

FREE

Cabin Fever

PUZZLE BOOK

Inside:

Spring Puzzle Book is here.... See inside

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the

TIMBERJAY



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\$1<sup>50</sup>

CONTESTED CASE HEARING

PolyMet waste plan vetted in courtroom

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER

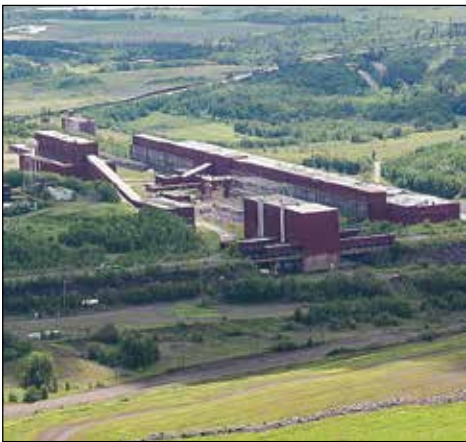
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— The fate of the proposed PolyMet copper-nickel mine could literally come down to clay. That’s the issue at the heart of a contested case hearing that got underway in St. Paul, on Monday and is expected to wrap up by Friday, after the *Timberjay’s* Wednesday press time. It comes nearly two years after the state’s Supreme Court ordered the hearing to examine whether the use of bentonite clay as a kind of cap on

PolyMet’s planned tailings basin would actually prevent the acid rock drainage that has been at the heart of environmentalists’ concerns over the project.

The contested case is a trial, of sorts, that has included testimony from experts and the submission of voluminous documents, which administrative law judge James Lafave will need to sort through before making what could be a make-or-break decision for the planned mine

See...HEARING pg. 10



PolyMet’s proposal to use bentonite clay as a cap for its tailings basin is under scrutiny in a St. Paul administrative law courtroom this week. The outcome is likely to be pivotal to the company’s hopes of opening Minnesota’s first copper-nickel mine.

file photo

EMS

Ambulance study offers little hope for regionalization

McGrath consultants stick to original recommendations

by JODI SUMMIT

Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP- An updated, and substantially modified, version of the McGrath Consulting Group study commissioned by Greenwood Township was released to the town board last week. While the revised study includes an exploration of issues that township officials complained were lacking from the original draft, the consultant’s recommendations remain largely the same.

The township commissioned the study in hopes of finding ways to enhance emergency services, specifically provide Advanced Life Support services, instead of the Basic Life Support services now provided by EMTs from the Tower and Cook ambulances. Both departments call in ALS intercepts when they believe there is a medical need.

The study does not recommend either of the options suggested by the township, such as contracting with a “turn-key” EMS provider or pushing

See...STUDY pg. 10

ANIMAL CRUELTY

Ely man charged for running down deer

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER

Managing Editor

ELY— A 20-year-old college student here is facing an \$1,800 fine after he used his pickup to run down three deer along Ely’s Central Av., leaving them partially paralyzed and struggling on the street. All three animals were eventually put down by retired Ely police officer John Saw.

Casey Meadows, a Madison, South Dakota resident, was driving his vehicle along the road on the south edge of Ely in the late afternoon on Tuesday, March 21, when he spotted three deer on the road. High banks of snow on either side of the road prevented the deer from easily escaping the roadway, which made them an easy target for Meadows, who used his truck to intentionally maim the animals before continuing on his way.

Law enforcement was quickly alerted to the situation as subsequent drivers witnessed the injured deer crawling along the road. “It was not a pretty scene,” said Saw, who was driving by shortly after Meadows struck the deer. He said passersby were clearly upset

See...CHARGED pg. 9



A TEACHER AND A FRIEND

Celebrating a life well spent

Carol Alstrom inspired many students at Tower-Soudan

by JODI SUMMIT

Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- Carol Alstrom was a force of nature. She was a large person and had a voice to match. She was strong and a competitive athlete. She was a teacher, a coach, and a leader. She knew how to get what she wanted, and most of the time what she wanted was to make her students grow into better citizens. She was generous throughout her entire lifetime, and an excellent example of paying things forward.

But most of all, she was a friend... to her family, her students, her co-workers, and to all the others she met along the way.

Over 200 former students, parents and children of former students, co-workers, family members and friends gathered on March 25 to remember and honor Carol’s legacy.

Above: Old friends embrace next to a photo of the late Carol Alstrom, a much loved and respected former teacher at Tower-Soudan.

Right: Alex Suihkonen and his children Louis and Frank help attach locks to the Love Lock memorial that will be placed in front of the school once the snow melts.

photos by J. Summit

A permanent memorial was unveiled, a Love Lock post which will be installed this spring outside of the Tower-Soudan School, where she worked for her entire teaching career.

Carol started teaching at Tower-Soudan High School in 1970, after

See...ALSTROM pg. 9



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## Community notices

### Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners, Inc. announces 2023 scholarship opportunities

REGIONAL - Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners (VHHP) announces 2023 scholarship opportunities. Applicants must be pursuing a career in a medical field (nursing, dental, EMT, physical therapy, etc.) High school students from the Cook, Nett Lake, Orr, Tower and Soudan school attendance areas may apply. Students whose address falls in these area may apply even if they go to school elsewhere.

Any previous scholarship recipients now in college are encouraged to apply for the college scholarship as well as any other college student whose address falls in the same attendance areas.

This year VHHP will give away two high school scholarships and one college scholarship. Applications are due to VHHP postmarked by April 15. Applications can be obtained from the North Woods High School counselor's office, the VHHP website [www.vhhp.org](http://www.vhhp.org), or by contacting program director Becca Bundy by phone at 218-780-5423 or email [vhhpdirector@gmail.com](mailto:vhhpdirector@gmail.com).

High school and college recipients will be notified by mail in May. The college scholarship award is mailed to recipient in mid June and high school recipients will receive their scholarship after successfully completing one semester of college and mailing a transcript to VHHP.

### Sons of Norway Haarfager Lodge #40 to meet Thursday, April 6 at 5:30 p.m.

VIRGINIA - The Sons of Norway Haarfager Lodge #40 will meet Thursday, April 6 in the Virginia City Hall employee lunchroom. Those attending will have the opportunity to make krumkaker. The evening's serving committee is Jan Dzwonkowski, Karen Lindquist, and Dave & Laurie Olson. Anyone interested in Norwegian culture is welcome to attend.

### Embarrass Region Fair Association honors firefighters at pancake breakfast April 1

EMBARRASS - Please join the Embarrass Region Fair Association Saturday, April 1 from 8-11 a.m. in thanking our firefighters. Everyone will enjoy all-you-can-eat pancakes, with choice of ham or sausage links, fruit cup, juice, and a bottomless cup of coffee. Adults \$6, children (6-10 years) \$3, under 5 years free. All firefighters dine for free as well.

Also, plan ahead to give the gift of life at the Saturday, May 6, breakfast. The Memorial Blood Center will be onsite to take donations. Sign-up at [www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org). Sponsored by the Embarrass Region Fair Association.

### Mesabi Unitarian Universalist Church features Duluth poet Sheila Packa April 2

VIRGINIA - Duluth poet Sheila Packa will present "Poetry and Spirituality" at Mesabi Unitarian Universalist Church on Sunday, April 2. "In poetry, in the spiritual, we are travelers. In order to write a good poem, or find the right path, seekers try things old and new to go deep into the soul's landscape and connect with the Spirit." Join Sheila for a presentation, a few poetry exercises, and a conversation. The service is at 10:30 a.m., the church is located at 230 7th Street S and the building is handicap accessible. For more information visit <http://www.mesabiuu.info>.

### Finnish Americans and friends meet April 4

HIBBING - Garrett Lamppa of Lamppa Manufacturing will continue the theme of celebrating the sauna with his talk about the renowned wood-burning furnaces and sauna stoves. The meeting is Tuesday, April 4 at 2 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, 4010 9th. Ave W. Everyone is invited; a coffee social time follows the presentation.

### Lokka Tupa #1, Ladies of Kaleva meet April 3

VIRGINIA - The Lokka Tupa #1 Ladies of Kaleva will meet on Monday, April 3 at noon at Kaleva Hall in Virginia.

## IN BOOKS

### UP NORTH! A Writer's Journey with Author Mary Casanova

MT. IRON - The Arrowhead Library System (ALS) is pleased to present "UP NORTH! A Writer's Journey with Author Mary Casanova," a free program being offered at the following locations:

- Monday, April 10, 3:30 p.m. Cook Public Library
- Tuesday, April 18, 3:30 p.m. Ely Public Library
- Saturday, April 22, 10:30 a.m. Int'l Falls Public Library
- Monday, April 24, 1 p.m. Babbitt Public Library

Straight out of college, Mary Casanova and her husband followed their dream to live "up north." Forty years and 40 books later, Mary's

love of woods, water, and wilderness permeates her wide range of work. With heart and humor, Mary Casanova entertains and educates as she shares her writing process, including where ideas come from, overcoming writer's block, doing the research, drawing on the five senses, mining personal experience, and creating strong beginnings. Program length is 60 minutes and is recommended for all ages!

This program, sponsored by Arrowhead Library System, was funded in part or in whole with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (ACFH). To learn more about Arrowhead Legacy Events, please see our calendar at



[www.alslib.info](http://www.alslib.info) or like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/alslibinfo](https://www.facebook.com/alslibinfo).

## IN ARTS

### Lyric Center features environmental painter and muralist in April

VIRGINIA - Adam Swanson is featured at The Lyric Center Gallery through April. You may be a fan of his work on social media, have appreciated any of his dozens of murals across the state (including Chisholm) or observed his paintings hanging on gallery walls in places like Duluth, Minneapolis and Wisconsin (among many projects across the globe such as South Africa or Turkey). Now you can see his collection right here on the Iron Range through April in historic downtown Virginia's Lyric Center for the Arts.

There will be an opening reception welcoming Adam and his recent collection on April 8 from 5-7 p.m. after he teaches a beginner's acrylic painting class. The class is filling up fast, but you may still grab a spot through the Lyric's website until April 3. "I am a painter and mu-



ralist fascinated by the way science fiction suggests a future for humanity transformed by major environmental changes and technological innovations. My invented landscapes ask viewers to consider unfamiliar places, such as the lines between true and false, fiction and documentation, natural growth and urban development. I plant wild animals and scientific equipment to create poignant and sometimes humorous tensions between humans and the natural world," states the artist, Adam Swanson. Lyric Center's Opera-

tions Manager, Lindsey Bergan exclaims, "Adam Swanson is a fantastic storyteller that captures the beauty and mystery of our natural world through his bright and expressive paintings. We are very honored to showcase a collection of his for this year's 'Spring Awakening'!" The Lyric Center Gallery is open Thursdays from 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Fridays from 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m., and Saturdays from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Adam's work will be featured from April 6-29 with 12 pieces available for viewing and purchase. Also on Thursdays, please

join them during the Downtown Virginia Arts, All Ages Open Art Club and late evening events sponsored by REVIVE Virginia.

You can find out more information about Adam on his website [adamswanson.com](http://adamswanson.com). Lyric Center's future gallery features and events are posted at [lyriccenteronline.org](http://lyriccenteronline.org), on Facebook/Instagram or by calling 218-741-5577. All questions and concerns should be sent to [operations@lyriccenteronline.org](mailto:operations@lyriccenteronline.org). Contributed by: Lindsey Bergan, Lyric Center for the Arts Operations Manager.

## BE AWARE

### Chief Justice Gildea urges awareness of jury duty scams

ST. PAUL - Minnesota Supreme Court Chief Justice Lorie S. Gildea urges Minnesotans to be vigilant of jury duty scams. The Minnesota Judicial Branch has posted information about jury duty scams on its website at [www.mncourts.gov/jury](http://www.mncourts.gov/jury).

"Counties and district courts are hearing, again, that scammers are preying on Minnesotans with fake jury duty phone calls," said Chief Justice Gildea.

"Jury duty is an important civic duty. I commend citizens who report for jury service, and urge Minnesotans to learn about and protect themselves from the potentially devastating consequences of these scams."

Jury duty scams can take many forms. Recently, scammers are calling people and pretending to be from Minnesota courts. In some cases, they "spoof" the court telephone number so it looks like the call is originating from the court or from a law enforcement agency.

In these calls, the scammer says people must

pay a fine for missing jury service. The scammer might ask for a credit card number or suggest some other way to pay the fine and avoid jail time. The scammers may demand that people provide payment or divulge private information that the scammer can use for identity theft purposes.

Chief Justice Gildea reminds all Minnesotans that if they are summoned for state jury duty, initial contact will always be made by U.S. Mail in the form of a juror summons from a Minnesota district court. Minnesota courts will never contact a per-

son by phone or e-mail and seek payment of fines, Social Security numbers, credit card information, or any other sensitive information in response to missed jury duty.

Any person who receives a suspicious call seeking payment or private data related to missed jury duty is urged to contact their local county sheriff's office. People with questions about jury duty service should contact their local district court. Contact information can be found at [www.mn-courts.gov/jury](http://www.mn-courts.gov/jury) by clicking on the "County Jury Info" tab.



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ELY

# Ely Schools adopt Wednesday early release program

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- It's official: the Ely School Board voted to adopt an early release program for the 2023-24 school year at their March 27 meeting. During next school year, students will be released from school approximately 50 minutes early so teachers can attend professional development and training.

The early release program was discussed in detail at the previous two school board meetings, with several district teachers testifying in favor of the program, as covered by the March 3 and March 17 editions of the *Timberjay*. All three senior administrators of the district are in favor of the program.

The small conference room where the board meeting was held was filled, and the attendees needed to bring in three more chairs than the 12 usually available for guests. Most of public at the meeting were teachers who work at the district.

Given the amount of commentary on this topic at prior meetings, the time spent talking about early release was unexpectedly

brief. After the meeting, school board chairperson Ray Marsnik remarked to the *Timberjay* that the brevity of the discussion surprised him.

At the meeting, board member Tony Colarich had the most to say about the early release program. "I cannot support early release," Colarich said. "The amount of (instruction) time lost is 29 hours every year for our students. If it does pass, I would like us to evaluate it every year."

Marsnik noted that the approval of the program was only for the 2023-24 school year, and that it would indeed be re-evaluated next year.

The vote to approve that program was 5-1, with Colarich casting the opposing vote.

