Day and Claire Wilson are directing the production for the 35-year-old theater company that’s well-known to the North Woods community and throughout the Midwest. Day said they’re glad to be back after two years of COVID cancellations and complications.

“When everything happened in March 2020, we had five tours out on the road and they all were canceled,” Day said on Tuesday. “And then we really just sat and waited. We tried to apply for some grants, we tried to apply for things just to keep the doors open and keep a limited staff on. This past fall, we started up with three different shows. They went fairly well, but it was a little rocky with how things (with the pandemic) were playing out in the fall. But now this winter and spring has been going really, really well, and our summer is looking even better, so we’re really excited.”

Day and Wilson arrived at the school on Monday for what would seem like an extremely short amount of time to put together a quality stage production. So how do they do it?

“A little bit of theater magic, I think is the best answer,” Day laughed. “Auditions are the first two hours on that Monday, and at the end of that two hours we cast the show based on what we see and start rehearsing right away. By the end of the day Tuesday, the kids have all learned what they do in the show. We’ll do a slow walk through of the show tomorrow, adding lights and sound, just going scene by scene and reminding them of what they learned the day before. On Thursday, we run through it twice in order to make sure that they feel competent, and

we are running through everything and making sure they understand it all. And then Friday, we hand them some costumes and we start the performance. Like I said, a little bit of theater magic comes in and it all works out.”

The kids had scripts in hand during Tuesday’s rehearsal, but when Friday rolls around they’ll be long gone.

“Amazingly, they have it all down pat. They’re sponges, these young brains, they’re able to absorb all of this information,” Day said. “We hope that the way that we’ve written the show and that we worked out the show that it’s a little bit easier for them. And we’ve broken it up so that you know, it’s not one last kid who is saying a bunch of lines, it’s five different ones who only have a few lines. When it comes to Peter Pan and Wendy, they have a lot to learn, so they’re going to be working really hard these next few days. But with the kids that we cast in those roles, they step up and do a great job.”

**Casting**

Junior Steven Sopoci has been tabbed for the lead role of Peter Pan, and Wendy will be played by senior River Cheney. Day said they had plenty of good possibilities for the roles, but as certain students began to fit their images for other characters, Sopoci and Cheney became an obvious pairing.

“It became easy to see that both Steven and River were just really the two strongest that could handle the two biggest roles,” he said.

Another signature role, that of Tinkerbell, will be played by Charlie Holter.

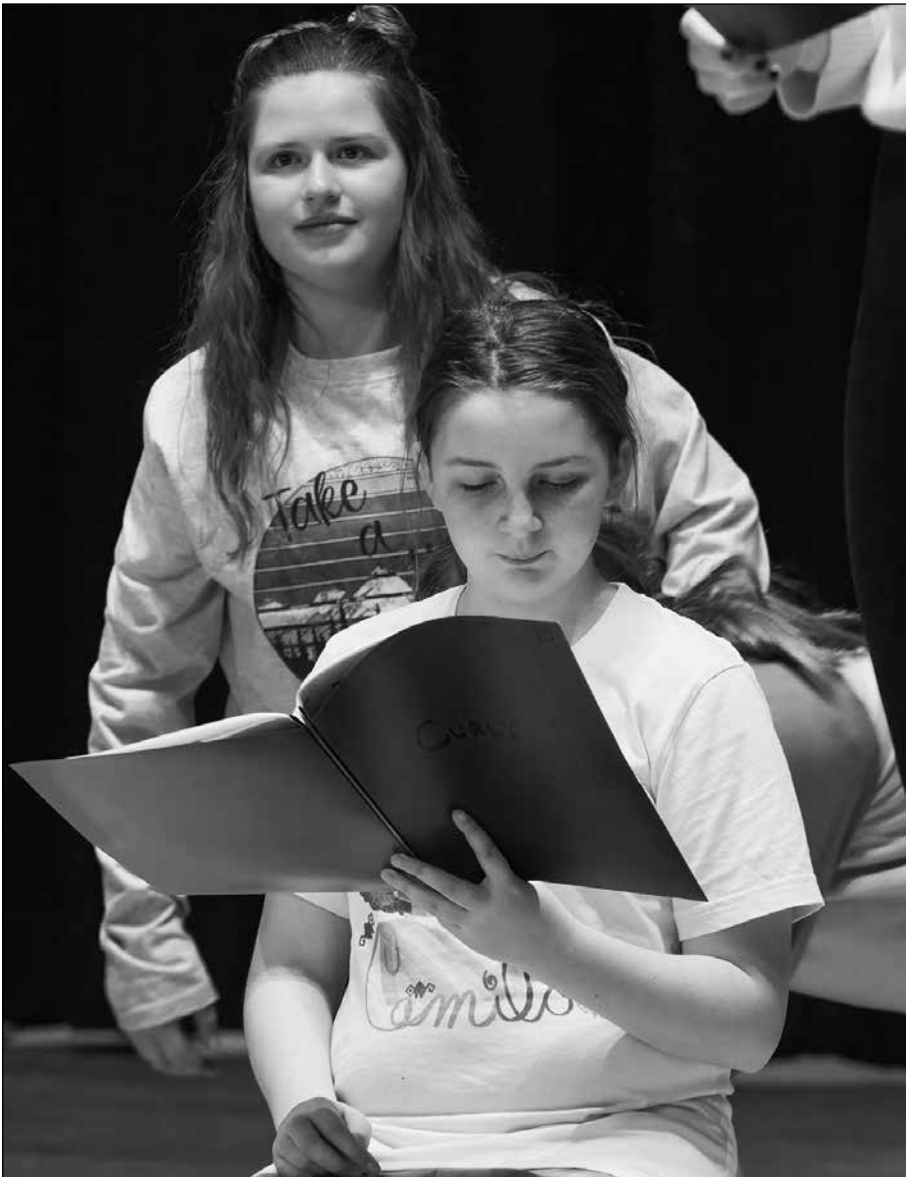
“She had to be small enough to fit in a trunk,” Day chuckled. “We had a lot of little ones that were ready to go, but Charlie really showed up, was huge with her movements, and really excited and listening really well. We found out after we cast her that she had dance experience, which works perfectly with Tinkerbell.”

Meanwhile, Day and Wilson came in knowing exactly who would play Pan’s nemesis, Captain Hook.



**Above: Charlie Holter, front, Olivia Baumgartner, center, and Mya Kinsey learn multitasking by acting out sleeping while studying lines during Peter Pan rehearsal.**

**Right: Alice Sopoci, front, checks her script while Savannah Abts pays attention to stage directions from PFCT's Claire Wilson during rehearsal on Tuesday.**  
photos by D.Colburn



first time, I was like, why is this funny to people? I didn’t understand any of these Norwegian jokes. But I’ve come to love it and understand it.”

North Woods Community Education sponsors PFCT’s appearance at the school, and coordinator Denise Parson is enjoying watching the after-school rehearsals and seeing it all materialize.

“It has been great to welcome back PFCT to North Woods School Community Education after a few long years,” Parson said. “We have almost 40 students eagerly participating in Peter Pan. PFCT always does a professional job while

engaging all students. The performance they produce in a week is fabulous.”

