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# the TIMBERJAY

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## PUBLIC SERVICE

# Greenwood clerk leaves meeting

## Town Board again refuses her demand for additional pay

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

**GREENWOOD TWP-** The Greenwood Town Board had a united front on one major topic at their May 10 meeting— their refusal to grant the demand from elected clerk Debby Spicer for additional pay.

The meeting agenda had the approval of nine sets of minutes, dating back to Jan. 11, but the board still had not seen copies of minutes from seven of those meetings.

“Is there a reason we don’t have the minutes typed up?” asked Chairman Sue Drobac.

“I haven’t had the time,” said Spicer.

“If I wasn’t going to be paid for that, I wasn’t going to have the time for that.”

Spicer again told the board that she had submitted a list of extra hours that she wished to get paid for.

See...**CLERK** pg. 10



**Debby Spicer was re-elected as Greenwood Township clerk in March.** file photo



## EXTREME WEATHER

# Wind and ice wreak havoc

## Lake Vermilion shore hit hard

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

**REGIONAL—** Intense straight-line winds blew down trees across the region on Monday, knocking out power to nearly 2,000 Lake Country Power customers for a time.

Few places were harder hit than the south shore of Birch Point on Lake Vermilion, where the intense winds, out of the southeast blew across miles of lingering ice on Big Bay, knocking down trees and sending huge slabs of

**Above: Highs winds Monday blew ice slabs on shore at Lake Vermilion’s Birch Point, damaging docks. Right: Chipper Johnson used a chain saw to clear trees knocked down by the extreme weather.**  
photos by M. HelMBERger

foot-thick ice up on shore, where it took out docks, boat lifts, and gouged shorelines.

“It all happened in a matter

See...**EXTREMES** pg. 9



## FIRE EDUCATION

# A burning experience

## VCC students in prescribed burn ‘classroom’

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

**ELY –** With the snow just recently melted, fire season is up and running in northern Minnesota. About 20 students in the Wildland Fire Control and Management class at Vermilion Community

College here took their classroom lessons into the field late last week and participated in a prescribed burn on the north edge of the campus.

This is one of the capstone classes for those VCC students in the Natural Resource Technology program, according to

instructor Ryan Miller.

“These second-year students all have fire qualifications, chainsaw experience and were at the point to do the prescribed burn field work,” he said.

Nearly two acres of marsh grass just off Savoy

See...**BURN** pg. 9



**Vermilion Community College students in the Wildland Fire Control and Management class monitored a prescribed burn last week on the north edge of the campus along Savoy Road.** photo by K. Vandervort

## ISD 696

# Preschool program proposed

## Early childhood education for Ely 3-year-old students

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

**ELY –**ISD 696 will likely implement a new three-year-old preschool program for the 2022-23 school year.

According to Interim Superintendent John Klarich, K-5 Principal Anne Oelke introduced the idea at recent school administrative meetings.

“I think it is a tremendous program,” he said. “She is kind of the brainchild behind this.”

Oelke introduced Mary Mattson, early childhood family education (ECFE) coordinator, and Kristi Marshall, school readiness coordinator, as big contributors to the proposal.

“The three of us work a lot together on early childhood, and how we can keep expanding our programs,” she said.

About five years ago, the Ely early childhood education program was expanded to add additional services to local families.

“Now as we look at our census for the three-year-old program coming up next year, there is a large group of three-year-olds, which is a good problem to have,” Oelke said. “However, our Happy Days (preschool) is changing their programming quite a bit, and we are gearing up that there might not be enough places for three-year-olds in the Head Start program. We crunched all the numbers and want to offer this program to our families.”

See...**ELY** pg. 9



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Community notices

Embarrass Region Fair needs volunteers; you can help

EMBARRASS – The 82nd Embarrass Region Fair needs volunteers to make the event happen. The Embarrass Region Fair Association (ERFA) needs volunteer coordinators for the exhibit hall, the parade, and the pageant. Other volunteer opportunities include gatekeepers during the fair weekend (August 26 -28) and to work at the “Miss or Little Miss”. Volunteers in any area are always welcome. For more information, contact Amber Johnson at 218-600-8517 or join a monthly meeting held the first Thursday before the first Saturday of the month at the Timber Hall/fairgrounds, 4855 Hwy. 21.

Alworth Fund welcomes four new board members

REGIONAL - Four northland leaders, Marieta Johnson, Maggie Skelton, James Spreitzer, and Jeffrey Wig, have been named to the board of directors of the Marshall H. and Nellie Alworth Memorial Fund. They join four other board members who, in collaboration with Alworth Memorial Fund staff and others, annually distribute numerous \$20,000 scholarships to students in a ten-county northern Minnesota region, with interests in pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Johnson, who resides in Tower, recently retired after 26 years as a leader in the Minnesota Judicial Branch. She received her Master’s Degree in Judicial Administration from the University of Denver Law School and later helped build the Virginia Community Foundation.

Skelton, who received her Master’s Degree in Engineering from UMD, is a chemical engineer at Minnesota Power. She serves on the Range Engineering Council Board and the UMD Chemical Engineering Advisory Committee. She resides in Grand Rapids.

Spreitzer, who received a Bachelor’s in Accounting from UMD, recently retired as managing partner for the Duluth office of RSM, an audit, tax, and consulting firm. He serves on the boards of the Human Development Center and Generations Health Care Initiatives. He previously served on the Duluth Area YMCA Board and Foundation and the Marshall School Board and Endowment.

Wig, vice president for entrepreneurship with the Little Falls based Initiative Foundation, earned a Master of Business Administration degree from St. Cloud State University. A Brainerd resident, he previously had positions there as director of its regional airport and a dean at Central Lakes College.

“The Alworth Memorial Fund is fortunate to have a diversity of interests, geographic representation and expertise on our board, which helps ensure we award scholarships to STEM students who reflect the diversity and talent of our region,” said Board President Patty Phillips.

“We welcome the additional perspectives and enthusiasm that Jeff, Jim, Maggie and Marieta bring to our board.”

The organization’s other board members are Lonnie Swartz, Vice President and Scholarship Committee Chair; Kurt Brooks, Treasurer; and Pam Thomsen.

The Marshall H. and Nellie Alworth Memorial Fund awards scholarships to students with interests in pursuing a bachelor’s degree in mathematics or scientific fields of study.

Edge Center hosts two June events

BIGFORK - June is special this year for the Edge Center because it is presenting two events in one month. The first event, part of the community wide celebration called “Wilderness Days”, will be performed by the Ragamala Dance Company. The Ragamala performance will be at the Bigfork city hall on Saturday, June 11 at 1 p.m. The second event will be on Saturday, June 25 at 7 p.m. on the Edge Center stage performed by “The Duluth Transit Authority.” The June 11 performance is free of charge. Tickets for the June 25 performance are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Masking is strongly advised for both events. Visit [www.edgecenterarts.org](http://www.edgecenterarts.org). The Edge Center is located at 101 2nd Ave. in Bigfork.

LIVE DANCE

Reflections Dance Spring Showcase on Wednesday, May 18

Singers auditions being held on May 22, 23

ELY- The Reflections Dance Company Spring Showcase will be held on Wednesday, May 18 at 6:30 p.m. at the VCC Fine Arts Theater. Tickets are \$5 at the door.

On Sunday, May 22 and Monday, May 23, both at 6 p.m., there will be singing auditions in the VCC Fine Arts Theater lobby for the Reflections Dance Company summer show. The company is looking for singers who can sing with a “pop” sensibility for the Reflections Dance Company chorus. The ability to read music and choir experience is a big plus. No dancing is required.



ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

Honor the Earth hosts informational “Frontier Project” meeting

ELY- Community members are invited to attend a public informational meeting hosted by Honor the Earth on Saturday, May 14 at 6 p.m. at Ely’s Historic State Theater about potential impacts from the proposed Huber “Frontier Project” timber mill in Cohasset. This project, if built, could affect those living within 100 miles of the project and become the state’s 12th largest polluter. The events will give area residents and Tribal citizens a chance to discuss the looming environmental damage the project could cause. Admission is free.

Leech Lake singer-songwriter and activist Annie Humphrey and fellow singer-songwriter activist (and former Pines member) David Huckfelt will perform at both events. A second meeting is set for Wednesday, May 18 in Duluth at 7 p.m. at the West Theater, 319 N. Central Ave. A \$10 donation is requested but no one will be turned away.

The “Frontier Project” timber mill operation in Cohasset could



Annie Humphrey and David Huckfelt will be performing in Ely on May 14.

become a major pollutor in the state and drastically increase deforestation in the north woods. It has received over \$80 million in state funding from various subsidies that lacked either Tribal input or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and has ignored any climate change impacts. The mill will create oriented strand board (OSB) used in new housing construction and consume more than 400,000 cords of wood or up to one million tons, annually. By

comparison, the Minnesota DNR in 2019 offered only 875,000 cords from all state land. Huber’s logging impact circle includes the entire Leech Lake reservation, the Chippewa National Forest, and a good portion of the White Earth and Red Lake reservations.

For more information, visit [www.ProtectMNforests.org](http://www.ProtectMNforests.org).

NORTHERN LAKES ARTS ASSOCIATION

NLAA enters 35th season with renewed vigor

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY - The past two years have been tough on arts organizations, and many have not weathered the storm of the coronavirus pandemic. However, this community’s Northern Lakes Arts Association (NLAA) not only survived, but is poised to enter its 35th year with renewed vigor, including a new logo, more arts programming, and a new managing director.

Just prior to the COVID-19 shutdown, NLAA commissioned local graphic designer Courtney Field of “Field of Dreams Arts and Crafts” to design a new logo for the organization.

“Field kept the most important components of the original NLAA logo, the beautiful blue waves of our namesake’s lakes, but created a fresh new design that captures our forward vision,” said NLAA’s Sara Skelton.



Ian Lah is the new director of NLAA

During the pandemic, NLAA continued to participate in outdoor arts projects like the Tuesday Night Artists’ Market in Whiteside Park, a drive-by art gallery show, and outdoor “chalk festivals.”

Last fall, NLAA presented live concerts, and an in-person and live-streaming radio play version of the Frank Capra classic “It’s a Wonderful Life” holiday show. In the spring, the Ely Community Spring Musical returned with a revue of Rodgers and Hammerstein’s hits, “A Grand Night for Singing,” to capacity audiences and high praise.

For upcoming events, NLAA is once again bringing back Prairie Fire Children’s Theater, the Ely City Band summer concerts, and the Tuesday Artists’ Market and the Chalk Fest from the past two years. A new season of offerings for fall and winter will be forthcoming.

In addition, they just announced the hiring of a new managing director, Ian Lah, who hopes to bring his rich background of arts activities and participation to the leader-

ship role, plus a vision for moving the organization forward.

Lah grew up in Ely and graduated from Ely Memorial High School in 2012. He attended and graduated from Minnesota State University, Mankato with a B.F.A. in acting and was made the Ted Paul Scholar, the top scholar of the program.

Following graduation, he danced with Darnal Stark’s company at the Kennedy Center before moving to Memphis, where he was an associate company member at Playhouse on the Square. While there, he was a cast member of several Ostrander-nominated productions. He then spent time as a company member at Thingamajig Theatre Company, Crane River Theatre Company, The Barn Theatre School For Advanced Theatre Training, The Springer Opera House, and The Legacy Theatre. During this time, he received two nominations for Broadway World Best Leading Actor and Best Supporting Actor. Ian and his husband Vladimir have recently relocated back to Ely and have be-

gun renovations on their home.

Lah said he sees much opportunity for growth with and through NLAA. Having worked with many theater companies around the states, he has an understanding of what it takes to make a successful arts organization in rural America.

“With NLAA, I intend to not only produce high quality events, but also produce events that engage and excite the community,” he said. “Investing in the arts only creates a more vibrant community. Through the arts there is untapped potential in the area, and I intend to tap into that potential to help the art scene in Ely blossom.”

Lah added, “NLAA has been a staple of the Ely community for almost 35 years. What is most important to me is making sure that the arts remain vibrant and strong in this community. If it wasn’t for my parents taking me to NLAA productions, the Greenstone arts camps, Prairie Fire Children’s Theatre, and the Concert Series, I would not have had the success and opportunity that I’ve had.”

Skelton added, “With Ian, our goal is to uplift Northern Lakes Arts Association so that others are afforded these opportunities as well.”

Northern Lakes Arts Association’s mission is to enrich the quality of life for their members, the community, and the surrounding area through support and development of the visual, literary, and performing arts.

“With 35 years of history behind us and a new vision ahead of us, NLAA is ready for the next chapter for the organization.”

For more information on NLAA, go to [www.northernlakesarts.org](http://www.northernlakesarts.org).

# COVID-19 Vaccine Appointments Available

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

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HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE

# Raising the colors

## New Holiday Flag flaps at Veterans on the Lake

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – Several of this community’s military veterans gathered at the flag pole at Veteran’s on the Lake Resort near here last Friday morning for a special flag raising.

A recently-donated American flag, measuring 10 feet by 15 feet and referred to as a Holiday Flag, was raised for the first time in honor of past board members of the facility, Robert “Nisky” Niskala and Richard “Dick” Zahn, who recently passed away.

The Ely Honor Guard, Ely VFW, and Eighth District Vice Chair Mary Thompson, along with the Navy Chiefs, a volunteer group who have been helping with various building projects and spring cleaning the resort, participated in the



ceremony. Gene Jarnigan, Chief of the Navy Chiefs, presented roses to members of the Niskala and Zahn families who attended the ceremony.

The Veterans on the Lake Holiday Flag will fly at the resort, located on Fall Lake, on Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Veterans Day and other special occasions.

Veterans on the Lake Resort was founded in

1982, and was organized by a group of northeastern Minnesota citizens passionate about finding recreational resources for veterans. Veterans on the Lake was started for the purpose of creating a recreational facility for disabled veterans to enjoy vacations. The resort has 2,700 feet of shoreline on nearly 25 acres situated on Superior National Forest land.