## Gifted and talented program

The school district's gifted and talented student program was another agenda item, but board member Rochelle Sjoberg asked to drop the proposal to discontinue the sponsorship of the Northeast Area Gifted and Talented program. Sjoberg suggested that the item be discussed at a future meet-

ing, stating she felt the board needed more time to look into the issue. The board voted to drop the item, but that didn't stop three people from testifying in favor of retaining the program during the open forum portion of the meeting. "It makes me sad that this program may be discontinued ... this program encourages Ely girls to keep their STEM (science technology engineering mathematics) options open," said Sarah Sponholz, who also teaches math at Minnesota College North.

Molly Olson, the coordinator of the program, said the enrichment is offered in person in Ely and virtually in several neighboring school districts. She was followed by Ely resident Megan Anderson, who spoke in favor of retaining the program.

Despite being dropped from the agenda, the gifted and talented program came up a second time, during the portion of the meeting dedicated to school board member concerns. Sjoberg explained her reasoning behind her request and asked for more details on what the bumped agenda item entailed.

Superintendent John Klarich explained that dropping the sponsorship was not the same thing as discontinuing the program. The district currently hosts the program physically but doesn't have control over all of its details or fund allocation since it is a multi-district effort.

"I don't know if we should be hosting it," Klarich stated, "and if we do host it, what is the cost to the district?" Klarich appeared concerned that the district's efforts to host the program were not commensurate with what the district was receiving in terms of educational value.

In other matters on the meeting agenda, the school board:

➤ Approved an agreement with Walker, Giroux & Hahne Certified Public Accountants and Consultants for auditing services for the year ending June 30, 2023. This is the firm contracted to provide an independent audit of the district's finances. The fee for the audit report will not exceed \$26,500. The district may need an additional financial service if certain conditions exist called a "single audit." If

a single audit is required, there will be an additional charge of \$4,000.

➤ Approved the hire of Michele Milton as a cafeteria aide effective March 13, 2023. Milton is moving from a 2.75 hour per day position to a 3.75 hour per day position. The district now has an open 2.75 hour per day position open.

➤ Accepted the resignation of Justin Olson from his position as temporary part-time custodian effective March 24, 2023.

➤ Accepted the retirement of Anna Sjoberg from her paraprofessional position effective June 2, 2023. Sjoberg has been with the school district for 26 years, for five years part-time and then 21 years in her current position.

➤ Approved the following volunteer assistant coaches as recommended by Tom Coombe, Athletic Director: Derek Johnson, Paul Kienitz, Jim Wittrup, Eddie Prijatel and Kevin Marolt volunteer assistant baseball coaches; Jeff Mackenzie and Tony Reichicki volunteer assistant softball coaches.

➤ Accepted the termination of the Temporary-At-Will

Superintendent's Administrative Assistant Mentoring agreement with Mary Wognum and ISD 696, effective immediately.

➤ Approved the dance team's coaching stipend of approximately \$1,900 and transportation to post-season events beginning the 2023-2024 season. Athletic director Tom Coombe stated that the stipend "puts competitive dance on the same (funding) standing as Nordic skiing and girls track."

➤ Adopted the 2023-2024 school year calendar labeled "version C" in the agenda packet. This version incorporates the early release dates for every Wednesday that students are in school. The first day of school will be Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2023. The last day of school will be May 30, 2024. Dates when the schools will be closed are: Oct. 19-20, Nov. 22-24, Dec. 22-Jan. 1, Feb. 16-20, March 28-April 2, and May 27. Teacher in-service days, which are no-attendance days for students, are Aug. 28-29, Aug. 31, Jan. 15, and May 31.

➤ Heard the report of Superintendent Klarich

See ELY... pg. 5

## COUNTY SCHOOLS

# School board holds first reading of new bullying prohibition policy

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

TOWER- Meeting at the Tower-Soudan School on Tuesday, the St. Louis County School Board passed an updated bullying prohibition policy designed to more effectively address issues that have cropped up at schools this past year.

Last spring, the board heard from a student and her parents about bullying incidents at South Ridge, and North Woods staff instigated two community meetings to enlist support in dealing with a number of issues there, including bullying.

The policy outlines a number of factors to be considered when an allegation of bullying is received— including the developmental ages and maturity levels of the parties involved, the level of harm, surrounding circumstances, and nature of the behavior, past or continuing patterns of behavior, the relationship between the parties, and the context in which the alleged bullying occurred.

It also establishes a range of remedial responses and positive behavioral interventions, including suspension and/or expulsion if deemed necessary and appropriate. Employ-

ees who permit, condone, or tolerate bullying can be terminated or discharged.

The policy also establishes a clear definition for evaluating instances of cyberbullying via electronic communications, and can apply to incidents off school premises if the incident substantially and materially disrupts student learning or the school environment.

The policy establishes guidelines for reporting, investigations, and district actions in response to an allegation of bullying. The policy also provides for training for district personnel in effective measures to handle bullying that are

developmentally appropriate.

In other business, the board:

➤ Heard a building report from Tower-Soudan Principial John Jirik, who described a number of positive behavioral teaching strategies the school is employing effectively to encourage and recognize good student behavior. Jirik also reported that the school has been developing co-educational multi-age sports programs to promote student engagement and interaction.

➤ Approved the purchase of a propane-fueled 71-passenger bus for \$142,000.

➤ Held a first reading of a policy regarding the use of drug overdose medication.

➤ Approved adding June 19, known as "June-teenth," to the approved holiday list, bringing the district in line with federal and state holidays that recognize the emancipation of enslaved African Americans.

➤ Hired Scott Aiken as a long-term math substitute at North Woods.

➤ Hired Douglas Workman and Brielle Anderson as part-time paraprofessionals at Tower-Soudan and North Woods, respectively.

➤ Hired Tate Olson as

head golf coach at North Woods, Robert Kruse as head baseball coach at North Woods, Adam Hagen as assistant track coach at Northeast Range, and Cody Siebert as assistant golf coach at NER.

➤ Accepted resignations from NER assistant track coach Ellen Pierce, NER assistant volleyball coach Lara Poderzay, and North Woods music teacher Natalie Danielson, and the retirement of Ellen Pierce as science teacher at NER.

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# OPINION

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

“CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW...ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH, OR OF THE PRESS;”

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

## Editorial

### Choosing freedom

In Minnesota, the Legislature is protecting our rights to live life as we choose

In Arkansas, Republican Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders recently signed into a law a measure making it easier for businesses to employ children as young as 14. In Florida, school libraries have been cleared to the bare bones as librarians are prevented from stocking books until they have been certified as “woke-free,” a term that even its proponents can’t define. In the meantime, books are simply being stripped from shelves.

By contrast, here in Minnesota, DFL Gov. Tim Walz had a point to make this past week. He was busy stocking a Little Free Library he had placed outside his office in the Capitol, with titles that likely won’t make the cut in places like Florida and other Republican-led states where lawmakers are passing laws to ban any book that touches, even in passing, on controversial issues like race relations, abortion, same sex attraction, or any kind of social inequity. A Tallahassee principal was fired just last week because three parents were upset that sixth graders at the Tallahassee Classical School, saw a picture of Michelangelo’s *David*—widely considered the finest sculpture in the history of the world—as part of their studies. Three parents fussed that the sculpture is pornographic because David’s privates are showing.

Thanks to Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and his pals in the Legislature, curriculum has been taken out of the hands of educators and handed over to the loudest and looniest parents in every school district in the state. And he wants to do the same for America? We’ll pass.

Gov. Walz, fresh off his own solid re-election, has recognized that Minnesota provides an attractive counterpoint to the extremist tendencies of too many Republican governors and legislators these days. He recently noted that on the same day that he was signing a bill that provided universal free school lunches for all students, his Dickensian GOP counterpart in Arkansas was paving the way for more child labor. After all, why feed those kids when we can send them to the meat-packing plants? Walz recognized the contrast and was happy to draw it.

At a time when Republican states are passing increasingly Draconian anti-abortion laws, some of which have already resulted in higher rates of maternal mortality, Walz noted that Minnesota was enshrining abortion rights into state law.

He also signed an executive order protecting the right to obtain doctor-approved, gender-affirming care for young people at a time when some Republican states are seeking to ban all such care, even for adults, and would force those who have already transitioned to move to another state or give up their hormone therapies.

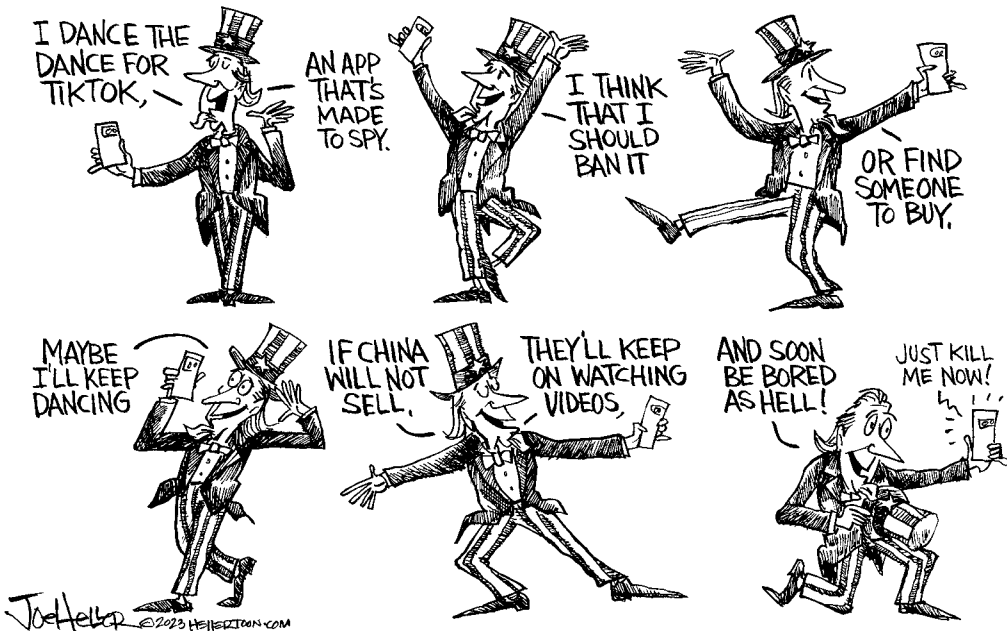
Walz has correctly pointed out the utter hypocrisy of many GOP governors, who claim their actions are, in some twisted alternative reality, an effort to promote “freedom.”

The title of Gov. Ron DeSantis’s new book, “The Courage to be Free” is enough to elicit a gag response when paired with the reality of what’s actually happening in Florida, which is steadily eroding the freedoms residents of that state once took for granted. He’s even going after businesses that want to institute racial or gender sensitivity training. We can argue about how effective such training might be, but where does the government get off telling businesses they can’t have a commitment to tolerance and equity in their workplace? Talk about authoritarianism.

“Florida...that’s where freedom goes to die,” quipped Walz recently, taking a jab at DeSantis’s favorite line, that Florida is where “woke goes to die.” DeSantis can’t define woke, but we suspect Walz can define freedom, which in our book is having the right to make personal decisions for yourself, with as little interference from government as possible.

And that is what is under threat in Republican states across the country, where the rights of everyone to make health care decisions in consultation with doctors and family, rather than politicians, is under threat. It’s where students are prevented from learning basic realities of human existence and are force-fed whitewashed versions of American history lest they get “inappropriate ideas.” It’s where the right to vote is being steadily eroded and the separation between church and state is being dismantled in the rush to institute a Christianized version of Sharia law.

Unfortunately, for too many on the right these days, freedom means old White men having the right to tell everyone else how to live their lives. Thanks, but no thanks. We’ll stick with Minnesota.



## Letters from Readers

### Thanks to so many for helping us weather a difficult time

Many of you read the fantastic story done by *The Timberjay* about what our small business recently went through dealing with our own EPA in the name of over-regulation without any common sense! For anyone interested, we have created a page on our website, which goes into details only summarized in the story.

The last six months have been a complete whirlwind and a fight for our survival as a company. We want to thank many local, state, and federal politicians for their assistance when we had nowhere else to go. Specifically, we would like to thank the IRRRB, Mark Phillips, Ida Rukavina, Dave Lislegard, Rob Ecklund, Tom Bakk, Tina Smith, Pete Stauber, and Amy Klobuchar. Senator Klobuchar even personally called us multiple times on nights and weekends to assist. It was great to see the support from both sides of the political aisle when something like this happened in one of our small local communities.

**Garrett Lamppa**  
Lamppa Manufacturing Tower

### Another park ranger from hell

I’d like to submit a brief follow-up to an earlier letter regarding the regrettable incident with the NPS and Justin Ebel.

I had mentioned in passing an experience I’d had with the NPS on the St. Croix Scenic Riverway in the mid-1990s. The canoe/camping trip included myself along with a friend of mine, both of us in our early forties. We were accompanied by our three sons, ages 10 years or under and an additional friend, making six all told. The first night was a little chaotic as we arrived later than we would have liked

and were a little challenged to get set up and some dinner together. In the midst of dinner, a vicious rain squall came through followed by a steady heavy rain, which had the result of chasing us into our tents. From which, we were awakened around midnight by a high-powered flashlight into our tents with some orders being barked to come out peacefully. Never mind it’s still raining, and we were sound asleep in our sleeping bags. Our sons were a little scared, as was I. My friend yelled an expletive and told him to go away. I stuck my head out to see some guy in a uniform (water running off his hat) shining the light with one hand and fingering a large pistol strapped to his waist with the other. What the hell? Did this guy escape from the state psych hospital close by or was he for real? Turns out he was real. We were informed we were breaking camping rules by leaving out our dirty dishes. No food, mind you, but we hadn’t washed the dishes and were informed we were lucky there weren’t any bears in our camp yet. I observed that I not only didn’t see any bears but hadn’t been disturbed either, at least till he came along. Ranger Rick took that comment the wrong way and started yelling again while fingering his gun. To defuse things, I picked up the dishes, took them to my vehicle and dumped them on the front seat, all under his evil eye. That seemed to satisfy him, and with a warning that we could only stay one night, he left to hassle somebody else.

All told it rained several inches that night which made for some wet gear. After drying things, we packed up and moved to another site close by across the river. As we were getting dinner together who should roll in but Ranger Rick. He made his way over and demanded to know what we were doing there. I would have thought that was obvious. What was obvious even to him was that it was dusk

and he’d forgotten his bug repellent. After spraying myself I watched the mosquitoes go for blood as his dark uniform attracted them like crazy. I’ve never appreciated mosquitos quite as much as right then. In between trying to defend himself he sputtered that we were still in the same site. My emphatic denial that we were most certainly not only led to a threat to arrest me. By then I really didn’t even care if he arrested me and turned and walked away. Like most bullies they don’t really know what to do next. He chose the usual, more threats, but beat a hasty retreat, mostly thanks to my new friends, the mosquitoes.