Admission to tonight’s performance is \$5 per person, with a family maximum of \$30 for immediate family.

NORTH WOODS SCHOOL

Schools have limits for what they can disclose

FIELD TWP- Many people are familiar with the term “data privacy.” For medical employees, HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) requires medical service providers to ensure security for their patients’ medical information. In education, FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) protects data for all students.

When we say “student data” it means grades, addresses, attendance, behavior, etc. Access to this information is limited to school staff with a right to know and also other educational institutions that a student may attend, such as transferring schools and transcripts for college.

One of the most challenging aspects of my job as a school administrator is navigating through

negative student behavior when it involves student conflict. I can say from experience that I cannot attest to exactly how many kids and parents over the years have asked about behavioral consequences for children other than their own when a conflict exists, but it is a lot. And those are questions I can’t answer because to give

out that information is against the law.

When an adult criminal is arrested, there is an arrest, due process, and typically a ticket/court date. Punishments are given out by the court after an investigation of wrongdoing and the presentation of evidence. Many factors are dependent on the level of the infraction, of course. In the adult world, most of this is public information. This is why court proceedings and jail rosters can be put online and in the local newspapers.

When students violate a rule at school or a law, the information regarding the consequences is private. While there is still due process, schools are not able to share the details of an incident with other students or the parents of other students.

This frustrates families sometimes when their child may be in conflict with another. It also makes it almost impossible for schools to defend their decision, because the decision is not public. Even if it were, I am pretty sure that there would not be agreement on the consequences anyway, just as in the adult world.

When students misbehave, our responsibility should be to help teach the student better behavior, but sometimes there needs

to be stronger discipline. We really do investigate to the best of our ability and try to hear all sides of

an issue. Ultimately, we just want it resolved so that we can go to school together in peace.



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# National Day of Remembrance marked in Ely next week

A photograph of a two-story wooden house with a red door and porch railings. Two red dresses are hanging on the porch railings. A sign on the right reads "FRONT PORCH COFFEE &amp; TEA CO. INTERNET CAFE".

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EMS...Continued from page 1

Lewis was joined on the panel by area EMS directors Erik Jankila, Hibbing Fire; Therese Elverum, Eveleth Ambulance; Donna Hoffer, Orr Ambulance; Dustin Moravitz, Ely Area Ambulance; and Jessica Davis, Chisholm Ambulance. Each took turns responding to questions posed by Rukavina covering aspects of EMS services from staffing and funding concerns to service provision and needed government and regulatory support.

A diverse audience of over 100 attended in person or via Zoom, including elected and appointed officials from all levels of government.

Almost all of the topics discussed echoed findings from a statewide EMS needs assessment conducted in 2002, but across the intervening two decades the issues have become magnified and more complex while little has changed in basic support.

The most extreme example of a lack of change was offered by Elverum.

“A date that is burned in my mind is October 9, 1984,” she said. “That is when the county decided on the reimbursement rates for ambulance services of \$16 a call and 22 cents a mile. It has never been increased. There’s something wrong with that.”

Staffing

When asked about her greatest challenges, Hoffer’s immediate response was all too familiar to her colleagues at the table, that of having adequate staff to provide coverage.

“A lot of days our coverage is limited,” she said. “Night times are better, weekends and Saturdays are a challenge.”

Moravitz agreed, noting that it was often difficult to cover a 24-hour period with two crews.

Most expressed the need to raise compensation, while also noting crew members are in it to be of service rather than the pay.

But issues with staff go well beyond pay, panelists said. Service is taxing on their mental health, not only from the kinds of cases they encounter but from the change in the types of calls they respond to.

“When I started doing this a long, long time ago, we didn’t do as many transfers as we do now,” our transfer volume in the last probably six, eight years, it’s quadrupled,” Lewis said. “Thirty-three percent of our calls are interfacility transfers. That really takes a toll on the staff when they’re out for three hours sometimes, and most of our transfers are actually mental health. That’s been a bit of a challenge keeping up with that.”

Elverum said many of their longer runs are unanticipated at the outset because the emergency room at Essentia Health-Virginia is too small to handle a five-times increase in annual patient load.

“It was built for just 6,000 patients a year and they’re hauling in 6,000 patients a year just in Virginia,” she said. “It is almost 30,000 patients a year now and nothing has been done to that. There’s can be a four to six-hour wait time and so we’re transporting to the next closest hospital. Instead of going to Virginia, we’re overwhelming Hibbing.”

All agreed that the volume of interfacility transfer calls is putting extreme pressure on their staffing, often leaving smaller service areas uncovered and dependent on mutual aid because they

don’t have the personnel to fill two crews simultaneously.

Staffing is also an issue with first responder units, as is actual response when called out. Lewis said he was aware of one unit where the response rate from first responders was only about ten percent, while most hover below 50 percent. It was also noted that responses dropped off significantly during the COVID pandemic as many older responders were wary of exposing themselves to the virus.

Finance

Ambulance funding is a piecemeal mix that varies across service areas and is a mix of fee-for-service and differing levels of governmental support. Whatever the mix, it isn’t enough, Jankila said.

“We build up millions and millions of dollars with the services that we collect, and that still doesn’t cover what it costs us to operate,” he said. “There haven’t been the funding levels. It doesn’t matter if you’re in Tower Ambulance Service or Cook Ambulance Service, we don’t get reimbursed nearly the cost of opera-

tions on 911 calls. When we look at the funding mechanism, the honest truth is that the funding is in transfers. Transfers can help rejuvenate the revenue stream. So as an administrator, we want to take those transfers to help the bottom line to keep us operating”

The trade-off for more transfers is increased stress on staff from more calls and longer hours. And in the case of 911 calls, if a BLS service has to call for an ALS team to provide more intensive care for a patient, that compensation can evaporate altogether. “Eighty percent of our calls are Medicare and Medicaid, for which we are reimbursed \$547,” Evelum said. “Right now, if I call for an (ALS) intercept I have to pay them \$600. I’m \$50 in the hole.

Panelists made appeals to legislators and officials to sponsor initiatives and bills to increase financial support for ambulance services. St. Louis County Commissioner Mike Jugovich said that a realignment of the seats on the board of commissioners has opened a window to push for additional support in his county.

“For the first time in the history of St. Louis County you have four rural commissioners,” he said. “We have talked. I have made four different runs at taking care of ambulance runs in unorganized townships and failed every time. We won’t fail this year.”

Jugovich acknowledged that was a small start, but that he and his rural colleagues are willing to look at other options for more support.

Jugovich also said that the federal government needs to step up to reimburse emergency services delivered in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area and

Voyageurs National Park.

“We’re supposed to support emergency services in the Boundary Waters and we get nothing back from the feds and we’ve tried,” he said.

Numerous other speakers addressed other issues, but in the end the panelists agreed it all comes back to making a legislative commitment to EMS as an essential service.

“Having a perspective coming from out of state where things are run much differently, I don’t feel like EMS has the priority in Minnesota than it does in a lot of other areas,” Davis said. “When you call 911,

you want the ambulance there, you don’t want to have to think about it, you don’t want to have to explain anything. It’s the expectation. Every single one of us deserves to have that expectation and haven’t realized. And I think a lot of that will be assisted by becoming an essential service”

Lewis emphasized that the commitment needs to be made up and down the governmental line.

