



Inside:

Easter contest winners... See /5

Carbon monoxide calls on the rise... See /11

Spring sports underway... See /1B

Weather whiplash... See /2B

The **TIMBERJAY**



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989

VOL. 34, ISSUE 15

April 21, 2023

\$1⁵⁰

LAW ENFORCEMENT?

FBI raids house east of Orr

Homeowner speaks out, denies any involvement in case of cryptocurrency theft

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

ORR- Forty-two-year-old Josh Armbrust works in the cloud, the vast network of computer servers that provides internet-accessed storage, databases, software, analytics and intelligence to companies and individuals worldwide. If you have a

Gmail account, share files using Dropbox, or stream movies via Netflix, you're using services based in the cloud.

It's a job he can do anywhere, and a couple of years ago he left the Twin Cities for the more peaceful, environs of the North Country, settling with his 73-year-old mother Judy in a four-bedroom home

on a 26-acre tract on Hwy. 23 about three-and-a-half miles east of Orr.

"I moved up here because it's nice and quiet and I love nature," Armbrust told the *Timberjay* on Tuesday.

But Armbrust's idyllic quiet was shattered last week at about 7 a.m. Wednesday,

See...RAID pg. 9

Right: The FBI executed a search warrant at this home along Hwy. 23, east of Orr last Wednesday, April 12. So far no charges or allegations have been made against the homeowner.

photo by M. Helmberger



photos by J. Summit

TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY

Close encounters of the llama kind

Rent-a-llama proves a hit with local students

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- Tower-Soudan second-grade teacher Charissa Dahl had been teaching her students about llamas, when she saw that Cook's Country Connection, a petting zoo in Cook, had a "rent-a-llama" program.

"I told Principal Jirik that we NEEDED that llama,"

Above: Aubriana Olson and Serah Ross are impressed with Sophie the Llama.

Right: Ella Trancheff goes nose-to-nose.

she said. Dahl, a longtime teacher in Tower, can be pretty persistent when she needs something for her students.

See...LLAMAS pg. 10



DARK MONEY

Dark money group assails Hauschild

DFLers say Minnesotans for Freedom is linked to pharmaceutical industry

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— An expensive pressure campaign launched by a new and shadowy organization is publishing ads and occupying billboards across the state in hopes of derailing an effort by DFLers in the Legislature to rein in the cost of prescription medication.

That campaign has included full-page ads in the *Timberjay* newspaper, among many others, in recent weeks, targeting newly elected Sen. Grant Hauschild, a Hermantown DFLer, in hopes of getting him to change his mind on the creation of the Prescription Drug Affordability Board. Creation of the board is a provision that's currently a part of the Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection omnibus budget bill.

While the ads and billboards are being purchased by a group calling itself "Minnesotans for Freedom,"

See...DARK MONEY pg. 10



Grant Hauschild

CULTURE WARS

Protest expected during Saturday drag show in Ely

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- A source requesting anonymity told the *Timberjay* that a group opposed to drag shows will protest the "Disney Drag Brunch" at the Grand Ely Lodge on Saturday, April 22. Ely Police Chief Chad Houde confirmed that "we have been informed that

a group of people intend to hold a peaceful protest across the street from the Grand Ely Lodge on public property." The Grand Ely Lodge politely informed the *Timberjay* that it had no comment.

The object of the protest are two Disney-themed drag shows, both on Saturday, staged by Flip Phone Events. This same production

company held two previous sold out drag shows at the Grand Ely Lodge last year in August and December.

Saturday's 2 p.m. show, which is advertised for ages 21 and up, is already sold out. As the *Timberjay* went to press on Wednesday, tickets were still available for the 11 a.m. show, which is billed as appropriate for all ages.

Bob Dalberg, the pastor

Right: The packed house at last year's drag show at the Grand Ely Lodge enjoyed a highly-entertaining event.

file photos

of Berean Baptist Church near Ely, encouraged the protest of the popular pro-

See...PROTEST 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



8 04879 35140 5

Community notices

Janatopoulos featured speaker at Northern Progressive meeting April 26

TOWER - Lorrie Janatopoulos, who recently retired as the CareerForce Director at the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), will be the featured speaker at the Northern Progressives meeting Wednesday, April 26, at 6:30 p.m. at the Vermilion Club near Tower.

Janatopoulos's topic for the event will be: "Our Way of Life— More than a Single Story: Creating a Diverse and Viable Economic Future."

A lifelong resident of Greater Minnesota, Janatopoulos has been active in public work her entire career with over three decades of experience in workforce and community development. During her four years at DEED, she oversaw the development of systems to connect people to career paths leading to quality jobs and assisting employers in finding the workforce they need. Most of her career was spent as the Planning Director at Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA), where she was responsible for developing programs that met the needs of people experiencing poverty.

Janatopoulos, who ran for office twice in St. Louis County, holds a master's degree in public affairs from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. In 2016, she was named a Bush Foundation Fellow, and she is also a recipient of AARP's 50 over 50 award in the "disrupter" category, a moniker she wears proudly.

The Vermilion Club is located at 3191 Old Hwy. 77, Lake Vermilion, Tower. Food and beverages are available to order from the menu.

Northern Progressives has a progressive social and political agenda and works to educate its members and the public about current civic affairs. For more information, contact Leah Rogne, 218-787-2212 or leah.rogne@gmail.com.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church to host annual secondhand sale April 21 and 22

VIRGINIA — Our Savior's Lutheran Church will host its annual 50-cent clothing sale and Used-a-Bit sale Friday, April 21 and Saturday, April 22. Proceeds benefit community organizations. Past recipients have included Project Care Free Clinic, the Mesabi Humane Society, and the Quad City Food Shelf.

Men's, women's, and children's clothing and a variety of household items will be available. The sale will be held 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. on Friday and 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. on Saturday at 1111 8th St. S. For more information, call 218-741-6207.

Sons of Norway Haarfager Lodge #40 to host Syttende Mai banquet May 18

VIRGINIA - Sons of Norway Haarfager Lodge #40 will hold their annual Syttende Mai Banquet at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 18 at the Virginia Senior Citizens' building. Kristen Simensen, Wendy Christianson, and Ginny Ahrlin will present the program. Charge for the meal is \$20. Reservations must be made no later than May 3 by calling Phyllis at 218-741-3233 or Bernie at 218-749-1366. Guests are welcome.

Ladies of Kaleva meeting May 1 at noon

VIRGINIA – The Lokka Tupa #1, Ladies of Kaleva will meet on Monday, May 1 at noon at Kaleva Hall.

CLEANERS WANTED
 Beautiful Setting
 Fun Atmosphere
 Great People
 Saturday Lunch Provided
 Extra Summer \$\$\$\$
 Close to Town
 Private Setting
 End of Year Bonus

Call 365-4882 to set up an interview

HIRING

MINNESOTA DISCOVERY center MUSEUM

Flexible scheduling. Competitive pay. Fun working environment!
 Apply online at mndiscoverycenter.com

OPPORTUNITIES

- Sales & Events Manager (Full-Time)
- Marketing (Part-Time)
- Buildings & Grounds Seasonal
- Trolley Operator Seasonal
- Shuttle Driver Seasonal
- Landscaping Seasonal
- Banquet Server
- Bartender
- Dishwasher

Contact: 218.254.7959
 joy.ruedebusch@mndiscoverycenter.com

YOUNG LIFE
18th Annual Young Life online auction offers more than just cake

ELY - Maybe you've always wanted to get in on that fresh walleye fish fry on the shores of Garden Lake hosted by retired teachers (and avid anglers) Larry Mischke and Tom Wetzel or experience that beyond belief Guinness Chocolate Cake with Irish Cream from Sharon Svatos. Maybe it's the fun of sending an Ely-original card by local artists Sarah Guy-Levar or Kris Kidd. Could it be you are in the market for something new, like a Smart Step Sondors eBike, a custom lake sweatshirt from Ely Mercantile Co., a Minnesota-Canadian wilderness hanging wall map from Fisher Maps, or even a personalized carved boulder from Rock Country Masonry?

Wait no longer, because spring is here. No matter the timing and kind of spring we get, for the past seventeen of them, Ely Young Life has celebrated the season with a Sweet Spring Auction. What started as a humble cake auction has grown into an annual event that accounts for nearly a quarter of the organization's budget and, for the past ten years, includes not only desserts, but outdoor gear, crafts, experiences, and gift certificates. The auction used to be an in-person affair, but as with so many other aspects of life, the 2020 auc-



Young Life's 18th Annual Online Sweet Spring Auction raises money for activities and programming for kids in grades 6-12.

tion was moved online. It became Ely Young Life's highest grossing auction to date. The success of the online platform has led to subsequent auctions being held online as well.

Although donations do come from big, outside businesses such as the Minnesota Science Museum and Costco, the vast majority come from Ely and the surrounding area. It is our neighbors and friends who are donating their time, talents, and items to support Ely youth. Donations to the auction raise support so Young Life can reach kids where they are: basketball games, band concerts, coffee shops, and just hanging out. The auction also provides scholarships for students to go to camp and helps defray the cost of transportation. More

than fifty kids in grades 6-12 are signed up to go to camp this year.

Mark your calendars for this year's Sweet Spring Auction, April 23-30. Bidding opens Sunday, April 23 at 6 p.m. On Sunday, April 30 bidding will close for specific items every thirty minutes, starting at 2:30 p.m. and ending at 6 p.m. Notice when your items close so you don't get outbid at the last minute. Items can be picked up May 1 and 2 at the Young Life office, and most items are available for shipping outside of Ely (certificates are mailed free of charge). This year's auction features more than 200 items. Familiar favorites include classic desserts like pavlova and cheesecake and gift cards for DQ and Zup's, while items like an electric bike, s'mores

cupcakes (from E's Taste of Bliss), and Dutchman's Tree Service might become new favorites. More information and access to the auction items for bidding are found at ely.younglife.org.

Young Life is an international, inter-denominational youth organization that strives to go where kids are at, build bridges of authentic friendship, earn the right to be heard, and introduce them to Jesus Christ and help them grow in their faith. All kids, regardless of their background or identity, are welcomed. Locally, Ely Young Life has been going for 25 years.

Article submitted by AmberBeth VanNingen

MENTAL HEALTH
Northern Lights Clubhouse to host Mother's Day Tea fundraiser

ELY- Northern Lights Clubhouse is excited to announce its upcoming Mother's Day Tea fundraiser, scheduled Sunday, May 14 from 1-3 p.m. at The Hidden Valley Chalet. The event aims to raise funds and awareness for the Clubhouse's vital programs that assist adults recovering from and living with mental health challenges. By participating in

the fundraiser, people will help Clubhouse members and others in the community feel less alone and improve their overall health and well-being.

The Mother's Day Tea will offer a delightful afternoon of tea, delicious treats, and engaging activities, all while supporting a worthy cause. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn more about the

important work Northern Lights Clubhouse does for the community and enjoy a memorable day with their loved ones.

"The Mother's Day Tea is more than just a fundraiser; it's a celebration of the power of community and the positive impact we can have on the lives of those affected by mental illness," said Robyn Bertelsen, Pro-

gram Director at Northern Lights Clubhouse. "We are committed to providing essential resources and support to help our members thrive, and we are grateful for the community's involvement in this event."

Tickets for the Mother's Day Tea are \$20 per person and can be purchased at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/609497592707> or at the Clubhouse located at 41 E Camp St. All proceeds directly benefit Northern Lights Clubhouse's mental health recovery programs.

Northern Lights Clubhouse is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting adults recovering from and living with mental health challenges through a range of programs and services. The Clubhouse's mission is to empower its members, reduce isolation, and promote mental health recovery by fostering a supportive and inclusive community. With a focus on providing a safe and nurturing environment, Northern Lights Clubhouse helps members regain confidence, develop new skills, and build lasting relationships.

For more information about Northern Lights Clubhouse or the Mother's Day Tea fundraiser event, please visit www.elynlc.org/ or contact Robyn Bertelsen at robbyn@elywbd.org or 218-235-9539.

ROCK Around The CLOCK

RAFFLES
 SILENT AUCTION
 DINNER • DANCING
 MUSIC WITH ED ELY

THURSDAY, JUNE 22
5 TO 9 PM
MINERS DRY HOUSE

\$45 PER TICKET
 (\$5 OF YOUR TICKET PRICE IS A DONATION)
 ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT AREA SENIOR CITIZENS

NORTHWOODS PARTNERS
 - caring connections -

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM NP BOARD MEMBERS AND AT THE NP OFFICE (218) 365-8019

INFRASTRUCTURE

Tower-Breitung waste water capacity improving

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER-SOUDAN— It appears that recent work in these two communities to repair and replace old sewage lines and manholes is helping to reduce inflow and infiltration of ground and surface water into their jointly owned and operated sewage treatment system— and that’s creating new capacity for anticipated growth.

The current wastewater treatment system, comprised of three treatment ponds, is designed to treat up to 172,000 gallons per day, but the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency tries to limit communities’ capacity to no more than 85 percent of that total, which is 146,000 gallons daily in the case of the Tower-Breitung Waste Water Board, or TBWWB, which owns and operates the joint system.

New seasonal recreational vehicle parks in Tower and the prospect of additional new development at the city’s harbor and riverfront has raised concerns that the two communities could

soon be straining the limits of its wastewater treatment capacity. As recently as 2019, the year after the city of Tower connected its municipally owned campground to the municipal system, the total wastewater flow reached its highest level by far in at least ten years, at an average of 154,000 gallons per day, or nearly 90 percent of the system’s designed capacity.

That forced TBWWB officials to begin seriously considering expanding its treatment capacity, a prospect that was expected to bring major upfront costs, extended and expensive debt service, and sharply higher operational costs.

Yet the latest numbers suggest the two communities may have more time than they had feared just a few years ago to implement an expansion.

Weather is key

The amount of inflow and infiltration of ground and surface water into the treatment system varies considerably year-to-year, based mostly on the weather. Wet years bring more infiltra-

tion, while dry years can yield significantly less. An analysis of ten years of climate data by the *Timberjay* confirms that it’s been a wet ten years, with a moisture surplus of 30.1 inches over the past decade. That’s a trend that’s consistent with the predictions of climate scientists, so it’s one that is likely to continue, at least in the longer term.

Wet conditions in 2019, when the year finished five inches above the long-term precipitation average, undoubtedly helped boost wastewater flows well above the comfort level. What’s more, the three-year average flow (2017-2019), which is the number that the MPCA typically considers, was running at an average of 143,333 gallons per day, less than 3,000 gallons below the safe level of 146,000 gallons per day.

But repairs and replacements of old infrastructure, which the city began again in earnest in 2020, appears to have helped lower wastewater flows, with a current three-year average of 114,000 gallons per day, suggesting capacity of more than 30,000 gallons per day.



Tower-Breitung Wastewater Plant manager Matt Tichel shows work being done back in 2021 on the forced sewer main line, which runs along the Mesabi Trail in Tower. This project is still only partially completed. This manhole was replaced early because water levels were low, making it easier to work in the swampy area. photo by J. Summit

Those numbers were helped significantly by two relatively dry years, 2020 and 2021, which experienced a combined precipitation deficit of just over six inches. In 2021, the wastewater system experienced its lowest flow in more than a decade, with an aver-

age of just 96,000 gallons per day. Yet those years were followed by one of the wettest years on record for Tower, including the wettest in at least a decade, with an annual total of 38.23 inches

See **WATER**, pg. 5

Ely Community Health Center gets \$10k grant

ELY- The Ely Community Health Center (EHC) has announced a partnership with Essentia Health to support the expansion of the EHC dental program. The EHC provides free basic medical and dental services to those who are uninsured or underinsured. The organization is run completely by volunteers, with the exception of its executive director, and its goal is to remove barriers to care to improve the overall health of the region.

Ely and surrounding communities have a pronounced shortage of oral health care options; there is just one dental care provider in the 55731-zip code. This lack of access forces area residents to travel extensively for dental care, or to go without. According to the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, poor dental health can have serious consequences, underscoring the importance of preventive care. Essentia’s grant will allow the EHC to connect more people with these critical services.

“EHC is honored to col-

laborate with Essentia Health and grateful for the opportunity to expand our efforts in improving access to dental services in our area,” said Helen Tome, Executive Director of the EHC. “Community support is essential to the success of our programs and allows us to continue to provide these essential services to those that need them. We wish to extend a sincere thank you to Essentia Health for their commitment to improving community health.”

Essentia’s involvement in the expansion of the EHC’s dental program includes a donation of \$10,000.

“We recognize the importance of dental care and are thrilled to help improve access to that care for folks in Ely and the surrounding area,” said Rob Davenport, operations director at Essentia Health. “We are committed to supporting the communities we’re privileged to serve, and it’s by leveraging our relationships with key partners such as the EHC that we’re able to make the greatest impact.”

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Movie “Athens” renamed “Boundary Waters”

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- The *Timberjay* sat down with film producer Erin Mae Miller last Saturday, which will be the subject of an article in the April 28 edition. Miller and her colleagues will begin filming a feature length movie that’s been the talk of the town. Miller did drop one

bit of news that we can’t resist sharing right away.

“The working title of the film has been ‘Athens.’ But we’re going to rename it ‘Boundary Waters,’” said Miller, a change driven by their decision to film in the Ely area.

Miller said the original title, “Athens,” reflected the fact that the film was originally to be set in Athens, N.Y. “When we changed locations, we

changed the title,” she said.

The film has also issued a casting call for four local youths. With the start of filming scheduled for early May, the time from casting call to actual acting is short, which is the norm for professional stage and film productions. Anyone interested in a chance to be cast in a movie should check out the casting call article on page 7.

Ely podcasters on Minnesota Public Radio

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- One of the biggest Ely area surprises in April snuck in under most people’s noses when Minnesota Public Radio (MPR) interviewed Ely’s own hometown podcasters Lacey Squiers and Brett Ross live on April 10.

“The interview was rescheduled so many times that we were wary of telling people when it might be,” Squiers told the *Timberjay*.

The tale of the multiple reschedulings is a story in itself. When MPR’s Britt Aamodt contacted Squiers and Ross to arrange an early February interview date for the “Minnesota Now” program, Squier’s response was “No, we can’t right now, it’s the first End of the Road Film Festival and we don’t have the time.” It took two months and several reschedulings before the April 10 date worked out for all parties.

The April 10 “Minneso-

ta Now” interview by MPR News host Cathy Wurzer is posted online at mprnews.org. Aamodt was the person who set-up the Ely-oriented spot in MPR’s programming. She was acquainted with Squiers, Ross, and their Ely podcasts through mutual friends with Squiers.

The subject of the interview are the “What’s up, Ely?” podcast by Squiers and the “My Ely Story” podcast by Ross. Both podcasts are available at ely.org.

REAL ESTATE

BIC REALTY WE NEED LISTINGS!
Contact us for a free property valuation
218-666-5352
info@bicrealty.com bicrealty.com

BIWABIK vacant lot with views of Giants Ridge. Has access off paved road and has community lake-access. Available utilities include city sewer, water, gas, electric and cable. **MLS#144597 \$31,900**

COOK-LAKE VERMILION This “turn-key” business opportunity includes business, 4,800 sq ft building 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**

WE SELL THE NORTH!

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

Orr-\$119,000 Buildable, wooded 80 acres south of Orr. Great hunting location with extensive trail system throughout property. **MLS#144806**

Buyck-\$589,000 Hunting retreat on 198.7 private acres surrounded by state and federal lands. 670 ft of shoreline on the Vermilion River. 24x30 Morten bunkhouse with electricity and propane stove. A must see! **MLS#143527**

Orr-\$21,900 Buildable 1 acre lot in the city of Orr with city water and sewer. Level cleared lot along road with wooded back lot. **MLS#144838**

Crane Lake-\$115,000 This 10.6-acre boat-access property with 400+ ft of gradual sloping shoreline is located on Rollick Creek (*Snake Creek*) just off Crane Lake. **MLS#144768**

#1 NOBODY IN THE WORLD SELLS MORE REAL ESTATE THAN RE/MAX
*As measured by residential transaction sides.

NEXT TIME COME HOME!

JANISCH REALTY 218-780-6644

Let’s Make Sold Happen For You Too!

OPINION

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

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial

It's called corruption

Justice Clarence Thomas proves the need for tougher disclosure rules

The revelations centered around Justice Clarence Thomas and his involvement with right-wing billionaire Harlan Crow went from bad to worse in recent days, as *ProPublica* reported that Crow had purchased a modest home in Georgia in 2014 for \$133,363, made substantial improvements to the home and continues to allow the previous owner to reside there.

That home just happened to belong to Thomas, a deceased sibling, and his elderly mother who still lives in the home.

Despite clear and unequivocal federal reporting requirements pertaining to real estate transactions involving federal judges, Thomas never reported the sale of the home to his sugar daddy, Crow.

It was no oversight. Thomas, in his early years on the court, had been relatively diligent about reporting gifts he had received, which include things like free travel.

But after news reports some twenty years ago cast an unflattering light on the nature of some of those gifts, Thomas stopped reporting for the most part, even as the scale of the gifts (including tens of thousands of dollars in cash for the sale of his mother's home) grew. Thomas knew the law — he just ignored it.

