



**Inside:**

**How fair are taxes in Minnesota... See /3**

**Medicine sentenced in fatal crash... See /9**

**Erin Bianco skiing at World Cup... See /1B**

**Ely Winter Festival...See /3B**

# The **TIMBERJAY**



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989

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\$1<sup>50</sup>

## HELIUM DEVELOPMENT

### Pulsar Helium starts deep drilling

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

**BABBITT-** Surrounded by northern Minnesota forest, the drill rig at a site near here would be more at home in West Texas or another of the nation's oil patches than in the North Country. But a potentially significant helium deposit prompted Pulsar Helium to bring the rig to the area.

It's now operating off the Dunka River Rd. in hopes of better assessing the magnitude of the deposit of the inert gas detected there more than a decade ago. The gas has been in high demand in recent years for applications such as medical magnetic resonance imagery (MRI) and scientific nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy.

#### Exploratory boring

The appraisal well is being constructed for the American subsidiary of Vancouver, B.C.-based Pulsar Helium. The rig has an initial target depth of 2,250 ft. which may be extended to 2,500 ft if conditions are favorable. On paper, the rig is drilling an "exploratory boring," which is how this hole

**Right: Capstar Drilling employees assembling the backflow preventer for installation on the drill rig near Babbitt.**

photo by C. Clark

See...**DRILLING** pg. 9



## STATE OF THE BAND

### Chavers: Bois Forte will enter cannabis industry

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook/Orr Editor

**VERMILION RESERVATION-** It was standing room only in the ballroom at Fortune Bay Resort Casino last Wednesday for the annual Bois Forte State of the Band event, and Chairperson Cathy Chavers saved the most anticipated news for last.

It was a simple eight-word statement that held the promise of a new revenue stream many in the Band have been clamoring for.

"We will be going into the cannabis industry," Chavers said.

The announcement got an enthusiastic response from most of the crowd, although some who had opposed the idea held back on any demonstration of their feelings.

A survey of band members, commissioned by the tribal council, found substantial support for entering the cannabis business, and Chavers said it was a decision the council opted to leave up to the members.

"Tribal Council put into place

See...**BOIS FORTE** pg. 10



Cathy Chavers

## LONG ROAD AHEAD

### A father's love

For Chuck Goggeye, his son's recovery from a 2023 car crash has become his purpose in life

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook/Orr Editor

**REGIONAL-** The face of Chuck Goggeye's cellphone is riddled with cracks, a stark metaphor for the lives that were shattered the night of Nov. 15 when a car accident took the life of 17-year-old Tra'von Boshey and critically injured

Goggeye's then 17-year-old son Matthew.

Boshey was pronounced dead at the scene, and Matthew Goggeye was airlifted to Essentia Hospital in Duluth with life-threatening injuries. A serious head injury required an operation to relieve the

See...**RECOVERY** pg. 10

**Above: Chuck Goggeye remains upbeat over his son Matthew's slow recovery from last year's car crash.** D. Colburn

**Right: Matthew works on his recovery.** submitted



## RECOGNITION

### Timberjay wins 14 newspaper awards

**REGIONAL -** The Timberjay continued its award-winning tradition in the Minnesota Newspaper Association's Better Newspaper Contest, winning 14 awards, including five first place awards, across a wide range of categories, including reporting, photography,

editorials, and advertising. The awards were presented during the MNA's 157th annual convention, held in Brooklyn Park late last week. The MNA received 4,095 entries in this year's contest.

David Colburn and Marshall Helmberger won first place for investigative

reporting among all weeklies, for its reporting on the questionable tasing by Voyageurs National Park officials of the operator of a local houseboat business. The business owner was attempting to rescue two customers who had run into difficulties due to windy weather on Lake

**Right: A display of just some of the awards won by the Timberjay in the MNA's annual Better Newspaper Contest.**

Kabetogama when he was confronted by park law enforcement officials, who

See...**AWARDS** pg. 9



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Community notices



your yard  
**CAN BEE**  
the **CHANGE**  
#Lawns2Legumes

**BWSR accepting applications for fall 2024 Lawns to Legumes projects**

ST. PAUL—The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is accepting applications for fall 2024 Lawns to Legumes pollinator habitat projects.

The Lawns to Legumes program aims to increase habitat for at-risk pollinators in residential settings across the state by providing people with cost-share funding, workshops, coaching and gardening resources. Anyone who lives in Minnesota and has a yard, deck, or other outdoor space for planting can apply to be reimbursed for up to \$400 in costs associated with establishing new pollinator habitat in their yards. The program is available to both homeowners and renters. "Lawns to Legumes helps Minnesotans be part of the solution to the challenges facing declining pollinator populations," said BWSR Executive Director John Jaschke. "The gardeners involved in this program prove that small-scale habitat projects can have big impacts."

Applications will be accepted through May 15, 2024. If you previously applied for the program, you will need to reapply to be considered for fall 2024 funding.

More than 4,000 residential habitat projects across all 87 Minnesota counties have been implemented since the program launched in 2019. The program shares online resources such as gardening templates, habitat guides and advice about selecting native plants for all Minnesotans interested in creating pollinator habitat in their yards. Lawns to Legumes receives funding from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund and the state General Fund.

Apply online at <https://bluethumb.org/lawns-to-legumes/apply>. For more information about Lawns to Legumes, visit BWSR's website at <https://bwsr.state.mn.us/121>.

**Peewee hockey tournament Feb. 16-18**

ELY- This year the Ely Blue Line Club is hosting the annual District 12 Peewee Hockey Tournament at the Ely Ice Arena, Friday, Feb. 16 - 18. Along with more hockey than you can shake a stick at, there will also be raffles and concessions. Game schedules and team brackets TBD, check [www.elyhockey.org](http://www.elyhockey.org) for updates.

Come show your support for Ely Youth Hockey. Gate/entry fees are \$5 per person/day, \$10 weekend pass, \$12 and under, rostered players, coaches & managers are free.

**ERFA hosting blood drive on March 2**

EMBARRASS- The Embarrass Region Fair Association is hosting a blood drive on Saturday, March 2 from 8:30 a.m. - noon at Timber Hall. This is in conjunction with the fair's monthly pancake breakfasts. The March breakfast will be honoring health care workers.

Sign up for the blood drive online at [www.mbc.org/searchdrives](http://www.mbc.org/searchdrives), with sponsor code 5046, or call Bonnie Overton at [bonnie\\_Overton@yahoo.com](mailto:bonnie_Overton@yahoo.com) or call at 218-780-3058.

The Memorial Blood Center's bloodmobile will be at Timber Hall. Those donating need to bring their ID, and have no cold or flu symptoms for 72 hours prior to donating.

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Menopause The Musical 2 Duluth | Mar 6  
The Lion King Musical Minneapolis | Apr 14 (sold out)  
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CRAZY FOR THEATER

**Musical production explores Patsy Cline's lifelong friendship with a fan**

MT. IRON — A legendary country singer will soon take the stage—in spirit—at Merritt Auditorium in Mt. Iron. Mesabi Musical Theatre (MMT) will present "Always...Patsy Cline," a show about the iconic vocalist and her biggest fan, Feb. 16 and 18. Mesabi Musical Theatre is a community-focused group that has presented 14 musicals (including "The Sound of Music", "Chicago", and "Footloose") and three showtunes revues since 2002.



**Patsy Cline and the Bodacious Bobcats band. Pictured behind Megan Reynolds are (left to right) Mike Randolph, Aaron Kelson, Tom Frichek, Steve Philips, and Shannon Gunderson. Not pictured are Clancy Ward and Kailyn Spencer.**

"Always...Patsy Cline" is based on Cline's real-life friendship with Texas housewife Louise Seger before the singer died in a 1963 plane crash at age 30. Seger relives how she and Cline became friends and pen pals, a story that includes dozens of classic country and western hits. Patsy Cline was the first woman inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame and influenced artists such as Loretta Lynn, Reba McEntire, Linda Ronstadt, Cyndi Lauper, and Kasey Musgraves.

Publisher Ted Swindley Productions says, "The musical play, complete with down home country humor, true emotion and even some audience participation, includes many of Patsy's unforgettable hits such as 'Crazy,' 'I Fall to Pieces,' 'Sweet Dreams' and 'Walking After Midnight'...27 songs in all. The show's title was inspired by Cline's

letters to Seger, which were consistently signed 'Love ALWAYS...Patsy Cline.'"

Megan Reynolds and Amy Koivisto, both from Hibbing, play Patsy Cline and Louise Seger, respectively. The Bodacious Bobcats, Patsy's band in the musical, features Shannon Gunderson on keyboard, Mike Randolph on pedal steel guitar, Steve Philips on lead guitar, Aaron Kelson on bass, Clancy Ward and Kailyn Spencer on fiddle, and Tom Frichek on drums.

Mesabi Musical Theatre will present "Always...Patsy Cline" Friday, Feb. 16 and Sunday, Feb. 18

at Mt. Iron-Buhl Public Schools' Merritt Auditorium. The school is located at 8659 Unity Dr., and patrons may use the high school and elementary school entrances. Shows start at 7 p.m. on Friday and 2 p.m. on Sunday.

Tickets can be ordered at [www.mesabimusicaltheatre.com](http://www.mesabimusicaltheatre.com). This production will use open seating, but reserving tickets is strongly recommended. Priority seating will be given to patrons who need accessible seats. Online prices are \$19 for adults and \$14 for students, senior citizens, and military personnel.

FREEZE!

**St. Louis County Sheriff's office offers Citizens' Academy on Iron Range**

VIRGINIA - The St. Louis County Sheriff's Office is bringing back its popular Citizens' Academy, this time for residents in northern St. Louis County. The Citizens' Academy provides a unique inside look at the Sheriff's Office and how it operates. The seven-week course begins March 19 and will be offered Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30 p.m., as well as one Saturday session. Classes will include interactive presentations and tours to give citizens a better understanding of the range of services provided by the Sheriff's Office.

The majority of classes will take place at the St. Louis County Public Works Building located at 7823 Highway 135 with additional sessions held at relevant locations for tours, including the St.

Louis County Jail and Emergency Operations Center. The Sheriff's Office expects to offer another Citizens' Academy with classes held in the southern part of the county next year.

The Citizens' Academy will cover topics including patrol operations, a K-9 presentation and demonstration, the St. Louis County Volunteer Rescue Squad, Emergency Response Team and Tactical Operations, Lake Superior Violent Crimes Task Force, St. Louis County Jail operations and tour, 911 operations and tour, crime scene investigations, Internet Crimes against Childrens Task Force, Child Abduction Response Team, Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC), and an interac-



**Citizens check out various modes of transport at a previous session of the Citizens' Academy.**

tive use of force simulation training.

Citizens completing the academy will have the opportunity to go on a ride-along with a St. Louis County Sheriff's Deputy.

Any St. Louis County resident ages 18 or older may apply. Applicants will be required to pass

a criminal background check. The deadline to apply is March 1.

To learn more or to apply, visit [stlouiscountymn.gov/sheriff](http://stlouiscountymn.gov/sheriff), or contact Sgt. Adam Kleffman at 218-726-2371 or [KleffmanA2@stlouiscountymn.gov](mailto:KleffmanA2@stlouiscountymn.gov).

VISITING AUTHOR

**Griffith promotes new book "Gunflint Falling" in Ely Feb. 20**

ELY - Author Cary J. Griffith will be celebrating the publication of his newest book, "Gunflint Falling: Blowdown in the Boundary Waters" at

several upcoming northern Minnesota events in February.

On Tuesday, Feb. 20 Griffith will be at the Grand Ely Lodge located

at 400 N Pioneer Rd at noon for book talk and signing. This event is hosted by Boundary Waters Connect.

Cary J. Griffith has written three nonfiction books, including "Lost in the Wild", "Opening Goliath", and "Gunflint Burning: Fire in the

Boundary Waters". His novels include "Wolf Kill", "Cougar Claw", and "Killing Monarchs". He is the recipient of a Minnesota Book Award and a Midwest Book Award.