“We have to have government engaged at all levels, local townships, cities, state and federal to address this issue. No one person is going to address all this,” Lewis said.

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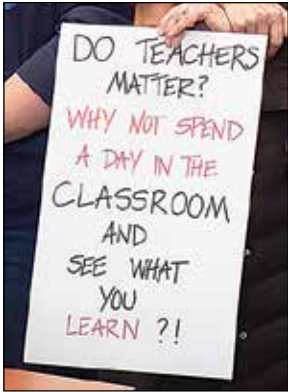


As many as 70 members of the teachers union at ISD 2142, above, gathered in solidarity over stalled contract negotiations at the district’s board meeting Tuesday night. One of the signs displayed at the meeting is shown below. photo by D. Colburn

## ISD 2142...Continued from page 1

“Our district can’t afford to lose good teachers,” he said. “Educators are at a breaking point – not just here, but across the state and nation. School districts are scrambling to hire and keep teachers and other school staff. The district’s current offer would put St. Louis County educators’ compensation behind similar districts in our area. St. Louis County can afford to offer more than a one to 1.5 percent increase in salary. That doesn’t come close to covering the rate of inflation. There’s \$3.3 million in the district’s rainy-day fund – 11 percent of the district’s annual budget.”

“Our next step is mediation with the district on May 4,” Herring continued. “Our union strongly believes we can reach a fair settlement, one that puts students first while acknowledging and



respecting the efforts of staff. St. Louis County educators have been working without a contract for nearly one year. We want to get our focus back where it belongs – in the classroom teaching the future generations of our communities.”

Northeast Range third grade teacher Crystal Poppler then read a letter of support from a parent, who stressed the dedication of teachers to put in long hours before and after school and during evenings

and weekends to help their students be successful.

“The teachers have eyes in 2142 to see students at their best and worst every day,” Poppler read, “handling social and behavioral issues that disrupt classroom learning and listening to the cares concerns and problems that students face every day. At the end of the day, they are physically and emotionally exhausted. But they continue to teach because that’s where their heart is. The teachers of School District 2142 deserve to be compensated for their time and extra efforts that they put into their jobs going above and beyond their job qualifications. This compensation will show that they are valued and appreciated in the community for all and ensure that our students will have these wonderful, hardworking committed teachers for years to come.”

Herring and Poppler spoke during public comment time when comments are limited to three to five minutes. After they concluded, union members left the building. There was no agenda item in the meeting addressing ongoing contract negotiations.

Herring said after the meeting that showing up in force was important at this juncture.

“Both sides need to reach a fair settlement,” he said. “We have been working without a contract for 300-plus days. One day is far too long, especially since our educators have risen to the challenges brought upon us prior to and during the pandemic to give students the best learning environment possible. We hope to accomplish a community awareness of our solidarity and to reach a fair settlement that acknowledges and respects

the efforts of our teachers.”

Another mediated negotiation session is scheduled for May 4, and Herring expressed hope a tentative contract will come out of that meeting.

Two previous tentative agreements by negotiators had been rejected when put to a vote of union membership.

Superintendent Reggie Engebretson said after the meeting that the district’s negotiating team is looking forward to a productive session on May 4.

In other business, the board:

► Heard from Eric Honkanen, of Honkanen Law Firm in Virginia, about an anonymous donor who wants to set up a trust to provide funds for a greenhouse at Northeast Range School. A preliminary proposal had already been provided to the district and is under review by administrators and district

counsel. Business Director Kim Johnson noted some concerns about how the money would be disbursed and accounted for that need to be worked out, but there was consensus among board and staff members alike that they wanted to move ahead by placing the discussion on the next working meeting agenda for possible action by the end of May.

► Heard that the three-year school picture agreement with Lifespan has expired and that schools had expressed a desire to use local photographers instead. The board unanimously approved the request.

► Formally accepted the response to the American Indian Parent Advisory Committee’s recommendations related to AIPAC’s vote of non-concurrence with Native American education standards.

## TOURISM

# Dorothy Molter Museum upgrades interpretive center

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY - The Dorothy Molter Museum here recently replaced the flooring in its Interpretive Center through support from the Minnesota Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation with a \$3,270 Culture and Tourism grant. Total project investment was \$6,540.

The center is the guest services headquarters and houses the admission check-in counter, gift shop, public restroom and several mini-exhibits. It serves as the first point of contact for museum guests, according to Jess Edberg, the museum’s executive director.

“Leading up to the flooring project, we made several other improvements to the Interpretive Center with revenue generated through fundraising events,” she said. “A new service counter, staff workstation, and interpretive displays and signage were added, and repairs were made to the building’s entry and exit points, electrical and heating systems, and energy efficiency.”

As highlighted in the IRRR’s monthly online newsletter, The Ranger, the local museum is a community landmark and has been part of Ely’s economy and culture for nearly three decades.

Dorothy, a licensed nurse from Chicago, first visited Isle of Pines resort on Knife Lake with family members in 1930 at age 23. As her annual visits

with family continued, she developed a friendship with resort owner Bill Berglund based on their mutual love of the wilderness. Eventually Dorothy would reside on the island year-round to assist Berglund with resort operations and maintenance. He passed away in 1948 and his family deeded the resort to Dorothy.

She began making homemade root beer in 1952 and sold it to thousands of canoeists and visitors to her resort earning her the name Root Beer Lady. Dorothy gained attention from media and tourists due to her unorthodox lifestyle. She was an unmarried, female sole owner-proprietor of a wilderness resort.

The attention culmi-

nated with the passing of the 1964 Wilderness Act when her Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) property was purchased by the United States government. A successful petition resulted in Dorothy remaining on her property through a temporary lease until her death. She passed away at age 79 and was the last non-indigenous resident of the two-million-acre BWCAW.

“We are very grateful for the support from Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation,” Edberg said. “The Culture and Tourism grant program has had a significant impact to our museum, not only for the recent flooring project but for other projects in the past.



The Dorothy Molter Museum in Ely opens Memorial Day weekend. A renovated interpretive center features new flooring. submitted photo

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HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

# Delayed spring keeps softball players indoors

Ely squad has played just one game in season so far; hopes to get season going this weekend



by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – The Ely High School softball team is playing a waiting game to get their spring season in gear as winter maintains a tight grip on the North Country. Like all other sports this spring,

**Left: Ely pitcher Katrina Seliskar winds up during a recent indoor practice. Lingering snow and cold conditions have affected the springs sports seasons in the area.**

photo by K. Vandervort

the Timberwolves’ girls team has been mostly confined to the gymnasium to hone their skills while waiting for the snow to melt.

Three out of their first four games, starting April 11, were postponed, and an unfriendly weather forecast delayed a home-opening series early this week as the team waits for the snow to melt and their soggy field to dry out.

Ely did get a chance to kick-start their season on the road last week at Mt. Iron-Buhl on their artificial turf field and came back

with a 13-11 revenge victory, dating back to last season when the young Timberwolves team lost two of three games to the Rangers, including a Section 7A playoff game.