Above: Ely area veterans gathered to pay respects to former board members of Veterans on the Lake during the recent raising of a Holiday Flag at the facility on Fall Lake. photo by K. Vandervort

CITY OF TOWER

# Council approves subsidy for ambulance service

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

TOWER— The city council here, on Monday, approved tapping other city accounts to help finance the Tower Area Ambulance Service, which has been struggling financially as a result of a spike in payroll costs. The council agreed to transfer \$2,500 a month from its general fund or campground fund to the ambulance service’s operating account to help provide a financial cushion for the service, which has been struggling to make payroll since finally coming into compliance with state law regarding on-call scheduling.

Clerk-Treasurer Michael Schultz, in an agenda report to the council, noted that the ambulance service had been far out of compliance with a state statute, (144E.101, Subd. 3) that requires every service to maintain written on-call staffing 24 hours a day, seven days a week. “Until the summer of 2021, the

city was not close to meeting this requirement,” noted Schultz in his report. “Since then, the city has fully implemented the paid on-call schedule and is nearing 100 percent coverage.”

Proper staffing has come at a cost, however, including a nearly \$25,000 increase in labor costs for the first four months of the year. Paid on-call costs, which jumped from \$28,213 during the same period last year to \$53,265 this year, accounted for all of that increase. Other expenses were actually down slightly so far this year over the same period last year.

The service’s revenues have also declined as a result of fewer 911 calls as compared to last year’s record pace. Revenues were at \$80,217 through April 30, compared to \$93,342 during the same period last year.

According to Schultz, the city has not had to transfer any funds to cover the ambulance service expenses, at least to date, but Schultz said some kind

of assistances will be needed over the next several months. “It will be difficult to keep the ambulance bank account in the positive without some sort of financial assistance,” Schultz noted. The council approved the ambulance service subsidy for the next six months, and will likely take another look at the issue later in the year.

In related business, the council agreed to have the city attorney work with the local AFSCME union to develop an employment contract for the ambulance director, a position that has not been unionized in the past. “This would be an agreement that will have to be created from scratch,” said Mayor Dave Setterberg. The director’s request to unionize came in a letter sent months ago, but there’s been little progress on the request, to date. The council, on Monday, approved a motion to have the city attorney and clerk-treasurer work with the union to lay out the framework of a possible agree-

ment for council consideration.

In other action, the council approved a laundry list of financial account adjustments to zero out longstanding deficits in a number of city accounts. The city’s auditors have been pushing the city to clear up the deficits for more than a decade in some cases, but previous councils have made only limited progress. Setterberg noted that the city’s financial process is much cleaner and clearer than in the past, but the city continues to be “dinged” by the auditor over the past deficits.

“It would be nice to put the past behind us and get started on a new road,” said Setterberg.

Council member Joe Morin noted that the adjustments are really just on paper. “It doesn’t change what’s in any of the bank accounts,” he said. “It’s more perception than anything.”

In other action, the council:

- Agreed to establish a separate bank account for the Hoodoo Point Campground’s surcharge account. The campground

has been assessing a surcharge on guests since at least 2004, and those funds were supposed to be earmarked for capital improvements at the campground, although it’s unclear whether those funds were actually spent for that purpose. The city council, in 2014, had approved a motion to create a separate bank account for the surcharge funds, but the account was never opened. The surcharge has amounted to around \$20,000 annually.

Schultz noted that the separate account is not technically required, since the city is now allocating the money to the campground surcharge fund in its Banyon financial accounting program. Council member Kevin Norby motioned to establish the account and to place surcharge funds from 2020 and 2021, totaling about \$42,000, into the account.

Setterberg said he didn’t favor creation of a new bank

See COUNCIL...pg. 5

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# OPINION

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The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

## Editorial

### So much for freedom

In proposing to overturn *Roe*, high court sets the stage to take America backward

The law, as it develops over time through court decisions, is like a house that’s built on a foundation. Each precedent-setting decision is like another brick, which forms the base for the bricks laid above it and, eventually, for the entire house or legal edifice as the case may be.

Which is why Justice Samuel Alito is being disingenuous when he claims that his draft opinion overturning *Roe v. Wade* won’t impact rights well beyond the right to abortion, assuming it reflects the final version expected to be released by the high court next month.

Among Alito’s arguments for overturning *Roe* is that abortion is an “unenumerated right,” which means it is a right that’s not specifically spelled out in the U.S. Constitution. These are rights that previous courts have determined are found essentially by reading between the lines of the constitution or its various amendments.

A good example is the right of the public to access government records. Courts, for decades, have found that right to be implied through the First Amendment, which among other things, empowers a free press and provides the public the right to interact with its government. Without access to government records, courts have reasoned, neither the media nor the public can effectively exercise those clearly-expressed constitutional rights.

This is a longstanding view, and in similar manner, courts in this country have slowly but steadily built a legal basis for expanding other rights of Americans, whether it’s the right to protest their elected leaders, or simply the right to be left alone.

The U.S. Supreme Court, now emboldened by its three Trump appointees, appears poised to take the U.S. in the opposite direction, by dismantling rights that Americans have come to take for granted. That includes, notably, our long-recognized right to government records. In a 2013 case, *McBurney v. Young*, written not surprisingly by Justice Alito, the Supreme Court determined that Americans have no constitutional right to access public records. One effect of that ruling is that hundreds of thousands of township residents in Minnesota no longer have a legal basis for requesting township records.

And there are many other rights that Americans are poised to lose if Alito and his followers on the court continue down this path. The 1973 *Roe* decision didn’t come out of nowhere after all. It was built

on a brick-by-brick foundation stemming from previous court rulings that had found a right to privacy within the due process clause of the 14th Amendment. That right effectively gave Americans the ability to make their own decisions about who they love, who they marry, and when to reproduce.

In writing his money quote, “We hold that *Roe* and *Casey* must be overruled. The Constitution makes no reference to abortion, and no such right is implicitly protected by any constitutional provision,” Alito could have been referring to any of dozens of rights that Americans have achieved in recent decades. That includes the right to use contraception, the right to interracial marriage, or the right to same-sex marriage. Indeed, Alito all but acknowledges this later in his opinion, criticizing previous court precedents that established these same rights, dismissing them as “appeals to a broader right to autonomy.” To the current high court, Americans don’t have a right of autonomy or freedom of private action and Congress and the states are free, once again, to impose laws that restrict abortion, prohibit interracial or same-sex marriage, or ban the use of contraception. Many abortion opponents have long been opposed to the most common forms of birth control, such as the IUD or most pill forms of contraception under the idea that they work by preventing implantation of a fertilized egg. Many American women could soon be living in states where both birth control and abortion is outlawed. Welcome to The Handmaid’s Tale.

For most of the past century, America has made important steps forward in expanding personal liberty to all, including women and minorities, through a growing recognition that a constitution that granted Americans freedom to pursue happiness, by definition, could not give government the power to pry intrusively into our personal lives. Today’s radical Supreme Court may be willing to dismiss Americans’ right to autonomy, yet without personal autonomy, there is no liberty, and there will be nothing preventing Republican majorities from taking America back to the 1800s, when liberty was a privilege for white, straight males only.

Justice Alito has been leading this effort on the court for years. After four years of Trump, he now has a working majority to dismantle, brick-by-brick, the freedoms and personal liberty that Americans have come to expect in the 21st Century.



## Letters from Readers

### Thanks for Cecilia Rolando’s haiku

Thanks for running Cecilia Rolando’s contribution to the *Timberjay*. It is the first item I read each Friday. So uplifting  
**Renee Notebook Cook**

### Folks in Ely will remember how the police made them feel

Sometimes there’s not much to do during late winter and early spring in Ely, yet what you hear makes up for it. That was the case after the inspiring Oshkigin Spirit of Fire film and discussion on April 21, when I and a charming speech therapist were the last to exit the Historic State Theater, as an Ely Police vehicle drove past us, through the green light. She uttered an “oh no”, and my spontaneous, joking response was: “Do you have any outstanding warrants?”

“No, none that I’m aware of,” she said smiling, but she offered an in-depth explanation of a recent encounter with local law enforcement. This very friendly woman was almost pulled over off the rutted snow-covered street when she was forced to stop with the explosion of lights in her rear view mirror, and she cautiously put the vehicle into park. That rush of adrenaline has happened to many of us as she powered down her door window. As I recall, after the first officer’s accusational questions, she could not finish her first sentence.

Taken aback, a few unfriendly statements were sent through the frigid air into her car, and a frightening feeling came over her when the second officer was equally short and deliberate. Then the defensive emotionally verbal thought response was “I’ve done nothing wrong,” and I believe without a citation, she was on her way to speak with our chief of police about what happened to her and how she was treated as a member of the Ely community, as a professional educator, as a human being. And none of it was appreciated by our

chief as he defended his officers. This articulate, intelligent woman left his office upset and disheartened, and to me, that is unacceptable and why, now, I’ll finally speak up. (A decade back I was trained and then hired for several months to teach Third Precinct Minneapolis cops “crisis” training, and then asked to vet some of the officers I was working with). That is the insight into what I’m addressing.

Personally, I’ve had run-ins with law enforcement and just recently with county sheriffs and Ely police. I have good relations with police in Wayzata Minnetonka and Deephaven, Minn., where the Chief attended our Vermilion Community College and a local sergeant’s last name is Whiteside, great grandson to Ely’s Robert C. Whiteside and a unique friend is a federal agent out of Duluth. So I do know it’s the most difficult job there is, for the money. Yet honestly, I’ve been treated more respectfully and kindly from St. Louis and Lake County sheriffs with emergency transportation requests due to a medical issue. That shows that many good women and men are serving the public for the right reasons, showing the best example of why they took the plunge into protecting and serving the community in the first place. Not so with several of our local Ely police who frankly could be looking to relocate. During the Harvest Moon Festival last Sept. 4, officers walked through the park, sunglasses on with full armor protection, perhaps a training mission, yet for the 25 minutes I observed them, not once did they engage anyone in a community service manner. Not once. And that’s not right.

Recalling the simple and profound words of Maya Angelou, “I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.” What part of that will our police chief instill in his officers, and how soon, if at all?

**Mark Haarman**  
Ely

### Proper education empowers citizens

**CITIZEN EMPOWERMENT.** Fact, inquiry and values are essential for an open mind to serve humankind. To develop freely toward fulfillment and wholeness requires truth and authenticity in practicing what we preach. People’s History tells the story of all of us, not just some of us. Fabled history teaches dishonesty, favoritism and abuse of power.

**DESCRIBE.** We know knowledge is power! Knowing what refers to content, information and fact. Yet descriptive knowledge, isolated and disconnected, tells us little more than to serve the status quo. Knowing names, dates and places yields little understanding. Knowing who, what, where and when in context is essential to discovering deeper truths.

**ANALYZE.** Critical reasoning puts how and why to work in pursuit of truth. Know-how involves skill and competency honed through experience and education for theoretical or practical understanding. Know-why analysis rejects dogma to require that we learn to doubt, question, gather evidence and connect the dots to see the big picture. To know we see, to understand we grasp and with feeling, we move to act.

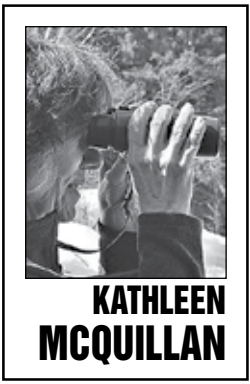
**PRESCRIBE.** From fact, evidence, reason and inquiry we move into the domain of values. Beliefs, ideals, principles and values we hold dear move us to what should or ought to be. Analysis of what should or ought to be is crucial to knowing our unvarnished history and our current quality of life.

**CONCLUDE.** Citizen empowerment is at the core of civic education. Empowerment, taught with an open-ended approach, explores ideas and issues. Fact and evidence must be examined in context with our ideals, values and principles. History tells us from where we came, to understand where we are and then act on where we ought to go.

**Harold Honkola**  
Stillwater

## When “Lean on me” becomes essential to survival

In her article entitled, “Taking Care: Our interdependencies, from nursing homes to glaciers,” that appears in the Spring 2022 edition of *Orion Magazine*, British essayist Daisy Hildyard dives in deep to explore our integral relationship and experience with dependency, sustainability, and adaptation. Through her thoughtful and sensitive



**KATHLEEN  
MCQUILLAN**

voice, she provokes thought and questions concerning these and related concepts that intersect in our personal and communal lives. She does so through the stories of three women living on different continents, in unique circumstances, with inter-related perspectives on

survival.

Hildyard visits Anne, a

woman in a skilled-nursing facility in London where she has resided for years since the onset of post-polio syndrome. Her gradual decline in physical mobility increased the need for assistance with her personal care and daily activities. Anne had lived life as a global traveler. Hiking and mountain climbing were her passions. When polio reappeared in mid-life, her experience of “loss” was devastating. But along her journey, she realizes that her life is not over. The article describes her gradually developing an

expertise with “adaptation,” stemming from her passion for adventure, her imagination, and her tenacious path to discovery.

Pomm, a mother of three children, lives and works in a residential care facility near Chiang May, Thailand. She lives with and provides round-the-clock care to Elizabeth, who was placed in this facility by her daughter who was no longer able to care for her. If there was such an attentive and luxurious care facility in England, she would never have been able to afford it. So, she gratefully

receives Pomm’s assistance.

Pomm is separated from her children by many miles and seldom sees them. They are in their village, cared for by their father so that Pomm can earn the money needed to provide for their most basic needs. Hildyard brings these intersecting realities together so that we can reflect on the meaning and implications of inter-dependency.

A provocative twist is that through the examination of these

See **SURVIVAL...pg. 5**



Letters from Readers

Stauber opposes our way of life in the Eighth

When I hear, ad nauseam, Congressman Stauber’s statement about how he is fighting for “our way of life” I wonder what he means by this. By researching his voting record, it reveals what Congressman Stauber believes is our way of life here in the Eighth Congressional District.

