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# the TIMBERJAY



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989 VOL. 34, ISSUE 20 May 26, 2023 \$1<sup>50</sup>

## ELDER CARE

### New funding, donations save Ely nursing home, for now

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- After the drought of funding for skilled nursing homes following the 2022 legislative session, the announcement that Ely’s Boundary Waters Care Center (BWCC) would receive \$750,000 for capital equipment was more than welcome.

The even bigger story, however, is that BWCC survived its own funding crisis over the last five months with

the help of the Ely community and a helping hand from Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital (EBCH).

“I can’t thank Ely enough,” said Adam Masloski, executive director of BWCC. “Our 50 employees will continue in their jobs and our residents will be able to stay here close to their families because of this community’s outpouring of support.”

#### BWCC’s rough patch

As reported in the Jan. 20 edition of the *Timberjay*, BWCC faced its own

**Right: As one of the many who donated to the Boundary Waters Care Center, 100 Ely Women Who Care donated \$6,870 recently.**

**Front row, (l-r) Barbara Kollar, 101-year-old resident of BWCC and Adam Masloski. Back row: Emily Brown, Cindy Gardner, and Mary Zimmerman.**

photo by A. Sireke  
cash liquidity crisis earlier this year, which threatened the center’s ability to fund its operations in the short-  
**See...FUNDING pg. 9**



## LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP

### Lawmakers deliver for the North Country

Tens of millions of project dollars headed to region

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

ST. PAUL— A late session deal that added \$1.5 billion in state bonding to a capital projects improvement bill is expected to inject \$2.6 billion into the state’s economy over the biennium, with tens of millions of dollars headed to the North Country. It’s the largest state infrastructure funding package in state history.

The \$1.5 billion in bonding was a last-minute add-on to a \$1.1 billion cash-only proposal, which had the support of DFLers in the Legislature, but little GOP support. The bonding measure includes the same items that had been included in an earlier bonding bill which Republicans in the Senate rejected back in March. Bonding

**See...PROJECTS pg. 10**



**Top left: Area residents gather regularly at the Embarrass Timber Hall for a wide range of activities. The facility will receive \$1.5 million to fund improvements and repairs.**

**Top right: The Jasper Peak fire tower is in line for funds to reopen the tower to public use.**

**Above: Area ATV trails will receive a generous allotment of state funds.**

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### New gun restrictions approved

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Gov. Tim Walz has signed landmark gun control legislation expanding background checks for firearms and enacting a “red flag” provision enabling authorities to intervene when someone is at high risk of injuring themselves or others with a firearm.

The measures were the highest profile items in an overall public safety bill that will fund Minnesota’s court system, state prisons, BCA crime labs, civil legal aid, community violence prevention efforts and many other DFL priorities under the public safety umbrella.

For Walz, the gun control provisions represent a partial victory for a broader set of measures he introduced at the outset of this year’s legislative session. DFL leaders had hoped control of the Legislature would allow them to pass additional restraints such as raising the age to buy a military-style semi-automatic rifle to 21, banning high capacity magazines, and stricter storage requirements, but could not muster the universal support among its own members necessary in the closely-divided 34-33 Senate.

But support for and opposition to gun control measures didn’t line up along strictly partisan lines, with

**See...GUN SAFETY pg. 9**

## LOCAL AUTHOR AND ARTIST

### Ely writer, illustrator team up on new childrens’ book

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

ELY- A new book published by the Minnesota Historical Society Press will give area families a new tradition to celebrate with their children. The book is now available at area bookstores and online.

A book release and signing

will be held at the Piragis Second Floor Bookstore on Saturday, May 27 at 1 p.m., and on Sunday, May 28 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Split Rock Lighthouse.

“Star Party,” by Polly Carlson-Voiles and illustrations by Consie Powell, both of Ely, tells the story of a young girl who goes on a night-time adventure with her grandpar-

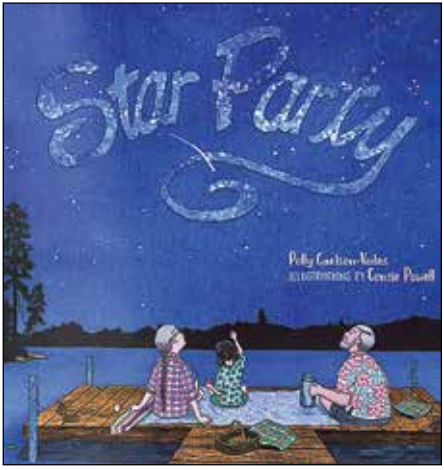
ents, as they picnic in the dark on their cabin’s lakeside dock, and marvel at the stars near the Boundary Waters.

“I like this party, just us, under a kazillion-trillion stars,” says the book’s main character Nora, who not only gets a chance to see the stars not visible at her home back in a big city, but also gets to know some of the nighttime

creatures seen and heard in the Northwoods.

The book also includes information on observing the night sky, nocturnal animals, constellations, and light pollution and the movement to preserve dark skies. The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness was designated a Dark Sky

**See..BOOK pg. 10**



**PIRAGIS BOATHOUSE GRAND OPENING**  
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Community notices

**VHHP to host Hope for Hospice 5K walk/run during Cook's upcoming Timber Days**

COOK - Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners will host their third annual 5K walk/run on Friday, June 9. The race will begin at 7 p.m. This year's theme is Glow Run. Participants who register and pay prior to May 28 will receive a race t-shirt and swag bag. Registration can be completed by filling out the registration form on the VHHP website, [www.vhhp.org](http://www.vhhp.org). For more information visit [vhhp.org](http://vhhp.org) or contact board members Stephanie Burckhardt at North Star Credit Union or Emily Koch at 218-235-9113.

**Sons of Norway Haarfager Lodge #40 to hold annual memorial service June 1**

VIRGINIA - Sons of Norway Haarfager Lodge #40 will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Virginia City Hall Clubroom Thursday, June 1. The evening's serving committee is Sara Palazzari, Wendy Christianson, Lauri McCauley and Nancy Roseen. Anyone interested in Norwegian culture and heritage is welcome to attend.

**Lokka Tupa #1 Ladies of Kaleva to meet June 5**

VIRGINIA - Lokka Tupa #1, Ladies of Kaleva, will meet on Monday, June 5 at noon at the Kaleva Hall.

**Auditions for "These Shining Lives" play Tuesday, May 30 and Wednesday, May 31**

GILBERT - Stages of the Range Players will be holding auditions for the play, "These Shining Lives" on Tuesday, May 30 and Wednesday, May 31 at 6:30 p.m. at the Gilbert Library Auditorium.

Roles are available for four women and three men. The play depicts the story of a woman and her coworkers through their challenges and triumphs as they painted radium on watches and clocks. Performances are scheduled for the second and third weeks of July. Rehearsal times are yet to be determined.

Stages of the Range Players is the renewed IR-RRP theater company and is taking performances to venues around the Iron Range, including performances at the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center in Tower. For more information email [s.r.p.theater@gmail.com](mailto:s.r.p.theater@gmail.com) or message through <https://www.facebook.com/stage-softherangeplayers>.

**Cook thrift shop to be closed in honor of Memorial Day Weekend**

COOK - In honor of Memorial Day and to allow volunteers time to spend with family, the thrift shop will be closed over the holiday weekend. Donations may resume Wednesday, May 31 between 8 a.m. and noon. Please only leave donations if volunteers are onsite to receive them. Regular shopping hours will resume June 1. Shopping hours are every Thursday, Friday and the second and fourth Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Donations are accepted during shopping hours and on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to noon.

**Benefit for Diane Nelmark on Saturday, June 3**

EMBARRASS - A spaghetti benefit dinner will be held on Saturday, June 3 from 4 - 7 p.m. at Timber Hall in Embarrass for Diane Nelmark. The benefit will help Diane's family with expenses resulting from a car accident in April. There will be a raffle, bake sale, and silent auction. To-go orders will be available. Suggested donation is \$10 for ages 13 and up, \$5 for ages 6-12, and 5 and under free.

**Honey Beekeeping Field Days set for June 16 in Duluth**

DULUTH- Come see what it's like inside a honeybee colony! University of Minnesota Extension Educators are excited to offer a honey beekeeping field day at the Duluth Farming Company on June 16 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. (3602 Normanna Rd., Duluth)

To register, visit: [z.umn.edu/beekeeping-days2023](http://z.umn.edu/beekeeping-days2023).

Join Dr. Katie Lee, University of Minnesota Extension Apiculture Educator, and local beekeepers as they go through colony handling, common disease and insect pests, and safety information- for you and the bees. These free in-person workshops will demonstrate the steps for a proper hive inspection, give you timely information to keep your colony healthy, and more. Beginner and advanced beekeepers would all benefit from attending these field days.

MIDSUMMER FUNDRAISER

LVCC midsummer menu and auction items announced

TOWER - The final plans are in place for "A Southern Slavic Midsummer" to be held at the Herb Lamppa Civic Center in Tower with the program across the street at St. Mary's Hall. The festivities will be on June 17 beginning with a silent auction at 4:30 p.m. followed by dinner and a program.

Head chef, Mike Skorich will be assisted by his son Pete, brother Dan, and Joe Miskovich who will bring his BBQ trailer and roast the meat outside all afternoon. The full Southern Slavic menu will be: roasted legs of lamb on a spit, beef rounds, sarma, squash with traditional seasonings, kupus (traditional cole slaw), chuspice (a potato and broccoli dish), pogocha (flat bread). Dessert will be potica and cheese and apple strudel. The LVCC is expecting the Croatian, Serbian, and Slovenian guests will love



tickets to the MN Wild. New in the live auction is use of a four-bedroom chalet in the French Alps for a week. Gather a group together to bid on this vacation which may be enjoyed in the fall or spring. There will also be a beautiful table runner which was hand quilted by Janny Munzberg and is of Australian aboriginal design. There will be many other exciting items in the auctions and the always popular Steve Solkela will be the auctioneer.

If you have not made a reservation yet, you may reserve online at [vermilionculturalcenter.org](http://vermilionculturalcenter.org). RSVPs are due by June 3. The Midsummer benefit is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center. To learn more about the LVCC check out their website at [vermilionculturalcenter.org](http://vermilionculturalcenter.org)

The meal will feature a Southern Slavic menu.

this food but guests of other ethnic backgrounds will enjoy it too.

Silent auction items are being collected and staged for bidding. Plan to bid on a five-hour pontoon rental from Your Boat Club in Tower or a 30-minute seaplane ride from Adventure Seaplanes based at the Tower Airport. For winter neighbors there will be a guided ice fishing

adventure in a comfy fish house with chili. New this year will be two rides on a Tower firetruck, one in the 4th of July parade and another for a birthday, the first day of school, or other special occasion. The Lindquists of rural Soudan will offer an opportunity to make maple syrup or apple cider.

The live auction will again include the popular

FOURTH OF JULY

LVRTB sponsoring fireworks July 3 & 5

LAKE VERMILION - Thanks to a generous donation from the Lake Vermilion Resort & Tourism Board, there will be a fireworks display on Wednesday, July 5. The fireworks will be shot off a barge on Big Bay located near Potato Island.

"We are happy to be able to help out this year," said Dan Devano, coordinator for the LVRTA. The fireworks will be shot off by the same company that has worked at the Tower-Soudan Fourth celebration



Boaters are advised to keep at least 150 feet away from the barge that is shooting off the fireworks. LVRTA will be collecting the blanks the morning after.

The Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board was not able to raise the funds needed for fireworks this year, and thought the display would be canceled before the LVR-TA generously volunteered to step up and fund the display.

in previous years. They will also be shooting off fireworks on Monday, July 3 on the east end of the lake (location TBD), and on July 4 in Crane Lake.

COLLEGE

Babbitt Golf Association awards \$15K in scholarships

BABBITT- The Babbitt Golf Association has awarded \$15,000 in scholarships to six graduating seniors from Northeast Range High School. Each of the six scholarships is in the amount of \$2,500.

The seniors awarded scholarships included Owen Koivisto, Jacob Mackai, Logan Meskill, Josephine Powell, Elaina Swanson, and Hope Williams. According to Jim Lassi, this is the 25th

year that the Babbitt Golf Association has awarded scholarships. This year's six scholarships bring the 25 year total to \$210,500 that has been awarded to 126 graduates. The money for scholarships is

raised through the annual Scholarship Scramble that is held Labor Day weekend at the Babbitt Golf Course.

Save the date for the Vermilion Range Old Settler's picnic July 15

BREITUNG TWP- The annual Old Settlers Reunion and Picnic will be held on Saturday, July 15, with booyah dished up at 12 noon sharp. Memberships are \$10 paid in advance. Please make checks payable to Vermilion Range Old Settlers, and mail to P.O. Box 724, Tower, MN 55790. Memberships are also available the day of the

picnic, but pre-payment is preferred to make the registration line move more quickly at the picnic!

Membership in Old Settlers is open to anyone born or living on the Vermilion Iron Range. The money raised through memberships pays the expenses of putting on the annual picnic. If you have never tasted Old Settlers booyah

(meat and vegetable soup prepared from the same recipe year after year), you are in for a treat. The meal is cooked overnight over wood fire in 100-year old iron kettles, and it always tastes amazing. Take-outs are also available if you are unable to stay for the picnic, live music, and raffles.



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☐ I am unable to attend. Enclosed is my tax deductible gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ I prefer to make a pledge of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per year for \_\_\_\_\_ years.

☐ Please contact me to name a dedicated space for a loved one.

You may also register online by following the link at [vermilionculturalcenter.org](http://vermilionculturalcenter.org)



EDUCATION

ISD 696 fumbles communications twice in a row

Teachers and parents concerned over schedule changes for 2023-24 school year

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- For the second time in a row, the Ely School Board faced a room overflowing with teachers and parents at their May 22 meeting, this time over concerns about the schedule for the 2023-24 school year.

According to multiple remarks made during the open forum portion of the school board meeting, the schedule was released last week.

“(I have) concerns about that schedule being finalized on Friday and then you guys have to vote on it today (Monday),” said Molly Olson, a gifted program teacher employed by the school district.

Teachers and parents had only a handful of days to react to the proposed schedule which contained several surprises. The changes included a self-contained sixth grade, which was a change from the current departmental teaching model. They also included trimming both the gifted program and the number of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) classes.

All three of those surprises were brought up by the nine parents and teachers who used the open forum at the meeting to raise their concerns.

High School math teacher Janelle Hart addressed at least two of the three changes. “We’re losing important

classes,” Hart began. “In the last two years we have cut financial literacy and computer coding ... We’ve also cut out math intervention ... The gifted and talented program is now down to two hours a day (on the schedule) This year, it was offered for five hours a day. STEM has been cut out for sixth grade — or at least it was not on the schedule up until Friday — seventh and eighth grade STEM was also not on the schedule.”

Sixth grade teacher Megan Anderson remarked, “The switch to a self-contained (sixth grade) classroom has not been discussed and plans for it were not set up for implementation in a way that can be successful.” Anderson also detailed frustrating interactions with district administration on this and other related issues, giving several examples.

“Communication and planning has occurred when major decisions were made and it was transparent to all, concluded Anderson. “This year has been very, very different. There are many of us who feel we are losing sight of the vision and mission of our school district. Teachers are feeling underappreciated and not valued, and we are no longer part of the discussions, the planning or the implementation of the long-term goals for our district. The loss of that meeting today is yet another example of

the lack of communication and planning that has occurred this year.”

**Miscommunication**

Parent Ryan Anderson was at the May 22 school board meeting and the previous meeting on May 8. He outlined several examples of communication issues he had with the school board.

“It’s a struggle when we only are allowed five minutes (during the open forum),” Anderson remarked.

Anderson also commented on the “bare bones” descriptions of agenda items, noting that the public has to “seek out and find” any explanatory and detailed information on their own. “When you look at the school board agenda tonight, there’s not very much actual information on it. When you go to the website and you try to read ... the school board agenda, it’s just kind of numbers and a brief synopsis. I think that’s a struggle. We have a hard time to engage with the school board here.”

The issue of wanting better communication has been going around Ely recently. Anderson’s complaint echoed comments made at both the previous school board meeting on May 8 and several Ely City Council meetings since January.

**Minnesota law**

According to the Minnesota Open Meeting law, local government entities like cities and school boards are only obliged to provide an agenda and supporting materials “in the meeting room for inspection by the public while the governing body considers their subject matter.”

Like the ISD 696 School Board and Ely City Council, most government entities in Minnesota provide only the legal minimum required by the Open Meeting Law: an agenda and supporting materials at the meeting itself, and nothing more.

**Twice in a row**

The previous May 8 school board meeting also packed the room with attendees because of the appointment of Anne Oelke to the position of district superintendent. As reported in the May 12 edition of the *Timberjay*, some expressed concern that the hiring of Oelke for the position appeared suddenly, without discussion and proper posting.

In reality, Oelke served a year-long mentorship with the current superintendent, John Klarich, before being hired for the position. The arrangement was discussed in board meetings over the summer of 2022 and written up in both area newspapers.

Despite the long lead time

and the year-old advance notice, the hiring of Oelke this month appeared to many to be abrupt and unvetted.

At the May 8 meeting, school board vice chair Rochelle Sjoberg’s comments reflected the feelings of the board at the time: “I would like to put in a request that our admin team work together and I would like to see a communication plan. I feel like there is clearly a disconnect, and I’m not sure why that is happening.”

**Schedule tabled**

After the open forum, the board postponed the vote on the high school and middle school schedule, having observed the discontent of teachers and parents over the changes reflected in the proposed school schedule. Board member Tom Omerza’s comments captured the sentiments of the school board.

“From when this came out to when we’re voting on, it just seems to be compressed, (with) not enough time to process, to listen to everybody, listen to the teachers, listen to staff, listen to whomever, and seek some more understanding ... (To) take some more time and make sure everybody understands what’s going on and why we’re doing what we’re doing.”