“Our schedule has changed multiple times so far,” said Cory Lassi as he returns for his second year as head coach. “We have already lost out on a fourth of our season. I think the snow is ending, and we are waiting for the chance to get outside. We practiced outdoors for about 30 minutes total this spring.”

He was hopeful the team

could travel to Chisholm on Thursday, April 28, and return home on Friday, April 29, to host Two Harbors.

The Timberwolves will boast plenty of experience this spring as most of last year’s roster is intact to build on a 10-win season and first-round playoff win.

“We lost (catcher) Sydni Marshall, our only senior last year, and gained a couple of girls, including Cedar Ohlhauser, who hasn’t played since her eighth-

See **SPORTS...pg. 2B**

BASEBALL

# Grizzlies drop game to Virginia

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

PROCTOR – A neutral field was a playable field last week as North Woods and Virginia escaped the winter doldrums for a baseball game on the turf field at Proctor on Friday.

It turned out to be most favorable for Virginia, which delivered a 4-1 loss to the Grizzlies, their second of the season.

The Grizzlies got into early trouble in the second inning when pitcher Ben Kruse gave up two consecutive walks. An error by North Woods allowed the lead runner to score after stealing third to make the score 1-0.

Errors bit the Grizzlies again in the fourth inning when a pair of errors combined with a Virginia single pushed another run across the plate.

Miscues swung the way of the Grizzlies in the top of the sixth inning as they halved the deficit to 2-1. Louis Panichi reached base on a fly ball error, then Jake Panichi was hit by a pitch. North Woods loaded the bases when Tate Cly reached base on a mishandled ground ball. Talen Jarshaw fouled off four pitches before connecting on a fielder’s choice that brought Louis Panichi in to score.

That was all for the Grizzlies’ offense, and Virginia tallied two more runs in the bottom of the sixth to secure the win.

Kruse took the loss for North

See **BASEBALL...pg. 2B**

INFORMATION

# Arrowhead Libraries now providing access to millions of open access journals

REGIONAL - Officials with the Arrowhead Library System have announced that they will be making approximately 40 million vetted, open access journals, eBooks, and eTextbooks available for free through their Open Access program. Patrons now have access to content focusing on mining in Minnesota, infectious diseases, climate change, space travel, mental health, and more.

Articles about these topics and many more can be accessed through the ALS online catalog. Visit alslib.info and click on Online Catalog in the resources drop-down box and choose Open Access.

The need for reliable research has never been greater, and traditionally, quality research has been

See **ACCESS...pg. 2B**



LOST DOGS

# Rescuers save the day

Volunteers bring in 14 wayward dogs on the Ash River Trail; search continues for others

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

KABETOGAMA- Search and rescue efforts for 18 or more sled dogs at large in the Kabetogama area since April 5 have slowed down this week as 10 adults and four puppies have been retrieved, but a woman who has helped to coordinate the efforts of volunteers from near and afar hopes that people will remain on the lookout for the remaining stragglers.

Amanda Vogel inherited the role of unofficial coordinator almost immediately after learning that the dogs were on the loose. She’s been taking calls and messages of sightings and investigating them with other volunteers, using social media to keep people updated, and helping potential rescuers to know where to focus their efforts and set up traps. It’s been a successful effort thus far, but it’s not over yet.

“The sightings have slowed down for us,” Vogel said. “We’ve dwindled down to the last handful, and we just need help spotting them and finding where they are so that we can set up the traps.”

As more people became aware of the lost dogs the number of people wanting to help just kept growing, Vogel

said. “It was just a few of us locals trying to get the word out and trying to look for help and resources,” she said. “Folks down in the Cities at

“There’s even been help from across the border, as one of the dogs was spotted and captured by Canadian volunteers.”

**Volunteer Amanda Vogel**

different rescues caught wind and reached out to us, and they were kind of coordinating down there to come up and help us.” There’s even been help from across the border, as one of the dogs was spotted and captured by Canadian volunteers, Vogel said.

**Escaped or dumped?**

A Facebook group set up to report on the progress of the search, Ash River Abandoned Dogs Rescue Updates, is evidence of the belief among volunteers that the dogs were intentionally dumped by

**Dogs Zaagi and River seem content at their new foster home, where they’ve been staying since their recent rescue near Kabetogama.**

submitted photo

someone along Ash River Trail in early April. However, the St. Louis County Sheriff’s Department investigated and say that the dogs escaped from a nearby residence on their own.

An April 6 press release issued by the department said that they investigated the situation after they received a call requesting they do so.

“The incident began drawing attention from several social media platforms and additional complaints were being generated. The incident was investigated and claims that several dogs/puppies were being dumped in that area are false,” the release stated. On Monday, the *Timberjay* contacted Supervising Deputy Nathan Skelton in Hibbing for more information about the investigation.

“The owner was, in fact, located and details were sorted out as to what exactly took place,” Skelton said. “Long story short, they were not dumped. The owner had left the dogs with a party in the area with food and supplies and the

dogs got away from that party.”

Skelton said he didn’t know how the dogs escaped but said the owner, an amateur dog sledder, had stayed in the area trying to locate the dogs and had recovered three of them when they investigated. The owner said he had also gone to the International Falls animal shelter where rescuers took the four puppies that they recovered, but the shelter was closed. “Follow up and investigation confirmed the party was in the area actively searching also,” Skelton said. “No criminal charges (were filed) as a result of a rather lengthy follow up investigation that day.”

Numerous comments posted to the rescue Facebook page indicate that conclusion doesn’t sit well with people following the search.

It also doesn’t sit well with Vogel, who said that she and others are certain the dogs were intentionally dumped. She said there is a video showing 11 adult dogs being dropped off on Ash River Trail on one day and eyewitnesses who saw five more being dropped off the next. Both drops were from the same van, she said. And she was skeptical that the dogs’ owner stayed around long to search.

See **RESCUE...pg. 2B**







Obituaries and Death Notices



Donald C. Myntti

Donald Charles Myntti, 98, of Duluth, died on Saturday, April 23, 2022, at the Marywood Residence (Benedictine Living Community) on the campus of the College of St. Scholastica, surrounded by his loving family. A family burial service will be held graveside at a later date. Arrangements were made by the Cremation Society of Minnesota.

The Myntti Family would like to thank the loving staff at Marywood for providing Don with excellent and devoted care, while maintaining his dignity and autonomy. The family wishes to commend Mark Wiita from St. Luke’s Community Care Team, and its hospice nurses, for the compassionate care they afforded Don at the end.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to UMD University for Seniors - Development Office, 1049 University Drive, Duluth, MN 55812 to honor Don’s commitment to life-long learning, or to the Mayo Clinic, Department of Development, 200 First Street SW, Rochester, MN 55905 in gratitude for the excellent care Don received throughout his long life.

Don was born to Charles and Laura (Järvinen) Myntti in Chisholm, on Aug. 11, 1923, and grew up in Ely. His life, until the end, was animated by his “legacy values”, those values he held most dear and wished to pass on to his children: to work hard, do his best, and to earn the respect of all; to make his wife and children the center of his world; to nurture his life-long friendships; to follow his passion to see and know the world as a globe-trotter, and as a life-long learner; to choose optimism; to feed his unquenchable curiosity; to practice gratitude for having exceeded all

expectations, and for his happy and healthy life; to celebrate his life-long attachment to the Iron Range and its people; and finally, to appreciate his Finnish roots and values.