He recently voted against a bill that would put a \$35 dollar cap on an insured individual’s payment for insulin. So, our way of life means that his pharmaceutical company donors and the pharmaceutical company’s profits are more important than his constituents who struggle each month to find the resources to pay for their insulin.

He voted against the John Lewis Voting Rights Act which tells us that our way of life means accepting that only certain people should be allowed to have access to the ballot box.

Congressman Stauber’s vote against the infrastructure bill that will provide new federal investments in America’s infrastructure

over five years, touching everything from bridges and roads to the nation’s broadband, water and energy systems, shows that none of this is needed here in the Eighth District because investing in our local infrastructure is certainly not our way of life.

Our way of life, according to Stauber, certainly does not include protecting a union’s right to organize, so he proudly voted against that piece of legislation.

And you might think that bipartisan legislation labeled the COMPETES ACT that will increase U.S. production of semiconductor chips, strengthen the supply chain to make more goods in America, and invest in scientific research and new technologies, would qualify as our way of life. Yet, apparently not, according to his strong NO vote.

All his rhetoric and recorded votes reveals that Mr. Stauber truly believes “our way of life” requires the taxing of the middle class but not the wealthy or corporations. For the rich, he favors tax breaks and increasing our nations deficit and debt, while sunseting Medicare and Social Security as the Republican 11-point plan calls

for. Our way of life apparently involves signing onto lawsuits to overturn an elections if he does not like the result, working diligently to turn democracy into autocracy, supporting Putin over Ukraine, telling women how to live their reproductive lives or determining who can marry whom and banning books that make someone uncomfortable.

It is painfully apparent by Stauber’s voting record that he is voting in perfect mindless conformity with the corporate and radical authoritarian right wing interests of the Republican Party, a record that clearly shows how out of touch he is to his constituents back in the Eighth. We the citizens of the Eighth and our real “way of life” deserve so much more than to be represented in Washington by Mr. Stauber.

George Pliml Cook

Americans are brainwashed on Ukraine

There is nothing more important than peace in the world and so I say shame on the Representatives and Senators,

including those from Minnesota, who aren’t doing all possible to bring peace between the U.S. -NATO and Russia.

Shame on them, including the irresponsible President who has brought the world very close to a possible nuclear war. It isn’t Russia that has refused to negotiate peace. It is America.

The media has brainwashed the American citizen into thinking that Russia is the demon here when that is not the case. The media is mostly refusing to inform us of Russia’s legitimate security needs. Anyone in Washington government circles who has not worked for peace but is, instead, pushing for more weapons for Ukraine, needs to be impeached and jailed. Shame is being brought on to America once again. Washington is gambling with the very survival of life on Earth as we know it. America doesn’t care about Ukrainians, only to weaken Russia who is not an enemy of the U.S. Ukrainians are being thrown under the bus so that the U.S can steal more of the world’s resources.

Steve Johnson Ely

Thanks to Dr. Erin Bremner and the staff at Ely Vision Center

Thank you to Dr. Erin Bremner and all the kind, caring, efficient and professional staff at the Ely Vision Center.

When I came in with my eye injury, you all acted immediately to get me into the finest group of eye surgeons in Minnesota.

You truly saved my eyesight! Through my five eye surgeries, you made yourself and all the resources of your practice available to me 24/7.

We are extremely fortunate to have you, your staff, and your vision center in Ely.

I don’t think the outcome would have been the same if I trusted my sight to a Big Box stores’ optometry department.

Terry Peterson Ely

Board considers request to allow smudging in district schools

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

VIRGINIA- A traditional Ojibwe cleansing and purification ritual known as smudging may become available to Native American students in ISD 2142 during the school day after a request made at Tuesday’s school board study session received initial favorable responses from board members.

Bois Forte Band member Shane Drift, a member of the tribal council, made the request as he talked about the practice and its meaning.

Smudging involves the use

of sage, cedar, and sweetgrass, all sacred vegetation in Ojibwe culture, to create a smoldering ember. The rising smoke is then passed around people, objects, or spaces, and even inhaled, to bring about the desired cleansing and purification, Drift said.

“I do it every other morning, I’ll smudge myself down, I’ll smudge my kids down before they go to school,” Drift said. “People smudge their sacred items, their pipes, their jingle dresses, their feathers, they smudge their houses, their cars. I smudge my office down. It goes on as needed.”

In response to numerous curious questions from the board,

Drift said that smudging for students in schools would be done by adults and not independently by students, should be in a designated enclosed space indoors, or outside, and should be available whenever possible when students decide they need to smudge. Parental permission would need to be given, and care would need to be taken to identify anyone whose allergies might be exacerbated by any of the smudging elements. He also said that while smudging naturally creates an odor, doing it in a more confined space would keep the scents from permeating the building.

District Director of Teaching and Learning Kristi Berlin pointed out that district policies

already contain a provision that allows Native adults to light and use tobacco for ceremonial purposes in school buildings and suggested that could be interpreted to allow for smudging.

Drift noted the Duluth schools were now allowing smudging and said he hoped that smudging could be used at upcoming graduation ceremonies.

Board members were amenable to moving forward with Drift’s request, with the possibility that formal action could be taken as soon as their May 24 meeting.

Student expelled

Following on the heels of a community meeting in Cook to discuss concerns about North

Woods School and behavioral issues, including bullying, board members approved the expulsion of a student identified only as “SLC-NW-X1-21-22.” The resolution stated that on or about April 19, this student violated school regulations by punching, striking, and hitting another student, causing him bodily harm, and indicating the behavior constituted assault and battery.

The student was expelled for 12 months, during which time the district has responsibility to provide appropriate alternative educational services.

SURVIVAL...Continued from page 4

three women’s experiences with weakening physical ability and increased dependency, Hildyard walks us down the path of not only our own entropic process but also that of Planet Earth’s. With many undeniable signs staring us in the face — physical changes related to the human body’s natural aging process as well as climatic changes resulting from careless human activity — Hildyard turns attention to our precarious future. She respectfully reconsiders the concept of sustainability versus adaptation, and then points out that they needn’t be in opposition.

Much of her writing is devoted to the delicate balance between Earth’s multiple species and the intricate web of environmental systems that support their/our existence. When it comes to “survival”, it’s a shared future in which we are, indeed, all in this together. And whether we admit it or not, Mother Nature is very much in charge.

The article becomes an active read. It was difficult

to passively cruise through it, absorbing the story for its own sake. The women’s experiences surrounding the need for and the delivery of “assisted care” carried me back to the years I cared for my own aging mother. Together, we travelled a long road exploring “interdependencies”. When she died in 2018, it became very clear how, and how much, we needed one another. My mother gave me a preview of the inevitable losses, the grief, and the fears. But once we accepted what was happening, we also discovered grace. It was acceptance and humbling in the face of what we could not control. And it led to deeper love for one another and pure joy with the days that we had left together, present through the journey right to “The End.” It was in this period that we began to understand what really mattered, shifted our priorities, and began to adapt. In short, we were determined to make each day “a good one.”

Hildyard’s writing helps expand that same awareness from the person-

al, micro-level to the planetary, macro. She hints it is our only hope. She doesn’t lay out a ten-point plan. She doesn’t inkle a way forward. She merely paints the picture and invites us to gaze into it and then draw our own conclusions. She shows us the beauty that becomes visible in our interdependency when it is valued. She sheds light on the elements that must be present so that it “works”. And she also shows how social systems can interfere or actually destroy the Love that is the heart and soul of “caring” — for people, the planet, or anything else, for that matter.

By the time we reach the final paragraph, the intersections between our human interdependencies and those found in our natural environment, become clearer. We are more able to see the necessity to rearrange our current priorities and admit that the clock is ticking. We still have choices. To be open to the journey. To cooperate.

I will try to remember Anne, experiencing Life as an adventurer, knowing

full well there’ll be trails to navigate and mountains to climb. I’ll try to remember Pomm, accepting the challenges of her life with a positive vision for her future and her family’s — an attitude necessary for her to do her work with such sincere respect and devotion to Elizabeth. And I’ll remember Elizabeth, receiving Pomm’s assistance and support with gratitude and grace instead of resistance and anger.

These three women have entered my Hero Hall of Fame. Their stories have the power to help guide me through the uncertain times ahead. I’ll try to remember to apply their wisdom and fortitude. This story replenished for me our collective, life-affirming, reservoir of Hope. Hope, the cornerstone for our confidence, that we really can make things better in the disconcerting times we are facing.

Daisy Hildyard has written a beautiful story, and one that is well worth the read.

Chief Reing, who was in attendance at the meeting. Chief Reing said he wanted to maintain open communication with the city.

➤ Gave the second and final reading of the city’s new garage and storage ordinance.

➤ Sold the city’s former grader to Mike Forsman whose high bid of \$6,277.16 exceeded the city’s minimum bid for the vehicle.

➤ Sold the city’s water and sewer line jetter to C&C Winger whose sole bid of \$2,222.22 exceeded the minimum bid set for the equipment.

COUNCIL...Continued from page 3

account and felt that it would require unnecessary paperwork to track. Schultz said any additional work would be minimal and that a bank account could provide more confidence that the funds would be there when needed for capital improvements.

➤ Heard from Schultz that the campground will now be charged for its sewer discharge. Since its connection to the municipal system, the city has not charged the campground for its discharges. Based on its calculated volumes, the city will charge the campground \$1,717.13 for

the past year.

➤ Heard an update on a proposed new AFSCME union contract for city workers, but tabled action on the contract until the council could schedule a closed session to discuss it.

➤ Approved a new contract for up to \$7,500 with city grant writer and manager Nancy Larson.

“I think she’s a great asset who has brought a lot of money into the city,” said Morin.

➤ Authorized up to \$500 in expenditures to support this year’s Tidy Up Tower spring clean-up. Morin suggested that the

city focus its clean-up on more public spaces rather than backyards and that it stop accepting household trash that should be the responsibility of homeowners. City hall will work to establish dates for the effort.

➤ Approved issuing an RFP for the new city trailhead and Main Street extension near the harbor.

➤ Approved amending TEDA’s enabling resolution to allow for other area elected officials, besides members of the council, to serve on the board.

➤ Received their first police report under Police



the TIMBERJAY

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Week of May 16

**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).

Little Church to meet on Saturday, May 14, service set for Sunday, May 22

VERMILION LAKE TWP- The Little Church Committee will meet on Saturday, May 14 at 10 a.m., and will hold a spring clean-up after the meeting.

The church will also be hosting a service on Sunday, May 22 at 4 p.m. with Jon Salo. There will be coffee an’ following the service.

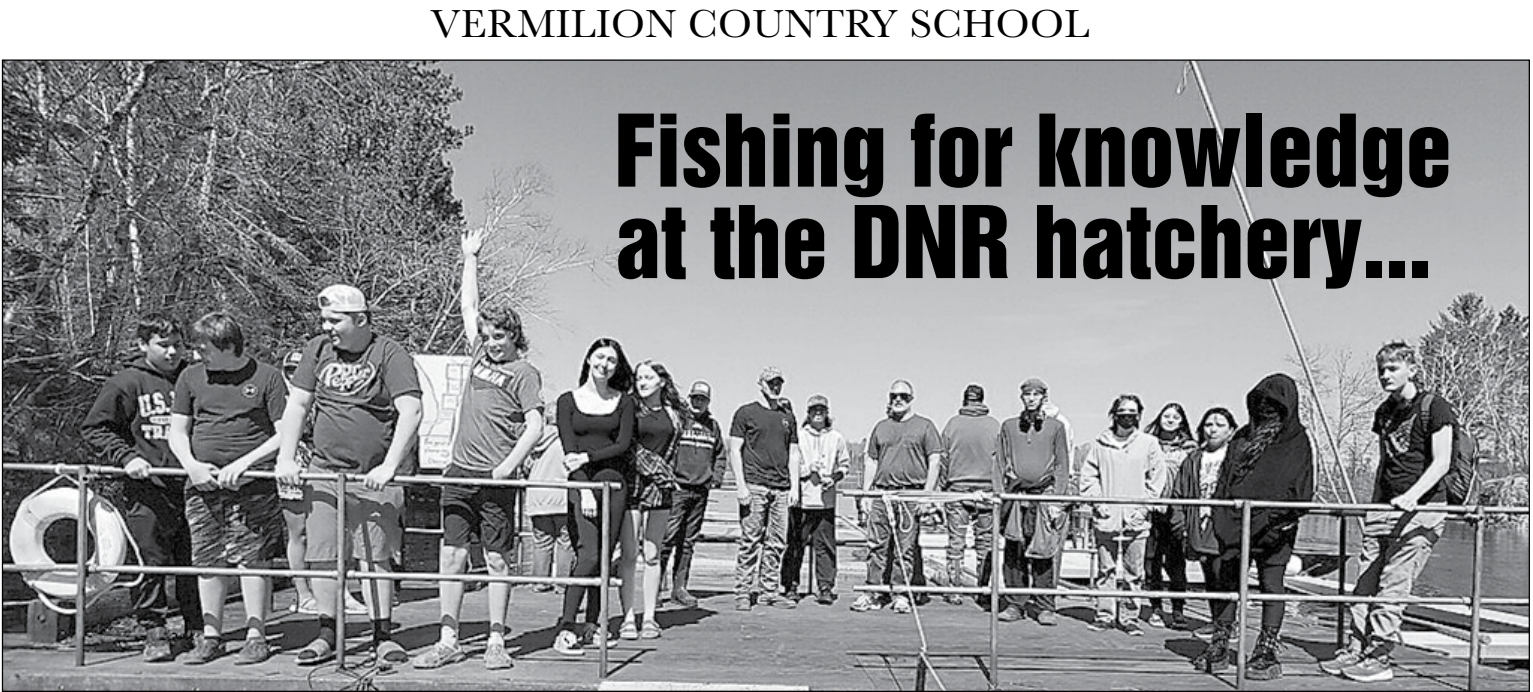
The committee is open to everyone in the area who is interested in keeping The Little Church preserved and maintained in our community. The group also hosts a men’s group that meets every Thursday at 9 a.m. for coffee and conversation. All are welcome. The Little Church is located in Vermilion Lake Township on Cty. Rd. 26/Wahlsten Rd. Please contact Len Hujanen at 218-749-2014 with any questions.