A book signing will follow Griffith's conversations at each event, and books will be available

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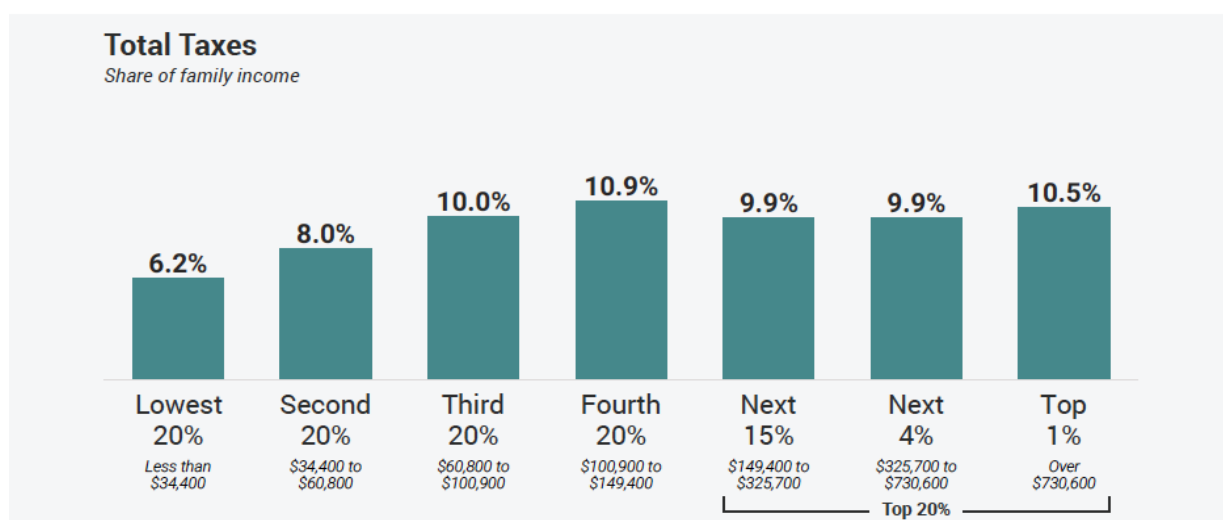
# Study: Minnesota's tax system among the fairest in the U.S.

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor



## Minnesota

### State and local tax shares of family income



#### Who Pays?

to a low of 4.9 percent for the top one percent.

#### Minnesota stands out for fair taxation

Minnesota's tax fairness stands out as somewhat unusual among the 50 states, according to the report. "On average, the lowest-income 20 percent of taxpayers face a state and local tax rate nearly 60 percent higher than the top 1 percent of households," states the report. "Only six states and the District of Columbia now reserve their lowest overall tax rates for low-income families. Those states are Maine, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, and Vermont."

While Minnesota is widely considered a high tax state, the study found that such a claim depends on your income bracket. For those in the top one percent, Minnesota does have higher taxes than other states, but it has one of the lowest overall tax rates for families in the bottom 40 percent based on income, which includes households making \$60,800 or less annually.

"States such as Florida, Tennessee, and Texas are often described as 'low tax' due to their lack of personal income taxes," notes the report. "While this characterization holds true for high-income families, these states levy some of the nation's highest tax rates on the poor."

REGIONAL— A new study that compares the tax structures of the 50 U.S. states has found that Minnesota has the fairest tax structure of all. The report was released this month by the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, a non-partisan Washington D.C.-based organization that focuses on tax and economic policies and proposals.

Their latest study, titled "Who Pays?" analyzes the widely varying tax systems in each state and the District of Columbia to determine the progressivity or regressivity of each states' system. As with most such analyses, the study considers the share of overall state and local taxes paid by various income groups, from the lowest to the highest income households.

Under a progressive tax system, individuals within each income group should pay roughly the same percentage of their income in overall taxes, while regressive tax systems tend to put more of the tax burden on lower income households.

According to the group's findings, Minnesota has the most progressive tax structure in the country, largely because of its heavy reliance on a progressive income tax for much of its revenue. The study found that the reliance on income taxes helped to compensate for other state taxes which

fall most heavily on lower income households. Sales taxes, for example, claim six percent of the income of Minnesotans in the lowest 20 percent of income, compared to just 0.9 percent for the top one percent. Property taxes vary less across income groups, accounting for about two-to-three percent of household incomes across the income spectrum, with those at the bottom and at the very top paying the least in terms of a percentage of their incomes.

Income taxes, by contrast, provide a variety of refundable tax credits for those in the bottom 20 percent that actually supplement their income by an average of about two percent, while the top one percent pay 7.6 percent of

their income in state income tax.

Combine the impacts of those varying taxes and the vast majority of Minnesotans pay between 10-11 percent of their incomes in total state taxes, remarkable parity compared to most other states. Those in the bottom 20 percent now pay the least, at 6.2 percent of their income in total taxes, while those ranked in the 20th-40th percentile pay eight percent of their income in state taxes. The study found that the 60-80th percentile pays the highest overall tax rate at 10.9 percent, while the top one percent pay 10.5 percent (see chart for each income group).


The research team that produced the study noted that Minnesota's

so-called property tax "circuit breaker," which limits the percentage increase on property taxes, and which includes renters, has also helped keep Minnesota's taxes fairer. According to the study, other policies that contribute to the fairness of the state's tax structure include the sales tax exemption for groceries, higher tax rates on high value properties, and the state levying of an estate tax for larger estates.

Minnesota's remarkable tax parity contrasts sharply with many other states, where the lowest income households tend to pay much more of their income in taxes. In Florida, for example, which has the country's most regressive tax structure, households in the bottom

20 percent pay 13.2 percent of their incomes in state and local taxes on average, while the top one percent pay just 2.7 percent.

Other states in the Upper Midwest are somewhat fairer in terms of taxation than in places like Florida or Texas, but none has managed the progressivity of Minnesota's tax structure. Wisconsin, for example, those in the bottom 20 percent pay the highest tax rate of all, at 10.8 percent, and that percentage drops steadily as one moves up the income ladder, falling to 6.6 percent for those in the top one percent. The poorest North Dakotans also pay more of their incomes in state and local taxes than any other income group, at 9.8 percent. That falls




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Jeff & Pam purchased "Four Seasons Supper Club" and have changed the name to Four Seasons Restaurant & Bar. They are excited about the new menu and nightly specials they are offering including hand-patted burgers and fresh cut fries. They will continue to update the interior and hope to add high top tables in the bar area to offer more seating. They are excited to be business owners in Finland MN.




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# OPINION

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

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

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## Editorial

### Making a difference

DFL policies in St. Paul have brought major benefits to working families

Our report this week on the tax study conducted by the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy provided an enlightening reality check to which rural Minnesotans should pay attention (see story on page 3). While Minnesota has a reputation as a high-tax state, the study highlighted the fact that Minnesota's state and local tax structure is remarkably different from other states, and that for many Minnesotans, particularly those in rural parts of the state, Minnesota is one of the lowest-taxing states in the U.S.

We recognize that runs counter to conventional wisdom, and it also runs counter to the way things used to be in Minnesota. But incremental tax changes, pushed by the DFL over the past decade, have done more than any other state in the country to put the burden of taxation on those who can most easily afford it. According to the report, Minnesota households making less than \$60,800 per year enjoy the lowest state and local tax burden in the country, an average of just 7.1 percent of their income.

Those supposedly low tax states like Texas and Florida? That same family would pay nearly twice as much in state and local taxes in those places as in Minnesota. For working class folks, Minnesota is a veritable tax haven, one that saves them thousands of dollars a year. In Florida, a household earning \$60,000 a year would, on average, pay \$7,920 a year in state and local taxes. That same household in Minnesota would pay just \$4,800, a savings of more than \$3,000 a year, according to the study. That's the value of a progressive tax system to working families. It's an approach to taxes long advocated by the state's DFL, and staunchly opposed by Republicans. There's a reason that red states tend to hit the working class the hardest in terms of taxes. The GOP has long favored a tax system that minimizes the use of progressive (based on ability to pay) taxes, like income taxes, in favor of the most regressive taxes, such as sales taxes, government service fees and fines.

A progressive tax structure isn't the only way that DFL policies have helped working class people in Minnesota. In the last legislative session, the DFL-controlled Legislature funded universal free school lunches, which provided a substantial savings to families with kids in school, particularly the middle class who didn't otherwise qualify for free or reduced lunches. A family with two kids in school could easily spend \$200 a month, or more, for school lunch. Over

the course of a school year, that would save that middle class family about \$1,800. This past session, the Legislature also approved hundreds of millions of dollars to create more subsidized slots for child care as well as provide for pay increases for child care workers.

These are just some of the more recent changes. But over the past few decades, during times when the DFL has controlled the Legislature, the state has enacted policies that substantially equalized school funding and brought down the burden of school taxes on families. The implementation of MinnesotaCare provided hundreds of thousands of Minnesota families with extremely affordable and comprehensive medical insurance coverage.

That long history of DFL-led government in Minnesota has been great for the middle and working class, but it's been good for business and the wealthy at the same time. The advantages of a state that invests in its people and their education is that private business tends to thrive. Minnesota's economy has enjoyed remarkable strength, in part because we have a well-educated workforce that has made Minnesota an attractive location for some of the country's largest corporations.

It's worth noting that there was a time when Republicans helped play a role in Minnesota's success. The GOP used to line up with DFLers when it came to funding for things like education. It's also worth noting that it was Republican Gov. Arne Carlson who signed MinnesotaCare into law. But those moderate Republicans, and their sincere focus on issues of importance, are virtually gone. Former Gov. Carlson is considered an apostate in the state's MAGA-dominated GOP today. That wing of the party is interested in power but has no policy agenda other than fighting whatever the other side is for, usually through misinformation. They focus on invented hot button topics, like the new state flag, the wolf population, or guns, in hopes of getting Minnesotans to vote with their emotions rather than their heads. When it comes to addressing the major issues that actually affect the lives of Minnesotans, they're fresh out of ideas. When they've had power in recent years, they've accomplished nothing for Minnesotans. Absolutely nothing.

That's something Minnesota voters should consider when they go to the polls this fall. Sound policy at the Legislature can make a real difference in people's lives.

## ALL NEW Stupid Pet Tricks



## Letters from Readers

### Stop blaming wolves when you don't get a deer

I've heard a lot of people around the region hollering about "too many wolves" hunting too many of the deer, leading to poor hunting seasons. Let me explain a little bit about how important healthy wolf packs and numbers are.

First, wolves take a small percentage of deer and other prey animals compared to human hunters, poachers, and vehicle strikes. I don't hear anyone griping about any of these.

Second, I have personally seen several deer in the vicinity and seen many young trees stripped of vegetation all over the region. Just in Tower and Soudan alone I've seen several deer herds roaming around. I see several deer herds and individuals in my travels to remote places in the region. I also see many, many dead deer along our highways, and that's after people pick them up or predators relieve their suffering and drag them away. So, deer are out there, but they may be learning more and more when and where to hide after generations of hunting seasons in the fall have become embedded in their knowledge base. What's more, hunters may be surrounded by a lot more noise than in the past with all of the off-road vehicles around these days especially during hunting season. These would definitely scare deer away from deer stands and favorite spots. There are numerous variables and natural cycles.

Thirdly, wolf populations will never get "too big." As with any natural population, they are at the mercy of their food source and if prey

animal numbers ever got really low, wolf populations would naturally fall. The fact that hunters think there are too many wolves is proof that there is plenty of prey animals.

Wolf packs are highly structured, and wolves are very social creatures. Killing random wolves in the name of "management" is almost akin to a human family losing a bread-winner, or a babysitter, or a mother, etc. This throws a pack into chaos, and they may become desperate for food...and that is when wolves may move towards easier food sources rather than their natural prey.