Donald spoke Finnish exclusively at home until he began school at age seven. He described his boyhood in Ely and his summers at Co-op Point on Eagles Nest Lake (spent among the Finnish families of co-operators and iron ore miners) as “perfect”. During his summers throughout his high school and college years, Don was happiest lost in the BWCA paddling with his best friend, Sig Olson Jr. Immediately following graduation from Ely Memorial High School in 1941, Don and Sig set off for a memorable month in the Boundary Waters without packing much food, if any, fully confident that they could catch, hunt, and gather enough to keep themselves alive. They continued to paddle together as canoe guides every summer during college for Border Lakes Outfitters outside of Winton.

Don attended Ely Junior College for one year, and received a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Minnesota in 1945. He also graduated from the USNR Midshipman School at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y.

He married Rita J. Beron on Nov. 26, 1947, at St. Rose Catholic Church in Proctor. Over their married life, Don and Rita had five children and moved 25 times, criss-crossing the United States following Don’s mining and naval careers. Don and Rita decided to return to their beloved Northwoods and Lake Superior, retiring to Duluth in 1991.

Don was employed for 40 years by several major mining companies: Oliver Iron Mining Company (Minnesota), Kennecott Copper Corporation (Utah), Amax Coal Company (Indiana) and Exxon Minerals Company (New York City and Texas), and two major contractors: Western Contracting Corporation (Iowa) and Morrison Knudsen Corporation (Idaho). This was followed by 20 years of international consulting. He was recognized as a world-wide mining equipment expert with assignments in Inner Mongolia, Mauritania, Chile, Colombia, Canada, Jordan, Puerto Rico and Alaska. He was a registered professional engineer in Minnesota, Utah and Idaho.

Don proudly served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and the Korean War, retiring as a Lieutenant Commander

– USNR. His passion for ships was legendary.

His memberships included the Kitchi Gammi Club (Duluth), Society of Mining Engineers (SME), Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), American Legion Post 342, Gitche Gumee Kiwanis Club, Propeller Club, and the Engineers Club of Northern Minnesota (ECNM). He was also a life member of the National Mining Hall of Fame in Leadville, Colo., and an active participant in the University for Seniors program at UMD.

Don and Rita traveled extensively throughout their lives within the United States and visited 65 countries. While in his 80s, he achieved his dream to visit Petra in Jordan and the Taj Mahal in India. Even at the end of his life, Don was ‘planning’ a final travel adventure to France and China, believing he had one last trip in him.

Please remember Don for a moment the next time you have the pleasure of taking a hot sauna followed by jumping into an invigorating northern Minnesota lake or when picnicking on the shore of Lake Superior!

Don’s survivors include four daughters, Dr. Cynthia Myntti (Dr. Bert Hirschhorn) of Minneapolis, Valerie Myntti (Frank Sherman) of Ely, Andrea Myntti-Groom (Michael Groom) of Mabank, Texas, and Laura Myntti (Michael Croak) of Madison, Wis.; one son, Charles Myntti of Tbilisi, Georgia; one brother, Steven Myntti of Minneapolis; many nieces and nephews, including John Prola of Richfield; seven grandchildren, Patrick Groom, Agatha Myntti Venters, Rebekah Sherman-Myntti, Ivie Myntti, Kirsi Myntti, Beron Selkregg and Mills Selkregg; and great-grandchildren, Charles and Arthur Venters.

He was preceded in death by his wife of nearly 72 years, Rita; parents; and sister, Mrs. Paul (Ona) Prola.

Carol Przybylski

Carol Wattunen Przybylski, 89, of Ely, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, April 12, 2022, at Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital with her children by her side. A memorial service was held on Wednesday, April 27 at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church in Ely. Arrangements were with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

Survivors include her children, Linda (Jim) Frisell, Nikki (Ed) Seliskar, Kevin (Sherry Renfro-Miron) Przybylski,

ki, Bob Przybylski, Barry (Nancy) Przybylski and Connie (Charlie) Thompson; grandchildren, Brendon (Laura Holter) Zorman, Jere (LaVerne) Murphy and Keith (Kari) Zorman, Bryan (Lisa) Seliskar and Jake (Melissa) Seliskar, Nick Przybylski and Lindsay Przybylski, Billy (Amanda) Przybylski, Ean (Samantha) Przybylski and Anna Przybylski, Zack Przybylski and Alex Przybylski, Austin (Linzie) Przybylski; 16 great-grandchildren; many in-laws; and numerous nieces and nephews.



James A. Hill Sr.

James Allan Hill Sr., 90, a lifelong resident of Soudan, died on Saturday, Feb. 26, 2022, at Essentia Health - Virginia Hospital. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, May 6 at Bauman’s Vermilion Funeral Home in Tower. A gathering time for family and friends will begin one hour prior to the service. Family services are provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.

The family would like to give a heartfelt thanks to the staff of Vermilion Senior Living for the excellent and compassionate care Jim received. He made many friends in the ten months he was there.

Jim was born on Nov. 30, 1931, in Soudan, the son of James A. and Esther (Mackie) Hill. He was a graduate of Tower-Soudan High School and an honorably-discharged veteran of the United States Army, where he served overseas in the Korean War. Jim was united in marriage to Donna K. Branwall on March 4, 1955, at the Lutheran Church in Ely. He worked at Erie Mining Company and Reserve Mining Company and was the owner/operator of Hill’s Heating and Sheet-metal. Jim was a member of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Soudan and the VFW. He enjoyed spending time at the cabin, fishing, gardening, and in his earlier years, hunting. He was also known for his apple orchard. Jim was a chef and fantastic baker, baking all kinds of breads, pulla, buns and rolls.

Jim is survived by his sons, Jim (Pam) Hill Jr. and Dan (Corrine) Hill, both of Soudan; sister, Joan Olson of Nebraska; granddaughter, Jodi (Nick) Levens, and great-grandchildren, Jackson, Elliot, Neva and Nixon, all of Tower; along with numerous extended family members and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Donna in 2021; sister, Shirley Dallas; and granddaughter, Kimberly Sundsahl.



Michael H. Haney

Michael H. “Mike” Haney, 75, of Ely, died on Sunday, April 17, 2022, at Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital. According to Mike, “Nobody said life is fair,” and having lung cancer with tumors in the brain and spine certainly was not fair. Memorials may be made to Essentia Health East Range Hospice, 901 Ninth St. N, Suite 215, Virginia, MN 55792.

Mike was born on Sept. 26, 1946, in Chicago, Ill., to Marie Eva Ellenson and Hildon H. Haney. He met Margaret Gail Siltman on a blind date at Western Illinois University (Mike was in the class of 1969) in 1966. They married on Aug. 26, 1967, and were married over 53 years when he died. He was a loving and devoted husband.

