



Inside:

Community health center honored... See /3

Timber Hall needs upgrades... See /12

Walleye count is strong... See /1B

Local projects receive IRRR funds...See /3B

The **TIMBERJAY**



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989

VOL. 34, ISSUE 13

April 7, 2023

\$1⁵⁰

LAKE VERMILION

Black Bay campground back on county agenda

Area residents filed petition for EAW; county staff opposed to rezoning request

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

LAKE VERMILION— The prospective developer of a rustic campground near the mouth of Lake Vermilion’s Black Bay plans to appear before the St. Louis County Planning Commission next Thursday, but she’ll face plenty of opposition

from nearby property owners and a critical review from county planning staff.

The developer, Christine Wryobek, of Cuero, Texas, was originally scheduled to bring her request for a change in zoning to the planning commission back on March 9, but she withdrew that plan and resubmitted a new

application, which is now on the agenda for April 13.

Wryobek and her Minnesota nonprofit, known as Rough-N-It, Inc. is looking to acquire approximately 45 largely undeveloped acres on a double-pronged, boat-access peninsula with the hopes of constructing a tent campground to allow disabled

veterans or other groups to have outdoor experiences in a wilderness-like setting. The property in question includes nearly 7,000 feet of prominent shoreline on Vermilion’s far west end. With high rock bluffs and palisades, it’s been a landmark that has managed to avoid any significant development despite the pressures the

lake has faced for decades. It’s one of the largest undeveloped tracts of privately-owned property still remaining on the lake.

Wryobek proposes to construct as many as 47 dispersed campsites served by privies or outhouses. The facility would

See...**HEARING** pg. 9



HAPPY EASTER

Cupcake SMILES



Tower-Soudan Community Education sponsored a cupcake decorating class, just in time for the Easter holiday. Students piped, sprinkled, and used candy to decorate pre-made cupcakes. Above: (from left) River Carter, Lailana Stellmach, and Sri Stellmach finished their projects. Left: Lily Russell added some last minute frosting. Right: Ayva Anderson shows off her finished cakes.

photos by J. Summit



CITY OF ELY

Ely finally passes new cannabinoid ordinance

by **CATIE CLARK**
Ely Editor

ELY— After four months of moratoriums and failed first readings, the Ely City Council passed ordinance 367 on Tuesday, to license and regulate edible cannabinoid product dealers within city limits. The new ordinance stipulates that businesses must apply and obtain permits for selling both “on-sale” and “off-sale” edible cannabinoid products.

“On-sale” purchases are those where the product, like a beverage containing tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), is consumed on the premises where it was bought. “Off-sale” products are those which are bought at a store and then consumed elsewhere. All edible cannabinoids for sale must already comply with Minnesota’s edible cannabinoid law.

Ely’s new ordinance will take effect 30 days from April 8, which is the date of the legal publication of the law in local print news media. All sellers of these products must obtain the appropriate permit(s) once the law takes effect, even if they are one of the handful of businesses grandfathered to sell edible cannabinoids in the city. These businesses began selling the legal cannabinoids before Ely passed its first moratorium on their sale in December 2022.

A review of what is in the ordinance was reported in the March 24

See...**ORDINANCE** pg. 9

ANIMAL CRUELTY

Meadows won’t face additional charges, at least for now

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

ELY— A 20-year-old Ely man won’t face additional charges after he intentionally ran down three deer with his pickup truck last month, but he may face a stiffer penalty than it initially

appeared. Casey Meadows, a former South Dakota resident now attending community college in Ely, was initially cited by a DNR conservation officer for three counts of running down wildlife with a vehicle, facing a possible total of \$1,800 in restitution and fines.

That citation has since been dismissed by the St. Louis County Attorney’s Office and replaced with three similar criminal counts of the same violation, but this time with potentially larger fines and even potential jail time.

According to a criminal complaint filed by the county attorney

on April 3, Meadows faces three misdemeanor counts, each with a maximum sentence of 90 days in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine.

The state is also seeking restitution of \$500 for each of the three deer that Meadows intentionally struck with his truck.

Meadows was driving into

Ely in the early evening of March 21 when he spotted three deer on Hwy. 21, near the city limits. Instead of avoiding the deer, Meadows reportedly sped up to hit the deer, acknowledging to law enforcement later that he

See...**CRUELTY** pg. 9



RENTAL CANOE PRE-SALE BEGINS
THIS YEAR’S WINTER RENTAL GEAR ON SALE NOW
NEW SPRING CLOTHING IN STOCK

You’ll find it all at Piragis Northwoods Company 105 N Central Ave.
piragis.com 218-365-6745 boundarywaterscatalog.com

Contact The Timberjay

218-753-2950
editor@timberjay.com



Community notices

MSO concerts set for April 22 and 23
 REGIONAL- Mesabi Symphony Orchestra will host concerts on Saturday, April 22 at 7p.m at the United in Christ Lutheran Church, Eveleth; and one Sunday, April 23 at 2:30 p.m. at the Goodman Auditorium, Virginia.
 Tickets available at mesabisymphonyorchestra.org or at the door.

Ely Climate Group to feature presentation on clean energy and rural electric co-ops
 ELY - The Ely Climate Group's April meeting will feature a presentation from Erik Hatlestad, the Energy Democracy Director for CURE MN (Clean Up the River Environment), a Montevideo-based rural democracy organization. Hatlestad will talk about his work as a long-time rural advocate who works to build on the democratic roots of rural electric co-ops to move them to decarbonize and ensure that rural communities are not left behind in the clean energy transition.

The meeting will be at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, April 11 at the Ely Field Naturalist Resource Center, above the NAPA store on Chapman St. The presentation can also be viewed via Zoom, you can find the link at <http://elyminnesota.com/elyclimate/>.
 Over 1.7 million Minnesotans get their power from a rural electric co-op. Unfortunately, electric co-ops severely lag in the adoption of renewable energy. Two-thirds of all power distributed by electric co-ops comes from fossil fuels. According to CURE, co-op member-owners pay much more than their city-dwelling neighbors for this fossil-based electricity, hurting rural families and holding back rural job creation.
 Fortunately, the recently passed Inflation Reduction Act included historic opportunities for electric co-ops, including \$9.7 billion in funding and other provisions that can drive electric co-ops to develop sources of renewable energy. Hatlestad will discuss these opportunities, what electric co-ops can do to take advantage of them, and their implications for rural communities.

2023 Spring Gardening Extravaganza in Duluth on April 15

DULUTH- This has been a long, snowy winter and everyone is ready for spring. Come and celebrate with area gardeners at this year's Spring Gardening Extravaganza at The Depot in Duluth on April 15. This year's theme is "Designing Your Northern Cottage Garden; Blame it on the Bridgertons." In the morning, the event will feature six gardening professionals discussing components of the northern cottage garden including principles of design, nostalgic perennial and annual flowers, flowering shrubs, old fashioned roses, pavers and walkways, herbs, and small fruit. In the afternoon participants can select from 14 workshops to improve their gardening skills including pruning fruit trees, selecting hardy shrub roses, growing and cooking with herbs, designing pollinator gardens, personalizing your garden space, digging deeper into soil fertility, maximizing yields from your fruit and vegetable gardens, growing the new colored cauliflowers, winter seeding, growing orchids, and propagating houseplants.
 The program will run from 9 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. with registration beginning at 8:15 a.m. St. Louis County/University of Minnesota Extension and the St. Louis County Master Gardeners sponsor the program. The cost is \$30 per person and includes lunch, refreshments, resource book, 2023 recommended variety lists, door prizes, and more. Pre-registration is recommended as space is limited. For more information visit z.umn.edu/SLCgarden, Google Spring Gardening Extravaganza, or call 218-733-2870. The Depot is located in downtown Duluth at 506 W Michigan St.

The North St. Louis County SWCD tree and native plant sale on now through May

REGIONAL - The North St. Louis SWCD tree and native plant sale will continue in 2023. If you would like to order trees, shrubs, native plants, or seed mixes from the North St. Louis SWCD, be sure to check out the website at www.nslswcd.org where you can place your order. It's recommended to order promptly as there is limited availability. Trees are generally sold in bundles of 20-25 seedlings or transplants. Both conifers, deciduous trees, and native plant kits are available.

SCIENCE
Girls STEM workshops in Ely on April 22



ELY- Girls in grades five through eight from the Ely, Tower, and Babbitt areas are invited to participate in an upcoming STEM workshops event. The workshops, sponsored by the Ely Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) are scheduled for Saturday, April 22, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at MN North College - Vermilion Campus in Ely. The event includes lunch and is free to participants.
 Students this year will have some fun experimenting with antacids, exploring microscopic life from vernal ponds, and learning what's involved in getting a Mars rover to

pick up rocks. All of the workshops involve interactive and hands-on activities.
 The STEM workshops provide an opportunity for middle school girls to explore Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, in a fun, interactive environment to encourage them to think of these areas as a possible career path. The AAUW provides these workshops for only girls because women are still under-represented in the STEM workforce.
 For more information or to register for the workshop by April 19, email elystem@gmail.com, or call/text Jeanne Tomlinson at 218-235-

8470, to receive a registration-permission form. Check-in will be in the MN North-Vermilion Classroom Building from 9:30 to 10 a.m. on April 22. A parent or guardian must accompany the participant to the workshop check-in if the registration/permission form is not completed in advance.
 The workshops are made possible by the AAUW-Ely Branch in a collaboration with MN North College - Vermilion Campus with a grant from Lake Country Power Operation Round-up.

Mesabi Community Band to perform on April 20 in Eveleth

EVELETH- The Mesabi Community Band, under the direction of Bill Lavato and Larry Baker will be presenting its Spring Concert, "A Musical Tour" on Thursday, April 20, 2023, at 7 p.m., in the Historic Eveleth City Auditorium. Admission will be a free will offering. The band looks forward to entertaining you on this special tour of music around the world of music.
 The program will fea-

ture compositions from American, Norwegian, and Argentine composers, plus many more for your enjoyment. Highlighting the evening will be professional Tango dancers Miriam Lea, a choreographer and instructor of Tango Argentino and Marcelo "El Chino" Gutierrez from New York. They will be performing dances to "Spanish Fever", by Jay Chattaway and "Libertango" by Astor Piazzolla.



Marcelo Gutierrez, a Tango professional dancer, will be partnering with Miriam Lea in dancing to "Spanish Fever" and "Libertango" at the Mesabi Community Band's Spring Concert.

FITNESS AND HEALTH
Mesabi Fit to purchase former Y facility

MT. IRON- After months of planning and preparation, a purchase agreement has been finalized allowing Mesabi Fit to acquire the former Y facility in Mt Iron. Mesabi Fit can now focus on raising the funds needed to realize the dream of bringing a Regional Wellness Center to life.
 For over 30 years, the facility has been a community center for recreation and fitness. Leaders like Pat Roche and Mark Philips were tireless in their efforts to gain support to build a permanent structure that supported Y

programming. The building was dedicated in 1992. Since then, countless organizations and individuals, including current Y board members, have devoted their volunteer time to maintain the integrity of the facility. Mesabi Fit will ensure the building lives up to its original purpose as a community center for health and well-being.
 Mesabi Fit is committed to offering traditional programs that worked in the past and expanding on recreation and wellness opportunities for seniors, young people, and families. The goal is to create an updated and modern environment, develop robust programming, and promote wellness services. Already, new partnerships have been established that will help Mesabi Fit reach

its goal of opening a new Regional Wellness Center. Currently, \$1,100,000 has been raised for this estimated \$2.4 million purchase, renovation and start up. The immediate plan is to do a much-needed facelift, hire staff, and begin building memberships to enjoy the pool, attend classes, and use the fitness center 24/7. Extensive interior remodeling will follow as funds become available.
 The Mesabi Fit Board of Directors is announcing a capital campaign kickoff on Wednesday, April 12 at noon at the Virginia Community Foundation office at 303 Chestnut St., Virginia. All are invited to attend. The Virginia Foundation is serving as fiscal sponsor while Mesabi Fit awaits its 501(c)(3) award status. Donations

may be sent to the Mesabi Fit Wellness Fund, 303 Chestnut St., MN 55792 or given online at www.virginiafoundation.com by following the "How to Give" link, choosing "Types of Funds," and selecting the Mesabi Fit Wellness Fund.
 If you have questions or suggestions, email mesabifitcoalition@gmail.com or call 218-749-8239.
 Mesabi Fit board of directors include: Sharon Chadwick, Chair; Leah Stauber, Vice Chair; Marieta Johnson, Secretary; Jill Kowalski, Treasurer; Connie Achman, Peggy Anderson, Jim Labernik, Dan Pellinen, Justin Reid, Ken Rudstrom, Dr. Kathy Sulentic, Erik Wedge.

Scenic Rivers
 HEALTH SERVICES

Providing Quality and Compassionate Care
 FOR
 Every Patient at Every Visit

<p>COOK MEDICAL 20 5th St SE, Cook MN Open Monday - Saturday (218) 666-5941</p> <p>COOK DENTAL 12 S River Street, Cook MN Open Monday - Friday (218) 666-5958</p>	<p>TOWER CLINICS 415 N 2nd St, Suite 2, Tower MN Former High School Building Open Monday through Friday</p> <p>MEDICAL (218) 753-2405 DENTAL (218) 753-6061</p>
---	--

Your Local Providers

Matthew Holmes, MD	Charles Tietz, MD-GYN Services	Timothy Sprouls, DDS
Nicholas Vidor, MD	Cynthia Sandberg, NP	James Marzella, DDS
Eric Elleby, MD	Erin Thielbar, NP	Krista Kukarans, DDS
Rachel Beldo, APRN	Kristen Dombrov, DNP	Michael Talberg, DDS
Amy Banks, MD	Amanda Perkovich, NP	Teresa Bushnell, ADT
Celin Williams, LICSW	Benjamin DeVries, PA-C	

Covid-19 testing and vaccinations available.
1-877-541-2817
www.ScenicRiversHealth.org

24 Hour Emergency Care Available Through Cook Hospital

ELY FLOWER & SEED
It's Easter...and we have lilies, mums and hydrangeas!

Check Out Our BIRD SEED VARIETY

SEED STARTING Supplies & Seed Packets!

PLUS...Houseplants, CHIMES, GIFTS, FLAGS and Pet Supplies

SPRING BULBS! Dahlias, Begonias & Gladiolas

ELY FLOWER & SEED
 Open: M-Sat 9-5:30, Sun. Closed
 145 W Camp St, Ely • 365-6555

HONORED

ECHC receives Public Health Achievement Award

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

DULUTH- St. Louis County honored The Ely Community Health Clinic (ECHC) on April 4 with a Public Health Achievement Award, one of four given out by the county board on Tuesday.

The awards are given by the commissioners and the county's Public Health and Human Services Department to recognize recipients for "their work to improve the health of individuals and communities in St. Louis County."

Groups or individuals must be nominated for the awards, which are given based on five criteria, including: leadership, public health contribution, community health improvement, collaboration, and advocacy. The awards are presented annually as

part of National Public Health Week, held this year on April 3-9.

According to the executive director of the ECHC, Helen Tome, the nomination originated from the Ely office of St. Louis County Public Health "for the work we did with the dental program." ECHC expanded its no-cost services to provide free dental cleanings by appointment, as described in the Feb. 3 edition of the *Timberjay*. Along with cleaning teeth, the ECHC received funding to establish a "dental innovator" position, currently filled by Tome, to find dental care for the center's clients who need care beyond a simple cleaning. The dental innovator can aid in locating a dentist who will accept a client's insurance, refer clients to child dental services, and work with local



The Ely Community Health Center received a Public Health Achievement Award from St. Louis County on April 3 at the county commissioners' meeting. From left: St. Louis County Public Health and Human Services Director Linnea Mirsch, Peggy Stolley and Helen Tome from the Ely Community Health Center, and St. Louis County Commissioner Paul McDonald. submitted photo

The ECHC is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization which provides basic non-emergency medical care and healthcare referrals at no cost. The center is located at 33 E Chapman St. It is open every Thursday evening from 5:30-7 p.m. for the medical clinic and for fluoride varnish treatments for teeth. Routine dental cleaning is available by appointment, with a current waiting time of approximately one month. The ECHC also runs the Wellness Wednesdays at the Ely Senior Center. The ECHC can be reached through their website, elycommunityhealth.org or through their office at 218-365-5678.

dentists to provide emergency care.