TS Joint Powers Rec Board meets May 24

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Joint Powers Recreation Board will meet on Tuesday, May 24 at 8:30 a.m. at Sulu’s in Tower. All funding requests must be made in advance, in writing, to Terri Joki-Martin, Tower City Hall, PO Box 576, Tower, MN 55790.

Depot Museum volunteers needed

TOWER- Are you willing to share your time and enthusiasm greeting visitors to the Tower-Soudan Historical Society Depot Museum this summer? TSHS hopes to have the Depot Museum open seven days a week from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. with area volunteers. Support from the community is crucial. We are looking for people willing to commit to a three-hour shift throughout the summer (Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend), on a flexible basis. Training is provided. Please contact TSHS secretary Linda Folstad at 218 750-0193 or email [tshssecretary@gmail.com](mailto:tshssecretary@gmail.com) by May 15 for more information.



Vermilion Country School students toured the Pike River Hatchery last week, and got a close-up look at the egg collection and hatching operations. submitted photo

HIGH-SPEED INTERNET  
Prospective North Country broadband supplier under fire

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- In a move that could have major implications for the expansion of broadband internet services in the North Country, prospective developer LTD Broadband has come under fire again from two Minnesota telecom trade groups who filed an action Friday that would strip the company’s ability to utilize \$311 million in federal funding to build out services in under-served areas.

Minnesota Telecom Alliance and the Minnesota Rural Electric Association jointly filed a petition with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission claiming that LTD does not have the capacity to deliver on its obligation to provide fiber optic broadband to more than 160,000 Minnesotans living in unserved areas. They want the MPUC to rescind its June 2021 designation of LTD as an “eligible telecommunications carrier” (ETC), and in so doing make LTD ineligible to receive the federal Rural Digital Opportunity Fund monies.

“LTD’s inability to deliver on its commitments will harm over 160,000 Minnesota residents who will ultimately never receive the broadband service LTD promised in its RDOF bid,” the groups asserted in their filing. “As a result, the ability of these residents to obtain access to quality broadband service will be delayed at least until LTD’s designation as an ETC is removed.”

Local impact

LTD was a moderately-sized internet provider going into the 2020 FCC auction, with about 100 employees serving about 18,000 customers in six states, mostly in Minnesota.

But LTD walked away from that auction as the largest awardee in the nation, winning service

area development bids worth \$1.32 billion in federal funding to build broadband infrastructure for nearly 530,000 residents in 15 states.

That winning bid included nearly all of the federally eligible tracts in the North Country outside of already established broadband providers such as Midco and Frontier Communications. Because the Minnesota Border-to-Border Broadband Development initiative will not give state subsidies for development in FCC-designated tracts, LTD’s FCC funding gives them a virtual lock on otherwise unprofitable development in these areas.

Paul Bunyan Communications was forced to eliminate numerous potential service locations from its broadband project for Cook because they were in FCC tracts awarded to LTD, and PBC could not use its Border-to-Border grant to pay for extending its service to those areas.

Greenwood Township is an area awarded to LTD in the FCC auction and an example of how the award can affect future development. The township has the option to wait for LTD to build its broadband network there, and the FCC monies make it a viable economic venture for LTD. Township officials have been working with another company to explore possibilities for getting service faster than they might through LTD, but cost is a serious issue. Greenwood is like all of the other tracts in the FCC auction in that companies have found the expense of serving them to be cost prohibitive without government subsidies. LTD is the only company qualified to receive subsidies for a project in Greenwood right now.

However, if the ETC designation for LTD is revoked by the PUC, they would be declared in default of their agreement with

the FCC and lose access to those funds. Other companies could then step up to compete for alternative funding to build out service, according to information provided to the *Timberjay* on Tuesday by FCC spokesperson Anne Veigle.

“The FCC publishes a list of the census blocks where providers have defaulted, thereby making those places available for other broadband funding opportunities,” she said. “There are alternative funding programs for broadband deployment that are readily available. Numerous federal and state programs have been established or are being established to promote and fund broadband deployment, and many providers have expressed interest in serving the areas that were eligible for Auction 904.”

That would appear to include funding from the Border-to-Border Initiative, however program officials did not respond to the *Timberjay’s* request for confirmation of that by press time.

Troubled startup

LTD Broadband has already defaulted on over \$300 million worth of awards in six states by failing to obtain designation as an ETC by the FCC’s 180-day deadline and having their requests for extensions denied by the FCC. In the cases of California, Kansas, and Oklahoma, the FCC found that LTD “failed to engage in good faith efforts to pursue and obtain the required ETC designation.” In all three situations, LTD had seriously delayed submitting its applications for ETC designations by up to five and six months, well beyond the established times needed for those applications to be considered. LTD has filed appeals with the FCC for at least four of the states where they have been declared in default.

In February, South Dakota

dealt another blow to the company when the public utilities commission there denied LTD’s application for ETC status not for timeliness, but because they were not convinced LTD could deliver what it promised.

According to the South Dakota regulators, the company failed to provide plans or data about how it would essentially start up a fiber construction company and undergo a huge company expansion; had not done basic legwork like produce engineering plans or obtain easements for crossing private, tribal and national forest land; and failed to show its cost estimates were accurate or even considered cost factors like soil and rock composition or dealt with supply chain issues.

“The Commission concludes that LTD has not demonstrated ... ability to provide the supported services throughout the designated service area within a reasonable time frame.”

LTD is still contesting the ruling, according to an interview with company president Corey Hauer that was published by MinnPost.

Like many in the broadband industry, the Minnesota Telecom Alliance and Minnesota Rural Electric Association seriously question LTD’s ability to deploy fiber-optic-based, high-speed broadband because their primary service modality has been to use wireless tower-based service for internet access.

Hauer disagrees, contending that LTD is ahead of its competitors. While older, traditional broadband providers might not be able to build fiber at the costs he has promised, he says he can and will prove it to regulators in South Dakota and elsewhere.

MinnPost contributed to this story.

Upcoming guest speakers at St. James Presbyterian Church

TOWER- Linda Kronholm will be the guest speaker at St. James Presbyterian Church on Sunday, May 15 at 10 a.m. Her message is “A Place of Rest.” Scriptures for the day are Psalm 62:5-8, Matthew 11: 28,29 and Philippians 4: 4-7.

Nathan Thompson, Executive Director of North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity will be the guest speaker on Sunday, May 22 at 10 a.m.

Everyone in the community is cordially invited to attend the Sunday service.

Movie Night at St. James on Sunday, May 15

TOWER- St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower is hosting a free movie night on Sunday, May 15 at 6 p.m. The movie is “Brother White.” James White is one of

rifice for our country.

Dianna Sundahl will be the guest speaker. The names of local veterans killed in action and deceased veterans will be read. A medley of patriotic songs will be sung by the Tower Soudan Area Singers under the direction of Rolf Anderson.

The Tower Soudan Area Singers will practice on Mon-

day, May 9, Tuesday, May 17, and Tuesday, May 24, at 6 p.m. at St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower. If you are interested in joining the singers, contact Rolf Anderson at 218-753-3262. All are welcome.

The program will conclude with a traditional Memorial Day wreath placed on a symbolic Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

in a ceremony to be held outside the Civic Center.

Refreshments, provided by the Tower Soudan Civic Club, will be served before and following the tribute. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend this heartwarming event.

Memorial Day Tribute planned for May 30 at Civic Center



HIGHER EDUCATION



VERMILION COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
CLASS OF 2022

After two years of a virtual-only ceremony, the Class of 2022 at Vermilion Community College here gathered in person for a Commencement celebration on Tuesday that included the traditional class photo on the rock outside the physical education building. Eighty graduates of the Class of 2022 participated in VCC’s 99th Commencement in the school gymnasium. Special guests and speakers will included Eric Davis, Minnesota State Vice Chancellor for Human Resources, Northeast Higher Education District, and soon to be Minnesota North, President, Michael Raich. VCC Alum Timothy Mannuzza was the keynote speaker for the evening. photo by K. Vandervort

SUSTAINABILITY

Ely celebrates Arbor Day

ELY –Members of the Ely Tree Board, Friends of the Trees of Ely, and Ely Community Resource gathered with several volunteers last Saturday to celebrate National Arbor Day. Arbor Day was established by Nebraska’s governor back in 1874. Today it is celebrated around the world, usually the last Friday in April. Trees provide clean air and water, cooling shade, habitat for wildlife, healthy communities and natural beauty. Trees also moderate the effects of sound, prevent excess water runoff and soil erosion. Local fans of trees gath-

ered at Whiteside Park for a brief lesson on mulching, tree pruning and caring for the city’s young trees, then split up to get the city’s trees ready for summer. Vehicles with trailers full of mulch were strategically dispatched around the city as the volunteers inspected and maintained the city’s newly planted foliage. They regrouped at Ely Presbyterian church for a free lunch courtesy of ECR and a reading of the Arbor Day proclamation. This year, the Superior National Forest is planting one million seedlings (once planting season finally arrives).



Ely Tree Board member Mary Groeninger explains tree mulching and pruning techniques in Whiteside Park last week during an Arbor Day celebration. photo by K. Vandervort

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2022

how high the water  
running water oh so high

last year's opposite

Libraries

Ely library

Hours: Monday — Friday,  
9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.  
Closed on Saturday,  
Sunday, and holidays  
Phone: 218-365-5140

ELY MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

Class officers, student council announced for 2022-2023

ELY – Memorial High School class officer and student council elections for the 2022-2023 were held last week. ➤Student Council - President: Madison Rohr, Vice President: Kole Macho, Secretary: Blake Walsh, Treasurer: Ambrose Richter. ➤Senior Class-President: Gunnar Hart, Vice President: Joey Bianco, Secretary: Audrey Thomas, Treasurer: Maggie Dammann,

Representatives: Lily Tedrick, Rachel Coughlin, Kate Coughlin, Juliet Stouer. ➤Junior Class - President: Grace LaTourell, Vice President: Ava Skustad, Secretary: Tommy Homer, Treasurer: Esther Anderson, Representatives: Brielle Lindland, Sarah Visser, Kiarstin Eaton, Robert Towley. ➤Sophomore Class - President: Janae Murphy, Vice President:

Senja Kess, Secretary: Kennedy Zupancich, Treasurer: Maija Mattson, Representatives: Rylee Larson, Bella Davis, Clare Thomas, Brady Eaton. ➤Freshmen Class - President: Bria Marshall, Vice President: Zoe Mackenzie, Secretary: Alison Poppler, Treasurer: Summit Smith, Representatives: Otto Devine, Ella Perish, Alla Harding, Tatum Gubrud.

Tuesday Group

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 17 - Meet Grant Hauschild, candidate for Minnesota Senate District 3.

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 Ledgerrock Church, 1515 E. Camp St., Ely.  
BABBITT AA - 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church  
AL-ANON - Sundays 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely. For persons who encounter alcoholism in a relative or friend.  
BABBITT AL-ANON - Thursdays, 7 p.m., at Woodland Presbyterian.  
CO-DEPENDENTS' 12-step support group, noon Fridays, St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Ely.  
ADULT BASIC EDUCATION GED Study materials and pre-test available. Call 218-365-3359, or 1-800-662-5711.  
CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS: Babbitt: 3rd Monday of Month: 6-7:30 p.m. at Carefree Living Ely: 4th Monday of Month: 10-11:30 a.m. at Ely-Bloomenson Hospital

Ely Police Department Activity April 15-30, 2022

Arrests/Citations:

Trespassing- Individual issued a citation for trespassing. Traffic Stop- Individual issued a citation for Driving after Suspension. Traffic Stop- Individual arrested for 4th Degree DWI and Carrying a firearm while intoxicated.

Complaints:

Theft- Officers were informed about a theft at a local business. This case is under investigation. Mental Health- Officers contacted an individual that was having a mental health issue. Officers assisted the person in getting help. Check Welfare- Officers checked on an individual that had not shown up for work. The person was located safe. Information- Officers were informed about an individual that sold a car and was having issues with a title transfer. Suspicious Activity- Officers were contacted about a theft of a package. Officers determined the person to be dropping off paperwork.

Loud Music- Officers were called about music playing too loud. The individual agreed to turn it down. Unwanted Person- Officers were asked to tell a person that they were not welcome at a business. The individual agreed to leave. Disturbance- Officers were called about a person outside a residence singing and yelling. Officers located the person who was brought home for the night. Medical- Officers assisted the Ely Ambulance with a medical. Funeral Escort- Officers led an escort for a funeral. Suspicious Activity- Officers responded to a person that was acting strange at a local business. Officers arrived and the person was asked to leave. Scam- Officers were informed about a scam call. Medical- Officers assisted the Ely Ambulance with a medical. Public Assist- Application for a permit to purchase. Check Welfare- Officers checked on an individual that had not answered their phone. The person was located safe.

Call Back- Officers were called for questions about a harassment order. Medical- Officers assisted the Ely Ambulance with a medical. Public Assist- Individual let back into his/her residence. Theft- Officers were contacted about a theft. The individual located the package a short time later. Found Property- Officers were called about property that was located at a local business. The property was returned to the owner. Assist Other Agency- Officers assisted a neighboring agency check a residence for a missing person. Suspicious Activity- Officers were contacted about someone taking items from a yard. Officers determined the person to have permission. Assist Other Agency- Officers assisted a neighboring agency check a residence for a missing person. Trouble Neighbor- Officers were contacted about a dispute of property. Officers mediated the situation. Mental Health- Officers

contacted an individual that was having a mental health issue. Officers determined the person was not a harm to themselves or others. Security Alarm- Officers were contacted about a security alarm at a local business. Officers determined this to be a false alarm. Assist Other Agency- Officers assisted a neighboring agency check a residence for a missing person. Animal Disturbance- Officers were called about a dead deer in town. Officers called the Wolf Center to feed the wolves. Medical- Officers assisted the Ely Ambulance with a medical. Suspicious Activity- Officers were called about a person who was taking pictures. Officers were unable to locate anyone matching the description. Damage to Property- Officers were called about damage to a window. This case was sent for charges. Medical- Officers assisted the Ely Ambulance with a medical.