I wrote both U.S. Senators and my House Representative about his guy. Of the three, I received two replies along with some apologies for his behavior. My question is this, where are Pete Stauber, Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith hiding out? Isn’t this incident worthy of their attention?

A follow up question, when did this militarization of Smokey Bear and Park Rangers occur? And why? They used to be helpful friendly people to encounter, not some goon-like character.

**Mark Wendt**  
Stillwater

### We welcome your letters

The *Timberjay* encourages letters to the editor. You can submit letters by mail at PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790, or email letters to [marshall@timberjay.com](mailto:marshall@timberjay.com).

We ask that letters be limited to 300 words.

Letters are subject to editing, primarily for length and clarity.

## COLUMNIST

# Will the mothers’ legacies live on?

During March, we’re reminded of the many great women who have carved frontiers and unlocked doors for women and girls. We marvel at their



**KATHLEEN MCQUILLAN**

view with Anna Malaika Tubbs, the author of a book entitled “The Three Mothers: How the mothers of Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, and James Baldwin shaped a nation, I learned the names of the three great women who mothered these three great men. After years of research, Tubbs reveals the way historians have skimmed over the influential roles that mothers play in the development of their

children’s potential. Her biographies raise the remarkable lives of Alberta King, Louise Little, and Berdis Baldwin from obscurity. Not only does she shine a light on their greatness, but she also identifies the impact of their hardships. With her acute attention to the intersections of race, gender and class, Tubbs calls attention to the immeasurable strength and resilience of every black woman living amidst persistent racism. She then expands her analysis to include all women raising children with insufficient resources and support. I identified the par-

allels in my own mother’s story.

My mother, Margaret, was born on June 8, 1925, in Detroit, Mich., to working-class Greek immigrants, the second of five children, the eldest daughter. Instead of the apple of her father’s eye, she was his “Little Dove”. She would someday whisper Grandpa’s term of endearment into my ears, not knowing that his words would become a beloved part of my scant lexicon of Greek phrases.

Margaret graduated from Redford High in 1943 and began work as a postal clerk, a vacancy made possible for

women by World War II. She lived with her parents until she married my father, Eddy McQuillan. They would conceive three children. I was the youngest.

I have few photos of my mother but in one she’s holding me in her arms. She’s smiling, her voluminous dark hair spilling out from a crocheted cap. In another picture it’s summer. She’s wearing plaid shorts and a sleeveless blouse, surrounded by iris and poppies. I’m clinging to her bare leg, no



## Letters from Readers

## ELY...Continued from page 3

## MOTHERS...Continued from page 4

less as America continues to fall behind the rest of the world in how we care for families that struggle.



*the*  
**TIMBERJAY**

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**Moving? Questions about your subscription?  
 Call the Tower office at (218) 753-2950.**



Week of April 3

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

**Tuesday**  
Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5 p.m. Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is April 18.

Greenwood Fire Dept.- Meetings on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

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

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

**St. James upcoming service schedule**  
TOWER- St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower will have services led by the following speakers for April. Services are Sunday at 10 a.m., with coffee an' following.  
April 2- Rev. Richard Blood  
April 9- Pastor Ellen Taube  
April 16- Greg Kuchan  
April 23- Linda Kronholm  
April 30- Pastor Ellen Taube  
Every Sunday, during the service, there is special music with Greg Kuchan on guitar and his wife, Denise Kuchan on electric drums.

**Tower-Soudan-Embarrass Bookmobile Schedule**  
REGIONAL- The Arrowhead Bookmobiles will be in the Tower-Soudan area on Wednesday, April 5 & 26; May 17; June 7 & 28.  
Stops include: Britt (Sand Lake Storage): 9 - 9:30 a.m.; Bois Forte (Boys & Girls Club): 11 - 11:30 a.m.; Greenwood (Town Hall): 12 - 1 p.m.; Soudan (Post Office area): 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.; Tower (Civic Center): 3:45 - 4:30 p.m. ; and Embarrass (Hwy 135 & Hwy 21): 5 - 6 p.m.  
More info online at [alslib.info/services/bookmobile](http://alslib.info/services/bookmobile). For more information on the Bookmobile or Mail-A-Book services, contact the Arrowhead Library System, 218-741-3840, email at [als@alslib.info](mailto:als@alslib.info), or website at [alslib.info](http://alslib.info).



THANK YOU

*Thank you ever so much to all the former students and friends for attending the Celebration of Life for Carol Alstrom. Also, thanks to all those who have contributed to the Love Lock memorial project. She would have loved seeing each, and every one, of you.*

*Susan A. Alstrom*

CAROL ALSTROM CELEBRATION OF LIFE



**Above:** Susan Alstrom by the Love Lock memorial which will be installed outdoors at the school.  
**Left:** Former co-workers (from left) Kathy Salmela, Cheryl Lamppa, and Gloria Gervais.  
**Below:** Former students (from left) Aaron Myre, Elizabeth Sundeen, and Phillip Tomsich. photos by J. Summit



**Above:** Whitney (Johnson) Cobby with her children Hudson and Harper look through old TS yearbooks. **Below:** Sarah Christmas (at left) and Angie Koski (second to right) with their families.



TOWNSHIP NEWS

Matt Tuchel takes a seat on the Breitung Board

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA  
Staff Writer

BREITUNG- The Breitung Town Board said goodbye to a longtime supervisor and hello to a somewhat new face at their regular meeting on March 23.  
Supervisor Greg Dostert received many thanks for his service to the township. Dostert has been serving on the board on and off since 1991. He’s worked on many projects throughout the years including the McKinley Park facility, the baseball field, rink renovations and town hall renovations.  
Dostert has always been a fierce and effective advocate for area youth, heading up local recreation programs, most notably baseball. Dostert plans on continuing his many jobs in the community as a school bus driver for Vermilion Country School, coaching youth baseball, his gravel and construction business, and most recently he stepped in to teach a shop class at the Vermilion Country School.

“It’s been a pleasure serving the community and working with you guys,” Greg said, “we did a lot of good.”  
Matt Tuchel was finally able to take the oath of office and sat in his new seat on the Breitung Town Board after a hiccup last

year. Tuchel ran for office last year, but after winning the election, the township attorney Robert Pearson advised that Tuchel not take the supervisor seat. Pearson cautioned that there may be a conflict of interest because of Tuchel’s many community-centered positions as assistant fire chief, an EMT for the Tower Ambulance Service, and the full-time wastewater supervisor for the Tower-Breitung Wastewater Board. So, Tuchel did not take the seat, and the board appointed Tim Tomsich, who had intended to retire from the board, to fill in.  
After working with the township and the Minnesota Attorney General’s office, the township cleared up the questions of any potential conflicts and it was determined that Tuchel could still serve on the town board while keeping all his positions, so long as he doesn’t represent the township on the wastewater board, and that he abstain from voting on certain topics that would create a conflict of interest.

**Police**  
Chief of Police Dan Reing said that the police department had its slowest month so far in February. He spent his extra time looking for equipment grants, visiting with school children, and organizing the office and evidence storage room.  
Reing advised the board that he is looking into a grant from the federal government called the COPS Hiring Program which would allow the department to hire another full-time officer and would pay up to 75-percent of the officer’s salary for three years. Reing said that it’s getting harder and harder to hire police officers. “People leave (the profession) and they don’t come back,” he said.  
The board passed a

motion to accept a quote from Axon Enterprises for taser supply and training for the next five years for \$10,800, broken into yearly increments.  
**Reorganization**  
The board, as part of their reorganization:  
➤ Selected the *Tower News* as the legal publication, *Tower News* had the low bid of \$0.65 and \$2.50, the only other bid was the *Timberjay* with \$1.99 and \$3.75. The *Timberjay* also puts all its legal notices online, available to all at no charge, so residents can view any legal notices. The *Tower News* has not had a functioning website for well over a year.  
➤ Set labor/rink attendant wage at the minimum required by the state, \$10.59 for adults, \$8.63 for youth.  
➤ Set rider mower operator wage at \$11.59.  
➤ Voted to give a raise to 16- and 17-year-old youth workers by \$1 after two years of service.  
➤ Raised the wage for office cleaning by \$1, to \$17.  
➤ Raised the wage for part-time police officers by \$1, to \$24.  
➤ Raised the clerk wage \$1,000 per year to \$26,000.  
➤ Raised the treasurer wage \$2,000 per year to \$25,000.  
➤ Designated the official posting locations as outside the community center, at the Soudan Store, and at the Post Office. Residents can also request to be put on an email list to receive important notices by contacting the clerk’s office.  
➤ Elected TimTomsich as chairman and Chuck Tekautz as vice chair. Tekautz and Tomsich will represent the township on the wastewater board since Tuchel is ineligible, Tomsich will be McKinley Park liaison, Tuchel will be on the

ambulance board, Tuchel will be on the Joint Powers Recreation Board and Greg Dostert will still represent the township on the lodging tax board. The supervisors acknowledged that they all are noxious weed inspectors and designated Tomsich to sign noxious weed reports.  
➤ Set the regular board meetings for the fourth Thursday of the month at noon.  
In other news, the board:  
➤ Heard that new supervisor Matt Tuchel will attend a new supervisor training provided by the MN Association of Townships.  
➤ Heard that a grant application was denied by Lake Country Power Operation Round Up for renovations to the playground at McKinley Park Campground.  
➤ Received a thank you from the Embarrass Fair Board for the township’s contribution of \$300 that residents voted on at the annual meeting.  
➤ Heard that the skating rink was averaging 13 skaters a day up from 8 or 9 a day last year and that the rink is closed for the season, 10 days earlier than last year.  
➤ Heard that a water leak on 4th Ave. was found and repaired.  
➤ Heard that the wastewater project was currently on the senate bonding bill for \$2.25 million and that Tuchel testified before state senate bonding bill committee on behalf of water treatment facility.  
➤ Heard that the wastewater board put in a congressional direct spending request for \$3.75 million for an additional wastewater pond to Pete Stauber. It was picked to be forwarded to a federal subcommittee for agriculture.  
➤ Heard that the grant request from IRRR for the cost overrun on the

bike trail project was approved.  
➤ Heard that an anonymous cash donation of \$500, marked for the ambulance replacement fund, was received. The township will make a resolution to formally accept the funds at next month’s meeting and then write a check for the amount to the city.  
➤ A citation was given to a resident renter who had excessive amounts of trash in both the front and back yard, after a warning a month previous. The township will also send a courtesy notice to the homeowner with a copy of the citation.  
➤ Heard that Tuchel met with CTC to get a quote for broadband at McKinley Park Campground. CTC can run broadband to the store, but that there wasn’t an easy way to provide WIFI to the rest of the campground because of the concrete block construction of the store building.  
**February Police Report**  
February was the quietest month the department has seen in a long time. A highlight of the month was spending a morning at North Woods School during their annual Bagels and Books event. Chief Reing also spent time visiting Tower-Soudan Elementary and Vermilion Country School at various times throughout the month. Many office projects and paperwork were completed this month. We are taking the time to get projects done that we will not have time for later this year. The weather is going to warm up eventually and our area will be busy once again. Be safe.  
Calls for service: 49  
Investigations: 3  
Community engagement: 1  
Assist other agencies:



SUPPORT OUR KIDS

# Ely Community Resource wants you

## What Ely Community Resource does for Ely youth, and how you can help

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- In 1978, the Ely Police Department, the Ely School District and concerned Ely area citizens came together to start a home-grown organization to help Ely’s kids. That was the birth of the Ely Community Resource (ECR), which has been active in the community’s youth for 45 years. The way a group like ECR prospers is by keeping the community involved with the work it does. As part of its continual outreach to engage individuals as volunteers to lend a hand in keeping Ely as a great place to grow-up.

Three from ECR recently presented just one of its programs in detail to the attendees of the Tuesday Group on March 21: Jill Hignell, ECR executive director; Ryan Stewart, family resources coordinator; and Kaiyo Grant, an Ely area minor in the ECR mentorship program.

### Mentorship

ECR offers multiple programs and services for area youth. The mentorship program matches an area youth with a mentor volunteer. The two will meet weekly for one-on-one time. The mentor gives the youth someone to talk to, do things with, and try new activities.

Stewart remarked that the mentoring program over the years has had “a notable impact on Ely youth.” The program is tailored to the individual youths signed up for it, where the mentor is matched with parental preferences for their child. Each mentor is vetted, including a background check. Mentors are all volunteers from the community who commit to at least one year of service.

Grant described what it was like for him as a high school student, outlining both how Ely was supportive of youth but that Ely was not immune to the struggles of kids with isolation, loneliness, and social anxiety in the post-COVID period. “This town is really small so there’s not a lot of diversity,” Grant remarked, naming one of his observations on life in Ely, adding that a lot of people in his peer group were “addicted to social media.” In contrast, his involvement with the mentor program got him away from the internet, often outdoors, and experiencing a one-on-one relationship focused on his needs and goals.

Stewart delivered facts on the current mental health struggles of American youth, stating the Ely youth were certainly not immune from the national malaise. “Ely youth are not entirely unique,” noting that life could be espe-



**Homework Help tutor Jeff Kemmer (right) works with student Jack Jordan (left) on factoring polynomials in the Ely school district library.** photos by C. Clark



**The Ely Community Resource sent three to speak to the Tuesday Group at Grand Ely Lodge about the youth mentorship program. From left-to-right: Julie Hignell, Ryan Stewart, Kaiyo Grant.**

**Some of the items in this year’s ECR auction. See below for info on bidding.** submitted



cially difficult for marginalized groups, and hard for everyone during the winter in Minnesota. “Four in ten youth feel sad or hopeless.” Stewart listed statistics, “One in five have thought of suicide. One in ten made a suicide attempt.”

The mentorship program is always looking for volunteers to match with those looking for a mentor. The program is one of the ways that Ely citizens can actively make a difference in the lives of Ely kids. Besides providing a mentor, the program is year-round. It also arranges group mentorship activities and events. Stewart showed slides of mentor program group trips including camping, winter camping, and trips to local attractions like the North American Bear Center.

“We also have support services for mentors,” Stewart explained. Those include Ryan overseeing and coordinating men-

tors and mentor gatherings where volunteers can network and share their experiences and solutions in working with their kids.