The high school and middle school schedule will be

See ISD 696...pg. 5

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Ebel VNP tasing video making splash on YouTube

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Outside of the *Timberjay’s* ongoing coverage since last summer, regional media outlets have shown little interest in the tasing of Ash River houseboat owner Justin Ebel by Voyageurs National Park enforcement rangers.

But now a ranger’s body cam video released in response to a Freedom of Information request filed by the *Timberjay* is

making a splash online in a YouTube video posted by the Audit Archive channel.

The body cam footage, accompanied by a narrative voiceover, was posted Tuesday and had racked up over 60,000 views and over 700 mostly negative comments by Wednesday morning, 21 hours after its posting.

The *Timberjay* became aware of the video, titled “Cops Tase INNOCENT Boat Driver, Then This Happens,” through an email received early Wednesday morning from

a Robert Quinlan, who in addition to a link to the video wrote the following note:



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

“Dear Sir/Madam – I will not travel to your area based upon law enforcement activity seen on YouTube. My tourism dollars will be spent elsewhere.”

Quinlan’s sentiment is echoed in many of the negative comments posted to the video.


Audit Archive, created in 2022, is similar to a number of other YouTube channels that highlight law enforcement misconduct.

“We bring you the latest police audits to shed light on police injustices and promote awareness of

your rights as a law-abiding citizen,” says the channel’s description. “Our mission is to educate and empower you with the knowledge to hold law enforcement accountable for their actions. We will bring you real-life footage and expert commentary to provide a comprehensive understanding of our police audits.”

The channel has 15.7 thousand subscribers. Views of the Ebel video are on pace to quadruple that in the first 24 hours.

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**BIWABIK** 1 BR, 1 BA condo at the Lodge at Giant's Ridge. Unit includes shared use of docks and beach on local lake. Lodge offers spa, restaurant and bar, indoor pool and hot tub, and many more amenities. **MLS#145024 \$104,900**

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# OPINION

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*The First Amendment of the United States Constitution*

## Editorial

### Republican hypocrisy

It is GOP policies that have fueled the sharp rise in the nation’s debt

Breathtaking gall. That’s the best description of what House Republicans are attempting to pass off as prudent concern about the growing federal debt. We know, for a historical fact, that Republicans care not at all about the federal debt— because it’s the GOP that has been the primary driver of ballooning federal debt for the past 40 years.

We understand that GOP talking points put the blame elsewhere— on spend-happy Democrats and their pet priorities like care for veterans, expanding healthcare access for the working class, rebuilding the nation’s crumbling infrastructure, or funding our transition to clean energy.

In reality, as noted by the Center for a Responsible Federal Budget, a center-right organization that has focused its attention on the debt for years, it is Republican tax cuts that have created the bulk of the growing debt. That starts with the Bush tax cuts of 2002, followed by their extension in 2013, along with the Trump tax cuts that slashed taxes for profitable corporations and the wealthy in 2018. Those policies, passed by narrow Republican majorities, have added nearly \$8 trillion to the debt since their enactment. And the CRFB analysis doesn’t include the Reagan tax cuts of the 1980s, which studies have concluded are responsible for about \$10 trillion of the current national debt. In other words, GOP tax cuts, by themselves, are responsible for more than half of the nation’s current \$31 trillion debt.

Economists of all stripes note that the size of the debt, of course, isn’t the real issue. Instead, it’s the size of the debt in relation to the U.S. economy, or Gross Domestic Product, that matters. Yet thanks to GOP tax cuts, the debt-to-GDP ratio has exploded over the past 15 years, from about 64 percent in 2009 to approximately 125 percent by the end of the current fiscal year.

According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, or CBO, the Bush and Trump tax cuts by themselves, account for 57 percent of that spike in the debt-to-GDP ratio.

What’s more, it was the GOP during the Trump years that lifted the budget caps on discretionary spending signed

by President Obama, that had allowed the U.S. to hold its debt-to-GDP ratio stable for several years, until the Trump era when the debt exploded once again thanks to tax cuts and big increases in federal spending, not all of it COVID-related.

And if there was ever any doubt about whether today’s GOP had finally seen the light on deficits and the debt, rest assured the answer is no. At the same time that they’ve been threatening to wreak havoc on the U.S. economy over the debt ceiling extension, they’ve been advancing legislation to extend the Trump tax cuts, a move that would add another \$3 trillion to the debt over the next decade, according to the CBO. The bottom line is that when given power, the Republicans always do exactly the same thing: cut taxes for corporations and the wealthy and increase the nation’s debt in the process. That’s not opinion, it’s historical fact.

In the present moment, of course, the Republicans aren’t in a position to implement their budget-busting plans through the usual political process, which is why they’ve resorted to economic terrorism by refusing to raise the debt limit for spending that has already been enacted into law. With a Democratic-controlled Senate, a Democrat in the White House, and a narrow four-seat majority in the House, the Republicans simply don’t have the votes to enact their own policies. They don’t have the votes because the American public, for the most part, recognizes the harmful nature of GOP policies, particularly those of the MAGA crowd.

So, rather than make their case in the next election and let the voters decide if they want more tax cuts for the rich and cuts in governmental services for everyone else, the Republicans are resorting once again to an extremist policy that puts a gun to the head of America’s economy.

And, just to be clear, one of the end results of a default on the U.S. debt is already well known: a dramatic increase in borrowing costs, further adding to, you guessed it, the nation’s debt.

As we stated at the outset— what breathtaking gall.



## Letters from Readers

### Welcome to the new and thanks to the old

The Embarrass Region Fair Association has adopted a new governance structure of a 12-person Board of Directors, with three positions currently unfilled. The new Board of Directors, chaired by Tana Johnson and directors Sarah Wallert-Ramponi, Jerry Meier, Janine Patten, Zane Beaton, William Ramponi, Carrissa Smith, Don Taylor, and Preston Tripp, extend their appreciation to the previous board members, Gus Schroeder, Sue Beaton, Lisa Gibson, Bonnie and Jerry Meier, and Janine Patten for managing the business of the association and serving the communities.

Their efforts along with countless other people are to thank for keeping Timber Hall and grounds open and available for public and private events such as pancake breakfast, weddings, horse events, outdoor gatherings and, of course, the annual Embarrass Region Fair.

We also want to thank long time volunteers Craig and Holly Johnson, Nicole Schroeder and Dennis Alto for their years of support for the fair and maintenance efforts. You will be missed and there will always be a spot for you if you decide to come back. If you are interested in knowing more about ways you can volunteer, please email [volunteers@embarrassRFA.org](mailto:volunteers@embarrassRFA.org)

**Tana Johnson  
Embarrass**

### The definition of a successful economy

Aristotle, the Greek philosopher, was a Macedonian, and the Greeks despised him because of it. He was the first economist to write about the oil industry. He had a head start because he was the first economist. He invented the word *economics*-Oikovoika. The Father of Economics tells the story of the invention

of commodities futures contracts, and the first time the oil market was cornered.

The philosopher Thales, getting a tip from an insider, knew that an oil shortage was shortly in the offing, so he bought all the future output of the olive oil trees in the city of Miles. When the season turned cold and the shortage of oil began, he cranked the price of olives through the roof. The public however, wasn’t at all angry that Thales was skinning them for the oil they desperately needed to eat and keep their lamplights on. Instead, the people lauded him for his genius in making such a pile of money.

So, Thales scolded them. You despised me when I was a poor philosopher trying to give you invaluable wisdom for nothing and now you’re praising me for destroying the economy. You think that a good economy is one in which smart people with inside information make money off of money and get richer beyond their ability to even spend it. But making money from money is against nature he pleaded. A successful economy is one in which money and the exchange of production results in a Good Life for all.

There is none so blind as he who will not see.

**T. D. Duff  
Tonka Bay**

### Something smells fishy in Washington

Thank you for reporting on the recent hearing of the Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee in Washington D.C. It was interesting to read testimonies provided by witnesses and committee members on the “Superior National Forest Restoration Act”. Becky Rom’s testimony to advocate protection of our water during a changing climate is correct. We need science-based solutions to maintain a healthy environment that sustains us. The proposed legislation will be a disaster.

And I was very surprised to read that former Senator Tom Bakk is acting as a lobbyist

for Twin Metals— especially when Mark Bakk is the General Manager for Lake Country Power. It smells fishy!

**Julie Miedtke  
Grand Rapids**

### Where emergency care begins

May 21-27, 2023 is the 49th annual National EMS Week. This year’s theme “Where Emergency Care Begins” speaks volumes on the importance of local EMS.

TAAS (Tower Area Ambulance Service) staff members consist of EMRs (emergency medical responders) and EMTs (emergency medical technicians) who are highly skilled, competent pre-hospital providers initiating the patient’s emergency care as soon as the page is received.

When a higher level of care is needed, TAAS staff quickly request ALS (Advanced Life Support) through intercept agreements already in place. The ALS care we request can be provided by ALS ground ambulance paramedics from either Virginia FD or Ely Ambulance Service, and/or ALS flight paramedics and nurses from either North Air Care or Life Link III. By quickly requesting advanced life saving measures TAAS crewmembers assure the best outcome for patients.

These ALS partnership agreements were put into place to ensure our PSA (Primary Service Area) community members have access to the required level of care.

As a proud member of Tower Area Ambulance Service, I am blessed to be able to work alongside our Basic Life Support (BLS) staff members as well as ALS intercept partners.

Happy EMS Week to every EMS provider reading this! Thank you for all you do!

**Dena Suihkonen  
Ambulance Director  
Tower Area Ambulance Service**

online each week at  
[www.timberjay.com](http://www.timberjay.com)

## How can we make our communities more welcoming?

What do you think of when you hear the words, “Welcoming Community”? Maybe you recall the time you were new to town and a stranger knocked on



**KATHLEEN  
MCQUILLAN**

your door with an unexpected invitation to attend a meeting with her at the local library. Or is it a holiday parade where smiling people of varied colors and interests were represented, walking side by side at an even pace. Or maybe it brings up an image of a well-equipped playground with a passel of youngsters mixing

freely, sharing laughter, taking turns. Or was there a bustling downtown with colorful storefronts, music pouring into the street with flowers and benches, doors propped open, inviting you to come in, browse and get acquainted?

Have you ever moved into a new community? How long did it take before you felt like you “belonged”? Have you witnessed a newcomer in your town? What were you thinking and feeling in their

presence? What do you think they might they have been feeling?

I moved many times in my young adult life before settling here in northern Minnesota. Over those first ten years, I had a lot of experiences trying to adapt. Sometimes, I thought I had succeeded but other times, not so much. Now, 40 years later, there are recollections still so vivid that it seems like only yesterday that I was trying, with every new move, to adapt to a new climate, different faces, dialects and customs, and many new feelings that were hard for me to name. Now I realize that a big one was just learning to trust

— strangers and myself — as we worked hard to learn about each other and appreciate our differences.

Living through those early days of trying so hard to find my way to “fit in” was at times really hard. But many people, especially members of the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) community, have told me that my challenges seemed pretty easy compared to theirs! After listening to their stories, I couldn’t disagree.

Recently, a small group of folks from around the area met at the Cook Community Center to listen to a presentation from Amber Lewis, a Lead for Min-

nesota Fellow working with the nonprofit consulting firm, Northspan. She was there to share her research on the changing demographics of northeast Minnesota and the growing importance of our being a “welcoming community”. Her talk went beyond “just being nice” to new people moving into our communities but actively reaching out to help create a sense of safety and acceptance and embracing the unique insights, knowledge, and skills that new people bring with them that ultimately enrich our communities,

See **WELCOMING...**pg. 5



# Letters from Readers

## Honoring EMS volunteers

In 1974, then-President Gerald Ford designated the third week in May as National EMS Week to honor EMS clinicians and the important work they do in our nation’s communities

Now, in 2023, the week of May 21 -27 Is National EMS Week and the city of Cook would like to recognize all of our EMTs and EMRs who answer the call for help from all the communities we serve 24/7/365. What a great team we have! It takes a special kind of person to be willing to drop what they are doing or rise from sleep in the middle of the night to come out and offer medical aid on what may be the worst day of your life.

They do it out of compas-

sion and dedication to being “The Good Samaritan” - the biblical first-ever first responder in history. In (Luke 10:25-37), the common man and the priest passed by the injured man afraid of ending up the same way, but the samaritan came along and helped him to a place of comfort and paid for his stay and care. This is the kind of person you find on our local ambulance service in Cook and we would like to take this opportunity to recognize those people by name for all their efforts in protecting our communities under the Medical Direction of Dr. Eric Elleby:

EMTs Chase and Corbin Anderson, EMT Matthew Carlson, EMR Mary Lou Ellison, EMR Lois Pajari, EMR Hayden Picek, EMT Roger Esterby, EMT William Fischer, EMT Jenny Knuth, Tera Kutala, AmyLuecken,EMTMaijaMaki,

EMR Cadense Nelson, EMTs Richard and Emily Nelson, EMRs Karen and Angela Schultz, EMT Kylie Baranzelli, and EMT Carley Tausk.

Earlier in Luke 10:2 Jesus was speaking and He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. 3: Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves”. This has never been more true than it is today as the shortage of volunteers is on the increase across the country. Many EMS services are short staffed and the number of people calling for help is going up. In EMS terms the calls are plentiful and the volunteers are few. Many of those who step into these positions have regular family responsibilities just like you and me, but something tells them to

go the extra mile to help others as well.

In a few weeks, during Timber Days, Cook will also be offering lay persons like you - the reader- an opportunity to be trained in Community Compression Only CPR (no breathing into victim) and how to operate the newly-aquired AEDs (Automatic Defibrillators) to be placed in key locations in Cook. The three AEDs acquired through the MN AED Project funded by a Helmsley Grant will be placed in Community Center, Post Office lobby and Last Chance Liquor in the coming weeks. Your opportunity for these training sessions (approx. 20-30 minutes of your time) will be Sat., June 10 in front of city hall, by the ambulance, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Knowledge is power, once you know

it you no longer have to be a “passer-bye” not knowing how to help. If you feel like you are being called to join the service we will have application there as well, since there is always a need for another volunteer. Cook is fortunate, like few other small towns, to still have people willing to fill these roles. Many services across the country are losing the battle and having to contract the services out to other companies, so be sure to feel blessed by their commitment and when you see them this week encourage them with a kind “thank you for your service!”

Thank you in advance for carrying this important message.

**Roland Shoen EMT  
Cook Ambulance  
Director**

# Towing the Wilderness Watch lawsuit into July

REGIONAL- The U.S. Forest Service has filed a 41-page motion to dismiss, for lack of jurisdiction, a longstanding lawsuit by Wilderness Watch that accuses the federal agency of allowing towboat use in the Boundary Waters, contrary to federal law.

A federal district court judge, Nancy Brasel, has scheduled a hearing on the motion to dismiss for July 26. Wilderness Watch must file its reply to the motion to dismiss by June 19,

while the Forest Service will have until July 19 for its rebuttal.

Meanwhile, plenty of uncertainty reigns. Judge Brasel has yet to rule on a Wilderness Watch motion that seeks a preliminary injunction that would prohibit the use of towboats in the wilderness beginning this summer. Brasel took that question under advisement at a March 29 hearing, but she has yet to rule on the question, leaving towboat operators uncertain

about the visitor season already underway.

**AWOL injunction**

The bar for a preliminary injunction in a U.S. District Court is high— higher even than for a permanent one, because the injunction restrains a defendant’s ability to act before they have a chance to defend themselves in court.

To get a preliminary injunction, the plaintiff must show “irreparable harm” to themselves

or their cause, plus the judge must guess whether the case will succeed on its own merits. The judge must also consider whether the balance of equities and hardships is in the plaintiff’s favor. This high standard means successful preliminary injunctions are rare.

As it stands, outfitters can continue to run their towboats for now, even as uncertainty hangs over their operations, which could come to a halt almost immediately depending on

the judge’s actions.

Assuming Judge Brasel does not act on the preliminary injunction, the legal actions last week kick the can down the road until late July when the court will consider dismissing the case.

If Brasel decides against dismissal, the case will fall back to where it is now: with uncertainty prevailing over the possibility of a preliminary injunction.

## ISD 696...Continued from page 3

discussed again at the June 12 meeting.

**Other business**

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

►Thanked superintendent John Klarich for his service to the district. He will attempt to retire for a third time at the end of this school year. Klarich came out of retirement to serve as Ely’s superintendent on short notice in January 2022 following the resignation of former superintendent Erik Erie.

►Heard the report from facilities director

Tim Leeson that repairs to the gymnasium floor will likely not be completed until September at the earliest, based on initial estimates. If the schedule can’t be moved up, volleyball practices and games will need to move to other facilities.

►Heard the report of Klarich that ISD 696 will receive additional money to help cover the funding gap for completing the 21st century facilities project created by the cost increases in the wake of the COVID-19 economic downturn.

“We’re going to get \$4.4 million ... for our proj-

ect. He described the money will go through the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board (IRRR) and will be set up as “a five-cent taco-nite tax, so it’s not going to affect any property owners.” He expressed the hope that IRRR will bond for the money upfront, avoiding a scenario where the ISD 696 would receive the money doled out in installments over time.

►Approved the Washington Elementary schedule for the 2023-24 school year.

►Approved a professional services contract between ISD 696

and Range Mental Health Center from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024.

►Hired Megan Wognum for the summer skills teacher position for June through August.

►Hired Jennifer Kernitz for the summer skills teacher position for June through August.

►Hired Autumn Bodecker for the school age extended school year program teacher position for June through August.

►Hired Jacki Tolbert for the summer skills paraprofessional position (4.5 hours/day) for June through August.

►Hired Stacy Heg-

fors for the summer skills paraprofessional position (4 hours/day) for June through August.

►Hired Alyssa Levar for the summer skills paraprofessional position (4 hours/day) for June through August.