"I believe this is great recognition for ECHC to spread the word about our programs in Ely."

PANDEMIC

As cases dwindle, MDH focuses on long COVID issues

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- The effects of COVID-19 can vary greatly, from cold and flu-like symptoms to life-threatening complications. Recovery can be similarly complicated. Not everyone who contracts COVID-19 makes a fast or full recovery. Tens of thousands of Minnesotans face ongoing or new symptoms such as shortness of breath, extreme fatigue, headaches, dizziness, brain fog and more. This is known as "long COVID," and even mild infections or reinfections can lead to symptoms that may last for months or years.

Long COVID can be as unpredictable as it is debilitating. Although it's more common in adults, teens and children can also be affected. Some people with long COVID struggle with work, school, family life, education and daily tasks. This impacts their financial stability, quality of life and mental health.

Unfortunately, all too often, Minnesotans experiencing lasting symptoms after a COVID-19 infection do not recognize they are experienc-

Congressional resolution to end COVID emergency to have minimal impact

ing long COVID. Additionally, treating long COVID can require specialists and ongoing follow up that is not always accessible, especially for those already experiencing health inequities and barriers to care.

There is still much that is unknown about long COVID, but the Minnesota Department of Health is working to give the public and healthcare providers as much knowledge and awareness as possible through a new group called the Long COVID Guiding Council.

The council is a network of 20 primary care providers and specialists from community clinics, safety net hospitals, rural health systems, academic health centers and long COVID specialty centers who are focused on developing strategies to educate health care providers about long COVID and make quality care for the condition more accessible.

"Clinicians are telling us that there is very little communication among the care providers who see long COVID

patients in Minnesota and that a coordinated learning network would increase access to care and the quality of care that is provided," said Dr. Ruth Lynfield, state epidemiologist and medical director at the MDH. "We still have a lot to learn about long COVID. But laying the groundwork to expand awareness about the emerging evidence and the available treatments is an important first step toward improving outcomes for those suffering from the impacts of long COVID."

The council meets monthly to discuss emerging evidence, treatment and current practices. They will incorporate input from patients, caregivers, nurses, community health workers and community leaders into the guidance they develop. With appropriate medical care, many people can manage their symptoms and improve their health and quality of life.

To better understand the lasting effects of COVID-19, MDH has launched two post-COVID surveys among people

who have had COVID-19 – one statewide and one in McLeod County. The surveys will explore long-term symptoms people are facing since being infected and how this has impacted their lives, and the results will influence ongoing recommendations about long COVID issues.

MDH's long COVID program is funded by a U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID and Health Equity grant through June. A proposal to extend MDH's long COVID work has been recommended by Gov. Tim Walz.

Emergency exit

In February, the Biden administration announced that the federal COVID emergency that has been in effect since almost the beginning of the pandemic would be allowed to expire on May 11. But a measure advanced by Congressional Republicans to terminate the emergency earlier gained House approval in February, and last week it passed in the Senate, effectively muddying the waters

as to what will happen when Biden signs the bill, which he has indicated he will do.

The confusion has ensued because there have effectively been two emergency declarations operating at once, and only the one based on former President Donald Trump's initial emergency proclamation is affected by the House bill, which will be effective before May 11 upon Biden's signature. The underlying message has been that when the emergency terminates, so, too will the various measures the federal government has implemented to deal with the pandemic, but the House bill will evidently not immediately terminate services provided through the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

In a statement posted to its website, HHS indicates that the public health emergency declaration it has been operating under is one made pursuant to

See COVID ...pg. 5

REAL ESTATE

WE NEED LISTINGS!
Contact us for a free property valuation

218-666-5352
info@bicrealty.com bicrealty.com

BAR/RESTAURANT This "turn key" business opportunity includes business, 4,800 sq ft bldg for seating up to 150 people and 15 acres. Great location, minutes from ATV/snowmobile trails, golf course, Lake Vermilion and city of Cook. Call for more details! **MLS#144140 \$475,000**

COOK Prime corner downtown lot. Room for a new business and parking lot. **MLS#144081 \$50,000**

TOWER 1 BR, 4 BA home w/commercial kitchen, 2-stall det garage. Known as the old Wayside Cafe this property presents a unique business or home opportunity. **MLS#144182 \$435,000**

ANGORA Price reduced! Finish off this single level home the way you want. Exterior is mostly finished with the interior roughed in. Located on 10 acres on a dead end road. **MLS#144488 \$110,000**

ORR 20 acres of vacant land with road-access and electric at the property line. Opportunity for hunting land or residential home. **MLS#144181 \$30,000**

VERMILION LAND OFFICE
Real Estate Appraisals

Looking To Buy Or Sell? Give Us A Call!

vermilionland.com
info@vermilionland.com
1-866-753-8985
Cook • Tower • Virginia

RE/MAX Lake Country
218-757-3233
www.TheLakeCountry.com

Sandpoint Lake-\$225,000 Furnished 3 BR cabin on 2.77 acres located on the SE point just north of the Canadian customs facility. Cabin has metal roof, family room, garage and shed at the water's edge. Electric service available from Canadian Sandpoint Power Association

Rainy Lake-\$102,000 Handyman's Special! Two story, 3 BR, 1 BA, 840 sq ft cabin on almost half acre lot. Main floor of cabin was flooded during spring of 2022 flood. Cabin is being sold "AS-IS" and in need of lots of main floor TLC. **MLS#144736**

Rainy Lake-\$304,900 Completely remodeled, 2 BR, 1 BA, 710 sq ft cabin on 1.8 acre lot. Southern facing lots with incredible views of Jackfish Bay. Approx 600 ft total of Rainy Lake frontage. **MLS#144734**

Daniels Pond, Buyck-\$99,900 46.5 acres, 1,650 ft airstrip with 3,487 ft of shoreline on a pond. **MLS#141325**

NEXT TIME COME HOME!

JANISCH REALTY **218-780-6644**

Let's Make Sold Happen For You Too!

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

Facts and law

The party of law and order is now the party of anything goes

There's an old axiom in the legal world: If the facts are on your side, pound the facts. If the law is on your side, pound the law. And when neither the facts nor the law is on your side, pound the table.

Which helps explain why we're hearing so much table-pounding by former president Donald Trump and his supporters in the GOP over the indictment handed down late last week in Manhattan. To hear the former president and his backers tell it, an indictment of former President Trump for directing and hiding hush money payoffs to a porn star and a former Playboy model to keep them quiet ahead of the 2016 election, is politically-motivated and would never have been pursued by anyone other than an unhinged prosecutor.

They've attacked the prosecutor as an animal and the recently-assigned judge in the case as vicious. They've suggested the indictment marks this country's fall to Third World status.

What you won't hear in all that table-pounding are any facts or any law, and it's because the facts of the case and the law appear to be highly inconvenient for the former president as well as his apologists on the right.

The most important fact to remember is this: The Trump Justice Department investigated, prosecuted, convicted, and imprisoned Trump's former attorney and "fixer" Michael Cohen for his role as Trump's bag man in this exact crime. Trump and his supporters are pounding the table because they want to distract the public from this very telling reality.

U.S. attorneys from the Southern District of New York, then working under President Trump, stated explicitly in their 2018 court filing in the Cohen prosecution that Cohen acted "in coordination with, and at the direction of Individual-1," who we all know to be Donald Trump. Because of the Justice Department's longstanding policy that it cannot indict a sitting president, Trump avoided prosecution, since he was president in 2018. The U.S. Attorney made it abundantly clear in court filings that they had plentiful evidence beyond Mr. Cohen's testimony, that linked Donald Trump to the payoffs and to the fraudulent reporting of those payments, which were intended "to influence the 2016 presidential election." That turned the payments into illegal corporate campaign contributions, a felony.

So, where was the Republican outrage when Michael Co-

hen spent time in prison for his involvement in this scheme? His prosecution was widely reported and certainly couldn't have escaped the notice of those Republican leaders decrying the fact that Trump may now face his own time in the docket for directing Cohen to do his dirty work. Do Republicans believe that only the underling should be punished while the kingpin goes free?

The Republican reaction reveals the GOP's appalling descent from a party that used to espouse law and order to a party of anything goes. Trump is a classic example of a law-breaking, ethics-defying hedonist. With his effete mannerisms and his heavy reliance on makeup and hairspray, he's the exact antithesis of that Marlboro Man persona that has long been the symbol of the GOP's belief in rugged individualism. Instead, the GOP has become a party of coddlers. They argue "tough love" for the poor while they trot out endless, ridiculous excuses for the petulant man-child who is currently their leading candidate for president in 2024.

The GOP's attacks against law enforcement and the judicial process aren't just rhetorical. In Georgia, where Trump is widely expected to face election fraud charges for soliciting the Georgia Secretary of State to "find 11,780 votes," the GOP-led Legislature is advancing a measure that could strip prosecutors of their office if they pursue cases the state's Republicans find inconvenient. In the U.S. House, the GOP is engaging in direct intimidation in the Manhattan prosecutor's case against Trump and Trump's own rhetoric is all but begging one of his supporters to assassinate the prosecutor. It's all about intimidating prosecutors and stripping them of their independence, a classic red flag on the road to tin-pot dictatorship. Yet Republicans will spare no institution, precedent, or principle in their efforts to prop up the man who has become the emblem of their lawless party.

With the ongoing investigations and potentially multiple prosecutions still to come, the Republicans had the opportunity to take the exit ramp on Donald Trump. Instead, they've found their base isn't ready to quit Trump, who famously predicted he could shoot someone on Fifth Avenue and not lose any support. He also, if the Republicans had their way, wouldn't face any legal consequences. Which says more about the GOP than it does about Donald J. Trump.



Letters from Readers

Becoming anti-racist is a never-ending pursuit

Upon rereading my column that appeared in the *Timberjay* on March 31, I felt a wave of disappointment. My story was about my mother's experience as a young single mom in the 1950's and '60's. I'd been recently inspired by the biographies of three remarkable women — Alberta King and Louise Little, the mothers of Martin Luther King Jr and Malcolm X, and Berdis Baldwin, the mother of literary great, James Baldwin. Their lives were the subject of a book entitled "The Three Mothers: How the Mothers of Martin Luther King, Jr. Malcolm X, and James Baldwin Shaped a Nation" by Anna Malaika Tubbs. These mothers, along with my own, shared the struggles of too little emotional and financial support, and a feeling of powerlessness over forces that surrounded them. By recalling details of my mother's early adulthood, I wanted my article to be an expression of gratitude and respect for all mothers who raise children in less than ideal conditions.

But as I examined the telling of my mother's story more closely, I realized that I had short-shrifted the subjects of "The Three Mothers". I suddenly saw my glaring omission. I had understated the central theme of the book! Tubbs had pulled these three women from obscurity because their accomplishments were indeed heroic! They had raised their large families in places and in times when conditions for most African-Americans were fraught with peril — by generational oppression, systemic denial of basic human rights, poor access to health care, education, and job opportunities, and myriad subtle and overt threats to their survival. Yet these women persisted in shaping the values and attitudes of their children that would result in their greatness and, as the title so aptly as-

serts, shape our nation.

In the concluding sentences of my article, I identified the women's shared struggles surrounding gender and economics, but I failed to highlight the harsh impact of racism, despite this being the over-arching burden they carried throughout their lives, as did their sons. Their ability to overcome the most egregious effects of racism, especially in the early post-slavery and Jim Crow eras, was what made these three women stand apart. Tubbs focused the lens on the courage, intelligence and resolute determination required in order for their children to thrive. Martin, Malcolm and James became their legacies.

Yes, I admire my mother also, for her ability and determination to overcome hardships. And I am grateful for her commitment to preparing me and my siblings for the "real world." But now I can't set aside the fact that some of the opportunities afforded to my mother came about because her "Race" box was checked "White". To ignore or deny this fact would only perpetuate the racism that still plagues our society.

Learning can be hard work but still necessary to increase our understanding and self-awareness — and get to know and appreciate one another and our differences. It's the way we build a society together where all of our children can grow and flourish.

**Kathleen McQuillan
Cook**

Recognizing our common humanity on this lonely planet

Deep within each of our beings is an ancient survival drive for life. Each of us has the same physiological needs; food and drink, air to breathe, rest and sleep. We need safety and shelter, love and belonging, need to grow and become what we can be. Are we not, more alike than different?

Deep within each of our

beings we make choices on how to live our lives.

As we experience life we grow and develop wants; likes and dislikes, values and beliefs, wishes and dreams. We want things and stuff, comfort and ease, to have our own interests and views of the world around us. Are we not, again more alike than different?

On needs we can easily agree, but on wants we may readily disagree. Herein, lies the problem. Needs are driven by fact and what is necessary, wants are driven by belief and what is desirable. Needs are satisfied by what we must have and wants are fulfilled by what we wish to have. Are we, still, not more alike than different?

Eyes to see, ears to hear, nose for scent, tongue to speak, skin for touch we feast in experience with all the world. In awe we ponder to grasp the vast expanse of everything mysterious. Our minds wander and wonder to connect beyond the material and mundane with the spiritual and sublime. We are more alike than different.

We are one, connected, but alone in cosmic vastness. Our only home, Planet Earth in all that we understand. Our differences pale before the mysteries of life and living. Little is known of how this all began, less is known about where we are going, one thing we must know is that within being alONE, we are all ONE! Herein, lies our strength to journey on.

**Harold Honkola
Stillwater**

Subscribe to the
TIMBERJAY!
Call
218-753-2950



COLUMNIST

Easing into the life of a weekly editor

It's always enlightening to examine the nuances of a new place after moving across the country. After a third of a year at the *Timberjay*, I took a look at my experiences so far with returning to local-level journalism after several years of writing for a business publication.

One thing every city-beat journalist encounters is the first occasion of stuffing the proverbial foot into the metaphorical mouth. My first foot-in-mouth moment

came near the end of January, at an Ely City Council meeting. I was doubly blessed when my faux pas was overheard by several elected officials, leaving me with no avenue of plausible deniability.

Of course, this shaggy-dog story starts with the necessary digression to explain the punchline. It goes like this: my former home in rural Idaho isn't too different from rural Minnesota. The big differences are that Idaho has more pota-

atoes, some bigger hilly bits and the Idaho state weed known as sagebrush.

Minnesota and Idaho are quite similar in many ways. The winters are just as cold, the winter roads are just as frictionless, and those northern European surnames are just as dominant. I haven't analyzed yet how all the Slovenians in Ely fit in with this scheme. I'm still trying to figure out how you get a bunch of Slavs from beautiful sun-drenched Slovenia, with its Mediterranean climate and famous Dalmatian coast, to settle in not-so-sun-drenched northern Minnesota.

Idaho has its own quirkiness in its relative lack of Swedes. Idaho's potato belt is full of Norwegian, Finnish, and German surnames — but not a lot of Swedish ones. I think the Swedes must have stayed in Minnesota when immigrating west. Maybe they preferred Minnesota's lakes and fall foliage over Idaho's sagebrush and really pointy hills.

I blame my first great Ely moment of professional embarrassment on those pesky Swedish surnames. I asked city councilman Al Forsman if he was related to the Erin Forsman who had recently received a degree

from St. Scholastica College. "After all," I added in my total ignorance of all things dear to Ely, "Forsman is not at all a common name. There can't be a lot of people with that same last name."

In the next few moments, I don't know what was worse: the exposure that I wasn't a real Elyite or Minnesotan, or the sympathetic looks I received because I didn't know any better. I was soon schooled on my mistake as I received several explanations, and have discov-

See EDITOR...pg. 5



**CATIE
CLARK**

Letters from Readers

Republicans should stand with the American people

As Americans, we deserve leaders who follow the law, act honorably in our interests and govern in our name. A grand jury of everyday Americans across race, background and party in New York City has indicted the former MAGA President for bribes and corruption, weighing the evidence and deciding he must stand trial. This was the decision of everyday Americans who did their civic duty and served on the grand jury.