### Other ECR programs

Stewart outlined other services provided through his position at ECR as the family resources coordinator. He also runs the “Pathways to Wellness” program, which provides “care facilitation” for families.

“I help connect families to resources, help them with (government and nonprofit) program applications, find them mental health resources, and housing and food access if necessary.”

Stewart also runs the

ECR-sponsored youth group, namely the gaming club, the video production club in partnership with Cyko Productions, which provides the equipment and space, and the outdoor adventure club. The Cyko Productions end of the video production club was the subject of an article in the Dec. 30, 2022, issue of the *Timberjay*.

The ECR clubs often change depending on what is appealing to the attending kids. Some of them have brought recognition to the efforts of the participants. For example, the ECR Ely Water Project and the Stormwater drainage awareness and Eco (sic) Club from last summer were awarded the 2022 Community Conservationist Award from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation, as covered by an article also in the Dec. 30, 2022, *Timberjay*.

Other ECR youth efforts include the Elementary Afterschool Program, formerly known as Homework Club, which is run by ECR youth program coordinator Audrey Jerome. “The program is afterschool from 2:50-5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday,” Jerome told the *Timberjay*. The program is free and currently has 56 students signed up.

Students do more than homework in the program, but also have educational games to play inside plus supervised play outside. The kids are broken into three groups for grades K-1, 2-3 and 4-5. This is the first year that the program has included grades K-2.

ECR also sponsors the no-cost Homework Help program for Ely middle school and high school students, run by ECR youth program coordinator Jill Swanson. Volunteer tutors from the Ely area come in to provide 30 minutes of one-on-one tutoring and homework. Students signed-up for the program have individual folders provided by their teachers with the material they need work on with their tutors.

### How to help

Hignell described how Ely area residents can get more involved with ECR programs for youth at the Tuesday Group presentation, “spread the word about ECR, apply to be a mentor, volunteer for after school clubs and programs, volunteer to teach a skill, and bid in our annual auction.” Visit [elycommunityresource.org](http://elycommunityresource.org) for details on how to volunteer.

# ECR Auction

ELY- The 45th annual auction to benefit the Ely Community Resource (ECR) will be open for browsing and bidding on Saturday, April 1, beginning at noon. Bidding on items will close on Monday, April 10 at noon. The theme of the auction is the “Celebration of Artful Living in Ely.” The event will be held online at <https://www.32auctions.com/ECR2023>.

The proceeds of the auction help to fund positive activities for youth in the Ely area. ECR youth programs are the subject of a separate article in this issue of the *Timberjay*.

This year’s auction includes local art and crafts, outdoor activities by local outfitters and guides, and services from local businesses.

# Theater workshop opportunity

ELY- Six aspiring stage artists and actors age 12 and older, are invited to join Mixed Precipitation to help develop the staging and adaptation for this summer’s Pick-up Truck Opera, which will be an adaptation of Bellini’s opera “The Capulets and the Montagues,” about Romeo and Juliet. The opera will tour Minnesota in August and September.

The workshop will be April 10-15, from 6:30-9:30 p.m. in Ely.

The workshop will serve to create the production that will tour the state. All levels of experience are welcome. Actors and dancers are strongly encouraged to participate. This is a paid opportunity for performers with a stipend of \$250. Additional support for those need-

ing childcare. This is an incredible opportunity to work with theater professionals in the development of a touring opera production.

Those interested in joining the workshop should contact Mixed Precipitation producing artistic director Scotty Reynolds at [mixedprecipitation@gmail.com](mailto:mixedprecipitation@gmail.com).

# Upcoming Events

### Ely Public Library

ELY- The Ely Library Spice Club spice for April will be dill. The Library Board will meet on Wednesday, April 5, starting at 5:30 p.m.

The library will be closed on April 7 for Good Friday.

The Friends of the Library book club will meet on Monday, April 10, from 3-4 p.m. The book for discussion will be “Chasing the Scream” by Johann Hari.

The Friends of the Library monthly board meeting will be on Tuesday, April 11, from 1-2 p.m.

The library will celebrate

the International Day of Human Space Flight on Wednesday, April 12, from 3-4 p.m. Attendees will learn about space exploration and space-themed crafts. Please register in advance so the library can order sufficient craft supplies.

### Ely Folk School

ELY- The folk school will hold a class on making wet-felted slippers on April 2, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cost is \$134.

The folk school will also hold an indoor seed starting class on April 4 at 6 p.m. Cost is \$20.

In honor of National Poetry Month, the folk school will host a poetry reading and open mic event featuring local poets DyAnne Korda and Cecilia Rolando. Attendees are welcome to

read their own works during the open mic session of the program. There is no charge for this event.

Registration, a complete class schedule, and tuition/fee information are linked off the “learn” tab at [elyfolkschool.com](http://elyfolkschool.com). All of the above events will be at the Ely Folk School at 209 E. Sheridan St.

### Ely Senior Center

ELY- The Ely Senior Center will hold an Easter Bonnet Parade – not just for seniors, but no pets please. Bonnets must be homemade. Winning bonnets will receive prizes. Coffee and dessert will be served at the event, at the senior center, 27 S. 1st Ave. E., from 1-3 p.m. on April 1.

Bingo at the senior center is open to the public, every

Wednesday from 1-4 p.m. Bingo is 10¢ a board.

Indoor walking at the senior center is open to the public, at 10 a.m. every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

### Ely Chamber of Commerce Dinner

ELY- The Ely Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual “Celebrate Ely” networking dinner at the Grand Ely Lodge on April 13. Social hour with a cash bar starts at 4:30 p.m., dinner at 5:50 p.m., chamber awards at 6:45 p.m., keynote speaker at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$30.00 per person and may be purchased via phone at 218-365-6123, by email at [director@ely.org](mailto:director@ely.org), or at the Ely Chamber of Commerce office at 1600 E. Sheridan St.

## In Brief

### Tuesday Group schedule

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

Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

- April 4: Emergency Response for Heritage Preservation with Jess Edberg
- April 11: U.S. Forest Service Beaver Program with Joel (“Henny”) Jungemann

## Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2023



a wave of pigeons  
above, landing on rooftops  
seek spring sun for warmth

## Libraries

### Ely library

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

### Babbitt library

Monday	10 am-6 pm
Tuesday	10 am-6 pm
Wednesday	10 am-6 pm
Thursday	10 am-6 pm
Friday	10 am-6 pm

Phone: 218-827-3345

## Support groups

### AA - Alcoholics

Anonymous  
**OPEN AA - 7:30**  
p.m. Wednesdays and  
Saturdays, in-person,  
First Lutheran Church,  
915 E. Camp St., Ely.

**SUNDAY NIGHT AA -**  
at St. Anthony’s Catholic  
Church is canceled.

**ELY WOMEN’S OPEN**  
**AA - Every Monday**  
at noon at Ledgerock  
Church, 1515 E. Camp  
St., Ely.

**BABBITT AA - 7 p.m.**  
Tuesdays, Woodland  
Presbyterian Church.

**AL-ANON - Sundays**  
8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony’s  
Catholic Church in Ely.

For persons who  
encounter alcoholism  
in a relative or friend.

**BABBITT AL-ANON -**  
Thursdays, 7 p.m., at  
Woodland Presbyterian.

**CO-DEPENDENTS’**  
12-step support group,  
5:30 p.m. Thursdays,  
Wellbeing Development,  
41 E Camp St. 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.  
Conference Room B.



NORTH WOODS SCHOOL

# The stars come out at North Woods Junior Jam

Variety show features singers, dancers, crazy parents, and more



The annual North Woods Junior Class fundraiser variety show Junior Jam on Tuesday drew a fair audience to the school's commons area to take in the fun and encourage the students who auditioned for spots in the show. Eleven student acts were featured, along with four humorous skits performed by parents.

Top left: Mya Kinsey sings "Recess" by Melanie Martinez, a vocal rendition that earned the top prize in Tuesday's Junior Jam.

Top middle: Charlie Holter performs a dance routine to the song "Dancing to Thrive."

Top right: Aaron Mathys got some of the biggest laughs of the evening trying his hand at being a stand-up comedian.

Middle right: Jonah Burnett tries out a joke of his own while serving as master of ceremonies for the evening.

Bottom right: Cora Goodbird danced to a Shawn Mendez tune, "Isn't in My Blood."

Middle center: Savannah Abst performed a dance and baton routine to "In the Name of Love." Her performance earned second place from the judges.

Middle bottom: Kandi Olson plays a Kindergartener in one of the comical parent skits during the production.

Middle left: Xena Hanine demonstrated a mix of precision, grace, and power with her martial arts routine.

Bottom left: In the final parent skit of the night, the participants showed the crowd what the Class of 2024 may look like when they return for their 50-year class reunion. photos by D. Colburn



# Grizzlies archers score trips to national meet

High marks at state meet in Duluth earn tickets for individuals, teams

by JOHN VUKMANICH  
North Woods Principal

DULUTH- A host of North Woods archers qualified for the Western Nationals tournament in Utah with strong performances last Saturday at the state tournament in Duluth.

Nearly 50 schools fielded teams in the National Archery in the Schools competition, although not every school

had entries in all three divisions – elementary, middle, and high school.

But the competition was heated, and the Grizzlies came away with both individual and team qualifiers in both bullseye and 3D target events.

Fifth-grader Clark Danielson turned in the top performance of the day for North Woods. He earned second place among 101 competitors in the elementary boys 3D

shoot, and third out of 229 entrants in the bullseye event.

Sixth-grader Laurin Glass was the other Grizzlies archer who cashed an individual ticket to nationals in the bullseye, placing sixth among the 290 middle school girls shooting. Glass also qualified in the 3D target category, placing seventh.

Two other Grizzlies also qualified for nationals in the 3D event.

Sixth-grader Brady Swanson nailed down second place in the middle school boys division shooting against 186 other competitors. And eighth-grader Merilee Scofield outshot all but four of the 118 middle school girls she was up against for fifth place.

The North Woods middle schoolers also excelled as a team, qualifying for nationals in both bullseye and 3D competition. They placed fifth out

of 28 teams in the bullseye and fourth out of 17 in 3D. In addition to Swanson, Scofield, and Glass, middle schoolers contributing scores in the 3D competition were Cooper Long, Michaela Brunner, and Elizabeth Udovich. Bullseye team score contributors included those six archers plus Kalle Nelson, Tori Phillips, Josh Long, Colin Grahn, Kayson Gaskell, and Jacob Towner.

The elementary team

qualified for the Utah excursion to nationals in the 3D competition by placing fourth among nine teams competing. In addition to individual qualifier Danielson, other archers contributing scores to the team effort included Connor Anderson, Kaidence Scofield, Kinslee Hagedorn, Brock Long and Jack Udovich.







# HEARING...Continued from page 1

near Hoyt Lakes.

While the issue might seem a minor one, it's all part of a complex puzzle that the Department of Natural Resources and PolyMet assembled in an effort to address the various protections set forth in Minnesota law.

Environmentalists argue this piece of that puzzle won't work, and if the judge agrees it could force a major and time-consuming reworking of the PolyMet proposal.

Under state law, the DNR must select a means of containing reactive mine tailings, such as that expected to be generated by the PolyMet project, that is "both practical and workable," although the law does not define the meaning of those terms. The bentonite cap is supposed to prevent water and air from reaching the tailings following closure of the mine, which would limit the discharge of acidic water that would otherwise be generated as oxygenated rainfall and snowmelt filters through the tailings.

Environmental groups have asked the high court to order a contested case hearing on other issues as well, including the project's

tailings dam construction, financial assurance, and the role of PolyMet's majority owner, Glencore, an international commodities company with a checkered history. But the Supreme Court determined that the DNR had acted within its discretion on those issues by rejecting a contested case hearing.

On the use of bentonite clay, however, the court sided with litigants Water Legacy, the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, Friends of the Boundary Waters, and the Fond du Lac Band, in concluding that the DNR's approval of PolyMet's proposal was not backed by science.

"Further, the single study on which nearly all the DNR's findings of effectiveness are based, is not in the record," wrote Justice Natalie Hudson, who drafted the high court opinion back in April of 2021.

"Basically, the court held that the DNR had no substantial evidence that bentonite would work to prevent acid mine drainage," said Paula Maccabee, chief legal counsel for Duluth-based Water Legacy.

Environmental critics had noted during arguments at the Supreme Court that even the DNR's own consultants had raised concerns about the use of bentonite, calling the DNR's conclusions "wishful thinking" and "unproven," which were facts noted in an earlier Court of Appeals decision, which sided mostly with opponents of the mine. Most notably, one DNR consultant stated: "The bentonite seal is a Hail Mary type of concept in my opinion. I believe it will exacerbate erosion and slope failure and will eventually fail."

Maccabee said this week's hearing is significant because it provided the first opportunity for critics of the proposal to directly challenge the evidentiary basis for the decision to allow the use of bentonite clay. Maccabee said PolyMet's proposal is more "a concept" than an actual plan. "They have no probative evidence that it will work," she said.

In short, this week's hearing presents high stakes for both sides. "This means that, for the first time, MCEA [Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy] and our partners

will be able to cross-examine PolyMet and DNR's witnesses under oath about the facts underlying this permit," said Aaron Klemz, chief strategy officer for MCEA. "This is truly worth underscoring - after 17 years of environmental review and permitting, Minnesotans will finally be able to see expert claims on the PolyMet proposal subjected to cross examination in front of a neutral decision maker."

PolyMet officials dispute the claims of environmentalists and the tribe and have expressed confidence that a contested case won't alter the final decision about the company's right to mine — yet they do agree with environmentalists that the hearing is a weighty one. "The significance of this hearing is that one of the key remaining issues related to the Permit to Mine is finally nearing conclusion," said company spokesperson Bruce Richardson. "It's been four years since the permit was originally issued so we're pleased that this single issue of how bentonite will be used at the tailings basin will finally be heard. The DNR spent years study-

ing this issue during the environmental review and permitting process and concluded bentonite was a safe and effective method for closure of the tailings basin. We believe the science is strongly in our favor on this issue and are confident the permit will ultimately be reissued."

The administrative law judge won't have actual authority to overturn any DNR decision on whether to move forward with the mine project. Instead, he'll issue findings and likely recommendations to the agency based on his conclusions. Yet should the judge raise questions about the validity of using bentonite to prevent acid rock drainage from the tailings pile, it will put enormous pressure on the DNR and PolyMet to come up with another plan, and that could force a major reworking of the many connected components that make up the complex puzzle of the mine plan. Otherwise, both entities would almost certainly quickly find themselves back in court with an even weaker hand to play.