►Hired Dena Carey for the school age extended school year program paraprofessional position (4 hours/day) for June through August.

►Hired LeaRae Richards for the school age extended school year program paraprofessional position (4 hours/day) for June through August.

►Hired Abby Maki and Grace Johnson (split

position) for the school age extended school year program paraprofessional positions (4 hours/day) for June through August.

►Accepted the resignation of Riley Bishop and Virginia Anderson from their paraprofessional positions effective at the end of the work day on June 2.

►Approved changing the second board meeting of every month to a study session.

►Approved a donation of \$1,000 for Ely Memorial High School from the Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness.

## WELCOMING...Continued from page 4

enhance the local work force and strengthen our regional economy.

Lewis serves as the Program Coordinator of the “Welcoming Community” Initiative, one of several Northspan projects designed to bring people of different racial, ethnic and cultural backgrounds together to get to know one other, increase mutual understanding, and participate in activities that can build greater individual and community commitment to diversity, inclusion and equity.

She does this by offering a variety of approaches that can increase participants’ understanding and appreciation of different cultures and backgrounds. This fall, Northspan will host its third annual Equity Summit on Oct. 4 at the Iron Trail Motors Event Center. Last year’s event, titled “Belonging in Northeast Minnesota”, drew over 100 in-person attendees. Organizers will be announcing this year’s theme soon and encouraging registrations to continue the process of making the Iron Range and surrounding communities more open and inviting to people of diverse backgrounds.

In addition to this conference-modeled activity, there is a no-cost offering for qualifying individuals and organizations called the Intercultural Development Inventory, a tool to assess one’s current level

of cultural awareness. It also offers practical strategies to increase mutual understanding, inclusion, and cooperation among diverse members in our communities with the common goal of a brighter future. So far, sixty of these inventories have been completed and an additional 16 are in progress across northeast Minnesota.

Lewis also talked about an “inclusion readiness program” that targets school districts. Currently, Cloquet and Cook County Districts are taking part in this year-long facilitated program to enhance awareness and inclusion. She emphasized that the program is open to receive new applications from other school districts and encouraged us to consider participating.

Following the presentation, attendees lingered over refreshments to share their reactions to the information. People relayed their personal stories of their own experiences with feeling like an “outsider”. Many nodded when the term “pack sacker” was mentioned, describing how “un-welcomed” we felt when labeled this way by folks born and raised in the area.

It wasn’t long before the conversation shifted from these personal struggles to a spirit of inquiry, and an acknowledgment that “we can, and want

to, do better”! With our desire for greater understanding and to take action, we also shared our concerns for the well-being of newly-arrived children, and those whose identities, needs and interests are too often ignored or rejected. It didn’t take long for us to move from our informal debriefing session to some serious talk about what we could do about it.


The general consensus was that Amber Lewis’s presentation had, indeed, hit its mark — by stimulating our commit-

ment to continue making our corner of the world more welcoming. We learned about some new tools and resources available that will help us in this endeavor. And that we are not alone in our desire to foster diversity, equity and a more inviting and prosperous community. Now, we just need to decide on what should be our next step forward!

More information is available at [www.northspan.org](http://www.northspan.org) “Welcoming Community Program”.

NOTICE

CITY of TOWER



The City of Tower will be

FLUSHING

HYDRANTS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31

Starting at 10 AM

Residents should expect

discolored water.



the  
TIMBERJAY

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VERMILION COUNTRY SCHOOL



Vermilion Country School held their prom at the civic center in Tower last Friday. Above: Prom-goers assembled for a group photo. Below left: Abbi Zapata designed and sewed her own prom dress. Below center and right: School chef Chris Glazer’s cooking class prepared a prom dinner menu that included homemade fettuccini alfredo, Caesar salad, and tiramisu for dessert. photos by J. Summit



Week of May 29

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

**Tuesday**  
Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5 p.m. Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is June 20.


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

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

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

Get Informed!

Get the Timberjay!



TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY



Tower-Soudan Elementary held their Spring Concert on May 18. The concert featured music from around in the world and in several different languages. Above: Students in grades K-2 sang a medley of railroad-themed folk songs. photos by J. Summit



Above (from left): Ivy Russell, Clementine O'Brien, and Harley Banks.

Right: Fifth- and sixth-graders wrapped up the show with help from the rest of the students who sang from the floor of the auditorium.

Find a video clip from the concert on the Timberjay’s Facebook page.



COMMUNITY NOTICES

**Fourth of July donations**  
TOWER-SOUDAN- The Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board would like to thank the following individuals and families for their donations this year.  
**Donations are still needed and can be mailed to: PO Box 461, Tower, MN 55790.**  
The Timberjay  
Frank Brula  
Ronald & Susan Norha  
Kevin Norby  
Rod & Judy Politano  
Allen & Patricia Dahl  
Karleen Wildes  
Joseph & Janis Mesojedec  
Jeremiah & Pamela Kearney  
The Vermilion Club  
Eric & Carol Norberg  
Richard & Sandra Kitto

Dori & David Skramsted in memory of LeRoy Holmes  
Roger & Susan Harju  
John & Gwendolyn Zavodnick  
**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 Lamppa 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.  
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 [bngpeyla@gmail.com](mailto:bngpeyla@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.  
**Memorial Day service in Embarrass**  
EMBARRASS- Embarrass Township will be honoring and remembering those that gave their lives for us with a Memorial Day Ceremony Service on Monday, May 29, at 9 a.m., at the Embarrass Cemetery (7506 Highway 135 North). Coffee ‘an fellowship to follow at the Embarrass Town Hall, 7503 Le-vander Road.  
**Tower-Soudan- Embarrass Bookmobile Schedule**  
REGIONAL- The Arrow-head Bookmobiles will be in

the Tower- Soudan area on Wednesday, 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.; Sou-dan (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 online at [alslib.info/services/bookmobile](http://alslib.info/services/bookmobile). For more information on the Book-mobile or Mail-A-Book services, contact the Arrowhead Library System, 218-741-3840, email at [als@alslib.info](mailto:als@alslib.info), or website at [alslib.info](http://alslib.info).



EDUCATION

Ely scholarship awards

ELY- Ely Memorial High School held its awards ceremony on May 10 where Timberwolf seniors received over \$137,750 in scholarship awards. Due to the large number of awards, this list will be continued next week.

Local Scholarships:

American Legion Auxiliary Scholarship: Taylor Gibney

American Legion Auxiliary Scholarship in Memory of Joye Soderberg: Taylor Gibney

American Legion Merit Award: Rachel Coughlin

Bertha Bjorkman Scholarship: Anna Hammond

Boundary Waters Community Bank Scholarship: Courtney Eilrich

Bill Braun and John Courage Memorial Scholarships: Madelyn Gruba and Blake Walsh

Edgington Medical Field Scholarship: Katherine Coughlin

Ely Alumni Hockey Association Scholarship: Jakson Hegman

Ely Area Credit Union: Gunnar Hart

Ely Education Association Scholarship: Madeline Perry

Ely Educational Foundation Scholarship: Lillian Tedrick

Ely Football Scholarship: Jakson Hegman

Ely Hoop Club Scholarships: Gunnar Hart and Madeline Perry

Ely Rotary Scholarships: Madison Rohr and Katherine Coughlin

Ely Rotary Club Gil Vo-Tech Rotarian Scholarship: Taylor Gibney

Employees of the Kawishiwi Ranger District Scholarship: Kelly Thompson

EMPOWER Baccalaureate Scholarship: Margaret Dammann

EMPOWER Technical or Associate Degree Scholarship: Taylor Gibney

Ely Nordic Wolves/Ely Nordic Ski & Bike Club Scholarships: Phoebe Helms and Zoe Devine

Jake Forsman Memori-

al Scholarships: Taylor Gibney, Madelyn Gruba, Gunnar Hart, Tyler Mattila

Claus/Svea Hammerstrom Scholarship: Juliet Stouffer

John Huntbatch Memorial Scholarship: Jakson Hegman

Industrial Education Scholarship: Gunnar Hart

Joey Ivancich Memorial Scholarships: Katherine Coughlin and Rachel Coughlin

Killen Scholarships: Katherine Coughlin, Rachel Coughlin, Sydney Durkin, Gunnar Hart, Gabriel Mann, Tyler Mattila, Morgan McClelland, Lillian Tedrick, Audrey Thomas, and Kelly Thompson

Kiwanis Club of Ely Scholarship: Madison Rohr and Kelly Thompson

Lahtonen Scholarships in Memory of Eugene and Mary Joan Lahtonen: Natasha Fulkrod, Taylor Gibney, Gunnar Hart, Lilly Tedrick, Audrey Thomas

Mary Lassi Scholarship: Natasha Fulkrod

Renee Lassi Memorial Scholarship: Gunnar Hart

The Listening Point Scholarship: Margaret Dammann

Sylvester J. and Christine A. Logar Memorial Scholarships: Madelyn Gruba and Tyler Mattila

Merle Lunceford Memorial Scholarship: Madison Rohr

Zachary Scott Matschiner Scholarship: Tyler Mattila

Frank Sr. & Josephine Osaben Scholarship: Margaret Dammann

Pass Education On Scholarship: Rachel Coughlin

Jim & Betty Povhe Scholarship: Madelyn Gruba

Carla Mattson Quackenbush Scholarship: Chambriel Ridings

VFW Post 2717 Scholarship: Gunnar Hart

Wintergreen Northern Wear Award: Kelly Thompson

Lake Country Power Les Beach Memorial Scholarship: Rachel Coughlin

College honors

MANCHESTER, N.H.- The Southern New Hampshire University released its winter semester honors lists for 2023 on May 16. Gabriella Omerza of Ely was named to Dean’s List and Lida Dodge of Ely was named to the President’s List. Full-time undergraduate students with a minimum grade-point average of 3.5 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean’s List and those with a minimum grade-point average of 3.7 and above

for the reporting term are named to the President’s List.

MANKATO- The Minnesota State University at Mankato announced on May 22 that Trevor Mattson of Ely graduated summa cum laude with a B.S.E. in Integrated Engineering. Students earning their degree summa cum laude maintained a 3.8 or greater grade point average during their entire college enrollment.

Walk for water



The students of Washington Elementary held a “Walk for Water” fundraiser on May 23. Their goal was to call attention to the importance of clean water for students in other countries. The students are raising money so a well can be built for the Kipsigor Primary School in Kenya. Washington Elementary has raised over \$2,900 dollars for Walk for Water since 2019. Donations on behalf of the school can also be made online at: [h2oforliveschools.org/sponsors/757](https://h2oforliveschools.org/sponsors/757). photo by C. Clark

AROUND TOWN



Ely dentist Crystal Chopp gives a presentation on dental health for seniors at the Healthy Aging Expo at the Grand Ely Lodge on Monday, May 22. The expo was held by the Ely nonprofit Northwoods Partners and packed the house. The Expo seated 125 attendees for a day of presentations on healthy aging, aging issues, and caretakers for seniors. The event included a free lunch, experts on aging, and information tables manned by Minnesota organizations serving seniors. photo by C. Clark

Shooting in Babbitt

BABBITT- St. Louis County Sheriff’s deputies responded to reports of a home invasion and gun shots fired here, just before 1 a.m. last Friday, May 19. No one was injured in the incident, but the sheriff’s office confirmed they found “evidence substantiating the shooting” at the residence. The initial reports indicated that multiple individuals forced their way into the residence and began shooting. The perpetrators of the shoot-

ing had apparently fled the scene by the time law enforcement arrived and their whereabouts are currently unknown. An unverified source on Facebook reported that the shooting was on Terrance Street.

Anyone with information on the incident is encouraged to call the sheriff’s office. As of press time, the sheriff’s office did not respond to an inquiry for more information from the *Timberjay*.

Theater workshop

ELY- The Stars of the North Broadway Workshop, a program by the Northern Lakes Arts Association, is free thanks to the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council and the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust. The six-day workshop is for ages eight through 18 and will teach the basics of the-

ater. Participants will have the opportunity to perform alongside professional actors and rehearse two numbers in the Broadway in the Boundary Waters Gala on Aug. 4-5. The workshop will be July 26-28 and Aug. 2-4. Sign up using the Youth Art Experience tab at [www.northernlakesarts.org](http://www.northernlakesarts.org).

Upcoming Events

Ely Public Library

ELY- The spice for June is smoked paprika.

The library will be closed on Monday, May 29, for Memorial Day.

On Monday, June 5, at 3:30 p.m., the library will host “Shoua and the Northern Lights Dragon by Chione,” a musical story telling. The program is for all ages and will last approximately 45 minutes. The program features a woodwind quintet to tell the story of Shoua, a Hmong-American girl who saves an injured dragon while camping the northern woods of Minnesota, based on a children’s book by Ka Vang. The program is free.

The library will hold a “Careers for Preschoolers” event for kids aged six and younger, using stations with stories, crafts, and activities. The event will be on Thursday, June 8 at 11

a.m. Pre-register for one of 20 slots open for this event.

The library will hold a Kohoot online trivia game on the Divergent series by Veronica Roth, starting on Thursday, June 8, 3 p.m., until Monday, June 12, 8 a.m. Register in advance with an email to receive the link for the game.

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

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

Northern Lakes Arts Association

ELY -The Northern Lakes Arts Association will host the art show “The Stories We Share” by Sylvia Houle, which runs through May 28 at Ely’s Historic State Theater. Viewing hours are limited to the hours that the State Theater is open. The reception for the artist will be Sunday, May 28, starting at 4 p.m.

NLAA will host its first summer theater camp

for kids, June 28-July 7, with performances by the campers on July 8. Cost is \$30 per child. Registration opened on May 1. Sign up using the Youth Art Experience drop-down menu at [www.northernlakesarts.org](http://www.northernlakesarts.org).

Greenstone Art Camp

ELY- The 23rd Greenstone Art Camp for kids is now full but the camp for teens has eight slots left. The cost is \$50 per child, grades 7 through 12. The camp meets on Aug. 1-3 6-9 at the Ely Arts & Heritage Center at the Pioneer Mine. Sign up using the Youth Art Experience drop-down menu at [www.northernlakesarts.org](http://www.northernlakesarts.org).

Babbitt Public Library

BABBITT- The Babbitt Friends of the Library will hold their annual “Up North Craft & Vendor Extravaganza” on Saturday, June 3 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Babbitt Municipal

Center, with crafts, baked goods, and raffles. This event is the same day as the Babbitt City Wide Garage Sales. If you are a crafter or vendor interested in having a table at this event, please send an email to [babbittlibraryfriends@gmail.com](mailto:babbittlibraryfriends@gmail.com) or call 218-827-3345.

Tai Ji Quan

ELY- Northwoods Partners will hold a Tai Ji Quan classes every Tuesday and Thursday, 10-11 a.m., from June 6 through Aug. 24, at Semer’s Park Pavilion in Ely. Donations are appreciated.

SAIL

BABBITT- Northwoods Partners will sponsor a 12-week “Stay Active and Independent for Life” (SAIL) fitness program for seniors, starting on June 6 and running through Aug. 24, at Emanuelson Gym, Babbitt Community Center. An informational session will be held on Thursday, June 1. There will be two class tracks: Tues-

day-Thursday at either 9-10 a.m. or 10-11 a.m. Donations are appreciated. For information or to register, call 218-235-0701.

Ely Nordic Ski & Bike Club

ELY- The club will hold the first race of its five-Friday series on May 26 for XC bikes at Hidden Valley Recreation Area. Race registration starts at 5 p.m. The race starts at 6 p.m. Costs are \$15 per race or \$60 for all five races, \$5 per race for 18 and younger. See [elynordic.org](http://elynordic.org) for more information.

As of May 23, 195 vendors have signed up to sell at the Blueberry/Art Festival

In Brief

Tuesday Group schedule

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

Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

►May 30: Citizen’s Climate Lobby on the Future of Iron Mining on the Range

►June 6: TBA

►June 13: The Common Loon with Dr. James Paruk

►June 20: The White Pine Tree with James Pastor.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2023



trees leafed out in greens dressing the land for summer let it all begin

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.

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

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

**AL-ANON** - Sundays 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church in Ely. For persons who encounter alcoholism in a relative or friend.

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

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

**ADULT BASIC EDUCATION GED** Study materials and pre-test available. Call 218-365-3359, or 1-800-662-5711.

**CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS:** Babbitt: 3rd Monday of Month: 6-7:30 p.m. at Carefree Living. Ely: 4th Monday of Month: 10-11:30 a.m. at Ely-Bloomenson Hospital. Conference Room B.



NORTH WOODS SCHOOL

School holds annual Junior-Senior Prom



The stands of the North Woods gymnasium were packed Saturday with folks eager to get a look at North Woods students dressed up in their finest for the annual Junior-Senior Prom. Students strutted their stuff in the grand march, and afterward posed as family and friends clamored for pictures under the decorative arbor, along the lighted runway, and outside in the spring afternoon.

Students then boarded buses for the trip to the "Italian Vineyard," this year's theme for the the banquet and dance that was held at the Cook Community Center.

Above: Brielle Hujanen and Kaden Ratai walk down the runway.  
Above center: Jacob Swanson poses with Rayanne Lockhart.  
Right center: Jonah Burnett and Evelyn Brodeen strike a pose.  
Far right: Trinity Vidal walks the runway.  
photos by D. Colburn



North Woods Leo Club members Alex Burkhardt, Louis Panichi, Evan Kajala, Talen Jarshaw and Vince Kajala recently made quick work digging holes for tree planting at the Veterans Riverfront Park.

Parks group picks June 4 for park dedication event

COOK- While folks have been enjoying Veterans Riverfront Park this spring, the new N. River St. landmark has yet to be formally dedicated. Cook Friends of the Parks plans to change that by hosting a dedication ceremony at the park on Sunday, June 4 at 3 p.m. The community is invited to attend this ceremony for this area’s most unique and beautiful tribute to those who have served. Food and beverages will be provided after a short program.