Yet the MAGA Republicans in office today supported, schemed and lied for him, and now want to undermine and overturn our entire legal system to keep covering up for him. These MAGA Republicans knowingly back this con man because they want to take away everything from Social Security and Medicare to our freedom to decide what happens to our own bodies— in order to help their wealthy donors by lowering taxes for them, rather than doing what's right for everyday Americans.

It's long past time for every Republican in office to declare they are with the American people in demanding the former MAGA President and his co-conspirators stand trial. No one is above the law. Lawbreakers MUST be held accountable. And if the MAGA Republicans do not commit to standing with us, then we will vote them out.

Northern Progressives/Indivisible:

Val Myntti, Frank Sherman, and Sheryl Casey; Eagle's Nest

Lorraine Erickson, Marliese Riffel, Skip Dickinson, and Rose Adams, Virginia

Carol Stegmeier, Kabetogama

Ellie Larmouth, Marit and Orlyn Kringstad, and Richard and Kay Hanson, Tower

Keith and Amy Steva, Sharon Beatty, David Stanton, Missy Bakker Roach, Kathleen McQuillan, Alberta Whiteneck, John Hess, Judith Ulseth, Deborah Saarinen-Foss, George and Robin Pliml, Cook

Janine Patten, Babbitt Marjory Wood, Beth Peterson, Kurt Peterson, Irene Hendrickson, Ian Hendrickson, and Mark Hendrickson, Aurora

Richard and Shelly Peach, Orr

Dennis and Audrey Peterson, and Leah Rogne, Gheen

Mike Maleska, and Carol Cotter, Hibbing

Pete Leschak, Side Lake Betty Firth, Linda Wiedmann, Bill Erzar, Nancy Powers, Lindsay Lang, Frederica Musgrave, Deborah Kleese, David Listenberger, Lynn and Erik Evenson, Ely

County should get real on septic rules

The St. Louis County Board considered changes to their septic ordinance last week. Several changes pushed by Commissioner Nelson actually made sense, and I commended the board for them. Replacing just a faulty component instead of the whole system was a no-brainer, and having the septic department approve most variances, rather than the expensive and

time-consuming rigmarole with the board of adjustment, was also an improvement.

I do object to one change. Currently, homeowners can install their own system if they have access to the equipment needed. This, of course, can save them a pile of money over hiring a contractor. With systems running as much as \$40,000 in some cases, this is no small deal. A designer still has to draw up a plan. The homeowner simply follows this blueprint. The sewer squad, however, complains that it takes too much staff time to check that these installations are done right, so they want these homeowners to go to sewer school first.

Shouldn't checking this work be the JOB of the septic staff? If all they're doing is sitting in the office, filling out some forms and poking at their computers, maybe we don't really need them. Other projects, like road projects, have inspectors on-site continuously, to ensure everything goes smoothly. Yes, there are some technical points to be noted, but this isn't rocket science.

Puzzling too, is the cavalier attitude of officials about the high cost of these golden monstrosities. A recent analysis by the Franklin News Foundation identified Aurora as the 'poorest town in Minnesota', with citizens' mean income of \$32,207, and other area communities likely in the same boat. What about families who only make \$20,000 or \$10,000 a year? And they want this bedraggled chap to put in a \$20,000 or \$30,000 system? Have these jokers lost their marbles?

So, the county starts out by telling this poor guy that he needs a new septic, but they

don't help him accomplish this. "Just figure it out!" they tell him. So, this guy with four kids, house payments, a 30-year old car he's limping along and a budget tighter than a fiddle string, now thinks he can save some cash by installing this system himself. Not so fast though, now he has to go to sewer school first. And he gets to pay for that, too. Perfect.

I questioned what sense does the 'hands-off' policy of these inspectors make? Wouldn't it be better to share some of their expertise with these homeowners to help them succeed, rather than just condemn them when they fail? Bad idea, we were told. Well, maybe only one class could be required, and the other one waived. Commissioner McDonald pressed the point— could the department guarantee that only one class would be needed? Answer: mumbling. I suggested that St. Louis County provide this class— after all, they could zero in on problems specific to the geology and soils right here. This would be perfect, and the county could be a partner, working WITH citizens for our common goal of clean water! This idea fizzled too, and the county board finally passed these changes without any adjustments.

It is curious that this county revels in its authority to mandate, to order and condemn, but completely abdicates its responsibility to participate in this operation. It's up to the citizens, contractors, designers - anybody but the county - to ensure clean water! Authority without responsibility is a disjointed albatross out of sync with reality.

After I made my presentation, two members of the audience, on the record, offered their thanks and stated they agreed

with all my points. Later, another lady told me the same. It would be enlightening to know how many others think the county should be an active participant and stop shirking their responsibility for clean water, off to the citizens. If you agree with this premise, contact our County Commissioners. Write, call, email them or grab 'em on the street. Or simply send them this column. They'll get the picture. They enjoy the power, but vanish when the work begins. If St. Louis County wants the glory, then don't lay the expense and work on us.

Jim Hofsonmer Colvin Township Supervisor

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.

We ask that letters be limited to 300 words.

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

Letters are a great way to offer your input to the *Timberjay's* editorial page. We want to know what you think!

COVID ...Continued from page 3

the Public Health Service Act, which is not the Trump-declared emergency. HHS and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will continue to target May 11 as the transition date for their COVID-related policies and programs, many of which will continue and be phased out over a period of months.

For those on Medicare, as of May 11:

➤Coverage will continue to include COVID vaccinations without cost sharing.

➤PCR and antigen testing with no cost sharing is available for traditional Medicare recipients if ordered by a physician, physician's assistant, or certain other health care

providers and provided by a laboratory. People enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan can also receive testing if covered by their Medicare, but may have a change in the cost sharing for the test. By law, Medicare does not cover over-the-counter home COVID test costs, and current access to free over-the-counter tests will end May 11.

➤Medicare participants will see no changes in COVID treatment options, cost sharing and deductibles.

For Medicaid recipients and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

➤Coverage for vacci-

nations, testing, and treatments without cost sharing will continue through Sept. 30. After that date, many recipients may still have coverage for vaccinations.

For those with private health insurance:

➤Most forms of private insurance must continue to cover COVID vaccines without cost sharing that are furnished by an in-network provider. Out-of-network vaccinations could require cost sharing.

➤Mandated coverage for over-the-counter and lab testing will end May 11. Individuals should check with their insurance provider to determine if testing services are cov-

ered and what requirements may exist for prior authorizations and cost sharing.

➤There will be no changes resulting from the emergency termination related to private insurers and how treatments are determined and covered.

Meanwhile, health care providers will see numerous changes as various rule waivers implemented under the emergency declaration will come to an end on May 11.

Data trends

The overall COVID picture in Minnesota and St. Louis County continued to improve last week, with confirmed case counts, hospitalizations and deaths all decreasing from the week prior, continuing the latest state-

wide trend.

And while the highly contagious variant XBB.1.5 now accounts for over 90 percent of the COVID viral load in the state, according to CDC data, a related surge in

infections like what was seen with XBB.1.5 in New York and other eastern states hasn't materialized here.

EDITOR...Continued from page 4

ered yet more evidence since, on just how many, many Forsmans there are in the area. There's Forsman Road on the way to Babbitt. There's a Forsman on the city council. There's the Jake Forsman Memorial Car Show and Burnout Competition. Don't forget the Michael D. Forsman Public Works Building. I could keep going, but I wanted to keep this column to less than book length.

When I contemplate my sin of demographic ignorance, I realized that I should have known better. My mother grew up in Marshall, and my father grew up in St. Paul. Forsman is not that unusual a last name in Minnesota. Just because I had never met a Forsman before moving to Ely meant I was the anomaly, not Al Forsman on the city council. There are certainly enough Forsmans in Red

Wing, Marshall and Blue Earth, where all my cousins grew up, that I had no excuse for my lack of awareness.

After my faux pas at the Ely council I did some additional research on the topic. I expected that demographic statistics would show a clustering of Forsmans in Minnesota. Alas, genealogy sites familysearch.org, ancestry.com, and forebears.io proved me wrong again. While Forsmans were concentrated in Minnesota and Wisconsin between 1880-1940, since 2000, the place with the highest concentration of Forsmans in the U.S. is that Swede-deprived state, my former home of Idaho.

I could say the irony was unbearable, but I checked my vital signs just a moment ago, and indications are that I will survive this shock.

I now have a new hy-

pothesis that all the people with Swedish last names in Idaho live in Boise, the state's only true metro. I will refrain from any more research on Scandihoovi-

an surname distributions since I doubt I can stand the trauma of being wrong three times in a row.

SAINT LOUIS COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
BETTER WASTE SOLUTIONS

<p>Northwoods Transfer Station 9384 Hwy 21 N., Ely/Babbitt Winter Hours Mon, Thu, Fri, Sat: 8am-3pm Tue: 9:30am-3pm Wed: 11am-5pm</p>	<p>Cook Transfer Station 2134 S. Beatty Rd., Cook Hours Mon: 10am-6pm Tues thru Sat: 9am-3:30pm</p>
<p>County 77 Canister Site 2038 County Rd. 77, Greenwood Twp Winter Hours Thurs, Sun: noon-5pm</p>	<p>Soudan Canister Site 5160 Hwy 169, Soudan Hours Mon, Wed, Sat., Sun 8am-5pm</p>
<p>Embarrass Canister Site 7530 Koski Rd., Embarrass Hours Sat: 12:30-4:30pm Thu: 10am-5pm</p>	<p>Aurora Transfer Station 5910 Hwy 135 N., Aurora Hours Mon, Thurs, Fri: 8am-4pm Tue, Wed: 10am-4pm Sat: 8am-noon</p>
<p>Household Hazardous Waste Facility 5345 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Tues and Sat: 8am-1pm</p>	<p>Regional Landfill 5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30pm Sat: 8am-3:30pm</p>

Winter hours effective October 1st through April 14th

St. Louis County Environmental Services Department
1-800-450-9278
Office hours 8-4:30 Monday through Friday
www.stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle

the
TIMBERJAY

Copyright © 2023 by *The Timberjay*. *The Timberjay* (PN 16025) is published weekly on Fridays, 51 weeks per year, by *The Timberjay Inc.*, PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Business/Editorial Office at 414 Main St., PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Call (218) 753-2950 to subscribe. E-mail address is editor@timberjay.com. Periodicals postage paid at Tower, Minnesota.

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

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

<p>Publisher Marshall Helmberger General Manager Jodi Summit Cook/Orr Editor David Colburn Ely Editor Catie Clark Office Manager Michelle Toutloff Staff Writer Rachel Brophy Graphics/Ad Sales Scarlet Lynn Stone Ad Sales/Sports Jay Greeney</p>	<p>Official Newspaper: Townships of Bearville, Eagles Nest, Embarrass, Kugler, Vermilion Lake, Field, Morcom, Leiding, Crane Lake, Kabetogama, Greenwood, ISD 707, City of Orr.</p> <p>Member: Minnesota Newspaper Association, Lake Vermilion Resort Association, Lake Vermilion Area Chamber of Commerce, Ely Chamber of Commerce.</p> <p>Subscriptions Available: St. Louis County: \$45 year Elsewhere: \$59 year. We accept VISA/Mastercard/Discover/AmEx. NOTE: Changes of address must be sent or called in to the Tower office. Out-of-state delivery may take 2-3 weeks. For prompt out-of-state delivery try the First Class Subscription: \$109 year or \$10 per month.</p> <p>Read the entire paper on-line every week. On-line subscriptions cost \$29.95/year; details and payment at www.timberjay.com.</p>
--	--

Week of April 10

Monday

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

Tower City Council- 5:30 p.m. on April 10

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.

Greenwood Town Board- 6:30 p.m. on April 11.

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.

St. Martin's, St. Mary's, Holy Cross Easter services

Friday, April 7
Good Friday - Holy Cross (Orr) - 3 p.m.
Good Friday - St. Martin's (Tower) - 6 p.m.
Saturday, April 8
Blessing of the Easter Baskets - St. Martin's (Tower) - 11 a.m.
Easter Vigil Mass - St. Mary's (Cook) - 8 p.m.
Sunday, April 9
Easter Sunday - Holy Cross (Orr) - 8 a.m.
Easter Sunday - St. Martin's (Tower) - 10:30 a.m.

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 and following.
April 9- Pastor Ellen Taube
April 16- Greg Kuchan
April 23- Linda Krohnholm
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 Joint Powers Rec Board to meet April 18

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Joint Powers Recreation Board will meet on Tuesday, April 18 at 8:30 a.m. at Good Ol' Days. Requests for funding must be made in advance, in writing, and dropped off at or mailed to Tower City Hall, PO Box 576, Tower, MN 55790.

Tower Easter Egg hunt set for Saturday, April 8

TOWER- The Tower Volunteer Fire Department is hosting a free Easter Egg Hunt for children ages infant through sixth grade on Saturday, April 8 at 11 a.m. sharp at the Herb Lamppa/Tower Civic Center.

Children should dress for the weather as the eggs will all be "hidden" outdoors around the civic center.

There will be games, prizes, raffles for Easter baskets, and over 4,000 eggs, but the children pick them up quickly, so please get there on time! Lunch will be served.



Mid-Range Honor Guard gets van upgrade thanks to retrofit by Lamppa Manufacturing

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- Lamppa Manufacturing, in Tower, is still building on the tradition of founders Herb and Daryl Lamppa.

"We believe in being good local citizens," said Lamppa plant manager Dale Horihan.

While the business produces wood-fired furnaces and sauna stoves, they sometime lend their expertise in fabrication to help community projects.

This past month, this has meant helping with the construction of the "Love Lock" memorial being installed at the Tower-Soudan School in memory of long-time teacher Carol Alstrom, as well as helping to retrofit a new van recently donated to an Iron Range organization that provides honor guards at veterans' funerals and at community events.

"They were very happy we were willing to do something like this as a donation," said Lamppa CEO Garrett Lamppa. The project included fabricating a new fold-away step for easier entry into the back of their van, which is used to transport equipment to



events.

"We want to make sure the van is safe for volunteers, who are older, to use as they load equipment in and out," said Horihan.

Veterans honoring veterans is the commitment made by the all-volunteer group, Mid-Range Honor Guard. The group which includes about 25 veterans from all branches of the service provides military honors at funerals for honorably discharged veterans as well as active service

members, when requested by families. The group also participates in parades, the posting of colors at special events, flag-raising at the county fair, Veterans Day events, and assemblies at area schools.

The group, which volunteered at over 50 funerals and events last year, is funded solely by grants and unsolicited donations from families.

The group now owns a van (purchased with funding from IRRR and United Way), that they

use to transport their equipment to and from events. But the van's design made it somewhat difficult for honor guard members to get their equipment in and out.

Honor guard members told the *Timberjay* they truly appreciate the work that Lamppa is doing for them.

The group is also seeking donations to help with the replacement of some of their uniforms, weapon repair, fuel, flag replacement, and the costs of maintaining their van. The group is a 501(c)3 nonprofit.

"We have traveled as far north as Lake Vermilion... and all over the Iron Range.

No little town is exempt from our services," said Commander Gary Westerberg.

Donations are truly appreciated and can be sent to c/o Gary Westerberg, Commander, Mid-Range Honor Guard, PO Box 383, Keewatin, MN 55753, or call Westerberg at 218-969-1958.

Pictured are honor guard members Fred McDougall, Commander Gary Westerberg, John Munz, Carl Grabau, and Rodney Fiedler. photo by J. Summit

Wellness event set for April 15 in Tower

TOWER- An Integrated Mind and Body Wellness Event will be held in Tower on Saturday, April 15 from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. at The Idea Warehouse.

The event will feature presentations on whole body integrative wellness and speakers include a collective of community practitioners and health and wellness product vendors.