PROM NIGHT

2022



North Woods School students put on their finest duds last Saturday for prom night festivities, including a grand parade in the high school gym filled with spectators and dinner and dancing at Fortune Bay Resort Casino. Some of the attendees included:

Top left: Petal Wright posed at the Fortune Bay Hotel lobby fireplace to show off her floral gown.

Top right: First row, Addy Hartway, Morgan Burnett, Abby Koch and Bella Thomas; back row, Jackson Levens, Jared Chiabotti, Elliot Levens, Alex Hartway holding Isaac Fults.

Right: Avery Thiel and James Towner pose for photos under the arbor at the gymnasium.

Center: This dapper dandy is lookin' cool outside the school.

Lower left: Front row, Lillian Voges, Haley Bogdan , Tori Olson and Madison Dantes; back row, Noah Westman, Ty Fabish, Eric Aune, and Alex Woitalla. photos by D. Colburn

NORTH WOODS SCHOOL

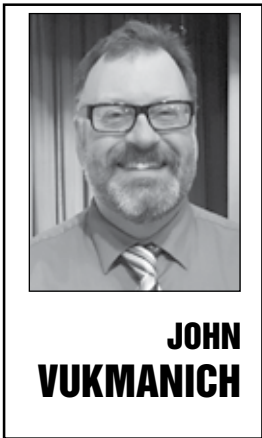
Accepting the outcome with grace and class

FIELD TWP- I feel very fortunate for many of the opportunities that my job as a Principal has brought me, and on Tuesday, May 10, I experienced another new opportunity that I feel honored to have had the chance to participate in. I am by no means bragging about anything in this week's writing, so please bear with me until the end.

In my previous school district, I served first as a band teacher, and then later as Dean of Students/Assistant Principal. As band director, I was approached by our activities director, Chuck Klinker. He asked me if I would be willing to be a member of the Minnesota State High School League Region 7A Committee as an arts representative. I gladly accepted. The committee met once per month in Chisholm at

Valentini's, so if nothing else it was worth it for the food!

The committee decides on region activities and athletic policies and makes many decisions



JOHN VUKMANICH

regarding budgets, fees, tournament format and location, etc. I served a couple terms over four years, and with the term limit rule entering, I was off the

committee. I met many colleagues from other schools, teachers, activity directors, and administrators. I guess one could say it was a great networking opportunity.

Enter 2022, and I was approached by the chair of the same committee, who had served on it previously as an AD. The committee needed a school administrator from our area, and I was asked if I was interested. Again, I accepted and was happy to be serving on the committee, although it was almost all new faces eight years later.

Three members from each regional committee are appointed to serve as representatives to the MSHSL Representative Assembly, which meets annually in Minneapolis. Although I had not ever served as a member of the

Assembly, I was nominated to attend along with two other members. The Representative Assembly makes decisions at a state-wide level regarding MSHSL policies, and with three representatives from each region (1A-8A and 1AA-8AA) there are forty-eight delegates in total. This year's meeting had one hot-button item on it: The proposal to adopt Boys Volleyball as a sanctioned high school sport.

There has been a great deal of pressure the past few years on the MSHSL to sanction boys volleyball, with the majority of the push coming from the larger metro-area schools. Not all regions were in support of it, but it comes down to the 48 delegates voting to determine the fate of the proposal. Hundreds of supporters lined the entrance to the meet-

ing room, and eventually they entered the room to watch the voting and cheer in support of their sport, which at the present time competes as a club-level sport, non-sanctioned by the League. The supporters cheered and had cardboard signs stating "Vote Yes" and "We Want to Play Volleyball in MN" and so on.

Several students, parents, and coaches spoke in support of the proposal, speaking articulately with heartfelt words to influence the delegates to vote in favor of sanctioning the sport. After about 45 minutes of speakers, the meeting began. When it came time for the vote and the League president called the question, one by one, all of the delegates voted. Thirty two votes, a two-thirds majority, were needed to pass the resolu-

tion. They received 31 "yes" votes. The proposal lost by one vote.

When the result was announced, there were sighs of disappointment.

Only sighs of disappointment.

Nobody yelled, nobody booed, nobody stood up and chastised the delegates or the League. They stood up, some with forlorn looks on their faces and others with "we will be back next year" looks on theirs, and left.

A little part of me feels like our world has gone crazy, but this event made me at least a little more hopeful that civility, kindness, and democracy are still alive and well.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Writers group to meet on May 21

COOK- Ellie Larmouth, PhD. will reprise her popular writers group with local writers on Saturday, May 21 from 2 to 4 p.m. at at the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery, 210 S River St. in in Cook. This group has been meeting for about 11 years now and several books have been published by authors who attend Larmouth's workshops. Many other folks who love to write enjoy gathering to talk about writing and perhaps write a little and share during the meeting.

The volunteer staff at NWFA is so appreciative of Dr. Larmouth's gener-

ous volunteer participation in NWFA, a nonprofit membership arts organization. Ellie lives in Tower, MN and grew up in the Finnish lifestyle in Esko, MN. She is a retired educator, counselor, therapist, and college professor.

So, everyone interested in writing is invited to attend on (behind the big Spruce tree) next to Dreamweaver Spa and Salon in Cook. There is no fee and no registration requirement.

The bonus for attending is enjoying the unique art and crafts displayed in the gallery as well as voting for your favorite photos exhibited for the annual NWFA Photo Contest.

More information about classes and events

may be found online at [www.nwfamn.org](http://www.nwfamn.org) or by emailing [nwfamn.org@gmail.com](mailto:nwfamn.org@gmail.com).

Woodcarving is ongoing at NWFA

COOK- An enthusiastic group of carvers meet and share the joy of carving on wood each week on Thursdays from 6-8 p.m. at the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery at 210 S River St. in Cook. Beginners are welcome! Call Howard for information at 218 290-1391.

District to host special Native graduation event

VIRGINIA- ISD 2142 St. Louis Coun-

ty Schools will hold an American Indian Graduation Ceremony on Tuesday, May 25 from 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Fortune Bay Resort Casino.

Students and invited guests from all four district high schools, Mesabi East, and Mt. Iron-Buhl will come together for this first-ever graduation event for students of this educational consortium. Attendance is by invitation only, but well-wishers are encouraged to express their congratulations to the graduates in other ways, including attending individual high school graduation ceremonies. Cook student receives honors

Olson receives academic award

COOK- Tate Olson, of Cook, has been named to the Spring 2022 Dean's List at the University of Jamestown in Jamestown, N.D. Dean's List honorees must maintain a semester GPA of 3.50 or better.

Read It HERE

Cook License Bureau NOTICE

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## gearing up for Kindergarten

- If you have a child who will be 5 years old by September 1, 2022 they are eligible to enter Kindergarten at Ely Washington Elementary School next fall.
- You are invited to attend Parent Information and Registration Night on Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in Washington Auditorium.
- This informational session is a chance for parents to ask questions and start the registration process.
- If your child is not enrolled in a pre-school program, please contact the elementary office at 365-6166, ext. 4.
- We look forward to creating a positive transition to kindergarten for your child! Feel free to contact us if you have any questions - 218-365-6166, ext. 4









# SPORTS

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## SOFTBALL

# Ely girls improve to 7-2 in week’s action

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – The Timberwolves softball team won two of three on the road late last week and brought their 6-1 record home this week where they lost to International Falls on Monday and beat Nashwauk-Keewatin on Tuesday.

The Timberwolves are sporting a 7-2-record as they look forward to back-to-back double headers this Friday and Monday.

Ely girls skipped class Tuesday afternoon to host Nashwauk-Keewatin for a rare

matinee game, rescheduled because of the ongoing umpire shortage. The Timberwolves won 16-5 behind pitcher Zoe MacKenzie who is getting more time on the mound this spring as the team makes up for the delayed start to the season.

“I thought this was the best that we played as far as putting it all together,” Coach Cory Lassi said. “Zoe did a great job throwing strikes. She didn’t walk anyone. I thought we played great defense behind her.”

Ely fell behind 3-1 in the first inning, and 4-1 in the second inning, before coming

**Right: Ely’s Kate Coughlin slides safely into second base during Tuesday’s contest with the Spartans.**

photo by K. Vandervort

alive in the third inning when Kate Coughlin hit a two-out double with bases loaded to give the Timberwolves a 6-4 advantage. “We had great at bats at the plate,” Lassi added. We were able to get timely hits with runners on base.”

Ely lost at home, 11-1, to International Falls on Monday to drop to 6-2. Neither team

*See ELY...pg. 2B*



## BASEBALL

# T-Wolves hit their stride

Post three straight wins on the week to improve to 4-3



by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

GRAND MARAIS — The long road trip to the shore didn’t slow the Timberwolves this past Saturday, as they downed Cook County 5-2 for their third straight win in as many days to improve their record to 4-3.

Ely’s junior pitcher Gunnar Hart went the distance from the mound as he gave up just four hits while fanning nine Vikings batters for the win. Ely batters combined for eight hits, including two by freshman Caid Chittum, who led Ely with two RBIs. Senior Eddie Prijatel added a hit and scored a run to keep Ely on top. Seniors Mason Davis and Chase Sandberg combined on a run-scoring single and double in the top of the seventh to give Ely a couple insurance runs.

Cook County pitcher Paul Dorr took the loss, issuing five walks in addition to allowing eight hits.

Playing in Nashwauk on Friday, the Wolves held on to outpace the

**Above: Ely’s Joey Bianco starts to slide into second base during a successful steal attempt against MI-B last Thursday.**

**Left: Ely’s Deegan Richards rounds third base.**

photos by K. Vandervort

Greenway/NK Titans 8-7. The Wolves scored their runs early and led 8-3 heading into the bottom of the seventh. That’s when the Titans exploded for four runs, but the Wolves held on with some clutch late-inning pitching from Hart and fellow junior hurler Logan Loe. Starting pitcher Harry Simons completed five full, scattering seven hits and allowing four runs to get the win.

On offense, Chittum and junior Joey Bianco each notched two hits and an RBI to pace the Wolves. The Wolves knocked out Titans’ starter Ethan Newman early in the fourth

*See WOLVES...pg. 2B*

## SOFTBALL

# North Woods routs Ely in 13-0 shutout

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELDTWP- The North Woods softball team wasted little time putting the visiting Timberwolves on notice last Friday that they would defend their diamond tooth and nail. The Grizzlies did exactly that, cruising to a 13-0 win over their cross-county rivals.

Pitcher Evelyn Brodeen walked the first Ely batter, but catcher Avery Thiel was ready for the ensuing steal attempt, firing a rocket to shortstop Skyler Yernatich for the tag out. Yernatich caught an infield pop-up

and Brodeen registered a strikeout to retire the side.

Ely hurler Katrina Seliskar got off to a shaky start by hitting leadoff batter Addy Hartway with a pitch, and the Grizzlies immediately took advantage. After a single by Helen Koch, Yernatich slammed a double to score Hartway. Koch and Yernatich both crossed the plate on a double by Brodeen, and the Grizzlies led 3-0 after one.

The Grizzlies were rolling again in the bottom of the third, getting five singles and scoring four runs for a 7-0 lead.

The only serious Ely scoring

**Right: As teammate Karah Scofield backs up the play, the Grizzlies’ Skyler Yernatich tags out a stealing Ely baserunner.**

photo by D. Colburn

threat came in the top of the third when they loaded the bases with no one out. The Grizzlies hardly looked rattled, however, as Yernatich collected a grounder and fired the ball to the plate to ring up the lead runner and Brodeen gathered herself for two strikeouts to end the inning.

*See SOFTBALL...pg. 2B*



## BASEBALL

# Grizzlies notch first victories

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- A young North Woods baseball team struggling but playing well at times through an 0-5 losing streak finally cashed in its first big win of the season last week, then followed it up with another close victory on Tuesday.

The May 5 road game against Northland was a high-scoring thriller, with North Woods coming from behind to post a 14-11 victory.

The Grizzlies’ last at-bat was decisive, as North Woods entered the top of the seventh trailing 11-8. An RBI double by Louis Panichi got this rolling, and Alex Burckhardt and Panichi each stole home to tie the game. David Kleppe slammed a two-run double for the lead, then added an insurance run by stealing home, shifting the advantage to the Grizzlies 14-11.

Panichi relieved Grizzlies starter Tate Cly in the first inning and was on hand to shut down Northland in the bottom half of the inning for the win. Panichi rang up 11 strikeouts while allowing three hits and two earned runs.

Panichi also had the hottest bat for the Grizzlies, going three-for-five at the plate with one RBI. Eli Smith and Mason Ruchasky each tallied two hits and two RBIs.

At Littlefork-Big Falls on Tuesday, Talen Jarshaw and Jake Panichi combined to pitch a no-hitter as the Grizzlies squeaked by 3-1 for their second win.

North Woods went ahead 3-0 in the top of the second. Cly scored from third on a fielding error, Rutchasky scored on a Ben Kruse single, and Jake Panichi drew a bases-loaded walk to score Burckhardt, giving the Grizzlies all the runs they needed for the win. L-BF scored its only run in the bottom of the fifth on a fielder’s choice.

Sandwiched in between the wins was a reminder that the Grizzlies still have plenty of work ahead of them, as Cherry used a big ten-run inning to breeze past North Woods 13-4.



# High water levels plaguing Rainy River basin

Jutila said that people who want to monitor conditions can do so through a special Rainy River basin webpage set up by the Duluth National Weather Service office. Links are provided to access current lake and river level information, latest news releases, forecasts, and official local information. The page is available at [www.weather.gov/dlh/RainyRiverBasin#](http://www.weather.gov/dlh/RainyRiverBasin#).

