



Inside:
New owners at the Comet... See /3
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the TIMBERJAY



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989 VOL. 34, ISSUE 17 May 5, 2023 \$1⁵⁰

VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK

Body cam footage from park tasing released



Video shows park vendor disagreed as rangers sought to question houseboat operators in rough waters; he was attacked moments later

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Nearly nine months since first filing its request, the *Timberjay*

Left: Park ranger Steve Pederson appears to choke local business owner Justin Ebel during a 2022 encounter.
photo by National Park Service

has received body camera videos of the arrest and tasing of Ash River business owner Justin Ebel from the National Park Service. The two videos, from cameras worn by Rangers Steve Pederson and Ryan Houghton, show the incident unfolding from what appears to be their initial

contact with Ebel through the point at which Pederson boarded Ebel's boat and attempted to detain and subdue him. Pederson's camera apparently stopped operating after he began grappling with Ebel. Houghton's camera operated continuously through the incident, showing Pederson

struggling with Ebel in the cabin of Ebel's boat before wrestling him down to the deck. Taser barbs can be seen projecting from Ebel's left and right thighs after Houghton fires his taser twice, and the video shows a handcuffed Ebel lifted

See...TASING pg. 9



MOCK CRASH

Lessons to save a life

Mock crash highlights the consequences of distracted and impaired driving

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER-SOUDAN- "If we can stop one kid from making bad decisions during prom and graduation season," said Breitung Police Chief Dan Reing, "then all this effort is worth it."

Helping young people make better decisions when they get behind the wheel was the point of an elaborate and well-executed exercise organized by the Breitung Police Department and Vermilion Country School.

High school students from the grades 7-12 charter school thought they were headed to a field trip at the Soudan Mine when they came upon a grisly accident scene just off Hwy. 169 in Soudan. It was a two-vehicle crash, with battered and bloodied bodies lying on the pavement or unconscious

Above: A mother reacts to the severe injury of her daughter in a mock car crash staged this week in Soudan.

Right: Ambulance personnel respond to the scene.

Breitung Police Chief Dan Reing discusses the "incident" with students in the aftermath.

photos by J. Summit

in their cars. It was a mock scene but it looked very real, portraying a scenario in which an impaired teenage driver was texting while driving. With three passengers in the car, the driver ran through a stop sign, hitting another car head-on with an adult couple and their daughter on board.

"Life is precious, and bad decisions can have serious

See...CRASH pg. 10



CONGRESS

Stauber seeks veto of mineral withdrawal

Touts region's mineral wealth in field hearing

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Eighth District Congressman Pete Stauber is continuing his efforts to bring sulfide-based copper-nickel mining to the headwaters of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area.

On Tuesday, he brought a half dozen of his GOP House colleagues to the Iron Range to a Congressional field hearing to tout the mineral potential of the Iron Range region along with its history of mining. Stauber organized the hearing as part of his role as chair of the House Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources.

The field hearing was held within days of Stauber's introduction of a House resolution that would cancel the recent 20-year mineral withdrawal on about 225,000 acres of the Superior

See...STAUBER pg.10

ST. LOUIS COUNTY

Cracking down on short-term rental scofflaws

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- In 2020, St. Louis County established a requirement that people offering their properties as short-term rentals had to obtain a permit for the business.

Three years and multiple notices later, the Planning and Community Development Department has stepped up its efforts to bring the stragglers into compliance.

"The message was after that county board meeting three years ago

See...RENTALS pg. 9



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Community notices

Northspan Group's Amber Lewis to address Northern Progressives May 10

COOK - Amber Lewis of the Northspan Group will be the guest speaker at the Northern Progressive’s meeting on Wednesday, May 10, at 6:30 p.m. at the Cook Community Center.

Lewis will talk about Northspan’s “Welcoming Communities Program for Northeast Minnesota.” A Fellow with Lead for America, she is the coordinator of the Welcoming Communities initiative.

The Welcoming Communities program came out of a series of listening sessions organized by the Arrowhead Regional Development Council to identify community needs in the region’s seven county area. A concern that arose in all of the counties was the need to foster a hospitable environment for existing and potential new residents, especially people representative of America’s growingly diverse population.

According to Northspan, this new program “seeks to bring together individuals from diverse backgrounds in a spirit of humility and curiosity to explore intercultural differences and find ways to adapt to the challenges that can emerge from them. Inclusiveness is central to a Welcoming Community and programming focuses on bringing together people from different backgrounds to help build mutual intercultural understanding. This programming lays the long-term foundation to create ladders of opportunities and eliminate systemic barriers for people of diverse backgrounds, many of whom face significant disparities in northeast Minnesota,” <https://www.northspan.org/about>.

In her coordinator’s role, Amber Lewis works on supporting talent retention and community engagement in the region through facilitating community conversations, learning opportunities, and community projects centered on belonging and inclusivity. She joined Northspan in 2021 on a two-year fellowship with Lead for America and has a master's degree in conflict analysis and resolution from George Mason University. Lewis spent the first 20 years of her life on the Iron Range. Coming from a large family, with five sisters and one brother, Amber realized early on that diversity can accompany conflict but can also bring the greatest joy.

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.

Welcome spring all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast Saturday, May 6

EMBARRASS – The Embarrass Region Fair Association is sponsoring an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast from 8 to 11 a.m. at Timber Hall this Saturday. The pancake breakfast includes choice of ham or sausage links, fruit cup, juice, and bottomless cup of coffee. The cost for breakfast is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children ages six to ten years, and children under five years eat free.

Memorial Blood Centers will be on hand taking donations during the Saturday’s breakfast. A huge “Thank You” goes out to everyone who pre-registered to donate. All of the donation time slots are full.

Applications are now being accepted for the Partners in Policymaking Class 41

REGIONAL - Advocacy and leadership training for Minnesotans with disabilities and parents raising children with developmental disabilities is now available through the Partners in Policymaking class.

Partners in Policymaking teaches leadership skills and how to develop positive partnerships with elected officials and other policymakers who make decisions about the services to families raising children with disabilities or adults with disabilities. There is no cost for participants. Meal, hotel stay, training materials are paid and gas for travel and childcare costs are reimbursed. This no fee, advocacy and leadership training program was developed by the Minnesota Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities. Since 1987, Minnesota has graduated more than 1,200 individuals.

Parents of young children with developmental disabilities and adults with disabilities may apply. Deadline is July 14. Search for more information at partnersinpolicymakingMN.org



FISHING Signup now open online for annual Take-a-Kid-Fishing event

TOWER – The Lake Vermilion Guides League is holding their 13th annual Take-a-Kid-Fishing event on July 19 at Fortune Bay Resort Casino marina. Fishing day registration starts at 8:30 a.m. and fishing runs from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The event is open to kids between the ages of 10 and 15. Anyone interested in signing their child up for the event can do so by visiting www.lakevermilionguideleague.com. The sign up form along with more information on the event is located on the website’s home page. The Take-a-Kid-Fishing event is limited to 100 participants, so anyone interested is encouraged to sign up early.



Kids ages 10-15 are invited to join the annual event. file photo.

4-H offers many opportunities to engage youth during summer 2023

REGIONAL - All kindergarten-eighth graders are invited to participate in 4-H Project Fun Day. Attendees have a chance to explore and have fun with a variety of 4-H project areas. This wonderful opportunity to see what 4-H is all about and learn new skills is Saturday, May 6 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Messiah Lutheran Church in Mt. Iron. Cost is \$10 per person and scholarships are available. More information and registration at z.umn.edu/sleprojectfunday23.

Also upcoming is the 4-H Shooting Sports and Wildlife Club. This opportunity is for youth in grades three through a year past high school. Students learn important life skills through safe and educational experiences while exploring firearm safety and the importance of conserving Minnesota’s natural resources. Disciplines offered are BB Gun - third grade and older, archery -third grade and older, air rifle and air pistol – fourth grade and older, .22 rifle and .22 pistol - seventh grade and older, shotgun - seventh grade and older. All youth are eligible to attend the 4-H State Shoot in September. All equipment will be provided. The cost is free except for shotgun which is \$7 per session. Group will meet Mondays starting in May from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Hibbing Shooting Range off Marksmanship Road. To join, contact Nicole at 218-749-7120 or vande422@umn.edu.

All youth in grades 3-8 are encouraged to join the 4-H Engineering and Design Challenge Team. Youth develop critical thinking, creativity, innovation, and problem-solving skills, and have fun at the same time. Each year, teams of youth build a Rube Goldberg style machine to solve a theme-based engineering challenge. The team will begin meeting in June. To join, contact Nicole at 218-749-7120 or vande422@umn.edu.

Children grades K-6 are invited to participate in 4-H Healthy Sprouts Pizza Garden Day Camp at Olcott Park in Virginia. Attendees have a chance to explore a variety of hands-on activities each day including gardening, science, and nutrition. At the end of the week campers take home their very own pizza garden. Camp runs June 26-29 from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. This is a wonderful opportunity to have fun and learn new skills! Cost is free. More information and registration at z.umn.edu/4h-healthysprouts23.

NE 4-H Camp at Long Lake is open to youth in grades 3-6. Children are invited to join us as we explore nature through games, camp songs and hands-on activities. Join us at the beautiful Long Lake Conservation Center in Palisade for three days and two nights of adventure June 28-30. Scholarships are available. To join, contact Nicole at 218-749-7120 or vande422@umn.edu. More information at z.umn.edu/ne4hcamp.

4-H Water Watchers is a new program for all youth in sixth-tenth grades. In Water Watchers, youth will have the opportunity to be citizen scientists and explore the environment through hands-on, practical, real-life applications. Youth will be encouraged to share what they learn about Aquatic Invasive Species and Terrestrial Invasive Species with others while learning what it means to be a scientist, be part of a scientific team, and contribute to the scientific community. The group will meet Wednesday, June 28, July 12, 19, 26, and Aug. 2, 9 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. This program is free. For more information and to register visit z.umn.edu/ns14hwaterwatchers.

For more information on upcoming events, camps, day camps, and other learning opportunities visit www.extension.umn.edu and search 4-H events.

THEATER Mesabi Musical Theatre announces Willy Wonka auditions

VIRGINIA— Mesabi Musical Theatre (MMT) is bringing back its summer musicals with Roald Dahl’s Willy Wonka, a stage adaptation of the book Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Auditions will be held May 22 – 23 at Eveleth-Gilbert High School, and performances will be this summer at the new Rock Ridge High School Performing Arts Center.

“The Mesabi Mu-

sical Theatre board and production staff are as eager to begin rehearsals as Charlie is to find Wonka’s Golden Ticket,” Tucker Nelson said. “We have missed performing for Iron Range audiences, and it’s time to return to the stage. We chose Roald Dahl’s Willy Wonka for its familiar story, its inter-generational cast, and the fun technical challenges it presents.”

Auditions are sched-


uled for Monday, May 22 and Tuesday, May 23 at the Eveleth-Gilbert High School band room (enter through door six at the new gym). Singing and acting auditions begin at 6 p.m. both nights. Those wishing to audition may attend either night and should expect to be present for about an hour and a half. An online form will be available prior to auditions. A list of scheduling conflicts is requested for May 29 – August 6.

Roles are available for children, teens, and adults. Characters range from leads (Willy Wonka and Charlie Bucket) to

non-speaking squirrels. There will also be opportunities to help with set construction, publicity, hair and makeup, and ushering.

This title is presented through special arrangements with Music Theatre International (MTI).

Roald Dahl’s Willy Wonka will be presented at Rock Ridge High School, opening Thursday, July 27 at 7 p.m., with shows continuing Thursday and Friday for two weeks, along with two Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Tickets will go on sale in early July.



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Thank you to all those who did make a donation. If you would like, we can hold your donation for 2024 fireworks, or we can return them. We are already working on a fundraising plan for fireworks for next year. For more information contact: Jolene at 218-255-2131 or email: tseventsboard@gmail.com

MOVIES, COFFEE, AND MORE

New owners at Comet Theater in Cook

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- It's the end of one era and the beginning of another in the storied history of the Comet Theater in Cook, as owner Carol Carlson announced this week that she has sold the business to Stephanie and Ryan Horner.

Carlson made the official announcement on social media.

"Being the steward of the Comet for 23 years has been both an honor and a labor of love," she wrote. "I have loved the Comet as my home, as my business and as a member of the community. I have given it my heart and soul but it's time to pass the torch. The business needs a team, new energy and ideas who can breathe new life into it."

The Comet opened in 1939, the same year "The Wizard of Oz" was released, and Carlson and her husband, John Metsa, bought the theater in 2000.

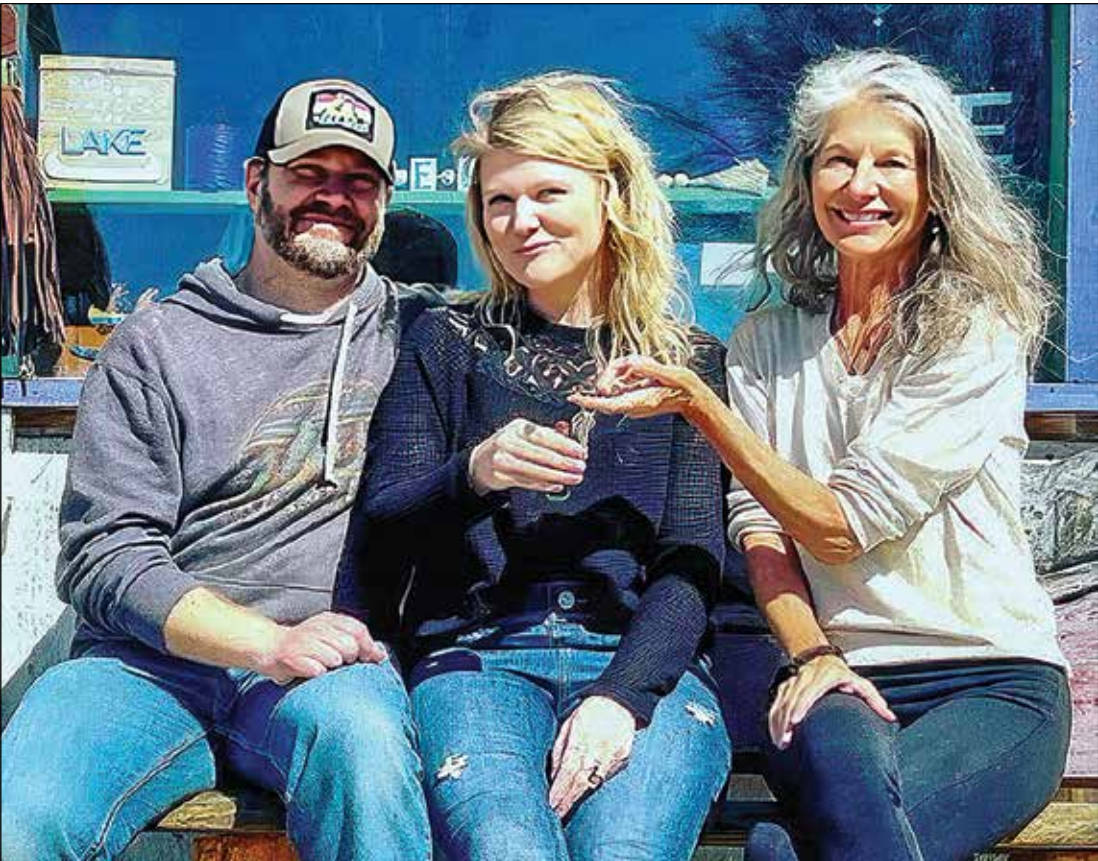
The diversification of the business with the addition of a coffee shop and clothing boutique allowed the Comet to survive and thrive at a time when movies were becoming harder to get and finance, Carlson said. And when Carlson and her husband lived upstairs, the Comet served as a performance venue for concerts, although those were discontinued after they rented out the living quarters to others.

Carlson managed the expensive industry shift from film to digital movies and projection by starting a Kickstarter campaign, "Save the Comet Theater," that raised \$81,866 from 381 backers to buy the necessary equipment.

"I realized how much she meant to people when we did that Kickstarter," Carlson told the Timberjay on Tuesday. "People really didn't want this to go down, and I was like, well, it's never going to go down on my watch. You just give it what you can, and that's what we've been doing for the last 23 years, and people appreciate it. It's kind of a magical spot."

Carlson has been gratified by the response from the community to her announcement, both through the dozens of comments responding to her post and the people who have stopped by the Comet to wish her well.

"Frankly, it's wonderful,



Carol Carlson (right) hands over keys to the Comet to Ryan and Stephanie Horner.