Indeed, while the administrative law judge's findings will be critical, it is almost certain that they

won't be the last words on this issue. His findings, and any decision the DNR might make based on them, will likely be aired once again at the state's Court of Appeals and, potentially, at the state's Supreme Court.

### Other permits remain suspended

Whatever the outcome of this week's hearing, the path to final permitting for the PolyMet project remains unclear. The project's wastewater discharge permit, which was reversed by the Court of Appeals, remains in limbo following oral arguments at the Supreme Court this past November. A decision in that case is expected later this year.

Meanwhile, the federal wetland filling permit issued by the Army Corps of Engineers in 2019, was withdrawn in 2021 under a challenge by the Fond du Lac band. The project's air emissions permit remains suspended awaiting a technical decision by the Supreme Court. And the DNR must still address the issue of an end date to PolyMet's permit to mine.

# STUDY...Continued from page 1

for a more regionalized EMS service.

Contracting with a private EMS provider would require the township to build a facility for housing apparatus and personnel. In addition, this option would require working with the EMSRB to have the current primary service areas for the ambulance district changed. The report highlights a company called Superior Ambulance Services, but the company is located in Illinois and does not currently operate any ambulance services in Minnesota.

The study largely dismissed the prospects for creating a regionalized system. "Regionalization is not a current option," states the report bluntly. The reasons include the lack of interest from existing service providers, insufficient volume of 911 calls, too few opportunities for inter-facility transfers, and the geographic realities (distances in rural areas).

The study discusses how ambulance services are funded through a mix of private insurance, government insurance, and private pay. "For an ambulance provider to fiscally survive," the study states, "they must have patients in their ambulance, and that main revenue source in most cases is inter-facility transfers."

A regional service would need a centralized hospital that could support these inter-facility transfers, notes the report.

"Hospital-based ambulance services, as well as privately-owned ambulance services tend to look for areas to expand to that will support their current business model that balances the income/expense of 911 calls (which typically do not bring in enough funds to offset the expenses) with the income/expense of inter-facility transports (which may be profitable enough to cover the expenses of both the 911 and transfer calls.)"

The existing level of ambulance service in the Greenwood Township area would not support a regional ambulance service PSA, the study concludes. The geographic realities of the lake result in longer response times, so any regionalized service would require additional facilities, resources, and personnel.

"Which, at this time, do not seem feasible," conclude the consultants.

Regionalization could be an option in the future, but such an option would require starting with what ambulance resources are available, building relationships with the providers, recognizing volunteers, support for regionalized training opportunities, joint purchasing, and joint standard operating guidelines. This process would also include working with the EMSRB which can be a lengthy process.

"It is a rather complicated process to apply for and receive approval for PSA changes, especially if people at the local level are not willing to work together," the study says. The original draft of the study had noted Greenwood's history of troubled relations, both internally and with neighboring jurisdictions, but that language was removed from the final draft.

The revised report discusses the situation in the city of Buhl, which recently gave their ambulance service area to Essentia Health. The report noted that Buhl held the license of the PSA, so this was not as complicated a process as it might otherwise be.

"The same scenario is not true for Greenwood," it says, noting that the township is in the PSA primarily covered by the Tower Ambulance, with portions covered by the Cook Ambulance.

"If there is an interest in working with a hospital-based ambulance or private ambulance service, Greenwood Township would first need to see which ambulance service providers would respond to a request for proposals, which would set the course to putting the township in the ambulance business. Next, Greenwood Township would need to apply for a PSA change from the EMSRB."

"The consultants do not support or recommend that Greenwood Township request that the PSA be changed "Rather, all parties should negotiate in good faith to resolve any issues," the study implores.

### Recommended options

The study falls back on the four options orig-

inally recommended in the report's original draft, including partnering with Bois Forte's Vermilion Clinic and developing a community paramedic or EMT model, contracting with the Virginia Fire Department, partnering with an ALS provider, or having the township hire their own ALS staff.

For the consultants, partnering with Bois Forte's Vermilion Clinic to hire paramedics is the preferred option. This would involve hiring three full-time-equivalent personnel, who could work at the Vermilion Clinic but also be available to respond to 911 calls as well as conduct home-based medical care. But this would also involve housing the paramedics working outside of regular daytime hours. The paramedics would work through the existing ambulance services.

Based on 2022 call volume, the Tower service had an average of 1.2 emergency calls per day, and Cook had .53 calls per day.

Contracting with Virginia Fire Department could include having that department provide one paramedic in a rapid response vehicle, such as an SUV, who would respond to ALS type incidents in the township and also in both ambulance service areas. Another option is contracting with another ALS provider to provide a paramedic based in the area.

The report also discusses the issue of skill diminishment with this option.

"Since the call volume for the area is relatively low," it states, "there is a concern that the ALS personnel's skills could diminish over time due to lack of utilizing their ALS skills on a regular basis, as their only experience would be limited to the area's 911 calls." The study says this can be alleviated by the contracting entity rotating their staff on a monthly basis.

The fourth option is to have Greenwood hire their own staff, the equivalent of one paramedic a day, and provide a rapid response vehicle as well as housing. This paramedic would work with the existing ambulance services.

"A joint partnership with the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Clinic-

Vermilion is definitely a win-win-win situation," the study concludes. "The township of Greenwood would receive a faster response to emergency medical calls, with an ALS provider; or the Virginia Fire Department would receive income for their ALS relocation of personnel stationed in the Greenwood area; or the Tower and Cook Area ambulance services would be able to utilize ALS personnel on their ambulances." The bonus to the two local ambulance services would be the ability to bill at the ALS rate if ALS skills are required on the call.

Some of the estimates of the cost of maintaining 24/7 paramedics on call were based on an hourly wage of \$21.63 if the paramedic was a township employee; the township has previously noted this is not a living wage or com-

mensurate with the level of training required.

The study showed several options for staffing with paramedics not hired by the township, on either a 12-hour shift or 24-hour shift schedule (where overtime would need to be paid). The study estimated these costs per paramedic ranged from about \$63,000 and up, without adding in benefits.

The study was also updated with the recent data about the Certificates of Excellence received by the Tower, Cook, and Orr ambulance service.

It notes that the Tower Area Ambulance Service obtained a performance rate of 80-percent or higher in seven of the nine areas (one was not relevant), including calls for strokes, blood glucose, chest pain, pediatric calls, respiratory calls, and trauma.

The town board will be discussing the study at their next regular meeting on Tuesday, April 11.



## Annual Meeting Notice

Lake Country Power will hold the annual membership meeting on Thursday, April 20, 2023, at the Cromwell-Wright School — located at 5624 Highway 210, Cromwell, MN.

Registration begins at 4:00 p.m.

- Dinner with choice of chicken or ham
- Visit with members, employees and directors
- Live music by Due North, a local bluegrass band
- Registration gifts and door prizes

Annual Business Meeting begins at 5:30 p.m.

- Lake Country Power updates
- Great River Energy updates
- Announcement of director election and other business

Director election ballots will be mailed to LCP members only in Districts 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8 between March 31 and April 5.

Members may vote electronically, in person at the annual meeting, or by U.S. mail to Survey & Ballot Systems using the provided ballot envelope and postage-paid envelope. Online polls open at 8:00 a.m. CST, April 5. Ballots will include detailed voting instructions.

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BIG MONEY AND MINING

# Former governor seeks moratorium on new mining

Argues that the state’s mining laws need updating before new permitting should be allowed

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Former Minnesota Gov. Arne Carlson is calling for a temporary moratorium on all mining projects in the state that threaten human health. Carlson, a Republican who has been an outspoken critic of copper-nickel mining and the influence of big money in state decision-making, has been a frequent critic of state officials and their permitting of the proposed PolyMet copper-nickel mine near Hoyt Lakes. The former governor’s request came in a letter to current Gov. Tim Walz sent on Monday, the same day that contested cast proceedings got underway in

St. Paul over PolyMet’s plan to contain mine waste should the proposal eventually move forward. Carlson said the state needs a wholesale rewriting of its mine permitting laws, which he described as “archaic.” He said the state’s laws, as written, do not consider the impact on public health, quality of life, or the negative economic impacts mining projects may entail. Carlson also took issue with the involvement of Glencore in the PolyMet project. Glencore, an international commodities trader that now owns some of its own mining operations, is the primary financial backer and majority owner of the PolyMet project. “Glencore is clearly one of the most corrupt companies in

the world,” Carlson wrote, noting the company’s recent prosecution and fines for bribery on an international scale, including a \$1.5 billion fine in a U.S. Federal District Court ruling. “The scope of the criminal bribery scheme is staggering,” Carlson wrote in his letter, calling Glencore’s actions a “criminal enterprise.” Carlson warned against complacency on the part of Minnesotans. “We, in Minnesota, must never assume that there is a wall of virtue surrounding and protecting our state,” Carlson wrote, adding that “this comes about only with a vigilant and caring public and media.” Carlson offers three recommendations in his letter to Walz, including: ➤ A complete review of

current mining laws and their applicability to today’s standards as they relate to sulfide mining. ➤ The imposition of an immediate and broad temporary moratorium on all permits that place human health in jeopardy until new and more appropriate laws are in place. ➤ A non-negotiable insistence that the parent company of PolyMet be on the mining permit and that it assume full and complete liability. Carlson acknowledged that any progress on his proposals is unlikely in the current legislative session but he indicated his intent to bring his concerns to a broader constituency in the state by holding a series of events around the state this summer. “We are open to public debates,

public forums, public question and answer news conferences and anything that will open the door to a broader public understanding,” Carlson wrote. “After all,” wrote Carlson, “it is the public that is being placed at risk. They will suffer the loss of the BWCA, Lake Superior, and so much of the ‘Great Outdoors’ which provides them with fishing hunting, camping, hiking and recreational opportunities. But, above all, it places so much of the state’s healthy drinking water in serious jeopardy.” In addition to serving two terms as Minnesota governor, Carlson served 12 years as the state auditor.

GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP

# Broadband, ambulance top priorities for 2023

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP- The Greenwood Town Board welcomed one new member, albeit one with actual supervisor experience, at its reorganizational meeting on March 23. John Bassing took a seat at the table, along with re-elected supervisor Paul Skubic, now serving his third term on the board. Bassing, who had served as board chair during most previous term from 2015-2018, was elected as chair on a 4-1 vote, with supervisor Barb Lofquist voting against. Former chair Sue Drobac, who told the board she did not want the chair seat, was elected vice-chair with a 5-0 vote. The board spent time discussing its broadband strategy. The township had been unsuccessful over the past few years in securing the needed grant funds to bring broadband (high-speed internet) to township residents, but the township got some good news recently when the majority of the township was included in a \$20 million grant received by the Bois Forte Band. Bassing discussed bringing in residents from areas that are not part of this project to work with the township on securing grant funds to extend broadband to more remote areas in Greenwood. The board also discussed meeting with planners at Bois Forte to discuss the project and its timeline. While the Bois Forte grant is a windfall for the township’s efforts to extend broadband, at least one person remains unhappy. “I have a problem with the map,” said Lee Peterson. Bassing said Bois Forte had been awarded the almost \$20 million for the project. “That is all of our money,” Peterson said. “The concept should be that Greenwood wants broadband for all of the town-

ship.” Peterson said the areas being served under the project were “cherry-picked. I am not sure who did it, CTC [the broadband provider] or Bois Forte.” Drobac said the map probably had to do with deciding which areas of the township would be most difficult to serve. She said the township had gone through two grant cycles with no success and said they will be looking for additional grant opportunities to extend the broadband. “You chose to live there,” she told Peterson, who lives on Isle of Pines. “There is a bridge to Isle of Pines,” Peterson said. “It is cheap to lay line through conduit and the topography on the island isn’t that different from the rest of the township.” Peterson also said there could be problems with Bois Forte owning the infrastructure for the broadband, which would then be maintained by CTC. John Bassing said CTC will be holding a community open house at a later date to discuss the new services that will be available, which will also include cable television. Plans call for the broadband and television services to be available at a competitive price. **Broadband project background** The *Timberjay* reported on the Bois Forte grant back on Oct. 21, 2022. Bois Forte Information Technology Director Randy Long said the expansive project was possible because the scope of the federal Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) allowed for development in lands adjacent or near to reservations when tribal members would benefit. “We had a really strong interest in trying to build up the area surrounding the reservation as well as the reservation itself to

support a lot of our teleworkers,” Long said. “Bois Forte has been actively going down the road supporting more and more teleworkers, and current bandwidth limitations in this whole area have prevented that. From an economic development standpoint, it’ll be truly awesome for teleworking and distance learning for students. It’s going to allow telehealth and an entire gamut of things related to broadband. And it will support tribal government and its programs and operations and the tribal casino.” The proposed service areas, which aren’t set in stone yet, will encompass two major areas. The first is the south shore of Lake Vermilion. Likely starting just west of Tower, fiber optic broadband will stretch all the way to the west end of the lake, wrapping around the whole of Head of the Lakes Bay. The southern border for broadband deployment would be Hwy. 115 up to about Wakely Rd, where it would then taper to the northwest and Head of the Lakes Bay. The Orr portion of the development would include residential and resort areas along the northwest shore of Pelican Lake and west along Nett Lake Rd. to serve the major areas of residential and commercial properties along the south shore. The new system will connect with current Band projects serving the Vermilion and Nett Lake sectors and Indian Point on Pelican Lake. Long noted the likelihood that the final scope of the deployment could be curtailed somewhat depending on the availability and cost of fiber optic cable and equipment, as well as unanticipated construction costs, which could be likely when dealing with Vermilion’s rocky south shore. Demand for the TBCP funding far exceeded initial expectations, Long said. “This was very, very competitive,” he said. “You had to have

all your ducks in a row, everything critical to implementing a big project like this had to be listed as far as possible routes, rights-of-ways, and everything needed to make this thing go live.” But while Long was confident the application had a strong chance of being funded, few people knew of the application until the award was announced. “There weren’t too many people who knew about our application,” Long said. “I wanted to keep it quiet. I didn’t want a huge let-down from people if we didn’t get it. But now that we’ve got it, we have our work ahead of us.” [http://timberjay.com/stories/bois-forte-broadband-project-will-have-major-impact,19531?] **McGrath study update** The board received an updated version of the McGrath Study for review. They are expected to discuss the study at their regular April 11 meeting. A decision wasn’t made on whether the township’s ambulance committee will be asked to review the report, or if the township will request McGrath come and present the report in person. The new version incorporated changes requested by the township (see separate story on page one of this week’s paper). **Other business** In other business, the board: ➤ Designated the *Timberjay* as the township’s official newspaper. The *Timberjay* bid \$1.99 per column inch for legal notices and \$3.75 per column inch for display/boxed ads. The *Tower News* did not submit a quote. ➤ Reviewed the town board policies and made some minor changes as to who is permitted to have a key to the clerk/treasurer office. The policies cover procedures for contacting the township attorney and MAT, sets spending authority for the fire chief, maintenance supervisor, and clerk at

\$1,000 each per month, requires tape recordings of all regular/special town board meetings and fire department meetings, sets fees for copies of township records, and sets rules for the use and charges for the town hall and pavilion. The policy also sets forth a standard of behavior for representatives and employees of the township. ➤ Appointed Mitch Brunfelt as township attorney, but noted they may have an issue with a conflict of interest since he is also the attorney for the city of Tower; designated Frandsen Bank as the township’s bank of record; set meeting dates for the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. except for March 12, 2024 which is annual meeting/election day; and set 11 days as holidays when the town hall will not be open. ➤ Appointed Paul Skubic as road supervisor. ➤ Appointed JoAnn Bassing as the representative for the Joint Powers Recreation Board; appointed John Bassing as the representative on the Tower Ambulance Commission and Lofquist as alternate; appointed Skubic as the representative for the Lodging Tax Board; appointed John Bassing as the RAMS representative and Vermilion Trail Committee representative and the broadband representative; appointed Sue Drobac as noxious weeds supervisor; appointed Rick Stoehr as grounds and maintenance supervisor and the 911-coordinator. ➤ Passed a motion to allow any supervisor to attend township-related trainings, such as those put on the Minnesota Association of Townships, without prior approval from the board. ➤ Will send a letter to St. Louis County asking that the shoulders on Highway 115 be widened from six to eight feet, to improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety.