There will be a free expo

area with wellness vendors which is open to the public. Cost to attend the series of six presentations is \$40, with attendance limited to 25. Presenters include Living Well Physical Therapy with a seminar on dry needling; Bare Rhythms Native Medicine with Terah Rinerson; Eden Energy Medicine with Deanna Ellestad; Family Constellation Therapy with Christy Mesojedec;

Norwex with Robin Majerle; End of the Road Yoga with Cindi Rahn-Kloehn; and Reiki and Lyme Disease with Gina Empey.

There will also be personal consultations/sessions offered throughout the day.

Event organizer Terah (Trucano) Rinerson hopes the event will grow and become a seasonal offering, and she also hopes to bring in more speakers and ven-

dors.

There are also a few spots still available for vendors, and possibly one more spot open for presenters. To register for the seminars, or to get information about reserving a vendor spot, text/call Terah at 218-780-5554.

TOWER AREA FOOD SHELF

Still time to donate for this year's FoodShare Campaign

TOWER- There are still a few days left to contribute to this year's March FoodShare Campaign for the Tower Area Food Shelf. Donations can be accepted through April 9. Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign, the largest grassroots food and fund drive in the state, brings together organizations, businesses, faith communities, and individuals to help stock and support the capacity of nearly 300 food shelves.

Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches' (GMCC) Minnesota FoodShare began in 1982 as a campaign advanced by congregations to restock food shelves in the seven-county Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. The effort was so successful, and the need so evident, March Campaign became a statewide initiative just one year later and is now in its 42nd year.

To date, GMCC's Minnesota FoodShare has distributed over \$18.5 million dollars via the FoodFund. 100-percent of donations designated to Minnesota Foodshare during the March Campaign go into the FoodFund and are distributed to participating food shelves. GMCC envi-



sion a future where all Minnesotans have access to healthy food and no one struggles with food insecurity. This initiative directly addresses these issues.

Donations

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

Minnesota Hunger Facts

➤ Nationwide, 21.4-percent of households reported some level of food insecurity in 2022, up

6-percent from 2021.

➤ 9.3-percent of Minnesotans had incomes below the poverty line (\$27,479 for a family of four) in 2021, up from 9-percent in 2019. This included 10.4-percent of Minnesota's children.

➤ A record-breaking 5.5 million visits were made to food shelves during 2022 in Minnesota, up nearly 50-percent from 3.7 million visits in 2021. 47-percent of food shelf visitors in 2022 were seeking food assistance for the first time.

➤ Minnesota ranks 39th in the nation in SNAP access and 90-percent of SNAP recipients still experience food insecurity.

➤ Minnesota's charitable food system (food shelves and food banks, meal programs, etc.) continues to run at capacity. This has been exacerbated by rising inflation and the end of various financial and food supports established during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Moving into 2023, it will be critical to focus on creating a just and equitable food system that is able to meet the growing number of Minnesotans in need.

➤ Food security is "access by

all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life."

➤ Food insecurity means access to adequate food is inconsistent and limited by a lack of money and other resources throughout the year. Food insecure households report their diets to be of reduced quality, variety, or desirability and/or experience disrupted eating patterns and reduced food intake.

➤ Equitable access to food means all individuals have "a voice in and access to a nourishing food system," regardless of race, socioeconomic class, location, gender, and other social identities.

➤ Food justice is "the concept that communities have the right to grow, sell, and eat healthy, affordable, culturally appropriate food whose production supports the well-being of the land, workers, and animals." Food justice is based on the idea that "access to nourishing food is a basic human right."

More information on food insecurity and links to the above-cited studies is online at <https://gmcc.org/>

Get Informed!
Get the Timberjay!



BUSINESS NEWS

Voyageur North gets new outfit

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- Voyageur North Outfitters is throwing a grand reopening event on Thursday, April 13, to celebrate the total remodel of their retail space. This is a new date for the event, which was previously published on the internet to take place on Wednesday instead.

Customers walking into Voyageurs won't recognize the inside compared to last year. The remodeled space is brightly-lit and filled with fishing tackle, camping equipment, rental equipment, locally-branded clothing and crafts by local area artists and artisans like the Ely-based Five Pines Candles and Dirty Dog T-Shirts.

One corner is set up as a Boundary Waters campsite to give outfitting clients an idea of what to expect inside Minnesota's most famous federal wilderness area. Next to the campsite is a lounge area with comfortable Minnesota-made Adirondack-style chairs and a screen for showing clients the required National Forest Service video on the Boundary Waters Canoe Area

Voyageur North Outfitters' Tanner Spicer shows the tabletop he made soon to be installed in the business' client lounge area.
photo by C. Clark

Wilderness, which is a condition for receiving a BWCAW camping permit. Voyageur owner Tanner Spicer showed the *Timberjay* the almost-completed handmade table in the firm's maintenance shop which will also be part of the lounge area, large enough to spread out maps for the firm's customers.

Flanking the lounge are BWCAW maps. Spicer will be adding an interactive routing display to help clients pick their routes for their excursions into the wilderness.

The rest of the space now features handmade shelving, furniture, and decorations. The woodwork and furniture were all built and installed by Spicer and the Voyageur staff.

Spicer has a few more touches to finish off the newly-redone space, included another thick tabletop whose wood-working decoration he recently finished. All the wood for the remodel was locally-sourced lumber from



Voyageur Log Homes out of Orr, or diamond willow that Spicer cut himself on his family's property, which he described as located "halfway between Ely and Two Harbors."

"We've made everything except the (Adirondack) chairs ourselves ... I didn't want anything cookie cutter. I wanted Voyageurs to be an experience for our customers." Spicer and his wife Silke bought Voyageur two years ago from John and Lynn O'Kane, who ran the business for over 40 years. John O'Kane still comes in to provide his expert BWCAW routing knowledge to the firm's clients.

Spicer grew up in Ely and

worked in outfitting while he lived here. He then served in the military, followed by a stint as a police officer in the Twin Cities area for 23 years. When he retired from law enforcement, he and Silke decided to move back to Ely and get back into outfitting, which led to their acquiring the business. The Spicers plan to remodel the bait shop half of the business starting in October. They are also building a resort property with eight log cabins and a club house between 19th and 21st on the eastern end of Ely. Voyageur is open year-round, with canoe outfitting and bike rentals in the summer and ice fishing rentals in the winter.

Britton's Does Dinner?

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- A handwritten sign in front of this long-established breakfast eatery last Saturday suggested there just might have been something in the air on April 1: "Britains Opening at NOON. For Free Dinner 1st Come First Serve (sic). Contact your City Counselor."

It may have been a far cry

from some of the community's April Fools gags of years prior, but it didn't escape the notice of some of the wits on the "What's Up Ely, MN?" Facebook page.

The misspelling of "Britton's" and "councilor" were dead giveaways that someone was having a little April Fools fun.

The cryptic reference to contacting a city councilor was a bit evocative of the April Fool's prank in 2020 when a sign down

by Zup's directed people to go to City Hall to receive a free roll of toilet paper. "We actually had someone show up wanting a roll of free toilet paper because there was a toilet paper shortage," said city clerk-treasurer Harold Langowski. "The problem was we didn't want anyone coming in city hall then, which was during the pandemic lock-down."

The staff at city hall told the *Timberjay* that to their knowledge, no one had contacted any of the members of the city council over the fake Britton's dinner signs.



WINDOW INTO YESTERDAY

THE MOHAWK SNOWSHOE CLUB

by DAVID KESS
Ely-Winton Historical Society

In 1900, wintertime diversions included dancing at the Turf Hall, playing cards, musical events, and talent shows. Younger men also organized a skating club, and another for snowshoeing. For that they dressed alike in heavy woolen clothing including long woolen coats.

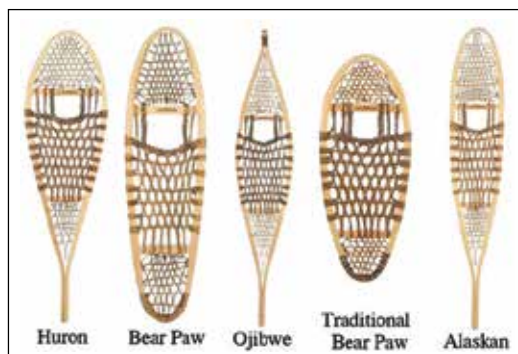
Not to be outdone, local women also organized a snowshoe club. They also all dressed alike in woolen clothing. The women called their group the Mohawk Snowshoe Club. Surprisingly, a number of their pictures have survived. Among their members were Mrs. A. S. James (James Drug), Mrs. R.S. Miller (the Miller store), Mrs. Louis Eisenach (hardware and dry goods), and Mrs. A. J. Fenske (hardware and mortuary). Upon occasion, they joined the men and together they made forays to various logging camps for a supper of pork and beans.

Snowshoes can be traced back 4000 years to Central Asia. Born of necessity, nearly all northern cultures developed snowshoes. The earliest ones used boards



Above: Mohawk Snowshoe Club in 1906. submitted photo

Right: Snowshoe types. courtesy of GV Snowshoes, used with permission



strapped to the feet. In more recent years, snowshoes evolved with wooden frames with rawhide or gut webbing. Four dif-

ferent styles emerged: The Huron with an oval shaped rounded front and a tail; the Alaskan, more narrow but still with a rounded front;

the Ojibwe, the favorite of trappers, with a pointed front tip; and the Bear Paw, which were generally smaller but with a rounded front and back.

These four styles are considered vintage styles. Snowshoes have, in more recent years, gone through another evolution, one that uses lightweight aluminum frames with nylon webbing. These are much smaller than their predecessors but seem to function every bit as well. They are certainly easier to transport.

Locally, the premier maker of snowshoes probably was Joe Prijatel. He learned the art of snowshoe making with other men in a CCC camp. Joe became a true master, steam bending the frames, making the webbing, and applying the finish. Frank Pryatel, known as "Crow," also made many snowshoes. Pictures of the Mohawk Snowshoe Club and of various kinds of snowshoes are featured in the lobby of the community college. The historical society office is open from noon until 4:00 p.m., Tuesday through Friday during the winter. The office can be reached at 218-365-3226.

Upcoming Events

Ely Public Library

ELY- 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.

The library will hold a Kahoot online trivia game on the first three books of the Stephanie Plum series by Janet Evanovich, from Thursday, April 13 at 3 p.m. to Monday, April 17 at 8 a.m. Register with your email address to receive the link to the game.

On Friday, April 21, the Librarian Scientists group will make marble rollercoasters from 3-4:30 p.m. This activity is appropriate for Grades three to five. Participants must preregister so the library can order enough supplies for everyone.

All library events are at the Ely Public Library at 224 E. Chapman St.

Ely Folk School

ELY- The folk school will hold a class on nature writing for women on Saturday, April 15, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. This class will focus primarily on the early stages of the writing process and include time to reflect on and share our work. Tuition is \$60. The folk school will also hold a song writer circle on Tuesday, April 18, 6-9 p.m. participants will share works in progress and to talk about writing lyrics. The event is free.

Makers' Mornings are every Thursday morning, through April 20, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Registration, a complete class schedule, and tuition/fee information are linked off the "learn" tab at elyfolkschool.com. The

above events will be at the Ely Folk School at 209 E. Sheridan St.

Ely Community Education

ELY- Ely Community Education will hold a class on estate planning, 5:30-6:30 p.m., on Wednesday, April 12, taught by attorney Kelly Klun on Wednesday, April 12. The class is free. The class will meet in the Ely Public School District media center. Enter the middle door (door no. 1) into the school complex and turn right. The media center is on the right after the elementary school and school nurse offices. If you reach the hallway right turn, you went too far.

Register for all Com-

munity Education classes at <https://www.ely.k12.mn.us/communityed>.

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 per person and may be purchased via phone at 218-365-6123, by email at 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 or call her at 218-216-9141.

Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

►April 11: U.S. Forest Service Beaver Program with Joel ("Henny") Jungemann

►April 17: New Resident Social. **This is a Monday event.** Meet and greet new Elyites upstairs at Northern Grounds, from 5-7 p.m. The first wine or beer is complimentary. RSVP is encouraged, bit.ly/BWCsocial.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2023



window light for plants
onions and tomatoes reach

ready for June start

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.

EASTER CELEBRATION

Bunny basket and bike bonanza comes to Orr



The Orr Fire Department welcomed the Easter Bunny to town last Saturday for a holiday celebration.

Upper left: Firefighters posing with the Easter bunny include, from left, Nels Gabrielson, Jeremy Wright, Frank Barto, Josh Gaskell, Mike Vidmar, John Barto and Karen Barto.

Lower left: Maverick Wright gets a basket of goodies.

Upper right: Some of the 29 bicycles/scooters that were given away.

Lower right: Roseanna Drieman with bunny.



The weather was good, the attendance great, and community support phenomenal. Children also got to see the department's big fire truck. Those making donations for the event included Gary Rutar, Oveson's Pelican Lake Resort, Re/Max Lake Country, Christopher and Karina Kelley, Dam Supper Club, Thomas Long and Son Trucking, Tom and Catherine Richardson, Lumber-Orr-Hardware, Frank's Marine, Park State Bank, KGM Contractors, Scott Wright Construction, Barto Girls, Melgeorge's Resort, City of Orr, and Pelican Bay Foods. Cook-News Herald donated advertising, and bikes were donated by John and Karen Barto and Up North Day Care. submitted photos

COMMUNITY NEWS

Easter party to be Saturday at Cook Community Center

COOK- A children's Easter party for kids 0-10 years old will be at the Cook Community Center on Saturday, April 8 from 9-11 a.m. The event will feature games, Easter bags, and boys and girls bicycles to be given away. The event is sponsored by the Cook Lions Club, Cook VFW, Zup's Grocery Store, Cook Timberwolves Snowmobiling Club, Cook Fire Department, Cook Building Center and the *Cook News Herald*.

NWFA reveals photo contest award winners

COOK- The winners of the Northwoods Friends of the Arts annual photo contest were announced recently.

Winner of the \$100 top prize as chosen by the people who viewed the exhibit at the gallery and voted was Kimberly Stokes for her photo, "Popcorn Sky".

The runner-up prize of \$50 went to Kimberly Stokes and Lauren Nelson for their photo, "Moon Over Montana".

The "Moon Over, Montana" photo is a cell phone photo by Kimberly Stokes which was enhanced with a "new moon" and a slight color adjustment using an old version of Photoshop software by Lauren Nelson.

Congratulations to the winners and a big thank you to all photographers who participated in this year's fundraiser.

Find out about other arts happenings at the NWFA Gallery in Cook online at www.nwfamn.org. See NWFA also

on Facebook and Instagram. For more info contact the gallery at nwfamn.org@gmail.com. The gallery is now open Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. -4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 am-1 p.m.

North Woods artists featured at NWFA Gallery in April

The Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook is featuring the art of North Woods School high school art students who participated in the annual Minnesota State High School League Visual Arts Festival 2023.

The list of artists, genres, and titled works being exhibited includes: Cynthia Kirkman, sculpture, "The Moon"; Kiana LaRoque, printmaking, "Serenity"; Nahvaya Kingbird, mixed media, "Tangled Words"; Emily

Grahn, ceramics, "Flowing Creek Set"; Riley Las, ceramics, "Rainbow Trout"; Trinity Vidal, drawing, "Fever Dream"; Alex Whiteman, printmaking, "My POV"; Ella Smith, ceramics, "Phil the Snail"; Haley Leinonen, drawing, "Night Ride"; Cynthia Kirkman, drawing, "In the Woods"; Ella Smith, painting, "In the Void"; Trinity Vidal, painting, "Philobia"; Angeline Lilya, painting, "Now You See Me"; Olin Nelson, drawing, "Cougar"; River Cheney, sculpture, "Embrace"; Trinity Vidal, sculpture, "The Kraken"; Dillon Musakka, drawing, "Restrictions: Off"; and Anya Pearson, drawing, "Inside the Mind."

Two works on display earned Best of Show awards in their categories: "Fever Dream" by Trinity Vidal and "Tangled Words" by Nahvaya

Kingbird.

A reception to honor these students will be Monday, April 10 from 5-7 p.m. with refreshments.