Thomas has not denied any of the *ProPublica* reporting, which is as well documented as it is astonishing. As *ProPublica* revealed late last month, Thomas has, for years, accepted lavish vacations, paid for entirely by Crow, including international travel on Crow's private jet, extended stays on his luxury yacht, and regularly week-long soirees at private resorts owned by Crow's various companies.

Thomas, instead, claims that all of this luxury travel didn't require reporting under the exemption for "personal hospitality," which was supposed to exempt reporting of things like a nice dinner, maybe even with an expensive bottle of wine, enjoyed at a friend's home. It was never intended to exempt reporting of a judge's luxury travel totaling hundreds of thousands of dollars a year, and potentially millions of dollars over the course of the past two decades. *ProPublica* reported that a single trip to Indonesia, that included several days on Crow's super yacht, would have cost \$500,000 for anyone who wasn't a Supreme Court justice.

Thomas suggests no-harm, no-foul on the travel because Crow didn't have any matters before the court, but that's simply false. Crow is a mega-donor to far right causes and organizations. He may not have had matters affecting him directly before the court, but he had a

laundry list of policy objectives and he had Thomas's undivided attention for days and sometimes weeks at a time — all of it purchased by Crow. What's more, Crow sometimes invited others from the world of conservative activism on these various junkets, enveloping Thomas in a regular mash-up of ultra conservative ideology. Whether all this largesse was an effort to influence Thomas or was simply a reward for his continued fealty to the far-right cause, it was unseemly at best, and very arguably illegal because it was never reported.

Conservatives who aren't bothered by Thomas's actions should ask themselves how they'd view this scenario if it had been the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg or current justices Elena Kagan or Sonia Sotomayor, who had spent decades accepting and failing to report luxury travel and real estate sales paid for by, say, one George Soros, another billionaire with political objectives, albeit on the liberal side of the spectrum. Fox News would be declaring a ten-alarm fire, 24 hours a day, seven days a week — and we all know it.

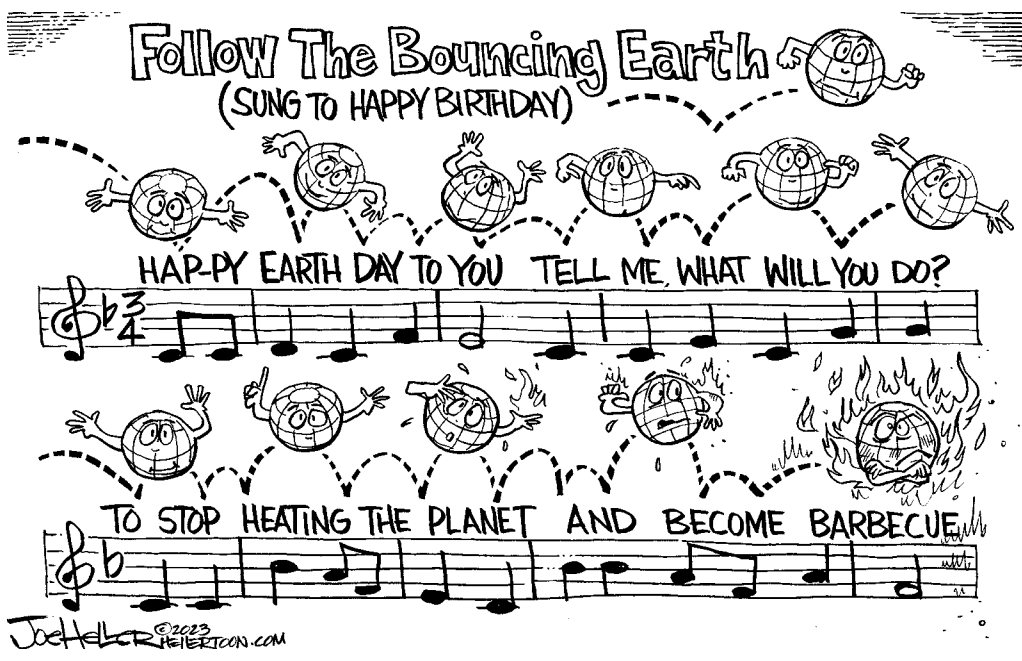
Yet, because Thomas reliably does the right-wing's bidding, his actions are given a free pass by Republicans.

Of course, Thomas's excuses don't wash at all when it comes to the revelation regarding the real estate transaction. Thomas may try to steer a yacht through the "personal hospitality" loophole, but that won't fly when it comes to a real estate transaction. That was reportable, and Thomas knew it.

There is a very simple term for a public official who is entrusted with authority and takes advantage of their high office to benefit themselves — it's called corruption, and Thomas has become its poster child.

All of this comes at a time when the Supreme Court is already seen as an increasingly political institution in the wake of the three Trump appointments, which turned the court toward a disturbing version of Christian nationalist authoritarianism, with virtually no fealty to law, precedent, or the Constitution. We know, unfortunately, that this high court is unlikely to police itself. Which means saving the court and its reputation will be up to Congress, which should immediately investigate how far this kind of activity extends on the court, and put tougher rules in place for both disclosure and judicial recusal, another guidepost routinely flouted by Thomas.

The Supreme Court can survive as a key U.S. institution even if it is seen as imperfect. It can't survive if it is seen as corrupt.



Letters from Readers

Joe Biden looks great against the alternatives

I was skeptical of a Joe Biden presidency. I figured he was too old and burdened with too much political baggage. I voted for him in '20 because I saw no other viable choice. Turns out his age and experience have contributed to an essentially effective administration. The major legislation he helped to shepherd through Congress -- important initiatives for infrastructure, the economy, energy, climate, and social justice, are a refreshing display of leadership, competence, and responsibility. On foreign relations, he's displayed wisdom and resolve.

There are certainly Biden shortcomings and mistakes, but the contrast between him and his potential GOP rivals in '24, couldn't be sharper. So far, the Republican candidates, especially former President Trump, have erected a platform of retribution, resentment, and disinformation — railing against successful and popular Democratic policies while offering no substantive or helpful alternatives. Perhaps that will change in the coming months, but for now Donald Trump appears to be leading GOP candidates in a race to the bottom. It's a sad and disturbing spectacle.

Peter Leschak
Side Lake

We need a Lowland Carbon and Habitat Reserve

As an active outdoorsman who has participated in the pursuits which make northern Minnesota a great place to live and play, I have taken great interest in the need for both good jobs and good places for families to enjoy. Protection of our beautiful lakes and forests is essential for outdoor recreation and the recreational industry, and harvesting forests in a responsible manner provides jobs for the logging industry. Everything must be balanced to achieve the greatest good.

Unfortunately, climate

change from excessive carbon dioxide has now put our state and the world on a worsening path that will adversely affect both our jobs as well as the natural world around us. A bill has been introduced in the Legislature House and Senate (HF 2353/SF 3069) to protect lowland conifer forests and peatlands.

Pristine lowland areas have been collecting and storing carbon in a natural biosystem for thousands of years, and they need protection so they can continue collecting carbon into the future. Beyond this, the bill would provide protection for what can be called "Minnesota's Amazon" — a priceless habitat that once cut down, is irreplaceable. Yet, this bill provides for continued harvesting of regrown areas, those that have been harvested in the past. This bill is truly a balanced approach, and it recognizes that lowland forests require different management practices than upland areas.

This would be a great time for the DNR to support legislation that is in concert with DNR's own report to the Minnesota Legislature: that retaining forest cover is a key strategy in mitigating climate change ("Forests and Carbon in Minnesota: Opportunities for Mitigating Climate Change," 1/15/2023, 'Section 2, Pathway 1: Retain forest cover.')

The time to conserve and protect these vast stores of carbon in the oldest lowland trees, peatlands and unique habitats is now. We must take this opportunity to enact protections for a new Lowland Carbon and Habitat Reserve.

Bob Graves
Fall Lake Township

The USDA continues to punish the little guy

Once again our renowned USDA is robbing from the poor to give to the rich - very anti-Robin Hood of them. Three-quarters of all funds allocated for forestry and regenerative small farms in the Inflation Reduction Act are being siphoned away to subsidize concentrated corporate

feed lots. These feed lots produce carbon, whereas good farming and forestry sequester carbon.

The funds are being used for the opposite of what they were intended for. A few people are getting rich and we are getting unhealthy food, degenerating forests, increasing pollution of air, water, and soil, and worsening weather. As if that weren't enough to cause people to change things, then how about the fact that these concentrated feed lots are currently creating novel viruses that jump to humans and have a history of causing pandemics, such as during the so called "Spanish Flu", and possibly COVID-19.

How do we see to it that these tax dollars are put back to doing what they were intended to do - to help regenerative forestry and small farms? STOP subsidizing Big AG. How are they any different than big Tobacco, big Pharma, bad medical care, and multinational mining? I don't see a difference.

Doug Lande
Isabella



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!

An unforgettable Easter in Sri Lanka

When I inherited a small amount of money when my mother passed in 2018, one of the things I determined to do was to travel abroad for the first time in my life. Social media helped to determine my destinations. I had developed close friendships with people in Sydney, Australia, Mumbai, India, and Colom-



DAVID COLBURN

bo, Sri Lanka, all fascinating destinations where I could meet these friends in person to add a new layer to our already close relationships. I booked a month-long excursion for April, 2019.

A marvelous week in Sydney was followed by another fascinating week in Mumbai, following a serendipitous itinerary driven as much

by discoveries in the moment as by sights I'd planned to see. I'd allotted two weeks for my stay in Sri Lanka, where I was looking forward to spending time with a young marketing executive who had become as dear as a nephew to me, and where I was also working with an impressive young woman passionate about service who had arranged for me to make a donation of educational and athletic supplies to an impoverished rural school. Mom had been a school teacher, and it seemed a good and proper

use of her funds.

I stayed in a bed and breakfast next to one of the government-run hospitals, learned to get around by using their PickMe app to hail tuk tuks and cabs, and set about my exploring. There was a botanical garden I wanted to go to, but it was closed the first day I went. I noted when they would be open again, and then a long walk through the surrounding neighborhoods was a most enjoyable substitute.

That Sunday, April 21, was

Easter Sunday, not a major observance in Buddhist-dominated Sri Lanka where less than one in ten people are Christians. I woke up that morning planning to go back to the botanical garden after breakfast.

But around 9 a.m. my host and I got the first word that something unthinkably horrific had happened — a Catholic Church had been bombed during its Easter Mass. As I jumped on

Letters from Readers

Hauschild showing leadership and care in his new job

At recent town hall meetings, Sen. Grant Hauschild has shown himself to be thoughtful, well-prepared, and a good listener.

Hauschild shows remarkable mastery of the details of bills before him and detailed knowledge about issues facing our district, including funding for education, housing, and healthcare. He's on top of issues like local government aid, tax equity, funding for infrastructure,

consumer protection from drug price gouging, and issues related to families and children.

I am impressed by Grant's serious consideration of bills proposed to address gun violence. He's getting heavy pressure from opponents of the bills, disproportionately from extreme-right outside groups who've targeted him in social media campaigns, but he's also hearing from a lot of his constituents who strongly support the measures proposed this year.

At the townhalls, I've seen that he's listening carefully to the input he's

getting. He's digging into various criticisms, concerned that we make decisions that are likely to save lives.

The bills getting the most attention are SF 1116, which would close loopholes in background check laws, and SF 1117, an Extreme Risk or "red flag" bill that would allow family members and law enforcement to go to court to temporarily remove firearms if there is evidence that the gun owner is a danger to themselves or others. This occurs most often because of mental health issues, but under current law, anguished family members'

hands are tied.

The red flag bill is supported by the Minnesota County Attorneys Association, which represents prosecutors, the Minnesota chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association, as well as St. Louis County Sheriff Gordon Ramsay, who also supports the background check bill.

I am confident that the majority of voters in his district will wholeheartedly support Hauschild's vote for these lifesaving changes in Minnesota law.

Leah Rogne Gheen

WATER...Continued from page 3

of precipitation, a whopping 10.15 inches above average. Wastewater flows jumped last year in response to the wet conditions, but only to 139,000 gallons per day, or well below the 154,000 gallons per day experienced in the previous wet year.

Work is paying off

The apparent gains in capacity appear to be tied to the work being done in both Tower and Soudan. "I think both communities have really proactively hit this hard," said Matt Tichel, who manages the wastewater facilities for the TBWWB. "They've spent upwards of half a million dollars on upgrades." Tichel cited the reconstruction of Tower's Pine Street, which replaced a leaking manhole, and the replacement of old sewer lines near the Vermilion Park Inn in Soudan, as two recent projects that appear to have taken a noticeable bite out of the inflow and infiltration in the two com-

munities. "Of course, it's a never-ending job," noted Tichel.

The city also began a more concerted effort to televise the sewer lines with remote cameras to look for breaks that were allowing ground and surface water to infiltrate the system, thereby eating up critical wastewater capacity for water that doesn't need treatment. The city had taken such steps in the past and had made progress on reducing infiltration from broken pipes and inflow by clamping down on direct connections of sump pumps to the sewer system. But the city had focused on other concerns for several years and its sewer infrastructure continued to deteriorate. Now, the city has a five-year plan in place to clean and then camera all of its sewer lines and three years into it, the impact has been noticeable. The contractor undertaking the work, Gheen-based J&R Wastewater, has found issues every time it visits town,

according to Ben Velcheff, the city's public works supervisor. The company was in Tower this past week, and Velcheff said they found several problem areas to address. "They found a lot of i and i," said Velcheff, using the common shorthand for inflow and infiltration. Each time the company finds a problem, the public works staff deals with it, and the cumulative effects are showing up in the wastewater flow. "Slowly but surely, we're making progress," said Velcheff.

Continuing problems at the campground

The 2018 connection of the Hoodoo Point Campground, which has an old and suspect sewer collection infrastructure, continues to be one of the city's biggest challenges when it comes to inflow and infiltration. Velcheff said that was readily apparent during the recent mid-April warm spell, when

meltwater came streaming into the sewer system from the campground's lift station. "We had two pumps running steady for several days last week," he said. "It's like we're draining Lake Vermilion." And that's with the campground still closed for the season.

Tichel agreed that the campground remains a challenge and he's recommended additional camera work there to try to locate the breaks that are allowing so much water to infiltrate the system. "Is there a problem there? Absolutely," said Tichel.

More capacity for new development

Yet while the campground remains an ongoing challenge, the progress being made elsewhere appears to have given a new lease on life for development plans. "I would say the [TBWW] board would probably be favorable to new development at this point," said Tichel.

EASTER...Continued from page 4

social media to contact my friends to find out what they had heard, the horror grew – another church in Negombo, where I'd spent two days earlier in the week, and another in the eastern part of the country in Batticaloa. Then, in quick succession, bombs at three of the leading hotels in Colombo. All within less than an hour, all deadly.

Only a decade removed from a 26-year civil war, the military was mobilized immediately as speculation ran high in the moment that the bombings could have been instigated by former combatants. From my bedroom I could hear the sirens from the parade of ambulances bringing the injured to the government hospital and see military personnel deploying around the perimeter.

I did not fear for my safety, but I was afraid for my friends old and new. Having spent a full day with a young man named Romesh touring the fishing lagoon at Negombo, I tried calling him to see if he was OK. He was, but a relative of his had been injured in the blast at St. Benedict's Church, where initial reports said 93 people were killed. My other friends had not been directly affected, but obviously were suffering from extreme angst over the situation.

By late morning, all seemed to be under control. I'd been glued to my phone, checking news sites and social media for any information I could get, and only the areas around the hotels and churches had been shut down. After lunch, feeling like I needed a peaceful

escape, I decided to hail a tuk tuk and proceed with my trip to the botanical garden, quite in the opposite direction of all of the mayhem. As we drove along the road beside the hospital, soldiers with weapons at the read were stationed about every 20 yards, with more being deployed.

We had no trouble getting to the garden, and it was open. There were many people there, perhaps like me seeking some solace in nature. I had my phone accessible as I walked around, and I received a message from my friend in Mumbai, who had been monitoring the news. It was from him, 1,500 miles away, that I learned that two more bombs had gone off that afternoon, one a little more than a mile from my bed and breakfast. It was from him I learned that the city was being placed under curfew. I needed to get back immediately.

That was not at all an easy task. The flow of traffic was away from the bombings, away from where I needed to go. A tuk tuk driver took me from the botanical gardens up to a main road but would go no further. He wished me well in finding a ride. I walked for blocks before I found a driver willing to take me. He felt somewhat more secure knowing he was taking me to a place with a strong military presence. We had to stop at a checkpoint near the hospital to get clearance to get back to where I was staying, and once we arrived I gladly paid the driver more than double the fare he charged for his trouble.

Shortly after I arrived,

a new problem came up. The government shut down all access to social media. I couldn't connect with my friends. That was the evening I learned about VPNs, a way to make systems think you were communicating from another country. Back online, I processed the day's tragic events with my friends well into the night.

Needless to say, my second week in Sri Lanka was not at all what I had planned. My trip with my friend Suhara to make the donation at the school was deemed too dangerous and was canceled. She delivered the materials later. My dear friend Kabeer, a man of exceptional character who happens to be Muslim, was afraid to leave his home, as the bombers turned out to be associated with an extremist faction of Islam. We did not connect again. Tourists had fled the country, and many airlines had stopped flying to Colombo – I spent part of the week trying to find another way home after my flight was canceled. I decided the one thing I could do to help was not to flee – clearly the hotel bombings were intended to disrupt Sri Lanka's vital tourist economy, and in that they were horribly effective. At the end of the week, I went back to Negombo for two days. The crowded restaurants I encountered on my first visit there were completely empty. I was the only customer in the one where I had dinner, and none visited the restaurant across the street while I was there. No one was walking, no one was shopping, no one was taking tuk tuks, because no one was there. That Sun-

day morning I hired a tuk tuk to take me over to the bombed out shell of St. Benedict's, winding our way through various military checkpoints. The tile roof and windows of the huge church were shattered. Banners with the faces and names of those killed hung from neighborhood fences, and power lines were draped with hundreds of long white streamers fluttering in the breeze. White is the color of mourning in Sri Lanka, and there was much to mourn, men, women, and children.

It's said travel can change a person, and surely this experience changed me. Seeing and experiencing up close the horrors of terrorism in that way was a cruel reality check that has made me more sensitive to both the personal and community impacts suffered in all too many mass shootings in the U.S. I find it sad that we do not treat this issue like the terrorist attacks they are. I worry about my Sri Lankan friends still, as the fallout from the attacks on the tourism economy have been dire, and coupled with other poor decisions by the government inflation there surpassed 60 percent this last summer. I fear continuing civil unrest could spark another terrorist event.

I have never been able to fathom humankind's inhumanity to humans. I never will. I so wish for an end to violence and terror and hate, the same wish people have held for centuries and centuries. I fear they all will be with us for centuries to come. Such is the curse and flaw of humankind.

Easter drawing winners

Congratulations to the winners of this year's *Timberjay* Easter raffle drawings. Winners all received a \$25 gift certificate to their local grocery store.

Orr

Remax: Kent Novak
Lumber Orr Hardware: Ron Alarcon
Pelican Bay Foods: Annette Howe
Orr Muni: Luke Rasmusson
Park State Bank-Orr: Jerry Dahl

Cook

Waschke Family Chevrolet: Vincent Kajala
Cook Building Center: Robert Petruska
North Star Credit Union: Karen Griffith
1st National Bank: Laurie Feela
McDonald's Cook: Jeanelle Glowaski
Park State Bank-Cook: Terry Swanson
Barb Hegg (Vermilion Land Office):
Carter Hegg
Zup's Grocery Cook: Irene Semon
Cook VFW: Shirley Baumgartner

Tower-Soudan

Tower-Soudan Agency: Mark Matich
Soudan Store: Dennis Larson
Frandsen Bank Tower: Keith Mattila
Vermilion Fuel & Food: Kim Anderson
EVCU Tower: Dwight Johnson
Ubetcha Antiques & Uniques: Becky Meador
Vermilion Park Inn: Margaret Maki
Lamppa Manufacturing: Kal Reinhardt
Zup's Grocery Tower: Percy White
D'Ericks Tower Liquors: John Norby

ELY

Dee's Bar: Mick Shusta
Frandsen Bank Ely: Emily Seliskar
Merhar's Ace Hardware: Anders Nicholson
Piragis: Jim Nelson
Ely Auto: Barb Levie
Potluck Kitchenware: Kathleen Floberg
Grand Ely Lodge, Evergreen: Bill Erzar
Zup's Ely: Bill Horvat
Ely Flower & Seed: Lillian Schaller
Range Cenex Ely: Ray Hario
Wintergreen: Kassie Springhoff

Babbitt

Range Cenex Babbitt: Cindy Spoke
Zup's Grocery Babbitt: Karen Heikkila

Embarrass

EVCU Embarrass: Roland "Charlie" Fowler



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.