The Cook Lions Club has donated \$500 to Northwoods Friends of the Arts to become a sponsor of the summer series Music in the Park. Here, Steve Kajala, Club President, presents the check to Judith Ulseth, NWFA President.

NORTH WOODS CLASS OF 2023 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

- Minnesota Masonic Charities Career and Technical Scholarship, \$2500 per year for 2 years: Kaden Ratai

►Tower Fireman’s Relief Association, \$2000: Brielle Hujanen

►Alworth Memorial Scholarship, \$20,000: Cooper Antikainen

►Cook Area Friends of Aviation Ray Hill Memorial Scholarship, \$1000: Kohen Briggs

►Joel Kantola Memorial Scholarship, \$1500: Kohen Briggs, Karah Scofield

►Cook Lions Club Jerry Storm Memorial Scholarship, \$1000: Cooper Antikainen, Kaden Ratai, Karah Scofield, Steven Sopoci, Avery Thiel

►Dede Desannoy Turri Kaml (DDTK) Scholarship, \$5000: Brielle Hujanen, Hannah Kinsey, Avery Thiel

►Cook Timber Days Service Scholarship, \$250: Karah Scofield

►Cook Timberwolves Scholarship, \$500: Garrett Lappi, Brielle Hujanen, Alt: Lane Kneen

►Cook VFW Scholarship,
- \$1000: Kohen Briggs, Avery Thiel, Alt: Eli Smith

►College of St. Scholastica Scholarships, \$500 Matthew Laveau Scholarship, \$250 Phil Hubert Alumni Scholarship, \$500 Jenny Apriesnig (Johnson) Alumni Scholarship, and \$250 Strength Factory Scholarship: Hannah Kinsey; CSS UB Scholarship, \$250: Anya Pearson

►Jack Banovetz Memorial Scholarship, \$300: Avery Thiel, Emily Trip

►Lake Country Power Les Beach Memorial Scholarship, \$4000 (\$1000 per year for 4 years): Kohen Briggs, Hannah Kinsey

►North Star Credit Union Scholarship, \$500: Karah Scofield; Employee Scholarship, \$750: Avery Thiel

►Paul Anderson Memorial Scholarship, \$1500 for four years: Cooper Antikainen, Kohen Briggs, Steven Sopoci, Avery Thiel, Emily Trip

►PEO Scholarship, \$500: Hannah Kinsey, Avery Thiel, Emily Trip

►St. Paul’s Lutheran Church of Alango, Service-Oriented, \$1000: Kohen Briggs;
- Arts, Music, Food Industry, \$500: Grace Koch

►Tony Cornelius Memorial Scholarship, \$1000: Lane Kneen

►Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners, \$1000: Brielle Hujanen, Hannah Kinsey, Karah Scofield

►Virginia Elks Lodge #1003, \$1000: Avery Thiel

►Watering Can Garden Shop Scholarship, \$500: Cooper Antikainen, Grace Koch

►Alfred and Ethel Stone Memorial Scholarship, \$1000 (renewable up to 4 years): Kohen Briggs, Steven Sopoci

►Breckenridge Charitable Trust, \$5591: Karah Scofield

►Cook Healthcare Auxiliary Scholarship, \$1000: Hannah Kinsey, Karah Scofield

►Cook Chamber Of Commerce Scholarship, \$500: Grace Koch

►Cook News Herald, \$200: Emily Trip

►Cook Volunteer Fire Department, \$500: Avery Thiel

►Cook Zup’s Scholarship , \$1000; Kohen Briggs
- Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation Builders Foundation Legacy Scholarship, \$1500: Cooper Antikainen

►Ed Borowiec Memorial Scholarship, \$1000: Eli Smith

►Frandsen Bank And Trust, \$1000: Kaden Ratai

►Frank Fortun Memorial Scholarship, \$500: Grace Koch

►Gabe Vogt Scholarship, \$250: Kiana LaRoque

►Genfinity Foundation Scholarship, \$8000: Cooper Antikainen, Hannah Kinsey, Emily Trip; 11th grade recipients, Brandon Cook, Cadense Nelson, Jessy Palmer

►Grocer’s Association Scholarship, \$1500: Hannah Kinsey

►Josh Rutar Memorial Scholarship, \$1000: Cooper Antikainen, Grace Koch

►Larry Baker Music Scholarship, \$500: Steven Sopoci

►Local 1938 Steelworkers Memorial Scholarship, \$750: Jared Chiabotti

►Memorial Blood Centers Blood Drive Scholarship, \$660: Kaden Ratai
- Minnesota Masonic Lodge Legacy Scholarship, \$4000 per year for four years: Emily Trip

►Nancy Parvi Memorial Scholarship, \$1000: Jared Chiabotti

►National Wild Turkey Federation Scholarship, \$250: Grace Koch

►Northwoods Riders Scholarship, \$250: Kohen Briggs

►Orr American Legion Scholarships, \$1000: Cooper Antikainen, Grace Koch, Kiana LaRoque

►Orr Lions Club/Louise Wolff Scholarship, \$1000: Cooper Antikainen, Kohen Briggs, Grace Koch

►Range Engineering STEM All Star, \$400: Cooper Antikainen, Kohen Briggs

►Sean Michael Sarazine Memorial Scholarship, \$500: Eli Smith

►Voyageurs Employees Association Scholarship, \$200: Kaden Ratai

NORTH WOODS ACADEMIC HONORS 2022-23

President’s Awards

\*Must maintain 3.5 average over last 3 years.  
**12 th grade:**  
Cooper Antikainen  
Kohen Briggs  
Hannah Kinsey  
Grace Koch  
Kaden Ratai  
Karah Scofield  
Steven Sopoci  
Emily Trip  
Skyler Yernatich  
**9 th grade:**  
Lincoln Antikainen  
Isaiah Briggs  
Lauren Burnett  
Josephine Carlson  
Brynn Chosa

John Danielson  
Isabelle Koch  
Victoria Mathys  
Isabel Pascuzzi  
**Academic Awards**  
\*GPA of 3.35 and above in quarters 1, 2, and 3  
**7 th Grade:**  
Gage Aune  
Sophia Bangs  
Zoey Burckhardt  
Carsyn Burnett  
Colt Chosa  
Kayson Gaskell  
Sawyer Glass  
Johnathon Hampson  
Felicity Hoagland

Rainer Jacobson  
Cyrus Johnson  
Rebecca Koch  
Joshua Long  
Evangelina Mathys  
Kalle Nelson  
Aubrey Olson-Stoltenberg  
Vincent Pascuzzi  
Alice Sopoci  
Evalyn Thiel  
Nevaeh Wipf  
**8 th Grade:**  
Alethea Bangs  
Corralyn Brodeen  
Presley Chiabotti  
Abigail Dargontina  
Emarie Gibson  
Andrew Hartway

Carson Johnson  
Sophia Mathys  
Hunter Schwarzenberger  
Kaycee Zupancich  
**Academic Letters**  
**9 th Grade:**  
Lincoln Antikainen  
Isaiah Briggs  
Lauren Burnett  
Brynn Chosa  
John Danielson  
Isabelle Koch  
Victoria Mathys  
Isabel Pascuzzi  
**10 th Grade:**  
Rory Bundy  
Addison Burckhardt  
Alex Burckhardt  
John Carlson

Ella Cornelius  
Nevada Gauthier  
Ryder Gibson  
Aiden Hartway  
Sheyenne Schuster  
Sierra Schuster  
Amber Sopoci  
Richard Swinson  
Lydia Trip  
**11 th Grade:**  
Evelyn Brodeen  
Jonah Burnett  
Annabelle Calavera  
Brandon Cook  
Madison Dantes  
Addy Hartway  
Evan Kajala  
Helen Koch  
Riley Las

Victoria Olson  
Autumn Swanson  
Trinity Vidal  
Jacob Whiteman  
**12 th Grade:**  
Cooper Antikainen  
Kohen Briggs  
Brielle Hujanen  
Hannah Kinsey  
Lane Kneen  
Kiana LaRoque  
Olin Nelson  
Anya Pearson  
Kaden Ratai  
Karah Scofield  
Steven Sopoci  
Avery Thiel  
Emily Trip



COUNTY SCHOOLS

Personnel and drug policy top light board agenda

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook/Orr Editor

BABBITT- The ISD 2142 school board held its regular meeting at Northeast Range school in Babbitt on Tuesday, approving a drug overdose medication policy and numerous personnel actions.

Board members approved a policy allowing trained staff members to administer the emergency drug naloxone in the event someone is identified as experiencing an opioid overdose. The policy establishes a

districtwide planning team and naloxone coordinator who will develop and oversee guidelines and procedures, including the selection and training of personnel. The policy outlines steps for ensuring coordination with emergency responders and district healthcare professionals, as well as appropriate and timely notification of parents or guardians if the individual experiencing the overdose is a minor. Those who assist with administration of naloxone are immune from civil and criminal liability.

The board also heard a pre-

sentation from Northeast Range Principal John Vukmanich.

In personnel matters, the board:

- Hired Kelly Nuthak as a long-term elementary substitute at North Woods.
- Hired Andrew Jugovich as a full-time science teacher at North Woods.
- Hired Joshua Walls to a four-tenths time position as a health teacher, to be combined with a current sixth-tenths assignment for physical education to create a full-time equivalent assignment at North Woods.

- Hired Tyler Voight as a full-time special educator at North Woods.
- Hired Ashley Hammer-Paakkonen as a combination language arts teacher and media specialist at North Woods.
- Hired Jennifer Fredrickson as a part-time special education substitute at Tower-Soudan.
- Hired Jessica Plassmeyer as a full-time custodian at North Woods.
- Accepted the retirement of North Woods Site 1 Secretary Ilona Svedberg.
- Accepted the retirement of

Tower-Soudan paraprofessional Terry Vagle.

- Accepted resignations from Northeast Range teacher aide Andrea Trembath, North Woods paraprofessional Emily Koch, North Woods bus driver John Faust, North Woods elementary teacher Tiffany Briggs, Tower-Soudan nutrition employee Jessica Plassmeyer, and North Woods elementary teacher Susan LaVigne.
- Approved a special assignment for teacher Rachael Thom as part-time dean of students at Northeast Range.

FUNDING...Continued from page 1

term. A combination of circumstances, including the failure of the Legislature to pass a nursing home funding bill in 2022, inflation, COVID-19 costs, and a nursing professional shortage forcing BWCC to hire temporary traveling nurses at higher-than-local rate of pay, all contributed to the shortfall.

Counting on the Legislature to fund nursing homes with a new bill in this year’s session, BWCC was faced with surviving until then. Masloski made his case to the Ely community in the local news media, at local government meetings, and in front of local community organizations.

Masloski’s appeals worked. Donations from the local community were approximately \$60,000.

Groups like 100 Ely Women Who Care donated to help BWCC but many in the community also helped out. “Most of the donations we received were from individuals sending in \$25 checks.”

Masloski also credited EBCH. “The hospital has downplayed their contribution but we wouldn’t be here without their help ... If the community and hospital had not donated, we would not be able to continue operating in Ely.”

**State funding**

The \$750,000 for capital equipment isn’t the only money coming from the state. Several additional provisions to help nursing homes were part of a deal hammered out by lawmakers on Monday for

\$300 million for nursing homes. According to the elder care advocacy group, Leading Age Minnesota, the funding will be incorporated into a bonding bill requiring a supermajority to pass both the Minnesota House and the Senate and a governor’s signature. The bill is expected to pass next Monday, May 29.

Masloski reported that local elected officials were key in securing the \$750,000 and the additional funding currently making its way through the Legislature. “Senator Hauschild was integral in getting funding for BWCC,” Masloski said. “(St. Louis County Commissioner) Paul McDonald also helped ... he called me and went to down to the Capitol, pushing to get funding

for us.”

The additional nursing home funding includes:

- \$300 million of the remaining surplus, split between \$173.5 million for nursing facility grants restricted to a pre-approved list of operating expenses, 18 months of an additional \$12.35 per resident per day to supplement current per-client funding, and \$75 million for workforce incentives expenses like bonuses and employee benefits.
- \$80 to \$90 million in funding to be split by Minnesota nursing homes for workforce wages.
- A \$100 million loan program passed in the Human Services Budget Bill, for the hardest-hit nursing homes in the state.
- \$412 million in per-

manent funding for Elderly Waiver, which is also part of the Human Services budget bill. This allocation will benefit low-income seniors receiving care in assisted living, adult daycare, and other home and community-based settings.

The Legislature also set up a committee to study the current reimbursement rates for nursing homes, with a reporting date of January 2025.

“It was a nice injection of money and it will go a long way,” said Masloski of the package. He also noted that the way the Legislature set-up the current nursing home funding in a way that will help over the next one to two years, but that it wouldn’t solve the systemic long-term problems with financing nursing homes.

“They (the Legislature) threw money at nursing homes while not solving the long-term problems,” said Masloski. Those include the ongoing shortage of skilled nursing professionals, attracting those professionals to rural areas like Ely, and paying enough to be competitive in the healthcare job market.

Regardless, the new state funding will be enough to keep BWCC going. “We’re thrilled,” said Masloski. “We’ll be able to buy new equipment and our residents’ rooms have needed some updates for a long time now ... up to now, we haven’t even dreamed of what to do.”

GUN SAFETY...Continued from page 1

some DFL senators, including Third District freshman Sen. Grant Hauschild, opposing certain proposals that they believed infringed on the rights of gun owners.

But when push came to shove on expanded background checks and the red flag measure in the public safety bill, Hauschild provided his support, citing the rash of 23 school shootings with injuries or deaths in 2023 as his rationale.

“I came to the conclusion that we have to do something,” Hauschild told *Northern News Now*. “There have been far too many school shootings. There has been far too much gun violence in our streets. And so background checks and the extreme risk protection orders made sense to make sure that we are addressing these where we can. I’ve had a lot of conversations with folks in the district about the need to do something. I’ve talked to sheriffs and police, talking about their hands being tied when families reach out to them about concerns they have with those that they live with perhaps being a threat

to themselves or others. We have to be able to give the tools to law enforcement to address those concerns. Equally, I’ve heard from mothers concerned about dropping their kids off at school. I’m a father, I have a three-year-old and a one-year-old, and I can’t look my kids in the eye and tell them that there’s nothing that we could do to address gun violence and school shootings.”

Republicans criticized the DFL for slipping the provision into the larger funding bill instead of presenting them as stand-alone bills for an up-or-down vote, which they claimed would have led to their defeat. The bill does nothing to keep criminals from getting their hands on firearms, they argue.

“This is a bad bill that coddles criminals and infringes on the rights of law-abiding gun owners,” House Minority Leader Lisa Demuth, R-Cold Spring, said during floor debate on the bill.

The Minnesota Gun Owners Caucus, a Second Amendment advocacy group, also expressed their

dismay with the bill.

“It is extremely disappointing that the governor has signed these provisions into law without so much as a stand-alone floor vote in the Senate,” said Bryan Strawser, the group’s chairman. “If these measures were truly as popular as the governor claims, there would be no need to bury these provisions in an omnibus bill. The Minnesota Gun Owners Caucus will be closely monitoring the implementation of these laws, and, in conjunction with our national partners, we stand ready to take possible legal action.”

But in a May 19 signing ceremony attended by DFL lawmakers, law enforcement and gun violence survivors, including former Arizona Congresswoman Gabby Giffords, Walz said the background checks and red flag law would help prevent gun violence and make Minnesotans safer.

“As a veteran, gun-owner, hunter, and dad, I know basic gun safety isn’t a threat to the Second Amendment – it’s about keeping our kids safe,” said

Governor Walz. “There’s no place for weapons of war in our schools, churches, banks, or anywhere else people are just trying to live their lives. Today is about taking meaningful action to create a safer future for our kids, and I am proud to sign this commonsense, life-saving legislation into law.”

Under the “red flag” measure, family members could petition a court to temporarily ban someone from possessing firearms if they pose a significant risk to themselves or others. It would create an “extreme risk protection order” that law enforcement, household or family members, city or county attorneys, or guardians could obtain.

Minnesota is now the 20th state to enact red flag protections that allow firearms to be removed from those deemed a danger to themselves or others. However, a Sept. 2022 analysis of the use of red flag laws by the *Associated Press* showed that the measures are rarely used and have little effect on gun violence overall.

Criminal background

checks have now been expanded to include private, person-to-person sales of pistols and semiautomatic weapons. A background check is not required for a private transfer of a hunting rifle. Transfers between immediate family members are also exempt from the background check requirement. Records of a transaction must be kept by both parties for 10 years.

The broader public safety law will also:

- Boost funding for Minnesota courts to improve courtroom technology and raise salaries of judicial branch workers and legal aid programs.
- Expand youth intervention and restorative programs with the aim of changing the direction of young people before they commit more serious crimes.
- Rework the pardons process so decisions of the three-person panel — the governor, attorney general and Supreme Court chief justice — won’t have to be unanimous. The governor will have to be part of any vote where a pardon is awarded.

- Allow prison inmates to shave time off their incarceration by participating in rehabilitative, substance abuse or educational programs while behind bars. The credits couldn’t cut their prison time to less than half but it could mean inmates serve less than the standard two-thirds of a sentence in custody before supervised release is permitted.
- Limit the use of no-knock search warrants by police and changing the protocol for how they will be conducted should a judge issue one.
- Fund police recruitment, given a shortage of licensed officers.
- The law will also create the first in the nation Office of Missing and Murdered African American Women and Girls. It will be similar to the state’s Office of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

*MPR News contributed to this article.*



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OFFER EXPIRES 5/31/23.





BOOK...Continued from page 1

Sanctuary in 2020, and is one of the largest such sanctuaries in the world with over a million acres. Other designated dark sky areas include Voyageurs National Park and the Quetico Provincial Park just north of the border in Ontario.