See the exhibit during April when NWFA begins summer gallery hours of Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturdays. NWFA Gallery is located at 210 S. River St. in Cook.

Catholics announce Easter observances

REGIONAL- Easter observances for Holy Cross, St. Martin's, and St. Mary's Catholic Churches will begin with Good Friday observances at Holy Cross in Orr at 3 p.m. and St. Martin's in Tower at 6 p.m. on Friday, April 7.

On Saturday, April 8, Blessing of the Easter Baskets will be at St. Martin's at 11 a.m. An

Easter Vigil Mass will be observed at St. Mary's in Cook at 8 p.m.

On Easter Sunday, April 9, Mass will be celebrated at Holy Cross at 8 a.m. and at St. Martin's at 10:30 a.m.

Cook Area Book Club to meet

COOK- The next meeting of the Cook Area Book Club will be on Tuesday, April 11, at 1 p.m. at the Cook Library. Everyone is asked to bring a favorite poem to share in honor of poetry month.

There is a change in the book selection for May. The new selection is "I Could Not Do Otherwise: The Remarkable Life of Dr. Mary Edwards Walker" by Sara Latta. Ms. Walker is America's only female medal of honor recipient.

NSCU

Credit Union names Stedt as new CEO

REGIONAL- The North Star Credit Union (NSCU) Board of Directors has announced that Jennifer Stedt has accepted the position as Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Stedt has been serving as interim CEO at NSCU since November. For the past five years she served as Executive Vice President and Chief Operations Officer at the credit union. Stedt has 30 years of experience in financial institutions and a commitment to the credit union's mission.

"We are pleased to appoint Jennifer Stedt as CEO. Jennifer has been working with the board on strategic planning and has been involved in all board meetings for the past five years, making her well-positioned for this role," the board said in a press release. "She will be able to continue the amazing growth and commitment to the members and communities we serve."

Stedt said she is honored to serve in this role and to be able to continue to fulfill the credit union's mission.



Jennifer Stedt

"I am grateful for the opportunity to serve our members as the credit union's next CEO," Stedt said. "I'm excited to lead the credit union into new areas of growth and make a difference in the financial lives of our members and communities."

North Star Credit Union has branches in Brooks, Cook, Duluth, Nashauk, and Virginia. Its Duluth branch will be moving locations this spring to better serve its customers and a Mt. Iron branch is slated to open this fall.

COOK CITY COUNCIL

Blight ordinance gets approval

COOK- Meeting on an alternate date of March 30 last week, the Cook City Council passed the city's long-awaited revised blight ordinance that will provide more effective enforcement for property blight complaints.

To mark the adoption of the new ordinance, the council had further discussions about sponsor-

ing some sort of citywide cleanup day this spring to promote pride in the city's appearance. Logistics were discussed, but no date was set. The council decided to get more information about how such cleanup days are conducted in other area communities to inform their decision-making process.

The council also had a lengthy discussion

about the fiber high-speed broadband project being installed by Paul Bunyan Communications, during which several councilors expressed reservations about the lack of communication with the council over a planned community information and sign up meeting scheduled to be held at Cook Hospital. Councilors expressed concern over the choice of

venue and possible space constraints for parking and attendees. Councilors were of the opinion that the community center would have been a better option.

SAINT LOUIS COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
BETTER WASTE SOLUTIONS

<p>Ash River Trail Canister Site 11391 Ash River Trail Winter Hours Sat: 12:30pm-4:30pm</p>	<p>Kabetogama Lake Canister Site 10150 Gamma Rd Winter Hours Wed: noon-4pm Sat: 8am-noon</p>	<p>Sturgeon Canister Site 8380 Hwy 73 Hours Sun: 8am-Noon</p>		
<p>Orr Canister Site 4038 Hwy 53 Winter Hours Tue, Thu: 9am-noon Sat: 8am-noon</p>	<p>Portage Canister Site 6992 Crane Lake Rd. Winter Hours Tue, Sat: 1pm-4:30pm</p>	<p>County 77 Canister Site 2038 County Rd. 77 Winter Hours Thurs, Sun: noon-5pm</p>		
<p>Cook Transfer Station 2134 S. Beatty St. Hours Mon: 10am-6pm Tues thru Sat: 9am-3:30pm</p>	<p>Regional Landfill 5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30pm Sat: 8am-3:30pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">St. Louis County Environmental Services Department 218.666.5298 Cell-218.240.5395 1-800-450-9278 Office hours 8-4:30 Monday through Friday www.stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">Household Hazardous Waste Facilities</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: none; padding: 2px;">5345 Regional Landfill Rd., Virginia Tue, Sat: 8am-1pm</td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none; padding: 2px;">3994 Landfill Rd, Hibbing Sat: 8am-1pm</td> </tr> </table>		5345 Regional Landfill Rd., Virginia Tue, Sat: 8am-1pm	3994 Landfill Rd, Hibbing Sat: 8am-1pm	
5345 Regional Landfill Rd., Virginia Tue, Sat: 8am-1pm	3994 Landfill Rd, Hibbing Sat: 8am-1pm			

Winter hours effective October 1st through April 14th

A Tradition of Trust

- Traditional Funerals
- Graveside Services
- Cremation
- Pre-Need Planning
- Monuments by Warren Mlaker

Mlaker FUNERAL HOME

www.mlakerfuneralhome.com

218.666.5298
Cell-218.240.5395

Cook, MN
24 Hours A Day

HEARING...Continued from page 1

necessitate the construction of a large dock to accommodate the boats that would shuttle campers back and forth to two lots across the bay with road access. County records show the property is currently owned by Solveig Mead-Berg, of Moorhead, although Lutheran Social Services is listed as the taxpayer.

But before Wryobek can pursue her plan, she must convince the planning commission to change the zoning on the property from its current Residential (RES) classification to Shoreland Mixed Use, or SMU. Her campground, which is considered a commercial planned unit

development, is not an allowable use in a RES-zoned district but would be allowable with a conditional use permit in a district zoned SMU.

The change in zoning could well be an uphill battle for Wryobek, which county planning staff are calling "spot zoning," something that the county's ordinance doesn't allow.

Changes in zoning require a clear public benefit, and on that point Wryobek and county staff clearly disagree. She says that the county is well aware of the demand for more camping opportunities and that her nonprofit would serve the needs of disabled

veterans. Wryobek said the proposed site would provide a wilderness-like setting as well as motorized access to Trout Lake, located in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. "That's why Lake Vermilion is so appealing to us," she said.

County staff don't see it that way. "The applicant has not demonstrated that there is a clear public benefit," notes the planning staff in their report to the planning commission. What's more, the county staff say the zoning affecting the property was established for the protection of existing residential development and to restrict incompatible uses

and that there are other places on the lake that would be more appropriate for the project proposed by Wryobek. "There are multiple areas on Lake Vermilion that are zoned SMU that would support the requested commercial planned development. These areas were specifically identified during the Lake Vermilion planning process to allow for commercial development to continue and expand if needed."

Residents petition for EAW

The rezoning, if approved, would only be the first step toward

Wryobek's goal. Property owners in the vicinity of the proposed camp have filed a petition with the county to require an environmental assessment worksheet, or EAW, which would have to be completed before the county could grant a permit for the project. The planning commission is set to discuss the EAW request as well at the April 13 meeting, however the study would only be required if the commission opts to approve the zoning change.

If the rezoning is approved, Wryobek would still need to apply for a conditional use permit, or CUP, but an earlier county staff report on her CUP appeared

more supportive of the plan, presuming it would be located in a newly designated SMU zone district.

Wryobek has expressed some frustration with the apparent opposition of the county's planning staff to her rezoning proposal. "It's crazy they will not recognize the public benefit," she said. "Our intent is to appeal to district court if it is not successful."

Thursday's public hearing on the proposed campground is set for 10:15 a.m. at the St. Louis County Government Services Center, located at 201 S. 3rd Av. W., in Virginia.

CRUELTY...Continued from page 1

thought it was funny at the time. All three deer were fatally injured and a subsequent passerby dispatched the animals with a firearm.

The Ely Police Department led the investigation into the incident and

had subsequently referred additional charges to the county attorney, including cruelty to animals and reckless driving. But Ely Police Chief Chad Houde said the county attorney opted against the additional

charges.

Houde acknowledged that some area residents may be disappointed with that and said he's a bit frustrated as well. But he said there was some ambiguity in the statute regarding

cruelty to animals, which suggests it may pertain only to domestic animals, not wildlife.

"It's frustrating that it happened at all," said Houde, but he said he was pleased that his officers

were able to track down Meadows and hold him accountable to the extent that the law allows.

He also lauded Ely area residents for their interest and crucial involvement in assisting the investigation.

"The community really came together on this," he said.

ORDINANCE...Continued from page 1

edition of the *Timberjay*. The ordinance presented to the council at the April 4 meeting by Kelly Klun, the city's attorney, added theaters to the list of businesses that can apply for an on-sale permit. Hospitality-sector businesses which sell food for consumption on their premises like restaurants, hotels, and clubs are eligible for an on-sale permit.

The other notable addition to the new ordinance concerned the term of the edible cannabinoid permits, which will be one year, and will run from Sept. 1 to Aug. 31., except for those issued mid-year.

The council's debate

The public hearing on the edible cannabinoid ordinance started at 5 p.m. No one signed up to testify. At the hearing, Mayor Heidi Omerza noted that the city had received three letters prior to the public hearing, which were also considered by the council as public input.

All three letters were opposed to any sale of edible cannabinoids within city limits. Two of the three letters confused CBD (cannabidiol), which is not a human intoxicant, with the cannabinoid intoxicants derived from cannabis such as THC.

Both Minnesota law and Ely's new ordinance permit the sale of all legal edible cannabinoids,

including those containing the intoxicants like the delta-8, delta-9 and delta-10 isomers of THC and HHC (hexahydrocannabinol). The definition of a cannabinoid is any

substance derived from *Cannabis sativa* plants. Minnesota legal edible cannabinoid products may not have more than five milligrams of THC per serving.

The council debate on the ordinance started off with council member Al Forsman repeating the motion he made at the March 21 city council meeting: to remove the on-sale permit option for the ordinance.

"Over the last few weeks, I've talked to no less than two dozen people regarding this ordinance and its details," Forsman said, "and actually, not one person outside of this council told me they were in favor of on-sale ... there are serious consequences from consuming." As an example, Forsman noted that a positive blood test for someone with a commercial driver's license could lead to job loss.

After a short discussion about consumer and business awareness on how cannabinoids can affect those whose employers test for drugs, the council voted on the motion, which then failed.

Council member Adam Bisbee made a second motion, to add a signage requirement for on-sale permit holder, "to inform customers of the potential consequences of consumption."

Klun pointed out that any additional provision that the council added to the ordinance "has to be written out." Bisbee withdrew the motion.

The final vote on the cannabinoid ordinance

was 4-2, with Forsman and Ryan Callen in opposition.

Awards

The city council received correspondence regarding the receipt of two awards. The first was the designation of Ely as a 2022 Tree City USA, granted by the Arbor Day Foundation. Ely has received this award every year for as long as any one at the meeting could remember.

The second award was described by city clerk and treasurer Harold Langowski as "a complete surprise." The Minnesota Council of Airports on March 27 announced that the taxiway project at the Ely Municipal Airport was the "Key Intermediate General Aviation Airport Project of the Year 2022."

Sale of city lots

The council also approved the price change wording for a purchase agreement for East Spaulding Lot Block 2, Lot 15 for \$12,000 to Sheryl and John Swenson. This item has been discussed in council meetings in February and March. At the March 21 meeting, the council asked Langowski to inquire if the price reduction from \$15,000 to \$12,000 was a fair price for Lot 15, which has been deemed unbuildable.

Langowski reported back at this meeting that Jim Burke, the city's realtor, "thought this was a fair offer," given that the lot can only be used as green space. In a related measure, the city council approved the first reading of ordinance 368, which changes Ely City Code, Chapter 20,

Section 20.2.33, to allow the price change for Block 2 Lot 15, designated it as "deemed unbuildable," and scheduled the required public hearing for the change for April 18, at 5:15 p.m.

Concerning other agenda items, the city council:

► Approved Mayor Omerza to sign a proclamation that April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

► Approved a recommendation from the Ely Utilities Commission (EUC) to purchase heaters for the Water Treatment Plant from JAMAR for \$1,525, and an effluent sampler from HACH for \$10,273 for the Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF).

► Approved \$671,199 for the payment of the February EUC Bills.

► Approved payment of \$75 to Anthony Gornik for installation of LCR Units.

► Approved the payments for city and EUC claims for April 4, 2023 for \$164,035; the second quarter payment of \$5,125 for the Ely Community Resource; a pay estimate for the Ely Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF) improvements project from Rice Lake Construction Group; and an invoice for Coil's Flags, Flagpoles, Embroidery for \$7,462.

► Approved a change order for the WWTF improvements project. Langowski said the change order will cover railing and catwalk work, and will add a level transmitter for the biosolids tank, which

currently lacks one. "The railing work will make us OSHA compliant," Langowski said, explaining why the work was necessary.

► Appointed Sean Clark to the open seat on the city's Telecommunications Advisory Board for a term Expiring 1/31/2025.

► Rejected the trail-head site bids from May 12, 2021. Langowski reported the bids were kept in the hopes they could be used, contingent on funding arrangements, and added the bids were now too dated.

► Made a resolution for the city to apply for and accept funds from Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board for the fiscal year 2023 Regional Trails Grant Program.

Langowski explained that the moneys would improve the signage of the city's trails.

► Designated the Ambulance Joint Powers Meeting on April 13 in Winton to be a special meeting of the Ely City Council.

► Approved the \$15,160 design proposal from Dirt Candy Designs for the Ely Area Mountain Bike Trail Expansion project. Langowski noted, "This is for the preliminary design and to prepare the cost estimates." He added, "We (already) have the funds ... 50 percent from the city, and a 50 percent match by the (Ely Nordic) Ski and Bike Club."

2023 STEM* Workshops

Saturday, April 22

9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

MN North College - Vermilion Campus

FOR ALL GIRLS IN GRADES 5-8

Free Event~Lunch will be provided

You will have workshops on
Chemistry, Biology and Robotics

Check-in 9:30-10 a.m.

in VCC Classroom Bldg.

Please let us know if you
are attending by Wednesday, April 19.

Send an email to elystem@gmail.com
or call/text Jeanne Tomlinson at 218-235-8470
to get the registration/permission form.

Sponsored by AAUW-Ely in collaboration with
MN North College-Vermilion Campus
and Lake Country Power Operation Round-Up

* Science-Technology-Engineering-Math



FOUNDATIONS
BASEMENTS
INSULATION

ALL THINGS BASEMENTY!

#1 Trusted, Local Expert in

Basement Waterproofing!

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE!

218-666-7100

DBStimberjay.com



Scan to learn more!

\$250 OFF

Basement Waterproofing*

*Cannot be combined with other offers. Must be presented at the time of the appointment. Not valid for prior work.

OFFER EXPIRES 5/31/23.



BORDER WATERS

Rainy River basin lake level targets lowered

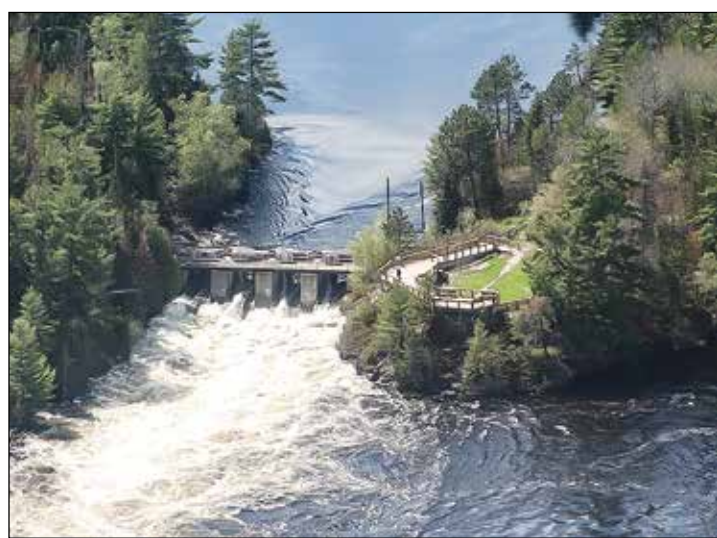
A response to increased risk of spring flooding

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL — The International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board (IRLWWB)'s Water Levels Committee (WLC), the group responsible for recommending lake levels for Rainy and Namakan Lakes, decided last week to target slightly lower levels for April 15 in response to an above-average risk of spring flooding.