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

Official Newspaper:

Townships of Bearville, Eagles Nest, Embarrass, Kugler, Vermilion Lake, Field, Morcom, Leiding, Crane Lake, Kabetogama, Greenwood, ISD 707, City of Orr.

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

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.

Read the entire paper on-line every week. On-line subscriptions cost \$29.95/year; details and payment at www.timberjay.com.

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

Week of April 24

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

Tuesday
Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5 p.m. Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is May 16

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

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

Breitung Town Board- 12 noon on April 27

Vermilion Country School Board- Meetings posted online at vermilioncountry.org.

St. James upcoming service schedule

TOWER- St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower will have services led by the following speakers for April. Services are Sunday at 10 a.m., with coffee an' following.

April 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- Embarrass Bookmobile Schedule

REGIONAL- The Arrowhead Bookmobiles will be in the Tower-Soudan area on Wednesday, April 26; May 17; June 7 & 28.

Stops include: Britt (Sand Lake Storage): 9 - 9:30 a.m.; Bois Forte (Boys & Girls Club): 11 - 11:30 a.m.; Greenwood (Town Hall): 12 - 1 p.m.; Soudan (Post Office area): 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.; Tower (Civic Center): 3:45 - 4:30 p.m. ; and Embarrass (Hwy 135 & Hwy 21): 5 - 6 p.m.

More info online at alslib.info/services/bookmobile. For more information on the Bookmobile or Mail-A-Book services, contact the Arrowhead Library System, 218-741-3840, email at als@alslib.info, or website at alslib.info.

In Memory of Paul Palo
April 18, 2013
It has been ten years since your passing. You are missed as:

- a father
- grandfather
- uncle
- friend
- life partner
- equipment operator
- fisherman
- mechanic
- union man

MAIN STREET

New space available for one-time, weekly, or shared rentals

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- When Terry and Dianna Sunsdahl purchased the old NAPA building in Tower, they had a lot of ideas. They renovated the two front retail spaces, one of which now houses Pike River Products, selling handmade canvas and leather bags, as well as other Pike River branded products and gifts. The second Main Street-facing space is currently ready to lease for a retail shop.

And now they are planning to fill the third renovated space with one of their other ideas— to let others with ideas have an affordable retail or meeting space without committing to a full-time lease.

Tower's Gathering Gallery is a 750 sq. ft. space on the side of their 515 Main St. building.

The space is available to rent by the half-day, full-day, or as part of a joint vendor market day. The newly-remodeled space is available for use between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m.

There will also be outdoor space, approximately 3,000 sq. ft., available for vendors, with



water and electrical access.

Dianna is in the process of organizing vendor market days, when crafters or other home business operators can jointly use the space, which would fit between four and six different vendors.

Pricing starts at \$10 for the shared vendor market days, to \$25 for a half, or \$40 for a full-day rental. Monthly and annual plans are available for individuals, so a person can reserve the space one day a week for a month on a short-term or annual basis,

depending on what days the space is available.

Dianna said the space is also perfect for teaching classes, yoga, or offering professional services (but not salon-style services which require a special permit). She is thinking about setting aside Mondays for a social gathering time, so community members can stop by for coffee and simply visit (Tower's coffee shop is closed on Mondays).

"I am seeing a lot of interest," she said. Last Saturday she

held an open house to let the community see the space in action.

The couple has done significant renovations to the building. New awnings on the front are waiting for their final signage. They put in all new front windows, and also added other energy-efficiency upgrades. The projects have been helped along with matching grant funds from BER, DEED, and the MN Entrepreneur Fund.

"Most of the physical projects are done," she said. Final projects include some maintenance work in the basement.

Learn more about Tower's Gathering Gallery at towersgatheringgallery.com.

This new space complements the co-working space, opened last year, at the Idea Warehouse building located a block to the west. The Idea Warehouse hosted a Wellness Expo, also on Saturday, which featured speakers and vendors who work in various wellness-related fields. Organizer Terah (Trucano) Rinerson said they had a nice turnout for their first event, and that they hope to organize more wellness-related events there in the future.

BROADBAND

Broadband Line Extension Program may aid Greenwood

Those in areas outside the Bois Forte project map area, especially Isle of Pines area, are urged to complete the online application process before April 30

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

REGIONAL- Ahead of an important April 30 deadline, the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) is encouraging Minnesotans to apply for its Line Extension Program to connect homes and businesses to high-speed broadband.

"Even though Greenwood doesn't have a line in yet, the department would like to have a list of names of people interested in getting broadband expanded in the future," said Greenwood Chair John Bassing, who also has been leading the effort to bring high-speed internet to township residents.

While the majority of the township is scheduled to receive broadband service through a Bois Forte project which should begin next year, some areas of the township are not included. For example, Isle of Pines is not in the NTIA grant area. "The line extension program could be a way to fund adding them to this project," Bassing said. "A group of names creates a cluster, which could help make the area a pri-

ority for securing this funding," he added.

The township has been working with the broadband provider, CTC, on this issue. The township also has matching funds available for broadband.

The DEED Office of Broadband Development's Line Extension Program connects internet service providers to residents and businesses that lack high-speed broadband. [<https://mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband/extension/>]

If applicants are in areas where high-speed broadband is available, DEED will help service providers contact applicants about connecting to the service. If no provider offers broadband at an applicant's address, the Line Extension Program awards grants for providers who want to extend existing broadband infrastructure to the unserved locations, providing higher-speed internet to more people around the state.

Minnesota residents and businesses that lack access to broadband speeds of at least 25 megabits per second (Mbps) download and 3Mbps upload can apply online through the Of-

fice of Broadband Development. They can also request a paper application by calling 651-259-7610 or emailing DEED.broadband@state.mn.us. Minnesotans are encouraged to apply even if they do not know their existing Internet speeds.

"High-speed broadband helps families stay connected to work, school, and healthcare. It allows businesses big and small to reach more customers and grow," said Bree Maki, executive director of the Office of Broadband Development at DEED. "The Line Extension Program is one of the ways DEED is connecting more people to the broadband they need. We encourage Minnesotans who need faster connections to apply for this program."

While DEED will accept applications throughout the year, the Office of Broadband Development will only review applications, contact applicants, and award extension grants every six months. The first review period begins on May 1, meaning Minnesotans hoping to participate right now should apply before then.

The Legislature created the

Line Extension Program in 2022, allocating \$15 million for broadband extension grants to further DEED's mission to connect more Minnesotans to high-speed broadband. Minnesota's 2026 goal is that all homes and businesses have access to broadband with download speeds of at least 100Mbps and upload speeds of at least 20 Mbps.

Line Extension is one of several programs DEED's Office of Broadband Development administers to expand Minnesota's broadband access.

Last year the agency announced the state's largest-ever investment in broadband when it awarded \$99.6 million in grants through the Border-to-Border Broadband Development Grant program to 61 expansion projects around the state. The funding will connect more than 33,000 Minnesota homes and businesses in 48 counties to high-speed broadband. Legislative leaders and Governor Walz have agreed to provide \$100 million this session to fund future Border-to-Border grants.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Vermilion Lake Township cemetery cleanup day

VERMILION LAKE TWP- Vermilion Lake Township will host their annual Cemetery Work Day on Saturday, April 29 starting at 1 p.m. Rain date will be May 6. Please

bring shovels and rakes, if possible.

NE Range Band concert April 27

BABBITT- The Northeast Range Spring Band Concert will be held Thursday, April 27 at 7 p.m. in the school's auditorium. Both the elementary and high school bands

will be playing. The concert is free, but donations are welcome. Directors for the concert will be Lorenda Daugherty and Christine Mackai. Come see and hear how well our students have grown this year in music.

Free community meal at Immanuel on Wednesday, April 26

TOWER- Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower is hosting a free community meal on Wednesday, April 26 from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m., or until the food is gone. This month's meal includes chicken tetrazzini bake, salad, and dessert. Eat-in or take-out available. Everyone is welcome to attend.

leak, after employees noticed a distinct propane odor when entering the store.

Apparently, Zup's reported, the propane tank had run low, and the store's heaters couldn't light up. This meant that residual fumes from the tank seeped into the store. There was no leak. The tank was filled, and all the gas lines were checked for leaks, and all was in good operating condition. Staff had to wait for the heaters to come back on and heat up the building. The store then was open for business for the afternoon.

Zup's would like to thank the area fire departments and law enforcement personnel who responded to the scene for their prompt response.

Fire departments, police respond to Tower Zup's on Sunday

TOWER- The Breitung, Tower, and Greenwood fire departments responded to Zup's Grocery last Sunday after reports of a possible propane

100th Birthday Open House for James Charles
Sunday, May 7 1-3 p.m.
Lake Minnetonka Shores Presbyterian Home
4559 Shoreline Drive
Spring Park, MN 55384
Send well wishes to:
James Charles
Apartment 406
Lake Minnetonka Shores Presbyterian Home
4559 Shoreline Drive
Spring Park, MN 55384

Minnesota Horse Expo 2023
April 28-30
Presented by the Minnesota Horse Council
MN State Fairgrounds
Enjoy FREE Pony & Wagon Rides, Shop 200+ Vendors, Watch the Daily Parade of Breeds & Stallion Presentations, Attend All the Riding & Training Demos.
2 PRCA RODEOS • Fri. & Sat. 7:30pm
Rodeo Admission is in addition to Expo Admission
Huge Tack & Clothing Consignment Sale
IT'S THE 41st EXPO!
Visit MNHorseExpo.org or Call 952-356-2029 for Ticket & Schedule Info

Call to Subscribe
(218) 753-2950
www.timberjay.com

LOCAL BUSINESS

Ely Chamber of Commerce awards

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- The Ely Chamber of Commerce gave five awards at its 60s-themed "Celebrate Ely" annual dinner, held on April 13 at the Grand Ely Lodge.

The Jackpine Bob Cary Spirit Award was established in 2009 in honor of Bob Cary to celebrate an individual or group for their unselfish giving and promotion of Ely, which has a positive impact on the Ely area and tourism. Jacob White, the organizer, director and moving spirit behind the End of the Road Film Festival was the 2023 recipient of the Jackpine Bob Cary Spirit award.

The Excellence in Customer Service Award was given to Jessica Slaughter. Slaughter started at the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital in 1999. In terms of the impact and reach she has had on the Ely community, Mayor Heidi Omerza remarked at the Ely City Council meeting on April 18, "If you have ever been to the hospital, you definitely know who Jessica Slaughter is."

Mauro Caruso was the recipient of this year's



Above: Jessica Slaughter, winner of the Excellence in Customer Service Award. Below: Jacob White, recipient of the Jackpine Bob Cary Spirit Award. photos by C. Clark



Good Citizen – Volunteer of the Year Award. In her remarks on the chamber awards at the city council meeting, the Mayor noted that, "I was pleasantly surprised to see him win that award. Shockingly, he couldn't make it because he was busy teaching gun safety that evening, so we all had a little chuckle over of that."

Two businesses received the Good Neighbor Business Award: the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital and Twin Metals Minnesota.

The award introduction for the hospital related that the hospital "provides financial gifts to various school and community volunteer groups throughout the year. In addition, they provide those groups with food and beverage donations. They provide financial gifts to the Ely Ambulance Service and Boundary Waters Care Center. They partner with ISD 696 for IT support and initiating a new health care education program. They provided \$500.00 grants to the area business community for on-site AEDs. They support the SCRUBS camp and teaching programs. They offer their staff to support

area events, provide community education, and serve on nonprofit boards. They provide free space to Northwoods Partners. They (also) provide free flu shot clinics."

The award introduction for Twin Metals Minnesota noted that the firm "provides a wide range of financial support to a number of local community organizations. They sponsor the local sports schedule printed weekly in the *Ely Echo*, are a sponsor of the Ely Igloo Snowmobile's Fun Run, and sponsor youth sports teams. They are also a sponsor for the Ely Marathon and the Indian Summer Classic Golf Tournament. They provide financial assistance to the Ely Area Food Shelf, Ely Greenstone Public Art, Mesabi Symphony Orchestra, and both the St. Louis and Lake County Rescue Squads. Their employees are also extremely active within the community, supporting local charities, assisting elderly, and neighbors. They provide financial support so students at ISD 696 can visit Washington, D.C. They also open their facilities for field trips, so students can learn more about their industry."

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:

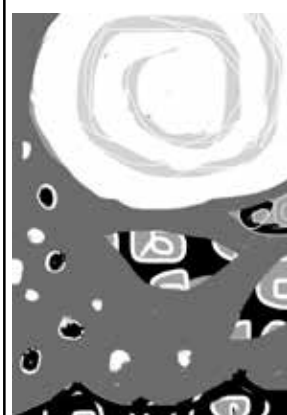
► April 25: America's Red Rock Wilderness – Fighting Climate Change & Saving Wilderness in Utah with Clayton Daughenbaugh of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance

► May 1: **Monday event**, Climatologist Happy Hour, location TBA

► May 2: MN DNR Climatologist Kenny Blumenfeld

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2023



shall it rain, or snow
will temps drop, rise, stay the same

hail, the weather god

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.

Boundary Waters movie casting call for local teens

ELY- The movie "Boundary Waters" has announced a casting call for local Minnesota youth. The film, whose working title was "Athens," is looking for young talent to fill four roles. Aspiring local actors should prepare and email photo headshots and a short video telling the film makers about which role they want to audition for. The film makers

will respond with "sides," which are selections of line from the movie script.

The four roles for this local-only casting call are:

► Paul, a 12-year-old boy of any ethnicity. He is bold, adventurous, and cocky. Paul thinks he's a "leader of the pack." He can be insensitive but is ultimately goodhearted. He is best friends with Ralph and with Michael, the main

character of the film.

► Ralph, a 12-year-old boy of any ethnicity. He is sweet, easily picked upon, witty and a follower. Ralph is shy, but comes back from theater camp with well-deserved, growing confidence.

► Tyler, a 15-year-old boy, who is crass and arrogant. Tyler bullies the younger kids at school, especially Ralph. He masks

insecurity with a nasty attitude and an enormous ego.

► Marianne, a 12-year-old girl, who is polished and flirtatious. Marianne is a "popular girl," who loves K-Pop and lip gloss.

"Boundary Waters" is the subject of a detailed article in this edition of the *Timberjay*. The plot of the movie revolves around Michael, as he tries to discover the truth about the

assault of his mother while his parents and grandmother try to conceal the truth.

The headshots and video should be emailed as soon as possible to catherinestrouding@gmail.com and erinmaemiller@gmail.com. Filming starts the first week in May.

Heart of Gold Awards

ELY- Northwoods Partners volunteers come give what time they can to brighten the lives of local seniors. Each year, Northwoods honors two of its volunteers with the Heart of Gold Award.

For 2023, the recipients of the Heart of Gold are Sheila Gruba and Norma Cersine. In a social media statement, Northwoods Partners said, "Both of these women go above and beyond every day ensuring that this beautiful community we call home is a place where our older adults are able to be hap-

py, healthy, active, and engaged."

The nonprofit Northwoods Partners provides services for seniors, including caregiver relief and support, friendly visits, exercise buddies, grocery delivery, rides to events and appointments, and much more. The organization's service area covers Ely, Babbitt, Tower, Soudan, and the surrounding area.

For more information on volunteering, email info@NorthwoodsPartners.org or call 218-365-8019.



The Vermilion Campus of Minnesota North College hosted a symposium on the lessons learned from the Pagami Creek Fire on April 13-14, which packed the house on Thursday and had a sold-out field trip on Friday. photo by C. Clark

Upcoming Events

Anti-Racism Group

ELY- An open group practicing anti-racism will meet on Sunday, April 23 from noon to 1 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of Ely, 226 E. Harvey St. All are welcome. The group will meet in the study, which is straight in from the front door. ADA access to the elevator is through the rear entrance on the alley.

100 Ely Women Who Care

ELY- 100 Ely Women Who Care will hold its Spring 2023 Event on Sunday, April 30, from 4-5:30 p.m. at the Ely Senior Center. 100 Ely Women Who Care is a giving circle where the members nominate and then vote on a local 501(c)(3) to receive their combined charitable donations. Over the past eight years, 100 Ely Women Who Care have donated over \$70,000 dollars to local charities.

All interested women are welcome. More in-

formation will be posted on the "What's up? Ely" Facebook page—or visit the website at 100elywomenwhocare.org

Ely Public Library

ELY- The next Kahoot online trivia game will be on the first three books in the Boxcar Children series by Gertrude Chandler Warner. Register in advance with an email address where participants can receive the link to the game. The game will run from April 26, 3 p.m., and end on May 1, 8 a.m.

The next "get crafty" session will be on April 27, 1-2 p.m. Participants will make homemade coffee scrub. Register in advance so the library can order adequate supplies.

The Library board will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, May 3, from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

The Library Scientists group for grades 3-5 will meet on Thursday, May 4, from 3-4:30 p.m. Participants will learn the principles of how simple machines work, and will make at least one machine of their own to take home. Please register in advance so the library can order

enough supplies.

Preschool Storytime is held every Friday from 10:30-11 a.m.

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

Northern Lakes Arts Association Art Show

ELY- The Northern Lakes Arts Association April Art Show displaying the work of Heather Wright began on April 17 at Ely's Historic State Theater. The show closes on April 30. A reception for the artist and her work will be on April 29 from 5-7 p.m. in the lobby at the theater.

Greenstone Art Camp

ELY- Greenstone Art Camp will be June 6-8, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., which is right around the corner. The program is for kids in grades 1-6. The three-day camp has 50 slots open for kids to create and learn from area artists. The location will be the Ely Arts & Heritage Center at 401 N. Pioneer Rd. The cost will be \$50/kid.

Pre-register for this popular summer program

at <https://www.northern-lakesarts.org/2023-greenstone-art-camp>. Those who do will receive an email notification when registration opens in the upcoming weeks.

Ely Young Life Auction

ELY- The Ely branch of Young Life, an international, inter-denominational youth organization, will open this year's auction for online bidding at 6 p.m. on April 23. On Sunday, April 30, the auction will stagger the end of bidding. Bids will close for specific items every 30 minutes, starting at 2:30 p.m. and ending at 6 p.m. The auction proceeds fund youth activities in the Ely area and helps fund scholarships to the Ely Young Life summer camp. More details and the link to the auction site are online at ely.younglife.org.

Summer Arts Market

For over 15 years, NLAA has hosted the Summer Arts Market alongside the Ely Farmer's Market, every Tuesday, June through September, 5-7 p.m. Participation costs for artists and craft-

ers wanting a spot to sell their works are \$10 per week or \$100 for the entire summer and can be paid ahead of time or at the first market of the year. Use forms forms.gle/Qp7gmkqValieidbu7 to fill out an interest form and the NLAA will be in contact during the first weeks of May.

Ely Community Education

ELY- Basic dog obedience classes start on May 8, 6-7 p.m., and run every Monday until June 26, except for Memorial Day. The class will meet in the Ice Arena. Cost is \$120.

For a complete listing of classes and to register, go to <https://www.ely.k12.mn.us/communityed>.

As of April 18,
195 vendors
were signed
up to sell at
the Blueberry
Festival

PRAIRIE FIRE CHILDREN'S THEATER

North Woods stages whimsical 'Wizard of Oz'



Prairie Fire Children's Theater worked for a week with North Woods students to stage "The Wizard of Oz" last Friday.

Upper left: Toto (Cora Lantry), Dorothy (Mya Kinsey), the Cowardly Lion (Steven Sopoci), the Scarecrow (Meredith Aydelott - PFTC) and the Tin Man (Anna Nelson) start down the yellow brick road.

Upper middle top: The Wicked Witch (Brianna Homan - PFCT)

Upper middle lower: The Wizard of Oz (River Deatherage)

Top right: Munchkins react to the arrival of Dorothy in the Land of Oz.

Middle right: The Winkies vigorously petition the Wicked Witch for higher wages.

Bottom right: Oz wouldn't be complete without a flock of flying monkeys to do the Wicked Witch's bidding.

Left: Dorothy sings as time runs down on the hourglass.

photos by D. Colburn



NORTH WOODS SCHOOL



North Woods Native American Student Association members competing on the Ojibwe Quiz Bowl team include, front row, from left, Alex Whiteman, Adriana Whiteman, and Coach Ruth Porter; back row, Kiana LaRoque, Madison Spears, and Isaac Spears. photo by D. Colburn

North Woods students compete in state Ojibwe Quiz Bowl

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- Eight members of the Native American Student Association and four sponsors hit the road on Tuesday for a three-day trip to the Minnesota Indian Education Association conference at the Mystic Lake Events Center in Prior Lake, and five of those students are hoping to come home with more than an education and good memories.

Kiana LaRoque, Alex Whiteman, Adriana Whiteman, Isaac Spears and Madison Spears want to come home with some first-place hardware from the Ojibwe Quiz Bowl competition.

It's a good challenge for a team in its first year with only one competition under their belts, but the student have been preparing studiously since October, scrutinizing the recommended books to get ready to be tested on their command of anishinaabemowin, the Ojibwe language.

Their coach is Ruth Porter, and she's been leading the effort for the students to learn both spoken and written forms of anishinaabemowin. The written form isn't based on the phonics system of English, but rather on a double vowel system de-

veloped in the late 1950s to represent the spoken language.