Family was the most important thing to Mike. Daughters were not what he planned for, but he couldn’t have been more proud of his girls, Heidi Lynn Haney Favet and Lori Dianne Haney (June 10, 1974 – April 30, 1993). He was the kind of dad who made family dinners fun, planned vacations everyone looked

forward to, and showed up to do the little and big things whenever he was needed. He went to every one of Lori’s very long dance recitals and never understood when judges couldn’t see she was clearly the best dancer. He wore Heidi’s college graduation medals and cords to work for weeks. His love for grandson Samuel S. Favet was strong enough to prompt a move to wintry Ely in 2007. Sam dubbed Grandpa Mike “The Grill King.” Mike loved to cook good food for people, and Sam was one of his biggest fans and regular sous chef.

Working gave Mike a strong sense of self-worth. As a teenager, he worked at the Village of Glenview’s public golf course. Over the years in Illinois, he worked at the Brat House, taught physical education at Dundee High School, managed Sundown Liquors and spent 23 years as the self-proclaimed head decorator (“HD”) for Brenner Furniture. After settling in Ely at age 62, he continued his strong work ethic with Sir G’s Restaurant and the Grand Ely Lodge. He worked until the cancer and treatments made him too weak to continue.

Mike’s favorite times were gathering with family and friends for a meal and a drink at the Grand Ely Lodge or on his deck. Those get-togethers won’t be the same without him.

Mike is survived by his wife, Gail; daughter, Heidi Haney Favet; grandson, Samuel S. “Sam” Favet; dear friends and family.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Lori; and dear sister, Marcia Haney Godwin.

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Our lives in the  
Northwoods

ICE FOR OPENER?

# Lots of ice remains two weeks ‘til the big day

Cold and snowy April has set back ice-out dates across the region

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— With the Minnesota fishing opener now just over two weeks away, anglers hoping to ply any of the larger North Country lakes might want to pack their ice auger just to be safe. At least two feet of ice was still covering Lake Vermilion as of this week and with continued cool weather in the forecast,

the prospect of ice-out in time for opener is increasingly in question. Low temperatures in the teens earlier in the week didn’t help matters, either. Warm temperatures and sunshine are the two biggest contributors to ice-out, although wind can play a role once the ice begins to weaken. Yet, since the first of the month, area reporting stations are running around 4-6

degrees below average. And the North Country has experienced considerably less sunshine this month than normal, according to state climatologist Pete Boulay. “It’s worth complaining about, but it’s not record setting,” noted Boulay. While high water from recent rains and snowmelt have weakened river ice in many cases, there was little sign of weakening ice on area lakes. As of Monday, April 25, there

**Right: A freshly-drilled hole just off shore on Pike Bay showed 24 inches of ice as of Monday, April 25. Other parts of the lake hold considerably more ice.** photo by M. Helmberger

were still 24 inches of solid ice just off Hoodoo Point on Lake Vermilion’s Pike Bay, and likely much more ice further out on Big Bay. Vermilion’s

See LAKE ICE...pg. 5B



LIMITS



**Taking Secchi disk readings is a great way to engage young people in the outdoors and in public service.**

## MPCA seeking water quality monitors for area lakes and streams

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Would you like to help monitor the water quality in one of your favorite lakes or streams here in northern St. Louis or Lake counties? Then the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency would like to hear from you. The state agency is looking for volunteers interested in undertaking routine water clarity testing on any of several lakes and streams in the area. With over 15,000 lakes and streams in Minnesota, and only a handful of MPCA field staff dedicated to on-site water monitoring, the state agency relies heavily on volunteers to conduct water quality monitoring. “Volunteers help fill in the gaps,” said Waverly Reibel, water monitoring program specialist with the MPCA. The MPCA has been relying on volunteers for regular water quality monitoring for more than 40 years and currently has 1,200-1,400 volunteers assisting statewide. Perhaps you could be the next volunteer. You don’t need any experience, since the MPCA will provide you with a video explaining how to use the simple device (which they provide) used to measure water clarity, known as a Secchi disk. You will need access to a boat if you’re going to test water clarity from a lake. If you don’t have a boat, you can still conduct clarity tests on area streams, by using a bridge or some other kind of stream crossing. The information that such readings provide is extremely valuable for state water quality managers. “Water clarity is a super important indicator of lake or stream health,” said Reibel. That’s particularly true when the monitoring can be completed regularly, on a long-term basis, which can help to reveal changes in water quality. The MPCA issues a listing of the testing results every year and uses the findings for a variety of management decisions, including designating impaired waters. Area lakes in need of volunteer monitors include:

- East and West Twin lakes and Blueberry Lake, all near Ely.
- Moose, Bell, and Rice lakes, all near Orr.

See TESTING...pg. 5B



WILDLIFE

# The Eagle has not landed

Thanks to recovery, bald eagles are once again a common sight around the North Country

It’s easy to despair at times about the future of our environment, what with humankind’s insatiable demand for resources, destruction of ocean life, and climate change. Yet it’s worth remembering that, sometimes, humans are capable of fixing their mistakes, and there are few better examples of that than the remarkable recovery of the bald eagle. Humans had been pretty tough on eagles, as we’ve been with most species of wildlife, since the day we figured out how to trap them or shoot them out of the sky. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that the lower 48 states were once home to 100,000 breeding pairs of bald eagles, but by 1963, a nationwide census found just 417 nesting pairs and there was widespread concern that the species was headed for extinction, at least in the lower 48. While Congress had passed the Bald Eagle Protection Act back in 1940, which had prohibited the killing or possession of bald eagles or bald eagle parts, bald eagles faced a new threat in the post-WWII era from the widespread spraying of DDT. The chemical quickly

spread throughout the aquatic food chain in the U.S. and elsewhere and as predators of fish and waterfowl, bald eagles took the brunt of the impact. The chemical led to thinner egg shells for eagles and other fish-eating birds, like pelicans and cormorants, which led many of them to break during incubation. The impact on reproduction was enormous and that’s what sent the populations to dangerously low levels. When the Environmental Protection Agency banned the use of DDT in the U.S. in 1972, bald eagles began a remarkable recovery. With legal protection against the once senseless slaughter of eagles and the elimination of a deadly toxin from the environment, the stage was set and bald eagles responded, although it still took a few decades for the decimated populations to rebuild. By 1995, the bald eagle was reclassified in most of the lower 48 states from endangered to threatened, indicating that the species was back from the brink. Here in Minnesota, the bald eagle was never classified as endangered (it was originally set as threatened), reflecting the fact that a good portion

See EAGLES...pg. 5B



MARSHALL HELMBERGER

**An adult bald eagle along Hwy. 53 north of Cook misjudged his potential perch recently, snapping off the top of a balsam fir. Timberjay editor David Colburn was there to capture the embarrassing moment. Isn’t that just like a reporter?**





Outdoors briefly

Comment sought on area lake management plans

I-FALLS — The Department of Natural Resources is accepting public comment on lake management plans for several lakes in far northern St. Louis County, including Crane, Franklin, Little Vermilion, Long, Loon, and Shoepack lakes.

Comments will be accepted through Sunday, May 15 and will help DNR fisheries managers as they review and revise their management plans. The plans will guide management activities on the above-noted lakes over the next five-to-20 years.