At its March 27 meeting the WLC approved an upper level target of 336.83 meters, or about 1.5 inches lower than the committee had approved back on March 10. It lowered the upper level target on Namakan to 339.21 meters, or about 2.75 inches below its March 10 decision. Lower lake levels increase the holding capacity of the lakes to accommodate anticipated snowmelt and spring runoff.

The committee met with personnel from the Duluth National Weather Service office, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry-Surface



Floodwaters pour over the Kettle Falls dam last May. Water level regulators will be allowing more discharge in the coming weeks to try to head off similar flooding this year. file photo

Water Monitoring Centre, and dam operators for their latest assessment, and cited numerous factors that played into its decision to lower the upper target levels, as described in an IRLWWB news release:

► Recent snow events have increased current snowpack since March 10.

► Snow-Water Equivalent (SWE) remains slightly above normal to much above normal in the Rainy River basin, with higher amounts occurring in the eastern areas of the basin and decreasing closer to normal moving west.

► River forecast models from the North Central River Forecast Center indicate higher chances of greater than normal streamflow volume, especially in the Rainy River headwaters.

► The latest spring flood risk outlook from the National Weather Service, issued on March 23, indicates an increase in spring flooding risk compared to the previous outlook on March 10.

► Short term forecasts do not indicate melt occurring through the first week of April (temperatures leaning below normal and precipitation leaning slightly

above).

Rule curve change

This new range represents the bottom 25 percent of the committee's rule curve, a range of targeted high and low levels determined by historical lake level data that shifts up and down depending on the time of the year, with lake levels trending upward beginning in April and extending through the summer before declining into the fall and winter. Dams controlling the lake levels are operated to keep the lakes within the range established by the rule curve at levels determined by the WLC.

When it came time for the committee's decision last year, members opted for the normal rule curve rather than the high flood risk curve. That decision came under fire from some in the surrounding lake communities as the waters rose uncontrollably in May due to heavy precipitation and snowmelt. Through post-flood public meetings, it was discovered that a minority of people mistakenly believed that the rule curves were designed to prevent floods or perceived the high flood risk curve as an "emergency rule curve." According to the WLC's post-flood report, the high flood risk rule curve was only intended to provide modest mitigation under minor to moderate spring flood risk scenarios, and using it

would have made almost no difference in the levels of flooding experienced in the Rainy River basin last year.

This year, to clear up the potential confusion and also give the committee more latitude for its decision-making, the two separate rule curves have been combined into one, while allowing for a wider range of levels.

The WLC was made aware of concerns from residents regarding the risk of not being able to refill Namakan Lake to normal levels by the second week in May for the fishing opener. With the higher snow-water equivalent in the headwaters flowing into Namakan Lake, the risk of not refilling the lake has decreased.

An online public information session will be held on April 11 to provide an updated summary of basin conditions and seasonal forecast information as part of the spring regulation plan. Individuals can register for the session at <https://tinyurl.com/4x-z3kzbh>.

The WLC will continue to monitor conditions over the coming weeks and provide further direction for lake level regulation when necessary.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Area firefighters gather to discuss Fortune Bay response

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

FORTUNE BAY — Nearly 20 firefighters from several area fire departments turned out here last week to get a refresher on how they might be expected to respond in the event of an emergency. The sprawling facility here, which includes a 173-room hotel, a multi-level casino, associated offices, a golf course clubhouse, and a marina is by far the largest and most complex within the area and its protection would be dependent on mostly small, volunteer departments with little

experience outside of wild-land fires and single-family residential structure fires.

Fortunately, noted Kevin Poffs, with the Virginia Fire Department, most of the buildings on the Fortune Bay complex are well equipped to suppress and control the spread of fires. He noted that the fire and safety regulations that govern the construction of such large structures make them expensive to build, but largely safe in the event of emergencies. "We rely on the systems in place in these kinds of buildings," he said, noting that Virginia has a few large, multi-level buildings of its own.

Based on a recommendation of the state's Fire Marshal, the Virginia department, which is the only professional department within 25 miles of Fortune Bay, is automatically dispatched with a ladder company to any fire alarms at the facility.

Poffs noted that, in most cases, fires in the casino or hotel would be quickly suppressed by the facility's sprinkler system. He said fire doors and fire walls, which close or drop down automatically as conditions warrant, also would help contain any fires.

"At most, we might be looking at dealing with

Right: Jeff Damm, safety and EMS coordinator for Fortune Bay, gestures during a recent presentation to about 20 area firefighters.



a smoldering mattress," he said.

Poffs said smoke is the bigger issue, as was the case back in 2018 when fire in a hotel room produced a substantial amount of smoke throughout the hotel even as the fire was largely contained. Jeff Damm, safety manager and EMS coordinator for Fortune Bay, who presented last week's refresher, said a malfunctioning heater was the determined cause of that incident.

Damm has held similar pre-planning sessions with local firefighters in the past and it's proven a good opportunity for firefighters to be reminded of

the systems in place, key locations to assist in their response and work through the potentially complicated logistical issues that would likely accompany any incident.

Firefighters peppered Damm throughout the 90-minute session with questions, comments, and suggestions about how departments could better coordinate their responses to

emergencies. Damm, who was taking his own notes during the session, indicated he hoped to follow up on some of the suggestions and have firefighters back for additional training in the near future.

Participating departments included Vermilion Lake, Breitung, Greenwood, Cook, Pike-Sandy-Britt, and Virginia.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Cook woman lifelighted after car crash

HIBBING- Ice on the roadway caused an overnight accident in Hibbing on Monday that sent a Cook woman to a Duluth hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

Lisa Ollikkala, 41, was driving a 2002 Chevy Suburban northbound on Hwy. 169 near East 13th Street in Hibbing at 1:54 a.m. on Monday when she

hit a patch of ice, according to a Minnesota State Patrol report. The vehicle went into the east ditch, hit a snow bank and rolled over. Ollikkala was not wearing a seat belt and was ejected from the vehicle. The State Patrol reported that alcohol was not a factor in the accident.

Hibbing Police and Fire Department responded

to the scene, and a LifeLink helicopter transported Ollikkala to St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth. Her injuries were reported to be non-life-threatening.

Physical Therapy Clinics in Floodwood, Tower & Duluth

MODERN PAIN RELIEF TREATMENT

**Headaches • Jaw Pain
Shoulder, Neck, & Back Pain
Muscular Tension
Plantar Fasciitis**

Call to schedule an appointment, for a free consultation to see if physical therapy can help you or look us up on the web

PHONE: 218-481-7603
WEBSITE: living-well-therapy.com

DRY NEEDLING

EASTER SUNDAY

SUNDAY, APRIL 9

Service at 8:30 AM

- Special Music -
with Rob Mattson

- Brunch to follow -
All are welcome

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
On the corner of Church and Main, Soudan

We Buy Clean Used Vehicles!

HAPPY EASTER FROM US AT WASCHKE!

2022 CHEVROLET SILVERADO
1500 LT CREW CAB 4X4

MSRP.....	\$52,690
Waschke Discount.....	\$2,432
Customer Cash.....	\$2,250*
Bonus Cash.....	\$1,000**
CLEARANCE PRICE	\$47,008

*Customer Cash and **Bonus Cash not applicable with all offers. Must take delivery from dealer stock by 5/1/2023. See dealer for details

PRE-DRIVEN DEALS!

2021 Chevrolet Blazer 2LT AWD.....Lease Return!.....	\$32,990
2020 Ford F-150 XLT 4x4.....22K Miles!.....	\$39,990
2020 Ford Escape SE AWD.....Reduced!.....	\$28,990
2019 Buick Envision Essence AWD.....Only 35K Miles!.....	\$27,990
2019 Buick Envision Essence.....Loaded!.....	\$24,990
2019 Ford Edge SEL AWD.....31K Miles!.....	\$27,990
2019 Ford F-150 XLT Sport Crew 4x4...Max Tow Package...	\$39,990
2019 Ford Flex AWD.....Fun And Function!.....	\$24,990
2016 Chevrolet Colorado Z71.....Only 43K Miles!.....	\$29,990
2016 Ford F-150 XLT 4x4.....New Arrival!.....	\$26,990
2015 Chevrolet Traverse LTZ AWD.....Just In!.....	\$19,990
2015 GMC Terrain SLE AWD.....Only 62K Miles!.....	\$15,990

View Our Full Inventory at www.waschke.com

WASCHKE FAMILY Hours: M-F 8am-6pm, Sat. 9am-2pm
126 N Hwy. 53, Cook, MN
CHEVROLET•COOK 218-666-5901 • 1-800-238-4545

RANGE JEWELRY & GIFTS

"A Gift For Every Occasion"

- In-store jewelry & watch repair
- Cash for Gold & Silver
- SISU JEWELRY

OPEN: Tues-Sat 9-5
218-827-2515
Babbitt Shopping Center

PETERSEN DRILLING

Since 1948
Wells
Water Systems

- PUMPS
- WELLS
- HYDRO-FRACKING

1-800-662-5700

Spring Park Rd.
Mt. Iron, MN 55768

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

**YOU'LL BE ON THE RECORD**

Don't let Sen. Grant Hauschild sell you out to Big Insurance and PBMs.

Sen. Grant Hauschild is considering legislation that some claim benefits patients.

But who does it really help?

The truth: there are no guaranteed patient savings at the pharmacy counter—only an unelected, taxpayer-funded board that can pave the way for Big Insurance and the PBMs they own to make record profits, at the expense of patients.

The people of District 3 deserve better: Guaranteed lower out-of-pocket costs and more affordable treatment options. **Not laws likely to benefit billion-dollar corporate interests.**

EMBARRASS REGION FAIR ASSOCIATION

Group seeks bonding funds for Timber Hall building upgrades

ST. PAUL- Members of the Embarrass Region Fair Association testified at the state Capitol here last week in support of a \$1.5 million bonding proposal to restore and update Timber Hall. Association members Tana Johnson and Sue Beaton traveled to St. Paul to meet with the state bonding committee and explain the need for the project and the funding, which is backed by Rep. Dave Lislegard, who grew up in Embarrass.

The large log building and surrounding grounds, which include a horse arena, a mud run course and spectator area, hosts the Embarrass Regional Fair each August. The rest of the year, the building is rented out for other events including fundraisers, weddings, craft sales, meetings, and concerts.

Johnson told the committee that the Timber Hall is maintained by the Embarrass Region Fair Association, which also manages the 40-acre parcel that surrounds it. The Embarrass Region Fair Association is a nonprofit 501(c)3 which is a 100-percent volunteer driven organization.

Construction on Timber Hall, which is believed to be the

largest free-standing log building of its kind in the country, began in 1990 and it's beginning to show its age. The original construction was funded with a \$200,000 grant from the IRRRB and was bolstered with plenty of volunteers, who peeled over 200 large Norway pine logs and used 60 wheelbarrows to pour the immense cement floor, a job that took five hours to complete.

But now it will take more than volunteer time to get the building up-to-date.

"After 30 years of wear and use, Timber Hall needs major maintenance, repairs, and upgrades," said Johnson. There are rotting logs that need replacing, an inefficient kitchen, and outdated electrical and plumbing. The roof needs major modifications and doors and restrooms need to be handicap-accessible; as well as other structural needs and so much more. "We simply cannot meet the challenge of preserving this exceptional facility by ourselves," said Johnson. She told the bonding committee that "upgrades would substantially increase the use of Timber Hall facility, making it a more functional and attractive facility."



Representative Dave Lislegard and fair association representative Tana Johnson at the Capitol. submitted



Volunteer Sue Beaton manned the table at a recent pancake breakfast fundraiser that the group puts on the first Saturday of the month at Timber Hall. file photo

The fair association has been working on attracting more events and finding more ways for the wider community to use the building. Johnson noted that "continuing the legacy of this

facility is worthwhile and has an impact on future generations."

Local legislators also testified in support of the project, said Beaton. Rep. Lislegard reiterated the importance of funding the renovation for this community. Rep. Roger Skraba, of Ely, called the Timber Hall a gathering spot for the region and said its reach is greater than just the Embarrass community. A decision about this funding request is expected mid-year.

Upgrades have been ongoing

During 2022, the fair association began raising funds to replace the Timber Hall doors and their casings. Johnson, in her role as a grant writer for the association, was instrumental in the association being awarded a Basic Energy Retrofit grant of \$20,000 from AEOA and a \$60,000 CDBG Community Development Block Grant from St. Louis County. These funds will be used to replace three sets of doors. The new doors have been ordered and will be installed before the annual fair, Aug. 25-27.

CALLING AREA SINGERS

Performers needed for spring opera workshop in Ely

ELY- Mixed Precipitation and Northern Lakes Arts Association are working together to host their spring opera workshop. All levels of experience are welcome. Looking for six performers aged 12 and up (actors and dancers strongly encouraged). The experience is ideal for performers who love working as an ensemble and digging into the creative process.

This year's summer opera is based on Bellini's *The Capulets and the Montagues*. The groups will work with community members to adapt this Romeo and Juliet story to modern times. Working with writers and theatre makers, the workshop uses voice and body, improvisation, and physical theatre methods to create stories and

characters. The workshop serves to create Mixed Precipitation's summer show, which will tour Minnesota in August and September 2023. Join artists of the Mixed Precipitation team for a week of workshops to develop their summer opera extravaganza. This is a paid opportunity for performers. Those interested should send an e-mail to Scotty Reynolds, mixed-precipitation@gmail.com.

Mixed Precipitation creates unexpected theatrical experiences through unique partnerships and festive events that inspire social engagement. Since 2009, they have been bringing Minnesota the Pickup Truck Opera – an annual harvest celebration that brings new life to old stories through music,



Performers are needed to help develop this summer's Pickup Truck Opera production. A spring workshop will be held in Ely. Last summer the group toured the area with an adaption of "The Magic Flute." file photo

movement, gardens, food, and visual extravaganza.

This activity is made

possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State

Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural

- Seed Potatoes
- Onion Sets
- Lawn Seed

HIBBING FEED and SEED

262-3049

Cook VFW POST 1757

Starting April 1 we will be open Noon to Close every day but Tuesday (closed).

HAPPY HOUR • 4-6 PM
MON, WED, THURS, FRI, SAT, SUN
- CLOSED TUESDAYS -

FRIDAY BURGER NIGHT • 4:30-7 PM

Take-Out 666-0500
206 1st St SW, Cook, MN

OPEN HOUSE

Tower's Gathering Gallery

April 15 • 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
515 Main Street Tower
(entrance off Birch St)

Come and see our NEW short-term rental space! 515 Main St-Suite 104 (entrance off Birch St.) We've been working hard to make this space attractive for Tower.

The space has been created with the artisan, maker, vendor, professional and the community in mind.

Come meet us and your neighbors!
There will be light drinks and snacks available.

Spring Getaway Destination!

- Comfortable Private Rooms
- Continental Breakfast

• On the Hiking / Biking Trails
• Near Lake Vermilion, Fortune Bay Resort Casino and State Parks

BOOK ONLINE: vermilionparkinn@gmail.com
218.753.2333 • 30 Center St., Soudan • vermilionparkinn.com

PESHEL ACCOUNTING

218-365-2424

1704 E Camp St. | PO Box 89 | Ely, MN 55731 | askjean.net

CHECK OUT askjean.net for current TAX TIPS!

ESTATE PLANNING CLASS

Prepare for your future in the month of showers!

Attorney Kelly Klun will walk you through the basics of establishing a Will, Trust, and other legal forms.