Finally, healthy, intact wolf packs ENSURE healthier, stronger deer herds and prey animals. Wolf packs cull out sick and genetically weaker deer, elk, or moose that can impact the health of others in the region. When the sick and the genetically weak aren't culled out by predators that naturally prey on the weakest, then the genetically weaker individuals are allowed to reproduce and spread their weaker genes, which in turn do the same, until weaker genes are rampant in a population and prone to all kinds of problems and diseases. Unlike the beneficial wolves, many human hunters love to bag the biggest, the most elusive, the smartest, and the prey with the biggest trophies (horns, antlers, etc.). These are the animals with the best survival skills and strongest genes...the ones that should be left alive to reproduce and keep the herds strong and savvy. And we CAN bag them due to all of the modern high-powered and technical tools at our disposal.

So, while many humans weaken populations, wolves strengthen them.

Deer, moose, and elk hunters should rejoice in wolves, support strong natural packs, and leave them be. Any species that numbers around eight billion should be the last ones talking about "managing" anything. I think people should have to learn about ecology and the natural world before they can hunt anything. We have people with very limited views trying to promote policy and law.

This has been weighing on my mind. I'm a biologist academically and a lifelong naturalist, so this is a long time coming.

Mary Teppen Soudan

### Thanks for putting our fears into words

I read Catie Clark's opinion piece in the Feb. 2 *Timberjay* and must praise her for putting into words the thoughts which I, and I believe a great number of us hold. It is all too clear to me that we are well on our way to losing our freedom as too many of us have forgotten the lessons of the past and so are dooming ourselves to repeating history.

Margaret Sweet Babbitt

### We welcome your letters

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

## COMMENTARY

# Time is your only real possession

"Time keeps on tickin' tickin' tickin' into the future..."

Steve Miller Band.

"There's never enough time." "Make time." "Only time will tell." "Set the timer." Someone once told me, "Time is your only real possession." Something no one can take from you. I had to ponder that to understand its true meaning. Time is an element of everything we do. It doesn't matter the circumstance, the conversation,



KATHLEEN MCQUILLAN

the issue, the activity, time demands a piece of our attention. Whether we want to manage it, want more of it, wish we could slow it down or speed it up, our American way of living can press us into servitude to time. Not all cultures live by the clock.

I used to think that this feeling of time

racing out of control was a function of aging, but I am learning that younger people complain about it, too. The calendar pages are turning too fast. I've wondered if it's the result of our very fast-paced way of life. People drive faster, talk faster and survive on "fast foods." Efficiency and higher productivity rates are among our standards for success. I've heard it said that we are no longer human beings. We've become human doings.

When my millennial-aged children describe

their daily routines and obligations it makes my head spin. I recall my young adulthood when I was focused on balancing work and family. It was hard, no doubt. Stress is an unavoidable part of living. But I don't remember conditions like the ones I see today. Amidst the hustle and bustle of school-age children, full-time jobs and maintaining a household, I didn't have a device in my pocket constantly alerting me to the latest news from around the globe, or the constant requests for comment on

minute details of the daily lives of family, friends, and ridiculously vast social networks, plus notifications and reminders of where to be and when to be there today and for days in advance! From my vantage point, modern American life has become mind-boggling.

I think our kids have a right to complain. But whenever I've started to share some understanding or sympathy or offer a little "loving advice from Mom," like the need to set some boundaries or "Just say No," my sug-

gestions either fall on deaf ears or elicit a response like, "Mom, don't worry. We got this." I just hope they're right.

On Feb. 1, I volunteered to serve cake and coffee at the 88th birthday celebration for the Cook Public Library. Among the unexpected fringe benefits were the delightful conversations with patrons who visited that day. The festivities occurred on a weekday so most of the attendees were somewhere between the ages

## Beware the perils of groupthink and confirmation bias

Intelligence is less about knowing something without question and everything about questioning what you think you know. Groupthink is the echo chamber of unquestioning acceptance of group assumptions. Parroted groupthink prejudices fuels the bigotry of white supremacy, white privilege, religious superiority, ethnocentrism, misogyny and homophobia. Poor decisions are the usual outcomes of accepting easy agreement over reasoned argument.

Ingroup members are elevated and overvalued while the outgroup is stereotyped, demeaned and devalued. Dehumanizing the "other" opens doors to abuse and mistreatment. "Us against them" mentality hears only what one wants to hear to avoid uncomfortable truths that threaten group identity and unity. The Challenger

Explosion (1986), Vietnam war and Iraq war were disastrous outcomes of groupthink that went on without questioning among decision-makers.

Conformity means that individual behavior matches group norms. Built on false assumptions, norms turn into collective forms of willful blindness and denial. Avoiding evidence, selective memory and self-deception overvalues group consensus and conformity. In MAGAworld politics, believers engage in sloganeering that attaches them to a comfort zone of bigotry and loyalty that truly deserves to be dubbed as trumpthink.

Mindguards are the thought police of groupthink who impose peer pressure to bear on the nonconforming. These gatekeepers filter information that is allowed for consideration in decision-making. In more informal social groups animosity and prejudice keep "us against them" alive and well. Confirmation bias ignores evidence that

contradicts belief and only accepts that which favors or confirms their conclusions, values, prejudices and beliefs.

Whether it is the local gun club, local church or breakfast gatherings, members reinforce their prejudices through thoughtless, repetitive chants of pooled ignorance. Groupthink distorts our view of one another and shuts out the adventure and enriching experience of human connection and diversity. What we choose to learn, believe, think and do we become.

**Harold Honkola  
Stillwater**

## Bill would be a start on EMS, but not the final fix

U.S. Sen. Tina Smith was in Hibbing on Jan. 26 to attend a roundtable discussion concerning the rural ambulance crisis. She met with EMS providers and regional politicians and reported that she has signed onto a bipartisan Senate bill called "The

Emergency Medical Services Reimbursement for On-scene Care and Support."

That's very good. This bill would provide Medicare reimbursement for ambulance crews when transportation of the patient to a hospital is not needed. Right now, if the patient isn't transported to a facility, there is no Medicare payment to the ambulance service. This fix, although helpful, would not come anywhere near solving the rural ambulance financial crisis.

The Senate bill, S.3236, was introduced on 11/7/23 by Sen. Peter Welch, D-Vermont and co-sponsored by Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders on the same day. Sen. Tina Smith co-sponsored the bill the following day. So far there are no other co-sponsors, not even our Sen. Amy Klobuchar. The bill was read on 11/7 and then referred to the Committee on Finance, where it sits. The House companion Bill is H.R. 6257, introduced by Rep. Becca Blaint, D-Vermont

on 11/7 and referred to the Subcommittee on Health three days later, where it sits. There are no House co-sponsors, not even MAGA Pete Stauber.

I've followed the ambulance issue in our region as it's evolved into a financial and staffing crisis. What I've laid out here is a little reality check. If this modest bill becomes law, which I believe should happen, it will immediately cost the already strapped Medicare fund hundreds of millions of dollars. This is why you don't see co-sponsors lining up quickly. I'm not counting on this bill becoming law.

Here on the Range, we need to follow the advice spelled out in the 2022 Office of the Legislative Auditor Report on EMS. That includes consolidation of services to become more efficient at administration and the implementation of a local tax to cover EMS expenses. Personally, I prefer a per-parcel tax, like we do for garbage. The time has come, and it will result in

a sustainable, higher level ambulance service.

**Lee Peterson  
Greenwood  
Township**

## Time to stop our Palestinian genocide

To our Representatives and Senators and President: You must stop using my tax money for funding America's and Israel's genocide. I am sure you know that my tax money has already destroyed Gaza, killed nearly 30,000 mostly women and children, and injured so many more.

America must stop it NOW!

Is the U.S. government nothing more than the most deadly organized criminal gang that has ever existed? Does the U.S. have no soul?

What is wrong with you?

I'm very angry.  
**Steve Johnson  
Ely**

## Obituaries and Death Notices



### Jeanne A. Burgess

Jeanne Anita Burgess, 95, formerly of Tower, passed away peacefully on Friday, Jan. 19, 2024, at Pine View Care Center in Black River Falls, Wis. A celebration of life memorial service will be held in Tower at a later date. Memorials can be made to an animal cause organization of your choice, or a tree can be planted in Jeanne's memory anywhere of your choice. The family wishes to give Pine View Memory Care Unit's employees and St. Croix Hospice a special thank you for the care, patience and compassion they showed during her end-of-life journey. Family arrangements are with Buswell Funeral Home of Black River Falls, Wis.

Jeanne was born on Feb. 20, 1928, in St. Paul, to Roy and Ani-

ta Skooglun. She grew up in White Bear Lake. Shortly after graduating high school, she worked at Kodak Camera doing some modeling. (When Jeanne looked at some of her young pictures, she would say, "I was a looker wasn't I?") She then moved with her parents to Sausalito, Calif., where her father worked at building construction and her mother welded in the shipyard. She then moved with her parents to Tower, when they purchased the Birch Point Inn resort on Lake Vermilion.

She was united in marriage to William "Bill" Burgess on Sept. 16, 1950. They operated the Birch Point Inn in Tower, after purchasing it from Jeanne's parents, from 1961 until its sale in 1975. Jeanne had many passions. She loved hard work, people, was devoted to her family, loved nature, spending a lot of time outdoors, animals and singing. When she was a young girl, she would sing out of her bedroom window hoping to be discovered. After retiring from the resort, she found she had a love for gardening, singing in her church choir, painting, crafting, and collecting nature's beautiful gifts from the

woods where she would hunt for moss, bark, nests, and twigs. She enjoyed snowmobiling in the Boundary Waters, stopping for a lunch of toasted sandwiches and snowshoe grog over a fire to warm up before going on to the next lake.

Jeanne was a very sweet person, always putting others before herself, never complaining because she knew she was blessed, and the grass was always greener on her side of the fence. She would rescue abandoned or injured birds, often being successful, and never turned down a good game of bridge or cribbage. Jeanne loved to have her grandkids spend time with her out at the lake and as they grew up and married, always hoped to be around long enough to welcome some great-grandkids into the world, which she did with Bentley and Kayla. She will be missed and remembered by her family and friends for all these good things and always her offering of, "Can I help?"

Her surviving daughters, Linda (David) Oreskovich and Anita Nevala (Greg Northrup); grandchildren, Joshua (Jenny) Nevala and An-

nie (Lance) Dougherty; and great-grandchildren, Bentley Nevala and Kayla Dougherty, all want to say, "Thank you, mom, grandma and great-grandma. You did good."

She was preceded in death by her husband, Bill; their Golden Retrievers; and her parents.



### Harvey Dennis Jensen

Harvey Dennis Jensen Sr., 76, passed away on Jan. 29, 2024, in Plymouth, Minn.

A ceremony to honor Harvey's life will be held around the 4th of July weekend in Buyck, Minn. where he will be laid to rest next to Duane, details of which will be provided later. The Jensen family appreciates your support and condolences during

this difficult time.

He was born on Feb. 9, 1947, in Minneapolis. Harvey, also known as Denny or Dennis, is a Marine Corps veteran and Purple Heart recipient who served in the Vietnam War.

Harvey is survived by his son, Harvey (Denny) Jensen Jr., and his daughter-in-law Sally Jensen. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Tyler and Isabella Jensen, and his brother Rob (Sandy) Jensen. Harvey was preceded in death by his son Duane Jensen; his father and mother, Harvey and Irene Jensen; and his brothers John and Everett.

## TIME...Cont. from page 4

of 60 and 90. Entertaining memories, historical facts, and other topics of common interest were shared by waves of visitors who helped kick off "We Love Our Library Month."

As you might guess, some discussions touched upon life, before and after retirement. One guest announced that she didn't like to think of herself as "retired." Instead, she preferred to think of this stage of life as "repurposing." I liked that. There were lots of these valuable seeds planted to help reframe this period when time seems to be just flying by. Too many to even try to recap here — nuggets of wisdom and humorous quips that made us all laugh out loud. And the adjectives describing the swift pace by which time was rushing along. Words like astonishing, disconcerting, and even kinda scary, definitely elicited the most nodding heads of agreement.