Right: The historic theater building on River St. in Cook. submitted photos

but a little overwhelming," she said. "The people who stop in here have really become family, and it's a treasure. It means a lot to the community. I want to say thank you for your support. It's meant a great deal to me, it really has. The town, too. In these small towns you just don't have the amenities some places have, so it's been just really beautiful keeping this together and having a place where people can come. I appreciate people coming in and supporting us."

New owners

Stephanie and Ryan Horner are familiar faces to anyone who has visited the Vince Shute Wildlife Sanctuary in recent years. Formerly executive director, Stephanie was named president of the American Bear Association, the nonprofit that operates the sanctuary, last year. Ryan has and continues to serve as the sanctuary's chief operations manager.

But some folks may actually know them through the Comet.

"Steph and Ryan have been



kind of part of the community with the bears for the last seven years," Carlson said. "They have actually rented from us in the past and have worked with us. Last year, both of them worked with us here at the Comet a little bit. So, we've just gotten to be close friends."

So how did the friendship turn into a business deal? From the challenge of finding an affordable place to live in the area and a lot of suggestions.

"Honestly, I think the biggest reason is that we've been looking for a home forever," Steph Horner said. "This was the only thing that started to make sense. Carol's stepson has been suggesting we buy the Comet for probably five years now, and we used to just laugh him off. But now being the president of

the fall, and then in the fall and winter Ryan and I will take over and she'll have a little bit of vacation time. She's very excited. She's had quite a lot of experience working in boutiques and coffee shops. Never a theater, but yeah, she's excited."

And the Horners have their own experience to bring to the table, too. Both were managers for Target a number of years ago and have worked with the gift shops at the bear sanctuary. And they've gotten a ton of advice from a very reliable source.

"Carol has done an excellent job of preparing us," Horner said. "She's been so helpful every step of the way. She really has set us up to succeed, which we're grateful for."

And with a couple so closely tied to Vince Shute, expect to see some tie-ins with the Comet coming up.

"We are doing a bit of a partnership with the sanctuary," Horner said. "We are going to sell tickets out of here for the sanctuary, and we will do occasional discounts on those tickets. We're going to sell a bit of merchandise where the proceeds go directly to feeding the bears. And we are definitely going to do year-round events where I will put them on and be the face of the sanctuary. But they won't just be sanctuary related. We have lots of different ideas for stuff, but nothing concrete yet."

But there's another idea that's definitely in the works. The Comet is going to add ice cream to its menu.

"Hopefully Memorial Day weekend is the goal for ice cream," Horner said.

And as for the main draw for any theater, the movies?

"I've got a gal that Carol hired and I think she's worked for Carol the last couple of years and had done the movies," Horner said. "She'll be back from college on May 15, so maybe a week after that we'll start movies."

With the business having officially changed hands, Horner said that they're doing a soft opening for two weeks, with the hours being 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"But then come the week before Memorial Day weekend we're going to be open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.," she said.

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OPINION

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

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

Editorial

Take a second look for schools

The Legislature should seek more information before adding to school district unemployment costs

The Legislature appears to be giving to schools with one hand and taking away with the other, and it could prove a huge challenge to school districts in our region. We’ve spoken to two business managers at area schools and they see major financial repercussions from a change currently included in the omnibus education finance bill currently winding its way through the Legislature.

At issue is the payment of unemployment benefits to hourly school staff who typically don’t work in the summer months when schools are on break. That includes folks like bus drivers, food service workers, paraprofessionals, and other aides.

We have no objection to extending unemployment benefits to these workers, many of whom struggle to make ends meet in the summer if they don’t have seasonal jobs to make up the difference. Unfortunately, as currently written, the legislation fails to provide a means for funding this potentially large additional expense for school districts, which could include the unemployment costs of many dozens of employees, even for mid-sized districts. Estimates we’ve heard from area school districts put the potential costs in the hundreds of thousands of dollars range. This could well be a whopper of an unfunded mandate, one that business managers believe will put serious pressure on already tight school budgets.

As we’ve reported recently, while the pandemic may be at an end, its repercussions continue to linger. Think of it as “long COVID,” only for schools rather than patients. The pandemic altered how many families approached education, with more choosing to utilize online options even after schools reopened. Enrollments dipped during the pandemic at many schools, and some, like the St. Louis County School District, have to yet to recover to pre-pandemic levels. Fewer students means fewer state dollars to pay the bills.

To suddenly foist a major new expense on schools in a period of already-stressed budgets, without providing a means to pay for it, is only going to make matters worse.

The Legislature appears to recognize there’s a potential problem. The omnibus bill does require the Department of Education to track the costs of providing unemployment ben-

efits to hourly workers during the summer months and report back to the Legislature by Jan. 15 of each year.

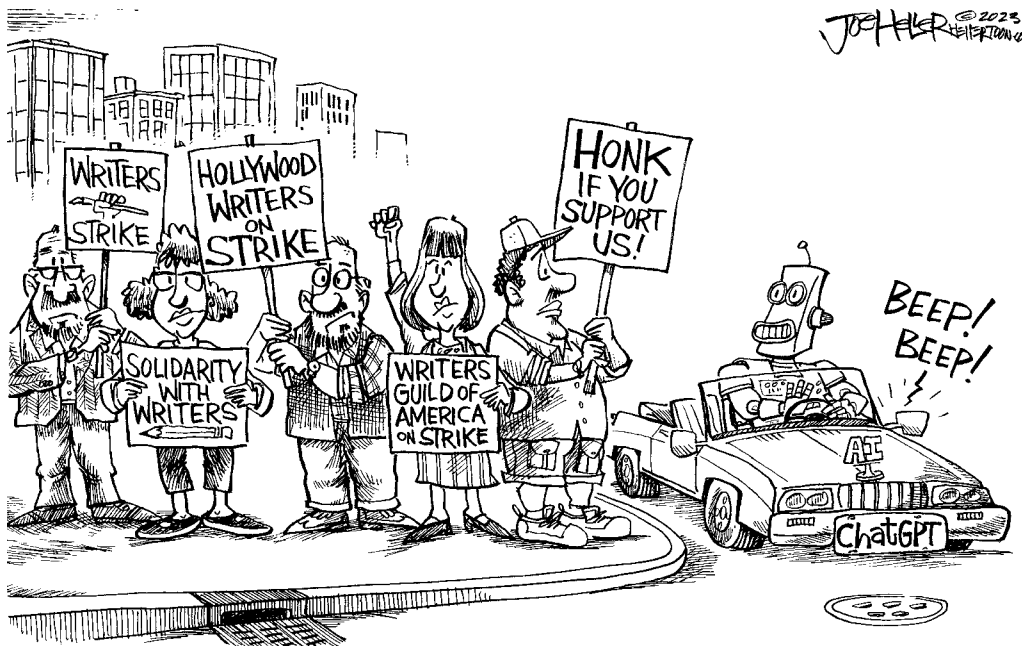
That’s all well and good, but a report provides no guarantee that future Legislatures will opt to reimburse for those additional costs incurred by schools.

The Legislature deserves credit for its consideration of hourly school workers, many of whom tend to be underpaid. It’s a laudable change in priorities that reflects DFL control in St. Paul. Yet, such priorities need to be tempered by reality. Asking school districts to shell out for additional unemployment benefits up front and then wait for possible state reimbursement in the future would be onerous in good times, but it’s particularly stressful at a time when many school budgets are extremely tight. If this provision ultimately leads to school district lay-offs, which is distinctly possible, there will be losers as well as winners as a result of this measure.

At a time when the state has an enormous budget surplus, it’s unreasonable to ask school districts to shoulder the cost of this expanded eligibility for unemployment benefits. The Legislature should include a funding allocation along with this mandate or let school districts levy to cover the cost of the extra benefits. Currently, the measure expressly forbids the use of levy authority to pay for the extra cost of paying out these benefits.

Lawmakers shouldn’t assume increases in the formula funding will make up these added costs. Schools are already dealing with the effects of inflation, be it for food, fuel, new buses, or teaching supplies. At the same time, districts are understandably facing pressure for wage increases as their employees experience similar declines in their buying power.

Perhaps the best approach would be to have the Department of Education and the Department of Employment and Economic Development report back next January on the likely costs of this provision to school districts and provide options for covering those costs. The goal here is worthy, but as currently outlined, this measure takes a shoot first, ask questions later approach, and that puts area school budgets at risk. There’s got to be a better way.



Letters from Readers

Where did America’s sense of humor go?

Catie Clark’s drag show article, “Culture wars come to Ely”, made me wonder what happened to our American sense of humor. People my age can probably remember when the 4th of July parade would have a clown band. It was usually made up of middle-aged men in various stages of sobriety. One of them would be wearing a wig and a dress and a couple of fantastic boobs. He’d march down the street blowing the cobwebs out of his trombone while the audience tried to figure out his identity.

There was no concern about grooming and I suspect the only grooming going on at modern drag shows is by protesters who are grooming their children to be bigots like Mommy and Daddy.

Bob Tammen
Soudan

Former Gov. Carlson calls Minnesotans to action

In an appeal to Minnesotans who care for clean water and air as well as for environmental justice, former Gov. Arne Carlson has been urging people to write and call their legislators about plans to increase mining of nickel and other strategic metals in northern Minnesota. “Sulfide mining has never been undertaken in Minnesota,” Carlson said.

“We can agree that our nation needs metals such as copper, nickel, and titanium that are vital to our technological economy. We can further agree that Minnesota needs to protect its dwindling supply of healthy drinking water. We should also be able to come together on the reality that certain types of mining including sulfide mining are highly dangerous. Just two mining projects, Tamarack and the New Range copper nickel mines

will place the bulk of Minnesota’s drinking water at risk and this includes the metro area,” wrote the former governor.

Carlson explained that sulfide mining is vastly different from mining for iron ore. When searching for metals such as copper and nickel, the process creates a chemical reaction that generates sulfuric acid that migrates to adjacent rocks thereby releasing mercury, arsenic, asbestos, cadmium, etc. into the air and water “This is clearly deadly to the surrounding environment and the drinking water for Minnesotans,” he said.

Lynn Mizner
Palisade

Conservatives should worry about their own bootstraps

Here we are again with Congress going through friction about whether or not to raise the debt ceiling (something the Trump Administration did three times).

Usually, conservatives try to put the ax to social safety net programs. Their philosophy seems to hang on the free economy adage that “people should pull themselves up by their own bootstraps.... and not depend on government handouts.” This is their mantra until a bank failure or a corporation is threatened with bankruptcy. Then, all of a sudden, capitalists become socialists by asking for a government bailout or rescue.

The 2008 mortgage meltdown is a prime example of the “conservative” financial industry doing risky things and the also more recent Silicon Valley Bank irresponsibility. Banks are supposed to go through “stress tests” to see if they are able to weather the economic storms. Didn’t happen with SVB. Then you have the fraudulent players like Enron who cook the books and play by their own rules.

The Speaker of the U.S.

House and his cohorts want to “cut spending” and shrink the budget, making for their dream of “less government.” He should start with his own state: The USDA, in total agriculture commodity programs paid out \$10.386 billion to California farmers. (Source: USDA database at ewg.org)

That’s ten billion, three hundred eighty-six million dollars for the years 1995 to 2021. On top of that, there are California Department of Food and Agriculture grants that are also available to farmers.

The federal dollars usually go to the largest ag businesses all over the USA. The bigger you are, the more cash you can get. These programs were started to help struggling farmers and ranchers to compete with producers in other countries who can pay their helpers poverty wages, don’t have to pay into workers’ comp or any other social safety net programs. However, from sugar beets, corn, soybeans and dairy here in Minnesota to grains and dairy in California, the feds guarantee to make up for market loss (price support subsidy), offer cheaper crop insurance rates, and offer loan deficiency programs.

So-called conservatives need to practice what they preach and have their donor base pull themselves up by their own bootstraps.

Mark Roalson
Hoyt Lakes



ChatGPT, deepfakes, and the fabrication of truth

I hope you will all join me in offering hearty congratulations to our publisher, Marshall Helmburger, for being awarded a Pulitzer Prize in journalism for his ongoing coverage of the copper-nickel mining issue in our region.

OK, confession: Marshall didn’t really win a Pulitzer, but you might believe he did if you read the press release I told ChatGPT to write about it. You’re surely all aware of ChatGPT by now, if only from reading past columns I’ve written mentioning it. I continue to

be fascinated with what’s called generative artificial intelligence, computer programs that take immense amounts of written or image data they’ve been fed to create unique new compositions based on their predictive abilities of what words or images should go together to make up the final product.

ChatGPT did a bang up job on that fake announcement, just as if it had been reading all of Marshall’s articles over the years, and making

me wonder if some past issues of the *Timberjay* have been fodder for its training, as it clearly reflected his passion for the topic and the many angles he’s taken in his coverage.

It just didn’t have any clue that Marshall hasn’t won a Pulitzer.

And there’s the rub with current versions of generative AI – it can’t accurately tease fact from fiction, and that’s a challenge that can be dangerous in the wrong hands.

The generative AI image creator Midjourney created a bit of a stir a few weeks ago when British journalist Eliot Higgins used it to imagine what the arrest of Donald Trump would

look like, then shared those images on Twitter. In typical Midjourney fashion, some police had too many fingers, some too few, the faces were somewhat unclear and the scenes melodramatic, but five million views later, people had a clear example of how generative AI can be used to fake reality, causing more than a few folks to turn their heads in surprise and disbelief. The disbelief was, in this case, warranted, but only obvious upon closer inspection.

It’s certainly not the first time deception has made its way into politics, nor will it be the last, but the ease with which deceptive materials can be created should be a real concern for the

public, particularly with a presidential election coming up.

I’ve spent some time feeding ChatGPT some ridiculous requests, and so far it’s complied without a nod or a wink. For example, ChatGPT, at my direction, wrote a speech from President Biden advocating the use of nuclear arms to take care of the illegal immigration problem on our southern border. It was a thoughtful response, noting that the targets would be the roads and infrastructure and criminal organizations supporting illegal immigration, and not the immigrants themselves,

See **TRUTH**, pg. 5



DAVID
COLBURN

Letters from Readers

How did Skraba fall for such radicals?

NPR aired a show called “No Compromise.” On the show they featured the Dorr Brothers. Ben Dorr is the CEO of the Minnesota Gun Rights group. Greg Pruitt is a podcaster for The 2nd Amendment Daily, a right wing media show. Another speaker was introduced as Melissa, one who revels in confrontational politics. The Dorr’s are from Iowa where the family owns a printing company allowing them to send direct mailings anywhere. I had no idea that my money was going to this right-wing radical gun group. No more, these folks are right on the edge of being a militia, darn close. It’s crazy to think a state Rep. from Ely would be aligning with these fanatics and bring that dip___ Nathan Wesenberg to Ely. This is like being in a room full of a virus, one does not know who is infected with the radical right. How come I don’t have crazy ideas like they do?? How did poor Roger Skraba get on this wagon?

Skip Dickinson
Britt

Hauschild has delivered for our region

Sen. Grant Hauschild, representing the Third District, has kept his promise of delivering for his constituents. He has been the chief author of 90

Senate bills designed to help our northeastern Minnesota families and communities, and he has co-authored 181 bills since the legislative session began on Jan. 3, 2023: a truly incredible accomplishment!

Sen. Hauschild was the chief Senate author of the bipartisan legislation that brought extended unemployment benefits to address the terrible financial situation faced by over 400 Northshore Mining families of Silver Bay, and he helped get it signed into law in less than one month.

He was chief author of the Minnesota Great Start Childcare and Early Learning Workforce Grant Program to permanently help young, struggling Minnesota families access important childcare services and support these important childcare providers with improved compensation for their critically important early childhood development work.

Sen. Hauschild has authored and supported many important bills including the Minnesota schoolchildren’s universal breakfast and lunch providing low-income children critical, basic food security.

As a healthcare professional, I am proud that he is standing tall against the greed of drug companies, ensuring that all Minnesotans can afford the medicines they need.

His vote made Minnesota a national leader in our transfor-

mation to a more affordable, reliable and clean, renewable energy economy. Minnesota industries now can out-compete in international markets with decarbonized, “green” manufacturing, creating opportunities for sustainable, beneficial, clean-energy jobs supporting our families and communities with good living wages.

Sen. Hauschild has listened carefully to his constituents, and he has worked hard, with great integrity, to help them from St. Paul. We can be thankful he has chosen to give so much of his time and energy to listen and deliver for all the families and communities of our region.

Michael Overend
Two Harbors

Beware those who are causing the darkness

Warm air, with less mass per unit of volume, rises in heavier cold air. Trump’s “hot-air balloon” rose rapidly in the toxic atmosphere of our political economy driven by continual blasts of fire from Trump’s flaming torch. These blasts stoked the anger and resentment of working people who were betrayed by establishment politicians after years of corporate capitalism’s empty promises.