Ely was scheduled to travel to Northeast Range on Thursday, May 12, and host a double header on Friday, May 13, with a game against South Ridge at 2:30 p.m. and North Woods at 4:30 p.m. The Timberwolves are also scheduled to host a double header next Monday, May 16, against Northeast Range at 2:30 p.m. and Mt. Iron Buhl at 4:30 p.m.



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VERMILION COMMUNITY COLLEGE

VCC students walk out for women’s rights

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY- More than two dozen Vermilion Community College students and faculty participated in a walk-out on Friday to protest the anticipated U.S. Supreme Court ruling that could overturn the Roe v. Wade decision from 1973 and remove a woman’s right to privacy that protects her reproductive choices. If a leaked draft of an opinion by Justice Samuel Alito stands, the personal decision of whether to end a pregnancy would be determined by individual states.

That reality hit VCC student Sidney Marshall.

“I woke up on Wednesday morning and everything started hitting me,” she said. “I realized Roe versus Wade could possibly be overturned and I wanted to do something, but I didn’t know what I could do because Ely is so tiny.”

Marshall had a discussion with one of her VCC instructors, and broached the idea of staging a walkout on campus.

“I received permission from

our provost and I started to spread the word,” she said, and she started researching the topic and updating a term paper that she had already completed. She then prepared talking points to share with those who might participate in the walkout.

Just before noon last Friday, as many as 30 students and staff gathered at the ledge rock outcrop outside the classroom building on the VCC campus.

“Roe versus Wade is an umbrella law and it pertains to the right to privacy” Marshall said to the crowd. “It not only protects a woman’s right to get an abortion, it protects women from not being persecuted for having a natural miscarriage. It protects a woman’s right to have a C-section. It protects LGBTQ parents from being discriminated against when trying to have their own child. And it protects women of color who, without it, would be disproportionately treated in the health care system.”

She referred to other laws pertaining to the right to privacy.

“Lawrence versus Texas in



Sidney Marshall (left) organized the student walkout.

photo by K. Vandervort

2003 decriminalized homosexuality, and that was passed on the right to privacy,” she said. “Loving versus Virginia, 1968, protects interracial marriage. And Obergefell versus Hodges in 2015 protects same sex marriage. These are all based on the right to privacy, and those cases could be up for grabs if Roe is overturned.”

Marshall, who lives in Ely, pleaded with those listening to contact their legislators and passed out slips of paper with Minnesota lawmaker contact information.

“I was really surprised at

how many showed up,” she said later. “It was a super-quick turnaround. I just started planning this last Wednesday, I emailed faculty, used social media, and told a bunch of friends to help spread the word. I wasn’t expecting such a big turnout. I would have been happy with just a couple of my friends being there.”

Marshall said she hopes to plan a community-wide event protesting the possible overturning of Roe versus Wade once she is done with finals and school is out for the year.

Spring load restrictions end Monday, some county roads will remain posted

REGIONAL- Spring load restrictions will be removed on most St. Louis County roads beginning Monday, May 16, at 12:01 a.m. Some limited county roads - most of them with gravel surfaces - will continue to be posted with weight restrictions due to their individual conditions.

For the convenience of drivers of heavier vehicles, the county will post and maintain a map on its website showing which county roads continue to have weight restrictions enforced. The map, along with other information, can be found online at [stlouiscountymn.gov/roadrestrictions](http://stlouiscountymn.gov/roadrestrictions).

For updates on these county roads, or for any other questions, people are encouraged to call their nearest Public Works Maintenance Facility. The locations include: Pike Lake, 218-625-3800; Hibbing, 218-262-0150; Virginia, 218-742-9800; and Cook, 218-361-7920.

Obituaries and Death Notices



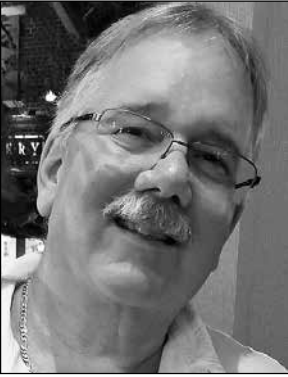
Bette A. Dolinar

Bette Ann Dolinar, 87, of Soudan, died peacefully in her home on Saturday, May 7, 2022. A Memorial Mass will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 14 at St. Martin’s Catholic Church in Tower. Reverend Father Beau Braun will celebrate the Mass. A gathering time for family and friends will begin one hour prior to the Mass at the church. Inurnment will take place in Lakeview Cemetery in Tower at a later date. Family services are provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.

Bette was born on Oct. 2, 1934, in Soudan, the daughter of Joseph and Katherine (Brula) Vaida and was a graduate of Tower-Soudan High School. Bette moved to Chicago right after high school to work for AT&T. While in Chicago she met Roger Dolinar, from Chisholm, and they fell in love. They were married in Tower, and were longtime residents of Soudan. After Roger retired, they purchased a cabin on Lake Vermilion where they enjoyed 10-plus years of lake life, and their passion for travel brought them to all 50 states. Betty was an active member of St. Martin’s Catholic Church in Tower; she taught religious education, served with the women’s circles, and loved praying rosaries.

Bette is survived by her children, Mike (Teresa) Dolinar of Soudan and Mary Kay (Tracey) Murray of Superior; grandchildren, Amanda (Alex Marwick) Kehus, Mark (Sarina Ronning) Murray and Brett Murray; great-granddaughter, Hadley; nephews and niece, Joe Vaida, John Vaida, Gene Siadek and Mary Siadek; and extended family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Roger; and siblings, Joe (Marie) Vaida and Rosie (Sid) Siadek.



William A. Mault

William A. “Bill” Mault, 65, of Cook, passed away peacefully on Saturday, May 7, 2022, following a courageous battle with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). Services will be held on Thursday, May 19 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook, with visitation at 1 p.m. followed by a celebration of life at 2 p.m. Burial at the Cook Cemetery will follow services with family members attending.

Bill was born to Jay and Joann (Hottle) Mault on March 5, 1957, in Indianapolis, Ind. At the age of three, he moved to Cook when his parents purchased Vermilion Dam Lodge Resort on Lake Vermilion. Growing up on the resort allowed Bill to experience all that Lake Vermilion had to offer, and to learn and explore all the lake’s nooks and crannies. The resort was sold in 1974 and the Maults moved into a home on what would be known as Mault Point on Lake Vermilion.

Bill graduated from Cook High School in 1975. In 1979, after a few years working construction, he began his 37-year career with Inland Steel Mining in Virginia, where he worked primarily as a heavy equipment and crane operator.

In 1986, Bill met the love of his life, Nancy. They were married in 1987. Bill shared his love for the lake with Nancy and their three children. Together they enjoyed fishing, boating, swimming, bonfires, and many family gatherings. Bill also enjoyed deer hunting and especially grouse hunting and just spending time in the woods. He passed his hunting passions on to his son Dan. Bill was proud of his family and was blessed with three beautiful grandchildren. Bill and Nancy also shared a love for traveling and especially enjoyed relaxing on the beach. They were fortunate to share

many trips to Florida.

Bill and Nancy sold their Lake Vermilion home in 2019. After Nancy retired in 2021, they settled in North Branch. Bill was diagnosed with ALS in 2020. He fought a courageous battle and although debilitated by this terrible disease, Bill amazingly kept a positive attitude, embracing all the blessings he had been given in his life. Bill died peacefully with Nancy by his side.

Bill is survived by his beloved wife, Nancy Butler Mault; daughters, Jennifer (Chris) Mauer and Jessica (James) Darcy; son, Daniel (Jurnee) Mault; brother, Jay (Tammy) Mault; sister, Cathy Cariveau; grandchildren, Harrison, Claire and Theodore; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father and mother, Jay Mault and Joann (Hottle) Mault; and special brother-in-law, James Butler.



David M. Stanton

David Monnie Stanton, 79, of Cook, passed away on Sunday, April 24, 2022. A celebration of life will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 14 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook.

David was born in Chicago, Ill., on Feb. 23, 1943, to May Ripnen and Robert Stanton. He attended school in Virginia and then Cook High School. He entered the United States Air Force in 1961, and honorably served his country for four years and nine months. He married Kathryn Kontio on Sept. 25, 1965, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Cook. David worked for US Steel, Minntac and International Harvester. He then started his own welding business where he worked until retirement. He was a member of the

Cook VFW Post 1757 and the Honor Guard. He was also a member of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and volunteered for many VFW and DAV events.

David enjoyed hunting, fishing, and going to his cabin on the lake. He had an airboat that he purchased in 1998 which allowed him to go to the cabin year-round. He enjoyed researching YouTube for videos to help him repair different things. David also enjoyed visiting Wayne, his lifelong best friend, in Montana every summer. After Wayne passed away, David kept in close contact with Wayne’s children. David was a friendly, quiet person. He was a caring person and was often concerned for other people.

David is survived by his wife, Kathryn Stanton; daughter, Melissa (Michael) Weske; sister, Sharon Gartner; faithful companion and beloved dog, Sisú; and many other family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; stepfather, Melvin Lund; and aunt and uncle, Aino and Einar Johnson.



Patricia Z. Staehle

Patricia “Pat” Zetta Staehle, 104, of Virginia, died on Saturday, April 30, 2022, with her children, their spouses, and several grandchildren by her side. A celebration of life will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 21 at the Minneapolis Marriot Southwest in Minnetonka. Memorials may be directed to the Crane Lake Volunteer Fire Department, PO Box 407, Crane Lake, MN 55725. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home of Virginia.

Patricia Zetta was born on Nov. 27, 1917, in Minneapolis, to Donald and Zetta Lane. She grew up with her sister Bernice “Bunny” and her brother Jack. The family lived in several cities in Minneso-

ta and North Dakota before settling in Minneapolis. While growing up she attended various churches as her mother was an organist and her father was a soloist.

Pat graduated from West High School in Minneapolis in 1936. She fell in love with George A. Staehle and they were married on Nov. 10, 1938, at Hennepin Avenue Methodist Church in Minneapolis, where they became members. Pat and George made their home in Minneapolis until he was called to serve in the Coast Guard in the Aleutian Islands during World War II. During the war years, Pat lived with her sister Bunny in Minnetonka.

After the war, Pat and George, who was a home builder and cabinet maker, built a home for themselves in Minnetonka where they raised four children. During this time Pat worked at Methodist Hospital in St. Louis Park, first as a ward secretary and then for 17 years as an office manager for the anesthesiology department.

In the 1940s, Pat helped her husband build three cabins for their close friends, the Gilman family, on Sandpoint Lake near Minnesota’s boundary waters area. After Pat’s retirement in 1980, they built their own cabin next to their longtime friends. They spent summers at the lake and wintered in Texas for many years. Later they moved in with their daughter Barbara in Virginia. George passed away in 2001 and Pat continued living with her daughter for twenty more years.

Pat loved reading, writing letters, sending birthday cards, crocheting and knitting, playing the piano and organ, traveling, fishing, snowmobiling, volunteering, and being a Girl Scout leader. She also enjoyed going out dancing and entertaining. She was a member of Excelsior Methodist Church in Excelsior for many years. Later she was a member and volunteered at Crane Lake Chapel in Crane Lake. She was very outgoing, with a wonderful sense of humor, and could strike up a conversation with just about anyone. She made many, many friends along the way.

Pat lived a rich and full life. Her entire family is so very grateful for the

loving care her daughter Barb gave to her parents, especially to her mother all of those years.

Pat is survived by her four children, Sandra Kaul of Bemidji, Barbara Staehle of Virginia, Brad (Debra) Staehle of Minnetonka and Brian (Cynthia) Staehle of Andover; grandchildren, Stephen (Christine), Allison (Chris), Kerry (Jon), Lane (Adam), Kristin, Amy (Jim) and Erin (Bryce); great-grandchildren, Isabella, Julia, Anika, Maia, Greta, Evan, Ada, Piper, Amber and Wiley; great-great-grandchildren, Lily and Nathan; and special nieces and nephews, Karen (John) Trueman, Marty (Tina) Woods, Susy (Alan) Cormier, Lauren Overton, Lynn Hutchinson and Don Lane.

She was preceded in death by her husband, George Staehle; mother, Zetta Susan Ogg Lane Smith; father, Donald C. Lane; brother, Jack D. Lane; sister-in-law, Raye Lane; sister, Bernice Woods; brother-in-law, Warren Woods; mother-in-law, Rita Fuller; sister-in-law, Maxine Berg; brother-in-law, Harry Berg; stepfather-in-law, Monroe Fuller; nephew, Richard Berg; and son-in-law, Marley Kaul.

Lee R. Gustafson

Lee Roger Gustafson, 72, of Cook, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, April 28, 2022, at St. Mary’s Hospital in Duluth. A celebration of life was held on Wednesday, May 11 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. A luncheon followed at the Cook Community Center.

He is survived by his sister, Linda Gustafson Poshak; nephews, Jay Poshak (Jackie Bregier), Kale, Kamryn, Marc Poshak (Amy Consoer) and Mike (Susan) Gustafson; niece, Lynn (Dave) Schwob; great-nephews and great-nieces, Kevin, Connor, Andrew, Sara and Abbey; sister-in-law, Mary Gustafson; cousins, Donna Picek, Lawrence (Donna) Gustafson and Sue (Richard) Pliml and their families; and several other relatives and friends.





# Outdoors

Our lives in the  
Northwoods

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

## Hatchery operations wrap up quickly

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

PIKE RIVER— The crowd of onlookers began trickling in last Thursday as hatchery operations here finally got underway. It was the latest start at the Pike River hatchery on record, and it appears the walleye were waiting as nearly 4,000 fish entered the fish trap set at the river’s mouth within the first couple days.

They were mostly male walleye, which are typically much smaller than the egg-laden

females, but there were plenty of big females as well, with 400 sitting in the nets as of Friday and they all needed to be assessed. The ripe ones were put in water-filled bins to await egg-stripping, while the unripe ones were released to finish their spawning naturally. As the big females were sorted, there were plenty of oohs and ahhs from the onlookers, who had their first opportunity since the onset of COVID to observe the hatchery activities up close.