"We are following the double vowel system here at North Woods," Porter said. "Most of the colleges and universities in Minnesota use the double vowel system so it will be easier for our kids to transfer over."

Each team participating had to create and submit 20 language questions and 10 history questions for the judges to ask, based on information from the recommended readings.

Teams consist of four players and an alternate, and the competition mirrors a traditional quiz bowl contest, with players buzzing in for the chance to answer questions and earn points. Unlike other quiz bowls, however, answers to the language questions must be in anishinaabemowin. Porter said history questions will be answered in English.

Their first competition at Fortune Bay Resort Casino was a good learning experience, Porter said.

"We learned how quick the questions come and how well prepared some of the other teams are," she said. "We had a better idea of what we had to study in the other books. It's kind of overwhelming when you're given four or five different books

to study without a study guide, so we have a better idea now what they're going to ask."

Having the student develop the questions that were submitted also enhanced their understanding of the material, Porter said.

There are differences in the language as used by different bands, and the North Woods team is well versed in the Bois Forte dialect, but could encounter an unfamiliar word when a question using another band's dialect is used. Porter said they are allowed to challenge the question and have it rephrased with familiar words from their dialect.

Porter expressed thanks for the support the team has received from the community for its food event fundraisers.

And thanks to a generous donation from Fortune Bay, the North Woods squad will have the look of a unified team as well, sporting customized team sweatshirts with the words "North Woods NASA" and a bear paw print on the front and individual names on the back.

"We are still a very new team, and we see that our community is the one that supported us," she said.



THANK YOU— Fortune Bay's Director of Gaming E.J. Deegan, left, hands Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners, Inc. board member Emily Koch, right, with a check that will go toward the Hearts for Hospice fundraiser. submitted

VIRGIE HEGG HOSPICE

Hearts for Hospice campaign gets donation from Fortune Bay

by BRIAN K. ANDERSON
Guest Contributor

TOWER— As a person who has experienced a loss due to cancer, Emily Koch wanted to do something in memory of her mother.

So, she decided to become involved with Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners, Inc. in Cook, which is a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) corporation that serves hospice and hospice-eligible patients and their families in the Cook, Orr, and Tower areas.

"I've been involved with them for almost four years," said Koch during a recent check presentation at Fortune Bay Resort Casino. "I got involved because they were one of the few groups that stepped up and offered help when my mom was battling cancer, and it was a way for me to give back."

And thanks to the help of Fortune Bay Resort Casino and its guests, Koch's outreach has helped raise nearly \$1,300 for their Hearts for Hospice fundraiser.

Fortune Bay's Ticket In Ticket Out Promotion entails guests either dropping a cash donation or their gaming ticket into a

drum on the gaming floor. At the end of the month, Fortune Bay matches up to \$500 for that month's cause.

"I want to say a huge thank you to your guests and Fortune Bay," said Koch at the check presentation, which was attended by her good friend, E.J. Deegan. "I never expected this amount. It's phenomenal, and it is so appreciated."

Deegan, whose daughter plays on the North Woods High School girls' basketball team with Koch's daughter, was glad to participate in the check presentation. "Emily is passionate about the work she does on behalf of Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners, Inc.," said Deegan. "We are glad to have helped this worthwhile organization raise money for such an important cause."

While the Hearts for Hospice fundraiser is over, Koch said the organization was very pleased with how the third annual event went. She said it continues to get bigger and better, and she expects that support to continue.

"We help people in Cook, Tower, and Orr by giving gas cards to visit

loved ones who might be in the last days of hospice, or we purchase a hospital bed so the person in hospice can spend their last days at home," said Koch.

The next fundraiser on the books for Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners, Inc. is the third annual Hope for Hospice Run, which takes place during the Cook Timber Days event in June.

"We're also going to have an informational booth set up during Timber Days to raise awareness about our organization," said Koch. "If people want to help us now, they can go to our website and make a one-time donation or an on-going monthly donation. Any and all help is appreciated."

For more information about Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners, Inc., please visit www.vhhp.org

**Read It
HERE**

RAID...Continued from page 1

April 12 when a team of what he described as 15-20 FBI agents accompanied by an electronics-sniffing dog from the Hibbing Police Department executed a search warrant at his home. He said the agents said little about their reason for being there beyond indicating they were investigating the alleged theft of cryptocurrency from one of Armbrust's former employers.

"They told me it's like \$5,000 of cryptocurrency," Armbrust said. "I was very surprised. It's crazy. I haven't been charged with anything. I don't have so much as a parking ticket. I'm talking to lawyers, but it's really scary. They wouldn't tell me much."

An FBI spokesperson contacted via email by the *Timberjay* on Friday would only confirm that agents conducted a "court-authorized activity at a residence in the vicinity of Orr" and would not answer any questions posed about the nature or subject of the search. The *Timberjay* verified through the online federal court's PACER system that no charges have been filed involving Armbrust, and neither the Minneapolis FBI or Minnesota U.S. Attorney's office have posted anything to their

websites regarding the search or possible charges.

St. Louis County Sheriff's Office Lt. Jason Lukovsky confirmed that a deputy was placed on stand-by outside the residence but that the department was not involved in the search. Lukovsky also confirmed the general focus of the search.

"It was a cyber crime that they were investigating. I don't know the extent of the warrant," he said.

Armbrust said the number of agents involved was overwhelming.

"They came in like a bull in a china shop," Armbrust said. "They were looking for everything. There's no drugs, there's no nothing. It just seemed like overkill. If they had just showed up with two people, I would have let them come in and do whatever they needed to do."

While conducting the search, agents kept Armbrust and his mother, who has mobility issues, separated, a situation that caused the soft-spoken Armbrust some additional anxiety.

"They wouldn't let me talk to her. I couldn't even see if she was OK or anything," Armbrust said. "I'm an only child. I take care of her. My dad's dead.

I'll do anything to take care of her. She took care of me my whole life, so the least I can do is take care of her."

Armbrust estimated the agents were there going through everything in the house for about six hours, finishing around 1 p.m.

"They made a mess," he said.

Word of the search spread quickly after the Hibbing Police Department put up a post on Facebook featuring a picture of electronics search dog K9 Dottie alongside an FBI field vest.

"This morning we assisted the FBI with a search warrant," the post said. "Dottie definitely earned her kibble today as there were easily 100 devices inside of the residence!"

Armbrust disputed that account.

"That's not true," he said. "I didn't have like a ton of computer stuff. It's like a few things that they took. They took some old flash drives that had nothing on them, so they're welcome to those. They're ones I've had forever that I probably was going to throw away anyway. I had a media server that had some movies on it, so they took that. They forced me to unlock my phone and they

took my phone. I'm only talking to you now because I was able to get a new phone. But everything was backed up in the cloud."

Armbrust's means of livelihood is his computer, and he said he was allowed to keep his work computer after it was searched.

That Armbrust might have had a significant amount of computer equipment would hardly be a surprise. According to his LinkedIn profile, over the past 23 years Armbrust has worked in the computer industry as a technician, systems and software engineer, and most recently as a cloud security and operations engineer. He most recently began working for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA as a cloud security consultant, a job of which he's particularly proud. "I think they're actually saving lives with the work they're doing like predicting hurricanes and climate change and all that. It's really important."

Heavy handed?

Armbrust decried the "overkill" used for the search and said there were much better uses for the FBI's resources.

"It just seems like all they care about is

money. They don't care about people," he said. "It's all about protecting big companies. Think about Indigenous women. I brought that up to them. I said there's Indigenous women that are missing. You don't do anything about that. But you'll come knocking on my door for some petty whatever. I don't get it, man. They could be doing so much good. They're just not."

It wouldn't be the first time in recent months that federal law enforcement in the region has been seen as too heavy handed. The *Timberjay* has been reporting for months on the seemingly unjustified tasing of a local businessman in Voyageurs National Park by federal rangers there.

This turmoil in Armbrust's life has come in the midst of trying to secure a visa to bring his fiancé to the U.S. from Columbia.

"I've been down there a bunch of times and she wants to come here," he said. "She's my true love, I guess."

Armbrust said he's talked with two attorneys about taking on his case, although the discussions have been limited as no charges have been filed and he has so little information.

"It's really scary," he said again. "I'm not some criminal mastermind or anything. I'm just some guy trying to live his life."

PROTEST...Continued from page 1

duction company and its drag shows in a letter published earlier this month in the *Ely Echo*.

"Drag is an assault upon the glory of womanhood by mocking them with an oversexualized, perverted performance by men," Dalberg wrote. He also made some commonly-voiced, anti-drag and anti-trans arguments that the shows were contrary to biblical teachings on gender roles, and that the performers were "perverted men clowning as women in order to sexually groom children."

Dalberg said on April 14, on the conservative Christian QFM podcast out of Bemidji, that the first drag show in Ely was snuck into town "by stealth," that it wasn't advertised

around town, but only on Facebook. He didn't appear to be aware that a second sold-out drag show brunch was held in December. He also admitted in the podcast that he did not use Facebook.

"This time they are coming with a direct aim at the kids," Dalberg stated. He also said, "I haven't gotten any pushback from the local community." He remarked that the community response so far was silent.

Dalberg also said on the podcast that another northern Minnesota pastor


would be "organizing some people being there that day (Saturday), and people are welcome to come and pray with us out front."

Both newsprint and social media comments on the drag brunch and Dalberg's letter have been mixed, depending on the choice of Twitter feeds, sub-Reddits and Facebook groups.

A pointed rebuttal to Dalberg's letter on Facebook came from Flip Phone show director Sasha Cassadine, who protested, "The only thing I'm interested in grooming is my

wigs, costumes and make-up. Why are folks always throwing the bible into things to spread hate. And folks wonder why people run away from religion."

One local Ely wit who requested his name be withheld remarked, "Drag shows are really not my thing, but now I'm tempted to go just out of spite. The only thing more perverse about drag shows are the people freaking out about drag shows."

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!

St. Louis County Solid Waste Facility Area site hours

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

Summer hours effective April 15th through September 30th
For solid waste and recycling information go to www.stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle

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

MESABI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA 2022-2023 SEASON

Voyages

UNITED STATES

Tickets available online or at the door!

Eveleth, MN - United in Christ Lutheran Church
Saturday, April 22, 7:00pm

Virginia, MN - Goodman Auditorium
Sunday, April 23, 2:30pm

www.MesabiSymphonyOrchestra.org

Operating support is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board and the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage fund. Our work is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts through a grant from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council.

Area St. Louis County Solid Waste and Recycling Facility site hours

Ash River Trail Canister Site 11391 Ash River Trail Summer Hours Wed: 1pm-4pm Sat: 2:30pm-5:30pm	Kabetogama Lake Canister Site 10150 Gamma Rd Summer Hours Mon. & Wed: 9am-noon Sat: 10:30am-1:30pm	Sturgeon Canister Site 8380 Hwy 73 Hours Sun: 8am-noon
Orr Canister Site 4038 Hwy 53 Summer Hours Tue: 9am-1pm, Thu: 2pm-7pm Sat: 8am-noon, Sun: 10am-2pm	Portage Canister Site 6992 Crane Lake Rd. Summer Hours Tue: 2pm-6pm; Thu: 10am-1pm, Sat: 1pm-5pm; Sun: 3pm-6pm	County 77 Canister Site 2038 County Rd. 77 Summer Hours Tue: 1-6pm, Thu: 8am-1pm Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: noon-6pm
Cook Transfer Station 2134 S. Beatty Rd. Hours Mon: 10am-6pm Tues thru Sat: 9am-3:30pm	Regional Landfill 5341 Regional Landfill Rd., Virginia Hours Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30pm Sat: 8am-3:30pm	St. Louis County Environmental Services Department 1-800-450-9278 Office hours 8-4:30 Mon. thru Fri. stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle
Household Hazardous Waste Facilities 5345 Regional Landfill Rd., Virginia Tue, Sat: 8am-1pm	Household Hazardous Waste Facilities 3994 Landfill Rd., Hibbing Sat: 8am-1pm	

Summer hours effective April 15th through September 30th

PETERSEN DRILLING
Since 1948
Wells
Water Systems

- PUMPS
- WELLS
- HYDRO-FRACKING

1-800-662-5700
Spring Park Rd.
Mt. Iron, MN 55768

DBS FOUNDATIONS BASEMENTS INSULATION *ALL THINGS BASEMENTY!*
thumbs up for integrity!

#1 Trusted, Local Expert in **Basement Waterproofing!**

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE!

218-666-7100 **\$250 OFF** Basement Waterproofing*
DBStimberjay.com

*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.

before  after 

Scan to learn more!

LLAMAS...Continued from page 1

Lo and behold, Jirik found the \$100 needed to secure an hour-long visit.

The llama visit was a total surprise for all the students and was the perfect way to end a Friday afternoon on a sunny, unseasonably warm day.

The students got a chance not just to visit a llama, but also a "cousin" alpaca, both members of the camel family. Both are native to South America. Alpacas are raised mostly for their fiber, which produces a soft and warm yarn, which is softer than cashmere and warmer than wool. Llamas are a domesticated member of the camel family, used by Andean cultures since the pre-Columbian era. They are used as pack animals and also raised for meat.

Preschoolers to sixth-graders all got a chance to meet and greet



these two very peaceful and agreeable animals, coming out in small groups. The younger elementary students, who had been studying llamas, shared all their newly-gained llama knowledge with owner Lois Pajari, and showed her the llama artwork they had created. Pajari showed

the students how to comb the long-fibered wool and spin it with their fingers into yarn.

Pajari explained to the students how to behave around the animals, and to keep their voices down because they do not like loud voices, which the animals may interpret as

a threat.

She also explained that the animals will try to sniff the children's breath, as a way to get to know them. She also explained that these animals may spit if they get upset, but that these two who go out on "tour" are well behaved and don't get upset around

Left: Betty Graham, Payton Edwards, and Neiko Stellmach all had big smiles in reaction to Artie, an alpaca, who came along for the visit to the school.

small crowds.

The llama and alpaca were amazingly tolerant of all the attention, and even enjoyed getting up close to the children's faces. They both enjoyed having their fur brushed, and many of the students got to take home a clump of fresh llama or alpaca hair.

Pajari said she got the idea for the traveling llama program from an article an out-of-state friend had sent her.

"I had been knocking it around for a while," she said, "and then this March I thought I would see if there was any interest."

Their first outing was to Scenic Rivers Medical

Center in Cook.

"It was a hoot!" she said. "Since then, we have been doing one location a week."

The "rent-a-llama" program will continue until the petting farm opens for regular weekend hours starting on May 5, and then resume next fall after the farm closes to the public at the end of October. She hopes to continue offering it on a regular basis during spring and fall.

The farm currently has four llamas and six alpacas. As for baby llamas or alpacas, she said they've only had one baby alpaca, which are called a cria. She said there is a small chance they will have a llama-alpaca cross baby this summer.

For more information, visit their website at cooks-countryconnection.com or follow them on Facebook.

DARK MONEY...Continued from page 1

DFLers made it clear at an April 14 press conference who they see as the money behind the pressure campaign: Big Pharma.

"Boy, did we make some folks mad, and we made the right folks mad," said Sen. Hauschild during the press conference. "In my day job, I raise money for families and patients who can't afford the care and the prescription drugs that they need. But no family should have to rely on fundraising and GoFundMe pages to get their prescriptions," he said.

The new Prescription Drug Affordability Board, if ultimately created, would serve as a kind of watchdog over the cost of prescription drugs in the state and would have the authority to limit the prices of certain high-cost medications, according to backers of the bill.

The ads from Minnesotans for Freedom (one of which appears in

this week's edition of the *Timberjay*), suggest that the insurance companies and Pharmacy Benefit Managers, or PBMs, would be the ultimate beneficiaries of lower drug prices, rather than consumers.

Hauschild calls that deflection and argues that the new board would clearly make a difference to many consumers, particularly those who lack good prescription drug coverage. He cites the recent runup in the cost of insulin and its impact on many diabetics as an example and said that's the kind of medication that would likely be targeted for cost control by the new board.

More broadly, Hauschild said the new board is just one of a number of measures that the Legislature is working on to address the high cost of health care. "It's easy to attack one piece of that and say it doesn't do enough,"

he said. "This is one piece of a broader effort."

Who is behind the ads?

It remains unclear exactly who is behind the aggressive ad campaign. The group Minnesotans for Freedom does not show up in any online databases or web searches, and does not appear to have a website. Nor has the group registered with the state's Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board (CFPDB), thanks to an apparent loophole in the law that allows groups like Minnesotans for Freedom to pressure lawmakers through ads and other means, as long as they don't expressly urge constituents to call them and ask for a specific vote on a piece of legislation. That's according to Jeff Sigurdson, executive director of the CFPDB.

The *Minnesota Reformer* reported that the group is linked to Annette Meeks, the CEO of the

Freedom Foundation of Minnesota, a conservative organization, but the *Timberjay* has been unable to confirm that. An email to the Freedom Foundation went answered as of press-time. Meeks is a prominent member of the Minnesota Republican Party, and was the party's 2010 candidate for Lt. Governor.

The ads are being disseminated and paid for by Public Affairs Co., a Twin Cities area public relations firm that specializes in issue advocacy. The company maintains offices in Minneapolis and Sioux Falls.

Hauschild said he supports a measure currently in the Legislature that would require more and prompter disclosure when big monied interests wage campaigns against lawmakers on specific legislation. Hauschild notes that the ads targeting him that have appeared in recent weeks never cite the actual

bill they're targeting and he thinks he knows why. "They don't want people to actually read the bill," he said. "It's very shady."

Hauschild considered a swing vote

Sen. Hauschild, considered a moderate DFLer who narrowly won his first term last November, said he won't be swayed by what he views as a misleading campaign.

"I revel in this fight," said Hauschild. "I revel in being the David to this Goliath that we're facing: Big Pharma. These folks have such deep pockets. I was driving around the Capitol, and there's a billboard attacking me here in the Twin Cities. They must have so much money— I represent the Canadian border, I represent a district 200-300 miles away from the Capitol, and they're putting up a billboard in the Twin Cities attacking me for standing up for patients

and families."

Hauschild's election win flipped the state Senate from Republican to DFL control this year, and that's left him as a key vote on a number of initiatives that have been stalled at the Capitol during the past few years of divided government in St. Paul. Hauschild has also been targeted by groups opposed to gun safety legislation, such as universal background checks and red flag provisions. As the senator representing most of northeastern Minnesota, a largely rural region where support for gun rights is considerable, gun groups have worked to pressure Hauschild to vote against such legislation.

Yet recent polling in Minnesota shows overwhelming majorities, including the majority of gun owners, support universal background checks as well as red flag laws.



The internet of tomorrow, today.

Midco® is moving ahead with fiber.

Get ready to leap into tomorrow and a seamlessly connected smart world. With our fiber internet, we're bringing you a stronger connection with better reliability and faster speeds that can keep up with you and your devices all day, every day.



Midco.com/Ely



CITY OF ELY

Fire chief reports rash of carbon monoxide calls

Spring clean-up days set for May 19-20 in Ely

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- Three standout items were aired at the April 18 meeting of the Ely City Council: a disturbing trend in fire calls by the Ely Fire Department, Ely spring clean-up days, and water testing.

Ely spring clean-up days will be May 19-20. "This is the time of the year where we tell people if you have junk in your yard, bring it to the park. We'll take care of it and the city will pay for its disposal. What's acceptable is aluminum, scrap metal, building materials, appliances, (and) furniture, explained Ely City Clerk and Treasurer Harold Langowski.

Langowski added that household or kitchen trash would not be accepted, nor would tires. "You can get garbage service for that, or you can bring it to the transfer site." Residents can dispose of up to four tires per day at area transfer sites at no charge.

Hazardous materials, paint or batteries will also not be accepted. St. Louis County holds separate clean-up days for those sorts of hazardous materials.

To take advantage of Ely clean-up days, those leaving off trash must bring some kind of proof of residency, like a utility bill.

Fire call trend

During his first quarter report to the city council, Fire Chief Dave Marshall noted a disturbing trend. "This year, the fire depart-

ment has responded to more carbon monoxide calls than I can ever recall in my time on the fire department... Many times in the past, carbon monoxide calls have been the result of a faulty detector. Every carbon monoxide call that we have responded to this year has been a legitimate call with excessive levels of carbon monoxide in people's homes."

The fire chief said that in the two most recent calls, carbon monoxide detectors "saved the residents' lives because it woke them up at night and got them out of the house." Marshall noted that carbon monoxide is an odorless, silent killer.

Marshall said every home with "appliances that burn fossil fuels or wood," should have a carbon monoxide detector. He also cautioned that if using fans in wet basements, not to point the fans at furnaces or boilers. He said one of the department's recent calls was for a legitimate carbon monoxide detector alarm in a home where a power fan in the wet basement had blown carbon monoxide from the boiler throughout the home.

Water testing

Due to an error in reporting water testing data between a laboratory and the Department of Health, a city of Ely employee may be knocking at residents' doors to collect new water samples. Langowski explained that the city collects 20 random samples every three years as required by law. Of the 20 samples collected most recently, one sample report was botched and three others were above Environmental Protection Agency actions levels for

either lead or copper.