Scapegoating, enflamed by racial division through zero-sum lies about white work-

ing peoples’ losses allegedly due to minority gains. Blaming false targets allowed the Trump balloon to soar ever higher and further. Trump’s loss at the polls and the lies of a stolen election ignited the Jan. 6 Insurrection to destroy political democracy.

A constituency manipulated by a few ultraconservative billionaires keeps people apart and divided, rather than standing together, united. Women, minorities and young people carried “Lady Liberty’s torch of freedom” to cast heat and light on cleansing the noxious political atmosphere of homegrown fascism. An unprecedented 2022 off-year election held off the forces of white supremacy, authoritarianism and Christian nationalism.

Who gets to tell the American Story? Narrow doctrinaire narratives flood the corporate airwaves on politics, economics, literature, art, education and even in religion. Critiquing the power of organized wealth is marginalized as unworthy. “Out-of-the-box” ideas rarely see the light of day. The marketplace of ideas, truth and human need deserve open inquiry to expose corporate capitalism’s dominance in our political economy.

Republican Party extremism threatens to undermine over 200 years of struggle to democratize society with gains in voting rights for women and minorities. Only real democracy

will “bring to light” our antidemocratic corporate-driven economy. Victor Hugo declared; “If the soul is left in darkness, sins will be committed. The guilty one is not the one who commits the sin, but the one who causes the darkness.”

Harold Honkola
Stillwater



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!

TRUTH...Continued from page 4

still on its very face an outlandish and impossible proposition.

How this sort of thing can get really dangerous is when such writing is paired with the rapidly evolving ability to clone voices and images to create realistic “deepfake” videos. Early deepfakes of Tom Cruise were rough yet good enough to go vi-

ral. The technology now is astounding.

People have already been putting words in President Biden’s mouth, and others, through deepfakes. Totally fake Bidens spouting off nonsense seem to be popular these days, as the “President” can be found online crassly commenting on big booties and ice cream,

extolling the virtues of low-grade cheap weed, and arguing with Trump in the online version of the game Grand Theft Auto. But there’s a more nefarious deepfake that surfaced as well, one in which “Biden” delivers a “speech” denouncing transgender people.

Deepfakes are increasingly easy to make

with cheap apps available to use right on your smartphone. And what’s even more amazing (though more involved) are “real time” deep fakes using a camera to focus on a speaker while a computer overlays someone else’s face on them while they’re speaking. You can see a remarkable and rather unnerving display of this

technology with America’s Got Talent personalities Simon Cowell, Howie Mandel, and Terry Crews “singing” opera projected on a huge screen as cameras focus on the actual singers below. Check it out at <https://youtu.be/MZEskcezTrM>. And remember that it’s now only one easy additional step to clone some politician’s voice to put in place of the speaker or singer. It’s a decidedly scary proposition for the world of politics.

When it comes to technology, the pace of development is rapidly outstripping our legal and ethical constraints on its appropriate use. Already

challenged by politicians and parties who seem to have no scruples when it comes to twisting the truth, generative AI and deepfake technology is capable of creating fake “truths” that could be seriously deceptive and harmful. A bill making it a crime to create deepfakes without a person’s consent or for the purpose of influencing elections was passed by the Minnesota House this session, but appears to have stalled in the Senate. Such steps are essential at federal and state levels to protect the integrity of the political process, or what little is still left of it.



Thank You



18TH ANNUAL SWEET SPRING AUCTION RECOGNITION

We want to express our heartfelt thanks to our generous donors and bidders for making our 2023 auction successful. We are continually astounded by the support from our community, from both businesses and individuals, and Ely Young Life would truly not exist without you. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for supporting the youth of our community with your endless generosity.

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the TIMBERJAY

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

Week of May 8

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

Tower City Council- 5:30 p.m. on May 8

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.

Greenwood Town Board- 6:30 p.m. on May 9

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

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

BEST Golden Knights majors and minors summer baseball
EMBARRASS- The first practice for this year’s minors and majors summer baseball will be on Tuesday, May 9 at 5 p.m. at the Embarrass Fields, 4846 County Rd. 21, Embarrass.

Cost is \$75, and \$25 for any additional family member. Scholarships are available.

Registration is in person on the first day of practice, Please bring a baseball glove, ball cap, t-shirt or hoodie, and cleats are recommended. Minors is for ages 9-10, and majors for ages 11-12.

Questions, email best-goldenknights@gmail.com.

Little League sign-up on May 6
SOUDAN- Tower-Soudan Little League sign-up will be held on Saturday, May 6 at 10 a.m. at the Soudan Ballfield. Registrations also taken online or email towersoudanlittleleague@gmail.com.

Little league is open to all area children ages 4 - 8. Cost is \$25 per child.

The first day of practice will be held on May 6, following registration.

Tower-Soudan-Embarrass Bookmobile Schedule
REGIONAL- The Arrowhead Bookmobiles will be in the Tower-Soudan area on Wednesday, 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.

BREITUNG TOWNSHIP

Soudan home destroyed in early morning fire

BREITUNG TWP- Nine fire departments battled a large house fire in Breitung Township on Friday, April 28. The blaze was reported by a passerby around 6:05 a.m. in the 5300 block of the Junction Road. The fire, which is believed to have started in the basement, quickly spread to the rest of house. Fire departments on the scene included Breitung, Tower, Greenwood, Eagles Nest, Ely, Embarrass, Pike-Sandy-Britt, Vermilion Lake, and Morse-Fall Lake. The Tower Area Ambulance Service (TAAS) provided medical standby at the scene. No injuries were reported. The house is a total loss. A Breitung Fire Department official said the cause of the fire is undetermined because of the massive extent of damages.

Photo courtesy of Northland Fire Wire



ST. MARTIN’S CATHOLIC CHURCH



Confirmation services held

On April 29, 2023, St. Martin’s hosted Confirmation services for students from St. Anthony’s (Ely), Holy Cross (Orr) and St. Martin’s (Tower). Pictured: Back row: Deacon Dan Schultz, Wesley Sandy, Claire Blauch, Sammy Prijatel, Tommy Homer, and Deacon Don Klick; Front Row: Father Beau Braun, Matthew Zupancich, Riley Las, Helen Koch, Bishop Daniel Felton, and Father Charlie Friebohle. submitted

HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED

Memorial Day service set for Monday, May 29

TOWER- Plans are being finalized for the Tower-Soudan area-wide annual Memorial Day Tribute to be held on Monday, May 29, at the Herb Lampka Civic Center from 10 a.m. to noon. This tribute will honor the military service and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform, their families at home, and those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

The names of local veterans killed in action and deceased veterans will be read. A medley of patriotic songs will be sung by the

Tower-Soudan Area Singers under the direction of Rolf Anderson.

The Tower Soudan Area Singers will practice on Monday, May 8, Wednesday, May 17, and Monday, May 22, from 5 - 6:30 p.m. in the music room at the Tower Elementary School. If you are interested in joining the singers, contact Rolf Anderson at 218-753-3262. All are welcome.

If you know the name of a recently deceased veteran whose name should be added to our roll call, contact Barb Peyla. Call or

text 218-410-7883 or send an email to bng-peyla@gmail.com.

The program will conclude with a traditional Memorial Day wreath placed on a symbolic Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in a ceremony to be held outside the Civic Center.

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

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Spaghetti benefit planned for Pecchia family on May 13

TOWER- The Tower Fire and Ambulance departments are sponsoring a spaghetti dinner benefit, bake sale, and silent auction for the Pecchia family on Saturday, May 13 from 12 - 6 p.m. at the Civic Center in Tower. Cost is \$10 per plate, children five and under free. Family of four or more \$25. To-go orders available. All proceeds go to help the family of April and Lucy Pecchia, who both died in a tragic car accident on April 20.

If anyone wishes to donate items for the si-

lent auction, you can drop them off at Tower City Hall during regular business hours.

Lunch Bunch to meet in Aurora on May 11

AURORA- The Lunch Bunch will meet at Meagan’s in Aurora on Thursday, May 11 at 12:30 p.m. Please RSVP to Judy at 218-780-9865 by May 8. Anyone that would like to join us are welcomed.

MCCL Spring Tour

TOWER- St. Martin’s invites all members of the community to a MCCL presentation at St. Mar-

tin’s on Wednesday, May 17 at 12 noon in the social hall. Lunch will be provided, no cost. MCCL’s presentation will include a brief history of MCCL, an update and explanation of what happened during this year’s legislative session, and an overview of their summer plans.

Nominations being taken for Tower-Soudan Parade Marshall(s)

TOWER-SOUDAN- The Tower-Soudan Fourth of July committee is seeking nominations for this year’s parade marshall(s). The marshall(s) ride in a decorated car at the front of the parade. Please contact Jolene at 218-255-2131 or email tsevents-board@gmail.com.

Donations needed for this year’s Fourth of July

TOWER-SOUDAN- Donations are needed for this year’s Fourth of July. Funds are used for parade prizes and the costs of run-

ning the childrens’ games. Checks can be made out to TSLVAEB or T-S Fourth of July and sent to TSLVAEB, PO Box 461, Tower, MN, 55790.

Baby Shower for Life– Fill the Basinet fundraiser underway

TOWER- The St. Martin’s Catholic Church Quilt Ministry is once again partnering with the Women’s Care Center in Duluth. During the month of May we are sponsoring a Baby Shower for Life. All items/money donated will be given to the Women’s Care Center. We spoke with The Crib Club manager to identify their specific needs: travel size lotions, hand sanitizers, chap stick gifts for our mothers ; outfits of any size – summer/fall (9 mo. to 12 mo. most needed; Infant/toddler toys; boppy pillows and covers; bum-bo Seats; baby monitors; muslim blankets; security blankets; infant play mats;

crib sheets; baby proofing kits (door handles, gates, outlet covers); white infant socks; white onesies – newborn sizes; infant Tylenol; and gift Ccards for Walmart and Super One – (\$10 - \$20)

Donations may be placed in the basinet located at the front entrance of the church or dropped off at the rectory.

Let’s fill the basinet for the Women’s Care Center! Questions may be directed to Maryann at 218-753-4310.

When we visited with the staff at the Women’s Care Center they told us that they never have enough diapers! (Diapers are used as incentive gifts for the mothers to be). Our goal is to send diapers to them every other month. Would you be willing to donate to St. Martin’s Diaper Club? If so – make a check payable to St. Martin’s – make a note that it is for the Diaper Club and we’ll take care of the rest.

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IS MAY 14TH!

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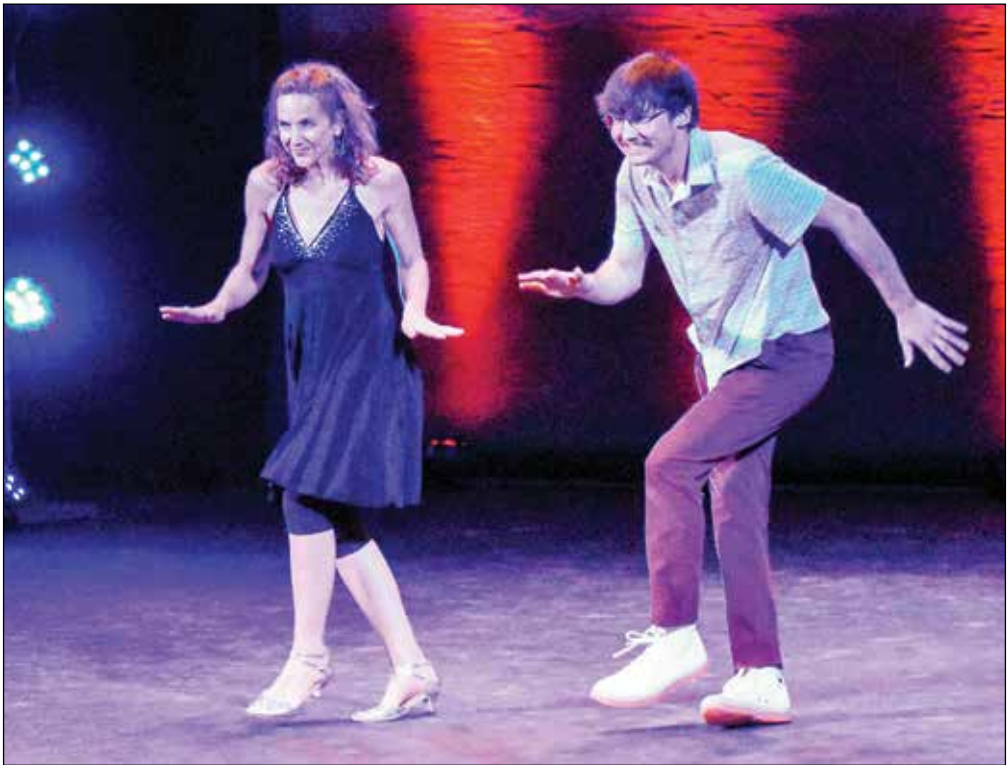
LOCAL ARTS

Ely’s first “Dancing with the Stars” fundraiser

ELY- The Northern Lakes Arts Association (NLAA) held its first “Dancing with the Ely Stars” fundraiser event on April 22. The show was sold out, even with extra chairs added into the theater at the Minnesota North College Vermilion Campus.

The event left the audience in fits of laughter at the antics of the three judges. The show featured seven couples who competed. The winners were Elijah Olson and An-

drea Strom who performed a swing dance to “Rock around the Clock.” The runners-up were Jesse and Molly Olson, who performed a side-splittingly hysterical interpretive dance to “Total Eclipse of the Sun.” After intermission, Johnnie Hyde and David Wigdahl performed an exhibition dance medley “Dancing through the Decades,” starting with the Charleston and ending with the Locomotion. The event raised \$4,715 for NLAA.



Top: Iah Lah and Crystal Chopp. Middle: Dance competition winners Elijah Olson and Andrea Strom. Bottom: Several of the dance contestants and the winners on stage at the end of the performance. From left-to-right: Timothy Loney, Molly Roske, Jesse Olson, Elijah Olson, Sunshine Gardner, Alexia Springer, Andrea Strom, and the Dunn Family—Sally, Jessie, Kevin, and Emily. photos by C. Clark



Fire in rural Ely destroys garage and two vehicles

REGIONAL- Morse-Fall Lake and Babbitt firefighters were dispatched to a garage fire on Highway 1 near the Ely Airport on April 30. The fire was reported around 4:45 p.m. The garage and two vehicles parked nearby were destroyed. No injuries were reported. The Minnesota State Fire Marshal’s Office has been called in to investigate the cause of the blaze.

Photo courtesy of the Morse-Fall Lake Fire Department

AROUND TOWN



Brain Storm Bakery on Sheridan, home of Crapola granola, is getting a face lift. Co-owner Brian Strom told the Timberjay that the store received a Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) grant for redoing the whole façade but the store couldn’t find a contractor during the pandemic aftermath before the allocation deadline expired. H&B Ltd. of Ely is redoing just the front of the building for now with an expected completion sometime in June. Strom intends to reapply to DEED for a new grant to cover the cost of redoing the entire exterior. photo by C. Clark



Twenty-nine Elyites attended a two-hour sharing session organized by Ely City Council member Adam Bisbee at the Ely Folk School on April 19. Both Bisbee and City Council member Paul Kess attended. The Ely residents who came spanned all ages. Attendees were encouraged to write down questions or topics of interest, which Bisbee sorted through during the event for open discussion. Standout topics were housing, recycling and sustainability efforts in the city, and how to improve communication between the city government and residents. photo by C. Clark

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:

- May 9: Introduction to TransNorthland, a nonprofit organization providing support, advocacy, education & connection to the transgender community
- May 16: 1854 Treaty with Marne Kaeske
- May 23: Meet New Elyites

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2023



pale morning light shines announcing a new month’s here

may’s rain, june’s flowers

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.

Upcoming Events

Ely Public Library

ELY- The Friends of the Library book club will meet on Monday, May 8, from 3-4 p.m. The book for discussion will be “Discussing Other Birds” by Sarah Addison Allen.

The library will hold a Kahoot online trivia game on the first three books of the “Magnus Chase” series by Rick Riordan, from Monday, May 8 at 3 p.m. to Friday, May 12 at 8 a.m. Register with your email address to receive the link to the game.

The Friends of the Library monthly board

meeting will be on Tuesday, May 9, from 1-2 p.m.

The library will celebrate World Orienteering Day on Wednesday, May 10, from 3-4 p.m. Attendees will learn how to use a compass and find their way using a map and directions. Please register in advance so the library can order sufficient supplies.

The library’s “Get Crafty” group will meet on Tuesday, May 16 from 3-4 p.m. for flower crafts to celebrate spring. Please register in advance so the library can order sufficient craft 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.