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## REMEMBRANCE

# Cook business now offering pet cremation

Cook’s Country Connection owner opens new service for pet owners

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- Locally renowned for her love of animals both domestic and exotic, Cook’s Country Connection owner Lois Pajari has recently extended that affection to those bereaved by the loss of a beloved animal by establishing Vermilion Pet Cremation, an animal crematory service.

It’s an idea that’s been years in the making, from the days when Pajari operated the Dollar Barn in downtown Cook. “I met a gal who had moved to Cook who raised Corgis, and I love Corgis, so my first two dogs came from her,” Pajari said. “She also did pet cremation as a service. She cremated a miniature horse for me, she cremated a llama, she

cremated a rabbit and my bird and dogs and cats. She had lived in Ashland, Wis., moved to Cook, and was doing the service here. Her circumstances changed and she move back to Ashland, but she continued servicing a couple of the clinics up this way. I told her ten years ago that it she ever wanted to get out of it it’s something I think

See PETS...pg. 2B



Left: Tiny urns are available for the remains of beloved pets. Pet cremation is now being offered at Cook’s Country Connections.

photo by  
D. Colburn



## SPRING FLOODING

# As snowpack grows risks rising as well

Wet first week of April could well add to the problem

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Some of the densest snowpack on record is elevating the risk for spring flooding in the Rainy River basin again this year, but the risk still appears to be less than the conditions that precipitated last year’s historic flooding. That’s the message from National Weather Service Duluth office meteorologists conveyed last week in their most recent video conference on the potential for flooding in northeastern Minnesota river basins, where the snowpack contains what meteorologist Joe Moore described as “an extreme to near record amount of water.” “The potential for spring flooding across the Northland is above normal, but for the Rainy River Basin the risk appears to be not as great as it was last year,” Moore said. “Still, the risk for flooding in the Rainy basin is above normal. Spring flooding is highly dependent on our weather pattern in the coming six to eight weeks. A dry pattern could lead to less flooding, while a wet pattern could push the risk for flooding higher.” The weather service was forecasting another several inches of snow Thursday night this week with additional snow and possible rain forecast for the first week of April.

That’s on top of a deep and dense snowpack that holds a near-record amount of water in some parts of the region. “We have a widespread four to seven inches of water in the snowpack for pretty much the entire region, maybe a tiny bit less over parts of the Rainy but a pretty

“We have a widespread four to seven inches of water in the snowpack for pretty much the entire region.

NWS meteorologist  
Ketzel Levens

much widespread four to seven,” said meteorologist Ketzel Levens. Actual snow water equivalent (SWE) amounts as measured by volunteers are generally higher in the eastern portion of the Rainy River basin, with 5.8 inches of SWE near Ely, 5.3 inches southeast of Tower, 5.3 inches near Kabetogama, and 4.1 to 4.5 inches

See FLOODING ...pg. 2B

Top: A deep and dense snowpack combined with spring rains led to exceptional flooding throughout the Rainy River watershed last May. A similar snowpack this year poses a risk for flooding again this spring.

Below: As of this week, the area’s snowpack was running at about 30 inches of dense and compacted snow with several more inches of snow in the near-term forecast.

Bottom: Flooded islands on Lake Kabetogama during flooding last May.



## RECOGNITION

# Babbitt’s Mike Rhein honored for lifelong EMS service



Mike Rhein (left) and Babbitt Ambulance Service Supervisor Matt Littler at the Minnesota Ambulance Association meeting, where Rhein received the group’s “Star of Life” award.

submitted photo

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

BABBITT- Mike Rhein of Babbitt was honored with the Minnesota Ambulance Association’s (MAA) “Star of Life” award on March 23 at the organization’s annual meeting in St. Paul. The award is given only to those “Minnesota paramedics, EMTs, dispatchers, and other EMS professionals who have gone above and beyond.” According to a statement by MAA, the award is meant “to publicly recognize and celebrate the achievements of people working in the selfless and heroic ambulance industry. The Stars of Life Program seeks to honor outstanding individuals as a thank you for their service, their sacrifice and the inspiration they bring to all of us.” Rhein has given 37 years of service to the Babbitt Ambulance Service. Fortwenty of those years, he was the service’s supervisor before he decided to step down at the start of 2020. He still serves as an EMT. He spent a similar amount of time with the fire department, stepping down from firefighting three years ago. “Without Mike, our service would surely not be the same and likely would not have succeeded,” said Matt Littler, Babbitt’s current ambulance supervisor in a statement on Rhein’s award. “The atmosphere of consistency, growth potential, and trust is one of the greatest legacies he will leave for our team,” added Littler. “I am very humbled by this,” said Rhein in response to the honor. “I never expected it or saw it coming.”



I would like to do.”

Partnering with Allen Hoover, the pair purchased a diesel-fuel-fired cremator capable of handling an animal up to 500 lbs. from

But Pajari believes she's in a unique position

As the cremator will accommodate numerous smaller animals at one time, Pajari said a question she's frequently asked is how people can be certain the cremains they get back are

“They’re really sweet metal tin urns that have a

Pajari said that veterinarians often used to provide cremation services themselves, but more and more have been turning to outside services like hers as demand for their regular medical services has grown.

For more information, Vermilion Pet Cremation has a website, <https://vermilionpetcremation.com/>, and a Facebook page, and inquiries can be made by calling 218-780-8069 or sending an email to [VermilionPetCremation@gmail.com](mailto:VermilionPetCremation@gmail.com).

“The rate of snow melt thing is kind of crazy,” Moore added. “Usually what we do is we do three updates for the spring snow melt flooding and we do our last one in early March because by early March the snow is melting. And we

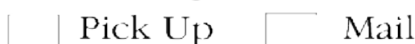
And Levens noted that drought conditions that pre-

“Looking at late March and then kind of the first week of April, the good

For the months of April, May, and June, the precipitation pattern is predicted to be slightly above normal, Moore said, while temperatures have an equal

"We are working on getting forecast points developed for some of some areas in the Rainy River Basin. Unfortunately, those aren't quite ready to go yet," Levens said. "There's quite a bit of kind of spin up that has to happen on those. So, we don't have exact forecast point numbers as far as percentages of minor, moderate, and major flooding. We all keep high situational awareness for the Rainy River Basin, however. We

Moore said another NWS update on conditions will be provided by April 7. Meanwhile, the Water Levels Committee of the International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board will host a virtual information session about conditions in the Rainy River basin on Tuesday, April 11 at 7 p.m. This session will include snow-pack and forecast information the committee is considering in its spring regulation plan for lake levels. A link to register for that virtual meeting is available at <https://ijc.org/en/rllwbb/international-rainy-lake-woods-watershed-boards-water-levels-committee-host-virtual-public>.





SUMMER EMPLOYMENT

# SWCD seeks summer Clean Water Conservation Corps members

Applications are due by April 15; jobs provide monthly stipend along with an educational award

VIRGINIA – Conservation Corps Minnesota and Iowa is currently accepting applications for young adults, ages 18-35, for summer AmeriCorps positions in 19 Soil and Water Conservation Districts throughout Minnesota, including North St. Louis SWCD located in Virginia. Clean Water Corps Members will spend their summer serving alongside natural resource professionals to learn hands-on skills in managing soil and water resources. Responsibilities vary by site and may include assisting with groundwater mon-



itoring programs, wetland and watercourse inventories and assessments, communicating with landowners, creating educational materials, preparing reports and other conservation-related activities. With North St. Louis

SWCD, a member will assist with shoreline stewardship outreach and other education efforts.

Clean Water Corps Members serve as AmeriCorps members through Conservation Corps Minnesota and Iowa, and receive a monthly living stipend of \$2,076, as well as an education award of between \$1,718.25 - \$3,247.50 to use towards qualifying education or student loan expenses. The service term runs

from May 16 – August 15, 2023. Interested applicants can learn more and apply at [www.conservationcorps.org/clean-water-2023](http://www.conservationcorps.org/clean-water-2023). Application deadline is April 15, 2023.

The Clean Water Corps Member positions are funded through the Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR) Clean Water Fund directed from the Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment.

Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and

AmeriCorps grantee, engages hundreds of youth and young adults each year in programs and initiatives that improve access to outdoor recreation, restore natural habitat, protect waterways, and respond to community needs and natural disasters. Conservation Corps' mission is to engage youth and young adults in meaningful service, leadership development and environmental stewardship [www.conservationcorps.org](http://www.conservationcorps.org)

TAXES

# Tax-forfeited property purchasers could forfeit themselves

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- St. Louis County Commissioners took on a role more familiar to bankers on Monday as they initiated contract cancellation procedures against 46 purchasers of tax-forfeited properties for failure to make required payments on purchase agreements and past due taxes.

While recent tax-forfeited tracts purchased at auction in the North Country have trended toward undeveloped woodland and lakeshore properties, in more highly populated areas of the county residential properties represent a significant portion of sales, and some could lose their homes if they can't come up with

the past due amounts by this summer.

Contracts subject to cancellation in the North Country include a lake-front tract on Eagles Nest Lake No. 1, two residential properties in Soudan, a residential property with a trailer house near Orr, a residential property in Angora, a small undeveloped irregular lakeshore tract at Clover Point on Lake Vermilion, a triangular undeveloped tract on Hwy. 53 south of Cook, and two tracts in Ely, one undeveloped.

According to the terms of sale, purchasers of property over \$500 are eligible to participate in a multi-year purchase agreement, with the term determined by the purchase price. Buyers have a down payment of ten percent of the total sale

value plus the full value of timber or certified assessments. Properties over \$4,000 in value can be financed through the plan for ten years at an interest rate of ten percent, as determined by state statute, with one installment payment due annually.

Stacy Melcher, Resource Management Supervisor in the county's Land and Minerals Department, said that those who take advantage of the county's purchase plan tend to be higher-risk individuals who have a difficult time obtaining more traditional financing. The county's program does not require a financial background check, she said.

Contract cancellations of tax-forfeited properties were suspended in 2020 due to the COVID pandemic and the prohi-

bitions against evictions for nonpayment, Melcher said, but were reinstated last year.

But while state law gives commissioners authority to initiate cancellations without notice, the Land and Minerals Department has implemented its own notification process to give people the opportunity to resolve their past due accounts. An initial notice to delinquent contract holders was sent in December as a reminder that their annual payments were due by the end of the year. In January, the department followed up with a notice of delinquency. A third mailing was sent notifying delinquent contract holders that the commission would be taking action to move forward on terminating their contracts on Tuesday.

As a result, three people in danger of losing their contracts managed to find the funds to bring their accounts current prior to Tuesday's meeting, Melcher said.

Those who remain delinquent still have time to make good on their debt and keep their property. Contract cancellation notices won't go out until 90 days have passed since the commissioner's action is published in the county's legal newspapers, and depending on how individuals are notified they will have 60 to 90 days from that point to settle up, Melcher said.

To avoid cancellation, purchasers will need to satisfy: all payments due for installments and taxes through the date of payment; costs of service or publication of notice, if

applicable; two percent of any amount of installments and interest due at the time of service; and attorneys' fees, if any.

Should the contract holders fail to make good on their payments, the properties will revert to the county, which also has the right to sell any remaining personal property.

Melcher noted that contract holders don't receive any refunds of installment payments they have already paid. All the money collected from land sales and contracted payments is distributed to various taxing entities at the end of a given year, and there is no money available to refund.

## Obituaries and Death Notices



**David T. Durrant**  
David Trayton Durrant, 78, of Tower, died on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, in Waterview Woods Care Center. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Inurnment will take place in the Minnesota Veterans Cemetery in Duluth. Family services are provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.

David was born on Nov. 28, 1944, in Virginia, the son of Leonard and Daisy (Walkema) Durrant. He was a veteran of the United States Navy, serving aboard the USS Bennington. After the service, Dave lived out East, in Texas, and was a longtime Tower-Lake Vermilion resident. He was a volunteer firefighter, traveled to the Soviet Union as a wood consultant, and had managed the Cook Airport. Dave was a member of the DAV Kolstad Chapter 23 of Virginia, the Cook VFW Post 1757, and attended the Unitarian Church.

Dave is survived by his wife, Vicki Hall; brothers, Paul Durrant of Minneapolis and Steve (Chris) Durrant of Seattle, Wash.; stepsons, Lorn (Scarlett)

Koski of Tower and Lars (Kathryn) Koski of Embarrass; grandchildren, Detton, Darrin, Hunter, Calvin, Parker, Evan, Vince, Lila and Chloe; great-grandchildren, Axel, Amelia, Zoey and Paisley; niece, Jessie Durrant; nephews, Ben and Peter Durrant; grand-nieces and grand-nephews; extended family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents.