We grieved changes that come in later life. The identities we lost when we left occupations to which we had dedicated decades of our lives. We talked of lost friendships to illness and death, or by having relocated from their home faraway to a new life among strangers. Someone described the loss of being part of a team with related challenges and accomplishments. And then there were all those shared issues of diminishing strength, stamina, mobility, mental acuity - the list goes on. As one person put it, "This getting old ain't for wimps." Being among my peers felt good. We understood each other.

These days, when I'm out in the community doing errands, at the bank, the clinic, at a meeting, I am very aware of my age. The clerks, tellers, nurses, the people who ring up my groceries or serve me breakfast at the cafe, are all much younger than

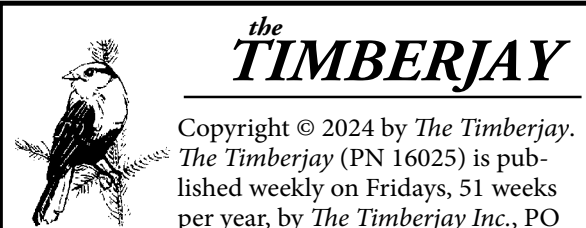
me. They no longer just hand me my receipt and my change and say "thank you." They've started calling me "hon" and "dear." Funny, I don't feel that old. But it's true. I'm old enough to be their grandmother. I appreciate their kind gestures, but I can't refrain from assuring that nice young man bagging my groceries that I can carry them out without his help. I know my time on Mother Earth is heading toward the finish line. It just must be a lot more evident to others than it is to me.

So, here we are in February already. This strangely mild winter reminds me not only are the days speeding by but so are the decades. I started hearing about global climate change over 50 years ago with predicted impacts to appear somewhere around 2050. That always seemed so far away in the future. But here I am watching the

signs right in front of my face, with talk of the infamous "tipping point" right around the corner. Thankfully, we have begun to amp up our efforts to slow the process down but as the saying goes, only time will tell how well we do.

And then, my friends are celebrating 50th wedding anniversaries. I remember people in my parent's photo albums celebrating theirs. They looked very old. Surprise! That now could be me in those pictures. I admit, a look at myself in bright light can be shocking.

So far, the hands on my clock are still ticking. Hour by hour. Day by day. I've decided to try to make every day "the time of my life." Less time sweating the small stuff. Attending to what matters most. Appreciating the moment. And caring for the planet. Honestly, does anyone really want to live on Mars? It's time to celebrate just being alive.



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

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

Week of Feb. 12

**Monday**

Embarrass Al-Anon Family Group- Hope Lutheran Church, 5088 Hwy. 21, 6 p.m.  
Tower City Council, 5:30 p.m. on Feb. 12

**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 Feb. 20.

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

Greenwood Town Board- 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 13

**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).

**TSHS weekly winner**

TOWER- The winner of the \$100 cash prize for Week 28 in the Charlemagne's 52 Club is Ted Johnson of East Grand Forks, Minn.

**History Tidbit:** After a series of dangerous fires and the ongoing threat to wooden structures in town with crowded lots and inadequate plumbing infrastructure, city of Tower officials decided in 1891 to purchase a modern fire engine built by the Ahrens Manufacturing Co. of Cincinnati, Ohio. The pumper was named "James Tippet" in honor of their first mayor, who had served the community since Tower incorporated as a city in 1889.

**Bookmobile stops**

REGIONAL- The Arrowhead Bookmobile will be in the Tower-Soudan area on Wednesdays: Feb. 14, March 6 and 27, Apr 17, May 8 and 29, Jul 10 and 31, Aug 21, Sept. 11, Oct. 2 and 23, Nov. 13, and Dec. 4, 2024.

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

For more information on the Bookmobile or Mail-A-Book services, contact the Arrowhead Library System, 218-741-3840, email at [als@alslib.info](mailto:als@alslib.info), or website at [alslib.info](http://alslib.info).

**Get Informed!**  
**Get the Timberjay!**



# Keeping the winter months fun in Embarrass

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

EMBARRASS- The pancakes were \$7, but the books and puzzles were free. Almost 300 showed up for the monthly fundraiser breakfast, and hopefully will keep pretty busy the rest of the winter with all the books, puzzles, and games they took home.

Books, puzzles, and games were collected from donation boxes set up at the Embarrass-Vermillion Credit Union offices in Tower, Embarrass, and Aurora. Fair board volunteers transported many truckloads back to Timber Hall, where some amazing volunteers from the Babbitt Library helped organize them, by category, across over 15 eight-foot long tables.

Fair board volunteer Sue Beaton said the book donations kept coming in. And she was just as delighted to see all the people leaving Timber Hall with boxes full of books, puzzles, and games. "It makes me so happy to see everyone who showed up," she said.

Leftover books, puzzles, and games will also be put out for browsing at the upcoming winter festival on Feb. 17.

Fair association board member Carissa Smith is a relative newcomer to Embarrass, but she has jumped at the chance to help the group grow. Her boyfriend and his family are longtime fair volunteers, and she is excited to be helping out.

"People are our greatest asset," she said. "I am trying to be the glue, bringing the community together." She added that the Embarrass community has been so welcoming.

The pancake breakfasts have turned into huge community events, with a record 400 attending the Christmas month breakfast.

The money raised at the pancake breakfasts help with basic building maintenance, as well as some smaller renovation costs. Recently they upgraded the kitchen sinks to make dish washing more efficient.

The group is now getting



**Top:** There were thousands of free books to browse through. Leftover books will be out for browsing again during the Feb. 17 winter festival. **Left:** June and Jackson Wycoff wait for their pancake breakfast. **Above:** Taavi Nelson picked out a puzzle. photos by J. Summit

ready for a winter festival on Feb. 17, with events for all ages inside and outside at Timber Hall.

**Embarrass Winter Festival**

EMBARRASS - The Winter Festival, originally scheduled for Jan. 20, will be held Saturday, Feb. 17 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Timber Hall Event Center. Festival activities for all ages will

include sledding, skating, games, bonfires, s'mores, and more. There will be food served inside Timber Hall, bingo at 11 a.m., kids' games indoors at 1 p.m., and a family movie, "Abominable", shown inside at 3 p.m. Outdoor activities include a cornhole tournament at 1 p.m., boot throwing competition at 2 p.m. There will be skating at the Embarrass Rink, sledding on the hill behind

the skating rink, and a bonfire with s'mores.

The AEOA Senior and Nutrition Services will be handing out food boxes with shelf-stable food to seniors (those who are 60+) during the event, first-come, first-serve.

Anyone with questions on the events can email [info@embarrassrfa.org](mailto:info@embarrassrfa.org).



## Little dribblers

Tower-Soudan Elementary students are getting a taste of basketball this winter, with help from volunteer coaches John Jirik and Paxton Goodsky, along with parent volunteers. Younger players are working on their ball-handling skills. Pictured from left: Hazel Jenkins, PJ Goodsky, Raven Rettke, Karmina Chosa, and Harper Olson. photo by J. Summit

## COMMUNITY NOTICES

**Vermilion Country School annual meeting set for Feb. 22**

TOWER- The Vermilion Country School will hold their annual meeting and board election on Thursday, Feb. 22 at 4 p.m. at the school. At the annual meeting, school officials and board members will discuss the school's progress over the last year. The school is currently close to its maximum enrollment, and is in the process of applying to expand its maximum enrollment from the current 55 to 75 students.

There are three seats up for election, with current board members Marit Kringstad (community member), Sarah Wahlert-Ramponi (parent member), and Miranda Kainz (member) up for re-election. There is also an open community member seat due to the resignation of Sue Beaton at the last meeting. This seat can be filled at the election, or by appointment by the board. Only parents of current students, staff members, and board members vote in a charter school board election.

Anyone with questions about the meeting

or election can contact Board Chair Jodi Summit at 218-753-2950.

**Natalie Nelmark named to CLC fall Dean's List**

REGIONAL - Natalie Nelmark, of Embarrass, has been named to the Fall Dean's List for Central Lakes College, Brainerd and Staples. The Dean's List includes 341 students who earned a grade-point average of 3.25 to 3.74 while enrolled for at least 12 credits.

Central Lakes College is a comprehensive

community and technical college in the Minnesota State System. The college serves about 5,500 students annually in liberal arts and career education programs.

**St. Martin's Mass Schedule for Lent**

TOWER- Ash Wednesday, Wednesday, Feb. 14 Mass times will be 9 a.m. (holy hour at 8 a.m.) at St. Martin's and 5:30 p.m. at St. Mary's (no holy hour or confessions).

**Lent services:** Stations of the Cross at St. Martin's on Fridays at 5 p.m. with a fish fry fol-

lowing except on March 22 since they will be working on the social hall floor that day; and on Wednesday's at 5 p.m. at St. Mary's with a soup supper following. Please sign up if you can make a soup, there is a sign-up sheet in the entrance of the church.

"Into the Deep, Finding Peace Through Prayer" is a five-week video and discussion retreat that will be held every Thursday after the 9 a.m. Mass at St. Mary's in the social hall beginning the first Thursday of Lent, Feb. 22. All are welcome.

## A WALK THROUGH THE ELY WINTER 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 or call her at 218-216-9141.

Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

►Feb. 13: Understanding and Managing Stress with Sharon Gilbert

►Feb. 20: Meet Cary Griffith, Author of “Gunflint Falling: Blowdown in the Boundary Waters”



**Top:** The standout “SnowBeast” sculpture at Whiteside Park, created by the “Freeznart” team of Daniel and Helen Friesenn from Winnipeg. This was the first time Freeznart has sculpted snow at the Ely Winter Festival.

**Above Left:** Starla Forsman of Ely sculpting her impromptu “Dragon Sapling” on Saturday, Feb. 3, with the help of tools loaned by the Canadian sculpting team “Freeznart.”

**Above Right:** Paul Melke from the Twin Cities tosses his cylindrical karttso to break the group of kyykkäs as other competitors look on during the U.S.

**Mölkky Championship.** The tournament was held on Friday evening, Feb. 2, in Whiteside Park as part of the Ely Winter Festival and attracted six teams of players. Most of the Mölkky players in the U.S. live in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Mölkky is a Finnish game which resembles English bowls or the Italian game of Bocce.

**Lower left:** As it has in previous years, the Ely Bike and Kicksled Shop provided the kicksleds for Ely Winter Festival attendees to use for free. Michaela Barrett and her daughter Cianaleigh took advantage of the kicksled opportunity on Saturday, Feb.

**3, to take a ride through the middle of the snow sculptures at Whiteside Park. Lower Center:** The Art Deco-esque “It’s a Hoot” snow sculpture by Elyite sculpting “Team Pharr,” made up of Wade Pharr, Nancy Scheibe, and Claudia McBride.

**Lower Right:** This year’s Ely Winter Festival included the first ever winter “ride and drive” electric vehicle event in the nation, hosted by multiple environmental organizations, in the parking lot at Dairy Queen on Saturday afternoon, Feb. 3.

photos by C. Clark

## Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2024



imagined respite  
walking along a wild sea

all while staying home

## 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-2 pm

## Support groups

AA - Alcoholics

Anonymous

**OPEN AA - 7:30**

p.m. Wednesdays and

Saturdays, in-person,

First Lutheran Church,

915 E. Camp St., Ely.

**AA FRIDAYS - 7 p.m.**

Fridays, First Presbyterian

Church, 262 E. Harvey

St., Ely.

**ELY WOMEN’S OPEN**

**AA - Monday** at noon at

Ledgerock Church, 1515

E. Camp St., Ely.

**BABBITT AA - 7 p.m.**

Thursdays, Woodland

Presbyterian Church.

**AL-ANON - Sundays**

8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony’s

Catholic Church in Ely.

**BABBITT AL-ANON -**

Thursdays, 7 p.m., at

Woodland Presbyterian.