Carlson-Voiles was a teacher in Minneapolis, working with special education students, teen mothers, and youth who were incarcerated.

“I’ve always written,” she said. “But I wasn’t submitting my books.”

“I waited until I retired and could put myself into it full-time.”

And so, she did. A mix of picture books for young children and novels for young adults. Her first novel was “Summer of the Wolves,” which won a Northeast Minnesota Book Award. A sequel, which takes place in the winter-time, is coming out soon.

Carlson-Voiles said she strives to give scientifically-accurate information to readers of all ages.

“I review books about



Polly Carlson-Voiles

wolves for the International Wolf Center’s magazine,” she said. “So many are riddled with errors. Publishers are not fact checking.”

“We want kids to be interested in science and animals,” she said.

Carlson-Voiles said both she and Powell love working with the Minnesota Historical Society Press (MHSP), which is very supportive of their writers.

The inspiration for this book started when she was a child.

“As a child, my mother was a lover of the moon. She delighted in grabbing anyone in the family to go outside on clear nights



Consie Powell

to admire the particular phase or brightness of the moon,” she said. And this wonder only grew after she first visited the Boundary Waters as a teenager.

“My sense of awe about the stars intensified to a new level when I went on my first canoe trip at the age of 15 and experienced dark skies. As a city girl I was blown away by everything about this Boundary Waters trip, but particularly by the fact that we were far from any road, and that we were far from any city, revealing the most amazing stars I had ever seen. Every clear night we huddled on the rocks for the shows, including northern lights. I

could hardly wait to return for more.”

In college, she took an astronomy class, and learned about the vastness of the universe.

Her professor, at the University of Minnesota, told his students to never forget, you are all just riding around on a little speck of dust!

“That was exactly the feeling I had experienced sitting on slabs of glacial rock on my canoe trips. Feeling so small,” she said.

Carlson-Voiles and her husband and two children spent summers at a family cabin on Lake Vermilion.

“For many years we had star parties on clear nights, looking for constellations, shooting stars, northern lights, with treats and pillows, on our deck or the dock, again experiencing the marvel of skies with very little ambient light,” she said.

Once she and her husband retired, they moved to a hilltop on the edge of the Boundary Waters.

“In fifteen years, there

has seldom been a clear night where we didn’t go out on the decks to check the Milky Way, the moon, the loons on the lake, and to remember that we were just riding around on a little speck of dust.”

This was the inspiration to write “Star Party,” she said.

She worked on the book during retreats with fellow children’s book writers at Atsokan Island on Rainy Lake, where she shared her star party tradition with the other writers.

It was the MHSP that paired her up with Powell.

She agreed “to interpret the story with her wonderful portrayal of the mysteries and magic of the night forest and animals and lakes and stars.”

Carlson-Voiles said her hope is that she can share the awe she feels while stargazing is shared by others

“It is my profound feeling that this awe I feel, while speechless and gazing, is shared by fellow humans on every continent, speaking every language,

in every country, and my hope, by every child, “on this little speck of dust” we share,” she said.

The book’s official launch was on May 6 at the University of Minnesota’s Bell Museum. Piragis Second Floor bookstore is hosting a book launch on Memorial Day.

The book’s author and illustrator are both Ely-area residents. Carlson-Voiles is a two-time winner of the Northeastern Minnesota Book Award. Her other books include the young adult novel “Summer of the Wolves,” and illustrated picture books “Eat Sleep Howl,” “Someone Walks By,” and “Big Yellow,” which was also illustrated by Powell.

Powell has illustrated numerous children’s picture books, including “Who Lives in the Snow?,” “Big Fish Dream,” “Canoeman Joe,” and has also written and illustrated “Old Dog Cora and the Christmas Tree.”

PROJECTS...Continued from page 1

bills require a three-fifths vote in favor for passage, which the DFL couldn’t muster in the Senate, where they hold a narrow, one-seat majority.

The DFL had responded by assembling a cash-only bill, using funds from the state’s record \$17.6 billion surplus, but the measure focused much of the investment in DFL-dominated areas.

Both sides had continued to try to reach a compromise, however, that could win passage of the bonding bill as well. That deal was first reported by *Minnesota Public Radio* over the session’s final weekend.

The final passage of the bonding bill is a major win for northeastern Minnesota, which had nearly \$40 million in projects riding on the measure. That includes a whopping \$11 million for Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park for the design and construction of a visitors’ center, additional camping facilities, hiking and biking trails, along with a dock and fishing pier. The funding is also earmarked for design of the Mattson Bay Camp and the Soudan Heritage and Science Center, along with the rehabilitation of the Jasper Peak fire tower. Minnesota North College-Vermilion is slated to receive \$3.633 million to design, renovate, and equip the college’s classroom building and common space.

The bonding will also provide \$12.229 million



Lake Vermilion State Park was awarded \$11 million in state bonding for a number of projects.

photo by M. Helmberger

for the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation to acquire, upgrade and install a snow-making infrastructure system at Giants Ridge, including replacing aging water lines. It will also fund \$2 million in utility extensions and upgrades for the city of Babbitt’s West Development housing project.

Meanwhile, the cash-only bill includes \$1.5 million for the repair and renovation of the Timber Hall in Embarrass, good news for the volunteers there who use the facility on a regular basis. “I’m floating on cloud nine,” said Tana Johnson, chair of the Embarrass Region Fair Association. “This money will ensure that Timber Hall will be available for years and years to serve the communities in our region.” Johnson thanked Rep. Dave Lislegard, who authored the funding provision.

Other area projects in

the overall funding package include:

➤ \$1.3 million for all-terrain vehicle trail system improvements in St. Louis County.

➤ \$3.5 million for the construction of a marina in the city of Ranier to serve as a safe harbor and gateway to Voyageurs National Park.

➤ \$1.75 million for improvements to the Hoyt Lakes Community Recreation and Wellness Center.

➤ \$1.5 million for the Bigfork Community Center.

➤ \$1 million for planning and design of the International Falls regional health and wellness center. Missing from the funding package is money for the Tower-Breitung Wastewater Board, which had been looking for help to finance a planned drinking water treatment facility. The project, which has been delayed for three years now, currently has an estimated

\$2.1 million funding gap that city and township officials had hoped to cover through state bonding.

Other funding approved

Meanwhile, other legislation approved by lawmakers directed funding to the regional projects as well. Sen. Hauschild, who serves on the Tax Committee, was able to include a provision in the tax bill that provides funding for nearly a dozen northeastern Minnesota facilities or projects, including:

➤ \$750,000 to the Boundary Waters Care Center.

➤ \$650,000 to ISD 2142 for the North Woods School near Cook.

➤ \$200,000 to Veterans on the Lake, in Winton.

➤ \$250,000 for 4H Clubs in St. Louis County.

➤ \$100,000 to the Ely Igloo Snowmobile Club.

➤ \$100,000 to the Voyageur Trail Society.

➤ \$100,000 to the Babbitt ATV and Snowmobile Club.

➤ \$100,000 to the Crane Lake Voyageurs Trail Club.

In addition, Hauschild announced this week that Legislature’s Environment bill includes \$1.9 million toward the construction of the Crane Lake Voyageurs National Park visitor center and campground as well as for improvements to the state-operated boat ramp there.

That measure also includes the following:

➤ \$1.45 million from the DNR’s dedicated account for ATV trail development associated with the Voyageur County and Prospectors Loop systems.

➤ \$500,000 for the Redhead mountain bike park in Chisholm.

➤ \$6 million for the 1854 Treaty Area agreement.

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PERSONAL CHOICE

# Marijuana legalization awaits Walz’s signature

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL - Recreational marijuana will soon be a reality in Minnesota, although the administrative, regulatory, and production elements of full implementation of that industry won’t come until well into 2024.

The final hurdle to the legislation was cleared last Friday when the Senate approved the revised conference committee version of the bill 34-32. As of Tuesday, the bill was still awaiting Gov. Tim Walz’s signature, which he has promised to provide.

While elements of the law pertaining to adult possession, use, and home cultivation of marijuana technically take effect July 1, the existing criminal penalties for those things won’t be lifted until Aug. 1, creating a period of uncertainty for potential users and law enforcement alike.

When Aug. 1 hits, it will become legal for anyone 21 and older to possess and transport up to two ounces of cannabis flower in public and up to eight grams of cannabis concentrates. THC edibles and beverages in an individual’s possession cannot include more than 800 mg of infused THC, the active ingredient in marijuana.

The bill also restricts marijuana smoking and vaporizing to private residences, both indoors and outdoors; on private property that is not accessible to the public, if permitted by the owner; and on the premises of a business or event licensed for on-site consumption.

However, not everyone will be permitted to smoke at home. Smoking marijuana is prohibited in multi-family dwellings, including on patios and balconies, unless marijuana is prescribed for medical use. Violators of this provision can be fined \$250.

The bill also specifically prohibits use of marijuana and hemp-ed-

## New law will take more than a year to fully implement

ibles in numerous other circumstances, including but not limited to when in or operating motor vehicles, in public and charter school facilities or vehicles, anywhere smoking is prohibited, and in any location where smoke or vapor would be inhaled by a minor. Use would not be permitted in family daycares during hours of operation, and owners would have to post notices if marijuana or hemp-edibles are used by employees at other hours. All products would have to be kept locked and away from child access.

**Home-grown**

While the bill limits the amount of cannabis flower a person can carry in public to two ounces, they’re permitted to possess up to two pounds at home, the equivalent of over 900 one-gram joints.

Home growers can have eight marijuana plants, but only four can be flowering at a time. Four flowering plants are easily capable of producing enough flower to exceed the two-pound possession limit, according to testimony provided by Minnesota Hemp Growers Cooperative president Shawn Weber to the legislative conference committee. Two pounds is a conservative estimate, he said, while four pounds is more realistic, and properly cultivated, four plants could yield a harvest of over six pounds.

Home growers are not allowed to sell their product, but they can give it away.

The Senate version of the bill originally had a possession limit of five pounds,

while the House version specified 1.5 pounds, and they settled on a compromise of two pounds.

Plants grown at home must be kept in an enclosed locked space, indoors or outdoors, that is not open to public view.

**Retailing cannabis**

The bill includes 15 types of licenses for businesses involved in the production and sale of cannabis and cannabis-derived products such as edibles. Additionally, four licenses target the medical cannabis industry, and medical cannabis businesses may also sell recreational products.

Other states that have legalized recreational marijuana have seen steep drop offs in the use of their medical cannabis programs, and the bill’s authors decided to allow medical vendors to also sell recreational products as a way to offset an anticipated decline in medical sales.

A cannabis business may be coming to your local community, as the bill does not allow cities to ban them. Cities can limit the number of cannabis retailers to one per every 12,500 residents. There is also a provision that if countywide there exists one vendor for every 12,500 residents, individual cities or towns without one would not be required to allow one. This provision does not apply to businesses selling hemp-based edibles. Cities are allowed to restrict the areas in which cannabis businesses can operate and suspend their licenses if regulations are violated.

Businesses selling cannabis products are also subject to significant adver-

tising limitations, particularly when placement of advertising would reach an audience of 30 percent of individuals under age 21.

In addition to collecting regular local and state sales taxes on their products, cannabis retailers will also collect an additional ten percent cannabis tax, with 80 percent of that going to the state and 20 percent to local governments.

Communities and groups disproportionately affected by past cannabis prohibitions and enforcement will be given priority in the issuance of cannabis business licenses under the social equity provisions of the law. They will also be eligible for special business grants. Included in the social equity category are people who were convicted of possessing or selling marijuana, family members of someone who was convicted of a marijuana offense, veterans or active military who lost honorable status due to a marijuana offense, residents of neighborhoods that “experienced a disproportionately large amount of cannabis enforcement,” and farmers from under-represented communities.

**Medical cannabis**

The medical cannabis program will remain the same until March 1, 2025, when the Minnesota Department of Health will pass it off to the new Office of Cannabis Management. At that time, the two current providers for the program may have additional competitors as licensing of more providers will be opened up. Medical marijuana products will not be subject to the additional ten percent cannabis tax.

**Expungement**

The bill paves the way for more than 60,000 Minnesotans with misdemeanor marijuana cases to have their records expunged when the bill

goes into effect, wiping out all records from arrest to sentencing. The Bureau of Criminal Apprehensions estimates it could take up to a year to complete that process.

The law also creates a Cannabis Expungement Board that will review felony-level marijuana cases for possible expungement on a case-by-case basis.

**Employment testing**

Job applicants cannot be screened for marijuana as a condition of employment except where required by federal law or for jobs in education, law enforcement, healthcare, and other positions specifically identified in the bill.

Businesses do have the right to ban cannabis use and possession in the workplace and can require testing if use is suspected to be the cause of a violation of company policy or law.

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# SPORTS

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## BASEBALL

### Panichi throws one-hitter in Deer River win

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- North Woods lefty hurler Louie Panichi was almost perfect Monday, giving up only a seventh-inning single and allowing only one baserunner in the Grizzlies’ 7-0 home win over Deer River.

Panichi turned in a stellar performance in the Grizzlies’ last home game of the winter-shortened season, facing the minimum number of batters and notching 11 strikeouts before the drive to right field put a tiny blemish on

the day. Panichi had 13 total strikeouts. The defense behind Panichi couldn’t have been any better, as the young lineup had no errors in the game.

The Grizzlies gave Panichi all the run support he needed in the first inning, batting around the lineup as they scored four runs on seven hits, including six straight and a pair of doubles. North Woods picked up two more runs in the fourth and one in the fifth.

Overall, North Woods hitters tagged Warriors pitching for 11 hits

**Right: Louie Panichi during a wind-up for a pitch.**

photo by D. Colburn

and drew four walks against five strikeouts. Six Grizzlies batters drove in runs.

“We had timely hitting early and younger middle and end of the order players hit well early,” Grizzlies Head Coach RJ Kruse said. “We had a lot of deep at-bats, and running their pitch count up helped. Levi Chaulklin and Cedar Holman both had excellent

*See ONE-HITTER...pg. 4B*



## GOLF

### Grizzlies’ Olson takes second at latest meet

Ely/NER top the field in team competition

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- For North Woods girls golfer Tori Olson, the word home could refer to a couple of things in her life on the links. Home could be the Vermilion Fairways course in Cook, or it could also be a spot in the top tier of tournament leaderboards, where Olson seems to have lived most of the short season.

Olson was doubly at home last week as the Grizzlies hosted an East Range Conference meet at Vermilion Ridge, and she was again almost at the top of the heap when the tourney was finished. She and International Falls’ Kelby Anderson were even through the first six holes, but Olson picked up a pair of bogeys going in while Anderson finished clean for a two-stroke win. Runner-up Olson’s 41 was a stroke better than third-place finisher Samantha Doherty of Mesabi East.

Madison Dantes was the next lowest scorer for North Woods, carding a 55 and tied for 14th.

Talise Goodsky, Brynn Chosa, Aleah Bangs, Carsyn Burnett and Sophie Bangs also teed it up for North Woods, with the team finishing fourth in the five-team event with a total of 229.

The combined Ely/Northeast Range team took home the team title, led by Abby Koivisto’s fifth-place finish with a round of 48. Teammate Maizy Sunblad was two strokes back in sixth, and Danica Sunblad placed eighth with a 51. Carena DeBeltz shot a 55, and Cylvia DeBeltz, a 57.

#### Correction

Last week’s story about Ely eighth-grader Kaylin Visser erroneously reported that her award-winning discus throw was 130’4”. In fact, it was 103’4”. The Timberjay regrets the error.



## SECTION 7A SOFTBALL PLAYOFFS

### GRIZZLIES MOVE ON Top Cromwell 3-1 to advance in sectional playoffs

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- In a duel between two hot pitchers, North Woods hurler Evelyn Brodeen got the support she needed from her teammates to come out on top 3-1 against Cromwell in first-round sectional tourney action at North Woods on Tuesday.

Cromwell scored their lone run in the first inning on a pair of North Woods errors and a passed ball, but after that Brodeen and the Grizzlies defense were solid, with the Cardinals managing just five hits, none of which brought home a run.

North Woods tied the game 1-1 in the bottom of the first. Skyler Yernatich reached base when she was hit by a pitch and came around to score when River Cheney hammered a double to left field.

The Grizzlies took the lead

“They’ve really worked hard in this last half of the season.

**Grizzlies Head Coach Dee Ann Sandberg**

in the third after Zoey Burckhardt singled and advanced to second on a single by Helen Koch. Yernatich got another clutch single to drive home Burckhardt.

Brodeen helped her own cause by contributing to an insurance run in the sixth. Cheney reached on a single and advanced to second on a passed ball. When Brodeen shot a single into center field, Cheney had the green light from Head Coach Dee Ann Sandberg to race

*See GRIZZLIES...pg. 4B*

**Top: Grizzlies’ third baseman Helen Koch eyes first as she fielded a hot grounder during playoff competition on Tuesday.**

**Below: The Grizzlies’ Evelyn Brodeen delivers a pitch.**

photos by D. Colburn



## BASEBALL

### Lack of clutch hitting posing a challenge for Ely

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

ELY — Clutch hitting seems to be the missing ingredient for the Timberwolves as they head into the Section 7A baseball playoffs next week after going two-for-three during the weekend’s Veterans Memorial Showcase here, while losing in non-tour-

namment play on Monday.

The Wolves won big against two easier opponents but couldn’t get the job done against Cherry on Friday and Rock Ridge on Monday.

“Against good teams this past week, we set the table but just didn’t get the job done to give us a chance to pull out a win,” said Ely Head Coach Frank

Ivancich. “That has been our story all season long.”

In Monday’s home contest with Rock Ridge, junior hurler Drew Marolt pitched a solid game, allowing just three hits in seven innings worked, but took the loss, 4-0. Rock Ridge scored two runs in the opening frame on an infield hit, two walks, and an Ely throwing error. The

Wolverines added two more runs in the third inning on another Ely error and a walk to take a 4-0 lead. Ely, which tallied five hits on the afternoon, put runners in scoring position in the third, fifth, and sixth innings but couldn’t deliver the clutch hits to put runs on the board.