Wednesday, April 12
5:30-6:30 PM
Ely School Media Center

FREE through Ely Community Education.

Register at www.ely.k12.mn.us/communityed or call Chris at 218-235-1811

KLUN LAW FIRM
Direction. Guidance. Results.
www.klunlaw.com
1 E. Chapman St • Ely, MN 55731 • 218-365-3221

ABC 123 ABC 123 ABC 123

Kick Off to Kindergarten

If you have a child who will be 5 years old by September 1, 2023, they are eligible to enter Kindergarten next fall.

You are invited to attend Parent Information and Registration Night on Wed., April 19, 5:30-6:30 PM in Washington Auditorium.

This informational session is a chance for parents to ask questions and start the registration process.

If your child is not enrolled in a pre-school program, please contact the elementary office at 365-6166. ext. 4.

We look forward to creating a positive transition to kindergarten for your child! Feel free to contact us if you have any questions at: 218-365-6166, ext. 4.

ABC 123 ABC 123 ABC 123



NorthCountry

Serving northern
St. Louis County
since 1989

FISHERIES

DNR seeking comment on several area lakes

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is inviting anglers and others to comment through Friday, April 21, on fish management plans for several lakes in northern St. Louis County.

Fisheries management plans are being reviewed for the following lakes, all of which are located in the International Falls work area:

- Blackduck
- Johnson
- Kjostad
- Loon
- Mukooda
- Myrtle
- Pelican

The DNR will use comments and suggestions from the public as it updates fisheries management plans that identify specific management activities planned for these lakes over the next five to 20 years. The plans include a variety of fisheries information, including summaries and evalua-

tion of past management activities and regulations, background information such as water chemistry and water temperature, and species presence, stocking, and historic catch rates from previous fisheries surveys.

The plans may also identify biological and social factors that may limit a fishery's potential and seek to address limiting factors by prescribing science-based management tools when biologically, fiscally and socially appropriate.

Comments and suggestions from the public are important

in identifying angler values and social considerations to include in plans. Public input is most useful before plans are finalized.

Anyone can request information and share thoughts about fisheries management on these lakes by contacting the International Falls area fisheries office by email at fisheries@state.mn.us or phone at 218-598-8196, or by U.S. mail at International Falls Area Fisheries, 392 Hwy. 11 East, International Falls, MN, 56649. Information about International

Falls area lakes is also available on the DNR LakeFinder (mndnr.gov/lakefinder).

Comments and suggestions for managing other lakes and streams in the International Falls work area are welcome at any time and will be considered when those plans are due for review. More information about the International Falls area fisheries office is available on the DNR website (mndnr.gov/areas/fisheries/internationalfalls).



LAKE VERMILION

Walleye count stays strong

Latest net survey bodes well for Lake Vermilion anglers for the next several years

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

LAKE VERMILION — The fishery here continues to be remarkably strong and anglers can anticipate more of the same for the foreseeable future. That's the upshot of the latest fall gill-netting results on Lake Vermilion, conducted in the fall of 2022.

The annual test netting provides the area Department of Natural Resources fisheries staff with their most reliable data on the health of the fishery, and the numbers point to continued angler success for a wide range of species.

Walleye numbers continued to be well above the long-term average, with a net catch rate of 16.6 walleye per net in the latest survey. "Recently, walleye recruitment in Lake Vermilion has been higher than expected," noted Matthew Hennen, large lake specialist at the DNR's Tower area office. "From 2010 to 2019, Lake Vermilion produced nine moderate-to-strong walleye year-classes and only one weak year-class." Walleye numbers are typically determined by the strength of those year classes, so the recent trend has allowed the walleye population to remain solid even with increasing fishing pressure.

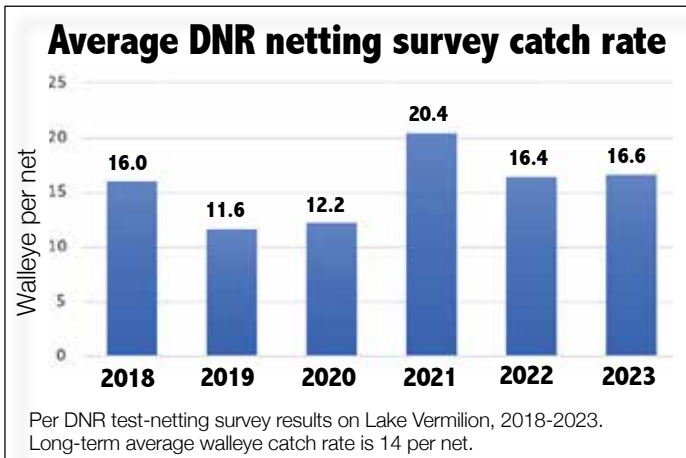
For anglers, the very strong 2018-year class continues to dominate Vermilion's walleye fishery and that means "exceptionally high" numbers of walleye in the 16-20 inch range, according to Hennen. Vermilion's protected slot limit

Top and bottom right: Anglers had better keep their nets handy when fishing on Lake Vermilion this summer. Both the walleye count and the average size should make for exceptional fishing this year. file photos

of 20-26 inches will allow anglers to keep most fish in that size range.

If there's a surprise in the latest results, it's the relative parity between the eastern and western lake basins. For years, the eastern basin has maintained a substantially larger walleye population, to the extent that the DNR was facing criticism as recently as three years ago about the lack of keeper-sized walleyes in the western half of the lake. That concern is heard much less frequently these days, and the latest survey should further quell those fears as they show virtually identical walleye numbers across the sprawling lake. The catch rate in the eastern basin averaged 16.9 walleye per net, compared to 16.1 in the west, which ranked as the second highest catch rate on record in the western portion of the lake. The improvement there is primarily driven by the strong 2018-year class, according to Hennen.

And the outlook remains encouraging, based on sampling of smaller fish. Hennen reports that the survey found the number of fish smaller than 13 inches was running above average. And fall electrofishing for young-of-the-year fish averaged 179 fish/hour, a rate that was also above the long-



term average. The average length of 5.6 inches was also slightly above normal, which bodes well for winter survival of the young fish. "Based on the catch rate and size of fish captured, the 2022 year-class is likely to be moderate to strong," Hennen noted. Preliminary data suggests the 2021-year class

will also be moderate to strong.

Perch near record high

If a solid walleye population isn't enough good news, the 2022 lakewide perch survey demonstrated a catch rate of 45 fish per net, the highest number since 2013 and the third highest

See SURVEY...pg. 2B

MITIGATION

Fed funds to address wildfire risk in county

REGIONAL — St. Louis County will be receiving \$890,925 from the U.S. Forest Service to help plan for and mitigate wildfire risks within the county.

The county's proposal was one of 100 projects selected nationwide to receive a portion of the \$197 million through the Community Wildfire Defense Grant program, which is funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

For many years, St. Louis County has participated in the Firewise Program, which assists private property owners whose land is adjacent to federal land, to help them reduce wildfire risk on their property. This new grant funding will broaden the scope of this program to assist other private property owners in reducing their own wildfire risk.

The funding will be used to assist fire departments, lake and road associations, and township boards in the highest wildfire risk areas in St. Louis County to increase wildfire awareness, reduce fuels and provide opportunities to help their communities be more wildfire resilient. The county will provide more information to these organizations once details are finalized on how they can partner with the county in these efforts.

"We are thankful and excited to receive this funding," said St. Louis County Sheriff Gordon Ramsay. "We've seen the positive results from Firewise, and so to be able to expand where we can offer these services will make a big difference."

St. Louis County contracts with Dovetail Partners to coordinate Firewise and expects to continue working with them on the broadened program.

Outdoors briefly

Load restrictions now in place

REGIONAL — Spring load limits are now in place across the region, including both county and U.S. Forest Service roads. On most graveled roads maintained by the county, trucks are limited to five tons per axle. On federal Forest Service roads, the seasonal load restriction is four tons.

Limiting heavy loads in the spring on roads in freeze-thaw environments like Minnesota helps to protect road structure. Load limits are expected to continue into May.

For more information regarding seasonal load restrictions see the Minnesota Department of Transportation website at www.dot.state.mn.us/loadlimits/index.html.

VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK

Park seeks input on ice roads plan

INTERNATIONAL FALLS— The National Park Service has begun a planning process to draft a new access and use plan for frozen lake surfaces in Voyageurs National Park to make the park more accessible to a wider range of off-road vehicles in winter.

Ice roads are established and maintained by park staff on Kabetogama and Rainy lakes based on weather conditions, available staff, and resources. The practice was initiated in 1979 on Rainy Lake to provide a traditional mode of travel that was established prior to the creation of the park. Ice roads allow access to ice fishing locations and provide visitors with a unique way to experience the park in winter.

The planning process does not relate to snowmobile use in the park, which is already established through designated trails. Instead, it relates to other off-road vehicles, including street legal vehicles, ATVs, UTVs and other vehicles. As part of its planning effort, the park will host two in-person meetings and one virtual public meeting for the public to share their thoughts and ask questions. The first is set for Tuesday, April 18 from 5-7 p.m. at the Kabetogama Community Building,

located at 9707 Gamma Rd. A second meeting will be held Thursday, April 20 from 5-7 p.m. at the AmericInn by Wyndham, located at 2500 Keenan Drive in International Falls.

The virtual meeting on Zoom will be held on Wednesday, April 19 from 5-7 p.m. The meeting link is <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83447266503>. Listen-only telephone access is available by calling 1-312-626-6799 and entering webinar ID 834 4726 6503 at the prompt.

Park staff will give a brief presentation during the first half-hour of all meetings and will then be available to answer questions via an open house format until 7 p.m.

All meeting information is also available on the project PEPC page, under "Meeting Notices" <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/VOYA-frozen>.

You can submit comments electronically at <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/VOYA-frozen>, or via U.S. mail to Frozen Lake Surface Access and Use Plan, Voyageurs National Park, 360 Hwy 11 East, International Falls, MN 56649.

The public comment period for this process will be open through May 3, 2023.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
37 15					45 30					54 30					61 36					62 38				

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.
03/27	38	11	0.00		03/27	39	2	0.00		03/27	37	11	0.00		03/27	34	10	0.00		03/27	38	0	0.00	
03/28	36	4	0.00		03/28	25	0	0.00		03/28	34	3	0.00		03/28	18	-2	0.00		03/28	36	-1	0.00	
03/29	20	-6	0.01	0.3"	03/29	20	-1	0.04	0.3"	03/29	19	-1	0.02	0.2"	03/29	27	-4	0.00		03/29	20	-2	0.05	0.5"
03/30	25	-1	0.00		03/30	26	-10	0.00		03/30	26	-2	0.00		03/30	37	3	0.00		03/30	26	-9	0.00	
03/31	37	7	0.00		03/31	39	-10	0.00		03/31	37	2	0.00		03/31	41	28	0.00		03/31	36	-9	0.00	
04/01	42	14	0.00		04/01	41	16	0.00		04/01	43	17	0.00		04/01	39	16	0.00		04/01	41	16	0.00	
04/02	38	11	0.00		04/02	40	16	0.00		04/02	37	17	0.00		04/02	39	27	0.00		04/02	39	16	0.00	
YTD Total			3.74	78.2"	YTD Total			3.11	74.5"	YTD Total			1.94	74.7"	YTD Total			NA	NA	YTD Total			2.55	65.5"

Outdoors briefly

DNR finalizes rule changes to reduce accidental lynx take

REGIONAL— The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has finalized trapping rule changes to help minimize the risk of accidental take of federally-threatened Canada lynx in Minnesota.

In February, Federal District Court Judge Eric C. Tostrud approved a settlement developed by the DNR and the Center for Biological Diversity that includes additional limits on the type of snares that can be used and the way snares can be set in northeastern Minnesota.

"We will move forward with implementing the agreed-upon changes and believe these steps will further reduce the already low accidental mortality of lynx from trapping," said John Erb, DNR research biologist.

The consent decree resolves an action brought by the Center for Biological Diversity in 2020 related to Canada lynx protections.

The number of lynx in Minnesota is very hard to determine, but estimates put the population between 100 to 300. Since 2008, the DNR's records show there was an average of one accidental trapping mortality of Canada lynx every other year. Trapping is not the leading source of human-caused lynx mortality in Minnesota. While such incidental takes affect individual lynx, they do not threaten the sustainability of Minnesota's lynx population. Vehicles are the leading cause of lynx mortalities in Minnesota.

Trappers can find the specific changes related to snares that will be in place for the 2023-2024 trapping season, as well as more information about trapping in Minnesota, on the DNR trapping page (mndnr.gov/trapping).

May 5 deadline for bear permit

REGIONAL— If you're hoping for a permit to hunt black bear this fall, you'll need to apply for the upcoming lottery by Friday, May

5. Applications for the 2023 season can be submitted online, at any license agent or by telephone at 888-665-4236.

A total of 4,035 licenses are available in 14 permit areas for the season, which opens Friday, Sept. 1, and closes Sunday, Oct. 15.

Populations in most bear permit areas are stable to increasing, and the total number of permits has increased by 430 from last season. The exceptions are in several permit areas in northern Minnesota, which will see permit reductions in efforts to stabilize populations in those areas.

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

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

SURVEY...Continued from page 1B

number on record.

Unlike with walleye, the perch counts showed a noticeable disparity east to west. The western basin saw an average of 71 fish per net, the second highest ever recorded, while the eastern

end saw 27.6 fish per net on average. The eastern basin has historically had a smaller perch population, but significantly larger on average, than the west end. The survey revealed good numbers of perch over nine

inches, which are generally considered harvestable by most anglers.

Smallmouth numbers remain solid

Spring electrofishing

results last year showed an average of 98.3 fish per hour, the highest catch rate ever observed. The high numbers were driven primarily by high numbers of smaller fish on the west end. "The average length

of fish captured in West Vermilion was a little over 7 inches and only a small portion (<8%) of the catch was over 12 inches," noted Hennen in his report. "In contrast, the average length of fish sampled in East

Vermilion was over 10.5 inches and more than one-third of the catch was 12 inches or larger."

The DNR did not conduct surveys on the lake's muskie or panfish populations in 2022.



Our future is fiber.

Robust. Resilient. Reliable. Revolutionary.

New technology reinvents the way we live. A better connection is required to power our way forward. That's why Midco® is making steps to move into the world of tomorrow with our Fiber Forward® network expansion.

Get ready for next-gen, game-changing 10 Gig speeds.



Midco.com/Ely



North Country communities score IRRR awards for projects

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Ely, Cook, Orr, and Breitung Township were among the area winners in the latest round of infrastructure funding approved by the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation's board last week. The newly-reconstituted board handed out over \$4 million in economic development funding to regional governments and businesses.

A \$2.1 million project to replace a water main and upgrade sanitary sewers along Hwy. 169 in Ely from 21st Avenue to the International Wolf Center received a \$400,000 grant from

the IRRR. The water main loop is necessary to provide the required capacity for customer use and fire protection. The existing waterline is currently off due to deterioration and an unreparable leak under a highway culvert. Businesses and expansions that will benefit from the project include Spirit of the Wilderness Canoe Outfitters and an expanded bunkhouse for guest and employee housing, Hammer Heart Brewery, a new business relocating from Lino Lakes to Ely, Trembath Machine and Welding, Voyageur North Outfitters' rental cabin development, Zup's Food Market entrance access improvements and additional parking, and potential future

housing development. The project is projected to create eight permanent jobs and 13 construction jobs.

Cook received \$20,000 to help construct infrastructure for power service upgrades and taxi-lane expansion for new hangar development at the Cook Municipal Airport. The funds will provide for lighting for the new taxi-way and power for 11 new hangars that are planned to be built with private funds. All 11 spaces are already reserved for development.

A project in Orr to rehabilitate a lift station to improve service to residents and replace a force main to reduce inflow and infiltration issues to the waste-

water treatment plant received \$50,000. The project will replace the pumps and convert the dry well to a wet well.

Breitung Township will receive \$40,000 for the engineering, construction and environmental expenses to reconstruct and improve the 1.4-mile paved McKinley Park Trail located between Soudan Underground State Park and McKinley Park Campground on Lake Vermilion.