**CO-DEPENDENTS’**

12-step support group,

4:00 p.m. Tuesdays,

Wellbeing Development,

St. Mary’s Episcopal

Church, 712 S. Central

Ave., 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.



## COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

## Ely Public Library

ELY- The library will be closed on Monday, Feb. 19.

The Friends of the Library book club will meet on Monday, Feb. 12, from 3-4 p.m. The book for discussion will be “Quiet: the Power of Introverts in a World that Can’t Stop Talking” by Susan Cain. You do not need to be a member of Friends of the Library to attend.

The monthly Friend of the Library Board will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 13, from 1-2 p.m.

The library will celebrate Innovation Day on Friday, Feb. 16, from 1:30-2:30 p.m. with projects for attendees to try. This is a program for all ages. Please register in advance so the library can order enough materials for all who attend.

The library will hold a Kahoot online trivia game on Margaret Mitchell’s best seller “Gone with the Wind,” and the 1939 movie based on it. The Kahoot will start on Tuesday, Feb. 20 at 3 p.m. and will end

on Monday, Feb. 26, at 8 a.m. Please register in advance with an email so the library can send the link to the Kahoot.

The library will hold another Kahoot on books 6-10 of the “Dog Man” series by Dav Pilkey. The Kahoot sill start on Thursday, Feb. 29 at 3 p.m. and end on Monday, March 4 at 8 a.m. Please register in advance with an email so the library can send the link to the Kahoot.

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., unless otherwise noted.

## Hogwarts at the Library

ELY- Once again, the Ely Public Library will hold its popular Hogwarts House Cup Championship on Saturday, March 2, from 1:30-4 p.m. This event is for adults and teens, grades 9 and up. This year, the event will be a Hogwarts House Feud,

which is a “Family Feud” done in a Harry Potter style. The ever-popular breakout boxes will also be part of the event. Register in advance for this program.

## Babbitt Public Library

BABBITT- The Reading Wonderland Winter Reading Program is holding a coloring contest for adults. Entries will be accepted through Feb. 29. Pick up a coloring page at the library. Use colored pencils only. Prizes will be awarded for the best picture.

The library invites patrons to have a blind date with a book. Read a wrapped mystery date book, rate it on the provided scorecard, and return the scorecard to be entered into a drawing for prizes. The blind dates started on Feb. 1 and will end on Feb. 29.

Book bingo will be on Monday, Feb. 12 at 1 p.m. The program is free. The prizes are books.

The library will hold a program on Monday, Feb. 12, at 2 p.m. to make your own photo coasters. Bring a 4-inch by 4-inch photo or smaller to make into a coaster to take home.

Preschool Storytime is held every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. All library events are at the Babbitt Public Library at 71 South Drive unless otherwise noted.

## Ely Ice Rink

ELY- The rec center ice rink is now closed due to the warm weather and lack of ice.

## Ely Ice Arena

ELY- The Ely Ice Arena on the Ely School District campus is open for skating on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursday, from 1:30-2:30 p.m. through March 4, except when school is closed for holidays. To see an entire schedule and to register for this no-cost activity, go to [ely.k12.mn.us/community](http://ely.k12.mn.us/community).

## Strawberries

ELY- The Ely PTO is holding a strawberries fundraiser through Feb. 11. Order a flat of fresh strawberries for late February/early March delivery at [elywolvespto.com](http://elywolvespto.com). Cost is \$35.

## Down Town Arts Market

ELY- The Northern Lakes Arts Association Down Town Arts Market will be on Saturday, Feb. 10, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Ely Senior Center, 27 S. 1st Ave. E.

## List your event

Do you have an upcoming Babbitt, Ely, or Winton event? Email event details, location, time, place and event cost to [catie.timberjay@gmail.com](mailto:catie.timberjay@gmail.com) by close-of business on the Tuesday the week before the event takes place for a free notice.

EMPTY BOWLS

Annual event draws big crowd, earns \$3,000 for causes

FIELD TWP- Much of the crowd at North Woods gym last Friday was there to do more than watch the Grizzlies boys mow down Greenway. They were there to give back through the annual Empty Bowl event sponsored by the school's art club.

In addition to the regular beneficiaries of food shelves in Cook and Orr, the benefit also helped to raise money for the families of Tra'von Boshey and Matthew Goggleye to help offset expenses related to the tragic November car accident that claimed

Boshey's life and severely injured Goggleye.

"One of our greatest turnouts yet!" said art teacher Rachel Betterley in a social media post on Saturday. "\$3,000 raised last night, one of Empty Bowl's personal bests. But that is because of our great community, who also showed their support for Tra'von and Matthew." Betterley expressed her gratitude for everyone who volunteered their time and talents to make the event a success.

Top left: Former Miss Minnesota and North Woods art teacher Rachel Betterley and current Miss Minnesota Angelina Amerigo display some of the bowls on sale at the event.

Top right: Students involved in making the bowls and staging the event pose with Miss Minnesota in front of their creations.

Bottom left: A view of some of the large crowd whose purchase of a ceramic bowl entitled them to a styrofoam bowl of homemade soup.

Bottom right: People browse the large collection of pottery bowls created for the event. photos courtesy of R. Betterley



Trinity to be part of new Ash Wednesday observance

COOK- On Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14, Trinity Lutheran Church will be offering "Ashes to Go," a new approach to a centuries-old Christian tradition, according to Pastor Erika Foss.

Trinity is part of a nationwide movement that has clergy and lay people visiting transit stops, street corners, coffee shops, and college campuses to mark the foreheads of interested passers-by with ashes and invite them to repent of past wrongdoing and seek forgiveness and renewal.

Ash Wednesday marks the start of the holy season of Lent, a time for reflection and repentance in preparation for the celebration of Easter. For centuries, Christians have received a cross of ashes on

the face at the beginning of that season as a reminder of mortal failings and an invitation to receive God's forgiveness. Ashes to Go provides the opportunity to participate in that tradition for people who have lost their connection to a church, or have never participated before.

"Ashes to Go is about bringing the important traditions of our faith out from behind church walls and into the places we need them every day," says the Rev. Emily Mellott. "We especially need reminders of forgiveness in the tough places of our working lives. The people who accept ashes on the street are often people longing to make a connection between their faith and the forces of daily life, and

Ashes to Go helps them feel that connection."

In Cook, Trinity Lutheran is offering Ashes to Go for the first time this year. Pastor Erika Foss and Deacon Kari Olson will be available at the front entrance of Trinity Lutheran Church (the Park State Bank side) from 7-9 a.m., 11 a.m.-1 p.m., 4-6 p.m. and throughout the day inside the building as well.

All are welcome to receive ashes. All are also welcome to participate in worship at 6:30 p.m. on Ash Wednesday and the Wednesdays to follow during Lent. Contact Pastor Erika Foss, pastorerikafoss@gmail.com, 218-666-5965 for more information about the local event.

Juniors want you as a new recruit for Feb. 29 talent show

FIELD TWP- Are you ready to dazzle, to amaze, to shine brighter than the stars in the sky? Have you been aching to let the world see your amazing, astounding talent?

Thanks to the Junior class at North Woods School, now is your time to shine at the Junior Jam talent show fundraiser at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 29 at the school. Once the exclusive realm for student talent, the class is throwing its arms wide to talented folk of all ages.

"We're opening it up to the community and would love to get more acts," said class member Talen Jarshaw.

Step into the Grizzlies

spotlight as part of the most spectacular, electrifying, and utterly unforgettable community talent show within uncyclable distance of Gheen. Whether you're a singer with a voice that can make angels weep, a dancer who can twirl out a tornado, a magician with tricks so mystifying you fool and amaze yourself, or someone with a unique talent that's been rudely rejected for the big time by Simon Cowell, this is your chance for applause, adoration, and a not-so-big but totally awesome cash prize!

So don't hide that brilliance under a bushel; let it explode in a supernova of awe and wonder on

the North Woods stage at Junior Jam!

Hustle on over to Cook Zup's, Cook Public Library, the Cook Short Stop or the Lucky Seven General Store to sign up and join the many talented students who each year make Junior Jam the most improbable and unbelievable talent show since Ed McMahon's Star Search. Acts must arrive at the school at 6 p.m., a half-hour before the competition begins. This must-see event will cost \$5 for an adult ticket and \$3 for a child ticket, with all proceeds going to help the junior class stage an equally spectacular prom.

Cook Farmers Market planning begins

COOK- The Cook Area Farmers Market is set to begin its spring meetings to prepare for another fun and exciting season this summer.

The first planning meeting will be on Wednesday, Feb. 14 at 11 a.m. at the Montana Cafe. Producers of locally grown or gathered veggies, fruit

and berries, honey, canned goods, baked goods, art, crafts and other fun stuff are welcome to help the market continue to be a success in 2024.

We hope that participating vendors will be able to offer fresh produce to SNAP recipients along with their free bonus "Market Bucks" that al-

low shoppers to get more nutritious food for less. There will also be free tokens for the Power of Produce program to buy produce for kids and older adults.

Come join in the fun, laughs and getting together for this well-loved weekly community event.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY



These six North Woods School students were chosen by the school's faculty for induction into the National Honor Society last Wednesday. Applicants must meet minimum standards for scholarship, service, leadership and character to be selected. Formal induction ceremonies were conducted by senior and junior NHS members and were followed by a reception. New inductees are, from front left, Isabelle Koch, John Danielson, and Victoria Mathys; back, from left, Lincoln Antikainen, Lauren Burnett, and Isabel Pazcuzzi. photo by D. Colburn

POLITICS

Fraser announces bid for Klobuchar's Senate seat

REGIONAL- Joe Fraser, a retired Navy commander and political newcomer, launched his bid for the U.S. Senate last week, challenging three-term Democratic Sen. Amy Klobuchar. Fraser's campaign, which began in Duluth, is the first formally announced Republican challenge to Klobuchar from among several Republicans who have filed paperwork with the Federal Elections Commission.

"I'm running for the U.S. Senate to continue my life of service for the people of Minnesota," Fraser said in a statement on his website.

During a 26-year Naval career, Fraser served in various global regions

and was the Director of Information Warfare at the Navy's Aviation Warfighting Development Center. Fraser was also a founding member of the U.S. Cyber Command Joint Intelligence Operations Center. Currently, he is the president of the Minnesota Council of the Navy League of the United States, a nonprofit supporting military families. Fraser has pursued a career in business and banking since retiring from the service.

In a statement, Fraser prioritized border security, inflation, and national debt as major campaign issues. He criticized Klobuchar's 18-year tenure, stating, "The very definition of

insanity is maintaining the status quo and hoping for change. Despite spending 18 years in office, Amy Klobuchar hasn't made the lives of Minnesotans any better — in fact it's gotten worse."

Fraser labeled Klobuchar "a failed presidential candidate" due to her 2020 White House bid.

Klobuchar presents a formidable challenge having handily won her last three elections over Republican rivals, including a 24-point victory over Jim Newberger in 2018. Campaign finance records indicate that as of Oct. 1 Klobuchar enters the 2024 contest with over \$4 million on hand.

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## MARIJUANA AND PUBLIC SAFETY

# Medicine sentenced in vehicular homicide case

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- David Kevin Medicine, 38, of Virginia, was sentenced Monday to 41 months in prison for criminal vehicular homicide that caused the death of Cathy Marjorie Johnson, 61, of Tower, in an accident that occurred the evening of Oct. 21 when Medicine was driving under the influence of marijuana.

Johnson was a passenger in Medicine's 2013 Chevy Impala, on the way back from Virginia, when the vehicle slammed into the back end of a pickup truck that was stopped at a traffic blockage at the junction of Hwy. 169 and Fireweed Rd. Johnson, who was

riding in the back seat and was not wearing a seatbelt, suffered fatal injuries in the crash. Another passenger in the Impala, Angela Buckanaga, 45, of Tower, was treated for non-life-threatening injuries, as were two individuals in the pickup truck, Gregory Lenz, 58, of Embarrass, and Carl Brummund, 56, of Ely.