**Veterans Memorial tourney**

Ely won in a rout in the

tournament’s opening contest on Friday, topping Carlton 22-4 in a 14-hit rampage. Ely sophomore Caid Chittum, senior Logan Loe, and freshman Jack Davies each had two hits and two RBIs in the contest. Davies also notched the win working the final three innings, striking out four. Junior

*See WOLVES...pg. 4B*





# Outdoors

Our lives in the Northwoods

WALLEYE

## Vermilion resident tops City Auto Glass tournament

Steve Krasaway and his longtime fishing pal split \$17,000 cash prize

LAKEVERMILION—A Birch Point resident and his Michigan fishing partner took the top spot in last weekend’s City Auto Glass walleye tournament here, helped by their first catch of the day—a 27-1/2-incher caught on a jig and a minnow in just seven feet of water.

“It was a great weekend, that’s for sure,” said Steve

Krasaway, who operates Vermilion Walleye Hunter Guide Service when he’s not out scouting for a tournament. He’ll now share the \$17,000 first-place prize with his partner, Mike McPherson, of Detroit.

The angling duo has placed as high as third place in the tournament in the past, but they narrowly edged the

second-place finishers this year by just three and a half ounces. Those extra ounces proved the difference between the first-place prize and the \$5,000 purse for second place.

The winners are selected by a weigh-in at the end of the day at the Fortune Bay Marina. Each team enters its

See **TOURNEY...**pg. 3B

Right: Steve Krasaway, right, and his fishing partner Mike McPherson, along with Krasaway’s kids Annabelle, Ashley, and Leo, pose for a photo with their trophies and mock checks.

submitted photo



NORTHERN FINCHES

## ON THE REBOUND?

After a steep population decline, evening grosbeaks seem surprisingly plentiful again in the North Country

Recently, it seems, we tend to have more bad news than good when it comes to the state of bird populations in North America, including right here in the North Country. But now, one of the birds that had shown some of the most dramatic declines in numbers over the past several decades, has rebounded to a remarkable degree, at least in our region.

I’m talking about evening grosbeaks, a species whose population has declined by 92 percent since 1970, according to most recent surveys. That’s the steepest population decline of any land bird in North America and it has left ornithologists scratching their heads to figure out why.

After all, evening grosbeaks used to be among the most popular birds at feeders, at least back when they were still regulars at many feeders. Their cheery call, gregarious nature, and dramatic and colorful plumage, makes them hard to resist.

You might think that a bird that makes heavy use of feeders would be doing exceptionally well these days, when bird feeding remains an incredibly popular activity. Clearly, something else has been going on and researchers are only starting to get a handle on it.

Perhaps because evening grosbeaks were until recently



quite common throughout their range, it appears they never attracted much interest from researchers. That’s changed recently since their dramatic decline has been so noticeable and, in some ways, inexplicable. At this point, researchers have little more than guesses, noting that evening grosbeaks seem to be more vulnerable to window strikes and car impacts than other species. They’ve also suggested climate change, loss of mature and old-growth forest habitat in their breeding range, as well as forest management efforts to control spruce budworm outbreaks— but as is obvious with a list this long, researchers are just speculating at this point.

An international group, known as the Finch Research Network, or FRN, which now publishes the annual finch

Top: Like ornaments on a Christmas tree, evening grosbeaks filled a tree in Greaney recently, near where they’ve been visiting a feeder all winter. The feeder owner reports as many as 50 evening grosbeaks feeding there much of the winter. This picture has at least 17 evening grosbeaks in it... can you find them all? (Hint: the females are tough). photo by F. Schumacher

Above: The author’s bird feeder earlier this month, where about 20 evening grosbeaks have been regular visitors.

photo by M. Helmberger

forecast each fall (which we regularly report on here), has begun to take a closer look at evening grosbeaks, as part of a joint effort known as the International Road to Recovery Evening Grosbeak Project and they began doing some banding and satellite tagging here in northern Minnesota last year.

I spoke with Matt Young, who is spearheading the effort for the FRN, and sounds hopeful that the species is showing some signs of recovery in eastern North America, including eastern Ontario, Quebec and northern New England.

I noted in our conversation that they certainly seem to have increased in northeastern Minnesota as well in the past

couple years. Many folks who regularly feed birds in our area reported unusually robust numbers of evening grosbeaks since 2021.

We’ve been feeding as many as 20 of them daily through much of the late winter and spring, and friends in Greaney have reported feeding as many as 50 through the winter. I know I spent more on sunflower seeds this winter than ever, and not just because the price of seeds has jumped. With good numbers of both pine and evening grosbeaks this winter, they would go through a 40-pound bag about every ten days.

See **GROSBEAKS...**pg. 3B

## Wildflower Watch

This week’s featured flower  
**LARGE-FLOWERED BELLWORT**



It often seems that the **Large-flowered Bellwort**, *Uvularia grandiflora* can spring almost instantly from the ground as soon as the snow leaves. It’s a tall, (12 inches), native, very early-season wildflower with yellow, drooping flowers with distinctly twisting petals.

It seems to like disturbed areas, in moist woods, in partial or full shade and typically grows in small clumps that might display as many as a couple dozen blossoms at a time. But look quickly... like many spring wildflowers, they bloom for a few days and disappear for another year.

While its leaves are lily-like, it’s a member of the Autumn Crocus family.

WILDLIFE

## Be BearWise this summer

REGIONAL—The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is reminding hikers, campers and others spending time outdoors to be aware of bears and learn how to prevent conflicts.

Minnesota is bear country, but people can peacefully share the outdoors with bears by paying attention to where and when they are most likely to encounter bears. Black bears are naturally cautious animals that typically avoid human contact for their own safety; however, it’s important to be proactive to prevent human-bear conflicts.

“Coexistence with bears is completely doable with a few easy steps that anyone can follow,” said Andrew Tri, bear project leader. “The key things to remember are to not surprise them and to keep food secure.”

When moving about in bear country, people should be aware of their surroundings, make noise periodically so bears know they’re there, and always keep dogs leashed.

To keep human food away from bears, people should keep a clean camp by practicing leave no trace principles (Int.org). People should:

- Store coolers in a locked vehicle or store food in a certified bear-resistant container.
- Take food waste with them

See **BEARS...**pg. 3B



MARSHALL HELMBERGER



TOURNEY...Continued from page 4B



Mike McPherson, with his 27-1/2-inch walleye, which helped him and his fishing partner win the City Auto Glass tournament this past Saturday on Lake Vermilion.

submitted photo

top-six walleye in hopes of achieving the highest combined weight. Walleye within Vermilion’s protected 20-26-inch slot don’t count, but that left room for the 27-1/2-incher caught by McPherson.

It came from a spot that the two men had located in the week ahead of last Saturday’s tournament, a shallow, sandy bay that held a number of large walleye, according to Krasaway’s front-facing sonar. The big fish, which had likely just come off spawning, did not appear to be very hungry. Krasaway said they’d been trying to entice the fish to bite for about 45 minutes and were about ready to give up when McPherson latched into the big one.

Despite the hundreds of dollars that Krasaway and McPherson spent on fancy lures ahead of this year’s tournament, it was the tried and true — a 25-cent jig and plain hook that finally enticed the big one that put them over the top.

Krasaway said it was a tough year to find large walleye since the late ice-out means the water is still quite cold and the big females are still recovering from a later-than-usual spawn. In fact, only two anglers in the entire tournament, including 125 teams, managed to land a walleye over the slot.

Smaller walleyes were plentiful. Krasaway said he and McPherson boated a total of 65 ‘eyes, and they were able to add five fish over 16 inches to their final weigh-in. They did have

to release a few slot fish, including a couple late in the day that they had initially thought might come in over the slot, allowing it to be kept. “Those ones got our heart beating almost more than the first one,” recalls Krasaway.

The tournament, traditionally the first one of the season on Vermilion, has arguably become its most popular. It’s a fundraiser for Kiwanis Key Club, which donates to scholarships for area youth. Since its inception 18 years ago, the event has donated more than \$300,000 to the scholarship fund.

Krasaway said the week leading up to the tournament each May is his favorite of the year. “It’s better than Christmas,” he said. “It’s a very fun event. Everybody really looks forward to it.”

The participants tend to keep coming back each year and that makes it a chance to catch up with other serious walleye anglers from around the country, mostly the Upper Midwest.

Under the rules of the tournament, it’s all catch and release, so the vast majority of the fish survive to fight another day. Krasaway said the cold water this year helped ensure that almost all the fish were successfully released.

“We watched all ours swim away,” he said. Yes, even the 27-1/2-incher.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
77 50					78 51					79 54					81 57					82 56				
Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
05/15	69	42	0.00		05/15	72	32	0.00		05/15	71	43	0.00		05/15	75	39	0.00		05/15	71	31	0.00	
05/16	75	42	0.00		05/16	76	33	0.00		05/16	76	43	0.00		05/16	72	52	0.00		05/16	76	38	0.00	
05/17	65	27	0.00		05/17	71	36	0.00		05/17	66	39	0.00		05/17	70	39	0.00		05/17	65	35	0.00	
05/18	61	28	0.00		05/18	64	41	0.00		05/18	68	38	0.00		05/18	57	45	0.00		05/18	65	43	0.00	
05/19	57	41	0.31		05/19	59	41	0.26		05/19	59	41	0.47		05/19	64	41	0.31		05/19	59	41	0.28	
05/20	56	28	0.00		05/20	61	30	0.00		05/20	62	40	0.00		05/20	73	36	0.00		05/20	62	30	0.00	
05/21	58	35	0.00		05/21	71	35	0.00		05/21	72	44	0.00		05/21	77	39	0.00		05/21	71	36	0.00	
YTD Total			8.06		YTD Total			7.27		YTD Total			5.70		YTD Total			NA		YTD Total				6.94

Fishing reports

Ely area

As water temps climb into the high 50s walleye are on the move. Now walleyes are cruising shore-lines looking for an easy meal and anglers are working points, large shallow flats and river mouths. Anglers are finding walleyes in 12-16 feet of water during the day with a jig and minnow, but during the evening hours, walleyes are sliding up as shallow as three feet looking for minnows and leeches.

Here a slip bobber and a leech, large floating minnow bait, and jig and minnow have been very effective for catching walleyes.

Crappie anglers are reporting that crappies are schooling up at the mouth of shallow bays and venturing into shallow bays as water temps climb. Crappie minnows and small hair jigs, fished under a bobber at the mouth of these bays, has been very effective for crappie anglers.

Stream trout are also attracting a lot of interest now that many

anglers have gotten their walleye fix. Anglers are finding aggressive trout cruising their favorite stream trout lake. Shore anglers are catching active trout casting small spinners, spoons and jigs. Anglers fishing from a boat are catching trout trolling small spoons and crankbaits. Trout are generally being found in 10 feet of water or less.

Courtesy of Arrowhead Outdoors. See more at Arrowhead OutdoorsElyMN.com.

Outdoors briefly

Bass season opens this Saturday

REGIONAL — The bass fishing catch-and-keep season opens Saturday, May 27, and spring is a great time to cast a line for these

fun-to-catch fish. Largemouth and smallmouth bass can be easier to catch in spring and early summer when they spend more time in shallow water. Later, as water temperatures rise, bass move to deeper water in search of sunken points,

rocky humps and aquatic plant edges that offer protection from larger fish and hiding places for prey. Learn more about how to fish for bass and other species at the DNR’s learn to fish page(mndnr.gov/gofishing/how-catch-fish.html).

GROSBEAKS...Continued from page 2B

One thing that may be helping boost evening grosbeaks in our area is the spruce budworm outbreak that has been rolling through the region over the past decade. Young said evening grosbeaks feed heavily on budworm during their nesting season and when there are outbreaks, they can have tremendous reproductive success.

According to Natural Resources Canada, spruce budworm outbreaks occur on a roughly 30-40 year cycle, so it’s possible that the 92-percent reduction in evening grosbeak numbers since the 1970s is relative to a previous peak in the budworm cycle. There are plenty of long-term cycles at play with so many species that comparing today’s population with the past can be unhelpful at times.

In fact, Young and two other

authors suggest in a detailed blog post on e-bird.org that the evening grosbeak population may have been unusually high from the 1960s to the early 1990s due to significant budworm outbreaks from 1945-55 and 1968-88 in the boreal forests of Canada. At the same time, the widespread planting of box elder trees (the seeds of which are a favorite food in the non-breeding season) in the northeast U.S. appears to have allowed for significant range expansion as well into New England.

“The species’ expansion was also supported by the proliferation of pin cherry and a fondness for sunflower seeds at a growing numbers of bird feeders across the East,” writes Young and his co-authors Tim Spahr and Andrew Spencer. “In fact, for a few decades evening grosbeaks were one of the most common species

seen at bird feeders across much of North America in the winter.”

That, of course, is no longer the case. Young and his fellow writers noted that Canadian forest managers have been increasingly managing to reduce budworm outbreaks, and that could be constraining the breeding success of the species.

Hopefully, some of the ongoing research will give wildlife managers a better understanding of the population dynamics at work here. This is certainly one species whose absence (until recently) has been noticed by many. I know that having robust numbers of them back at our feeders recently has been a high point in our wildlife watching. Let’s hope their comeback continues...

See BEARS...pg. 2B

rather than piling it outside the receptable if the trash container or dumpster is full. Leave no trash or food scraps in camp and don’t burn scraps in the fire ring.

Not leave food, trash or pet food outdoors and unsupervised — all it takes is a few seconds for a hungry bear to swipe it.

Learn more about how to safely recreate in Minnesota on the DNR website(mndnr.gov/bearsafety) and at BearWise (bearwise.org).



# CLEAN.DRAIN.DRY.

CLEAN

- Boats, PWCs, trailers, and gear
- Remove all weeds, mud, and hitchhiking contaminants from axles, wheels, undercarriage, motor, prop, skis, wakeboards, ropes, and life jackets before leaving

DRAIN

- Water from boat, bilge, motor, ballast tanks, and bladders. PWCs – run motor for 10 seconds to blow water out of jet drive
- Remove drain plug and open all water draining devices
- Trash unused bait

DRY

- Everything at least five days before going to other waters
- (Or) Decontaminate with high pressure water (120°F or warmer)

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PARTNERSHIPS

United Way of NE MN partners with Essentia to promote volunteering

REGIONAL - United Way of Northeastern Minnesota (UWNEMN) has announced a partnership with Essentia Health to promote volunteering across the Iron Range.

Thanks in part to a grant from Essentia Health, UWNEMN’s new online volunteer portal can be used not only for UWNEMN programs and partner agencies but also for all community members to post their volunteer opportunities.

UWNEMN Executive Director Erin Shay said she hopes the creation of this consolidated site with easy registration and simple reporting will result in a “one stop shop” for local residents interested in volunteering.

“UWNEMN and our partner agencies rely heavily on volunteers in order to affect change in our region,” Shay said. “We are so grateful that with Essentia Health’s support we can open this portal to any local group with volunteer needs because we understand the tremendous value of connecting with volunteers.”

This partnership was formed in response to social connectedness needs identified by Essentia Health-Virginia in its Community Health Needs Assessment published last year.

“On a community level, we can respond to social isolation needs by making it easier for people to connect,” said Essentia Health Community Health Specialist Sierra Napoli-Thein.

According to Minnesota Compass, Minnesotans rank fifth in the nation for volunteerism with 41 percent of residents contributing unpaid time to organizations.

“Volunteering is a fantastic way for people to find other community members who are interested in the same things they are, with the benefit of giving back to the community,” said Napoli-Thein.

UWNEMN recently established its online volunteer portal in response to a growing number of requests from individuals, groups, and workplaces interested in volunteer opportunities.

“This partnership to get out into the community and connect with neighbors is coming at the perfect time,” she said.

Nonprofits, local organizations, and community members are invited to create a free profile - either as an organization to post opportunities or as an individual to sign up to volunteer at [www.united-waynemn.org/volunteer](http://www.united-waynemn.org/volunteer).

The site allows volunteers to track their volunteer hours and set alerts when their favorite local groups have new volunteer needs.

Volunteer opportunities must take place in UWNEMN’s service area (north St. Louis County, west Itasca County, Koochiching County, or Lake of the Woods County) in order to be included on the portal. For more information, visit [www.united-waynemn.org/volunteer](http://www.united-waynemn.org/volunteer).

SECTION 7A SOFTBALL PLAYOFFS

Wolves bow out in close match with MI-B

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

MT. IRON— The Rangers scored all the runs they needed in the bottom of the first inning as they kept the Timberwolves at bay to advance to the next round of the Section 7A softball playoffs.

Mt. Iron-Buhl put up four in the first and held Ely to just two

runs the rest of the way enroute to a 4-2 victory.

Despite the season-ending loss, Ely Head Coach Cory Lassi found plenty of encouragement in his team’s performance. “I thought this was the best defensive game that we played all season,” he said. “I thought we had a lot of hard-hit balls that they made great plays on. I am

very proud of the way the girls played.”

Freshman hurler Zoe MacKenzie recovered nicely after that shaky first inning. “Zoe did a great job of hitting her spots pitching and we played very solid defense behind her,” said Lassi. “We were one hit away in many situations.”

Ely picked up its runs in the

top of the third, led off by hits from sophomore Clare Thomas and junior Hannah Penke. Senior Kate Coughlin drove them home on a two-run hit to close the gap, but that was all the damage Ely could muster.

“This was a very clean game played on both sides,” said Lassi.

Looking ahead to next year, Ely should see considerable talent

returning, although they will lose key leaders in seniors Rachel and Kate Coughlin as well as Madeline Kallberg. “We’re going to miss their consistent play, but I think we are going to miss their character on the team even more,” said Lassi.