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.

Advanced dog obedience classes start on May 8, 7-8 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>.

Northern Lakes Arts Association

The Northern Lakes Arts Association monthly board meeting will be on Monday, May 8, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the lobby of the Vermilion Fine Arts Theater, 1900 E. Camp St. Board meetings are open to the public.

The Northern Lakes Arts Association will host the art show “The Stories We Share” by Sylvia Houle. The show will run from May 15-28 at Ely’s Historic State Theater. Viewing hours are limited to the hours that the State Theater is open.

Northwoods Partners

The Northwoods Partners will hold their Healthy Aging Expo on Monday, May 22, from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the Grand Ely Lodge. Speakers will cover all aspects of aging for older adults and their caregivers. This is a no-cost event open to the public which includes a light lunch. The first 125 attendees will receive a bag full of swag. This event is possible through the sponsorship of Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital, Ely Community Pharmacy, and Essentia Health Pharmacy.

FIRST COMMUNION



Nine students from St. Mary’s in Cook, Holy Cross in Orr and St. Martin’s in Tower received their first Holy Communion from Fr. Beau Braun at St. Mary’s in Cook on April 30. Afterwards, the children celebrated with family and friends in the Church Social Hall with a breakfast buffet put on the by CCW of St. Mary’s. Pictured from left to right are: Anna Smith, Kensie Herdman, Christopher Koch, Levi Las, Fr. Beau Braun, Chester Talberg, Audree Palmer, Hanna Smith, Zane & Brady Lucas. submitted photo

Watercolorist Mary Beth Downs returns for June workshop

COOK- For a ninth year Mary Beth Downs will present a two-day watercolor workshop, “MESSING WITH MASA”,at the Cook Community Center in Cook. Northwoods Friends of the Arts (NWFA) is excited to again welcome this award-winning artist who so beautifully shares her talents. Since 2015, Downs has presented each year for NWFA a new concept in watercolor technique.

The class begins on Thursday, June 15 and continues Friday, June 16 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.

This year Mary Beth is focused on the use of Masa paper in both the traditional and non-traditional approaches. According to a Google description: “Masa is a versatile, affordable Japanese paper. It can be used for a wide range of art techniques, including sumi painting,

watercolor, and printmaking. Masa’s strength and versatility lend it well to the wetting process. It is soft and white and has both internal and surface sizing. Masa Paper (often referred to as affordable Hosho) is machine-made of sulphite pulp, bright white and acid-free. One side is very smooth, while the other side is toothy. It is economical and useful for edition proofs and for student grade projects.”

There will be demonstrations to guide students. The class is for all abilities and experience levels of students.

Mary Beth Downs began studying fine art in 1975. She pursued her Bachelor’s of Fine Arts degree with a focus on painting and drawing at the University of Minnesota -- Duluth and graduated with honors in 1994. She currently teaches six classes per week at her studio in Duluth, The Art

Cellar. She often gives presentations to local organizations and conducts watercolor workshops. Visit: www.artcellarduluth.com.

The cost of the two-day workshop is \$80 or \$65 for members of NWFA (membership is \$25). When you register and pay for the workshop a supply list for the class will be provided.

To register call Alberta at 218-666-2153, visit the NWFA Gallery in Cook at 210 S River St. or go to NWFA’s website at www.nwfamn.org, where you will also find a complete list of classes for 2023.

The Gallery is open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturdays. The mailing address is NWFA, PO Box 44, Cook MN 5723.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Musto to teach tie dye class at NWFA

COOK-Join Northwoods Friends of the Arts instructor Kris Musto on June 8 for some fun tie dying. Participants should bring some white cotton items to transform into eye-catching colored patterns. How about tea towels, sweats, t-shirts or socks?

Register for the class in Cook, MN at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery open Wed., Thurs. and Fri. from 10 a.m to 4 p.m. and Sat. from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The gallery is located at 210 S. River St. adjacent to Dream-Weaver Spa and Salon. Or students may call Alberta to register at 218-666-2153 or email NWFAMN.ORG@GMAIL.COM. The cost is only \$15 for NWFA members or \$20 for non-members.

Check out our website at www.nwfamn.org to see all the upcoming events and classes. See NWFA also on Facebook and Instagram.

Friday reception marks new artist exhibit at NWFA

COOK-A grand opening reception for “Bur Oak”, the May exhibit at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook, will be this Saturday, May 6 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the gallery.

Meet landscape artist Jon Bryan Burley, nicknamed “Bur Oak” by his college peers. Burley has roots in Cook, has painted since he was 14 years old, and is also one of the most cited landscape architecture scholars in the world. Two of his books published are about surface mine reclamation and landscape, art, and architecture history.

Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery, 210 S. River St., Cook, MN. Open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wed., Thurs. & Fri. and Sat. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

North Woods to host spring family fun night May 11

FIELD TWP- North Woods students from birth to sixth grade and their families should plan to attend the North Woods Elementary Spring Family Fun Night coming up on Thursday, May 11 from 4-6 p.m. at the school.

The fun begins with game stations positioned throughout the school commons area. There will be a also be a large obstacle course, and free high school baseball and softball games.

A Radio Flyer Club demonstration with a flight simulator begins at 4:30 p.m. in the gymnasium. And adventure and cuddles await by interacting with farm animals

from Cook’s Country Connection.

It’s also an opportunity to learn about the Cook Hospital occupational and physical therapy programs, Project Aware, and Family and Student Advocates by visiting their displays.

Family Fun Night is truly a community-supported affair, with prizes donated by the Cook Lions and VFW, free hot dogs from Zup’s, and free snacks from North Star Credit Union.

The entire family is welcome. For more information, call 218-666-5221.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Cook council gives thumbs up for flowers

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- A new floral look is coming to downtown light poles in Cook after the Cook City Council approved a request to go ahead with the plan at its regular council meeting last week.

Steve Kajala with Friends of the Parks presented the proposal to the council, which would involve hanging special flower pots filled with supertunias, a hardy form of petunia that does well in Minnesota summer weather. The pots are designed so that watering is necessary every two days instead of every day, which would decrease the cost of having them watered.

“The individual who is talking about watering them, they would put them up before Memorial Day, water them every few days, and if things needed to be picked off then take care of that. And then they would take them down before Labor Day.”

Friends of the Parks has agreed to be the collection agency for funds to support the flower project, Kajala said. He’s already talked with seven businesses who said they would be willing to sponsor pots.

The cost would be about \$40 per pot for the first year, Kajala said, and the goal is to cover the costs through fundraising.

“That’s for the pot, the dirt and the flowers, and after that you’re looking at about \$20 per year per pot. As long as you put them away in the winter, the pots can be reused indefinitely,” Kajala said.

With the poles also used for flags and Welcome to Cook banners, councilor Liz Storm was curious to know where the pots would be hung. Kajala indicated they would use the same supporting posts.

“Some (of the poles) have four, some of them have three, so they could be hung on one of the side ones as well,” Kajala said. “I’ve been talking with Theresa (Martinson) and they are structurally sound to hold a flower pot.”

Storm raised the question about hanging flower pots on every pole. “The flowers, that’s very nice,” Storm said. “I just wonder if a pot on every pole is just a little overkill.”

Councilor Jody Bixby also suggested a scaled back approach.

“Could we for the first year go every other

pole or something?” she asked.

Martinson noted that such a plan would be an approach where they could gauge the level of commitments to the project and determine if a larger distribution would be supportable.

Councilors agreed to let the project proceed, and also gave permission to use the city’s garage for winter pot storage.

Disaster prevention

Cook resident Memory Malone appeared at the meeting hoping to find a way to prevent a future disaster, a repeat of the April 10 flooding that inundated her basement at 128 2nd Street SE with 18 inches of water, causing extensive damage.

Malone said a drain in her yard is designed to catch water running off from the neighborhood, as her house is “the lowest point in Cook.” But the drain was clogged with ice and sand that day, which caused the runoff to flow into her basement.

“I am very grateful that the city was able to come out and get the drain open, but going forward I think there needs to be a plan so this doesn’t happen again,” Malone said. “I understand it was frozen and there was sand in it, but it was a known problem and has been a known problem. Had there been a plan in place to keep the drain open or open the drain sooner, I know I wouldn’t have had the water in my basement, because the second that drain was opened all the water in my front yard was gone. And then I had to pump 18 inches of water out of my basement.”

Malone said she had been told by the previous owners that there hadn’t been any water in the basement for six years.

“I have since learned from many people in town that that is not accurate information,” Malone said. “I’ve been informed by Tim from the city this is a known issue and they come out every year. I’m not saying the city is liable. I just want to plan on going to work to prevent this from happening.”

“I think, council, we could take this under advisement,” Martinson said, noting a conversation with an engineer would be one avenue to look into possible solutions.

There will be a benefit for Malone to help with repair expenses at the VFW on Saturday, May 20 from 4-8 p.m.

wwIn other business, the council: ➤Heard from ambulance

administrative assistant Karen Schultz that the service has received five automated external defibrillator units that they want to place in city establishments to provide rapid response in the event of someone having a heart attack. One will be placed at the community center, and locations such as the post office and bars have been raised as possibilities. The units aren’t for the ambulance units, which are already equipped with something that performs the same function.

➤Heard from Schultz that the ambulance service passed its state inspection “with flying colors. They were very impressed.”

➤Discussed a request from Tim and Jackie Picek to connect his mother’s house to the city sewer system. The house is north of the old Cook school and not within the city boundary, but the end of the line is readily accessible. The discussion also touched on the topic of annexation, and it was suggested the city should have a clearly stated policy for annexation to address future situations with nonresidents wanting to receive city services. The Piceks request was approved.

➤Discussed a proposed flyer advertising the upcoming citywide cleanup day. As the flyer was modeled after that of another city, council members noted numerous items that shouldn’t be included in the list of acceptable items at the planned container dump site.

➤Heard that the Cook Library is number one in the county for visits on a per capita basis. The council extended kudos to Library Director Crystal Whitney for all of the work she does providing and promoting library services.

➤Approved a bid of \$4,200 from JH Contracting, Inc. to pour two concrete slabs for the two baseball dugouts built by North Woods construction students for Cook Youth Baseball.

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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			3994 Landfill Rd, Hibbing Sat: 8am–1pm

Summer hours effective April 15th through September 30th



ELY SCHOOLS

Board approves movie filming in Ely’s schools

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- The Ely School Board approved the use of facilities at the Ely school campus for filming the movie “Athens,” by a film company that’s been in the community in recent days. The board members also approved the appearance of the district’s logos and signage in the film. The working title of the film, which remains in flux (see related story page 12), is being produced by Closed Doors Films LLC. The film company will shoot

the school scenes in the movie on Tuesday, May 2. School board members and producer Erin Mae Miller focused their discussion this week on how the film crew proposed to shoot the scenes in a way that minimized the disruption to the day’s instruction at the district’s campus. Miller’s presentation to the school board revealed that one of the deciding factors that prompted Closed Doors Films to choose Ely as the shooting location was the tour of the Ely school campus given by Mayor Heidi Omerza. Omerza is also a

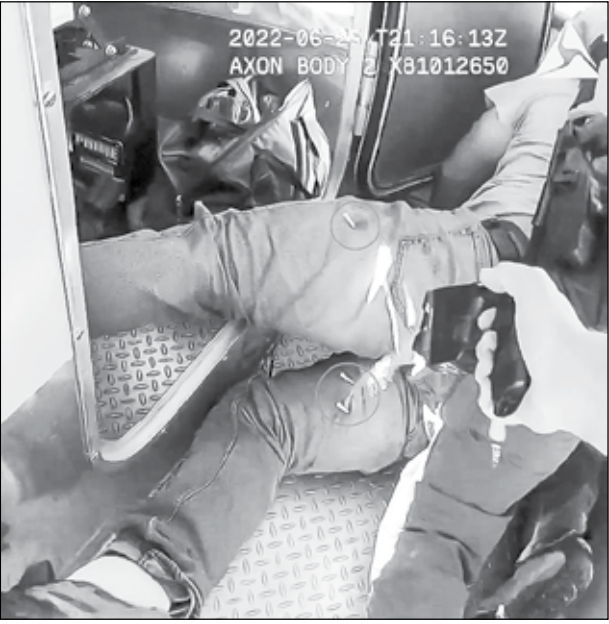
fifth-grade teacher at Washington Elementary. “When we came here, (Mayor Omerza) met us at the school ... She was the first mayor that met us for any sort of (location) scouting. She showed us the beautiful renovation that you guys did with incorporating the (schools’) history. Oftentimes, when you see older schools get renovated, the old charm and what was so beautiful about the original is just whitewashed with something modern and new. What we loved (about the Ely schools) was a timeless element that felt like

anyone could place themselves in the school within the last 100 years. We really loved that aspect for the look of the film.” In other business, the board: ➤ Received a notice of intent to negotiate from the Ely Education Association. ➤ Received an update on actions in the Minnesota Legislature that may impact the school district, with a description by Superintendent John Klarich on bills that might negatively impact the district’s budget and high school curriculum. ➤ Received a report from the

district’s facilities director, Tim Leeson, on the main obstacle to finishing the punch list and other remaining items for the 21st century Facility Project. “We need the weather to cooperate,” he said. ➤ Received the report from Washington Elementary School Principal Anne Oelke that there were 18 Kindergarten sign-ups last week. ➤ Accepted a \$150 donation for the music program for grades 4 and 5, and \$500 for the high school band, both from the Ely Rotary Club.

TASING...Continued from page 1

up to a seated position on a toolbox, where he remains in conversation with Houghton until the end of the clip. The incident was precipitated after an elderly couple piloting a houseboat they had rented from Ebel, ran aground on rocks near the Ash River Visitor Center. They contacted Ebel shortly after running aground and he was responding to assist his clients. The two rangers watched from a distance as Ebel checked out the boat, freed it from the rocks, and set off for safe harbor in Sullivan Bay, away from high winds and choppy waters. Approaching the houseboat once it was in open waters appears to have been a deliberate choice by the rangers. Given that the rangers had previously spoken with the couple operating the houseboat, prior to Ebel’s arrival to assist, it is unclear why they found it so urgent to talk to



Left: Three taser prongs (see highlighted circles) are visible in the legs of Justin Ebel after he was attacked by park rangers on Lake Kabetogama. photo by National Park Service

of the craft. Yet, as the houseboat was making its way to Sullivan Bay, and nearing a narrows that separates the bay from the main body of Lake Kabetogama, the rangers decided to initiate a second contact with the operators of the craft and instructed the elderly couple to pilot further out onto Kabetogama where they could talk. After a radio conversation with Ebel, the couple resumed their original course toward Sullivan Bay. The rangers encountered Ebel after he had circled back to the scene from the narrows. While the sound is distorted in places by the wind and by the parties talking over each other, the

videos clearly illustrate the gist of the conflict between Ebel and the rangers. Ebel was intent on getting his customers to safe harbor first and told the rangers they would be free to board the boat and speak to his clients once that was accomplished. The rangers insisted that they talk with the houseboat owners before they proceeded to Sullivan Bay, although it is unclear why that was a priority for them. As the argument continued, Ebel refused numerous commands telling him to stop his boat, eventually leading to the rangers’ decision to board it and detain Ebel for interfering with a law enforcement activity. Along with the two videos, NPS provided about 100 pages of documentation that includes reports written by both rangers directly involved in the incident and a third who tended to Ebel’s taser wounds when they came ashore. The released information also

includes technical data and graphs about the taser shots, weather at the time, medical records from the hospital in Bemidji, where Ebel and Pederson were examined and treated for injuries before Ebel was booked into the Beltrami County Jail. As the information was released around noon on Tuesday, the *Timberjay* did not have sufficient time before this week’s press deadline to thoroughly examine all of those materials. An in-depth report on them will appear in next week’s edition. To view the body camera videos, check the *Timberjay* website version of this story. The videos are also available through the National Park Service “FOIA-Frequently Requested Documents” webpage at <https://www.nps.gov/aboutus/foia/foia-frd.htm>.