Medicine did not have a current driver's license, and had been driving without one since his license was revoked in a DWI violation over ten years ago.

Medicine pleaded guilty to an amended charge of criminal vehicular homicide while under the influence of marijuana on Dec. 18. In exchange, the four original charges filed against him,

including two felony charges of criminal vehicular homicide and gross misdemeanors for criminal vehicular operation were dismissed.

The sentence is short of the 48 months called for on the standard sentencing schedule that was asked for by county prosecuting attorney Bonnie Norlander, but significantly more than the one-year sentence to the Northeast Regional Corrections Center minimum/medium security work farm in Saginaw, as sought by Medicine's Public Defender Bruce Williams.

In a statement filed with the court, Medicine expressed remorse for the accident.

"I want to say that I am very

sorry to the Johnson family," he wrote. "Cathy was my Auntie and she referred to me as her nephew. We've shared more 'I love you's' than I have with my own family. We all miss our mom, grandmother, and auntie. I know anything I do will never bring her back. I have to live with that guilt for the rest of my life. I know it's not going to be easy, but I am determined to live a sober life and will do everything I can to achieve sobriety. I never want to hurt another family like this or my own family ever again."

On Tuesday, County Attorney Kim Maki issued a statement about the case.

"During a time when the possession of marijuana is

increasingly legalized, this tragic accident is a reminder to everyone that marijuana does impair a person's ability to operate a motor vehicle. When a person chooses to operate a motor vehicle after ingesting marijuana, the safety of the community is put at risk. Mr. Medicine's decision to drive on Oct. 21, 2023, resulted in tragic and irreparable consequences," Maki said.

Maki extended condolences to the family of Johnson on behalf of the county attorney's office, noting that she "was a mother and a grandmother who enjoyed life, her grandkids, her garden and creating in the kitchen."

## DRILLING...Continued from page 1

in the ground is permitted.

"No one has done this before in Minnesota," said Pulsar CEO Thomas Abraham-James during a tour of the rig site on Feb. 5. "There aren't any regulations for drilling for helium. We are on new ground."

Michael Sturdy, the General Manager of Operations for Pulsar explained that the Minnesota Dept. of Health issues the permits for exploratory borings. "As an exploratory boring," Sturdy said, "the hole must be abandoned within ten years, including removing any casing installed and then sealing the hole with impervious grout to protect groundwater."

Pulsar's hole in the ground is not your usual exploratory boring for Minnesota. Here, such borings are usually drilled with a diamond drilling rig, which uses a small-diameter hollow coring tool encrusted with industrial diamond fragments to cut a solid rock core. Diamond drill rock cores are typically less than three inches in diameter, and usually smaller. These rigs operate in the Iron Range all the time, looking for iron, copper, and nickel mineralization.

### Gassy holes

Why is Pulsar using an oil and gas rig to do its exploratory drilling? Because of the danger of high-pressure gas. Only an oil and gas rig has the equipment to handle high-pressure gas safely.

"When we discovered the helium," said Pulsar's Phil Larson, "gas coming out of the ground through the drill steel sounded like a jet engine." At the time, Larson was working for Duluth Metals on a diamond drill rig, supervising the exploratory drilling

for nickel-copper-platinum mineralization for which Duluth Complex rocks are known for.

The hole was the sixth in the exploration program for the mining firm back in 2011. Because there are small pockets of methane in some Duluth Complex rocks, every rig has a gas meter to detect combustible gas. The rig hit a high-pressure pocket, the gas alarm went off, and the crew vacated the rig for safety.

"Usually, the gas will vent within minutes to hours, and then the crew will go back to work," Larson related. On this hole southeast of Babbitt, however, the gas was still flowing as extremely high velocity for over five days. Because the situation was novel for the area, no one had gas sampling equipment. Larson created his own using what he could find at Merhar's Hardware in Ely.

### Helium in the ground

"When the lab results for the gas came back, I saw that there was just two percent methane, which is below an explosive concentration. So, the crew went back to work and sealed the hole. It wasn't until the next day that we really took a look at the rest of the results and it surprised us."

Most of the gas was carbon dioxide, some nitrogen, and an astounding 10.5 percent helium.

"This is a unique occurrence for the Canadian Shield," Larson remarked. There is no other helium occurrence like this within the core of the continent.

In the middle of every continental plate is a core of old rocks. For the North American continent, the core – or craton – is a mass of Precambrian rocks known to geologists as the Canadian "shield." The

Canadian Shield rocks are some of the oldest on the planet, one billion to almost 4 billion years old. Most of the shield's rock is located in Canada, although northeastern Minnesota has the largest amount in the U.S.

The ancient rocks that Pulsar is exploring are around 1.1 billion years old, and that massive span of time is why the helium is there. The decay of natural radioisotopes that occur in all igneous rocks created the helium and it accumulated over this extremely long time period to create the high-pressure pockets that Pulsar is looking for.

### Exploration

Pulsar's exploratory boring is named Jetstream No. 1, in honor of the jet engine noise the Duluth Metals diamond drill hole made back in 2011. The appraisal hole is just 20 meters from that original Duluth Metals boring, which is now cemented to the surface. Pulsar has a good idea that gas is down there, having completed extensive geophysical surveys over the last year using gravity, magnetic and seismic tomography methods.

"The gas was discovered at 1,778 feet," said Abraham-James. "We hope to intersect the original gas discovery, and then drill deeper to explore what we believe is down there based on our other results." The firm did the other studies first since surface surveys are less expensive than mobilizing an oil and gas rig from its home base at Capstar Drilling in Wyoming.

The drilling started in January with a smaller rig, which set what is known as a conductor casing. This casing is to keep the wide top of the hole from collapsing, to remove uncon-

solidated material from the path of the big drill rig, and to protect the hole from groundwater, and to protect the local groundwater from the drilling operations.

The Capstar rig circulates drilling mud through the drill steel and back up the hole. The mud is a closed circuit between the rig and the borehole. This sort of drilling does not collect cores. The mud loggers, geologists who specialize in this sort of work, collect the rock fragments created by the drill bit which then flow upward in the mud. They categorize the fragments using microscopes and a portable x-ray fluorescence spectrometer, which at the drill site was the size of a coffee maker. The gas in the well is analyzed by the mud loggers with a portable mass spectrometer.

An integral part of the drill rig is the backflow preventer, which is huge piece of equipment designed to contain a sudden high-pressure flow of gas in the well. Only oil and gas rigs use these devices as standard equipment.

Once the drilling is completed and the casing in the exploratory boring is cemented into place, a "wireline" crew will come and log the hole using downhole geophysical instruments. If the helium find is viable, then Pulsar wants to build a production facility that will take up around an acre of grounds to pump and containerize the helium. The firm also plans to trap and sell the carbon dioxide from the discovery. Minnesota has a greater demand for industrial carbon dioxide than the current supply.

"Helium isn't as big a production as mining," Abraham-James said. "If we do build a helium plant



An oil and gas rig out of Wyoming is now on the Pulsar Helium site for exploratory boring.

here, we will create around 20 (direct) jobs." Abraham-James did indicate that if Pulsar is successful, it will have a cascading economic effect as other firms looking for helium will want to do their own exploration in Minnesota.

### Environmental footprint

"We are really proud of our environmental footprint," Larson said on the Feb. 5 site tour. The exploratory boring is on private land leased to Pulsar approximately 15 miles down Forest Service Rd. 112, along the southern border of Stony River Township.

"The land we're on was logged and we only had to remove one tree," Larson added. "We were able to use a pre-existing logging road and only had

to remove eight trees to prepare it to bring in the rig ... that's a total of just nine trees." Pulsar had to obtain a special use permit from the U.S. Forest Service to do the road work since the roads into the site are in the Superior National Forest.

The "drilling pad," or area used up for drilling operations, is only 1.1 acres and was sited to use the area that was previously logged, so the impact on the surrounding forest was minimized. If the plant is built, it will be sited on top of the drill pad area.

"Our aim is to maximize our potential profit while minimizing our environmental impact," Abraham-James said. "These are clean gasses coming out of the ground and we want to keep this a clean operation."

## AWARDS...Continued from page 1

boarded his boat, tased him, and placed him under arrest.

Jodi Summit won first place for Government/Public Affairs Reporting for her continued reporting on the Greenwood Town Board's firing of its fire department leadership. "Good continuing coverage of a clearly controversial issue in the community," wrote the judges.

The *Timberjay* dominated in the category of Best Photo Story, with Marshall Helmsberger, Jodi Summit, and Victoria Ranua winning first place for the outdoors feature: Fabulous Fungi. David Colburn won second place in the category for his photo story on Crane Lake's Community Night Out. Colburn also received second-place honors among all weeklies for his Press Photographer's Portfolio. "High-quality images in this entry, which I felt was top-notch on several levels," commented the

judges.

The *Timberjay* was also recognized for Best Use of Photography as a Whole. "I really got a sense of the community through the photography in this paper. Excellent," wrote the judges.

The *Timberjay* also won a first-place award among all weeklies for Best Use of Photography in a Magazine for its annual visitors guide, *GO Lake Country*.

The *Timberjay* won first place for Advertising Excellence, the second time that the paper's graphic designer, Scarlet Stone, has taken the top award in that category. Stone also took home a second-place award for Best Advertising Campaign in the large weekly category for a series of ads she created for The Floor to Ceiling Store in Virginia.

The paper's staff received second place for its overall sports reporting.

"Compelling photos and stories make this section a must-read and see for readers," wrote the judges.

The paper's business reporting was recognized in two categories. Marshall Helmsberger's story about experiments to reduce wolf predation of livestock, "Ranch Resolution," won second place in the business story category. "An important issue is explored through a well-told story here. A heavy topic, and yet it was a fun read," commented the judges.

Helmsberger's profile of the new owners of the Tower Café was recognized in the business profile category. "I don't even live in this town, but I found myself so curious about what the new owners had in mind for the store! Good job pulling readers in," the judges said.

The paper was also recognized for its Editorial Pages as a Whole. "Good editorials that are sure to

generate discussion. Letters to editor show readers are engaged. Lighter columns an enjoyable read. Nice job."

The paper's editorials, written by publisher Marshall Helmsberger, won a third-place award among all weeklies for Best Editorial Portfolio, a coveted category in which Helmsberger has won multiple times. "Great way to hold government officials accountable and still provide facts and news to readers. Well written," wrote the judges.

This year's newspaper contest was judged by other award-winning journalists from South Dakota, North Carolina, and New Jersey.

### Other convention news

U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar and Gov. Tim Walz both spoke at the convention. Klobuchar, whose father was a well-known *Star Tribune* columnist,

was a guest speaker at the convention. Klobuchar has been a leader in the Senate on many issues that affect newspapers, especially smaller papers. "You are telling the stories that maybe not everyone knows about, that they don't read on Facebook," Klobuchar told the attendees. "Many of your stories uncover what happened at the city council meeting and tell people which business is opening and closing. There are a lot of stories of joy, positive stories of our communities – whether they're big or small..." said Klobuchar. "So, I just want you to remember that piece of it, of telling the stories of regular citizens in your communities. That brings strength and brings people together in a big way, just as much as your role of uncovering the truth for us. So don't let us forget that piece that we're losing right now in our nation and the role you play in finding that

thread that brings people together."

Sen. Klobuchar, Chairwoman of the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Competition Policy, Antitrust and Consumer Rights, has spearheaded the bipartisan Journalism Competition and Preservation Act to address the power of dominant online platforms over news organizations. In June 2023, the Senate Judiciary Committee passed the bill by a vote of 14-7.

*Timberjay* staffers Summit, Helmsberger, and Colburn attended a number of sessions on issues affecting newspapers, including newly emerging issues related to artificial intelligence and the changing business models facing traditional papers in the age of the internet.

## RECOVERY...Continued from page 1

pressure on his brain, one that likely saved his life. And since that night, Chuck and Matthew have been walking the long, long road to recovery together.