Most of the females weren’t

**Right: DNR fisheries workers concentrate a netful of female walleye for sorting. Unripe fish were quickly released, while DNR staff stripped eggs from those that were ripe, before being released.** photo by M. HelMBERger

ripe, which limited the hatchery’s first-day harvest to just 65 quarts. But warmer temperatures that finally set in later in the week helped to ripen up the females and the fisheries staff was able

See **HATCHERY...**pg. 5B



2022 FISHING OPENER

## Open water for opener

High winds and warmth clear away ice just in time to welcome anglers to the area

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Mother Nature delivered plenty of open water just ahead of Saturday’s fishing opener, although lingering ice on some area lakes could keep a few anglers from accessing their favorite hot spots. As of the *Timberjay’s* Wednesday deadline, ice remained on portions of Lake Vermilion, although long-time observers were hopeful that warm weather that set in mid-week would clear the main body of the lake ahead of Saturday.

Ice or not, the smart money says take it slow if you’re hoping to put a few walleyes in the live well. “With water that cold, I’d definitely focus on smaller presentations and be ready to move very slowly,” said Steve Foss, a longtime fishing guide in the Ely area. Foss said he’d focus his attention on river or creek mouths, given that some walleye are likely still in spawn mode.

Longtime Lake Vermilion guide Matt Snyder agreed. “I’d slow down your presentation a little bit and keep things on the bottom,” he said. Given the late ice-out and spawn, Snyder recommends working the shallows, anywhere from four-to-eight feet of depth, at least to start. “It’s always good to start shallow and work deep if you’re not having luck,” he said.

On Lake Vermilion, Pike Bay is likely to be a good bet. It’s

**Above: Anglers gathered around Silver Rapids near Ely during the 2021 fishing opener.**

traditionally been an early season favorite with anglers, particularly in years, like this one, with a late ice-out. Thanks in large part to the huge inflow of spring runoff from the Pike River, Pike Bay cleared of ice a week ahead of opener. And sunshine and milder temperatures this week will have helped to boost water temperature as well, which tends make the walleye more aggressive. A later-than-average walleye spawn means anglers should find good concentrations in the shallow bay, which draws large numbers of spawning ‘eyes to the Pike River at the bay’s southwestern tip.

Pike Bay isn’t the only location where anglers can expect to find good concentrations of walleye on Vermilion. The latest DNR test netting, conducted late last summer, showed impressive walleye numbers across the lake as a result of strong recruitment from several year-classes. The top-line average number, of 16.4 walleye per net, is significantly above the lake’s long-term management objective of 14 walleye per net. Yet the size distribution of all those walleyes is perhaps the best news of all for anglers this summer, according to DNR large lake specialist Matt

See **OPENER...**pg. 5B

### DNR fisheries staff offers tips on potential opener hot spots



A nice Lake Kabetogama walleye

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— While most anglers in the area are likely headed to Lake Vermilion this weekend in their quest for walleye, there are plenty of other excellent locations and other species to pursue as the 2022 fishing season gets underway.

Here’s a sampling of recommendations from DNR fisheries staff around the region.

#### International Falls area

Lake Kabetogama is likely to be ice-free, or nearly so, by Saturday, and it’s sure to be a good bet for anglers looking to haul in some bigger walleye. The DNR’s 2021 fall netting survey showed above normal walleye catch rates ever on Kab, with an average of 10.35 walleye per sampling net. Even more enticing was the average size of 1.77 pounds. According to the DNR, much of Kabetogama’s shoreline provides excellent walleye spawning habitat so the fish are well distributed and anglers won’t have to go far to find some. Strong year classes of walleye produced in 2015 and 2016 continue to provide opportunities for both eating-sized walleye in the 15 to 17-inch range, as well as some fish over 18 inches. In fact, the fall 2021 sampling showed

See **TIPS...**pg. 5B

### Outdoors briefly



### DNR reminds anglers to follow northern pike zone regulations

REGIONAL— The Department of Natural Resources is reminding anglers who might want to keep northern pike to familiarize themselves with the regulations and be prepared to measure their fish.

Minnesota has three northern pike zones that apply to inland waters and reflect the differing characteristics of pike populations across the state:

➤ North-central: Limit of 10 northern pike; anglers must release all fish 22 to 26 inches, with only two fish longer than 26 inches allowed in possession.

➤ Northeast: Limit of two northern pike; anglers must release all fish 30 to 40 inches, with only one fish over 40 inches allowed in possession.

➤ South: Limit of two northern pike; minimum size 24 inches.

Throughout the state, special regulations that cover individual lakes, rivers and streams remain in effect and take precedence over the zone regulations. The northern pike zone regulations do not apply to border waters. More information about northern pike zones, including a zone map, is available on the DNR’s northern pike page ([mndnr.gov/NorthernPike](http://mndnr.gov/NorthernPike)).

### DNR: Leave fawns alone

REGIONAL— It’s not unusual to come across young deer fawns while in the outdoors here in Minnesota. But while that fawn may appear abandoned, rest assured the mother is nearby and probably waiting for you to leave.

With that in mind, the DNR is asking people to avoid disturbing or touching deer fawns. Most fawns are born in mid-May to mid-June, and they do not attempt to evade predators during their first few weeks of life. Instead, they remain still to avoid being seen. During these times, fawns are learning critical survival skills from their mothers but are often left on their own while their mothers forage watchfully nearby.

Be assured deer fawns are likely fine even if they look abandoned or fragile. Even if the fawn is known to be wounded or abandoned due to car strike or animal attack, do not transport it until you talk to a wildlife rehabilitator. For more information about what to do if you find fawns or other species of baby wild animals, visit the DNR website ([mndnr.gov/Eco/Nongame/Rehabilitation/Orphaned-Wildlife.html](http://mndnr.gov/Eco/Nongame/Rehabilitation/Orphaned-Wildlife.html)).



Outdoors briefly

Tips for catching and releasing a fish

REGIONAL — Anglers who intend to release any of the fish they catch can boost the chances those fish will survive by following best practices for catch and release.

Set the hook quickly to avoid hooking a fish in the stomach or gills. Before handling the fish, wet your hands to prevent removal of the fish’s protective slime coating. If possible, unhook and release the fish while it is still in the water. If a hook is deep in the fish, cut the line and leave the hook in the fish.

When holding the fish out of the water, support it with both hands using a firm, gentle grip. It is ok to measure the fish and take a photo; however, minimize the time the fish is out of the water.

To release a fish, hold it horizontally in the water by cradling it under its belly. If needed, revive the fish by slowly moving it forward and backward in the water until it swims away.

Harvest a fish that can be legally kept if it is bleeding extensively or cannot right itself in the water.

TIPS...Continued from page 4B

some of the best catch rates ever on Kab for walleye greater than 17 inches.

The good news is expected to continue on Kab as the fall survey showed a very strong 2020 year-class that should become eating sized over the next 1-2 years.

Anglers are reminded that both Rainy and Kabetogama lakes currently have a protected slot limit for walleye. All walleye from 18-26 inches long must be released, with one walleye over 26 inches allowed in a possession limit.

**Finland area**

With lingering snow in parts of the Finland work area, some of the larger and deeper lakes could still have ice for opener. But there will still be some open water in the area and anglers might do well to try other lakes or target species like trout. Water temperatures in the area’s stream-trout lakes should be ideal and trout should be actively feeding. Lakes such as Hogback and Echo have boat accesses suitable for small boats and canoes, while lakes such as Divide and Section Eight require anglers to carry-in boats or canoes a short distance. Remote lakes such as Eikela, Steer, Trappers and Goldeneye lakes will require a longer carry and are best suited for canoe or float tube fishing. Anglers with ATVs can access Bean Lake near Silver Bay and Norway Lake near Babbitt.

Anglers who prefer a remote wilderness fishing experience might try the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) lakes of Isabella, Kawishiwi, Bog and Perent lakes. All these lakes are good bets early in the season and are also located near the edge of the BWCAW making a day trip feasible. Island and Isabella rivers may also provide good river fishing within the BWCAW. Anglers seeking

a wilderness fishing experience outside the BWCAW might try the Timber-Frear Loop. The Timber-Frear is a 15-mile loop of back-country lakes (Whitefish, Elbow, Finger, Timber, Frear and Lost lakes) that offers a wilderness type of canoe trip without wilderness regulation or the need for a permit. The walleye populations in these lakes are well above average for their lake class. Northern pike are also present in most of these lakes.

**Tower area**

While most anglers here will be working Vermilion, fisheries staff are encouraging anglers not to overlook some of the area trout lakes, including Tofte, Miner’s Pit, High, and Dry lakes. You can also find trout in Cub and Norberg lakes in Bear Head Lake State Park. Stocked trout species include brook, rainbow, browns and splake.

Don’t forget you’ll need a trout stamp if you’re going to try for trout.

There is plenty of walleye action just waiting for you on any of dozens of other lakes in the Tower area, particularly in the Boundary Waters. A good rule of thumb is that the harder it is to access a walleye lake, the better the fishing.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST from NOAA weather

Friday

74 48

Saturday

69 42

Sunday

63 38

Monday

55 35

Tuesday

59 37

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.
05/02	42	35	0.04		05/02	42	38	0.32		05/02	40	33	0.12		05/02	45	34	0.15		05/02	41	34	0.25	
05/03	45	35	0.00		05/03	45	34	0.00		05/03	43	33	0.02		05/03	52	34	0.01		05/03	44	34	0.00	
05/04	53	25	0.00		05/04	53	23	0.00		05/04	48	25	0.00		05/04	63	27	0.00		05/04	52	22	0.00	
05/05	62	28	0.00		05/05	61	24	0.00		05/05	61	25	0.00		05/05	70	36	0.00		05/05	61	23	0.00	
05/06	70	29	0.00		05/06	69	25	0.00		05/06	63	28	0.00		05/06	72	28	0.00		05/06	71	25	0.00	
05/07	68	33	0.00		05/07	69	26	0.00		05/07	70	29	0.00		05/07	72	43	0.00		05/07	68	27	0.00	
05/08	71	47	0.00		05/08	72	48	0.04		05/08	72	45	0.00		05/08	57	46	0.00		05/08	72	na	0.00	
YTD Total			5.10	93.4"	YTD Total			5.24	58.0"	YTD Total			7.51	100.9"	YTD Total			NA	NA	YTD Total			8.55	76.6"

HATCHERY...Continued from page 4B

Right: DNR fisheries staff squeeze eggs and milt from walleye at the Pike River Hatchery late last week. The hatchery collected and fertilized 540 quarts of walleye eggs this year.

photo by M. Helmberger

to boost production significantly by Friday and Saturday, and wrapped up the egg-stripping portion of the operation on Sunday, having collected 540 quarts, a bit more than their adjusted quota of 500 quarts. “It only took four days of egg-collecting,” said Brent Flatten, the DNR’s assistant hatchery supervisor.

The eggs are now incubating in the hatchery building, where they’ll hatch about Memorial Day. From there, they’ll be distributed to nearly two dozen lakes in the Tower DNR work area along with dozens of other locations around northern Minnesota.

Local area lakes set for stocking include:

**Base**

➤ Nigh, 80,000 (fry)

➤ Pauline, 50,000

➤ Purvis, 50,000

➤ Wolf, 75,000

➤ Mashkenode, 64,000

➤ Parent, 143,000

➤ Big, 750,000

➤ Astrid, 60,000

➤ Nels, 44,000

➤ Whisper, 20,000

➤ Maude, 50,000

➤ Slim, 87,000

➤ Low, 106,000

➤ Johnson, 212,000

➤ Shagawa, 2,300,000

➤ Vermilion, 4,000,000

**Surplus**

➤ Vermilion, 1,000,000

➤ Pike River Flowage, 252,000

➤ Ojibway, 67,000



OPENER...Continued from page 4B

Hennen, who produces the report. He notes that fish between 11-17 inches predominated in the walleye catch. “Also, the catch rate of fish from the range anglers prefer to keep, from 13 to 20 inches, was notably high,” Hennen said. Those fish are all below the current protected slot of 20-26 inches and are within the range most preferred by anglers for the frying pan.

The good news for walleye anglers extends across the lake, as the latest results reflect strong improvement in walleye numbers on the lake’s western basin, where a limited number of eating-sized

walleye in some recent years had frustrated fishing guides, resort owners, and anglers.

While chilly water temperatures may slow the walleye a bit, that doesn’t mean anglers won’t do well with the right approach. “I’m pretty optimistic,” said Rob Nelson, of the Ely Fishing Guide Company. “We’ve had similar years to this and have done extremely well,” said Nelson. “With the ice just coming off, it could be lights out for walleye fishing.” That’s especially so, he said, if water temperatures have warmed into the 40s by the weekend.

**Keep it simple**

When it comes to fishing the early season, virtually all of the area guides agree that the tried-and-true methods still apply. “Use a jig and a minnow, or a jig and plastics, or a small crank bait,” said Snyder. “If you can locate some structure with active fish, definitely try throwing a bobber,” he added.

Nelson, who plans to open on White Iron Lake, said he’ll be using large jigs or lindy rigs, tipped with either a rainbow or a shiner. He’ll be looking for areas of current, and preferably about 12-16 feet of water.

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### 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).

### POSITION OPENING

#### Ely Public Schools

#### Temporary Summer Skills Paraprofessional (2 Positions)

Ely Public Schools is accepting applications for two Temporary Summer Skills Paraprofessionals; background check required.

Qualifications include:

- Associate's Degree/equivalent or Para Pro Certification
- Preferred experience working with school age children
- Evidence of ability to work cooperatively and communicate effectively in a collaborative setting.

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

A complete application must include the following:

- District Application
- Resume
- College Transcripts
- 2 letters of recommendation

Return materials to: Ely Public Schools, Attn: Superintendent, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731 or email [mwognum@ely.k12.mn.us](mailto:mwognum@ely.k12.mn.us)

Dates of Employment: Monday - Thursday  
June 13-16; 20-23; 27-30  
July 11-14; 18-21; 25-28  
August 8-11; 15-18; 22-25

Starting Rate of Pay: \$16.90/hour June; \$17.23/hour July & August

Hours: 4.5 hours/day (8:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.)