WOLVES..Continued from page 1B

Elliott Levens started on the mound for Ely, giving up three runs on a hit, while walking five and fanning three.

Under the lights Friday evening, Cherry came out on top in a 4-3 pitcher’s duel. The Tigers took the lead in the top of the first, but Ely jumped on Cherry starter Noah Asuma for three runs in the bottom half of the frame. Walks to senior Joey Bianco and Chittum set the table for a two-run double by Marolt. Senior Preston Hines brought Marolt home moments later on a double of his own to give the Wolves a 3-1 lead.

But that was all the scoring Ely could muster, while Cherry gradually clawed its way back. Asuma ripped a homer in

the fourth to cut Ely’s lead to one. Asuma was hit by a pitch in the top of the sixth inning and came home on a double, followed by a second double that left Cherry on top 4-3.

Ely threatened a two-out rally in the bottom of the seventh as Levens singled and Bianco reached on an error, but Asuma got Loe to line out to preserve Cherry’s win.

Pitching for Ely, Loe scattered seven hits, giving up four runs while striking out five. Cherry pitcher Noah Asuma allowed three runs on three hits while striking out seven and issuing three walks.

In the Saturday morning contest, Chittum was red hot as he notched seven RBIs to help lead the Wolves to a 21-0 win over

St. Paul Harding. Chittum went four-for-four, including a grand slam homerun. Levens added two hits and three RBIs while freshman Drew Johnson added two hits and two RBIs.

Drew Marolt, Johsnon, and Deegan Richards took turns on the mound for Ely, combing to allow just one hit while striking out eight.

“Going into the last week of games we can only hope that our luck will change and we can start to deliver in clutch situations,” said Ivancich. “As I have stated our pitching has been good and our pitchers have kept us in most of our games this spring, but we still are looking for our hitting to come through when we set the table with runners in scoring positions. Going

into the playoffs I really feel that we are battle tested with the schedule we have played. We just need to

get a few key players in Erron Anderson [out with hamstring pull] and Hunter Halbakken [out with an arm

injury] back at full strength as we start our playoff run.”

GRIZZLIES..Continued from page 1B

for home and score.

Brodeen was zoned in on her pitch locations, ringing up six strike outs while not allowing a walk. Cheney led the Grizzlies at the plate, going three-for-three with an RBI and a run scored.

Sandberg was pleased to see how her team has progressed over the short season.

“I’ve seen a lot of improvement and they’ve really worked hard in this last half of the season,” she said. “It would have helped

to get to play 20 games instead of half of them. Hopefully we can just keep going and get some wins.”

Seeded eighth, the Grizzlies advanced to Thursday’s second round against top-seeded Moose Lake/Willow River.

ONE-HITTER..Continued from page 1B

games in the field. It was a huge step for this young team putting great pitching, fielding and batting altogether in one game.”

Kruse also gave a nod to his veteran team leaders.

“Ben Kruse, Louie Panichi, Talen Jarshaw and Alex Burckhardt all have done an incredible job keeping their focus this season, even with some real tough losses. We are definitely headed in the right direction.”

North Woods was scheduled for a Thursday road trip to take on Nashwauk-Keewatin. The 7A sectional tournament gets underway on Tuesday, May 30.

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**Jon D. Folz Jr.**  
*Please note change  
in service date*

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11a.m. on Friday, May 26 at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely. Visitation will be for one hour prior at the church.

Harvey Jones Thompson, 77, of Nett Lake, passed away on Thursday, May 18, 2023, at his home with his wife by his side. A traditional wake was held on Sunday, May 21, and a traditional service was held on Monday, May 22, both at the Bois Forte Government and Services Center.

Harvey was born in Nett Lake to William Woodenfrog and Evelyn Thompson. He attended elementary school in Nett Lake and high school in Orr. He furthered his education by attending UMD. Harvey worked as a chemical dependency counselor, and was director of the Bois Forte Chemical Dependency Program. He then went on to be an Anishinaabe Language and Culture Teacher for FDL Head Start Programs, FDL Ojibwe School and Cloquet Public Schools. Harvey came back home to teach at the Nett Lake School, where he worked until retiring in 2021. Harvey was proud of his cultural heritage and his ability to teach that to others; he was a third-degree Midewiwin.

Harvey enjoyed his tea “piping hot”. He liked to cook Dry Mac for his kids. He enjoyed powerlows, watching Minnesota Vikings football games on TV, and listening to old time country music - Elvis, Johnny Cash, and in the last few years, bluegrass. He loved his children, grandchildren, and his wife Rachel very much. He cherished his friendships and extended family.

Harvey embodied the Serenity Prayer, even though he didn't say it himself. He had the serenity to accept the things he could not change, the courage to change the things he could, and, usually, the wisdom to know the difference. When he didn't have that wisdom, he looked for it in prayer, by consulting others, and listening. His spirituality and his observance of Anishinaabe culture were the cornerstone of his continuous sobriety since 1985. He will be greatly missed, but remembered with gratitude and love for a very long time.

Harvey is survived by his wife, Rachel Thompson; children, Debra Thompson, Kristina Defoe, Patrick Defoe Jr., Karla Bluebird and Antonio Roy; grandchildren, Bryson, Patrick, Justice, Eliza, Patrick III, Kaylin, Apaulo, Daksyn, Nickole, Karmin, Ziigwan and Anthony; great-granddaughters, Kyomi and Zela; and aunt, Jennie Woodenfrog.

He was preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Denise Thompson; brothers, Leonard Thompson and John Thompson; and grandsons, Syllis and Lucius.

Donna Margaret Folkedahl Parzyck, 78, passed away on Thursday, May 11, 2023. A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 3 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. Visitation will begin at noon. Memorial gifts may be made to your chosen charity.

She is survived by her brothers, Vern (Laurie), David (Debbie) and Neil (Shelley); sister-in-law, Margaret (Dan) Dumarc-er; several nieces, neph-ews, grand-nieces and grand-nephews; and care-givers, Barb Perrizo, Ron-da (Greg) Harvey, Vicki (Gus) Quiroz and their families.

Susan Ann Christian,  
68, of Orr, passed away on  
Thursday, May 11, 2023.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, May 26 at the United Church of Christ in Robbinsdale. A private interment will occur at a later date.

Robert Grahek, 81, formerly of Ely, passed away on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at the Ely Bloomenson Community Hospital. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

Alan Bozicevich Sr., 75, of Pine Island-Lake Vermilion, died unexpectedly on Tuesday, March 2, 2023, in his home. A celebration of life will be held on Sunday, June 4 at the Embarrass Town Hall from 1 to 3 p.m. Family services are provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.

Debbie L. Childress, 65, formerly of Babbitt, peacefully passed away on Sunday, May 14, 2023, surrounded by her family after a long, hard-fought battle against Alzheimer's disease. A casual celebration of life with stories and laughter will be held from 1-4 p.m. on Sunday, June 25 at the Junction Inn and Conference Center in Babbitt. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Alzheimer's Association or Essentia Health Hospice. The family would like to give special thanks to Essentia Health Hospice for the compassionate care given to Debbie. Family services are provided by Bauman-Vermillion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.


She is survived by her husband, David Thompson, and stepson, Michael, who both cared for her with love, devotion and compassion; daughter, Katie (Jordan) Richards and a granddaughter on the way; son, Joey (Charles Sartain) Krtnich and granddaughter, Evelyn Krtnich; sisters, Anita Karim and Melinda Vincent; and brother, Edward Childress.

Merlin Henry Piphon, 91, of Ely, a proud U.S. Army veteran, passed away on Friday, May 19, 2023, at Ely Bloomer-son Community Hospital surrounded by family. Graveside services were held at the Ely Cemetery on Tuesday, May 23. A celebration of life is being planned for a later date this summer. The family would like to thank the staff at EBCH for their compassionate care of Merlin during his last stay. If desired, memorial donations can be made to Northwoods Partners of Ely or the St. Louis County Rescue Squad. Family arrangements were entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

He is survived by his children, Brenda Te-verbaugh, Bobbi (Mark) Ellenberg, Bill (Penny) Pippo, Mike (Lynn) Pippo and Patti (Bill) Pippo-Olson; grandchildren, Krista, Kim, Kris, Neal, Lauren, Lisa, Jackie, Leslie, Ryan, Kyle, Evan, Sarah, Kristin, Seth and Molly; many great-grandchildren; siblings, Elaine (Howard) Gransee, Jeannette (Larry) Pettis and Norman (Margaret) Pippo; and numerous nieces and nephews.

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Mary Ann “Dolly” Sever Starkman, 94, of Ely, died on Friday, Jan. 27, 2023, at Carefree Living in Babbitt. The family would like to thank the dedicated staff of the Carefree Living Center for their daily provision of kind and compassionate care. A Memorial Mass was held on Thursday, May 25 at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church in Ely. Arrangements were entrusted to Kerntz Funeral

She is survived by her children, Marie (Tim) Salerno and Sharon Franklin; daughter-in-law, Bonnie K. Starkman; grandchildren, Michael (Heidi) Starkman, David Starkman, Matt and Sean (Alyssa) Salerno, John Franklin and Morgan (T.J.) Maglio; and great-grandchildren, Jade, Vivienne, Quincy, Annie, Logan, Vincent and Julian.

# Behavioral Health Program Manager

**Closes: 05/29/2023**

**Position Purpose:** Behavioral Health is comprised of the disciplines of mental health and substance disorders. The Manager of the Behavioral Health program collaborates with the respective supervisors to plan, implement, assess, manage, and re-align strategic direction if needed. Key focus areas are clinical staff development, program planning, growth, development, and sustainment, and providing recommendations for program changes to meet client/community needs. The Administrator holds the responsibility of ensuring program planning is integrated and seamless. Serves as a role model to staff and is seeking to continuously provide high quality care. The Behavioral Health Clinical Managers plan, develop, manage, and oversee the administration of behavioral health care clinic/program operations and services through subordinate professional-level and/or supervisory staff.

### Excellent Benefits:

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*Published in the Timberjay, May 19 & 26, 2023*

**Mental Health  
Outpatient Therapist  
Closes: 05/29/2023**

**Position Purpose:** Responsible for providing outpatient mental health therapy services within the Behavioral Health unit, to support status as a National Health Service Corp (NHSC) approved site. Perform diagnostic assessments, develop treatment plans and conduct psychotherapy for children, adolescents and adults in a manner that is both culturally sensitive and appropriate utilizing the proper psychotherapeutic techniques.

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*Published in the Timberjay, May 19 & 26, 2023*

**New Moon Programs  
Supervisor  
Closes: 05/29/2023**

**Position Purpose:** The New Moon Programs Supervisor is responsible for the overall coordination, administration, reporting and oversight, grant writing, budgeting, tenant counseling and community building activities. The New Moon Programs Supervisor is responsible for overseeing the New Moon Project, providing direct supervision of New Moon staff, and ensuring billing and other programmatic requirements are met for the Adult Rehabilitative Mental Health Services. The New Moon Services Supervisor will work with the Housing Case Managers to identify and assist homeless Bois Forte Band Members. The New Moon Programs Supervisor will provide crisis management support and monitor tenant progress. Additionally, will provide Adult Rehabilitative Mental Health Services as needed. This individual will be responsible for managing all departmental-related grants and contracts to ensure completion and fidelity in accordance with tribal and state requirements.

### ***Excellent Benefits:***

Medical & Dental- Free • Annual leave • Sick leave  
• 401k match • 15 paid holidays • Flex plan • Basic  
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Website Address: <https://boisforte.com/jobs>

*Published in the Timberjay, May 19 & 26, 2023*

**Substance Use Disorder  
Program Supervisor  
Closes: 05/29/2023**

**Position Purpose:** Incumbent will support and supervise staff of the Substance Use Disorder Programs. Will develop and implement programs based on client needs. Be familiar with a variety of the fields' concepts, practices, and procedures. Follow federal, state, and local regulations and various community programs to coordinate essential program functions.

**Excellent Benefits:**

**Medical & Dental- Free • Annual leave • Sick leave • 401k match • 15 paid holidays • Flex plan • Basic Life Insurance • LTD • Voluntary benefits available by payroll deductions**

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*Published in the Timberjay. May 19 & 26, 2023*



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Apply in person at 100 Miners Drive, Ely  
email: [office@mukluks.com](mailto:office@mukluks.com)



COME JOIN OUR TEAM!

Waschke Family Chevrolet is currently seeking an Auto Body Technician and an Automotive Detailer. Stop in and apply in person at 126 N Hwy. 53, Cook, or inquire by phone at 218-666-5901, or send resume to [Dgrecinger@waschke.com](mailto:Dgrecinger@waschke.com).

WANTED!

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

JOB OPENING – CITY OF ORR  
FT CLERK/TREASURER

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

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

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

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

The contractor must provide a certificate of insurance as to general liability insurance coverage. Successful quotes must carry equipment and general liability insurance for no less than \$1,000,000.00 for personal injury and property damage. Sealed quotes will be accepted until 1:00 PM June 13, 2023.

Sealed quotes are to be sent or delivered by June 13, 2023 to JoAnn Bassing, Greenwood Township Clerk, 3000 Hwy 77, Tower, MN 55790.

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

Published in the Timberjay, May 26, 2023

Mental Health Program  
Supervisor

Closes: 05/29/2023

**Position Purpose:** The Mental Health Program Supervisor is responsible for overseeing the mental health department, providing direct supervision of behavioral health staff, and ensuring billing and other programmatic requirements are met for the Adult Rehabilitative Mental Health Services and the therapy services programs. This individual will be responsible for managing all departmental-related grants and contracts to ensure completion and fidelity in accordance with tribal and state requirements. Mental Health Supervisor has the primary responsibility of developing, planning, and supervising mental health services to improve quality of life for those struggling with mental health. The Mental Health Supervisor hires new staff, coordinates work schedules, supervises clinicians and staff, provides outpatient therapy services, oversees the annual budget, applies for grant funding, evaluates staff performance, and provides workshop training. Mental Health Supervisor often participates in conferences and board meetings to ensure their mental health agency is abiding by the latest state or federal regulations.

Excellent Benefits:

Medical & Dental- Free • Annual leave • Sick leave • 401k match • 15 paid holidays • Flex plan • Basic Life Insurance • LTD • Voluntary benefits available by payroll deductions

Website Address: <https://boisforte.com/jobs/>

Published in the Timberjay, May 19 & 26, 2023

Embarrass Township is looking  
for a temporary summer employee  
(deadline to apply June 1), as well as a  
permanent maintenance employee  
(deadline to apply TBD by town board)

Some of the maintenance responsibilities are:

- Carry out responsibilities set by the township board of supervisors, maintenance supervisor and clerk.
- Coordinate and resolve work-related problems.
- Mowing, raking, trimming and clearing away brush of township properties.
- Painting and repairing masonry or woodwork features of buildings.
- Abide by all local, state and federal safety and health laws.
- Clean Town Hall, rest rooms, and other work and public areas.
- Transport garbage and waste to disposal area.
- Replenish bathroom supplies, light bulbs and other supplies.
- Transport equipment and tools to work sites.
- Maintain equipment when needed.
- Set up and take down tables & chairs at Town Hall.

Job Descriptions are subject to  
change with different activities  
that the township is engaged in.

Call or email the Embarrass Clerk's  
Office at (218) 984-2084 or email  
[embarrastownship@frontiernet.net](mailto:embarrastownship@frontiernet.net)

Career Counselor  
Part time 30 Hours Per Week  
\$27.18/hour

The Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training (JET) is accepting applications for a Career Counselor position in International Falls. JET is a partner in the CareerForce system and administers state and federal employment and training programs for dislocated workers, low-income adults, and youth. This position requires a high level of organization and attention to detail, while providing excellent customer service in a compassionate, resourceful, knowledgeable manner. Applicants must have a four-year degree or be within six (6) months of obtaining it; possess excellent interpersonal communication skills; be able to reliably work independently; and have strong computer skills and organizational abilities. Previous experience working with individuals on public assistance, workforce development programs, and/or counseling and case management highly preferred. Full job description can be found on Indeed or on Minnesotaworks.net Job ID: 13398425

Submit cover letter, resume, and references to Tara Helms, Human Resources Director, via email at [tara.helms@nemojt.org](mailto:tara.helms@nemojt.org) or by mail at P.O. Box 1028, Virginia, MN, 55792. Resumes are due no later than Friday, June 2, 2023. EOE, no phone calls please. 6/2

Super Crossword

Answers

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S	E	X	Y		Y	E	N		S	A	L	A	A	M	S		P	S	I	S	



OPEN POSITIONS

10 Fifth Street SE Cook, MN 55723

Care Center

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

Hospital/ER

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

Environmental Services

Casual (Environmental Tech I)  
Housekeeping and Laundry Aide  
Casual Laundry Aide

Radiology

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

Dietary

PT Dietary Aide/Cook

TO APPLY:

[www.cookhospital.org/join-our-team/](http://www.cookhospital.org/join-our-team/)

More Info? Contact Human Resources

218-666-6220

[humanresources@cookhospital.org](mailto:humanresources@cookhospital.org)

The Cook Hospital & Care Center offers competitive pay and benefits including PERA retirement, Health and Dental coverage, Life and LTD.

The Cook Hospital is an equal opportunity provider and employer

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.

Excellent Benefits:

Medical & Dental- Free • Annual leave • Sick leave • 401k match • 15 paid holidays • Flex plan • Basic Life Insurance • LTD • Voluntary benefits available by payroll deductions

Website Address: <https://boisforte.com/jobs/>

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

Homelessness Programs Supervisor

Closes: 05/29/2023

**Position Purpose:** The Homelessness Programs Supervisor is responsible for overseeing the homelessness programs, providing direct supervision of homelessness program staff to ensure Band Members are connected to appropriate services when they are experiencing housing instability and homelessness. They will ensure all accounting and billing procedures are followed; that other requirements are met to provide and bill for Targeted Case Management (TCM) and Adult Rehabilitative Mental Health Services (ARMHS). The Homelessness Programs Supervisor will work with the Housing Case Managers to identify and assist homeless Bois Forte Band Members. The Homelessness Programs Supervisor will provide crisis management support and monitor client progress. Additionally, they will provide TCM and/or ARMHS as needed. This individual will be responsible for managing all departmental-related grants and contracts to ensure completion and fidelity in accordance with tribal and state requirements.