The *Timberjay* reached out to Chuck for an update on Matthew's condition and met with the two of them on Saturday in Matthew's hospital room at Children's Minnesota Hospital in Minneapolis. This report will refer to Chuck as Goggleye, and his son as Matthew.

Goggleye was in good spirits Saturday as he described Matthew's progress over the past week.

"He is doing amazing," Goggleye said. "They've been doing really good work with him here. (The therapists) have been seeing him twice a day, and once a day on the weekends. He's trying to get up more, he's trying to communicate more, his energy is up more. He's the talk of the floor — they refer to him as the rock star because he's impressing them so much. They're just blown away by it."

Goggleye paused as he turned his attention to Matthew, clearing some fluid out of the tracheostomy tube in his neck. For about a week and a half after the accident Matthew had a ventilator tube inserted down his throat to regulate his breathing, but doctors then performed a tracheostomy, saying it was a better long-term option for Matthew's recovery. Goggleye got training from the hospital staff to be able to help with the tracheostomy tube.

"He's taking all of his breaths on his own," Goggleye said. "He's just getting oxygen and moisture through there. They gave him a popsicle earlier to test out his swallowing — that's what the coloring is, but hardly any came up in here, so he's starting to swallow."

Matthew had another tube leading to his stomach to receive nutrition. And he's cleared another hurdle

in Minneapolis, a lengthy abdominal operation to fix a digestive reflux problem that is a remnant from an operation he had as a young child that was hampering his recovery.

Goggleye shared one of the biggest communication accomplishments for Matthew in a Facebook post last Wednesday.

"Finally got to hear 'I love you' again," Goggleye wrote. "Speech therapy was in and put a speaking valve on and he was counting and doing some ABC's and said love you dad. I am happy."

The other major tool that has opened up communication is a laminated alphabet board that Matthew is now using to spell out answers to questions by pointing his finger at the letters. Another communication board has pictures of things he can request, but Goggleye said he prefers using the alphabet board. Meanwhile, physical therapists have Matthew standing up and walking a bit with the aid of an apparatus to bear his weight, as his muscles have shriveled after over two months of inactivity. He's been able to stand up and shuffle around his bed with support, too.

### Return to November

Goggleye shared his recollections of the day of the accident as best he could recall. Some things are vivid, others blurry, and he occasionally choked up and came close to tears as he talked.

Matthew had been living with his aunt in Hibbing, but returned to Nett Lake to live with Goggleye in his trailer so that he could go to North Woods School and be part of the Goggleye basketball legacy at the school. Goggleye didn't have a regular job but was finding enough odd jobs to get by and provide for them.

Matthew would regularly touch base with his father after school, but that day Goggleye didn't hear from him. He assumed that being a teenager, Matthew

was probably out running around with friends. Still, it seemed odd.

"It was just a weird feeling because usually he finds me and checks in with me but he didn't come home right after school," Goggleye said.

"I was sitting there waiting for him, doing little chores around the trailer and all of a sudden I get a knock on my door," he continued. "People don't stop by that much."

When he called out to see who was there, the response was "St. Louis County Sheriff."

"I knew something was wrong," Goggleye said.

The deputy and a Bois Forte police officer described some scars on an individual and asked if his son had any such scars. When Goggleye said yes and asked what was going on, they told him Matthew had been in a serious accident and had to be airlifted to Duluth.

"As soon as they said that I just turned around to go get my bag," Goggleye said. When an officer asked if he had a ride, Goggleye was in shock at the news and automatically said yes, although he actually didn't have a way to get to Duluth. Goggleye said he went to his brother's house to try to get a ride, but when that didn't come through he walked to the home of his friend Shawn Jensen, who agreed to take him.

When they arrived, Goggleye was in for another shock.

"We walked in there and started asking where my son was and the person at the front desk didn't know," he said. "How do you get life-flighted down there and you don't know where he's at?"

Goggleye got agitated and later apologized, he said, and he finally got connected with the doctors and Matthew.

"He barely made it," Goggleye said. "By the time I got down there they already had his head cut open and drilled or whatever,

and I guess that's what saved him. The whole side of his face was black and blue, his chest was black and blue the whole way down. They had him on his chest — that was one of the last things they could do to help him breathe, and they put him right on a breathing machine because they didn't think he could breathe on his own." "They prepared me for the worst," he continued. "They didn't think he'd be able to move anymore. They kept telling me he might not make it. It was just awful. I was scared until the next morning, but after he made it through that first night I knew he was going to make it. And then it was just like 'Where do we go from here?'"

Jensen stayed with him for several hours that first night, and Goggleye's sister, brother and aunt arrived later to provide more support. Goggleye's sister Crystal started a GoFundMe page to help with expenses and provide updates.

"I just don't know how it would've been without that," Goggleye said. "Because I had that I could stay in a hotel, get my own stuff to eat. I went and got Matthew new shoes and clothes for therapy, and it's helped the family deal with gas coming back and forth to support him. I don't know how to explain how that feels. I was just mind blown how many people have donated. I thought I knew a lot of people, but he knows a lot of people who care for him. I'm just so grateful."

Goggleye has essentially been living out of hospitals since the night of the accident, except for a short stay in a hotel in Duluth. He's been sleeping in Matthew's room in Minneapolis, not wanting to leave his side.

"They're concerned about me being here all the time," Goggleye said. "They say I need to get out and this and that, but I don't feel comfortable

being away from him. It doesn't feel good to me. I've gone to eat a couple of times and it just feels weird being away from him because he can't talk. I just want to be with him until he can move by himself and talk and everything."

The move to Children's in January has been a positive one, with Matthew getting more therapy from clinicians more focused on what he's capable of rather than what he can't do, Goggleye said.

"(In Duluth) they were acting like he wasn't going to be doing things anymore," he said. "They kept treating it like he wasn't going to be moving anymore, he wasn't going to be talking anymore, like he was going to end up in a rest home. That's what they were telling me, that's what they were trying to prepare me for, and I just wouldn't take it."

But what's missing from Duluth are all the people who visited Matthew on a regular basis.

"Some of his friends stopped by in Duluth," Goggleye said. "The first month it was a lot, and then it tapered off. Linda and Doug from Tower-Soudan, one of his old teachers from grade school came in and was reading to him like every other day. They came down and saw him when we first got down here, too, and they plan on coming back. Lately it's just been immediate family coming in. His mom's been here a couple of times, his brothers have been here. But ever since Duluth it's pretty much just us for the most part."

Matthew recently asked what had happened to him, and Goggleye had the hard task of telling him about the accident, including the passing of his friend Tra'von. Goggleye said he doesn't know what or if Matthew remembers anything about the accident, and isn't sure how much he comprehends, given his ongoing communication limitations. He also

expressed his sorrow for the Boshey family and what they've been going through since the accident.

Goggleye is encouraged by how much Matthew wants to get out of the hospital, but while he's thrilled with Matthew's strength and desire, he remains a realist.

"I get so amped up because I want it to hurry up and let's go, but it's not like that," he said. "It's a slow process. You've got to do it step-by-step and do the therapies to get his movement back. He can already try, he just doesn't have the strength in his tendons and muscles from laying there for two months. But he still makes me happy. I cry because I'm happy. I went from crying from being worried to crying because I'm happy."

Goggleye is working on getting Matthew transferred to Gillette Children's Hospital in St. Paul where he can receive even more specialized treatment. It's not quite as easy as the transfer from Duluth because Matthew had his 18th birthday on Jan. 16. Now legally an adult, that means Goggleye has to jump through some extra legal hoops to be designated his guardian. He was confident it will all be taken care of soon. If there's any word that would describe Goggleye's attitude toward anything dealing with Matthew's recovery right now, it would be confident.

For anyone who would like to donate to the GoFundMe campaign, the page can be found at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/matthews-family-with-expenses-for-hospital-stay>.

*Editor's note: This interview was conducted standing beside Matthew's bedside so he could be a participant in the conversation and hear everything that was said. He preferred letting his dad do the talking and declined an invitation to answer any questions. He did, however, consent to having his picture taken for the story.*

## BOIS FORTE...Continued from page 1

a resolution that says you guys decide what businesses we want to do," Chavers said. "I'm happy to say you passed it. We had approximately 700 responses from our survey. That's a lot. We don't even get that many voters during tribal elections."

Beyond her basic statement about going into the cannabis business, Chavers provided no details as to what that business might look like or how quickly it might be up and running.

She also didn't provide a breakdown of the tribal survey.

As the keynote speaker for the event, Chavers responded to feedback from last year's event by keeping her remarks relatively brief. She opened by recognizing Bois Forte employees.

"I want to take this opportunity to state that Bois Forte has great staff," she said. "And I'm talking not just tribal government, but all businesses and everything. Their dedi-

cation and hard work to provide programs and services to our people here in the North, in Duluth, and in the Twin Cities. They are unsung heroes in my eyes. As an example of their great work, Bois Forte has received over \$96 million in grants and other funding over the past three years."

While most of her comments were Band-specific, Chavers also touted accomplishments of Minnesota tribes collectively.

"I see tremendous

progress of Minnesota tribes regarding amending or changing laws and educating by telling our story over and over again," she said. "This work is beginning to have an impact in various ways. One example in the new Minnesota state seal and flag. These were somewhat offensive to the tribes. Also, we worked on the memorandum of understanding signed between Grand Portage, Fond du Lac, and Bois Forte bands that reside in the 1854 treaty area and the U.S. Forest Service to work side by side. The Lutsen Mountain expansion of 600 acres did not happen. This area has the largest maple sugaring stand in the state of Minnesota, plus there's other unique tribal medicines that are in certain areas in that Lutsen area that they wanted to use for a parking lot expansion. We stopped that. And the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Indian Child Welfare Act and the tribes and it solidified tribal sovereignty. Minnesota legislators did a great job of incorporating the act into the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act."

Chavers also talked about the increased power the tribes have gained through the redistricting of the Eighth Congressional District, which put all seven Ojibwe tribes in the same district.

"Our Native vote is very influential in making decisions and helping elect the right leaders to get

our laws passed and get that funding," she said. "I challenge all of you tribal members here tonight and throughout the state to please get out and vote this fall. Tribes have been acknowledged and we can't go backwards."

Last year's state budget surplus provided an unexpected windfall for Bois Forte and other tribes, Chavers said. "This has a total amount of \$35 million that will go to tribes that want to participate annually and is comparable to the same aid money that has been distributed to counties and cities for many, many years. The best part of this money is that it has no restriction or ties to it."

Chavers highlighted the Bois Forte high speed broadband project, noting that access is available in Nett Lake, Vermilion, and Indian Point.

"We are now expanding that access even further to incorporate our neighbors in Greenwood Township, Cook and Orr — neighbors helping neighbors."

Chavers described work with legislative committees to increase the base payments for the 1854 treaty, noting that the payments have not been adjusted for inflation.

"We are very pleased that the Legislature passed a bill and we are working to negotiate with the DNR to fund future years out of their budget for this increase," Chavers said. "You can make darn sure that we're going to make

sure that we get what's coming to us."

Other highlights of Chavers' remarks include:

► The completion of the new Nett Lake Dam, remarking that the lake's 2023 rice crop was one of the best in years.

► The tribe's carbon credit program is moving forward, with the mild winter facilitating the assessment process.

► Other tribes have been calling about Bois Forte's first-in-the-nation vending machines for easy access for Narcan, fentanyl test strips, pregnancy and HIV testing kits, socks, underwear, and nutritional items.

► The pursuit of additional tax-forfeited land within tribal boundaries.

► The implementation of an energy manager and energy ordinance to allow more access to infrastructure funds for climate resilience and green energy.

► Expanded elderly housing and mental health services.

► A renewed emphasis on cultural healing practices for those recovering from drug and alcohol addiction.

► The need for family and cultural resource centers at Nett Lake and Vermilion.

Attendees also heard presentations by tribal council members and viewed video greetings and accomplishments of Gov. Tim Walz and Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan and Minnesota's congressional representatives.