RENTALS...Continued from page 1

that we were going to try to work with the people that have short-term rentals proactively to get them into compliance,” said department director Matt Johnson. “Last June, which would have been two-plus years after the ordinance was passed, we only had about 25 permits. People have been very good about not taking the letters seriously and doing their best job to not make eye contact with the department.” The county issues short-term rental permits to properties that are not in a jurisdiction that has its own official controls on short-term rentals, such as Ely, Duluth, Hibbing, Virginia, and four towns surrounding Duluth. To find those who would be subject to the permitting process, the county enlisted the aid of a service called Host Compliance, which searches listings on Airbnb, Vrbo, FlipKey, and other sites used to promote short-term rentals, Johnson said. The company generated a report of all such listings in St. Louis County. Short-term rentals outside of their jurisdiction were eliminated, and then the process of contacting property owners began. “We were left with 154 properties in St. Louis County that we think need to be permitted,” Johnson said. “That list was actually higher, but through a process of elimination of reaching out to properties, they said ‘We did this back in 2021, but we no longer do it,’ and we put them on an inactive list. There are others who say there’s some sort of mistake, they only rented their property for a month. We worked through to narrow it down to that 154.” Johnson said the department sent out a couple of rounds of letters

last summer. We had some progress. We doubled our numbers,” he said. But that still left a large swath of unpermitted short-term rentals, so the department intensified its efforts beginning in February. In a letter sent March 1 to a couple believed to be operating a short-term rental that was obtained by the *Timberjay*, the department notes, “This letter is the final reminder that you must obtain a permit.” The couple was instructed to submit their permit application with the required attachments and fee by March 15. “Failure to obtain a permit and continuing to rent your property as a short-term rental will initiate the county’s compliance process,” the letter stated. “We can turn this over to the attorney’s office if necessary,” Johnson said. “We currently have application permits for 75 properties, so just about half, but the good news is we have 49 short-term rental applications in the hopper. That’s going to get us to about the 80 percent mark. The last 27 properties we don’t have, and that math might not add up perfectly, 75 percent of them haven’t given us any sort of response and 25 percent have indicated that they’re working on an application. So, we have about 20 properties of the 154 that we really don’t know if they intend filling out an application or if they’re just simply trying to avoid it.” While the department has been working from the list they had generated, Johnson emphasized that another important source of information about short-term rentals since the time when permits were first required has been citizen

complaints. “Many times, it’s the first that we are brought aware of a compliance issue,” Johnson said. “We don’t run around monitoring where we think short-term rentals are. It really is complaint driven. And by the time people are comfortable enough picking up the telephone to call, or send emails, they’re usually upset. Unfortunately, short-term rentals bring a lot of emotion.” Johnson said he believes most short-term renters occupy the properties in good faith and don’t intend to create problems, but because they’re renting they don’t always treat the property as if it were their own. So, problems do come up. The most frequent complaint the department gets from neighboring property owners is about noise, Johnson said. The second highest is trespassing, such as when a short-term renter wanders over to use a neighbor’s dock. A third complaint is parking. “You get a lot of these cabins around these lakes that are in high demand and they only have space for maybe a couple of vehicles,” Johnson said. “If you get six different people showing up in five different cars, that parking can spill out onto the road or into a neighbor’s yard and does that ever set off emotions. People just want to know whether or not things are permitted. We get a lot of

curious calls. Their main role in calling is to find out if it’s permitted or not, and if it’s not they want us to force them onto a permit.” Johnson noted that it’s not always easy to track down short-term rental property owners. Many of the owners live out of state and use short-term rentals as a way to generate money to make payments on their properties. “Tracking down owners of properties can be challenging,” Johnson said. Still, Johnson is encouraged by their progress. In a county of 7,000 square miles, he said, having only about 20 properties remaining to get to respond is “a real positive sign.” “If we find that 15 of those are actually renting, then we will turn those over to the attorney’s office,” Johnson said. “I can’t imagine too many of them wanting to go to court. I would think that once they get turned over that most of those remaining properties are probably going to cave and fill out a permit.”

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<p>County 77 Canister Site</p> <p>2038 County Rd. 77, Greenwood Twp</p> <p>Summer Hours</p> <p>Tues: 1–6pm</p> <p>Thurs: 8am–1pm</p> <p>Sat: 8am–5pm</p> <p>Sun: noon–6pm</p>	<p>Soudan Canister Site</p> <p>5160 Hwy 169, Soudan</p> <p>Hours</p> <p>Mon, Wed, Sat, Sun: 8am–5pm</p>
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CRASH...Continued from page 1

consequences,” Reing said. “I’ve seen the real-life consequences from these incidents. I’ve seen kids pass away. I’ve seen too many accidents involving teenagers.”

It was a dramatic teachable moment for students, but it was also a training exercise for area fire, ambulance, and police departments. Reing, who has participated in these types of events previously, including one at North Woods School back in 2016, said this was the first time he coordinated the planning. He worked alongside VCS office manager Karla Lundstrom, who had started planning for the event back in September.

“Everyone participating is a volunteer,” said Lundstrom.

After discussion with their parents, Lundstrom asked four VCS students to be the actors in the scenario. VCS students Ashton Cook, Haedyn Miller, Alyssa Costello, and Jaymes Scholz spent the last three weeks preparing for the event, all without letting the other students know what was in the works. Reing’s wife, Ivette, and a staffer from Life Link air ambulance played the couple hit by the car driven by the VCS student. Chloe Anderson, a high school student from North Woods, filled in as the child of the couple in the car. Parents of the students participating were part of the planning and were present during the mock crash. And even



Above: Val Turnbull applies makeup while Katie Erickson and Nina Wycoff work on the hair of crash actor Chloe Anderson.

Above right: Tower EMT Steve Freshour applies a C-collar to a crash victim, played by Jaymes Scholz.

though they thought they were thoroughly prepared, watching the scene moved some to tears.

While the students were initially shocked when they came across the accident scene, they soon realized it was a simulation, and got off the bus to watch as the emergency medical and rescue personnel played their parts, responding to the emergency. While they all knew it was a re-enactment, watching it all play out was hard for some of the students. The school had notified parents of the mock crash that day, and also had extra support staff on hand to talk to any students who had questions.

“We will be debrief-

ing and reflecting on what we witnessed the next morning,” said office manager Karla Lundstrom. “Students will be hearing from the students and families who participated in the demonstration. Vermilion Country School invites parents to talk to their teens about the dangers and serious consequences of distracted driving, drinking and driving, speeding, and thinking ahead for safety.”

On the crash scene

As students watched, an injured mother came out of the car to see her daughter, lifeless, on the pavement. She cries out for someone who can do CPR, and shortly after, Breitung Police arrive on the scene and start CPR. Soon ambulances arrive, and the police begin to assess the other victims and call for backup, including an air ambulance. Tower Fire personnel assisted in creating a landing zone on the nearby soccer field. Breitung Fire responded with their extrication tools,



and once the patient is assessed by the ambulance crew, began the process of removing the door from the smashed car.

“I drive everyone around,” said VCS senior Ashton Cook, who thought it was appropriate he got picked to play the driver. “But I always drive safely if I have another kid in my truck.” For the mock crash, Ashton played the part of a teen, who was under the influence of prescription narcotics, and texting while driving, causing the fatal crash. Only slightly injured in the mock crash, he wandered in a daze around the scene, looking back at his friends, two dead at the scene, and one barely alive but trapped in the car, who subsequently died at the hospital.

Ashton was questioned by the police on scene, and then assessed by the ambulance crew for possible injuries, and then brought to the hospital for a check, before being arrested and brought to jail. Finally, the medical exam-

iner arrives on scene, and the three deceased victims are put into body bags and removed.

The student actors played their parts perfectly. They had all gotten movie-grade makeup, consistent with the types of injuries received in an actual accident. The students had spent the morning at the staging area at the Breitung Community Center, going over their roles, getting bloodied and bruised (make-up wise), and waiting for the actual event to begin.

The scene also provided training for emergency responders, who also gathered at the community building to plan their response. This included what to do if an actual emergency happened while the mock crash was underway. Some area law enforcement got called out for an actual drunk driving accident during the morning. The Life Link helicopter scheduled for landing got called out, but then was able to land during the event, but

before a patient could be loaded in, got called out for another emergency.

The entire scenario, from the crash scene to notification of family members and even eulogies, was filmed. The video will be professionally edited to use as an educational program with other schools in the area.

Junior high students at VCS went on a separate field trip on Tuesday, and were not there to witness the mock crash scene.

Tower Ambulance, Breitung Fire and Rescue, Breitung Police, St. Louis County Sheriff’s Department, Life Link air ambulance, Breitung maintenance department, and Midwest Medical Examiners all participated in the scenario. Makeup artists included Valerie Turnbull, nurse manager at Scenic Rivers Health Services, and Nina Wycoff and Katie Erickson from Northern Lights Salon in Tower. Junk cars were towed in and towed away by Mather Recycling in Ely. RMS Road Machinery and Supply, from Virginia, provided food for all the volunteers, and it also gave paid time-off for two of the participants father’s, who were working as actors in the mock crash.

STAUBER...Continued from page 1

National Forest. Stauber has called that withdrawal an attack on “our way of life,” in the region, but the withdrawal impacts only the proposed Twin Metals mine, part of a joint venture controlled by Chilean mining giant Antofagasta. The withdrawal would not impact taconite mining, nor would it hamper efforts to establish the planned PolyMet copper-nickel mine, near Hoyt Lakes.

Stauber’s resolution has little chance of passage in Congress and opponents of the Twin Metals project called his effort a “stunt” meant to garner headlines rather than results.

The recent mineral withdrawal, approved by Interior Secretary Deb Haaland in January, was under authority of the 1976 Federal Land Policy and Management Act, or FLPMA. That law gives the executive branch the authority to withdraw sensitive areas from the federal mineral leasing program for up to 20 years. A provision within FLPMA gives the Congress the ability to reverse a mineral withdrawal approved by the executive branch, as long as the action is taken within 90 days. Under the federal statute, the president would not have the ability to veto a congressional decision under that provision.

“Congress is exercising its authority to roll back this misguided ban and secure our domestic

mineral supply chains,” said Stauber in a press statement announcing his proposed resolution. “It is well past time for elected officials, not appointed bureaucrats, to dictate how and when America’s abundant resources and public lands are utilized.”

Stauber’s resolution is almost certainly dead-on-arrival in the U.S. Senate, so his efforts likely won’t result in overturning the Biden administration’s decision.

What’s more, there appears to be wide agreement in the federal courts that Stauber’s action is unconstitutional.

Historical context

The executive branch has long claimed authority to make leasing determinations, including the ability to withdraw areas from mineral or oil and gas leasing that are not otherwise leased. Federal courts have consistently confirmed that authority ever since a 1915 U.S. Supreme Court case, *United States v. Midwest Oil Co.*, which found that the executive branch had made temporary withdrawals of federal land from mineral leasing since “an early period in the history of the government.” While the high court acknowledged no clear statutory authority for such executive action, it found that since Congress had never objected to such actions, it had given “implied consent” to the

authority.

Enactment of the FLPMA was an effort to codify a wide range of executive authorities pertaining to federal land policy and management and it included an explicit grant of executive authority to undertake temporary mineral withdrawals. While that law also incorporated a congressional veto of such withdrawals, Congress has never attempted to avail itself of that veto power, until Stauber’s most recent effort. That’s despite the fact that presidents from both parties have utilized the withdrawal authority under FLPMA nearly 90 times since its enactment.

That continuing acquiescence on the part of Congress may well be a recognition of the unconstitutional nature of that veto provision. In a separate 1983 case, *I.N.S v Chadha*, the U.S. Supreme Court found that a similar congressional veto in an immigration law was unconstitutional. In a decision written by Chief Justice Warren Burger, a Nixon appointee, the court found that a resolution to deport a non-resident alien passed solely by the U.S. House was unconstitutional since it violated the separation of powers and the principles of bicameralism.

A 2017 case, *Nat’l Mining Assoc. v. Zinke*, involving a mineral withdrawal near the Grand Canyon, was even more to the point. In that case, the National Mining

Association and others challenged the constitutionality of FLPMA’s congressional veto authority, in the hopes that it could result in the invalidation of the entire law, which was the legal basis for a withdrawal of uranium leasing.

The mining interests argued that the unconstitutional congressional veto included within FLPMA invalidated the overall withdrawal authority because Congress would not have enacted that authority without it.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals agreed on the unconstitutional nature of the congressional veto provision, but rejected the claim that the problematic provision invalidated the withdrawal authority under FLPMA. The court noted that the federal law includes a severability clause, that expressly states that should any provision of the law prove invalid, the remaining provisions continue in effect. In addition, the court found that Congress had enacted other provisions to advance Congress’s broad oversight of withdrawal decisions, and that the withdrawals, in either case, were temporary and that only Congress could enshrine permanent protection.

What’s more, the court found that Congress retained its ability to veto any withdrawal decision by the executive branch through the normal course of legislative action—passing an appropriate bill in both houses of Congress and obtaining a presidential

signature.

The *Timberjay* provided questions about the shaky constitutional nature of Stauber’s effort to block the mineral withdrawal. Stauber’s office did not respond.

Congressional field hearing

Tuesday’s congressional hearing, held at the Mt. Iron-Buhl High School, featured comments and testimony from three witnesses, including Ely area resort owner Joe Baltich, a vehement supporter of the proposed Twin Metals mine, along with Dean Peterson, chief geologist with Big Rick Exploration, and Jessica Johnson, of Talon Metals Corp., which is in the planning stage for a small, high-grade nickel mine near Tamarac.

Baltich regaled the half dozen members of Congress with his family’s struggles in the tourism business, suggesting that those involved in tourism typically work multiple jobs to make ends meet. “Tourism is a feast or famine business,” said Baltich.

He said early promises that the Boundary Waters would be a major draw to the area were “baloney,” and he said mining would actually encourage tourism.

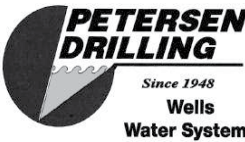
When asked by Rep. Tom Tiffany, R-Wis., if tourism and mining could co-exist, Baltich was quick to respond. “Absolutely,”

he said. Tiffany also asked Baltich to weigh in on whether mine permitting had become “weaponized” in the U.S. and on whether the U.S. can mine in a safer manner than China. Baltich answered affirmatively to other leading questions as well from the assembled members of Congress. Baltich also talked about the Eagle Mine, a nickel mining operation in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, which Baltich described as “perfect.”

Peterson described how the Mid-Continent Rift, which created the Great Lakes, also brought enormous quantities of metals from the Earth’s core relatively near the surface, creating the Duluth Complex, among other formations, which contains a vast amount of metals, most of it low-grade.

Supporters of the mineral withdrawal chided Stauber and Tuesday’s hearing. “We are disappointed that Rep. Pete Stauber has decided to conduct a field hearing that is not representative of the majority of his constituents’ interests,” said Becky Rom, national chair of the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters.

Chris Knopf, of Friends of the Boundary Waters, referred to the hearing as a “political stunt to show foreign mining conglomerates that he [Stauber] is still fighting for their interests.”



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CITY OF ELY

Garbage hauling tops city council agenda

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

ELY- While the cold and snowy spring weather certainly can't be her fault, Ely Mayor Heidi Omerza opened the May 2 council meeting with an apology. She had earlier declared 2023 the "Year of Frozen" in honor of the Ely High School music department's winning the rights to produce the Broadway version of the musical. She didn't know that Mother Nature might take her at her word.

But items under the council's actual control, specifically revisions to the contract for garbage removal for city residents, as well as fines for parking and other civil offenses, did generate a lot of discussion.

Jeremiah "JJ" Day, owner of G-Men Environmental Services submitted a detailed letter and spoke to the council as well on Tuesday, expressing his concerns over the actions of the city's sanitation committee and their proposed revisions to the city's residential waste disposal contract.

The contract revisions remove language that specifies the contractor provide at least two garbage compactor trucks that are not older than nine years, that are a minimum of 20-yard size, enclosed and waterproof. It also requires the vehicles be reliable, safe, well-maintained, and clean.

The new revisions state the contract shall provide a minimum of two trucks, that carry at least 8 yards and are enclosed and waterproof. The revision would maintain the requirement the vehicles be reliable, safe, well-maintained, and clean. The revised contract also sets minimum specifications for the carts provided to city customers, but removes some of the previous specifications, including having the carts be uniform in color and size.

Smaller trucks require more frequent trips to the canister site for dumping, adding more noise, traffic, and wear and tear on city streets.

G-Men ES has been providing garbage service in Ely for over 25 years, and for the last 13 years has held the contract for all residential waste removal in the city.

Day said the sanitation committee's revisions "seem to have one direction in mind," which appears to be opening up the process to another "unqualified and inferior hauler."

Council makes changes to proposed parking fine ordinance

Day's letter cited three specific instances of another Ely hauler providing trash pickup for two citizen-at-large members of the sanitation committee, as well as for a city business. Day said they had reported these violations to the city. Day noted the city has spent over \$17,000 on legal fees relating to the waste hauling contract issues since 2019, when they decided to create separate contracts for residential and commercial business hauling. The contractor hired for the commercial contract was unable to get a performance bond, according to Day, and the contract eventually was given back to G-Men ES.

Day's letter noted that G-Men has added safety features to their fleet, including 360-degree birds-eye view cameras, traction control, and ABS braking systems.