Excellent Benefits:

Medical & Dental- Free • Annual leave • Sick leave • 401k match • 15 paid holidays • Flex plan • Basic Life Insurance • LTD • Voluntary benefits available by payroll deductions

Website Address: <https://boisforte.com/jobs/>

Published in the Timberjay, May 19 & 26, 2023

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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

AUTOMOTIVE

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

HAIR CARE

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

HOSPICE

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

PET CREMATION

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Get Results!



Advertise in the Timberjay!

BUILDING SERVICES

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- Trim
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218-744-1788

8825 Hwy 101, Iron, MN 55751

WANTED

SELIGA CANOES WANTED: We'll buy old Seligas in Good Shape. Turn your classic canoe into cash. Call Steve at 365-6745. tfn

PLANTS FOR SALE

BARE ROOT red, yellow, purple raspberries, and also multiple varieties of currents. State-inspected and certified. Best prices. Please call 218-827-2649. 5/26

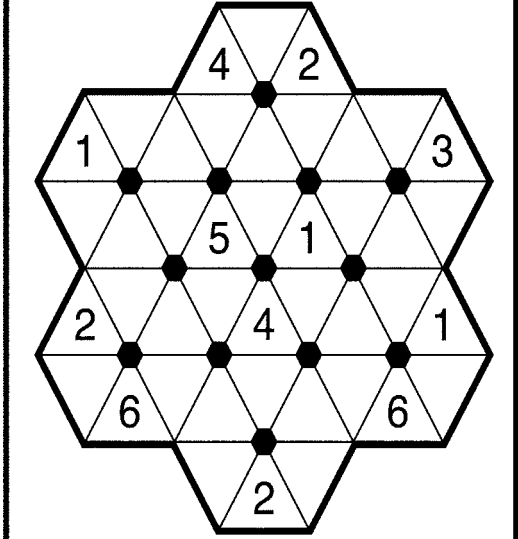
FOUND

DOCK WASHED UP BY CLOVER POINT on Lake Vermilion, approx. 8'x18' section. It is now safely tied up at shore. For info call 218-750-4646. 6/2 nc

SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

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



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:

Easy

Medium

Difficult

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

Weekly SUDOKU Answer

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

Try out the Timberjay classifieds

Line classifieds cost 30¢/word, \$6.00 minimum.

Classified ads can be run a second time at half price (private parties only). We now accept payment by Visa, Mastercard, AmEx, and Discover. Call your ad in to 218-753-2950. Display (boxed) classifieds are billed by the "inch"- please call for prices and information on discounts.

Call Today – 218-753-2950

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Mercury, Crestliner, Lund

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franksmarine@centurytel.net  
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& GENERAL STORE

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YAMAHA MERCURY

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Crane Lake, MN

HELP WANTED

YARD WORK HELPER needed at Kugler Town Hall. Call Julie at 218-753-3314 for information. 6/2

GARAGE SALE

VIRGINIA- HUGE RUMMAGE SALE- Wed. - Fri., June 7, 8, 9. 511 Chestnut St., downtown Virginia. Over 50 donors. Furniture, jewelry, lotsa bric-a-brac, something for everyone! 6/2

MOCCASIN POINT MARINE

4655 Moccasin Point Rd  
Lake Vermilion  
218-753-3319

Storage, Boat Rentals, Service/Repairs/Sales  
Mechanic on Duty

moccasinpointmarine.com

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LAKE VERMILION, TOWER  
Located two miles southwest of Tower on Hwy. 169

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Mon-Fri: 8:30 AM-5:30 PM  
Sat: 9 AM-4 PM, Sun: 9 AM-3 PM

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Sell It Here

Super Crossword INITIAL WORDS

ACROSS

1 Jacob bought his birthright

5 City in Pennsylvania

12 Hooting avian

15 Factory type

19 Pibb — (soda brand)

20 Kenya's capital

21 Foot digit

22 Vicinity

23 U.S. president ordering steeds to turn right?

26 Have a strong desire

27 Ending for cyan-

28 Turns sharply

29 Winter footwear item

30 Styx and The Stones

31 More suspicious

33 Inclined positions

35 "Da Ali G Show" star — Baron Cohen

36 Taken in food

37 Women's suffragist keeping an apiary?

42 I, to Freud

44 Speak wildly

45 "Absolutely not!"

46 "Dallas" actress fancying blue birds?

53 Lumber tool

54 Underworld

55 Disprove

56 Otherwise called, in brief

57 Some city planners

60 Big, ornate cupboard

62 Send off

63 Historic time

64 Tuskegee University founder steeping beverages?

71 Kitten's call

72 Gal pal, in Paris

73 Receptacle in a kitchen sink

75 Trees with very light wood

78 Performed

79 Car parker

82 Road runner

83 Fruit drink

84 "Hidden Figures" actress growing podded vegetables?

87 Placed in a carafe

91 "Point taken"

92 — Lanka

93 Sci-fi writer going on cruises?

98 Split-off religions

102 New Hampshire city

103 Quiet spells

104 Govt. aid for a start-up

106 Ballet dancer's rail

107 Lamarr of old films

108 Coup — (overthrow)

110 Rosemary player

111 "SOS" quartet

112 "Gone With the Wind" producer piling up debt?

116 Hog's food

117 "Is" pluralized

118 One ousted

119 Have a strong desire

120 Voluptuous

121 Have a strong desire

122 Deep bows of respect

123 They precede omegas

DOWN

1 Many an alimony recipient

2 Sports domes

3 Haul in

4 Old Egypt- Syr. alliance

5 Year, in Paris

6 Pilsners, e.g.

7 Arena section

8 Mined metals

9 "Ni-i-i-ice!"

10 Spurs' gp.

11 Website for finding homestays

12 Lazy or useless

13 Refuses to

14 Table support

15 Old Testament prophet

16 Steam locomotive, in old lingo

17 Listen supportively

18 Dawdles

24 Show clearly

25 Heap affection (on)

30 Swung sticks

32 Generational treasures (Joan Rivers catchphrase)

33 "— talk?"

34 Prefix with discrimination

35 — -cone

38 Europe-Asia border river

39 "Don't — didn't warn you!"

40 Runner or writer Packer

41 Conifers with red arils

43 Israelites

46 Old TV's "— Na Na"

47 Basil or sage

48 Sailor's saint

49 Razz

50 Tibetan monk

51 Pair for the slopes

52 Sacred vow

57 Summits

58 Assns.

59 Novelist Hawthorne

61 Big furniture retailer

62 She baas

65 "And there you have it!"

66 Muslim ruler

67 Verdi opera

68 It's a thought

69 Musical work

70 Post-WWII alliance

74 Prefix with discrimination

75 "Ali — and the Forty Thieves"

76 Cutely nerdy, in slang

77 Format for presenting films in video form

79 Stamps on passports

80 Copycat

81 Onion relative

84 NFL goals

85 Jack's hill-climbing partner

86 Counterfeit

88 Remedial regimen

89 Debussy's "Clair de —"

90 Before, to Browning

94 High dice roll

95 Quattro carmaker

96 Astronomer Tombaugh and aviator Cessna

97 Value highly

99 Funnies

100 Meditative Chinese martial art

101 Some reptiles

105 Cubes of hay

106 Perch's kin

107 Rabbit's kin

108 Ten: Prefix

109 This, in Spain

112 24-hour span

113 Lab eggs

114 Actor Wheaton

115 Short snooze

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	11		12	13	14		15	16	17	18	
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HEALTH CARE

Controversial nurse staffing bill crumbles

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Ort Editor

REGIONAL- In a stunning last day reversal of fortunes, Minnesota legislators killed a controversial proposal that would have left hospital staffing decisions to committees, shifting the bill’s focus, instead, to workplace safety and solutions to the ongoing nursing shortage.

The change also removed, as moot, an exemption for the Mayo Clinic that had been added to the bill after the influential healthcare system had threatened to halt a planned multi-billion-dollar investment in the state if the measure was approved. The bill, with its controversial propos-

als, had breezed through a legislative conference committee as recently as last week.

Dubbed the “Keeping Nurses at the Bedside Act,” the measure was strongly opposed by the state’s hospital administrators because it would have taken away their authority to determine nurse staffing levels and instead handed that responsibility over to institutional committees empowered to set specific nurse-staff ratios for individual units. If unable to reach agreement with administrators, committee decisions would have been subject to binding arbitration in the courts. The Minnesota Hospital Association claimed the bill would further hurt financially

ailing hospitals, would pose additional obstacles for small rural critical access hospitals, and require hospitals to turn away an estimated 70,000 patients annually. Administrators also objected to a provision that would have allowed nurses to refuse to care for a patient if they believed adding that patient to their assigned load would jeopardize patient health and safety.

But the bill, co-authored by registered nurse Sen. Erin Murphy, DFL-St. Paul and Rep. Sandra Feist, DFL-New Brighton, had strong support throughout the session from party leaders, the Minnesota Nurses Association, and other labor organizations, up until last week when the con-

ference committee agreed to exempt all Mayo Clinic locations in southeastern Minnesota from its staffing provisions. That compromise proved to be the bill’s undoing, as over the weekend numerous legislators indicated they couldn’t support an exclusive carve-out for Mayo that wasn’t available to other hospital systems in the state.

To salvage something, the bill’s sponsors pulled the controversial staffing requirements from the bill on Monday, retitled it the Nurse and Patient Safety Act, and focused instead on nurse and patient safety and building up the pool of available registered nurses through a loan forgiveness program.

In a statement issued Monday, MNA President Mary Turner decried the demise of the original bill.

“Today, my heart breaks for the patients in Minnesota,” she said. “We came here to pass the Keeping Nurses at the Bedside Act,” she said. “Because of the power and influence of corporate healthcare executives, that bill has died. Today’s outcome, and the events of the last three weeks, make clear that the outsized power of corporate executives is alive and well. The strong-arm bully tactics of hospital CEOs that all Minnesotans have suffered this last week are the same tactics nurses experience every day in the workplace.”

However, Turner said the revised bill is an important step forward for nurses.

“For those nurses who choose to stay at the bedside, the language in this agreement will help them to feel safe in their jobs. It will help them to care for their children, to find relief from heavy student loans. It will meaningfully improve the lives and the work of those nurses who choose to stay in our profession. The strong protections against workplace violence are especially critical. These strongest-in-the-nation protections

will be a godsend to many of our nurses on the most understaffed units.”

Hospital executives had claimed the committee provisions were unnecessary because they already consulted with nurses about staffing levels, and a statement from MHA vowed that would continue.

“We affirm our commitment to work in collaboration with our dedicated care teams, including nurses, and welcome all assistance in addressing these challenges in service of those who matter most – our patients,” the statement said. “The Minnesota Hospital Association is unwavering in its support for legislation addressing workplace violence and the workforce shortage confronting our statewide system of care. As we move forward, we remain resolute in our commitment to work closely with the Legislature and caregivers to address the ongoing challenges faced by our nonprofit hospitals and health systems as we remain focused on caring for our patients and communities. We acknowledge that there is much work to be done, and we remain devoted to ensuring that the best possible care is accessible to all Minnesotans.”

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CLEAN WATER

Tower and Soudan water supplies both meet safe drinking water standards

by JODI SUMMIT

Tower-Soudan Editor

REGIONAL- A new drinking water report from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) shows that while some areas of the state face challenges including quantity, quality and aging infrastructure, the vast majority of public water systems have met all the regulations of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. The report also shows nearly 98-percent of Minnesotans who get their drinking water from a community public water system received water that met all federal health-based standards throughout the year. Reports for both Tower and Breitung showed none of the monitored water quality areas in violation of state standards. Average test levels for trihalomethane (THM), and haloacetic acids (HAA5), byproducts of the water purification process which have triggered some issues in previous years, came in below the EPA limit (maximum contaminant limit or MCL), but in some of the reported testing, were nearing the action level. Late in the year, the system had a haloacetic (HAA5) acid level (64 ppb vs. MCL of 60 ppb) that was higher than the maximum contaminant level, but the report noted that since there is a natural variability in sampling results, and since this is not considered an acute contaminant, four quarterly sample results were used to determine if the system was compliant, which it was. The sampling this year will continue to mon-

itor these contaminants. Measured rates are lower than rates found in 2021, which did exceed MCL. The Tower-Breitung Wastewater Board is planning to add an updated filtration system to the water treatment system to help remove organic matter, reduce the need for higher levels of disinfection, and filter out these contaminants. Yet, the project hasn't been started because project construction costs have risen well above the grant funding available for the project, so more requests for funding are being made. The estimated cost for the project has risen to \$5.5 million. The Tower-Breitung Wastewater Board had also been working to remove beaver dams in the area of the wells, as well as to annually trap beavers living near the wells. After the beaver ponds were removed, the water testing for THM and HAA5 has been trending lower. Lead and copper levels, which typically come from the corrosion of household plumbing, ranged from .28 to .62 parts per billion for lead (ppb), and .24-.54 ppb for copper, both significantly lower than the action levels of 15 ppb for lead and 1.5 ppb for copper. New this year was testing for PFAS chemicals. The Minnesota Department of Health has been studying the potential health impacts of PFAS chemicals in groundwater since 2002. PFAS are a family of manmade chemicals that have been widely used in consumer products for

decades, but do not breakdown in the environment. They are used in nonstick cookware, stain-resistant carpet and fabrics, coatings on some food packaging like microwave popcorn bags and fast-food wrappers, a component of fire-fighting foam, and in some consumer products that are stain and/or water resistant, in some cosmetics, and in some cleaning products. These tests were done on a voluntary basis because the wastewater board wanted to see if the new filtration plant needed to address PFAS as well. Samples taken from the Breitung-Tower water system last August showed one type of PFAS chemical, PFBA, at .0007 ppb, well under the Minnesota Department of Health's value of 7 ppb. MDH states that a person drinking water at or below the guidance value of 7 ppb will have little or no risk for health effects from PFAS chemicals

from their drinking water. The testing showed no detectable levels of the five other PFAS chemicals that are being monitored. **Statewide report** The latest annual drinking water report, based on testing from 2022, assesses how well public water supply systems are doing at meeting the standards set in the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. Results of monitoring by MDH engineers and public health sanitarians indicate that drinking water is generally in good shape in Minnesota's 6,649 public water systems. Release of the Minnesota Drinking Water Annual Report 2022 comes in conjunction with Gov. Tim Walz declaring May 7-13 as Safe Drinking Water Week in Minnesota, a time when water professionals and the communities they serve jointly recognize the vital role water plays in people's daily lives. [www.health.

state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/docs/report2022.pdf] "The health of our drinking water sources is interconnected with the health of our communities, environment and climate," Governor Walz said in his proclamation for Safe Drinking Water Week. "Protection of drinking water sources is achieved through collective action, collaboration and partnerships." The annual report also includes brief discussions of key initiatives such as efforts to identify and address new contaminants, such as PFAS, that could affect drinking water quality; ongoing measures to protect users of public water systems from lead contamination in homes, schools and child care facilities; infrastructure needs, particularly with regard to funding the replacement of lead service lines; and resiliency in dealing with severe weather events brought on

by climate change. **Monitoring results** According to the report, only rare contamination problems occurred in 2022 in Minnesota's 964 community water systems (including 730 city water systems) and the state's 5,685 noncommunity systems, which serve water to people in places other than their homes, such as factories, schools and resorts. Those problems and what was or is being done to address them are noted in the report. Copies of the Tower and Breitung 2022 Drinking Water Reports are available at Tower City Hall and the Breitung Clerk's Office. More information about programs and resources to keep drinking water safe in Minnesota, along with Gov. Walz's proclamation for Safe Drinking Water Week, can be found on the Drinking Water Protection page of the MDH website.





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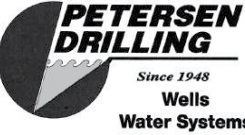


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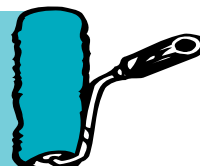
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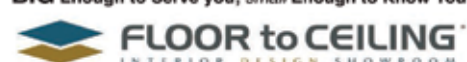
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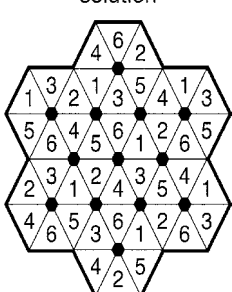


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				B	U	L	L	S	F	U	M
				A	R	E	S	S	A	R	A
				G	I	N	V	A	D	E	R
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				E	T	A	S	S	A	R	A
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## EMPLOYMENT

### 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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### Homelessness Programs Supervisor

Closes: 05/29/2023

**Position Purpose:** The Homelessness Programs Supervisor is responsible for overseeing the homelessness programs, providing direct supervision of homelessness program staff to ensure Band Members are connected to appropriate services when they are experiencing housing instability and homelessness. They will ensure all accounting and billing procedures are followed; that other requirements are met to provide and bill for Targeted Case Management (TCM) and Adult Rehabilitative Mental Health Services (ARMHS). The Homelessness Programs Supervisor will work with the Housing Case Managers to identify and assist homeless Bois Forte Band Members. The Homelessness Programs Supervisor will provide crisis management support and monitor client progress. Additionally, they will provide TCM and/or ARMHS as needed. This individual will be responsible for managing all departmental-related grants and contracts to ensure completion and fidelity in accordance with tribal and state requirements.

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