**Virginia S. Stahnke**  
Virginia Sue Stahnke, 74, of Crane Lake, passed away on Saturday, March 18, 2023. There will be a celebration of life in early summer, which will be announced. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Virginia was born on Feb. 28, 1949, in Virginia, to Oliver and Verna (Wisneski) Eggen. She grew up in Crane Lake and attended and graduated from Orr High School. After graduating, Virginia left the Crane Lake area and moved to Bemidji to attend college, and then moved to the Twin Cities where she remained for several years. There she met and married William

Themmes, and they were blessed with one son, Jake Themmes. Later she married Michael Stahnke, and they were blessed with a daughter, Katrina Stahnke. Virginia and her family moved to a hobby farm in Almelund in 1981. Sadly, Michael passed away in 1984. In 1997 Virginia moved back to Crane Lake to the home where she was raised where she lived the remainder of her life. She worked at Home Health Care Specialists in Hibbing for 15 years.

Virginia loved gardening, music, and decorating for her favorite holiday, Christmas. Like her mother before her, Virginia was a wonderful cook and baker. She had a talent for making dill pickles, which were popular with her family and friends. She also loved animals which led her to volunteer at the Humane Society. Virginia was an avid fan of Gordon Lightfoot, attending at least 30 of his concerts. She was a very caring and accepting person. She enjoyed visiting with people and spending time with family and friends.

Virginia is survived by her son, Jake Themmes; daughter, Katrina (Josh Nuthak) Stahnke; grandchildren, Lily, Mikey and Ron; brother, Arthur Eggen; and longtime companion, Richard Ferris.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Michael Stahnke; and brother, Michael Burris.

**Ronald Skube**  
Ronald Skube, 78, of Ely, died on Wednesday, March 22, 2023, at St. Mary's Essentia Health in Duluth. A Funeral Mass was held on Saturday, March 25 at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely. Funeral arrangements were entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Marlene Shober Skube; daughter and son-in-law, Brenda and Regan Lamppa of Richfield; brother, Bernie of Ely; and numerous nieces and nephews to whom he was very close.



**Marilyn J. Cook**  
Marilyn Janine Cook, 89, a resident of Ranier Roost, died on Friday, March 17, 2023, at Rainy Lake Medical Center in International Falls. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Arrangements are with Green-Larsen Mortuary Inc. of International Falls.

Marilyn was born on

Sept. 2, 1933, at her home in Greaney, the daughter of John and Emma (Strand) Johnson. She graduated from Orr High School and went on to Duluth Business College where she received her secretarial degree. She then began working for the Oliver Iron Company of Duluth until her marriage to Val Cook in 1955.

Marilyn and Val moved to Orr where they managed the Orr Motel, before moving 22 miles north to work for the Cook family live bait business known as Cold Spring. They later opened a bait, gas and gift shop, and later a deer farm, which they ran until COVID forced them to close. Marilyn was also a homemaker and an active member of Calvary Lutheran Church of Orr.

Marilyn is survived by her husband, Val; sons, Tim (Linette) Cook, David (Tammy Wood) Cook, Jack (Tammy) Cook and John (Beth) Cook; daughter, Deborah (Donald) Eikoff; six grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and sister, Dolores Jacobson of Mahtomedi.

She was preceded in death by her parents, John and Emma Johnson.

**Darlene M. Stalboerger**

Darlene M. Potter Stalboerger, 84, of Babbitt, passed away on Monday, March 20, 2023, at the Ely Bloomenson Community Hospital. There will be no funeral per her request. A graveside ceremony will be held when the weather permits. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her husband, George Stalboerger; children, Mark Stalboerger and Susan (Paul) Scherer; grandchildren, John (Feliesha) Scherer, Jason (Beth) Stalboerger and Lisa (Brandon) Lintz; great-grandchildren, Lucas, Blake, Hailey, McKenzie and Ove; special twin nieces, Jenny (Steve) Iveland and Jessica (Joe) Miller and their families; sisters-in-law, Laverne (Leander) Stalboerger, Betty (Marvin) Stalboerger and Norma (Bernard) Stalboerger; and many other nieces and nephews.

**Thomas Chavarria**

Thomas Chavarria, 60, of Ely, died on Monday, March 13, 2023, at St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.



**BIRD SEED**  
HIBBING  
*FEED and SEED*  
**262-3049**

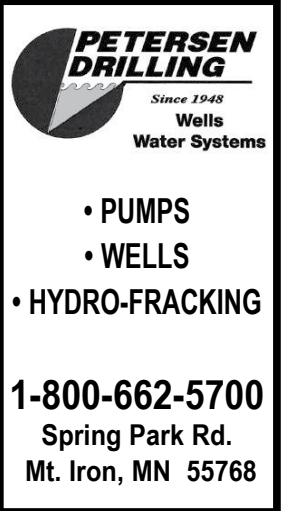
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# Outdoors

Our lives in the  
Northwoods

WEATHER

## Points south near snowfall records

Local area running only slightly above average

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— If you’re thinking this winter has been exceptionally snowy, you’re right, at least for points just south of the North Country. The Duluth area and east-central Minnesota are close to topping all-time snowfall records this winter. As of March 23, Duluth was just ten inches shy of the all-time

snowfall record of 135.4 inches, set in that memorably snowy and brutally cold winter of 1995-96. That was the winter that Tower set the new state low temperature record of minus 60 degrees for those who don’t remember.

With more snow forecast by Thursday or Friday of this week, and with at least a few more weeks of the snow season still ahead, the prospects of setting a new record in Duluth is certainly there.

**Right: A dog’s eye view of the yard this week in Vermilion Lake Township. The paths are well over the head of our lab/husky mix Loki. The area is running only slightly above average snowfall for this point in the season.** photo by M. HelMBERger

Meanwhile, Brainerd appears almost certain to top its snowfall record this year, with 79.6 inches

See SNOWFALL...pg. 5B



THOUGHTS

## I am so ready for spring

My mom always used to say “Don’t wish your life away” when we were kids. You know when you were waiting for some special day or activity. I truly respect that phrase and it comes to haunt me often. There is good in every day, but sometimes it seems like you need to look hard under a rock or some other obstacle to find it. Lately I find my mind wandering to thoughts of soft water, flowers and green things and the like. I am ready for spring!

It has been a tough winter for me and, to be fair I think, a lot of other winter people. We have had to adjust our winter activities to conform to a different kind of winter weather. The early ice conditions did not bode well for many of us who take “good ice” for granted. Ice castles had to go to different locations, or not get out at all and snowmobilers didn’t use the lake trails for a long time. The cold came too late to set up for good ice, but it still came. And then the snow shoveling....

I was not able to drive my car home at all this year. After last years’ fiasco, some may say that my not getting my car on the ice was a good thing. It would be hard to argue with that logic. But I really enjoy that time of going down to the lake and jumping in a nice warm car. No intermediate mode of travel like snowmobile or side by side. You know, just like real people. This year was not to be.

I am ready to dispense with all of that and have some spring weather. The mud, rain and fickle springy weather is okay with me. I’ll gladly don the raincoats and mud boots to jump in the boat. I’ll chuck myself into life jackets for me and the boys to cross the lake in the small boat and windy conditions. I’m ready to put the docks down and look out over soft water.

I can’t wait to clean up the boys muddy, sandy feet. I’m ready to sweep and vacuum every day or just put up with sand everywhere including my bed. I want to throw the frisbee for Nibs in the water or in the woods with no snow. I want to watch Echo play with the crayfish on the shoreline. Luna can herd her herding ball all over the exposed rocks.

I want to put the garden



APRIL  
WAMHOFF

THE FOOD CHAIN AT WORK

## Trail cam tells the tale

The sudden disappearance of a favorite feeder bird is right on schedule

The blood on my snowshoe trail the other day, right behind our house, was the first clue that something had happened overnight. By the time I saw it, our dog Loki was already a step ahead of me— he had located the source of the blood, a large female doe that had apparently been taken down by wolves on the open ridge about 100 feet west of the house.

It was a grisly scene, as most wolf kills inevitably are. I had seen deer tracks in the vicinity a few days earlier and had made note since they were the first I’d seen all winter. The deer are pretty scarce out here on the edge of the Lost Lake Swamp and here was the hope for a population recovery lying dead in the bloody snow, fresh enough that it was still unfrozen on a chilly morning.

The back half of the deer was mostly eaten, although the front half was largely untouched. Perhaps the wolves had run off when I went outside to fill the bird feeders.

It’s easy to see a scene like this as a loss, or a waste, but a trail cam helped me to document the incredible value that a wolf kill can provide and how nothing in

nature is ever wasted.

It turns out I had just bought a new trail cam and this partially-consumed doe right near the house offered an opportunity too good to pass up. I attached the camera to a small balsam fir located ten feet from the carcass, turned it on, and walked away to let the story unfold.

It didn’t take long. I had noticed more ravens flying about that morning and now I understood why. But within half an hour of posting my trail cam, bald eagles had joined the gathering ravens. They had apparently gotten word of the discovery as well, through their own version of social media. They all must be incredibly attuned to one another, reading the cues and understanding the language of the other. Finding a wolf kill across such a vast, forested landscape seems like a needle-in-a-haystack search, but these alert eyes in the sky seem always to manage. I suspect the ravens have learned to keep tabs on the wolves and the eagles keep tabs on the ravens.

Over the course of the next week, we watched at times from the house, but

See DEER...pg. 5B



**Top: A bald eagle uses its wings and powerful legs to peel off the hide of the deer carcass.**

**Second from top: Four adult bald eagles share the feast.**

**Above: Just before nightfall, a tentative coyote investigates the carcass.**

**Right: A bobcat rests as it feeds.**



photos by M. HelMBERger



Fishing reports

Ely area

Crappie fishing continues to be slower than usual for this time of year. With 10” of snow or more on the ice, it may be a few more weeks before things really heat up. Anglers’ results have been mixed, with some doing good, while others are struggling to find biters. Anglers finding biters stay on the move,

looking for active crappies. Soft plastics in white, pink, and chartreuse have been very effective in catching active fish. Less active fish have been hitting crappie minnows and wax worms. Key locations have been in 20-30 feet of water, over mud flats.

*Courtesy of Arrowhead Outdoors. See more at ArrowheadOutdoorsEly MN.com*

SNOWFALL...Continued from page 4B—

having fallen as of March 22. That put the city just one inch behind its all-time record of 80.6 inches of snow.

While Brainerd and Duluth seemed in a pattern of frequent snowfalls starting in late January, most of those events have remained just south of the North Country, where snowfall has been only slightly above average so far. Local weather stations ranged from 60 inches in Tower to 73 inches in Ely as of early this week. That puts Ely two inches above its long-term average snowfall of 71.2 inches, as measured at the Vermilion college campus, although more snow is likely to fall yet this season.

In International Falls, the weather service has recorded 69 inches as of early this week, which is running only slightly above average for this time of year. Barring more than another two feet of snow between now and the end of winter, this winter’s snowfall won’t even make the top ten for the border city. The city’s snowiest winter was 2008-2009, when International Falls received 125.6 inches of snow.

Current snow depths around the local area range from 20-35 inches, which puts most areas above the 80th percentile for this point in the season.

SPRING...Continued from page 4B —

buckets back out and get the deer fences ready. I want to put the houseplants out for some fresh air and real sunshine, even if I must drag them back in overnight. I’m ready to see the signs of greenhouses opening and contemplate what kinds of plants I just cannot live without. I want to sneak over to the neighbors, under the guise of checking on their place, just to look for their crocus. And I’m ready to root around in my own flower beds in search of iris sprouting. The strawberry plants, mulched safely in the boat house must want to see the light of day.

So, there I am wishing my life away, pining for spring weather. Maybe though, when you live in this climate, it’s not really wishing your life away but mentally preparing for our next season. And really isn’t that one of the things we enjoy about living here: The change of seasons. Bring it on though, I am ready for spring!

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday

35 8

Saturday

34 16

Sunday

43 24

Monday

40 19

Tuesday

34 20

Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
03/20	40	5	0.00		03/20	41	-4	0.00		03/20	40	5	0.00		03/20	28	3	0.00		03/20	41	-4	0.00	
03/21	28	0	0.00		03/21	30	-6	0.00		03/21	26	1	0.00		03/21	34	0	0.00		03/21	30	-5	0.00	
03/22	30	3	0.39	4.8"	03/22	31	-3	0.37	4.0"	03/22	31	2	0.30	5.1"	03/22	32	23	0.45	8.0"	03/22	32	10	0.34	5.0"
03/23	33	11	0.00		03/23	35	11	0.00		03/23	32	9	0.00		03/23	36	7	0.00		03/23	32	5	0.00	
03/24	36	11	0.00		03/24	36	-4	0.00		03/24	36	5	0.00		03/24	43	14	0.00		03/24	36	-4	0.00	
03/25	43	9	0.00		03/25	43	-5	0.00		03/25	41	0	0.00		03/25	39	10	0.00		03/25	42	-4	0.00	
03/26	43	16	0.00		03/26	42	2	0.00		03/26	40	4	0.00		03/26	37	18	0.00		03/26	42	0	0.00	
YTD Total			3.73	77.9"	YTD Total			3.07	74.2"	YTD Total			1.92	74.5"	YTD Total			NA	NA	YTD Total			2.50	65.0"

DEER...Continued from page 4B —

relied on the trail camera to give us the full story. Over the next several days, the camera recorded over 8,000 images, the vast majority of eagles and ravens, who dominated the carcass during daylight hours. At least six different eagles, as many as four at time, came to feed on the carcass and the camera was able to capture images as the eagles used their strong, hooked beaks and their powerful wings to peel back the deer hide, exposing more meat.

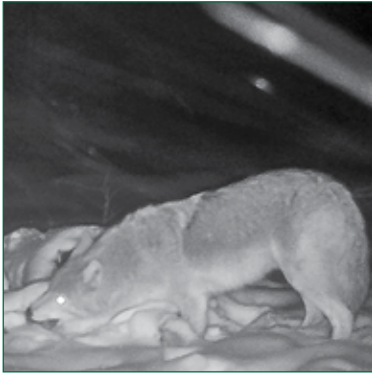
When the eagles were present, which they were for hours at a time, they clearly lorded over the carcass. The ravens got in on the action as well, but plainly stayed alert to the shifting moods of the eagles. When the eagles were gone, it was gorge fest for the ravens, and there were more than a dozen on the carcass at times.