"We're in the process of doing 40 additional samples," Langowski remarked. "One of our concerns with this lab issue concerns reporting. Was there also a lab issue concerning the results? We can't confirm that without additional testing. So, if folks have Ely utilities staff knock on their door, that's what we're doing."

In other business, the council:

► Heard a presentation by Grant Spickelmeier, Executive Director of the International Wolf Center, about the 30th anniversary of the opening of the center on May 24.

► Approved the recommendation from the Police Commission to update the Police Commission Ordinance to change to ordinance to read "employees of the police department except for Chief of Police and Assistant Chief".

► Received the Ely Public Library Strategic Plan for 2023-2028 from the Library Board.

► Approved changing Park and Recreation Board meeting times to the third Monday of the month at 5 p.m.

► Approved the purchase of baseball field dirt as a donation for the Ely Little League Field for \$2,195.

► Approved the recommendation from Projects Committee to direct JPI Engineering to place a lead service line replacement project on the Department of Health Project Priority List.

► Approved the application to the IRRR Regional Trail Grant Program for the Trailhead Project.

► Approved an

increase in the short-term rental license fee from \$100 to \$200.

► Approved adjusting the parking fee ordinance to remove the parking fee amount and to allow the city council to set the parking fee by resolution.

► Approved the purchase of 17 trees as requested by the tree board. City Clerk and Treasurer Harold Langowski noted that the trees were \$123 apiece.

► Authorized the police department to apply for a Cop Grant, which would help fund a student resource officer for the Ely Public School District. "The federal grant is the Community Oriented Policing Services grant—that's what it stands for... It would cover roughly for three years and three quarters of the cost (of a school resources officer)," explained Ely Police Chief Chad Houde.

► Approved the mortgage satisfaction for a storefront loan from TMC Property, LLC recorded as Document No. 01380360 on May 20, 2020.

► Received the

report that the City of Ely Water Supply Improvements Project was submitted by Senators Smith and Klobuchar to the Congressional Appropriations Committee.

► Received the report that the Gawboy mural ribbon cutting is on May 4, at 5p.m. at the Minnesota North-Vermilion Campus, in the Quiet Study Room in the Classroom Building.

► Was informed that the Northwoods Kids Fishing Derby 2023 will be on June 10, 2023. The event is looking for sponsors and volunteers.

► Received a communication from the county that the 2023 household hazardous waste community collection schedule will be June 15, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Ely Joint Public Works Facility; and Aug. 31, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Northwoods Transfer Station.

► Authorized the payment of Ely Utilities Commission claims for \$638,963, Short Elliott Hendrickson invoices for \$935 and \$11,080 for the Prospector ATV Trail, and

an AE2S invoice for the Waste Water Treatment Facility Improvements Project for \$30,769.95.

► Approved a bid for the 9th Avenue E. Project from low bidder Low Impact Excavating for \$229,522. Four firms bid on the project.

► Authorized edible cannabinoid products dealers license fees.

► Authorized the Rotary Club of Ely application for a raffle permit.

► Approved a letter of support for the St. Louis County FY 2023 Cohesive Fire Strategy-Cross Boundary Grant application.

► Approved going forward with an application for a residential rehabilitation loan for David Wade for \$10,000 to bring electrical, plumbing and heating systems up to code, pending appropriate fees, permits and paperwork. The council directed the city attorney to work with the applicant on the application paperwork.

living well THERAPY

Physical Therapy Clinics in Floodwood, Tower & Duluth

Poor balance, falls and limited activity are common issues facing older adults. We will work with you to create an individual program to address your specific areas of concern.

Most falls are preventable. The staff at Living Well Physical Therapy can help you restore your mobility and live your best life.

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

FALL PREVENTION

The Natural Choice Smoke Shop

NEW EXTENDED HOURS
STARTING MAY 1ST

Monday- Friday 10:00 - 7:00
Saturday 10:00 - 6:00

2 First St. SE
Cook, MN 55723
(218) 410-6800

Shop 24/7 at thcgumystore.com

We Buy Clean Used Vehicles!

2022 CHEVROLET SILVERADO LT 1500 4X4 H.O.

MSRP.....\$52,690
Waschke Discount.....\$2,432
Customer Cash\$2,250*
Bonus Cash.....\$1,000**
NOW ONLY \$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 Escape SE AWD.....Reduced!.....	\$28,990
2019 Buick Envision Essence AWD...Only 35K Miles!.....	\$27,990
2019 Buick Envision Essence.....Loaded!.....	\$22,990
2019 Ford Edge SEL AWD.....31K Miles!.....	\$27,990
2019 Ford F-150 XLT Sport Crew 4x4...Max Tow Package..	\$37,990
2019 Ford Flex AWD.....Fun And Function!.....	\$24,990
2016 Chevrolet Colorado Z71.....Only 43K Miles!.....	\$29,990
2015 Chevrolet Traverse LTZ AWD.....Just In!.....	\$19,990

View Our Full Inventory at www.waschke.com

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

EARTH Fest
IRON RANGE 2023
FOR THE children.
FOR US ALL

SATURDAY, APRIL 22 • 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
IRON TRAIL MOTORS EVENT CENTER

- Children's Activities
- Local Marketplace & Silent Auction
- Exhibits, Speakers and Repair Cafe
- Local Lunch - by Go Figur's
- Music by MorningBird, and Josh Palmi & Trapper

Hear Danielle Hefferan with Climate Generation on "How to talk with children about Climate Change"

CRITICAL MINERALS from recycled E-WASTE
A new industry for the Iron Range?

FREE electronics recycling outside throughout the event, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Accepting **ONLY** computers (laptop and desktop), monitors, and TUs under 19".

Scenic Rivers HEALTH SERVICES

Providing Quality and Compassionate Care

FOR Every Patient at Every Visit

COOK MEDICAL 20 5th St SE, Cook MN
Open Monday - Saturday
(218) 666-5941

TOWER CLINICS 415 N 2nd St, Suite 2, Tower MN
Former High School Building
Open Monday through Friday

COOK DENTAL 12 S River Street, Cook MN
Open Monday - Friday
(218) 666-5958

MEDICAL (218) 753-2405
DENTAL (218) 753-6061

Your Local Providers

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

Covid-19 testing and vaccinations available.

1-877-541-2817
www.ScenicRiversHealth.org

24 Hour Emergency Care Available Through Cook Hospital

SPONSORED BY

MESABI TRIBUNE, WDIO abc, m DEPARTMENT OF IRON RANGE RESOURCES & REHABILITATION, KQXE, THE FAN, USS, Hometown FOCUS.us, DISCOVER MN, VIRGINIA, Lake Country Power

Minnesota Public Radio • Re-Vive Virginia • Cleveland Cliffs • Minnesota Farmers Union • Timberjay • Essentia Health AEOA • Natural Harvest Food Co-op • Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration Inc. • Great River Energy

www.irpsmn.org/earthfest

THE LEGISLATURE

Lawmakers have a host of big issues remaining

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL - Minnesota's 2023 legislative session began with the state flush with \$17.5 billion of extra cash and the DFL in control of the Senate, the House, and the governorship, a recipe ripe for big accomplishments.

But as the Legislature moves into its final weeks, much work still remains. A narrow one-vote DFL majority in the Senate has meant that some priorities have had to be scaled back and created extra work to bring party members in line with party goals, such as legalizing recreational marijuana. And there are divisions on how to proceed on some issues between DFLers in the Senate and the House. There have been wins along the way, like allocating \$200 million to provide free school meals for all and cementing the right to an abortion in state law, but there's still plenty of work ahead as the chambers begin deliberations on large omnibus budget bills.

And while the Legislature has all that extra money to allocate, there are numerous items woven into proposals to bring more money into state coffers.

Budget and taxes

As legislators have developed plans for the \$17.5 billion surplus, they have focused on large increases in funding for public education, housing, social services, as well as targeted tax cuts, with a focus on extra dependent credits for low-to-middle income families, particularly those with young children. Gov. Tim Walz also continues to push for tax rebate checks. Another tax cut favored by many lawmakers, including some DFL legislators like District 7B Rep. Dave Lislegard, of Aurora, and District 3 Sen. Grant Hauschild, DFL of Hermantown, is reducing or eliminating the tax on Social Security benefits. Walz and legislative leaders don't support a full repeal of the Social Security tax, but a number of DFL lawmakers and most Republicans back full repeal. Meanwhile, hikes in taxes and fees are also part of DFL transportation and housing proposals, and a new proposed payroll tax would pay for a paid family and medical leave program.

Bonding

The Legislature failed to pass a bonding bill for capital improvements last session, and they may not pass one this session as Republicans in the Senate have organized to block it. Using a bonding bill to borrow money for improvements to things like roads,

bridges, and wastewater infrastructure requires a two-thirds vote for passage, and Senate Republicans have already torpedoed a bonding proposal because they first want elimination of a state tax on Social Security benefits. The DFL has pledged to put \$2.3 billion in cash toward a package of construction projects, but gaining agreement on a bonding bill, still a possibility, would allow that money to be used for other purposes.

Gun safety

Gov. Tim Walz's hopes of advancing a more aggressive gun control agenda that would have included magazine capacity limits and restrictions on semiautomatic rifle sales to anyone under 21 have all but fizzled out, as some limitations are controversial even within his own party. But one bill that could be green-lighted is a "red flag" law that would allow a judge to seize firearms from someone deemed a threat to themselves or others. Another gun control measure still alive would extend background checks to private gun sales. A Senate measure also proposes increased penalties for machine gun possession. Sen. Hauschild has been viewed as a potential swing vote for gun control measures in that chamber.

Transportation

Meanwhile, Minnesotans will see an increase in the price of their car tabs, a motor vehicle sales tax increase, and a new retail delivery fee of 75 cents per package on deliveries made by companies like Amazon and Door Dash if transportation proposals by the DFL are enacted. The increases would help to fund the largest increase in revenue for roads, bridges and transit in 15 years. The new financing measures are intended to make up for declines in money received through gas taxes, motor vehicle excise taxes and tab fees.

Broadband

A proposed allocation of \$100 million for high-speed broadband infrastructure in rural areas could help to alleviate gaps in service in the North County. Potential future FCC commitments to broadband

in Minnesota could total almost \$1 billion.

Housing

A total of \$1 billion is being funneled into a number of housing initiatives, primarily from the surplus. Money will go toward bonds to partner with affordable housing providers for new units, investments in maintenance of affordable housing that is not part of public programs, expanded rental and down-payment assistance, and bonds to renovate existing public housing.

Green energy

An unusually large budget of about \$300 million is being targeted at climate and energy issues. Much of the money will go to support rebates, tax incentives and grants for climate-friendly technology, such as heat pumps, solar panels, etc. The Legislature already passed and Gov. Walz has signed a bill accelerating the total phaseout of carbon-generating electricity by ten years to 2040, but policy differences remain to be ironed out, including the possible study of nuclear energy in the transition and energy storage requirements for electric utilities.

Paid family and medical leave

A DFL initiative denied in the past by Senate Republicans has new life this session as a plan for a paid family and medical leave insurance program has sailed through both houses. Leave would be available for workers when they become sick, injured, or give birth, and also for caring for a sick or injured loved one or a newborn. The program would start in July 2025 with an infusion of \$688 million from the budget surplus, with ongoing costs to be supported by a new payroll tax.

Childcare

Gov. Walz made services for children a major focus of his initial budget proposal, and the Legislature has followed through with a pledge of \$370 million over the next four years to increase the reimbursement rate for the Child Care Assistance Program, a subsidy for low-income families to make childcare affordable. Additional investments in

the hundreds of millions are anticipated for pay subsidies for childcare workers and Early Learning Scholarships. New tax credits for childcare could also be approved.

Sports betting

Bills to legalize wagering on college and professional sports that had the support of the state's tribal nations and professional sports teams appear to be facing an uncertain future after initial committee hearings. All of the wagering would go through tribes that already have casinos. Gambling on-site would not be assessed state taxes, but online or mobile bets through contracted national sports books would be taxed. Supporters are concerned about getting the necessary votes for passage in the Senate.

Local government aid and county program aid

House DFLers included \$100 million in a budget plan for each of two state subsidies to help city and county governments with basic costs and help limit property tax increases. Local officials say Local Government Aid — which primarily benefits cities in Greater Minnesota — and County Program Aid have not kept up with inflation and have asked for more money. The Senate has not released its plan yet, but Gov. Walz supports a boost and so the aid programs are likely to get extra money.

Fentanyl penalties

Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle appeared to have reached a deal last month on a proposal that would increase penalties for fentanyl possession to align with heroin. The bill would add threshold numbers for pills, making it easier for law enforcement and prosecutors to put away distributors.

The bill — authored by a GOP member in the House and its companion in the Senate by a DFL member — was heard in the public safety committees of both chambers. The bills are included in both the House and Senate public safety omnibus packages, but GOP Rep. Dave Baker hopes the proposal can be peeled off into a standalone bill and acted on sooner.

No-knock search warrants

A proposal to ban no-knock search warrants is making its way through the Legislature after years of failed attempts by DFL lawmakers to outlaw the controversial tactic. The use of the warrants declined sharply after the death of Amir Locke at the hands of a Minneapolis SWAT team last year, but racial disparities persist. The proposal to ban no-knocks is part of a public safety omnibus bill released by DFLers in the House but is not included in a corresponding public safety plan in the Senate.

Additional bills already passed and signed by Gov. Walz include:

► A bill to smooth the end of special Medicaid rules imposed by the federal government during the pandemic. In return for increased federal payments, the states could not remove anyone from the program as long as the public health emergency was in effect. But that emergency is ending and states must now not only start checking new appli-

cants for eligibility but go back and make sure all 1.5 million Minnesotans on the program still meet income requirements. Some estimates are that between 100,000 and 300,000 residents could lose coverage. The bill pays for the staffing needed to review all those clients but also to provide money for MinnesotaCare to provide a place for those who lose Medicaid to find new plans.

► A bill to restore voting rights for most people convicted of crimes but who are no longer in prison or jail. Before the bill passed, formerly incarcerated people had to wait until all probation and parole was completed. The law could impact around 50,000 people.

► A bill lifting a 20-year ban on undocumented immigrants from receiving driver's licenses will go into effect on Oct. 1. The measure was supported by law enforcement as a way to improve public safety by ensuring these drivers demonstrate knowledge of traffic laws and driver skills.

MINNPost contributed to this story.



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

WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

TOWER-SOUDAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
404 PINE ST. • PO BOX 465 • TOWER MN 55790

Share your time and enthusiasm greeting visitors to the Tower Depot-Museum this summer!

Open 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. daily
Memorial Day through Labor Day

Three hour shifts whenever you are able and training is provided.

Rewarding and FUN

Please contact Cookie at: cookiebon@gmail.com
Doug at: dwrkm72@yahoo.com or
email: tshsecretary@gmail.com

Call 753-2950 to subscribe to the Timberjay!



CHECK OUT OUR SPRING SALES EVENT

YOUR CHOICE

SALE \$99.99 each

Craftsman® 105 Pc. Socket Set, DEWALT® Folding Workbench or Craftsman® Wet/Dry Vac
2637318, 2894947, 2015551
RED HOT BUY

YOUR CHOICE

SALE \$15.99 each

Craftsman® Hand Tools
• 15 Pc. Ratcheting Screwdriver Set
• 10 Pc. 3/8" Drive SAE or Metric Socket Set
• 20 Oz. Smooth Face Claw Hammer
• 11 Pc. 1/4" Drive SAE or Metric Socket Set
• 7 Pc. SAE or Metric Wrench Set
2018454, 2307262, 2307270, 2835437, 2335339, 2335321, 2392413, 2392421
RED HOT BUY

BUY ONE OF THESE

GET ONE OF THESE FREE

20 Volt MAX Lithium-Ion POWERSTACK® Battery, Orbital Jig Saw (bare tool) or Random Orbit Sander (bare tool)
2003861, 2538429, 2862977
Limit 4

UP TO \$179.00 VALUE

\$229.00 each

DEWALT® ATOMIC® 20 Volt MAX Brushless Lithium-Ion Compact Drill & Impact Driver Kit
2493419, 2028479
RED HOT BUY

YOUR CHOICE

\$26.99 - \$4 ACE REWARDS EXCLUSIVE

\$22.99 each

Ace® 32 Gal. Trash Can
Made by Rubbermaid®
7131451, 71162, 71102
Limit 3 each at this price.
RED HOT BUY

YOUR CHOICE

\$16.99 - \$3 ACE REWARDS EXCLUSIVE

\$13.99 each

Iron-Hold® Heavy Duty Contractor Trash Bags
42 gal., 20 ct. or 55 gal., 15 ct.
6038574, 6093082
Limit 3 each at this price.
RED HOT BUY

SALE \$14.99

27 Gal. Heavy-Duty Storage Tote
6502679
12 Gal. Heavy-Duty Storage Tote, 5028143. SALE \$11.99.
RED HOT BUY

SEE YOUR HELPFUL HARDWARE FOLKS

PRICES GOOD THRU APRIL 30, 2023

Merhar's Ace Hardware
48 E. Chapman St., Ely • 218-365-3129



Ace stores are independently owned and operated. The prices in this advertisement are suggested by Ace Hardware Corporation, Oak Brook, IL. Individual retailer markup and store events may apply to items which may impact actual savings amounts in other directions. Offer for Red Hot Buy which extend through the end of the month, and extend all other offers stated. Prices advertised in this circular are valid at participating stores August 28-September 30, 2019, while supplies last. Size and brand restrictions apply. Some items may require assembly. Ace is not responsible for printing or typographical errors.



North Country

Serving northern
St. Louis County
since 1989

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

North Woods drops opener in Aurora

Fall to Chisholm in 2-1 pitcher's duel

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

AURORA- The North Woods baseball team has a new skipper at the helm this season, but he's certainly no stranger to Grizzlies' hardball.

R.J. Kruse served as an assistant for six years under former Head Coach Jeff Smerud, helping to build a winning culture for North Woods baseball, and his experience coaching some of his players goes back even farther, as one of them team's ace pitchers is his son, Ben.

Kruse got to take his new squad for a spin last week against Chisholm on the synthetic turf field at Mesabi East, the first time the Grizzlies have ventured outside since practices began.

Ben Kruse took the mound for the Grizzlies and looked sharp in his first outing, registering nine strikeouts and allowing the Bluestreaks just two runs.

But the Grizzlies had troubles of their own at the plate, collecting only two hits in the game.

Trajan Barto was the only North Woods player to score,

reaching base on a walk and scoring on a sacrifice by Kruse in the 2-1 loss.

"We've been inside for five weeks and we can't complain about the way we played today," Coach Kruse said. "Our batting cage has issues and we hadn't even batted against live pitching yet - this was the first time. I thought we did pretty well."

Coach Kruse is going to depend on player Kruse for leadership this year as the team's sole senior, but he'll also be able to call on some returning

See NW BOYS...pg. 4B



North Woods pitcher Ben Kruse winds for a delivery during last week's opener, against Chisholm. photo by D. Colburn

HEALTHCARE

New COVID booster OK'd for seniors

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- In a move increasingly clamored for by vulnerable seniors, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration on Monday approved people 65 and older to receive an additional COVID booster of either the Pfizer or Moderna bivalent vaccines first approved last September.

The FDA also approved a second dose for those individuals with compromised immune systems.

Under the new guidelines, which still have to be approved by the Centers for Disease Control, something that has been automatic for prior FDA vaccine decisions, those 65 and older who have received a single dose of bivalent vaccine may receive a second dose at least four months after their first one. Immunocompromised individuals can get their second booster shot two months after their first.

The FDA also opened the door for local healthcare providers to administer additional boosters for the immunocompromised at their discretion.

The FDA also effectively retired the original single-strain COVID vaccines by establishing a single-shot regimen of bivalent vaccines for individuals who have not yet been vaccinated.

The bivalent vaccine has been most popular with the 65-and-over age group in Minnesota, with 63 percent of individuals electing to receive it. Uptake overall has been largely disappointing to health officials, with only 25 percent of Minnesotans receiving a bivalent booster dose. Lack of enthusiasm for the booster in the general public has been attributed to President Joe Biden's proclamation last September that the COVID pandemic was over at the same time the booster was being released and a leveling of COVID infections with no accompanying large waves as in prior years. Skepticism about the boosters in general, as well as the belief that most Americans have been exposed to COVID and have some form of immunity as a result, has further diminished interest in boosters.

But the pandemic was not over in September despite the president's comments, and the COVID virus has morphed through several new variants, each more infectious than its predecessor. And seniors have been bearing

See BOOSTERS...pg. 4B



SPRING FLOODING

High water a minor nuisance, so far

Forecasted snow and rain could add to the problem in coming days

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Mother Nature crammed three seasons into the space of a few days this past week, with the resulting snowmelt from summerlike temperatures, springlike rain, and another wintery blast of snow combining to create flooding conditions across the North Country and throughout St. Louis County and northeastern Minnesota.