Anyone can request information and share thoughts about fisheries management by contacting Kevin Peterson, International Falls Area fisheries supervisor, by email at kevin.peterson@state.mn.us or by phone at 218-598-8190.

Comments and suggestions for managing other lakes and streams in the International Falls area are welcome at any time and will be considered when those plans are due for review.

Moms can fish for free next weekend

REGIONAL — If you're wondering what to do for Mother's Day, you might try taking mom fishing, assuming you can find some open water.

During Take a Mom Fishing Weekend, set for

May 7 and 8, moms who live in Minnesota can fish without purchasing a license.

Most years, the fishing opener and Take a Mom Fishing Weekend are on the same weekend, but not this year. Even though the walleye season won't be open, moms can still fish for crappie, sunfish, or suckers. Walleye and northern pike seasons open the following weekend on Saturday, May 14.

Last chance to apply for bear permits

REGIONAL — Prospective bear hunters have until Friday, May 6, to apply for a permit to hunt bear this fall. Applications for the 2022 season can be submitted online, at any license agent, or via telephone at 888-665-4236. The bear season opens Sept. 1 and closes Sunday, Oct. 16.

Lottery winners will be notified by Wednesday, June 1. The deadline to purchase bear hunting licenses awarded by lottery is Monday, Aug. 1. Any remaining unpurchased licenses will be available over the counter starting at noon Thursday, Aug. 4.

An unlimited number of bear licenses also will be sold over the counter for the no-quota area that includes east-central and far northwestern Minnesota.

Complete instructions about how to apply for a license, maps of permit areas, and a listing of permit availability for each area are available on the DNR website at mndnr.gov/Hunting/Bear.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
47 35					52 34					44 32					46 29					49 31				
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.
04/18	37	22	0.11	2.6"	04/18	37	22	0.11	2.6"	04/18	38	12	0.21	3.0"	04/18	34	25	0.22	3.0"	04/18	38	17	0.21	2.6"
04/19	35	16	0.06		04/19					04/19	33	16	0.02	0.2"	04/19	43	16	0.00		04/19	34	11	0.00	
04/20	43	16	0.00		04/20					04/20	40	15	0.00		04/20	36	32	0.00		04/20	43	13	0.00	
04/21	36	31	0.26	0.8"	04/21					04/21	37	31	0.31	1.5"	04/21	39	28	0.29	2.0"	04/21	36	32	0.37	
04/22	43	29	0.00		04/22					04/22	41	26	0.01	0.1"	04/22	39	32	0.02		04/22	41	26	0.00	
04/23	40	34	0.29		04/23					04/23	40	32	0.65		04/23	52	36	0.00		04/23	40	34	0.44	
04/24	48	37	0.44		04/24					04/24	49	35	0.48		04/24	52	36	2.33		04/24	49	39	0.98	
YTD Total			4.97	92.4"	YTD Total			4.49	57.5"	YTD Total			6.67	100.3"	YTD Total			NA	NA	YTD Total			7.83	76.2"

EAGLES...Continued from page 4B

of the remaining eagle population was found in Minnesota.

By 2007, the Fish and Wildlife Service estimated there were nearly 10,000 nesting pairs of bald eagles in the lower 48 and the species was formally removed from protection by the Endangered Species Act. Eagle populations have continued to grow dramatically since then, and by 2019, federal biologists put the bald eagle population at a whopping 71,467 breeding pairs and nearly 317,000 individual birds.

In our area, bald eagles have gone from a rare sighting in the 1970s and '80s to seemingly everywhere these days. That's not a surprise given that Minnesota now has the largest population of bald eagles

in the lower 48 states, with about 10,000 nesting pairs in addition to at least that many non-breeding birds. Most of the birds you see this time of year are non-breeders that are on the move as spring advances and many of them are showing up along roadsides, where they're feeding on roadkill. Breeding pairs have been on their territories for several weeks already, and are likely incubating eggs by now, but hopefully don't have hatched young yet. Generally, eagles don't want to have nestlings to feed before the ice goes out, since ice sharply limits their access to fish and other potential food sources.

Breeding pairs typically mate for life and because they are relatively long-lived, with adults averaging

20-25 years in the wild, pairs have numerous chances to reproduce. Younger pairs often struggle their first few years before they get the hang of it. I've been watching what I assume to be a young pair of eagles that has nested for at least four years on Lost Lake, near my house, without fledging any young. Twice, storms blew down their nests, but now they've utilized a sturdy white pine, so I'm expecting they might finally have figured this whole nesting thing out and I'll be watching their progress over the summer. After all, bald eagles may be common these days, but that doesn't mean they aren't still spectacular to have around.

LAKE ICE...Continued from page 4B

average ice-out date is April 30, but after nights in the teens this week and daytime highs in the 30s and 40s, it's clear the lake won't be ice-free, or even close to it, by then.

Other lakes are reporting thick ice cover as well. Susan Melgeorge reported 36 inches of ice on Elephant Lake this week and expects the lake won't be ice-free until May 15.

It wouldn't be the first time that area lakes were iced over for fishing opener — not by a long shot. Most recently, ice has lingered on parts of Lake Vermilion and other large lakes for fishing opener in 2014, 2013, and 2008.

The slow progress toward open water has fisheries staff at the DNR's Pike River Hatchery in a holding pattern. Tower area fisheries manager Keith Reeves, who took over from Edie Evarts in November, said the fish trap remained iced-in as of early this week. At this point, he said he hopes to start operations at the hatchery as of May 2, which would be the second latest start there on record. In 2018, after another cold April, hatchery operations got underway on May 3.

If the past is any guide, this year's late start could mean egg-stripping operations will wind up quickly. And



Susan Melgeorge nearly exhausted the length of her ice auger as she tested the ice on Elephant Lake this week. She reported 36 inches of ice and predicts ice-out on May 15. submitted photo

with a quota of only 486 quarts this year, Reeves said the crew might wrap up their work in just 2-3 days.

Meanwhile, the weather forecast offers little hope for the kind of dramatic improvement that could

start eating away at the existing ice cover. The 6-10 day outlook calls for continued below normal temperatures, with highs mostly in the 40s and lows around freezing, with at least some peaks of sunshine.

TESTING...Continued from page 4B

- Shagawa and Kawishiwi rivers and Johnson Creek, all near Ely.
- East Two River near Tower.
- Little Fork River, near Cook.
- Dunka River, near Babbitt.

"Most of these sites or lakes have not been monitored previously, so it would be great to get data for them," said Lauren Lewandowski, a communications specialist at the MPCA.

Want to sign up?

If you'd like to volunteer to monitor water quality on any of the above-named water bodies, you can contact the MPCA's program managers at watervolunteers.mPCA@state.mn.us, or call 1-800-657-3864. You can also fill out a volunteer application online at: www.pca.state.mn.us/water/join-volunteer-water-monitoring-program.