Deadline to apply: May 25, 2022; open until filled.

*Published in the Timberjay, May 13 & 20, 2022*



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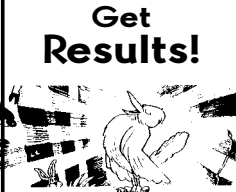
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**Application deadline: 5/20/2022**

*Equal Opportunity Employer 5/20*

### POSITION OPENING

#### Ely Public Schools

#### Head Nordic Ski Coach

Ely Public Schools is looking for a Head Boys and Girls Nordic Ski Coach for the 2022-2023 winter season. Background check required.

Qualifications include:

- Bachelor's Degree;
- Coaching licensure or ability to obtain (certification required to be an MSHSL head coach prior to the start of the 2022-2023 season);
- Previous coaching experience preferred.
- Must be available for several practices/ski meets from early November through mid-February, including some weekends and during school break periods.

Full job description and application is available at: [www.ely.k12.mn.us](http://www.ely.k12.mn.us)

A complete application must include the following:

- District Application
- Resume
- Copy of credentials declaring appropriate License (per M.S. 122A.22)

Mail materials to: Ely Public Schools, Attn: Superintendent, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731 or email [mwognum@ely.k12.mn.us](mailto:mwognum@ely.k12.mn.us)

Stipend: \$5,600

Deadline to apply: June 1, 2022; open until filled.

*Published in the Timberjay, May 13 & 27, 2022*

### POSITION OPENING

#### Ely Public Schools

#### Assistant Volleyball Coach

Ely Public Schools is looking for an Assistant Volleyball Coach for the 2022 fall season. Background check required.

Qualifications include:

- Bachelor's Degree preferred;
- Previous coaching experience preferred;
- Must be available for several practices/games per week from August through October, including some weekends and during school break periods.

Full job description and application is available at: [www.ely.k12.mn.us](http://www.ely.k12.mn.us)

A complete application must include the following:

- District Application
- Resume

Mail materials to: Ely Public Schools, Attn: Superintendent, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731 or email [mwognum@ely.k12.mn.us](mailto:mwognum@ely.k12.mn.us)

Stipend: \$3,920

Deadline to apply: June 1, 2022; open until filled.

*Published in the Timberjay, May 13 & 27, 2022*

### Super Crossword

Answers

I	D	O	L	S		H	I	K	E	D	U	P		A	S	H	A	M	E	D	
R	E	R	A	N		O	N	E	N	O	T	E		T	E	A	R	I	L	L	Y
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### PUBLIC NOTICES

### KUGLER TOWNSHIP

#### NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

The Kugler Town Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, May 18, 2022, at 6 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Christopher Suihkonen, Clerk

*Published in the Timberjay, May 13, 2022*

### LEIDING TOWNSHIP

#### ANNUAL ROAD INSPECTION

The Leiding Town Board will conduct their annual road inspection on 4 p.m. on Thursday, May 19. The meeting will begin at the town hall, and then proceed out to inspect township roads.

Marie Milan, Clerk

*Published in the Timberjay, May 13, 2022*

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### SELL It HERE

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

	9		4		5		
1				7	3		
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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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SUPPORT GROUPS

ELY AA OPEN GROUP MEETINGS-

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

MS SUPPORT GROUP-

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

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

ELY CO-DEPENDENTS MEETING-

Fridays at noon-St. Anthony's Church Classroom 3-Use west side entrance. For more information go to coda.org on the web.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS-

Meetings every Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Virginia.

BABBITT AL-ANON-

meets Thursdays at 7 p.m. in the upstairs of Woodland Presbyterian Church.

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP-

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

VIRGINIA AA WOMEN'S MEETING-

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

TREE SERVICE

TREE TIME-It's always Tree Time for us. We fall and cut and haul away. Stump carving optional. Dayle 218-994-9372 or Dan 218-404-4035. Free estimated. Insured. 6/3p

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

DATEDTAICHI

DOREMIADROIT

ENCASESTIERRA

RAHSTHREET

ESSOURB

NRA TOMSYAWN

HONEYDEWMELON

LETTARATLOW

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WEEKEND CABIN CLEANERS

(other days needed also)- Pike Bay Lodge on Lake Vermilion. Call Jay at 218-753-2430 or email info@pikebaylodge.com. 5/13p

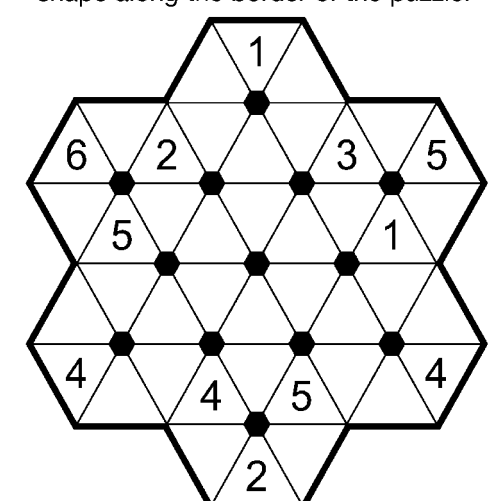
MOVING SALE- VIRGINIA-PERRAULTS-

304 4th St S, 2 blocks S from Bowling Gardens. Wednesday- Saturday, May 18-21, 7:30am - ?. Come shop before work! Plus-size clothes, like new, purses, lotza buttons, bric-a-brac, furniture, something for everyone. 5/20p

SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

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



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:

Easy

Medium

Difficult

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

892436571

165978342

743251986

621549837

938617425

457382169

289164753

576893214

314725698

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Every Monday at noon at Ledgerock Community Church, 1515 E Camp St., Ely.

IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH DRUGS,

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

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

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS-

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

AA FRIDAYS-

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


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Super Crossword

HOLLYWOOD GIRL GROUP

ACROSS

1 Shrine images

6 Kept from falling, as pants

13 Abashed

20 Showed on TV again

21 Not varying at all

22 In a weepy way

23 Start of a riddle

25 Language spoken in Dhaka

26 Is in a chair

27 College, to a Brit

28 Long to undo

30 Augur's sign

31 Riddle, part 2

39 Home for mil. jets

40 Roman love god

41 Singer James or Jones

42 Bad guys

46 Explosive compounds

48 Hercule creator Christie

53 From time immemorial

54 Riddle, part 3

56 Talk big

57 Mr. Capote, to friends

58 Partner of neither

59 Liquid asset

60 Riddle, part 4

66 Reciprocal

69 Army chaplain

70 The Great Lakes' — Canals

71 Libreville's country

72 Everglades mammal

75 Riddle, part 5

80 Big name in PCs

81 Letter two before tau

83 "— Kapital"

84 Roof part

85 Riddle, part 6

91 Become rigid

93 Key in again

94 Thin and watery

95 Back fish fins

96 "QED" center

98 Formerly, old-style

99 Mendes of "2 Fast 2 Furious"

100 End of the riddle

109 Kazan of Hollywood

110 Singer Ritter

111 Feel fluish, perhaps

112 French pals

114 Excessive bureaucracy

117 Riddle's answer

123 Offspring-producing animal

124 Part of ROTC

125 Rule from the throne

126 Cheech and Chong personas

127 Electrical current units

128 Archipelago parts

DOWN

1 Eye opener?

2 Shocking EMT treatment

3 Give a speech

4 Expire

5 Lead-in to Cone or Cat

6 Rubs elbows

7 Flying

8 Mattel doll

9 Expire

10 "The Simpsons" shout

11 Old stage star Hagen

12 Martinez of baseball

13 Ideally

14 Realize

15 Sci-fi's Solo

16 Class jargon

17 Where the Marlins play

18 Burstyn or Barkin of film

19 Running out of steam

24 Blew with short blasts

29 World Heritage Site gp.

32 Manicurist's target

33 Brave in the face of adversity

34 Give off

35 "The lady — protest ..."

36 Canadian tribe

37 — -TASS (news agency)

38 Very wise

42 Seizes

43 Site of the Taj Mahal

44 Scorch

45 Frat shindig

47 Rajah's wife

49 Mountain climbers, e.g.

50 Alexis or Peter, e.g.

51 Big name in oil and gas

52 Court great Arthur

54 Novelist Sarah — Jewett

55 Basic musical chords

57 Bullfighter

61 D.C. baseballer

62 Ike's inits.

63 USSR's Cold War foe

64 Alluringly shy

65 "Moo" maker

67 76ers' org.

68 Rocket scientist Wernher — Braun

71 Neutral color

72 Bryn —, Pennsylvania

73 Feel fluish, perhaps

74 Not cluttered

75 Bagel center

76 "— Fideles"

77 Father, to a tot

78 Knievel of motorcycle stunts

79 Cravings

82 Hurry it up

86 Tech detail

87 Wife of Zeus

88 — Scott case

89 Civil wrong

90 "Quiet!"

91 Dumpty dwellings

92 — Sea (Asian lake)

95 Thirsts for

97 Rearranges

100 Basil and bay leaf

101 Heads-up

102 YouTube clip

103 All gone, as food

104 Add-on

105 Purple color

106 Decorative flower holders

107 Cybermissive

108 Scorch

113 1040 IDs: Abbr.

115 Fruity quaff

116 According to

118 Fence (in)

119 Psychic "gift"

120 Added charge

121 Bruin great Bobby

122 Alleged psychic Geller

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PUBLIC HEALTH

# Waning immunity raises risk of COVID infection as cases rise

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- As the number of new COVID cases continues to increase both locally and statewide, new, more highly infectious subvariants of the Omicron variant are increasingly finding suitable hosts among a large swath of vaccinated Minnesotans who are not up to date with their shots.

Daily new case counts statewide and in St. Louis County are back up to levels seen early in the second month of the Delta-driven wave last September, with a three-day count of 5,117 cases reported by the Minnesota Department of Health on Tuesday. St. Louis County added 245 new cases from May 3-5, with the seven-day average of 59.3 on May 5 nearly triple that of April 11.

The North Country's multi-week respite from double-digit new case reports halted with a thud last Thursday as 21 new cases were reported for the week across the six zip codes monitored by the *Timberjay*. Cook, which has had the region's highest number of cases per 100,000, had nine new cases this past week, or more than were reported in the prior five weeks combined. Ely tallied six new cases, double from the week prior, while Tower reported three cases, Orr two, and Soudan

one. Embarrass notched a third consecutive week with no new reported cases.

"We are seeing our case numbers increase," said Amy Westbrook, county public health director, on Tuesday. "We're not seeing our hospitalizations increase as much as our cases are, nor our deaths, which is good, but we know that usually hospitalizations and deaths lag and increase after cases. We'll just have to keep watching them."

The Omicron subvariant BA.2 is the primary cause of new infections, and BA.2.12.1 has been identified in the state as well. Both are far more efficient at eluding the body's defense systems than Omicron, and BA.2.12.1 is more highly infectious than BA.2.

While COVID caused by Omicron and its kin is less likely than their predecessors to cause serious illness, hospitalizations, and deaths, the prevalence of new cases is driving up the number of people admitted to hospitals. COVID-19 hospitalizations across the state increased to 368 on Monday, the highest in over two months. As of Monday, only one intensive care bed was available in northeast Minnesota.

Westbrook isn't surprised by the increase in numbers.

"We know that there's a lot of COVID out there and there's going to be a lot because we're shifting

away from what we've done. As people are shunning masks and going back to regular life, we're going to see more transmission. But what we really want to pay attention to is the morbidity and mortality associated with COVID rather than the actual number of cases, because they could be really mild illnesses, and most of them are," she said.

But the simple increase in cases is driving up the risk that more serious illness and hospitalizations will occur. And with 70 percent of Minnesotans having received at least one dose of COVID vaccine, and with the increased evasiveness of BA.2, there's no surprise that the majority of new cases are occurring among people who have been vaccinated.

And a contributing factor to the overall rise in cases is quite likely linked to the waning immunity of vaccines and boosters, an issue amplified by the fact that less than half of vaccinated Minnesotans are up to date on all their shots.

## Wearing down

A year ago, when Gov. Tim Walz signaled the coming end of COVID restrictions, he gave credit to vaccines for the transition.

"Our nation-leading vaccination effort has put us in a strong position to safely transition toward

life as we used to know it," Walz said last May.

Only about five months into the vaccination effort, not much was known about the three vaccines approved for emergency use other than that they were clearly effective in preventing COVID infections. The realization that the effects were not as long-lasting as hoped for grew as the summer gave way to the Delta wave of the fall and massive Omicron wave this winter. Researchers discovered that protection from hospitalization two months after receiving a second dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccines was 71 percent, but dropped to 54 percent after just five months.

Recommendations from the CDC for a first booster shot came at the end of September. Then a little less than two months ago, a recommendation for a second booster was issued for certain groups of people.

Since healthcare providers began providing boosters, research reported by the Centers for Disease Control in February has suggested that boosters remain highly effective against both moderate and severe cases of COVID for about two months, but then dropped off substantially by four months. Boosters were 91 percent effective at preventing hospitalization against any COVID variant for two months but dropped to 78

percent after four. Subsequent research reported about two weeks ago paints an even less-encouraging picture. While highly effective against severe outcomes immediately after being administered, Pfizer boosters declined to only 53 percent effective three months after vaccination.

"Those who are more likely to have a negative outcome from COVID are also more likely to have been unvaccinated," said Lynn Bahta, a vaccine expert with MDH, "They're more likely to have to seek medical care. There tends to be much more significant disease that is circulating, because more people are getting affected, and that raises the chance that those who are unvaccinated are going to end up in the hospital."

All Minnesotans age 12 and older who have completed their original vaccine series should get a booster shot, according to MDH. A second booster is currently recommended for people 50 years of age and older, people age 12-49 years with certain immunocompromising conditions, and people 18 and older who received Johnson & Johnson COVID vaccine for their initial dose and booster. Full information about vaccines, boosters, and recommendations can be found on the MDH website at <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/vaccine/basics.html>.

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