The November elections ensured new faces on the board, comprised of eight Iron Range state senators and representatives, and only three members are carry-overs from last year - District 7A Rep. Spencer Igo,

who was elected as chair, District 6 Sen. Justin Eichorn, who was elected as vice chair, and District 7B Rep. Dave Lisle-gard. New members include District 3 Sen. Grant Hauschild and District 3A Rep. Roger Sk-raba.

Approximately \$1.5 million in loans, \$2.4 million in infrastructure grants, and \$191,000 in trails grants were approved at the March 29 meeting, with a total investment of approximately \$39.2 million. The projects are expected to increase the regional tax base, impact new and existing jobs, create construction jobs, provide essential services, and expand outdoor recreation.

Obituaries and Death Notices



John H. Burgess

John Herbert "Jack" Burgess, 92, died peacefully on Friday, March 31, 2023, surrounded by family. A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. on Friday, April 7 in the Vermilion Funeral Home in Tower. Bill Bauman will officiate. A time of remembrance will follow. Memorials are preferred and may be directed to the Tower-Soudan Historical Society, PO Box 465, Tower, MN 5590. Family services are provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.

Jack was born on Dec. 1, 1930, in Tower, to Albert and Josephine (Hewett) Burgess. He attended Tower High School where he met his sweetheart, Carol Jeane. On June 24, 1951, Jack and Carol joined hands in marriage and began building the foundation for their family with strength, love and laughter. Jack was a devoted husband, father of three, grandfather of eight, and great-grandfather of 16.

Jack served in the United States Air Force from 1951-1955 in Fort Worth, Texas. Following his honorable discharge, Jack was a pilot at North-east Airways in Eveleth. He returned to Tower

where he and Carol helped build Burgess Marine while working winter months at Burgess Chevrolet. He spent later years doing custodial work and providing bus and van transportation for students at the Tower-Soudan School.

Jack's bigger-than-life personality brought him to the skies over Tower-Soudan and Lake Vermilion, even bringing a publication of his encounter with a wolf in Ripley's Believe It or Not. He enjoyed spending time with family and friends at the hunting shack, fishing in Canada, reloading ammunition in the bullet room, and traveling to Gulf Shores, Ala. for the winter to listen to Brett Burns and enjoy cocktails on the beach with their friends from all over the Midwest.

Jack is survived by siblings, Joanne Lindberg and Bob (Carol) Burgess; children, Johnny (Linda Myklebust) Burgess, Jere Lynn (Tom) Wujcik and Jeff (Pam) Burgess; grandchildren, Jon Ryan (Jennifer) Myre, Jaime (Joe) Johnson, Kara Burgess, John Russel (Stephanie) Burgess, Jacob (Alaina) Burgess, Kada (Alex) Kesti, Megan (Matt) Uhan and Ryan (Melaine) Myklebust; 16 great-grandchildren; numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and a host of friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Albert and Josephine Burgess; brothers, Linden, Raymond, Billy and Dell; and sister, Ruth Brown.



Carol J. Burgess

Carol Jeane Kirkman Burgess, 91, died peacefully at home surrounded by family on Tuesday, March 28, 2023. A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. on Friday, April 7 in the Vermilion Funeral Home in Tower. Bill Bauman will officiate. A time of remembrance will follow. Memorials are preferred and may be directed to the Tower-Soudan Historical Society, PO Box 465, Tower, MN 5590. Family services are provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.

On Jan. 4, 1932, Carl "Scoop" Kirkman and Magdalena "Mike" (Symoniak) Kirkman welcomed Carol's beautiful light into this world. She attended school in Tower, where she met her love, John "Jack" Burgess. They were married on June 24, 1951.

Carol was a devoted wife, mother of three, grandmother of eight, and great-grandmother of 16. Carol's devotion to seeing the beauty in others did not stop with her family, it extended into the community. Carol was a significant part of working with Jack to help build Burgess Marine along with her endless hours

spent as a teacher's aide at Tower High School.

She enjoyed spending time with family and friends on Lake Vermilion. This included flying with Jack, snowmobiling with the ladies, and boating whenever there was a ray of sunshine to be found. Carol and Jack also found their love for winters spent on the sandy beaches of Gulf Shores, Ala. Carol was a proud member of the Red Hat Society and Tower-Soudan Historical Society. Joining her friends to play bridge at the Black Bear Café was always a highlight of her week. She made a friend wherever she went and there was never a shortage of conversation and laughter.

Carol is survived by her children, Johnny (Linda Myklebust) Burgess, Jere Lynn (Tom) Wujcik and Jeff (Pam) Burgess; grandchildren, Jon Ryan (Jennifer) Myre, Jaime (Joe) Johnson, Kara Burgess, John Russel (Stephanie) Burgess, Jacob (Alaina) Burgess, Kada (Alex) Kesti, Megan (Matt) Uhan and Ryan (Melaine) Myklebust; 16 great-grandchildren; numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and a host of friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Scoop and Mike Kirkman; and brothers, Ed and Bill Kirkman.



Dana C. Mason

Dana Christine Mason, 68, of Tower, passed away on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, in her home. She was born on April 9, 1954, in Bellingham, Wash. Dana was a free spirit with a gentle soul. She will always be remembered. Her wishes were for cremation with no service. Family services are provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.

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 children, Mark Stalboerger and Susan (Paul) Scherer; grandchildren, John (Feliessa) 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.

She was preceded in death by her husband, George Stalboerger.

PUBLIC NOTICES

LOCAL BOARD OF APPEAL AND EQUALIZATION KUGLER TOWNSHIP

Important Information Regarding Property Assessments. This may affect your 2024 property taxes

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeal and Equalization for Kugler Township shall meet on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 from 10 - 11 a.m. at the KUGLER TOWN HALL 9072 HWY 135, TOWER

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

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

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

Chris Suihkonen, Kugler Township Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, April 7 & 14, 2023

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=SnhsV6c1RlUNFLcVVsWUhuJUy82UT09>

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 striping. 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 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

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

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

EMPLOYMENT



COME JOIN OUR TEAM!
Waschke Family Chevrolet is currently seeking an Auto Body Technician and an Automotive Detailer. Stop in and apply in person at 126 N Hwy. 53, Cook, or inquire by phone at 218-666-5901, or send resume to Dgrecinger@waschke.com.

WANTED!
Waschke Family Chevrolet is currently seeking an A/B technician. Prefer GM Certified but will train. Base pay plus incentives! Stop in and apply in person at 126 N Hwy. 53, Cook, or inquire by phone at 218-666-5901, or send resume to Dgrecinger@waschke.com. tfn



We're hiring!
Seasonal Retail Staff: Summer 2023

Full and Part-time positions available April-October. Flexible work schedule. **Apply in-person, online application at www.piragis.com or send a resume to jay@piragis.com**

Customer Service Team

30+ hours per week; seasonal, with potential for year-round. Duties include assisting customers over the phone, receiving merchandise, fulfilling orders, etc. Ideal applicants are self-motivated, organized, detail-oriented, and able to multi-task. For more information or to submit a resume, email orders@piragis.com, call (218) 365-6745, or stop by the store at 105 N Central Avenue. 4/7



COOK HOSPITAL & CARE CENTER
Our Specialty is You

OPEN POSITIONS 10 Fifth Street SE Cook, MN 55723

Care Center
FT & PT Nursing Assistant (Wage starting at \$17.79/hr., \$1,500 sign-on bonus)
PT Registered Nurse (Wage starting at \$36.22/hr. \$4,000 sign-on bonus)

Hospital/ER
PT Registered Nurse (Wage starting at \$36.22/hr., \$4,000 sign-on bonus)

Environmental Services
FT (Environmental Tech I) Housekeeping and Laundry Aide (Wage starting at \$15.03/hr, \$1,500 sign-on bonus)
Casual Laundry Aide (Wage starting at \$15.03/hr)

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.)

TO APPLY:
www.cookhospital.org/join-our-team/
More Info? Contact Human Resources
218-666-6220
humanresources@cookhospital.org

The Cook Hospital is an equal opportunity provider and employer. The Cook Hospital & Care Center offers competitive pay and benefits including PFA retirement, Health and Dental coverage, Life and LTD.



JOB OPENING

Vermilion Country School educates young adults (grades 7-12) to enrich their communities and the environment! We are seeking employees who like to work with young people, work with hands on projects, and coaching students to follow their interests and succeed! Please contact us with any questions if you are interested to work with young adults!

Science & Elective Teacher Requirements: B.A. in any field; Other experience helpful but not required; outdoors guiding or education, areas of focus in science. Guidance provided on instruction and how to work towards a teaching license. Training and support available for an excited candidate who enjoys hands on projects and working with young adults.

Questions: contact Sam.O'Brien@vermillioncountry.org or call 218-248-2485
To apply: Submit email of interest and relevant experience to sam.obrien@vermillioncountry.org and klundstrom@vermillioncountry.org



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 or call (218) 666-2200. Open until filled. 4/7



The Ely Folk School is hiring!

Join our team as our Mercantile Manager

Do you feel strongly about handcraft? Do you want to learn skills that enhance your life and wellbeing? Do you want to connect with Ely's community about folk schooling?

Join our team!

More information available at www.elyfolkschool.org

Send a resume and cover letter or questions about the position to lucy@elyfolkschool.org by April 21st

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 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

FT (1.0) Check & Connect Mentor
ISD 2142 Employee placed full time at Vermilion Country School in Tower

We are in search of a dedicated Check & Connect Mentor to provide individualized attendance, academic, and behavior support to a defined caseload of students. This position will work exclusively at Vermilion Country School in Tower.

The Check & Connect Mentor will implement 1:1 or small group interventions designed to promote academic achievement, increase attendance, reduce inappropriate behaviors, and decrease school suspensions.

In addition, Check & Connect Mentors are responsible for frequently collecting, documenting, and analyzing data for their caseload students. Under general supervision, Check & Connect Mentors work directly and collaboratively with individual students and their families, school staff, and community service providers to implement strategies that address school success and school completion.

Apply at www.isd2142.net.

Questions: Contact Lisa Perkovich at (218) 404-5188 or lperkovich@isd2142.k12.mn.us

PUBLIC NOTICES

LOCAL BOARD OF APPEAL & EQUALIZATION LEIDING TOWNSHIP

Important Information Regarding Property Assessments
This may affect your 2024 property taxes

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeal and Equalization for Leiding Township shall meet on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. at the Leiding Town Hall.

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

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

Marie Milan, Leiding Township Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, April 7, 2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

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: sydneynadineswan@hotmial.com
(218) 750-2624

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

BEARVILLE TOWN BOARD TREASURER VACANCY

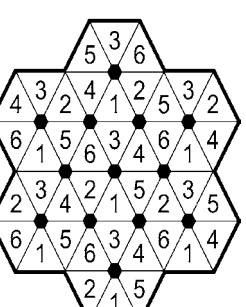
The Bearville Town Board is seeking applicants to fill the position of Treasurer (by appointment). This position would fill the remainder of the Treasurer's elected position (until January 2025).

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

SNOWFLAKES
solution



Get Results!



Advertise in the Timberjay!

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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: ♦♦♦♦

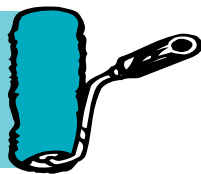
♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

© 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

Legal notices are online each week at timberjay.com and at <https://www.mnpublicnotice.com/>



HOME IMPROVEMENT GUIDE



PLUMBING & HEATING SOLUTIONS. INC.

Here for all your Plumbing and Heating needs, Plumbing and Heating Service, Repairs, and New.

Brandon Stone • 218-590-5294

For all your **HEATING, PLUMBING** and **AIR CONDITIONING** needs...



We're the Professionals!

Heisel Bros.

PLUMBING & HEATING
Northgate Plaza • Virginia
218-741-8381 • www.heiselbros.com

HOURS:
M-F 8 AM-5 PM
Sat 8 AM-Noon
Master Plumber
PC644131



Real Estate Closing Services, Title Insurance & Abstracting

Northeast Title Company has competitive rates and professional services assuring peace of mind for our customers before and after closing. We take pride in our service and have a proven history of being a leader in the industry. Our warm, friendly, and professional approach in all of our transactions ensures our customers a level of comfort that is unmatched in the industry.

ELY OFFICE
545 E Sheridan St • Ely, MN 55731
Phone (218)365-5256
Angie Mikulich
Licensed Closing Agent

VIRGINIA OFFICE
612 13 St S • Virginia MN 55792
Phone (218)741-1515
Jodee Micheletti
Owner/Licensed Closing Agent

COOK/SURROUNDING AREAS
Phone (218)741-1515

www.netitle.com

YOUR HOME-DECOR STORE



We Wish You All A Happy Easter!

ANDERSON FURNITURE & KITCHENS
AndersonFurnitureCompany.com
214 2nd Ave. S, Virginia, MN • 218-741-9356

INTEREST FREE FINANCING AND LAYAWAY AVAILABLE

THE FINISHED LOOK

BUILDING | ROOFING
REMODELING

John Thomas Almeida
Owner & Designer
Pingajt@gmail.com
(218) 235-7305

KITCHENS • BATHROOMS • FIREPLACES • BARS
Licensed & Insured - License #BC674311

Spring Has Sprung!

Roof Melt & Ice Melting Pucks
\$26.99 14 lb. pail
while supplies last

Closed Good Friday April 7



Phone/Fax: 218.666.5344
Hours: Mon. Fri: 7-5, Sat: 8-12
eric@cookbuildingcenter.com

Time For Spring Repairs!

We've Got it ALL!
Lumber • Hardware • Tools
Paint • Friendly Service

Wishing all our customers a Blessed Easter!
Closed Friday and Saturday, April 7 and 8.

We are a UPS Shipping Drop-Off

VERMILION LUMBER

HOME OF THE PROFESSIONALS
218-753-2230
302 Main St., Tower, MN
M-F: 8 AM-5 PM; Sat: 8 AM-Noon



INSURANCE

Tower-Soudan Agency & Palo Mutual

Your Independent Insurance Agency



We Can Insure:
Residential, Seasonal, Island and Non-Road Access Properties

218-753-2101
415 Main St.
Tower, MN

www.towersoudanagency.com

Investing in Your Nest? We've Got It All!



Our friendly, knowledgeable staff will help you find what you're looking for!

Sauna Stoves & Accessories, Tile, Flooring, Carpet & Rugs, Storage Systems, Countertops, Bathrooms, Cabinets, Window Treatments AND More!

WE WISH YOU ALL A SAFE, HAPPY HOLIDAY



BIG Enough to Serve you; small Enough to Know You



8401 Enterprise Drive N., Virginia/Mt. Iron
(1/2 Mile West on Highway 169) • 741-6690



HOURS: 9-5 M-F

Find us on: facebook.

floortoceiling.com/virginia

Subscribe Today (218) 753-2950

Super Crossword

Answers

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

RANGE LP GAS

Call Us For All Your LP Gas Needs!

Hoover Rd, Virginia
741-7393
1613 E. Camp St., Ely
365-8888

24 Hour Emergency Service

• Toll Free •
1-800-862-8628



Smokeless Wood Furnaces and Fantastic Sauna Stoves!

Call about the 30% tax credit!

WORLD'S #1 HOT AIR WOODBURNING FURNACE!

.45 gr/hr. emissions
99.4% comb efficiency
99% smokeless burns

833-660-1064

lampmfg@gmail.com lampkuuma.com



INJURED AT WORK? DISABILITY DENIED?
Contact Us Today For Free Advice

Workers' Compensation
Long-Term Disability
Social Security Disability

218-824-0093

www.GetFields.com



POWERFUL SAVINGS WITH GENERAC

- FREE estimates
- Financing available
- AFFORDABLE backup power
- Delivery, Installation and Service
- Family and locally owned and operated



CLEARBROOK ELECTRIC
SALES AND "SERVICE"
Randy Wetenkamp
218-776-3995 • 218-556-5981

Automatic Standby Generator

Serving ALL of Northern Minnesota