The mammals were mostly nighttime visitors and included a coyote, a red fox, a bobcat, a fisher, and, most surprisingly, a raccoon. Another night visitor was either a wolf or a very large coyote, but it was difficult to say for sure given the quality of the nighttime images.

So that means that at least eight different species and at least two dozen individuals fed on this one carcass. That opportunity, coming in mid-March at a time when the snow was still very deep, was undoubtedly critical for some of these creatures.

As herbivores, whitetail deer occupy that pivotal rung in the food chain, the one that is able to translate the energy stored in plant matter into a form that is usable to most other creatures in the forest. Without animals like deer, moose, and snowshoe hares, most of the other mammals that make up our North Country menagerie would struggle to survive.

While coming across that deer carcass so close to home was initially disturbing, the story told by the trail camera was revealing. That doe died, but many of the other animals that live here along the edge of the swamp, were able to survive because of it. As I write this, ten days after the doe went down, there is little more



Clockwise from top: An adult and immature bald eagle and a rambunctious unkindness of ravens at the carcass; a wolf feeds under cover of darkness; a fisher feeds at night.

photos by M. Helmberger

than bones and some hide remaining. The rest has been picked and gnawed clean. Even the bones will eventually disappear, enriching the soil for the next generation of plants to thrive, beginning the process of life and death within the North Country food chain once again.

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# PUBLIC NOTICE

**LOCAL BOARD OF APPEAL & EQUALIZATION**  
**TOWN OF CRANE LAKE**  
St. Louis County, Minnesota  
will meet at The Crane Lake Chapel Fellowship Hall on Thursday, April 13, 2023 at 2:00 PM

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

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your St. Louis County Assessor's Office to discuss your concerns. If you are still not satisfied with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the local Board of Appeal and Equalization. Please email [info@cranelaketwp.com](mailto:info@cranelaketwp.com) or mail Town of Crane Lake, P.O. Box 402, Crane Lake, MN 55725 with your concerns, if possible. The board will review your valuation, classification, or both and shall correct it as needed. Generally, an appearance before your local board of appeal and equalization is required by law before an appeal can be taken to your county board of appeal and equalization.

Jo Ann Pohlman,  
Clerk, Town of Crane Lake

Published in the Timberjay, March 31 & April 7, 2023

**State of Minnesota**  
**County of St. Louis**  
**District Court**  
**Probate Division**  
**6th Judicial District**  
**Court File No: 69VI-PR-23-32**

Estate of Troy Alan Swanson, Decedent

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION OF INTESTACY, DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP, APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

It is ordered and notice is given that on April 17, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. a hearing will be held in this Court at 300 5th Avenue South, Virginia, Minnesota 55792 for the formal adjudication of intestacy and determination of heirship of the Decedent, and for the appointment of Sydney Cross, 1205 N 11th St., Superior, WI, as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an Unsupervised administration.

If you have an objection to this case, please contact Court Administrator at (218) 221-7560 option #8 for further instructions as these hearings are currently held remotely due to the pandemic.

Any objections to the petition should be filed with the Court prior or raised at the hearing. NOTE: You will need to pay a filing fee when you file

the objection. If you cannot afford the fee, you can ask for a fee waiver (see <http://mncourts.gov/GetForms.aspx?c=19&p=69>).

If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and do all necessary acts for the Estate.


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

Dated: March 10, 2023


BY THE COURT  
Andrew R. Peterson  
District Court Judge  
Amy Turnquist, Court Administrator  
Chelsea Opdahl, Deputy

Sydney Cross  
1205 N 11th St.  
Superior, WI 54880  
Email: [sydneynadineswanson@hotmail.com](mailto:sydneynadineswanson@hotmail.com)  
(218) 750-2624

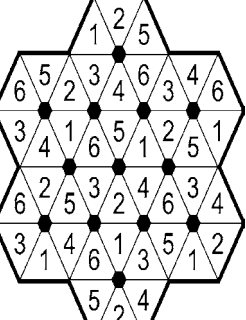
Published in the Timberjay, March 31 & April 7, 2023



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**Billing/Administrative Clerk Opening**

The City of Cook is seeking a qualified individual to fill a key position at city hall.

Duties include billing, accounts payable, reception and phones, filing and records, community center assistance and other administrative tasks.

Minimum Qualifications include: High school degree or equivalent and experience in one or more of the position's core areas.

Position includes a starting base wage of \$17.51/hour to \$20.52/hour, dependent upon qualifications.

The city's benefit package offered for full-time employees includes health, dental and vision insurance, retirement package, long term disability and sick/vacation/holiday/personal pay days.

To apply, go to [cookmn.us](http://cookmn.us) or call (218) 666-2200. Open until filled. 4/7

**KUGLER TOWNSHIP REGULAR MEETING NOTICE**

The Kugler Town Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the town hall.

Christopher Suihkonen, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, March 31, 2023

**KABETOGRAMA TOWNSHIP Important Information Regarding Assessments and Classification of Property. This may affect your 2024 property tax payments.**

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeal and Equalization of the Township of Kabetogama shall meet on April 13, 2023 from 10:00 am to 11:00 am at the Kabetogama Town Hall, 9707 Gamma Rd., Kabetogama, MN 56669. The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether taxable property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor, and also to determine whether corrections need to be made.

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

Mary Manninen, Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, March 31, 2023

**Answers**

A	D	P	A	G	E		O	D	D	S		E	T	R	E		C	A	T	E
T	O	R	N	A	T		P	I	R	A	T	E	H	A	T		O	D	I	N
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**Laboratory**  
FT Medical Lab Tech (Wage starting at \$24.08/hr., \$4,000 sign-on bonus)

**Radiology**  
FT Radiologic Technologist (\$4,000 sign-on bonus)  
Casual Ultrasound Tech (Independent Contractor)  
Casual Radiologic Tech (Independent Contractor, weekend only)

**Dietary**  
PT Dietary Aide/Cook (Wage starting at \$14.53/hr.)

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[www.cookhospital.org/join-our-team/](http://www.cookhospital.org/join-our-team/)  
More Info? Contact Human Resources  
**218-666-6220**  
[humanresources@cookhospital.org](mailto:humanresources@cookhospital.org)

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# PUBLIC NOTICE

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS CITY OF ORR (Owner) ORR, MINNESOTA AIRPORT FUEL SYSTEM**  
**General Notice**  
City of Orr (Owner) is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project:  
**Airport Fuel System 226007**

Bids for the construction of the Project will be received by Bollig Inc on behalf of the City of Orr until 10:30 a.m. local time April 18, 2023, at which time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read at the Bollig Inc office, 1700 Technology Drive NE, Suite 124, Willmar, MN 56201. The Bid opening is also available via Zoom at the following link: <https://bollig.zoom.us/j/87885063222?pwd=SnhsV6c1RUNTFLcV-VsWUuJUy82UT09;> Meeting ID: 878 8506 3222; Passcode: 040236.

The Project includes the following Work:  
Removing existing fuel system, Installing new fuel system with concrete foundation and slab, 500 square feet of stripping  
Bids are requested for the following Contract: Airport Fuel System

**Obtaining the Bidding Documents**  
Information and Bidding Documents for the Project can be purchased online at: [www.bollig-engineering.com](http://www.bollig-engineering.com) under the bidding tab through the designated website QuestCDN.com for \$40. Bidding Documents may be

downloaded from the designated website. Prospective Bidders are urged to register with the designated website as a plan holder, even if Bidding Documents are obtained from a plan room or source other than the designated website in either electronic or paper format. The designated website will be updated periodically with addenda, lists of registered plan holders, reports, and other information relevant to submitting a Bid for the Project. All official notifications, addenda, and other Bidding Documents will be offered only through the designated website. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the designated website.

The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is:  
Bollig Inc  
1700 Technology Drive NE, Suite 124  
Willmar, MN 56201

Prospective Bidders may obtain or examine the Bidding Documents at the Issuing Office on Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and may obtain copies of the Bidding Documents from the Issuing Office as described below. Partial sets of Bidding Documents will not be available from the Issuing Office. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the

Issuing Office.

Printed copies of the Bidding Documents may be obtained from the Issuing Office by paying a deposit of \$100.00 for each set. Bidders who return full sets of the Bidding Documents in good condition within 10 days after receipt of Bids will receive a full refund. Non-Bidders, and Bidders who obtain more than one set of the Bidding Documents, will receive a refund of \$60 for documents returned in good condition within the time limit indicated above. Make deposit checks for Bidding Documents payable to Bollig Inc.

**Pre-bid Conference**  
A Pre-bid Conference will not be held for this project.

**Instructions to Bidders**  
For all further requirements regarding bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and contract award, refer to the Instructions to Bidders that are included in the Bidding Documents.

**This Advertisement is issued by:**  
Owner: City of Orr  
By: Cheri Carter  
Title: City Clerk/Treasurer  
Date: March 24, 2023

Published in the Timberjay, March 24, 31 & April 7, 2023

**Weekly SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

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

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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Considerations of personal privacy, time and resources prevent the newspaper from investigating ads placed in the classified section. If you respond to an ad, we urge you to use the same care and prudence that you would use when conducting business in any other situation.

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VIRGIE HEGG HOSPICE PARTNERS can provide help for patients and their families in ways such as: comfort care, massages, last wishes and more. For more information, contact Program Director Becca Bundy at 218-780-5423 or vhhpdirector@gmail.com. This ad is paid for by Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners.

PET CREMATION

VISIT VermilionPetCremation.com or call 218-780-8069 for pet cremation details and rates.

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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PUBLIC NOTICE

BEARVILLE TOWN BOARD  
TREASURER VACANCY

The Bearville Town Board is seeking applicants to fill the position of Treasurer (by appointment). This position would fill the remainder of the Treasurer's elected position (until January 2025).

This position earns a meeting compensation and an hourly wage.

You must be at least 21 years of age and an eligible voter in Bearville Township. Interested parties may e-mail for more information or to apply by April 30 to bearville-township@gmail.com – please include contact information. You will be contacted for an interview.

Published in the Timberjay, March 31 & April 7, 2023

Answer

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

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THEATER FOOD

ACROSS

1 Sponsored part of a magazine

7 Probability

11 To be, in Toulouse

15 “Elizabeth” star Blanchett

19 Ripped into

20 Buccaneer's topper

22 Major Norse god

23 1940 drama based on a Steinbeck novel

25 Tri- tripled

26 Possible reply to “Are you?”

27 Become indistinct

28 Architect I.M. —

29 Five doubled

30 Endemic to

31 Bed for Baby

33 Pas' partners

35 2006 Jack Black comedy

38 1999 Jason Biggs comedy

43 Psi preceder

44 1950s Ford

45 Hoped-for altar reply

46 Live wire

48 Airborne toy

50 Andrew Carnegie's corp.

54 1970 Godfrey Cambridge comedy

59 Discoloration

60 Computer since 1998

62 Cellular stuff

63 Pipe mouth

64 Fly apart

65 Jazz singer Jones

67 Health resort

69 Unprocessed

70 1984 horror film based on a Stephen King story

76 Start-up loan org.

78 Cheyenne's state: Abbr.

79 French painter Dufy

80 Grace under pressure

83 Attempts something

86 Big ball of energy

89 Bawled

90 Observers

91 1987 film about a Vietnam War battle

94 Fruity wine drink

96 Alan who played Pierce

97 Muscles worked by doing squats

99 Give a massage to

100 Kinda

103 Falsehood

105 1988 coming-of-age film co-starring Julia Roberts

110 1947 romantic comedy co-starring Claudette Colbert

113 1099 fig.

114 “Va-va —!”

115 Dual radio designation

116 Siouan tribe member

117 Gymnastics floor covering

120 “I wonder ...”

123 Manhattan sch.

124 New Haven school

125 2008 Seth Rogen comedy

129 “Son of —!”

130 Expert at increasing profits

131 Fisher who played Leia

132 Schoolbook

133 Not fooled by

134 Descartes of philosophy

135 New York college near Hyde Park

DOWN

1 Upstate New York prison

2 Be injurious

3 Early baby

4 “Life of Pi” director Lee

5 Attire

6 List abbr.

7 Divisor, e.g.

8 Trash-talk

9 Fall

10 Not injurious

11 Eternally, in verse

12 Roofing straw

13 Fed's interest increase, e.g.

14 Botany or history lead-in

15 Self-assured

16 Cute, in slang

17 Stannite, say

18 Glossy finish

21 Bed size

24 Cougar

32 Part of BBC programs

36 Squirrel nosh

37 Divulge

39 — -Kit (face reconstructor)

40 Former miller Sebastian

41 How soda is often sold

42 Devour

47 Dr.'s field

49 — artery (aorta offshoot)

50 Kind of port for a PC

51 Poker great Ungar

52 Mocking irony

53 “Lucky” pilot

55 Eclectic fusion

56 “Grand” liqueur brand

57 Alias lead-in

58 Novel

61 Gloom-filled

66 Opposite of vertical: Abbr.

68 Animal skins

71 2004-09 Showtime drama, with “The”

72 “— Towers” (telly sitcom)

73 Like sandals

74 Reveal one's inner self

75 Mnemonic for rainbow colors

76 “Be quiet!”

77 Lamb's cry

81 — Lanka

82 That, to Alejandra

84 Reduction

85 Soviet prison camp

87 Impelled

88 Puck-pushers' org.

92 Addressee of a New Testament Epistle

93 Element name ending

95 Ellipse part

98 Declaration upon delivery of an item

100 Occupy, as a hotel

101 Electric resistance

102 Acid — (cause of heartburn)

104 Part of the plan

106 “By the power vested — ...”

107 Ones planning city partitions

108 Common lawn grass

109 One making others laugh

111 Decide to play for pay

112 Mosque chief

118 On — with

119 Toll hwy.

121 Roman 1,095

122 Org. rating films

126 Brian of rock

127 Actor Cariou

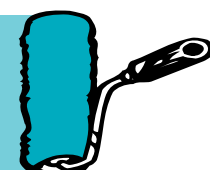
128 Train lines: Abbr.

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### BEARVILLE TOWNSHIP LOCAL BOARD OF APPEAL AND EQUALIZATION

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeal and Equalization for Bearville Township shall meet on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. at the Bearville Town Hall. (13971 Hwy. 22, Bearville Township) The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether taxable property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor.

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

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

Kathy Cressy, Bearville Township Clerk  
bearvilletownship@gmail.com  
218-376-4495

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