A week's worth of abnormally high temperatures reached a peak last Friday, topping the 70-degree mark, 25 degrees or more above the average normal high temperature for

Top: Several area roadways, including this one in Embarrass, were closed in recent days due to high water from spring snowmelt.

Right: The Littlefork River, in Cook, had inundated the veterans memorial there in recent days.

photos by Timberjay staff

the day, causing heavy runoff from melted snowpack that measured between 70 and 80 percent of historic levels. The rate of snowmelt even surprised Duluth National Weather Service Meteorologist Ketzell Levens, who commented during

See FLOODING...pg. 4B



COLLEGE SPORTS

North Woods' Kinsey signs with St. Scholastica

Right: North Woods senior basketball standout Hannah Kinsey signs a national letter of intent Monday to play hoops next year for NCAA Div. III College of St. Scholastica. Joining Kinsey are, from left, her grandmother, Brenda Flack, mother, Sarah Flack, Grizzlies Head Coach Liz Cheney, and assistant coach Becca Bundy. Kinsey had a breakout senior campaign, ending her Grizzlies career with 1,177 points and 940 rebounds. She also set a Grizzlies girls basketball single game record of 48 points on the night she crossed the 1,000 point mark.





Outdoors

Our lives in the Northwoods

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The first Earth Day was an awakening for many

I still remember the first Earth Day, back on April 22, 1970. Like most kids in Bloomington, then a still new and rapidly growing Twin Cities suburb, I walked to my school, the aptly named Oak Grove Elementary, which had been built a few years earlier at the top of a rise in the midst of a large stand of bur oak savannah.



MARSHALL HELMBERGER

teachers talked about it. Walter Cronkite talked about it on the evening news. The Minneapolis paper reported on it, all part of a burgeoning environmental movement that came out of the 1960s. It was an awakening for many that we humans weren't taking care of our only home in this vast universe and that we needed to change our ways.

The notion of an Earth Day had gotten a lot of attention. Our

I remember carrying a

garbage bag to school that morning, looking to pick up litter, thereby doing my part on this most notable day. As I recall, I found a pop can.

Of course, as they say, it's the thought that counts and that first Earth Day did make a difference in the thinking of millions of people, myself included, creating a groundswell for a long list of major environmental bills, both in Washington and St. Paul, most of which became law.

When we hear people say that Minnesota has strong environmental laws, we can thank that

first Earth Day and the broad-based environmental movement it helped to generate, for that. Almost all of Minnesota's strongest environmental laws were passed in the early 1970s and the same was true in Washington. The Clean Air Act (1970). The National Environmental Policy Act (1970). The creation of the Environmental Protection Agency (1970). The Clean Water Act (1972). The Endangered Species Act (1973).

For those who believe such laws don't make a difference, or that government is part of

the problem, as Ronald Reagan would convince many Americans a decade later, the truth is that these laws have proven to be remarkably effective at achieving the goals they set forth. Most major cities are no longer choked with smog on a regular basis, even as their populations and the number of cars and trucks on the road have doubled or tripled since 1970.

I still remember my first and only visit to Jay Cooke State Park, with a 1970s school group.

See **EARTH DAY**...pg. 3B

RECREATION



Mesabi Trail closing in on completion

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Oh, so close. That's the word on the Mesabi Trail, which is within just a handful of miles of bridging the two final gaps in this 150 mile long paved bike trail stretching from Grand Rapids to Ely.

The long-awaited stretch from Tower to Ely, which most consider to be the trail's most scenic stretch, was finally completed late last year, about 25 years after one of the trail's first sections, which runs from Tower to nearby Soudan, was completed. That section is now slated for reconstruction this year.

Meanwhile, trail officials are continuing to assess possible routes to span the longest remaining gap, which runs about six miles from the intersection of Hwy. 135 and the Wahlsten Rd. to Tower. Trail director Bob Manzoline said that stretch has proven especially difficult due to opposition from landowners as well as some of the rugged terrain found in that stretch of Kugler Township. Manzoline has been meeting with township officials over the winter and said they've now agreed to run from Wahlsten Rd. to near Wiseman Rd., along the Hwy. 135 right-of-way, although that option is still running into heated opposition from some landowners.

Manzoline said he still has no idea of a possible route from the Wiseman Rd. to Tower, where landowner issues, extensive wetlands, and steep hills are daunting. "It's a rugged stretch," said Manzoline, who has been guiding the trail's construction for well over two decades.

At this point, he's hoping that construction contracts can be let as early as late summer for the southerly stretch, with completion expected sometime next year.

It's been a similar story for a roughly five-mile gap between McKinley and Biwabik. "It's been one thing after another there," he said. But the route has now been

See **MESABI**...pg. 3B

APRIL IN MINNESOTA

WEATHER WHIPLASH

April is so often the cruelest month in Minnesota, as those first hints of spring are quickly slapped down by the return of winter's cold and snow. This year's mid-month tease, which brought sunshine and temperatures well into the seventies for several days, helped melt much of the snowpack and the influx of meltwater break up river ice. Yet, winter wasn't done with us yet, as the spring-like weather was soon gone, replaced by more snow and cold. The recent snows have caught many of the early bird migrants by surprise and brought huge numbers of them into area feeders.

Above: A trumpeter swan, with a couple Canada geese in the background, enjoyed spring-like warmth last Friday on the Pelican River just south of Orr.

Right: Ice from Flint Creek, jammed up against a culvert along Hwy. 53 just north of Cook.

Below: A fox sparrow rests near a feeder.

Below right: Incredible numbers of dark-eyed juncos and other early migrants thronged to area bird feeders in the wake of recent snow.



photos by M. Helmberger

GOOD DEALS

State park entry fees waived for Earth Day

REGIONAL—If an adventure in a Minnesota state park sounds like a good way to mark Earth Day this Saturday, April 22, there's good news.

The Department of Natural Resources is waiving vehicle permit fees at all 75 state parks and recreation areas on Saturday. It's one of four "Free Park Days" each year during which the DNR waives the requirement for a vehicle permit at state parks and recreation areas.

"Minnesota state parks and recreation areas are great places to make memories with loved ones," said Ann Pierce, director of the DNR Parks and Trails Division. "Earth Day is an ideal time to have fun outdoors and enjoy the natural

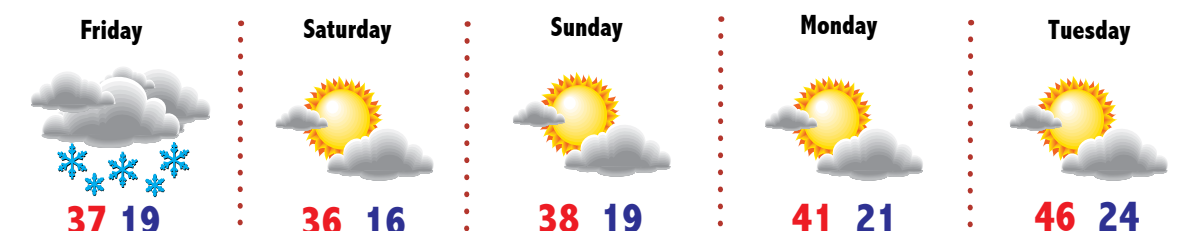
resources of Minnesota. We hope those who visit on Free Park Day will have a positive experience and come back again soon."

Visitors looking for certain recreational opportunities or amenities can use the ParkFinder tool (mndnr.gov/parkfinder) to find great options to meet their interests and needs.

The DNR recommends visitors wear clothing appropriate for the weather and bring water and snacks. Spring brings a variety of weather conditions, and trails can be icy or muddy. Traction devices and/or waterproof footwear might be useful. Check for updates in the visitor alerts on park websites (mndnr.gov/parks).

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather



Loc	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
Ely	55	29	0.00		04/10	57	28	0.00		04/10	55	29	0.00		04/10	63	34	0.00		04/10	50	27	0.00	
04/11	61	33	0.00		04/11	61	27	0.00		04					04/11	70	34	0.00		04/11	61	27	0.00	
04/12	70	42	0.00		04/12	69	33	0.00		No readings at presstime					04/12	75	45	0.00		04/12	69	33	0.00	
04/13	74	40	0.00		04/13	72	30	0.00		04					04/13	59	39	0.00		04/13	72	31	0.00	
04/14	55	37	0.00		04/14	61	31	0.00		04					04/14	72	37	0.01		04/14	59	37	0.02	
04/15	74	30	0.13		04/15	73	38	0.00		04					04/15	41	28	0.00		04/15	73	37	0.12	
04/16	38	24	0.83	0.4"	04/16	40	26	1.15	0.2"	04/16	38	24	0.83	0.4"	04/16	28	25	0.00		04/16	39	25	1.04	0.2"
YTD Total			5.16	83.5"	YTD Total			4.61	75.8"	YTD Total			2.61	77.6"	YTD Total			NA	NA	YTD Total			4.01	69.8"

EARTH DAY...Continued from page 2B

I remember several of us standing on a walking bridge over a St. Louis River rapids, only to have our eyes burning within seconds from the toxins aerosolized in the rushing water. Up at the border, the Rainy River was a noxious brew, choked with harmful chemicals and wood pulp, virtually devoid of aquatic life. These rivers, like many others across the state and the country, have been brought back from the brink. It's been decades, now, since an American river caught fire.

Back in 1970, the sighting of a bald eagle was considered a once-in-a-lifetime experience they were so rare. Several hundred wolves in northeastern Minnesota were all that remained of a wolf population that once spanned the entire country. Trumpeter swans, pelicans, and peregrine falcons were all on the verge of disappearing forever. Today, these and many other species are thriving again because the Endangered Species Act put a premium on making that happen.

None of this was by accident. It happened because average people showed they cared and pushed our government to take action. Every single one of those laws, passed during that brief window of environmental awareness and focused concern, has made a tremendous

difference and proven that the levers of government, when deployed toward good ends, can be a remarkably positive force. Government is part of the problem only when we allow it to be.

Looking back, that first Earth Day was a reflection of American optimism. It was a time when Americans still truly believed, and legitimately so, that they had a voice in their governance and that the efforts of average people could still make a difference. And that belief and support for the environment was shared across party lines. It's worth noting that in 1970, the first Clean Air Act passed the U.S. Senate by a vote of 73-0. The Clean Water Act passed the Senate 74-0, while the U.S. House passed the measure 366-11. In 1973, the Senate voted 92-0 to pass the Endangered Species Act, while the House voted 390-12 in favor.

We live today in a far more cynical age, when the notion of environmental protection has been caught up in the ongoing culture wars. For an unfortunately large number of us these days, the right to pollute has become part of the same cultural milieu as the right to strap on an AR-15 for a trip to the grocery store. This strange cultural development has left a partisan

divide as deep and wide as the Grand Canyon, and makes the impact of that first Earth Day and the important legislation it sparked all that more important as a key turning point in American history. Indeed, it is doubtful that any of the laws passed in the 1970s heyday, could pass Congress today due to almost universal Republican opposition. It's ironic that the legislative successes of the 1970s, and the effectiveness of the laws passed during that era, have made it possible for some to mistakenly believe such laws aren't needed any more. Which makes it all the more critical that these landmark protections, that have made such a difference to Americans' quality of life, be protected from efforts to undermine them.

The world is certainly much changed since the day I walked to school with a garbage bag hoping to do my small part to help the environment. And we should celebrate the victories that were achieved in that era on behalf of the environment, even as we recognize that our toughest and, ultimately, most existential, environmental battles still lie ahead. And, unlike in the past, those battles won't be fought with a nation united.

MESABI...Continued from page 2B

confirmed and he expects construction could get underway there as well by late this year.

Tower-to-Soudan reconstruction

Meanwhile, the contracts for reconstruction of the trail section from Tower to Soudan have now been let to Mesabi Bituminous, at a cost of \$509,000.

The reconstruction had originally been slated for 2022 but delays over the replacement of the trail's bridge over the East Two River had cost a year.

Under the contract, work could begin on the trail and bridge starting around June 10 and could

continue through the end of August. That portion of the trail will be closed during the construction period.

Mesabi Trail ride

The annual Mesabi Trail ride, which regularly attracts hundreds of bike riders from around the state, will be held this year on Saturday, Aug. 5, and will run from Ely to Soudan and back, with shorter route options as well. It's the first year that stretch of the trail has been included in the annual ride and is expected to attract a large number of riders. The full ride spans 50 miles, but there are 12- and 30-mile options as well.

OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY-APRIL 29 • 9 AM-5 PM



Check Out our great selection of NEW Inventory... PLUS see all our NEW Clothing & Gifts!

SALES • STORAGE • REPAIRS
PARTS • ACCESSORIES

ARONSON BOAT WORKS **HONDA MARINE** **THUNDER JET** **MERCURY** **CREST** **LUND**

6143 Pike Bay Drive, Tower, MN 55790 | (218) 753-4190 • www.aronsonboatworks.com

HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL

North Woods girls lose in tight 5-4 opener

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

AURORA-The North Woods softball team didn't pack shoulder pads for their first outing of the season last Thursday, but their game against Mesabi East was played on a makeshift diamond on the Giants' synthetic turf football field.

It was a tight struggle but no football score, as the host Giants won the contest on the game's final play, 5-4.

Ace hurler Evelyn Brodeen took the ball for the Grizzlies at the start, and Helen Koch staked her teammate to a one-run lead

in the top of the first by stealing home. Brodeen handed that run back and one more in the bottom half of the inning by walking the first batter then giving up a home run on a drive to left field. Brodeen shook it off and rang up a strikeout for the final out, and was relatively sharp for the remainder of her time on the mound, giving up just one more run in the third.

The Grizzlies clawed back to even in their second at bat, with Karah Scofield rapping a single, stealing second and third, and coming home on a sacrifice grounder by Nevadah Gauthier.

Trailing 3-2 in the top of the fourth, North Woods got

the equalizer when Avery Thiel scored from third on a passed ball. They regained the lead 4-3 in the fifth when Addie Burckhardt replicated Scofield's second-inning score by singling, stealing two bases, and scoring on a Koch grounder.

Koch took over on the mound for Brodeen in the bottom of the fifth. Koch struck out the first batter she faced, then gave up a single with the runner reaching third on a fielding error. Another Grizzlies' error allowed the run to score, tying the game at 4-4, but Koch rang up another strikeout and forced a ground out to get out of the inning.

Right: North Woods' outfielder Nevadah Gauthier cocks her arm to return the ball to the infield against Mesabi East.

photo by D. Colburn

Neither team scored again until the bottom of the eighth. The first Mesabi East batter laced a double to center field, a bunt pushed her over to third, then scored on an infield grounder to end the game 5-4.

Brodeen was charged with the loss. North Woods had five hits and four errors in the contest, while Mesabi East had nine hits and no errors.



GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP

Fire department controversies continue to linger

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP- Reverberations from the dismissal of seven fire department members here in February continued to dominate the agenda during the town board's regular April 11 meeting. The dismissal followed actions at the board's January meeting, where ten members of the department presented an unsigned letter to the board, demanding the board remove newly-appointed fire chief Jeff Maus and allow them to elect their own chief. The letter further stated that the firefighters would "no longer respond to 911 calls until those conditions are met." The board interpreted the letter as a "voluntary quit," and officially discharged seven of the members who had left their gear at the town hall.

At Tuesday's meeting, four of the seven former firefighters, Jet Galonski, Rick Worringer, Tammy Mortaloni, and Tom Mortaloni, were in attendance. Galonski read from prepared remarks, reiterating their opposition to the town board's decision to remove them.

"It is not easy for me to come here to speak," he said. "I under-

stand this will fall on deaf ears."

Galonski reiterated their belief that "none of us voluntarily quit. You and the board cannot make that decision for us. Allegations were made against us without knowing the charges," Galonski continued, referring to the reasons they were removed from the department.

"No one in the department would have voted for him as chief," he said. "We have a protest before a meeting. The supervisors would not listen to us. Firefighting is a dangerous business. We have to have trust in our officers."

Galonski's plea proved ineffective, as the board responded by voting 4-1, with supervisor Paul Skubic voting against, to send formal letters of termination to the seven former department members. The board noted that all would be eligible to rejoin the department, if they desire, after six months.

Supervisor Rick Stoehr explained that the fire department members are considered essential employees under state law, and that their actions could be considered an illegal strike or abstaining from full performance of their duties.

Rick Worringer said he disagreed with the categorization of

fire department members. "We are not salaried employees."

But Stoehr explained that by taking hourly pay they are not considered volunteers under state law.

"You are an employee," he said. "You violated the law. And in that action, you removed yourselves from the job. That is a fact."

"You are fired," Sue Drobac said.

Drobac said the township attorney had told the board that the unsigned letter, along with the department members returning their gear to the town hall, was the reason for the action back in February.

"You turned in your equipment," said current chair John Bassing. "You cannot respond to a call." Bassing noted that fire department members do not have access to the town hall, so would not have been able to retrieve their gear if they needed to respond to a call.

Skubic disagreed with the board's action.

"We need these people, let's get over it," he said. "It doesn't look good for us as a board and a township."

The board had removed chief Dave Fazio, assistant chief Mike

Indihar, and safety officer Rick Worringer from their leadership positions last fall on a split vote, after board chair Sue Drobac cited the chief and assistant chief for not performing their administrative duties. Worringer, who was not cited for non-performance, had then asked to also be removed from his position. Earlier this year, Indihar was removed as a department member, after advice from the township attorney.

Sheriffs called to training meeting

Chair Bassing told the board he had spoken to the township attorney about the incident at the March 21 fire department training. Chief Maus had called the sheriff's department, seeking to remove some former members who were attempting to participate in that month's training session.

The sheriff's department took no action on the matter.

"Us showing up for training is not a criminal offense," Galonski said.

Bassing said that a trespass notice would be given by the sheriff's department if any former members attempt to attend a training meeting again.

While the board had previously voted to make fire depart-

ment business meetings open to the public, this did not apply to fire department trainings, Maus has told the *Timberjay*. The department now holds two training meetings a month, but they do not hold regular business meetings.

Other fire department actions

The board approved the purchase of two new GPS units for the townships two fire boats, at a cost of up to \$5,400. Maus had previously discussed the issue with the board, noting the older GPS units were not reliable enough for nighttime navigation on the lake during stormy weather. He said the units are on backorder, so he wanted to get the order in now so they will hopefully be available by the time the boats are back on the water. One of the older units will be installed on the boat stationed by the Trout Lake portage.

Maus reported they think they are close to resolving the fuel line issues on fire boat number one, and that otherwise, those engines appear to be in working order. They have been working with Birch Point Marine and Joe's Marine mechanics on the issues.

The fire department responded to one fire call and eight EMS calls last month.

NW BOYS..Continued from page 1B

veteran underclassmen like Alex Burckhardt, Louie Panichi, and Talen Jarshaw.

With a very young team, Kruse is prepared for the growing pains that will

come with it. "Hopefully we're going to scratch out some

good wins this year with this young club and have a successful season," he said.

The team is likely to miss out on a few upcoming scheduled games due to

soggy and possibly snowy home field conditions.

BOOSTERS..Continued from page 1B

the brunt of it all, accounting for greater percentages of serious illness, hospitalizations and deaths than any other group. Reports of concerned seniors asking their healthcare providers for a second booster dose have been circulating the past few months as health

officials warned of the approach of what was termed the most infectious variant to date, XBB.1.5, which is capable of evading immune responses and constitutes over 90 percent of the COVID viral load circulating in the state.

Situation update

According to data compiled by *MPR News* for its weekly COVID update, most of the primary indicators of COVID activity in the state continued to decline last week. Reported cases and hospitalizations declined, while an average

of five Minnesotans dying per day of COVID-related illness remained at the same level it's been for several months.

Measure of COVID strains in wastewater also fell or remained steady throughout the state, with northeast Minnesota seeing

a one-week drop of 45 percent.

All Minnesota counties received a community level rating of low from the CDC last week. Sixty cases were reported in St. Louis County.

Meanwhile, President Biden signed a bill last

week officially ending the COVID emergency originally declared by President Donald Trump. A different federal emergency declaration made pursuant to a public health law is set to expire on May 11.

FLOODING...Continued from page 1B

a Friday weather update webinar.

"It has been rapid, it has been very drastic here even here at the National Weather Service," she said. "We're having problems kind of comprehending just how fast our snow has gone."

Levens reported that on April 7, there was a widespread foot and a half or more of snowpack across the region, with areas that were upwards of 30-40 inches along the higher terrain and the North Shore here and 29 inches of snow depth at the NWS office.

But after a week of unseasonably high temperatures, the greatest portion of that snowpack had disappeared.

"Things have decreased rapidly in areas where we saw those highest amounts

-- 35 to 40 inches have now decreased to 15 to 18 inches, and in some areas, we're already getting down to a trace, or zero inches of snow depth. Here at Duluth, we went from 29 last Friday down to an inch this morning," Levens said.

The melt was slightly less drastic in the Boundary Waters area, Levens said, with about five inches of snow-water equivalent remaining in the snowpack as of Friday. Levens emphasized that there was still plenty of snow remaining to melt in wooded areas.

Levens described the impact being seen from the rapid influx of water from the melt.