"Proper waste management is an essential part of society's public and environmental health," he wrote. "The capital investment we made to initially meet the city of Ely's requirements to provide each of our customers with roll carts, utilize up-to-date equipment and software technology to provide the safest, most effective service possible, and purchase/maintain/replace rear load dumpsters as necessary is a responsibility and risk we assumed upon entering into the contract."

Day also noted that G-Men has regular office hours, as well as 24/7 phone service in case of emergencies.

Council member Al Forsman noted the sanitation committee had worked most of the year to review the contract and make changes.

But some on the council wondered why the changes were needed.

"Did you receive any letters from residents who were not happy with the current provider?" asked council member Angela Campbell. "Were there any concerns or any record of constituents who are opposing the contract?"

Forsman said he was not aware of any complaints or issues raised, but he said the city does go out for proposals for other services, such as legal newspaper.

"This is in line with that," he said.

Council member Adam Bisbee asked how often the city adjusts requirements in other contracts.

"It seems like we are lowering standards here," he said "It seems to broaden the door through which other bidders can pass. Why diminish this to bring in more bidders."

Bisbee said he understood that competition was important, but not as the loss of the quality that currently exists.

"It seems risky," he said, "and seems like there is more behind this. If it ain't broke, why fix it?"

Forsman said he didn't think the new contract was lowering standards.

"A lot of thought went into this," he said, "to ensure our community is provided with good service."

Omerza asked about the changes for truck size. She said she understood that some city alleys, especially in the winter, may not be wide enough for larger-sized trucks to safely navigate.

"It's not up to us to dictate the size of the truck," she said. "But obviously it doesn't make sense to pick up the whole city with an 8-yard truck."

A motion to approve the revised contract as submitted passed on a 4-2 vote, with Omerza and Bisbee voting against. Council member Paul Kess was absent from the meeting. Requests for proposals for trash removal will go to the city council, not to the sanitation committee.

Parking fines

The council also discussed parking fines and late fees for parking in fire lanes and in front of hydrants as part of their approval of a new ordinance. The updated ordinance increases most parking fines from \$20 to \$25 and keeps the existing late payment fee of \$20 for violations such as parking in alleys, too close to intersections, overnight parking 2-6 a.m., double-parking, obstructing a street or driveway, going over the two-hour parking limit, and not following calendar parking.

After quite a bit of discussion, the council amended the final version of the ordinance to increase the fine for parking in a fire lane or hydrant zone from \$30 to \$100, and to keep the late fee the same as for all other violations at \$20.

Police Chief Chad Houde noted the police department already had printed tickets with the proposed new rates, but that new tickets can be printed each

month, and that the fines on tickets could be corrected by hand if needed.

"It would be silly to consider what the ticket says," said Bisbee. The large fine for parking in a fire lane bothered Bisbee, who said he knows of parents, including himself, who have quickly parked in the fire lane at the school when picking up their children.

Houde said it is fine to wait in a vehicle in the fire lane, but not to leave it unattended. He said there were 15-minute parking spaces to move to, or otherwise move to a regular parking spot.

"You do not leave a vehicle unattended in the fire lane at any time," Houde said. He went on to note he was not aware of any tickets being given for parking in the fire lane, though the department did give out warnings.

The amended ordinance passed 5-1, with Bisbee voting against.

In other trash-related news, St. Louis County is sponsoring a business hazardous waste collection day in Ely on June 8 from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Northwoods Transfer Station for very small quantity generators. Fees vary based on items to be disposed. Appointments and pre-approval is required. For more information contact 218-749-0650

A household hazardous waste collection will be held on Thursday, June 15 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Ely Joint Public Works Facility, and on Thursday, Aug. 31 at the Northwoods site from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Other business

In other business, the council:

- Reminded residents that the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization is set for Thursday, May 11 from 5 – 6 p.m. at Ely City Hall.
- Heard public comment from Ely resident Patrick Knudson who urged the city to enforce ordinances against entertainment like the drag show that was put on at Grand Ely Lodge in late April to protect children from exposure to sexuality at a young age. Jason Pate, from Babbitt, also spoke in support of Knutson, and stated that Grand Ely Lodge was not in compliance with existing city and state zoning and ordinances on adult cabaret for hosting the show. "A drag brunch for children is not only inappropriate, but also in violation of city laws," he said,

although Pate did not cite any specific city ordinances, and the council did not respond to either of the speakers.

- Noted that planning and zoning will be issuing blight citations and letters. The city has set clean-up days for May 19 and 20.
- Heard that calendar parking is still in effect and will remain until city streets and sidewalks are swept and some tree maintenance is completed.
- Set a public hearing for May 16 at 5:15 p.m. to discuss a blighted property at 109 W Conan St. The property owner has until May 15 to remedy the situation.
- Formally lifted the moratorium on the sale of cannabinoid products derived from hemp.
- Approved, pending completion of required paperwork, an off-sale cannabinoid dealer license for Zup's Grocery.
- Approved a \$17,000 commercial rehabilitation loan for Jasper Company for a kitchen remodeling project.
- Heard that Campbell is stepping down from her seat on the Heritage Preservation Council (citizen seat), but will remain as the non-voting council representative. The city will advertise to fill the open seat.
- Approved an agreement with Closed Door Films to film on city properties including city hall, Whiteside Park, Semer's Park, Ely Cemetery, and the Ely Library. Most filming will be completed by early in June. Omerza said the film company will be bring a special guest to Whiteside Park on July 4 that "everyone will want to see."
- Awarded the airport taxi-lane project to the low bidder, Low Impact Excavators, for \$263,298.
- Had no discussion of a letter sent by Ely-Bloomenson CEO Patti Banks to the Ely Area Ambulance Service which stated the hospital has concerns over the governance and operations of the ambulance service and is questioning the legalities of continuing to donate cash in light of these concerns. The letter said the hospital proposes entering into discussion with the ambulance service to include having the hospital acquire the license, assets, and operations of the service, or making a contract between the hospital and ambulance service setting forth governance and operational changes needed in order for the hospital to feel comfortable enough to resume donations.

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TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Broadband project nearing completion in Cook

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

COOK- While emerging springtime has area residents prognosticating again about the most likely day for ice-out on Lake Vermilion, Cook residents have something else they’re looking forward to – the completion of the high-speed fiber Gigazone broadband network being installed in the city by Paul Bunyan Communications.

The company ran into a snag last fall with supply chain issues that left them without the equipment necessary to complete the project before winter. But the equipment has now arrived, and some residents who signed up early and had fiber already run to their homes have been connected and are enjoying blazing fast speeds of up to 10 gigabytes.

The company recently hosted a sign-up event at the Cook Hospital, and according to Brian Bissonette, the company’s marketing supervisor, the turnout was strong.

“I checked in with the team that went and they said it was wall to wall,” Bissonette said. “It was nonstop – our crew from start to finish didn’t have a free moment. It wasn’t a meeting where we answered questions and things, we did that on a personal level. They were just able to go to the Cook Hospital and sign up for services that day. It was really successful. The word is starting to spread.”

The base level of Gigazone service available is 250 megabytes, with additional options ranging up to the 10-gigabyte maximum, Bissonette said. Because the network is fiber-based, upload speeds are as fast as download speeds, something that will accommodate many of the needs for high-speed fiber broadband revealed by the COVID pandemic, such as distance learning, telemedicine, media streaming, and working

from home, Bissonette said.

“During the pandemic, when people were sent home to work from home and do distance learning, and maybe telemedicine, all those things combined with whatever else they were using the Internet for, Netflix and email and all of that, it really could get bogged down if you didn’t have those high speed, high upload speeds,” he said.

Subscribers can also get local and long-distance telephone service through the Gigazone, but Paul Bunyan’s television offerings won’t be available. That decision came down to the level of service the company holds itself to, Bissonette said.

“When we offer TV we want to be able to service it, and with Cook being so far from where our technicians usually are that’s not going to be available in the Cook expansion,” he said.

Television is a service that no longer generates profit for the cooperative, Bissonette said, due

to the rates charged by the major media companies that control about 90 percent of the networks. And when those providers raise rates, Paul Bunyan has to increase its prices, too.

But in the new age of digital streaming, customers still have plenty of options to accommodate their desire to watch television channels, and Paul Bunyan has entered into a partnership with My Bundle.TV, a sort of streaming service matchmaker that can direct consumers to a streaming service that provides what they want to see.

“Let’s say they want Discovery, and they want the Twins games and they want A&E,” Bissonette said. “They can put that all in there and then it finds the options and tells them what current promotions they’re running on the current prices. Our network can support any streaming service and multiple streaming services, so if you want to watch something, and then your

family, your spouse or your kids want to watch something else, they’re able to do that because of the speeds that we provide.”

With the winter’s deep snow acting as insulation the ground didn’t freeze as much as usual, and Bissonette said that should allow work crews to start in on construction earlier than usual this year. Bissonette encourages people to sign up now to take advantage of the wave of construction workers that will be in Cook doing installations.

“They can call, they can go online, they can go into our office in Grand Rapids, anybody who didn’t get signed up before construction ended can still get signed up,” he said. “They’ll be added to the list for when we start construction again. If they sign up in June, we may not be able to get back there for a few weeks.”

For more information about Paul Bunyan’s Gigazone broadband or to sign up, call 888-586-3100.

FILM PRODUCTION

Film crew drops plan to change movie name

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

The producers of a motion picture currently being filmed in Ely have changed their minds about the film’s title following pushback from local residents. Recently, the movie’s producer, told the *Timberjay* that they were

changing the working title of the film from its original moniker, “Athens” to “Boundary Waters,” to reflect the change in film location.

“(The plot) was originally set in Athens, N.Y.,” Miller remarked. “When we changed locations, we changed the title.”

The production has

now reverted to using the old working title of “Athens.”

“I thought the new title was pretty much set in stone,” Miller told the *Timberjay*, “but we received feedback from some in the community who thought, perhaps, that we were making an environmental film.”

Miller and her film company have worked hard to be good neighbors and to mesh well with the Ely area community. She was surprised when the movie crew heard some opposition to the name change.

“The film has nothing to do about mining or the environmental issues involving the Boundary

Waters (Canoe Area Wilderness). We don’t want to leave that impression and we don’t want to upset people in the community.” As a result, Miller said the crew will go back to using the working title “Athens.”

“Athens” is a coming-of-age movie about a 12-year-old boy named

Michael. His mother is raped and his parents and grandmother try to cover up the event. The movie is told from Michael’s perspective as he tries to uncover the facts of what happened to his mother.

BREITUNG TOWNSHIP

Town board to downsize McKinley Park improvements

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA
Staff Writer

SOUDAN- Only \$18,000 of a \$30,000 Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB) funding request was granted to Breitung Township for improvements to McKinley Park and Stuntz Bay. This means the township needs to revamp their plans, which had included Stuntz Bay dock replacement, McKinley Park dock decking, playground updates, sound system equipment, a large capacity canopy, new serving tables and picnic tables.

Current funding for the project includes \$18,000 from IRRRB, \$12,000 from McKinley Park funds, \$7,500 from Stuntz Bay Association, \$2,500 from Lake Country Power and \$20,000 from the township for a grand total of \$60,000.

At their April 29 meeting, the Breitung Town Board quickly decided that the Stuntz Bay part of the project would be given first priority, since the association is providing matching funds. Deciding the rest of the priorities was up for debate. Supervisor Matt Tuchel, looking at the numbers, first suggested to cut out the playground, wondering if they could set that aside for 2024 as a

separate project.

“The canopy (for Old Settlers) is definitely needed, if we could just hold off on the playground,” Tuchel said. “Or we could do the playground and Stuntz Bay and get rid of the rest of it.”

The board asked campground manager Susie Chiabotti if the dock decking and playground equipment could last another year. Chiabotti said that was a possibility. But the condition of the playground equipment was a concern for both Tuchel and a resident in the audience, who both noted it was in very poor condition and a possible liability.

Board Chair Tim Tomsich said he had heard that one of the directors of Old Settlers would provide funding for the sound system equipment. “If that’s the case, it will be no money out of our pockets,” he said.

Tomsich asked the board to go ahead to order the new dock for Stuntz Bay. The main dock at the landing was destroyed last spring from ice damage.

“Then we’ll find out more information on the sound system and bullhorn for Old Settlers, and if they have the funds they’d be ok to do that, and we’ll wait till the July meeting to see

about the rest of the items.” A motion was passed to go ahead with this plan.

Comments about the project can be made to clerk Dianna Sundahl by emailing clerk@breitung-township.org or by calling the office, 218-753-6021.

In other news, the board:

- Heard that the infrastructure project on 1st Avenue from Gordon St. then going halfway down Church St. to the mud ditch did not score high enough to receive funding from IRRR. Chairman Tim Tomsich will work with IRRR to improve the project. The project had already received funding from CBDG.
- Heard from Tomsich that he had a meeting with the St. Louis County land director, environmental services director, and city road engineer to discuss the Thompson Farm Road, gravel pit, and ATV trail project. The county suggested another route, running the road parallel to where the trail is planned, which would change the highway entrance. Another suggestion was to run the road on the property line between the township’s property and the privately owned gravel

- pit’s property. The group will have another meeting and include MnDOT. The board made a motion to approve pursuing the relocation of the Thompson Farm Rd. to the eastern edge of the township’s property.
- Accepted possession of a Kia that had been impounded for DWI. Chief Dan Reing will look into options for selling or auctioning the vehicle.
- Heard from Chief Reing who suggested applying for a Firehouse grant for a side-by-side ATV to be used during the 4th of July and to patrol the trails. Tomsich expressed concern about the extra costs associated with maintaining an extra vehicle. No action was taken.
- Approved a travel request for Chief Reing to fly to Kentucky for Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.). The G.R.E.A.T. program is taught by an officer in schools to teach conflict resolution, anti-bullying, and resisting gang violence. Reing said the state of Minnesota will reimburse 75 percent of the costs for the training and money from fundraisers and donations will pay for the remaining costs. He

said Vermilion Country School has agreed to do the program and Tower-Soudan Elementary School has indicated they’d like to do the program but still need to bring it to the school board. Reing said the class is taught in schools for a couple hours a week for six or twelve weeks.

- Talked with a resident about vacating an area of land adjacent to his property at 5737 Puncher Pt. Rd to allow the resident to build a garage. The board directed clerk Dianna Sundahl to work with the resident to complete the process. The land is a conservation right-of-way to Lake Vermilion.
- Heard that tickets for a blighted home on Jasper St. have not been paid yet.
- Heard a request from residents Amanda and Paul Meyer to make changes to their driveway on Miettunen Plat Rd. The board voted to authorize Keith Mattila from maintenance to speak with the homeowners and let the project move forward with

his approval.

- Paid an invoice to JPI Engineering for \$22,176 for designing infrastructure improvements.
- Passed a motion to have Tuchel serve as the township representative for the ambulance ad hoc committee.
- Heard that CTC will run fiber internet to the McKinley Park Campground Office for free if the township signs a contract for five years of service at a fixed cost of \$153 per month. The board passed a motion to enter into the contract.
- Discussed getting broadband internet for residents. Supervisor Tuchel will look into it.
- Set township clean-up days for June 5, 6 and 7.
- Heard that hazardous waste day at the Soudan Canister Site will be 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, June 28.
- The next meeting will be Thursday, May 25 at noon.

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BASEBALL

Wolves rally falls short in home opener



Ely wins two on the road against Deer River and Carlton

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

ELY— A solid South Ridge baseball team handed Ely its first loss of the season here on Tuesday, 8-5.

Both teams took their time getting on the board. Ely threatened in the first

Left: Drew Marolt winds for delivery during Tuesday's contest against South Ridge.

and second innings, but South Ridge managed to work out of jams and hold the Wolves scoreless until the fifth inning. South Ridge started the run parade in the fifth, with three runs to take a 4-0 lead. Ely responded with three runs in the bottom of the frame, to cut the lead to 4-3, but the Panthers added four more runs, all of them unearned, in the sixth to take control.

Ely threatened a rally in the bottom of the seventh with two runs in on a Logan Loe RBI single and the bases loaded. But the Panthers, behind pitcher Wyatt Olson, managed to snuff the effort.

"It was a good game against a very good team," said Ely Head Coach Frank Ivancich. "We just made too many mistakes, too many walks and untimely errors cost us a chance today. But

it's early in the season."

Junior Drew Marolt went four-plus innings on the mound for Ely, giving up four runs on three hits while walking six and fanning three.

Ely junior Deegan Richards had a big day offensively plating two Ely runs.