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CLEAN

- ✓ Boats, trailers, and gear
- ✓ Remove all weeds, mud, and hitchhiking contaminants from axles, wheels, undercarriage, motor, prop, nets, and gear before leaving boat landing

DRAIN

- ✓ Water from boat, bilge, motor, and live well
- ✓ Remove drain plug and open all water draining devices
- ✓ Trash unused bait

DRY

- ✓ Everything at least five days before going to other waters
- ✓ (Or) Decontaminate with high pressure water (120°F or warmer)

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EMPLOYMENT

Maintenance Technician/  
Public Works Assistant

The City of Cook (pop. 534) is seeking a qualified individual for this key position. Cook, located in St. Louis County and considered the western gateway to Lake Vermilion, is a community with many opportunities and amenities. Minimum qualifications include: Class B Commercial Driver's License, High School Diploma or GED, ability to obtain required Water and Wastewater Licensing, and three years of relevant experience per the job description. Key areas of responsibility include: daily/seasonal operations, streets and parks, water and wastewater systems, operation and maintenance of public works equipment/machinery, and maintenance and repair of the city's buildings and grounds. Hiring Range: \$16.84 to \$19.73 (DOQ) and full-time employee benefit package. In addition to the base wage, the position is currently eligible for two types of premium pay.

TO APPLY: visit [www.cookmn.us](http://www.cookmn.us) or call Cook City Hall at 218-666-2200. Position will remain open until filled. 4/29

SEASONAL STAFF POSITION

The Ely Chamber of Commerce has a great opportunity for an individual seeking seasonal work (30-36 hours per week) with the potential to extend to a full-time, year-round position. This position pays \$13.50/hour and requires computer & interpersonal communication skills, and a flexible work schedule that will include weekends. The selected individual will provide support to area businesses, visitors, and co-workers in a team environment. The position does require lifting up to 35 pounds. For more details and a job application, please contact the Ely Chamber of Commerce office at 218-365-6123 or at [director@ely.org](mailto:director@ely.org). Office located at 1600 E. Sheridan Street, Ely. 4/29



Work at the  
TIMBERJAY!

*The Timberjay* has an opening for a part-time staffer to work in our Tower office. Duties include local reporting, editing of community notices, page layout, photography, and more. Lots of variety, flexible hours as long as work gets done by our deadline. Job would be about 12 hours a week (Tuesday through Thursday), with more hours available if desired. Looking for someone who enjoys working in a fast-paced environment, has good attention to detail, and enjoys dealing with the public. Job requires office computer skills (typing, email, familiarity with basic software programs). We will train the right candidate on graphics/page layout software.

For more information, call Jodi at 218-753-2950 (office), 218-750-3513 (cell), or email [editor@timberjay.com](mailto:editor@timberjay.com).

PUBLIC NOTICES

EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeal and Equalization of the Township of Eagles Nest shall meet on Saturday, May 7, 2022, at 10-11 am, at Eagles Nest Town Hall. 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 concerns. 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.

Keely Drange-Clerk Eagles Nest Township

Published in the Timberjay, April 29, 2022

BEARVILLE TOWNSHIP  
NOTICE OF RECONVENED  
LOCAL BOARD OF APPEAL  
AND EQUALIZATION

Bearville Township Local Board of Appeal and Equalization Meeting was recessed on April 19 and will reconvene on May 4 at 9:30 a.m. at the Bearville Town Hall.

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, Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, April 29, 2022

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Solid Waste Worker II

\$16.83-\$21.34 Hourly  
Apply by 05/04/2022

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\$27.61-\$36.32 Hourly

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PUBLIC NOTICES

BREITUNG TOWNSHIP

Important Information Regarding  
Assessment 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 Breitung shall meet on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, at 1:00 pm, at the Breitung Community Center, 33 First Ave, Soudan, MN 55782. 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 concerns. 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.

Dianna Sunsdahl, Clerk, Breitung Township

Published in the Timberjay, April 22 & 29, 2022

LEGAL NOTICE  
City of Tower  
Publishing of Ordinance 89  
An Ordinance Establishing  
Park Regulations

1<sup>st</sup> Reading March 14, 2022  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading April 11, 2022  
Given length of Ordinance,  
please view at:  
<https://cityoftower.com/city-ordinances>

Published in the Timberjay,  
April 22, 2022

CITY OF TOWER  
Jetter For Bid

1996 Magikist Line Thawer  
(Jetter)  
Minimum Bid \$1,400  
Contact 218-753-4070  
Bid closing date 5/6/22

Published in the Timberjay,  
April 22 & 29, 2022

CITY OF TOWER  
Grader For Bid

1973 Caterpillar No. 12F  
Motor Grader  
Minimum Bid \$4,000  
Contact 218-753-4070  
Bid closing date 5/6/22

Published in the Timberjay,  
April 22 & 29, 2022

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Results!



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Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

- |                        |                 |                      |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Clothing tag        | __ _ B __ _     | Boutonniere location | __ _ P __ _     |
| 2. A churchman         | __ A __ _ _     | "__ _ of Interest"   | __ E __ _ _     |
| 3. Fire truck feature  | __ _ D __ _ _   | Pantry               | __ _ R __ _ _   |
| 4. Graph               | __ _ _ _ T      | Bracelet trinket     | __ _ _ _ M      |
| 5. Bring joy to        | E __ _ _ _      | Chalkboard rock      | S __ _ _ _      |
| 6. Fake                | __ H __ _ _     | Spring blossom       | __ E __ _ _     |
| 7. Moesha actress      | __ _ _ _ _ Y    | Actor Marlon         | __ _ _ _ _ O    |
| 8. Meddle              | __ N __ _ _     | Ice cream server     | __ C __ _ _     |
| 9. Memorial Day flower | __ O __ _ _     | Young canine         | __ U __ _ _     |
| 10. Red gem            | __ _ _ _ N __ _ | Attic                | __ _ _ _ R __ _ |



OPEN POSITIONS

10 Fifth Street SE Cook, MN 55723

Hospital/ER

Casual Unit Clerk/Nursing Assistant  
(Current NA Cert. or EMT required)

Nursing

FT RN House Supervisor

Dietary

PT Dietary Aide/Cook

Laboratory

FT Medical Lab Tech

Radiology

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

Activities

PT & Casual Activities Assistant

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)

Environmental Services

Casual Laundry Aide  
FT, PT & 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)

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General Repair Worker

Unlimited, Full-Time - Two (2) Positions Available  
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Vermilion Community College, soon to be Minnesota North College – Vermilion Campus, is seeking to two (2) permanent, full-time General Repair Worker positions. These positions exist to perform general repair duties, preventative maintenance and mechanical repairs to college building components, physical plant, energy management systems, auxiliary generator, college equipment, plumbing and utilities. These positions will also assist in minor construction projects, remodeling and related duties for campus.

For position details, qualifications and application procedures, please view the posting at:  
<https://www.nhed.edu/human-resources/employment/vcc>  
Deadline to apply: May 6, 2022

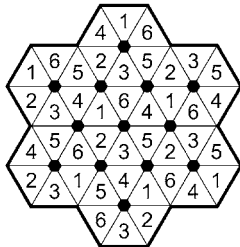
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AA/EOE Veteran Friendly 4/29

Super Crossword

Answers

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

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!







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**CryptoQuote**  
AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

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

CJXDVIHFB IDNJ D ADZ HE  
IHWTPSL XIJ CHBX XFKXI PS  
XIJ WJDBX BVDQJ.  
— HFBHS BQHXX QDFT

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MARCH/APRIL 2011

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