"We did have some closures of state and federal highways most of those have been pretty quickly resolved," she said. "But

we continue to have just numerous local, city, town, and tribal roads that are closed, being washed out, especially if they're gravel roads. Rivers have been coming up and out of their banks coming over roads hitting the bottoms of bridges, and we've got ponding of water on roadways across much of Northwest Wisconsin and it's starting to get into parts of northeast Minnesota as well. We've got flood advisories for just about everybody at this point."

A predicted storm front moved into the area on Saturday, bringing isolated thunderstorms and gentle rain throughout the day as the extent of the flooding was more widely felt throughout the county. In Cook, the Little Fork River breached its banks, flood-

ing portions of Vermilion Dr. West and areas to the north, including Veterans Riverfront Park. The St. Louis County Public Works department closed roads in Sturgeon, Vermilion Lake, Kugler, Pike, Embarrass, and Waasa townships, with the bulk of road closures located in the southern portion of the county.

As of early Wednesday, the county was still reporting over 40 road closures, including these area closures:

Sturgeon Township
Bridge 640 on Murray Rd. (CR931) from Hwy. 22 to Gustafson Rd.

Anton Rd. (CR492) is closed from Hwy. 73 west to its terminus

Pike Township
Pike Rd. (CR 365) is closed from Hwy. 21 to Taylor Rd. (CR303)

Embarrass Township
Hayland Rd. (CR969) is closed from Hwy. 21 to Forest Rd. (969)

Waisenen Rd. (CR 362) from Palo Tia *CR 558) to Hwy. 21

Waasa Twp.
Kaunonen Lake Rd. (CR796) from Hwy. 21 to Salo Rd. (615)

The rain turned to snow on Sunday, with the storm dropping a fresh layer of a about five-and-a-half inches in Ely. Additional trace amounts fell there on Monday as well, but most of the snow had melted as of Wednesday.

The respite is projected to be short, however, as a new front moving into the area on Thursday is expected to bring "another messy spring storm" with a wintry mix turning over to snow on Friday and continuing

through Saturday forecast for the North Country.

The updated NWS flood statement on Tuesday night had the flood advisory expiring on Thursday at 6 p.m., with a note that additional precipitation could "quickly result in a return to flood conditions" in the 10 counties covered.



Obituaries and Death Notices



Karen A. Brandt

Karen Ann Pulver Brandt, 83, passed away on Wednesday, April 5, 2023, at her home in Tower, surrounded by her family. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 22 at St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Martin's Catholic Church for flowers to decorate the church. Arrangements are with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

Karen was born on Dec. 4, 1939, to Samuel and Ann (Hartze) Pulver of Zap, N.D. After high school, Karen worked in Bismarck, where she met Jack Brandt, who was stationed in Bismarck with the U.S. Air Force. After his discharge from the service, Jack and Karen moved to Minnesota, settling in Kugler Township.

Karen loved gardening and anything involving plants and flowers. She had the ultimate "green thumb" as witnessed by the many years of successfully operating Brandt's Greenhouse, and creating beautiful floral arrangements and Christmas wreaths. Even in her 80's she could still be seen roaming through the greenhouse while her son James resumed operation of it. She loved visiting with all her regulars and old friends in the greenhouse and making new friends. She also loved providing flowers and decorations for St. Martin's Catholic Church during the holidays.

Karen is survived by her best friend and husband of 62 years, Jack Brandt; children, Julie (Brandt) Harrison, Mark Brandt, James Brandt and Brian Brandt; nine grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; sisters, LaRue Mai, Lois Rossum and Elizabeth Trieb; and brother, Michael Pulver.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Larry Lobe

Larry Lobe, 73, originally of Ely, died on Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023, at his home in Roseville. Services will be held from 2-5 p.m. on Sunday, May 7 at VFW Post 7555 in Roseville. Additional services will be held on Saturday, July 15, with a private family service at the Ely Cemetery in the morning followed by a celebration of life from 3-6 p.m. (eulogy at 4 p.m.) at Lobes' on Burntside Lake, 3083 Kaleva Bay Rd. All are welcome to share a Larry story or two. Memorial donations for Larry Lobe can be directed to the VFW Auxiliary, VFW Post 7555, 1145 Woodhill Dr., Roseville, MN 55113.

He is survived by his significant other, Sue Terry; children, Charlie "Chuck" Lobe of Minneapolis and Katie Lobe Farr of Shawnee, Kansas; siblings, Joneene Lobe of Ely, Vincent (Paula) Lobe of Pittsford, N.Y., and John P. (Michelle) Lobe of Woodburn, Ind.; and grandchildren, Maxwell Hernandez, Evan Lobe and Hunter Lobe.

Judy E. Paavola

Judy Elizabeth Paavola, 65, originally of Ely, passed away at her home in Jacksonville, Fla., surrounded by her loving family on Thursday, April 13, 2023. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 22 at Wesconnett Assembly of God in Jacksonville.

She is survived by her husband, Kenneth Scott McAndrew of Jacksonville; children, Lisa Michelle Cintron (Steven) and Johnathan Eugene James (Petra); five grandchildren; sisters, Cathy Coombe (Brian) of Ely and Jane Vukelich (David) of Babbitt; and several nieces and nephews.

Daniel J. Zubich III

Daniel "Dan" J. Zubich III, 80, of Onalaska, Wis., former teacher, coach, and longtime resident of Babbitt, passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family, on Saturday, April 8, 2023, at Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center in La Crosse. Plans are underway for a future celebration of life, tentatively scheduled to take place in Northern Minnesota. Arrangements

are with Jandt-Fredrickson Funeral Home.

He is survived by his wife, Kathy Tranby Zubich of Onalaska; son, Danny (Becky) of Virginia; daughter, Taryn of Onalaska; grandchildren, Jalen, Asher, Jordan, Tebow and Zoey; and "bestie", Ron Marinaro.

Robert A. Lindholm

Robert "Bob" Adolph Lindholm, 95, of Ely, a proud veteran, passed away at Ely Carefree Living on Wednesday, April 12, 2023. A funeral service was held at Ely United Methodist Church on Saturday, April 15. Memorials may be directed to the Alzheimer's Association or Ely United Methodist Church.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home in Ely.

He is survived by his wife, LaVerne Anderson Lindholm; children, Bob (Jeanne) Lindholm, Larry (DeeAnn) Lindholm, Julie (Marty) Ericson and Joan (Dan) Dagger; eight grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; sisters and brother-in-law, Lois (Ed) Johnson and Ruth Erickson; sisters-in-

law and brothers-in-law, Art (Dolly) Anderson, Pat (Chuck) Blair and Norman Anderson; and many nieces and nephews.

Devin M. Villebrun Sr.

Devin Mitchell Villebrun Sr., 30, of the Bear Clan and of Cass Lake, unexpectedly journeyed to the spirit world on Sunday, April 9, 2023, at IHS in Cass Lake. A two-night wake for Devin began on Thursday, April 13 and continued until the service on Saturday, April 15 at the Mission Community Center in Mission. Father Bill Butcher and Lenny Fineday officiated. Interment was in Prince of Peace Cemetery in Cass Lake. Arrangements were entrusted to Northern Peace Funeral Home of Walker.

He is survived by his mom, Patricia Wilson; dad, Donald (Tina) Villebrun Sr.; sons, Aiden Boblink and Devin Villebrun Jr.; daughters, Annaleigh Villebrun and Alani Villebrun; grandmother, Linda Wilson; grandparents, Elaine and Frank Villebrun Sr.; brothers, Donovan (Jen) Villebrun, Matthew (Leann) Ville-

brun, Nathan Villebrun, Freaman Rock II, Gabriel Rock, Donald Villebrun Jr., Marshall (Matiya) Villebrun, Alex Kingbird, Devin Kingbird and Aiden Kingbird; sisters, Linzie Villebrun, Donelle Villebrun, Alexis Villebrun, Tiandra (Jimmy) Geyshick, Tehya (Saul) Geyshick, Kylie (Chad) Lindgren and Jamie (Jordan) Baird; uncles, Timmy Jordan, James (Ashley) Brown Sr., Joel Ortley, Frank Villebrun Jr. and Joe (Connie) Wilson Sr.; aunts, Eva (Bryan) Wilson, Sharon (Terry) Johnson, Melissa (Tim) Wilson, Lynette (Zac) Villebrun, Leighann Villebrun, Rhonda Burcher, Michelle Gutierrez and Lori Littlewolf; goddaughter, Casidee Pacheco; nieces, Lilith, Ella, Kyloni and Kal'leigh; nephew, Landon; special friend, Jerrica Hardy-Morris; numerous other relatives and many friends.

Tammy A. Nori

Tammy A. Nori, 53, of Babbitt, passed away on Monday, April 17, 2023, in Solvay Hospice House in Duluth. Arrangements

are pending with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

Eugene Lester Coyer

Eugene Lester Coyer, age 95, born on August 12, 1927 in Albert Lea, passed away peacefully during the night in his "Palace in the Poplar" on April 16, 2023. A memorial service will be held at 11a.m. on Monday, May 1, 2023, at the Calvary Lutheran Church in Orr. Pastor Wendy Deatherage will officiate.

There will be an evening visitation held on Sunday, April 30, 2023 from 5 to 7PM at the Dougherty Funeral Home in Hibbing, MN. Visitation will continue one hour prior to the service on Monday beginning at 10AM at Calvary Church. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Calvary Lutheran Church in Orr. Arrangements are with the Dougherty Funeral Home of Hibbing. A full obituary will follow in next week's paper.



18th Annual Sweet Spring ONLINE Auction

Bidding Begins 6:00 pm Sunday, April 23 - Ends 6:00 pm Sunday, April 30

ely.younglife.org

Click on Auction Items to view donations; Click on Sign Up in order to bid. Items will end at various times from 2:30 - 6:00 on April 30.



- Adventure Inn - 2 nights Jacuzzi Suite
- Anderson, Dawn - Dream catcher sculpture
- Arrowhead Outdoors - 2 kids fishing packages
- Arrowhead Outdoors - Archery target, lithium battery kit
- Bader's Pheasant Run - Pheasant hunt for 10 birds
- Bagge, Erika - Handmade signs
- Bina, Cindy - Fine silver jewelry
- Bloomers - \$25 gift certificate
- Boathouse Brewpub - Appetizers and microbrew tasting for 4
- Boes, Lori - Buckets of cleaning products
- Boundary Waters Bank - Branded sweatshirts
- Boundary Waters Septic - Residential septic pumping
- Brainstorm Bakery - Granola and mug
- Britton's - \$25 Gift certificates
- Cache Lake - Camping food
- Canoe Country Outfitters - Kevlar canoe rental for 1 week
- Chernak, Sue - Pottery bowl, glass mosaic table
- Cole, Autumn - Starburst quilt
- Costco - \$25 gift card
- D & D Accounting - \$110 in services
- Dairy Queen - One Blizzard per month for the year punch cards
- Dan MacCoy Chimney Sweeps - Chimney sweep and inspection
- Dannenbring, Greg - Lichtenberg wood burning wall art
- Daybreak Pottery - Pottery mugs and soup bowls
- Dirty Dog Manufacturing - YL logo fleece pullovers
- Dock on Wheels - Dock benches
- Domino's Pizza - 2 large pizzas
- Dorothy Molter Museum - Root beer, socks, hat & family membership
- Dunnom, Janet - Prepared charcuterie board
- Dutchman Tree Service - \$250 toward phase 1 balsam trimming
- Ely Bike and Kicksled - Toboggan, bike and kicksled rentals
- Ely Chamber Bucks \$100 - In memory of Boyd Bremner
- Ely Chiropractic - Tri-Core pillow
- Ely Family Dental - 20 Botox treatments
- Ely Fire Department - Private rides
- Ely Flower and Seed - Moss hanging flower basket
- Ely Golf Club - Round of golf for 2 with cart
- Ely Liquor - Wine and Spanish Brut
- Ely Memorial Senior High - Athletic passes
- Ely Mercantile Co. - Custom sweatshirt
- Ely Surplus - \$25 gift certificate
- Ely Vet Clinic - Dog food
- Ely Vision - Nonprescription sunglasses
- Ely's Historic State Theater - Movie passes and member card
- Erzar, Debbie - Lap quilt and table runner
- Evergreen Spa & Wellness - 60 min massage
- Faltesek, Evan - Custom cutting board
- Fisher Maps - Maps covering the Ely area & BWCA wall map
- Forest Concrete - Class 5 gravel
- Fortune Bay Resort - 1 night stay and dinner
- Gator's Emporium - Pizza party
- Gene Hicks Gourmet Coffee - Coffee baskets
- Gracie's Plant Works - \$25 gift card
- Grand Ely Lodge - Grand Fishing Package
- Great Lakes Aquarium - 4 Admission passes
- Gunflint Lodge - Zipline passes, horse trail rides
- Healthy Family Chiropractic - BackJoy posture support
- Holen, Jo - Melaleuca cleaning baskets, RENEW body products
- Hunter, Anne - \$100 Cabi gift certificate
- Insula - \$50 gift cards and bottles of wine
- International Wolf Center - General & "What's for Dinner" passes
- Joe's Marine - Stihl gift bag w/ chain sharpening gift certs
- Kaetterhenry, Dennis - towel racks and handcrafted reindeer
- Kahle, Sarah - Dog sitting
- Kawishivi Lodge and Outfitters - Canoe outfitting package
- Kidd, Kris - Metal print & greeting cards
- Kottke, Carrie - Carrie-Mels & \$25 gift cards
- L & M - \$50 gift Card

- Laine, Susan - Cake decorating lessons
- LaTourell's - Bent shaft paddles
- Legacy Toys - \$25 gift cards
- Lepisto, Andrea - Jewelry
- Levar, Sarah - Greeting cards, watercolor print
- Log Cabin Coffee - \$50 gift card & logo coffee cup
- Low Impact Excavating - Class 5 gravel
- Magee, Heather - 5 Pines Candle Co. candles
- Marshall, Sidney - Crocheted bag, hat & basket
- Mealey's - \$25 gift certificate
- Merhar Ace Hardware - 63 piece mechanics tool set
- Mischke, Sue - Original watercolor
- Mitska's - \$10 gift certificate
- MN Science Museum - Admission passes
- North American Bear Center - "Behind the Scenes" passes & prints
- North Shore Railroad - Admission for Duluth Zephyr
- Northern Expressions - Ice cream cones
- Northern Grounds - Wine Society tastings
- Orcutt Guide Service - Guided fishing trip for 2
- Passananti, Stan & Joyce - Italian dinner for 6
- Pebble Spa - 60 minute classic massages & gift basket
- Penke, Matt and Sherry - Sondors eBike
- Piragis - SOL tube and pump
- Portage North - Utility bag and hat
- POTLUCK - "Hello Spring" basket
- Range LP - Propane tank refills
- Razor Edge - Knife sharpening gift certificates
- Road Machinery & Supplies - Bubba filet knife
- Rock Country Masonry - Custom boulder carving
- Root River Photography - Matted prints
- Semenick, Gary - Kid's desk
- Sir G's - Twelve large pizzas
- St. Paul Saints - Tickets
- Stahl, Carol - Watercolor and mixed media prints
- Stony Ridge - \$50 gift certificates
- Studio North - Sweatshirt and a pass for two classes
- Subway - Subs & sandwich platter
- Sundew Soap Co. - Brenda Olson's handmade soaps
- Sundog Sport - Hat, dog booties and dog collar
- Swanson Excavating - Class 5 gravel
- Tara Kay Photography - Gift certificate for photo shoot
- Target - \$50 Gift Card
- The Boat Club Restaurant - \$50 gift cards
- The Rusty Cup - \$100 gift certificate
- The Wilderness at Fortune Bay - Round of golf for 4
- Today, Dave - 1/2 day guided fishing trip
- Tranquility by Jaime - Herbal facial kit
- Tupperware, Peggy Erzar - 3 Tupperware sets
- Vermilion Vet Clinic - \$100 gift certificate
- Vosburgh's Custom Cabin Rental - Tow for 4 on Moose Lake chain
- Voyageur Brewing Company - \$25 gift card
- Wetzel, Tom & Mischke, Larry - Walleye fry for 8
- Wick, Chuck - Handcrafted charcuterie boards
- Wilderness Wood Fire Pizza - 2 large specialty pizzas
- Wolfland Computers and Hobby - Little Ely water tower
- Young Life - Yard clean up
- Zup's Ely - \$100 gift cards & reusable bags
- Zup's Babbitt - Brat package

Anonymous donations:

- Adult Guest Package at Castaway Camp
- Haircut & foil at Roots Salon
- Manicure & pedicure at Roots Salon
- The Original Rump! Puffy blankets
- Sequist Orchards "Pick of the Best" gift box
- \$100 Amazon gift card
- \$100 TJMaxx/Marshalls/Homegoods gift card
- \$100 Athleta/Gap/Old Navy/Banana Republic gift card

AND MANY MORE!

Gourmet desserts created by Kris Bercher, Joe Blanco, E's Taste of Bliss, Janet Dunnom, Donna Gustafson, Beth Hartshorn, Susan Laine, Justin Olson, Jan Rue, Carol Stouffer, Sharon Svatos, Anna Thompson, and Peggy York-Jesme.

Financial and other support from Ely Echo, Frandsen Bank, Ely Credit Union & Voyageur Lumber

Email elymnyounglife@gmail.com if you have questions.

EMPLOYMENT

FT JOB OPENING – CITY OF ORR MAINTENANCE/PUBLIC WORKS ASSISTANT

The City of Orr is seeking candidates for a full-time General Maintenance/Public Works Assistant. Minimum qualifications include a valid driver's license, high school diploma or GED, mechanical aptitude, and ability to obtain required water and wastewater certifications. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, daily/seasonal operations of streets and parks, water and wastewater systems, operation and maintenance of works equipment and machinery, and the municipal airport. Hiring Range: \$14.47 to \$18.47/hr (DOQ) and competitive full-time employee benefit package. Must pass drug test and background check. The City of Orr is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

To obtain an application, contact the Orr City Hall, 4429 Hwy 53, PO Box 237, Orr, MN 55771 at 218-757-3288; or email: orrmn@centurytel.net Position will remain open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, April 21, 2023

JOB OPENING – CITY OF ORR FT CLERK/TREASURER

The City of Orr is currently seeking qualified candidates for the position of City Clerk/Treasurer. This is a full-time position with competitive benefits. Primary duties include utility billing, payroll, accounts payable/receivable, monthly financial statements, meeting minutes, preparation of annual budgets, assist with city audit, and maintenance of city ordinances and record keeping. Applicants must possess strong analytical, organization, math, and computer skills. Must be able to work with the public; have excellent oral and written communication skills; and the ability to work independently and efficiently. Experience with Fund Accounting is preferred. Must pass drug test, background, and credit checks. The City of Orr is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

To obtain an application, contact the Orr City Hall, 4429 Hwy 53, PO Box 237, Orr, MN 55771 at 218-757-3288; or email: orrmn@centurytel.net Position will remain open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, April 21, 2023



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.

W **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.

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 NOTICE

GENERAL NOTICE TO CONTROL OR ERADICATE NOXIOUS WEEDS

Notice is hereby given this day of April 21, 2023, pursuant to *Minnesota Statutes, Section 18.83, Subdivision 1* (2015), that all persons in St. Louis County, Minnesota, shall control or eradicate all noxious weeds on land they occupy or are required to maintain. Control or eradication may be accomplished by any lawful method, but the method(s) applied may need to be repeated in order to prevent the spread of viable noxious weed seeds and other propagating parts to other lands.

Failure to comply with the general notice may mean that an individual notice, *Minnesota Statutes, Section 18.83, Subdivision 2* (2015), will be issued. An individual notice may be appealed within two working days of receipt to the appeal committee in the county where the land is located. Failure to comply with an individual notice will mean that the inspector having jurisdiction may either hire the work done or seek a misdemeanor charge against the person(s) who failed to comply. If the work hired is done by the inspector, the cost can be placed as a tax upon the land and collected as other real estate taxes are collected.

You may obtain a list of the plants that are designated as noxious weeds and the members of the appeal committee from your County Agricultural Inspector or County Designated Employee. You can also obtain this information from your Local Weed Inspectors. Local Weed Inspectors include the township supervisors, city mayors or their appointed assistants. More information regarding the statewide listed noxious weeds, the MN Noxious Weed law and a list of County Agricultural Inspectors and County Designated Employees can be obtained from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Web Site by visiting: <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants-insects/noxious-and-invasive-weed-program>

Kristin Fogard
 County Agricultural Inspector
 Land and Minerals Department
 320 West 2nd St, Ste 302
 218.726.2606
fogardk@stlouiscountymn.gov

Published in the Timberjay, April 21, 2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

MORCOM TOWNSHIP

Important Information Regarding Assessment and Classification of Property
 This may affect your 2024 property tax payments.
Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeal and Equalization of the Township of Morcom shall meet on May 3, from 5:00-6:00 pm, at the Bear River School 12512 Hwy 22, Cook, MN 55723.