Christian Pretasky

See **WOLVES...**pg. 2B

BWCAW

Outfitters ruffled by towboat lawsuit

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

REGIONAL- Two legal actions are in play currently in a lawsuit that seeks to curtail the use of towboats in the Boundary Waters. The first, a lawsuit filed by Wilderness Watch in February, ruffled feathers among outfitters who utilize towboats to bring their customers into the wilderness faster. Now, the threat of a preliminary injunction, that would ban towboats this summer, appears to already be harming local businesses.

At the April 25 meeting of the Ely Economic Development Agency, whose voting members included the entire Ely City Council, Mayor Heidi Omerza reported she had recently received communication from three Ely-based outfitters who reported that "customers are canceling trips" into the BWCAW. She also reported she had knowledge of the same thing happening to "10 to 11 other outfitters in the area," including some out of Grand Marais who provide services for the Moose Lake entry point into the wilderness.

Preliminary injunction

The immediate threat to towboat activity is a motion for a preliminary injunction filed on Feb. 13, which asked for a ban on tows while the main Wilderness Watch lawsuit makes its way through the court system.

As of May 2, U.S. District Judge Nancy E. Brasel had not ruled on that motion. She held a nearly two-hour hearing on March 29 to listen to arguments for and against the proposed injunction.

The court records state "The Court will schedule a status conference prior to issuing the order after the parties have met and conferred regarding negotiations regarding the lack of limit (or perceived limit) on towboat use."

See **LAWSUIT...**pg. 2B



SOFTBALL

Unearned runs sink Ely

Slip to 2-2 on the season after 16-6 loss to South Ridge

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

ELY— Ten unearned runs for South Ridge proved a bridge too far for the Ely softball team here on Tuesday as the Timberwolves fell 16-6 to the Panthers to slip to 2-2 in a season shortened by extended snow cover.

The Panthers jumped out early, putting nine runs on the board in the first two innings to take a 9-0 lead. The Wolves notched three runs in top of the third, but South Ridge kept the pressure on, with two more runs in the bottom of the frame. The Panthers added five more runs in the fifth and sixth innings, while Ely put up three in the top of the sixth to round out the scoring.

Despite the lopsided score, the Wolves outthit the Panthers 10-9.

"I was really happy with how the girls battled until the end," said

Above: Ely catcher Peyton Huntington tags out a South Ridge baserunner at the plate during Tuesday's contest in Ely.

Right: Third baseman Rachel Coughlin prepares to scoop up a hard hit grounder.

photos by J. Greeney

Ely Head Coach Cory Lassi. "We gave up 16 runs, but only six were earned."

Freshman Zoe MacKenzie started on the mound for Ely, but was knocked out at the end of the first inning after allowing six runs on five hits. Eighth-grader Amelia Penke came on in relief, pitching just over four innings, allowing four hits and ten runs, six of them earned. She struck out three. "She

See **SOFTBALL...**pg. 2B



BASEBALL

Grizzlies notch first win, drop two at MI-B, Rock Ridge

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

EVELETH- Perhaps a young North Woods baseball team got a glimpse of their own future on Tuesday, as an older, more experienced and bigger Rock Ridge squad hammered the Grizzlies 17-0 in Eveleth.

Louie Panichi got the Grizzlies off on the right foot

with a scorching lead-off triple to left field, but North Woods couldn't capitalize, leaving him stranded at third.

The Wolverines carved up North Woods starter Ben Kruse in the bottom of the first with steely efficiency, pounding the Grizzlies hurler for five hits and nine runs in their first at-bat.

Held scoreless in the top of

the second after a nice lead-off double by Alex Burckhardt, a pitching change brought the Grizzlies momentary respite as Panichi held the Wolverines without a run in the bottom of the inning.

However, Rock Ridge turned Panichi into a trivia question answer in the third: What pitcher gave up the first home run, a grand slam, in the

Right: North Woods' Eli Smith holds a Rock Ridge runner on at first

photo by D. Colburn

Wolverines' new synthetic turf stadium? Rock Ridge added one additional run to lead 14-0.

The Grizzlies squandered a golden opportunity with runners on second and third

See **GRIZZLIES...**pg. 2B



Ely Economic Development Agency talks about towboat issue

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- The Ely Economic Development Agency (EEDA) met for their monthly meeting on April 25. The standout item was a discussion on the ongoing lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for Minnesota against the National Forest Service. The case was filed in early February by Wilderness Watch, who has argued that the NFS is in violation of its own towboat limits and rules. The environmental activist organization has requested a preliminary injunction on all towboats in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area

Wilderness (BWCAW). Mayor Heidi Omerza remarked that she has received reports from three Ely outfitting businesses and “10 to 11 towboat operators in the greater Ely area” that customers have cancelled their trips to Ely for fear that towboats will not be allowed to operate this year in the BWCAW. The NFS has until May 8 to respond to the complaint and motion for preliminary injunction on all towboats filed by Wilderness Watch. The May 8 date is an extension on the original deadline. Wilderness Watch’s complaint and motions and the

responses to those from the NFS are available through the Public Access to Court Electronic Records system for federal courts. If the preliminary injunction is granted, it would have substantial negative impact on local towboat operators. Regarding other items on the agenda, the EEDA: ➤ Approved John Fedo & Associates invoice and monthly activity summary for February. John Fedo is the City of Ely’s economic development consultant. ➤ Approved the payment of EEDA’s February bills totaling \$74,508.

➤ Approved the note, mortgage, personal guarantee, and forgivable loan agreement for Eagle Wolf Development, LLC/ Ely Hardware, Inc for the EDA Commercial Development Corridor Program. ➤ Heard the report from City of Ely clerk and treasurer Harold Langowski regarding the two-month lease for 720 E Miners Drive between City of Ely and Closed Doors Films LLC. Closed Doors Films is the production company filming a feature-length film in Ely starting the first week in May. ➤ Approved a \$500 contribution to the April 28 Non-Tra-

ditional Lender’s Forum. ➤ Approved the proposal for “Full Feasibility Study for a Housing Market Analysis” to be performed by Maxfield Research and Consulting for \$8,200. A full study is one that includes a data-driven analysis of occupancy and housing demand. The last study was done in 2019 and is now out-of-date given the changes since the pandemic. Redoing the study is with the encouragement of the State of Minnesota, which has pointed out that the lack of recent study all but destroys Ely’s ability to compete for housing grants and funding programs.

Obituaries and Death Notices



Frank J. Brula

Frank John Brula, 86, of Babbitt and Coal Point-Lake Vermilion, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, at Essentia Health-Virginia Hospital, following the 14-day fight of his life to conquer a bacterial infection and complications which ravaged his body. A Funeral Mass and celebration of life will be held on Saturday, July 1 at St. Martin’s Catholic Church in Tower, with visitation at 9 a.m. and Mass at 10 a.m. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home of Virginia. Frank was born on Jan. 23, 1937, in Tower, the first of four boys born to Frank “Nina” and Doris Desannoy Brula and grew up proud to be a “Tower Boy” of Slovenian and French heritage. He was raised in a loving, giving, hardworking, stable home where he learned respect, a tremendous work ethic, the value of a dollar, and the value of getting an education. Some of Frank’s earliest jobs were driving dump truck and working at his Uncle Dave’s Service Station where he learned valuable skills which would allow him to problem solve and fix anything in his lifetime. He also had the unique opportunity of logging with a team of horses one winter. Frank graduated from Tower High School in 1955 and went on to attend Vermilion Junior College (traveling by school bus between Tower and Ely), St. Cloud State College where he obtained a Bachelor’s Degree in Teaching (on Tuesdays he ate cheap dented-can meals), and then proudly received his Master’s Degree from North Dakota State University, after spending five summers in a program sponsored by the National Science Foundation. His first

Chemistry, Physics and Math teaching position was for three years in Barnum where he began establishing his legend as a teacher; he followed it up with thirty years in Babbitt. Teaching became a passion for Frank. He set the expectations high, as he valued his students; he was in total command of his subject matter; he had the incredible ability to clearly explain himself; and he had an uncanny knack for presenting concepts by comparisons to realistic and often funny life situations that etched understanding for a lifetime (Jello in a room; projectile out a car window; aluminum boat on the water). Frank found great joy knowing that he had positively influenced successful career choices and helped to build solid foundations for many students, and greatly appreciated the written notes of thanks and kind words of appreciation he received over the years. Students often said he taught invaluable life lessons as well. Many thanks to Frank, too, for having served as union president for a lengthy period of time; he fought long and hard for teachers. When thinking about Frank, the enormity of the family cabin property on Coal Point of Lake Vermilion stands large. To think that everything it represents was built with blood, sweat and tears by his dad, mom and brothers, as they tore down old buildings to sell what they could to make extra money during hard times and to use what they could to build the deeply meaningful and sentimental structures. Since Frank retired from teaching in 1995, six months of each year have been spent living at the cabin and six months living in Babbitt. Cabin life is simple and basic where joy and happiness are measured by such intangibles as standing in the sauna window drinking a beer and listening to tunes, grilling in the boat slip, sitting around a campfire on the point, and, for Frank, working tirelessly to keep everything going. Thank you, Frank, for all that you have done to preserve and share the beauty, tranquility and lifestyle of the cabin. May your strong legacy guide us going forward. As a young boy, Frank developed a genuine passion

for trapping and it continued throughout his life. In fact, at age 84, he still trapped 200 beaver. He was an informed and knowledgeable trapper who enjoyed time outdoors during all the different trapping seasons whether he was scouting, laying down iron, or checking traps and snares. He was skilled and meticulous at putting up his own fur. He was a wealth of information and had a multitude of colorful stories to tell. He was proud not only of his time in the field, but of his time as a co-director of the Minnesota Trapping Association (MTA) for District One, of his status as a Certified MTA Trapping Instructor, of his leadership with the Pine Marten Nesting Box Building Project, and for his mentoring of young trappers. In addition, in his younger days, he was an avid walleye and lake trout fisherman, having caught various lunkers. He was also fortunate to have had success bagging a moose in both the U.S. and Canada. When reflecting upon Frank’s 86 quality years, one life-altering and incredible event occurred on August 26, 1985, when he was united in marriage at Coal Point to the love of his life, Linda Korhonen, who then became Linda Korhonen-Brula. They formed a union which included the bonus of two stepchildren for Frank, stepdaughter Kaija and stepson Mathew. It turned out to be a family dynamic that brought a great deal of learning, fun, happiness and joy to the four of them. Frank respected that he was a stepdad to the kids and it was upon that foundation that relationships grew, thrived, and found incredible value and satisfaction. Over time, four grandchildren were added to the family...nine-year-old Graham, eight-year-old Eero, seven-year-old Brielle, and six-year-old Airi. Grandpa Frank, or Grandpa Goofy as he was called, reached them in the most unique ways. He was the one who could get them to haul sauna wood, stack lumber, pick up pine cones, crush cans, or rake the beach, and they would think they were having fun (when the rest of the family tried to cajole them into doing these activities, they were chores). On the flip

side of the coin, he would take them tubing, for boat rides, for four-wheeler rides, or get them enthused while he read aloud to them from the Wall Street Journal. He definitely left his mark upon all of them. As we say our final good-byes, Frankie J., thank you for the wonderful years we had together, for your bigger than life personality, for your contagious laugh, for your fascinating stories, for your love of our Airedale, Rusty, for your keen mind, and for making our family unit so strong and caring. For a life well lived, rest in peace and we will let your legacy guide us and strengthen us in years to come. Frank is survived by his wife, Linda; stepchildren, Kaija (husband Jan and children Eero and Airi) and Matt (wife Angie and children Graham and Brielle); brother, Tom (wife Peggy); two godsons, Jim Mustonen and Andy Brula; several cousins and their spouses; a niece; and a multitude of good friends too numerous to name. Thank you to all. You meant the world to Frank. He was preceded in death by his parents, Nina and Dorie; brothers, David and Fred; both sets of grandparents, who influenced his life greatly; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. Judith F. Ronning Judith Faye Thornberg Ronning, 78, of Cook, passed away on Saturday, April 22, 2023, at her winter home in St. Mary’s, Ga. A visitation was held on Thursday, April 27 at Allison Memorial Chapel in St. Mary’s for her dear friends in Georgia. A visitation will also be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 6 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook for her beloved family and friends in Minnesota. A celebration of her life will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 1, in the full bloom of summer, at the First Baptist Church in Cook. Visitation will be held one hour prior. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook. She is survived by her husband, Jon; daughters, Janell (Dean) and Jonna; son, Justin; siblings, Millie, Marilyn, Sharon (John), Sheila (Loren) and Terry; two grandsons; three

granddaughters; a great-grandson; and a great-granddaughter on the way. Jennie T. Mayasich Jennie Theresa Tavchar Pettinelli Mayasich, 96, of Virginia, died on Monday, April 24, 2023, at Edgewood Vista in Virginia. A celebration of life will take place at a later date. Family services are provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower. She is survived by her husband, Edward; children, Mike (Diane) Pettinelli of Tower, Tony (Debbie) Pettinelli of Mt. Iron, Dave Pettinelli of Virginia, Larry (Mary Ellen) Pettinelli of Britt and Steve (Cindy) Pettinelli of Tower; ten grandchildren; and numerous great-grandchildren. Frederick R. Urbanek Frederick “Fred” Robert Urbanek, 85, of Hobart, Ind., and Lake Vermilion-Tower, passed away at home with his family by his side on Thursday, April 20, 2023. Per his wishes, no services have been scheduled. Burns Funeral Home of Hobart is entrusted with arrangements. He is survived by his loving wife of almost 26 years, Shirley Urbanek; five children, Kelly (Rick) Evans, Robert Urbanek, Kathleen Urbanek, Frederick (Annie) Urbanek and Karen (Merrick) Morris; twelve grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. Joseph E. Lobe Joseph Eugene Lobe of Roseville, and Fall Lake-Ely, passed away peacefully on Friday, April 21, 2023. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at noon on Friday, May 5 at St. Odilia Catholic Church in Shoreview with visitation one hour prior. Afterward, friends and family are invited to a luncheon at Little Venetian in Little Canada. He is survived by his loving wife of 66 years, Jean Borelli Lobe; son, Peter (Ivy) Lobe; daughters, Cindy (Brad) Eggen and Sheila (Mike) Nally; eight grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; nieces, nephews and friends.

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before

after



Outdoors

Our lives in the Northwoods

LAKE VERMILION

Fond du Lac harvest to focus on west end

Maximum declared harvest at 7,820 pounds, but actual take will likely be far less

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Members of the Fond du Lac Band are expected to begin their spring netting on Lake Vermilion as early as next week. The annual event is part of the Band’s efforts

Left: Fisheries staff with the Fond du Lac Band were busy measuring fish caught during the 2019 harvest in this file photo.

to exercise its off-reservation fishing rights within the 1854 Treaty area.

The spring harvest, which can be undertaken using either nets or spears, is typically held ahead of the statewide fishing opener, usually just after ice-out. That could prove a complication for this year’s harvest, since ice was still lingering on much of Vermilion as of this week.

The harvest is well-regulated, with fisheries staff measur-

ing each of the fish caught by the dozen or so band members who typically turn out for the harvest. A post-harvest report issued by the Band records the number of fish and total pounds taken.

On Vermilion, the Band has typically rotated its harvest between the eastern and western basins of the lake. This year, the Fond du Lac have declared a maximum harvest of 7,820 pounds from the west end, but the actual harvest is likely to be

much less than that.

Last year, Fond du Lac members harvested 1,100 pounds of fish from Vermilion’s eastern basin, after declaring a maximum harvest of 10,000 pounds. In 2021, the Band declared a maximum harvest of 10,000 pounds, again from the east end, but actually harvested just 625 pounds.

“1,100 pounds of harvest would be unidentifiable in our

See HARVEST...pg. 5B



WATCHING THE SEASON

Will it or won’t it?

New forecasting tool might help with those ice-out predictions

REGIONAL— Will it or won’t it? With fishing opener just over a week away, and ice still covering many North Country lakes as of late this week, whether that ice would clear in time for the annual celebration of the walleye was the predominant question on the lips of many.

It’s not just idle curiosity in these parts. Opening weekend of fishing is a huge economic boost for the region, impacting resorts, hotels, bait shops, restaurants, bars, gas stations, and more.

But it all depends on open water, or at least enough open water to keep the anglers happy.

While late April’s snow and lingering cold temperatures proved a setback, there’s reason for optimism for those looking to get their docks and boats in the water in time for next Saturday.

When it comes to predicting ice-out, most of us have a pretty unscientific approach. Temperatures, the amount of wind or sunshine all play into it for most of us, but how do you really calculate how those various factors fit together to determine when the ice finally disappears?