The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether taxable property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor, and also to determine whether corrections need to be made. If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you are still not satisfied with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the local board of appeal and equalization. The board shall review the valuation, classification, or both if necessary, and shall correct it as needed. Generally, an appearance before your local board of appeal and equalization is required by law before an appeal can be taken to your county board of appeal and equalization.

Sasha Lehto, Clerk, Morcom Township, 12059 HWY 22, Cook, MN 55723, morcomtownshipmn@gmail.com, 218-969-5812

Published in the Timberjay, April 21, 2023

VERMILION LAKE TOWNSHIP Local Board of Appeal and Equalization Notice

Important Information Regarding Property Assessments. This May Affect Your 2024 Property Taxes.

The Board of Appeal and Equalization for Vermilion Lake Township will meet on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. at the Vermilion Lake Town Hall, 6703 Wahlsten Road

The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether 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 the 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 appear to the local board before appealing to the County Board of Appeal and Equalization.

* Assessor's Office 218-749-7147, North Land Office Center - Suite 2R 307 1st Street South, Virginia, Minnesota

Crystal Alaspa, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, April 21, 2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

FIELD TOWNSHIP

The Board of Appeal and Equalization for Field Township will meet on May 2, 2023 from 11 AM- 12 Noon at the Field Town Hall, 1627 Hwy 25

The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether 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, contact the County Assessor at 218-471-7705 – Often issues can be resolved at this level.

Or appeal by letter or email prior to the meeting - Pat Chapman, Field Township Clerk, 9998 E. Lind Rd., Angora, MN 55703, or clerk@fieldtownship.com.

Pat Chapman/Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, April 21, 2023

GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP REQUEST FOR SEALED QUOTES FOR LAWN MOWING AT GREENWOOD TOWNHALL COMPLEX 2023-2025 SEASONS

The Greenwood Township board is accepting sealed quotes for the lawn mowing at the Town Hall for the 2023-2025 seasons. This will be a 3-year contract. The quote should state the cost of mowing all areas of the Town Hall complex at 3000 Hwy 77, Tower MN 55790.

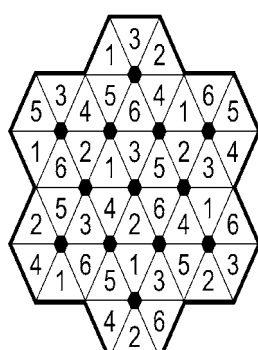
The contractor must provide a certificate of insurance as to general liability insurance coverage. Successful quotes must carry equipment and general liability insurance for no less than \$1,000,000.00 for personal injury and property damage. Sealed quotes will be accepted until 1:00 PM May 9, 2023.

Sealed quotes are to be sent or delivered by May 9, 2023 to JoAnn Bassing, Greenwood Township Clerk, at 3000 Hwy 77, Tower MN 55790.

The township reserves the right to reject any or all quotes, to waive any irregularities and to accept any quote deemed most advantageous to the Township.

Published in the Timberjay, April 21, 2023

SNOWFLAKES solution



Subscribe to the **TIMBERJAY!**
 Call 218-753-2950



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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.

TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

Considerations of personal privacy, time and resources prevent the newspaper from investigating ads placed in the classified section.

AUTOMOTIVE

Langevin Auto & Truck Repair
Full Service
Auto Repair & Garage
Hours: 8 AM-5 PM M-F
2 Miles South of Tower
218-749-0751

BUILDING SERVICES

EAST DHU RIVER SAWMILL INC
Put A Piece Of Northern Minnesota In Your Home
Superior Quality
Plank Paneling
Trim
One-Of-A-Kind Moldings
Industrial Lumber
218-744-1788
8825 Hwy 101, Iron, MN 55751

HAIR CARE

DREAMWEAVER SALON & DAY SPA- Open Monday-Friday 8:30 - 6:30. 218-666-5594. tfn

HOSPICE

Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners
Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners can provide help for patients and their families in ways such as: comfort care, massages, last wishes and more.

PET CREMATION

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

MS SUPPORT GROUP- meets the second Friday of the month at 1 p.m. at the Babbitt Municipal Building, senior room. Open to all.

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

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

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

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP- Are you troubled by someone's drinking? Al-Anon Family Group is a community-based mutual support program for the friends and families of alcoholics.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Get Results! Advertise in the Timberjay!

Try out the Timberjay classifieds
Line classifieds cost 30¢/word, \$6.00 minimum.
Classified ads can be run a second time at half price (private parties only). We now accept payment by Visa, Mastercard, AmEx, and Discover. Call your ad in to 218-753-2950. Display (boxed) classifieds are billed by the "inch"- please call for prices and information on discounts. Call Today - 218-753-2950

MARINE
Centrally Located On Lake Vermilion
Covered Wet & Dry Boat Storage
Lease or Purchase Options
Marina • Mechanic on Duty
Convenience Store
24-Hour Fuel • Live Bait
4551 Bradley Road, Tower • 753-5457
www.shamrocklanding.com

MARINE
MERCURY OUTBOARDS
Frank's Marine Sales & Service
Mercury, Crestliner, Lund
www.franksmarinesales.com
franksmarine@centurytel.net
Hwy 53, Orr • Call 218-757-3150

MOCCASIN POINT MARINE
4655 Moccasin Point Rd
Lake Vermilion
218-753-3319
Storage, Boat Rentals, Service/Repairs/Sales
Mechanic on Duty
moccasinpointmarine.com
YAMAHA

Advertise Here
One Low Price
Total Coverage
Call Today 218-753-2950
Online at timberjay.com

Don't Miss a Single Issue
SUBSCRIBE TODAY
(218) 753-2950
timberjay.com

GARAGE SALES

Ely Citywide Rummage and Crazy Day Saturday, May 20, from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. \$10.00 registration fee. Receive signage, map location, and advertising. Stop at the Ely Chamber of Commerce, 1600 E Sheridan St, or visit Ely.org/citywide for a registration form and details. 4/28

SNOWFLAKES by Japheth Light
There are 13 black hexagons in the puzzle. Place the numbers 1 - 6 around each of them. No number can be repeated in any partial hexagon shape along the border of the puzzle.
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦
♦ Easy ♦♦ Medium ♦♦♦ Difficult
© 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

Super Crossword "TAKE IT BACK"

ACROSS
1 Reid and Lipinski
6 "Born Free" lioness
10 Really bothered
15 Refer to as an example
19 Beethoven's "Für —"
20 "The Wizard of Oz" actor Bert
21 Abu — (Persian Gulf emirate)
22 Over again
23 Ailey of choreography
24 Mild Dutch cheese
25 Tricky billiards shot
26 Fare- — -well
27 Start of instructions for making sense of
31 "— Haw"
32 "A Wrinkle in Time" director DuVernay
33 Aleve may relieve it
34 Got in a trap
37 Rowing blades
39 Be present
41 Renoir's skill
42 Vent views
43 Part 2 of instructions
45 Appear to be
47 Goulash, e.g.
48 Fetal homes
49 Cooing park scavenger
51 Genre of serious films
54 Kissing and caressing
58 Greek god of the sun
63 Huge Brit. lexicon
64 Pedicured body part
66 "Ay, —!" (cry on "The Simpsons")
67 Message to congratulate solvers who figure out this answer
72 Northeast African nation
73 Decorator
74 Suffix with Gabon
75 Welding alloy
76 Jihad
78 Capri and Aruba
80 Plant lice
82 Disconnected
85 Units of work
89 Locale
90 Part 3 of instructions
96 Ballet moves
98 "Planet Money" aier
99 Misspends
100 Spout off
101 Calif. volcano
103 Basic idea
104 "We need assistance!"
106 Onetime Pan Am rival
107 End of instructions
111 Heath
113 Former congressman Mo
114 For — (not gratis)
115 Acoustic
116 Push along
117 Gymnastics legend
118 — a soul (no one)
119 Headstone locale
120 Disarray
121 Artery- opening tube
122 Portuguese for "years"
123 More rational
DOWN
1 Cousin of a coffeehouse
2 Curative plant
3 Monte Carlo setting
4 "Yeah, right!"
5 Actress Berger of "De Sade"
6 Brits call it a "lift"
7 Put freight on
8 Make pointy, as a pencil
9 Hostile insect in a swarm
10 Guys writing slogans, maybe
11 This and —
12 Item dyed for a spring holiday
13 One who fails to show up
14 Stadium rows
15 Sleeps lightly
16 Get via will
17 Simple shirt
18 Baaing "ma"
28 Dodge
29 Venetian beach resort
30 "Fifth Beatle" Yoko
35 Indy-to-Cleveland dir.
36 Dawn droplets
38 Pond gunk
40 Coiled like ivy
41 Speller's clarification
44 Zeta follower
46 Fine goat coat
49 What a head rests on in bed
50 Brand of spongy balls
51 Sleeps lightly for short
52 Printing proof, for short
53 Aleve alternative
55 Naval acad. grad's rank
56 Groups devising plots
57 Tyke
59 Tyke
60 Push along weight-wise
61 Like Santa, for valuables
62 Strongboxes for valuables
64 Pipsqueaks
65 Three — kind
66 Pool stick
68 "— be my pleasure!"
69 La — Tar Pits
70 Title for a monk
71 Mesmerized
76 List of currently popular songs
77 Polish river mogul Gotti
79 Mix together
81 Suggested subtly
83 Elvis and Priscilla
84 Fable writer
85 Tree infested by bark beetles
86 No longer active: Abbr.
87 Fake hearth items
88 Balls, geometrically
90 Taunt in fun
91 Rosh —
92 "Here We Are" singer Gloria
93 Fiber source in some muffins
94 Disentangle
95 Country music's — Brothers
97 Used a chair
102 Shell-shocks
103 Note a half step above F
105 Thick rugs
108 Actress Lena of "Chocolat"
109 Streamlined, informally
110 Ambience
111 Not saying a word
112 Metal in rocks

FUNERAL SERVICES
Range Funeral Home
Virginia 741-1481 Hibbing 263-3276
"Friends Helping Friends"

Weekly SUDOKU Answer
8 6 9 1 4 2 7 3 5
3 5 1 9 7 8 4 2 6
4 7 2 3 6 5 1 9 8
2 1 4 7 8 6 3 5 9
6 9 3 5 2 1 8 7 4
7 8 5 4 3 9 2 6 1
1 3 7 6 5 4 9 8 2
5 4 8 2 9 3 6 1 7
9 2 6 8 1 7 5 4 3

©2023 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



IS SEN. GRANT HAUSCHILD IGNORING PATIENTS & VOTERS?

82% of Minnesota voters say NO to Big Insurance and PBMs!

More than 8 in 10 Minnesota registered voters would be less likely to vote for a legislator who allows increased profits for Big Insurance and PBMs without guaranteeing savings for patients.*



Sen. Grant Hauschild is considering PDAB legislation that offers no guaranteed patient savings at the pharmacy counter—only an unelected, taxpayer-funded board that could 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.**

*82 percent of Minnesota registered voters responded "less likely" when asked, "Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for your current state representative or senator if they support legislation that allows increased profits for insurance companies and pharmacy benefit management companies (PBMs), but does not guarantee savings for patients?" (Minnesotans for Freedom survey of 502 Minnesota registered voters, March 23-April 3, 2023)

RESTORATION

Beloved Carl Gawboy mural re-created for posterity



Reception set for Thursday, May 4 at 5 p.m. at Minnesota North- Vermilion

ELY— The 1960 mural painted on the walls of the Ely Community Center has been re-created through the efforts of photographer Curt Laine and original artist Carl Gawboy.

Gawboy originally painted the mural on the walls of the Community Center Chamber of Commerce anteroom. It is a spectacular woodland scene with lake, islands, animals, and endless blue sky. It provides a complete 360-degree view with the paintings on the four walls connecting seamlessly to form a continuous panorama. Unfortunately, over time, the mural suffered damage in the community center from both light and moisture.

In 2020, with the fate of the Community Center uncertain, the City of Ely, Heritage Preservation Commission, approached Curt Laine, a professional photographer and educator, and Carl Gawboy, the original artist, with the idea of recreating the mural through painting, photography and digital editing.

The challenges were many. The mural had been damaged and was faded. It was interrupted by the doors and windows from the room. Laine photographed the mural in the 'as-is' condition. He then was able to provide Gawboy with the life size images that allowed Gawboy to fill-in the blank areas of the mural with new acrylic sections. Laine, re-photographed the new paintings and manipulated the images to blend seamlessly, bringing the original brightness back to the work.

The complete image is now saved digitally for posterity. A print of it is currently hanging at the Minnesota North College-Vermilion campus in the Quiet Study Room (the classroom building). A reception and ribbon cutting will be held on Thursday, May 4 at 5 p.m. at the college. All are welcome.

Carl Gawboy is a life-long artist, who has focused much of his creative talent on scenes from the northern Minnesota area, the City of Ely, and the local Native American community. He is a Bois Forte Band member and also of Finnish descent. He graduated from high school in Ely and attended University of Minnesota- Duluth. He received a Master's degree in American Indian arts from the University of Montana, Missoula. He has taught both art and American Indian studies for 18 years at UMD and the College of St. Scholastica.

Curt Laine is a prolific photographer who

has worked commercially creating images that ranged from Lockheed's C130 aircraft to medical implants. He has expertise in camera, computer hardware and software tools. Laine has also taught courses at St. Cloud State University and provided consulting services. He has most recently, moved his business to Ely where he operates in semi-retirement mode.

The Ely Heritage Preservation Commission is an arm of the Ely City government, with a mission to safeguard Ely's heritage by promotion of preservation and the continued use of historic structures and artifacts.

Special thanks go to the Ely Folk School for providing fiscal sponsorship, to the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust for providing the fund-

ing and to the Minnesota North College for their support.

Above: The restored photographic version of the mural now on display at the college in Ely.

Right: An example of the damaged original mural.

submitted photos



JUST ANNOUNCED!!

GET 2.9% APR PLUS A \$1000 REBATE FOR 72 MONTHS ON 2022 F150'S!!

OR

3.9% APR PLUS \$1000 REBATE FOR 60 MONTHS ON 2023 F150'S!!

2022 F150 4X4 CREW CAB XLT SPORT

\$60,020.00 MSRP
-\$2,000.00 SPORT DISC
-\$5,043.00 FORD OF HIBBING DISC

\$52,977+TTL

EVERYONES PRICE

RECEIVE UP TO \$500 TOWARDS THE PURCHASE OF FORD ACCESSORIES!

-\$1000* Low APR Customer CASH Plus 2.9% @ 72 MOS Thru Ford Credit OAC

\$51,977+TTL

CONDITIONAL PRICE

*Must Finance Thru Ford Credit
**SEE DEALER FOR DETAILS

Sport Appearance PKG
Ecoboost
Heated Seats

#25445

2023 F150 4X4 CREW CAB XLT SPORT

\$60,465.00 MSRP
-\$2,000.00 SPORT DISC
-\$2,683.00 FORD OF HIBBING DISC

\$55,782+TTL

EVERYONES PRICE

RECEIVE UP TO \$500 TOWARDS THE PURCHASE OF FORD ACCESSORIES!

-\$1000* Low APR Customer CASH Plus 3.9% @ 60 MOS Thru Ford Credit OAC

\$54,782+TTL

CONDITIONAL PRICE

Sport PKG
Remote Start
Tailgate Step

#25480

LOTS OF NEW TRADES!

2021 MACH-E PREMIUM EXT. RANGE \$46,471 #9517A	2021 ECOSPORT TITANIUM AWD \$19,308 #7943	2020 EQUINOX AWD LT 22K MI \$24,980 #7952A	2015 CHEVY 1500 HIGH COUNTRY \$30,980 #25124B	2013 KIA RIO LX \$5,480 #7904A
2015 ESCAPE TITANIUM AWD \$15,978 #7969	2015 FORD F350 LARIAT W/PLOW \$33,431 #25328A	2016 MKX RESERVE AWD \$22,954 #25341A	2018 F350 CREW XLT DIESEL \$35,472 #25431A	2022 LIGHTNING LARIAT MAX TOW \$75,980 #25171
2018 EQUINOX LT AWD \$18,340 #7931A	2020 ESCAPE TITANIUM 11K MI \$29,978 #9502	2019 JOURNEY \$17,556 #25123A	2018 MKC AWD RESERVE \$25,974 #7953	2019 EDGE ST AWD \$33,980 #7978
2020 F150 XLT SPORT CREW \$38,980 #25427A	2013 2500 HD W/PLOW 23K MI \$32,980 #25482A	2017 EXPLORER AWD 79K MI \$19,980 #7973	2021 EXPEDITION LTD MAX \$54,442 #7941	2017 OUTBACK 2.5I LIMITED \$19,978 #7923A
2014 FOCUS SE 60K MI \$10,980 #7980	2016 EDGE SEL AWD \$16,742 #7962	2017 ESCAPE AWD SE \$14,647 #7895A	2021 F150 LARIAT CREW \$47,980 #7966A	2015 200 C \$14,978 #7879
2014 FLEX AWD LIMITED \$13,978 #7986	2016 ESCAPE SE W/LEATHER \$15,980 #7985	2012 FUSION SEL \$10,741 #25410A	2015 EDGE SPORT \$18,797 #7928	2017 JOURNEY AWD GT \$17,980 #7968
2007 E-150 LOMM 118K MI \$10,472 #25414B	2017 F150 CREW LARIAT \$33,733 #25476A	2015 EDGE TITANIUM AWD \$16,980 #7971	2019 MALIBU LT \$18,980 #7952B	2012 TAURUS SEL AWD \$11,980 #7950

• Seed Potatoes

• Onion Sets

• Lawn Seed

HIBBING FEED and SEED

262-3049

LEIGH LONSON
 218-212-7202

TIM CARRUTH
 218-293-4606

RYAN AULTMAN
 218-293-4636

JAMI HENDRIX
 218-293-4627

ERIC GRAFF
 218-293-4637

MIKE DAY
 218-293-4596

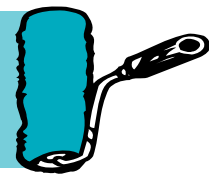
TEIGAN BOSARGE
 218-293-4625

RANDY ROY
 218-293-4625

2627 Hwy 169
fordofhibbing.com
218-262-3881



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

Your Source For Roofing

- METAL ROOFING
- ARCHITECTURAL SHINGLES

Bryan (218) 269-1039
Karl (612) 418-8953

Licensed • Insured BC# 785662

VermillionRoofing.com | VermillionRoofing@gmail.com

We've Got CEDAR!

2"x6"x6' Cedar

\$14.50 ea.



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



ATTORNEY

KELLY KLUN Attorney At Law

Estate Planning

- General Questions
- Wills
- Trusts
- Power of Attorney
- Health Care Declaration
- Cabin Succession Planning



Minnesota State Bar Association
Certified Specialist
Real Property Law

Complimentary 15 Minute Consultation



KLUN LAW FIRM
Direction. Guidance. Results.

1 E. Chapman Street
P.O. Box 240 • Ely, MN 55731
218-365-3221 • 218-365-5866 Fax
www.klunlaw.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

BEARVILLE TOWNSHIP MEETING NOTICES

The Bearville Town Board Meeting on Tuesday, May 9 will begin as a closed meeting from 6 – 7 p.m. in order for the board to conduct interviews for the Treasurer Position appointment. The regular open Town Board meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

Supervisors will meet on May 9 at 4 p.m. prior to the meeting in order to inspect the conditions of the town roads. Road decisions will be discussed and decided at the 7 p.m. portion of the meeting.

Bearville Township residents will meet at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 29 for clean-up of the small storage building -next to the Town Hall.

The Local Board of Appeal and Equalization was recessed to continue on Wednesday, April 26 at 9:30 am at the Town Hall. Bearville Property owners that would like to discuss the estimated evaluation of their property may do so at this time.

Aside from the closed portion of the meeting on May 9 (6-7p.m.) all meetings are open to the public.

Kathy Cressy, Bearville Town Clerk
218-376-4495

Published in the Timberjay, April 21, 2023

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



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

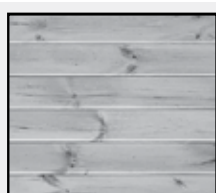
www.netitle.com

For Your Projects!

1x6 V-Joint prefinished Pine Cabin Grade

\$89 LF

while supplies last



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

YOUR HOME-DECOR STORE



All furniture may not be as shown.

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

Let these experts help with your next project

WE'RE YOUR DESIGN HEADQUARTERS



GRANITE • MARBLE LAMINATE • SOLID SURFACE • QUARTZ

We Can Create CUSTOM COUNTER TOPS for Any Room in Your Home!

In Stock COUNTER TOPS



Starting At \$1099

Largest Display Room In The Area

OUR friendly & helpful staff will help you find CABINETS for your home or cabin!



Our Brands

- Starmark
- Waypoint
- Woodland
- Norcraft
- Bertch

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE: www.floortoceilingvirginia.com

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: 8-5:30 M-F

Find us on **facebook.**

Your local source for news, music and entertainment!



91.7fm - Grand Rapids

90.5fm - Bemidji

89.9fm - Brainerd

kaxe.org

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

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



Read us online at www.timberjay.com