That was a question that has been on the mind of John Downing, a UMD professor of biology and director of the Minnesota Sea Grant, and he’s come up with a method of estimating ice-out based almost entirely on temperature. He wrote a column on this back in March for the Sea Grant website, which you can find at <https://seagrants.mn.edu/news-info/featured-stories/forecasting-ice-out-minnesota-lakes>. [Thanks to Heidi Holtan, at KAXE/KBXE radio for alerting me to Downing’s column].

In his column, he introduced what he

Above: Ice was still mostly white but beginning to darken on Lake Vermilion near McKinley Park on Monday, May 1.

Right: Bald eagles gather around the remains of a fish in the Pike Bay narrows.

photos by M. Helmberger

calls an “Ice-out widget,” which you can find at: <https://seagrants.mn.edu/programs/recreation-and-water-safety-program/mn-ice-ice-out>.

Downing notes that the widget will not tell you whether or not ice is safe, but only when it’s likely to disappear. Actually, it can also help us predict when the ice will form in the fall.

The widget relies on automated weather data from almost two dozen airports around the state, including those in Hibbing and International Falls, and you can select whichever airport is closest to your lake to determine which data set to use.

For ice-out, you’re looking for the number of what are known as “thawing degree days,” which you can determine for each day based on the following formula: [High temp + low temp] divided by two, then subtract 32. For example, let’s say you have a low of 30 and a high of 55. That would equal 85, which would come to 42.5 when divided by two, and 10.5 after subtracting 32. So, you would have 10.5 thawing degree days for that date. You can count any thawing degree days from Jan. 1 on, since they can all contribute to thawing lake ice.

As Downing puts it, thawing degree days essentially provide an objective measure of cumulative springtime warmth. In northern Minnesota, Downing said it takes an average of about 220 thawing degree days before we reach a 50-percent probability of ice-out. That probability increases beyond that point. By the time we reach 275 thawing degree days, we have an 80-percent chance of ice-out.

It’s a good benchmark, but it’s not



foolproof as a predictor, Downing acknowledges. The size of the lake, the thickness of the ice, snow cover, amount of sunshine, and windiness can all either slow or quicken the pace of ice-out. Based on Downing’s widget, the Hibbing airport had 145 thawing degree days as of Monday, May 1. Using the forecasted high and low temperatures on my various weather apps between now and opener, we should expect to add another 191 thawing degree days by then. That would total about 336 thawing degree days between now and opener, which would give us a nearly 100-percent probability of ice-out. Indeed, based on Downing’s model, we should expect a better-than-50-percent probability of ice-out on most area lakes as of May 7.

That would be about 10 days later than average for most area lakes, and just over a week later than average for our larger lakes, like Vermilion and Burntside, where the median ice-out date is April 30.

This forecast assumes we don’t have any weather surprises, like an early May cold front or snowstorm that sets us back for a few days. We all know that’s happened before. Assuming our current forecasts hold, and that Downing’s model works as he suggests, we should have clear sailing for opening weekend.

RIDING

Mountain bike races to be held weekly in Ely



ELY— Come challenge yourself on some of the best mountain biking trails in the northwoods. The Hidden Valley Hammer is a weekly cross-country mountain bike race that will be held at Hidden Valley Recreation Area in Ely, starting at 6 p.m. on Fridays, May 26 through June 23.

Whether you’re a hardcore racer or new to riding dirt, this fun, no-frills event is geared to provide an enjoyable riding experience through some exciting and scenic terrain.

Proceeds from the Hidden Valley Hammer will be donated to Team BOREALIS, Ely’s youth mountain biking team.

Courses will vary from week to week and each race will have a long course (12-15 miles) and a short course (5-7 miles). Riders 12 and under on these courses will require a paid adult rider with them at all times. Each week will also feature a free kids race.

The cost is \$15 per race for adults, or you can sign up for all five weeks for \$60. For riders 18 or younger, the cost is \$5 per race, while kids 12 and under race for free with a paid adult. Hidden Valley Recreation Area is located at 1258 Hidden Valley Rd., in Ely.

For more information and to register online, www.elynordic.org/about/events. Race day registration starts at 5:00 p.m.

In the event of rain or other weather events where riding may damage the trails, the course will be routed to mowed ski trails (still FUN!). Severe weather will result in race cancellation.

Refund policy

There will be no refunds for the Hidden Valley Hammer. In the event you are unable to race for any reason your entry fee can be considered a donation to Hidden Valley trail maintenance and Team BOREALIS.

LIVING IN BEAR COUNTRY

Late spring prompts more bear complaints

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — It’s been a long winter, and not just for the human residents of the North Country. Black bears are emerging from their long winter naps hungrier than usual, and with the late snow melt they’re finding little in the way of natural foods to recover after several months without eating.

And that’s got at least a few bears turning to other sources of potential food, like bird feeders and other animal feed put out by local livestock growers, causing damage at residences mostly in the Tower area.

“We had a big bear on the property Thursday night,” said Becky Gawboy, who raises a variety of livestock just south of Tower. “It destroyed the inside of the pig yard, ripped off the door, and sent the pigs running. They were gone for days.” The big bruin also tipped over the Gawboy’s bird feeder, and pulled down a peanut feeder that was hung eight feet up in the air. “He just trashed everything everywhere he went,” said Gawboy.

The bear was a repeat offender, showing up the next day. But Gawboy said all her animals and various sources of food had been moved to the barn by then, relatively safe behind locked doors.

The bear was also back on Monday night this week, and pulled down the one remaining peanut feeder, which was nearly empty.

Jessica Holmes, DNR Tower Area wildlife manager, said the problem appears to be a localized one this spring. “There’s a local bear that’s creating a lot of havoc, including here at the DNR office,” said Holmes. She said bears often turn to easy sources of food in the spring, especially before some of the spring greens start emerging. “But we’re hearing no widespread complaints. It appears to be a pretty isolated situation.”

The problem bear hasn’t been content to wreak havoc at just one location. Just down the road from Gawboys, what appears to be the same bear has left Lisa Anderson and her family feeling almost trapped inside their house, fearful of going outside without a gun. Anderson said she first saw the big bear while coming home from Tower on Saturday evening. She turned into her driveway to see it standing in the middle of the drive, looking at her. She honked the horn, but rather than running away as she expected, the bear scratched at the dirt, squatted, and defecated, producing what she described as an enormous pile of partially digested black oil sunflower seeds.

Rather than try to make a run for the house, she drove away for a while, hoping the bear would leave. Instead, it went on a rampage, ripping down fences that house her sizable flocks of chickens, ducks, geese, and guinea hens. It’s also caused damage to fences that contain her horses, and left them unusually skittish.

Anderson said the bear has returned repeatedly since then. She’s tried using firecrackers and pistol shots to scare the bear away, mostly without effect. While the bear’s initial foray onto her property seemed to focus on accessing animal feed, she was petrified when it



ventured onto her deck the other night, concerned that it would try to gain entry to the house. “There is no food there, so the only reason to come on the deck would be to break in,” she said.

Anderson said she contacted the Department of Natural Resources and spoke to a conservation officer who told her that the agency no longer relocates nuisance bears, but that she was free to shoot it if it was causing damage.

Anderson said that isn’t the answer she was looking for. “I want it gone, I don’t want it dead,” she said. In the meantime, she said she doesn’t go outside without a gun right now just in case the bear shows up.

While most residents haven’t seen the kind of damage experienced by Anderson or Gawboy, bears have been showing up at residences all around the area. Bears, of various sizes, have been frequent visitors around homes in Tower and elsewhere, scrounging for anything edible, but most damage, if any, has been minor.

Anderson said the conservation officer she spoke with told her that the situation would improve in the next few weeks as things start to green up and bears turn their attention elsewhere for food.

While the bear will eventually move on, neither Anderson nor Gawboy is interested in waiting around if the bear is going to continue to cause damage. Gawboy said if the bear shows up during daylight, she’ll solve the problem—permanently.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST from NOAA weather

Friday

54 39

Saturday

56 40

Sunday

60 42

Monday

64 45

Tuesday

64 44

Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
04/24	36	17	0.00		04/24	38	12	0.00		04/24	40	10	0.00		04/24	43	14	0.00		04/24	40	8	0.00	
04/25	40	19	0.00		04/25	40	14	0.00		04/25	39	15	0.00		04/25	45	19	0.00		04/25	41	14	0.00	
04/26	41	22	0.00		04/26	42	16	0.00		04/26	40	19	0.00		04/26	52	19	0.00		04/26	42	17	0.00	
04/27	49	31	0.23	0.5"	04/27	49	16	0.26	0.5"	04/27	51	19	0.25		04/27	55	34	0.25		04/27	50	26	0.20	tr
04/28	53	35	0.00		04/28	54	32	0.00		04/28	55	33	0.01		04/28	43	37	0.04		04/28	54	36	0.00	
04/29	46	34	0.19		04/29	48	33	0.25		04/29	44	34	0.15		04/29	46	34	0.00		04/29	48	35	0.40	
04/30	43	31	0.18	1.5"	04/30	45	32	0.15	1.5"	04/30	44	32	0.04	0.5"	04/30	46	32	0.40	tr	04/30	44	32	0.24	1.0"
YTD Total			7.54	99.8"	YTD Total			6.64	85.3"	YTD Total			4.53	87.2"	YTD Total			NA	NA	YTD Total			6.19	81.9"

Outdoors briefly

Vermilion Trap Club awarded DNR grant for shooting range

WINTON — The Department of Natural Resources has awarded an \$18,400 matching grant to the Vermilion Range Trap Club here to help purchase several new skeet target throwers, one trap target thrower and a target storage unit. The throwers will provide dependable shooting and target storage will reduce shooting costs.

The grant reflects the DNR’s commitment for safe shooting opportunities and generous community support.

The Vermilion Range Trap Club is located on the Old Winton Road just below the Winton water tower near the Longbranch. The club exists to provide safe shooting opportunities for anyone in the area and is open to the general public. Shooting venues include trap, skeet, and a

small sporting clays course. Trap and skeet shooting is held on Sunday afternoons at 1:00 p.m. until about 4 p.m. and Wednesday evenings after 5 p.m. until dusk. The 25 target sporting clays course starts in late August through most of September, a good tune up for hunting season, and it is fun.

Trap is a 25-shot shooting game where clay targets are thrown away from the shooter at a variety of angles. Skeet, also a 25-target close range sport, where one and two clay targets are thrown at close ranges. This is the perfect way to master and perfect wing shooting skills. Sporting clays often referred to as golf with a shotgun replicates hunting situations. Each course is different as a squad of shooters travel from station to station to experience unique shooting situations. “Sporting Ducks” at the range offers rising targets, overhead duck shots, point blank woodcock shots, long range goose shots, and flushing grouse.

Memberships are available although not required and shooting is open to everyone. Trap is usually shot with a full or modified choke. Skeet and Sporting Ducks with a skeet or cylinder choke. Target loads using shot size of 7 ½, 8, or 9 are required for safety. Ear protection and eye protection is also required by all. Reservations are not needed.

The Vermilion Range Trap Club (VRTC) has been in existence for over 50 years in the same location and is the home of the Vermilion College Trap Team. It has also been a site for youth gun safety, Boy Scout merit badges, and group outings. The charcoal grill gets used frequently. The club hosts several shooting events such as the Spoonbill Challenge against neighboring clubs, the Cold Turkey Shoot in November, and other safe shooting fun. It’s a good place for folks to gather who enjoy the outdoors and introduce kids to safe shooting.

HARVEST...Continued from page 4B

Lake Vermilion netting survey,” said Keith Reeves, Tower Area DNR fisheries manager. “They are probably affected by late spring ice-outs because their netting ends by walleye opener,” said Reeves. “I suspect their efforts will be affected again this year.”

Since 2016, the Fond du Lac annual harvest has ranged from 1,758 pounds in 2016 to zero in

2020, a year that was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Reeves said most Fond du Lac members focus their efforts on Mille Lacs, which is closer to many of their homes, and less subject than Vermilion to late ice-outs. Reeves said a 2017 Memorandum of Understanding that includes the DNR and Fond du Lac outlines steps to be taken if tribal harvest approaches their actual

allocation. “But the Band harvest on Lake Vermilion has been well under that,” said Reeves.

The Band typically declares its intention to harvest fish from about a dozen other lakes in the 1854 Treaty zone. However, in recent years, most of those lakes have experienced no harvesting activity by the Fond du Lac as part of their spring season.

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Project Manager
Closes: 05/12/2023

Position Purpose: The Project Manager provides project management services to the Bois Forte Tribal Government and the Bois Forte Development Corporation. This position has general responsibilities for on-site project management including construction coordination, scheduling, monitoring, and supervision of project work by contractors. The Project Manager will be the primary field representative for the Tribal Government on projects where a "construction manager at will" is not hired.

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Published in the Timberjay, May 5, 2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

MORCOM TOWNSHIP MEETING CHANGE NOTICE

The regularly scheduled Morcom Town Board meeting has been changed from May 10 to May 24, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. Please contact Sasha Lehto, Clerk, if you have any questions at 218-969-5812.

Published in the Timberjay, May 5, 2023

Super Crossword

Answers

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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.

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

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Chief Executive Officer
open until filled

Position Purpose: The Chief Executive Officer directs and supervises the Health and Human Services programs and management functions of all Health and Human Services supervisors and their programs. Health and Human Services is the sole community health provider at the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, including clinics in Nett Lake, MN, and Tower, MN. The CEO will provide leadership and assume responsibility and accountability for the overall strategic and operational planning of HHS in conjunction with and within the authority of the general strategic direction of the governing health board. The CEO will perform duties and responsibilities personally or through subordinate supervisors. The CEO will direct and coordinate all activities of the clinic to achieve the objective of providing quality health care to the citizens of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa and surrounding areas. The CEO is responsible for the clinic's operation, the application and implementation of policies, and the liaison to the Board of Directors and Tribal Council, Medical Staff, and the community. Employs qualified personnel and ensures staff education and evaluation. Takes an active role in implementing an effective budgeting and accounting system. Participates and represents the clinic's interest in community and healthcare-related organizations within the reservation and surrounding area.

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Published in the Timberjay, May 5, 12, 19 & 26, 2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

KUGLER TOWNSHIP REGULAR MEETING NOTICE

The Kugler Town Board will hold their regular monthly board meeting on Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at 5 p.m. at the Kugler Town Hall.

Christopher Suihkonen, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, May 5, 2023

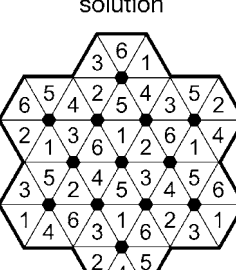
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PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS DISTRICT COURT SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
10. Other - Quiet Title SUMMONS
(To be tried in the City of Virginia)

EVELETH - GILBERT INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #2902, formerly Independent School District #2154, formerly Independent School District #697, formerly Independent School District #39, Plaintiff,

vs.
FRED A. ROBINSON, Trustee under the terms of a certain indenture dated 05/25/1903, the unknown heirs of Fred A. Robinson, and all other persons unknown claiming any right, title, estate, interest in or lien upon the subject property described in the Complaint herein, Defendants.

THE STATE OF MINNESOTA TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to

serve upon Plaintiffs' attorney an Answer to the Complaint which is on file in the office of the Administrator of the above-named Court within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

This action involves, affects or brings in question real property situated in St. Louis County, State of Minnesota, described as follows, to wit:
Lots 1-18, Block 48, Eveleth Central Division No. 1.
That Plaintiff is the owner of Lots 1-18, Block 48, Eveleth Central Division No 1.

The object of this action is to obtain a judgment that Plaintiff is the owner in fee, each of specifically described parcels contained within the above-described real property and any buildings and personal property, and that Defendants have no estate or interest therein or lien thereon.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that no personal claim is made

by Plaintiff against any of the Defendants.

Civil cases are subject to Alternative Dispute Resolution processes as provided in Rule 114 of the General Rules of Practice for the District Courts. Alternative Dispute Resolution includes mediation, arbitration, and other processes set forth in the Rules. You may contact the Court Administrator for information about these processes and about resources available in your area.

Dated this 27th day of April, 2023

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFFS

DEFENBAUGH LAW OFFICE
Rae R. Bentz
107 E Camp St
Ely, MN 55731
(218)365-4977
Attorney ID No. 218376

By: Rae R. Bentz
Date: April 27, 2023

Published in the Timberjay, May 5, 12 & 19, 2023

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

LPW'M KHM MOH EHTN PE

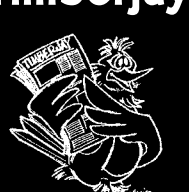
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MOH HYRAMHGHWM PE VAWWAWU.

— NPSHNM ZAQPITZA

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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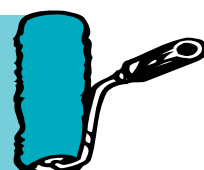
Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

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