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**Briefly**

**DFL Third District caucus locations announced**

REGIONAL—Third District DFLers in St. Louis County will gather on Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2024 at multiple locations to learn about this year's candidates, debate resolutions for the party platform, elect new precinct chairs, and select delegates for the upcoming conventions. "Our precinct caucuses signal the start of the 2024 elections in Minnesota and offer all Minnesotans the opportunity to get involved," said DFL Chairman Ken Martin. "I

encourage all Minnesotans to attend their precinct caucuses and advocate for the change they want to see in their communities."

The caucuses will get underway at 7 p.m. on Feb. 27, with registration starting at 6:30 p.m.

The caucuses will be held at the following locations, and caucus attendees should attend at the location designated for their specific precinct.

► Babbitt Senior Center, 71 South Dr, Babbitt. (Babbitt Precinct and Unorganized Precinct 9)

► Cook Community Center, 510 Gopher Dr, Cook. (Beatty, Camp 5,

Cook, Crane Lake, Field, Leiding, Linden Grove, Orr, Owens, Portage, Willow Valley Precincts and Unorganized precincts 11,12,13,19,21) Southeast Koochiching Precinct, Koochiching County, will also meet at the Cook Community Center.

► Embarrass Town Hall, 7503 Levander Rd, Embarrass. (Kugler Precinct, Waasa Precinct, Unorganized Precinct 20)

► Greenwood Town Hall, 3000 County Rd 77. (Greenwood Precinct)

► Hoyt Lakes Arena, 102 Kennedy Memorial Drive, Hoyt Lakes. (Hoyt Lakes Precinct, Unorganized Precinct 6)

► Kabetogama Town

Hall, 9707 Gamma Rd, Kabetogama. (Kabetogama Precinct)

► MN North College, Vermilion Campus, 1900 E Camp St, Ely, MN (Ely, Morse, Winton Precincts and Unorganized Precincts 22, 24) Fall Lake Precinct, Lake County, will also be meeting at the Vermilion Campus.

► Vermilion Country School, 1 Enterprise Dr, in Tower. (Breitung, Eagle's Nest, Tower Precincts)

► Vermilion Lake Town Hall, 5937 Wahlsten Rd, Tower. (Vermilion Lake Precinct)

Please contact Leah Rogne at slcou3dfl@gmail.com if you have questions about the caucuses.

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**SLED DOG RACING**

**WolfTrack Classic canceled**

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- For the third time in its 16-year history, the WolfTrack Classic has been canceled for lack of sufficient snow. The Ely Chamber of Commerce, which organizes the race, announced the cancellation after reviewing trail conditions. The race was scheduled to be run on Sunday, Feb. 25, but this week's near record-warm conditions and little snow in the extended forecast offered little hope for augmenting the region's minimal snow cover for this time of year.

**Some events still on**

Despite the cancellation, folks in Ely still plan to have some fun over race weekend. In place of the annual awards dinner for the race, the race organizers will hold a new "family-friendly" event called the WolfTrack

Prance, from noon-3 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 25, at the Grand Ely Lodge. "In the future, we hope to turn this into a Friday night welcoming event for the race," said chamber director Eva Sebesta.

The event this year will feature door prizes and polka music played by Bernie Palcher and his accordion. The event is free though attendees will be responsible for the purchase of their own food and drinks. Food service will be from noon-1:30 p.m. followed by music and dancing from 1:30-3 p.m.

Space at the WolfTrack Prance is limited to 50 attendees and requires an RSVP. Call the chamber at 218-365-6123 to reserve space. The event was announced on Feb. 1 and by Monday afternoon, Feb. 5, the event was already more than half full—so reserve your space soon

since Sebesta expects all the available seats to fill.

**Beer tasting this weekend**

The WolfTrack Classic-Earth Rider Brewery beer tasting will still take place on Saturday, Feb. 10, from 3-6 p.m. This yearly event is hosted at Mike's Liquors at 401 E. Sheridan St. Mike from Earth Rider will have a variety of the brewery's seasonal and staple beers. The WolfTrack Classic crew will also be on hand to sell race merchandise featuring the new WolfTrack logo.

"Just because the race is canceled, it does not mean Ely is closed and winter is gone," said chamber director and race coordinator, Eva Sebesta, in a statement. "One thing Ely is well known for is an abundance of outdoor activities and visitors can still enjoy all of those options."





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## GIRLS BASKETBALL

# Grizzlies win three in a row

## Senior Helen Koch notches her 1,000th career point

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- On a night when senior guard Helen Koch scored her 1,000th career point, her Grizzlies teammates weren't about to let Cherry

**Left: The Grizzlies' Helen Koch under heavy pressure from a Cherry defender.** photo by D. Colburn

spoil the party, coming through in the stretch to win a nailbiter 62-59.

After North Woods took a slim 21-18 lead in a lackluster first half by both squads, the action heated up in the second. Koch notched her fifth point of the night and 1,000th of her career with a free throw at the 14:22 mark, with officials stopping play momentarily for

the celebration. Five minutes later Cherry tied the score at 35 all, but River Cheney responded with a long-range three to put the Grizzlies back on top. Another triple and a pair of charities by Brynn Chosa gave North Woods a 50-42 edge with five minutes to play, but the Tigers were back within one, 55-54, with three minutes remaining. Chosa stepped up

with another three ball for a 58-54 lead, and after Talise Goodsky forced a Cherry turnover, Koch hit Chosa with a long pass for a fast break layup and a 60-54 lead with 2:14 remaining.

The Grizzlies may have caught a break while clinging to a 60-59 margin when

See NW GIRLS...pg. 2B



## NORDIC SKIING

# Bianco at the World Cup

Ely native keeps advancing toward a possible trip to the 2026 Olympics

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— For Erin Bianco, the path to a spot on the U.S. Nordic ski team was not without its detours. The 25-year-old Bianco, who grew up in Ely, the daughter of Joe and Mary Bianco, clearly had the athletic ability to compete at the highest level even in high school. Yet, coming to grips with her talent and its potential ramifications took a bit of soul-searching.

In 2017, when she led the Ely Nordic ski team to a state high school girls championship and won the individual state crown, it clearly caught her by surprise. She said at the time that she had hoped to finish in the top ten.

For Bianco, competition wasn't what first brought her to Nordic skiing and she said that fact has helped her maintain an even keel as the level of her competition has now reached the highest echelons of the sport. It was her parents who introduced her to cross-country skiing at the age of just three, simply as an enjoyable way to stay fit and to explore the forests around Ely in winter. Surprisingly, Bianco acknowledged in a 2023 blog post that she didn't like being out in the cold on their regular Youth Ski League outings on Sundays at Hidden Valley, but she toughed it out mostly for the good snacks that came afterward.

For top athletes in highly competitive sports, burnout is a real risk, but Bianco said her initial low-stress introduction



Top: Erin Bianco (#3), originally of Ely, rounds a corner during World Cup competition last month in Goms, Switzerland.

Above: Erin Bianco, flanked by her mother Mary and big sister Amy, who were both on hand to cheer her on during the World Cup competition. photos by J. Bianco

“I think being from a small town makes it all extra special.”

Erin Bianco

to skiing gave her a different mindset than many. “Growing up with that view of skiing, rather than being super competitive about it, just made it more enjoyable,” she said. “It gave me a good grounding.”

Despite her success at the high school level, Bianco still

wasn't sure that competitive skiing was in her future. “I never really thought that I would pursue it,” said Bianco. Instead, she opted to attend St. Olaf, in Northfield, where she ran long distance races for a year. “The break was good for me,” said Bianco. “It made me realize I really liked skiing, not just that I was good at it.”

That's when she made the decision to follow in her older sister Amy's footsteps by attending Colby College, in Maine. Amy had been a stand-out Nordic skier for the Mules from 2014 to 2017, so expectations were high when Erin showed up to begin her own

ski career at the small liberal arts college in Waterville.

“College skiing was definitely some of my favorite years of ski racing,” Bianco wrote in her recent post. “I developed a lot as a skier and as a person.”

It was only after she graduated from Colby in 2022 with a degree in Sociology and an impressive collegiate record under her belt, that Bianco finally decided that she wanted to pursue Nordic at the next level. She went pro later that year, skiing with pro-circuit teams in Minnesota

See BIANCO...pg. 2B

## BOYS BASKETBALL

# Grizzlies take two in a row

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- The North Woods boys basketball team is on a three-game winning streak after notching a convincing home win over Class AA Greenway and a road beatdown of Blackduck on Monday.

Against the Drakes on Monday, the only thing the Grizzlies lost was the opening tip. Louie Panichi, Jonah Burnett, and Luke Will got North Woods off to a 6-0 start, but the team really hit its stride when Talen Jarshaw scored on a fast break at the 13-minute mark. Feeding off their swarming pressure defense, the Grizzlies scored on their next six trips down the floor, getting treys from Burnett and Jarshaw and doubles from Panichi, Burnett, and Will to open up a 24-4 lead. The Drakes finally began to click on offense, but gained zero headway as North Woods took a 25-point 48-23 lead into halftime.

The Grizzlies toyed with the Drakes in the second half, intensifying their defensive effort after a Blackduck timeout to hold the Drakes to just a single basket over the final 12 minutes of the contest. Burnett had a highlight reel breakaway dunk during a 17-2 run that secured the 82-37 win.

Burnett led the Grizzlies attack with 26 points, followed by Panichi with 21 and Jarshaw with 14.

See GRIZZLIES...pg. 2B

# Wolves fall to Warriors

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

DEER RIVER— The Timberwolves slipped to 10-10 on the season as they fell 72-45 to the Warriors here on Tuesday. Breakdowns on both offense and defense hampered Ely's cause. “We didn't shoot the ball well and we really struggled rebounding against them, and they got many second chances on the offensive end,” said Head Coach Tom McDonald. “I thought we played a bit better in the second half, but we dug ourselves too big of a hole early.”

The Wolves fell behind early and were down 41-22 at the break and couldn't recover in the second half. Junior Caid Chittum had a big night, pouring in 22 points for Ely, but it just wasn't enough. Sophomore Jack Davies added 14 points and sophomore Drew Johnson posted seven rebounds.

The Wolves travel to Aurora on Friday to take on Mesabi East.

## HOCKEY

## Ely continues sudden struggles on the ice

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

ELY— The Timberwolves' struggles on the ice continued this week as they dropped two of the three games, including a 7-0 shellacking by North Shore on Monday. Referees halted the game within the first two minutes after an Ely player checked a North Shore skater into the boards. Refs missed the apparent infraction, but the impact knocked the North Shore player unconscious, halting play for an extended period as emergency medical responders removed him from the arena on a backboard.

The North Shore head coach threatened to pull out of the game but later relented and the action eventually continued. But the incident seemed to motivate the Storm, who thoroughly dominated the rest of the way, holding Ely to just 17 shots on goal. The Storm lit the lamp twice in the first period, added a third in the second, and punched in four more

in the final period, all unanswered by Ely.

Ely goalie Ben Leeson had a tough night in the net, allowing seven goals on 31 shots, for a save percentage of .774, one of his roughest outings of the season.

The loss dropped Ely's record to 13-11 on the season. It's a dramatic fall from their 12-5 start, as the Wolves have now lost six of their last seven outings.

Ely notched their first win in two weeks on Saturday, as they topped the WSFLG squad 6-0 in Siren, Wis.

Ely senior Deegan Richards put the Wolves up midway through the first period on a power play with an assist from classmate Wes Sandy. Senior Brecken Sandberg added an unassisted short-handed goal three minutes later and Richards punched Ely's third into the net just 30 seconds later while the Wolves were back at full-strength. The assist went to junior Jace Huntbatch.

Ely senior Drew Marolt provided the Wolves with plenty of



**Ely junior forward Brady Eaton maneuvers the puck through heavy traffic during Monday's home contest with North Shore.** photo by C. Clark

insurance as he notched a trick with two goals in the second period and a third on a power play early in the third period, with Richards on the assist.

Despite the score, WSFLG notched a hefty 32 shots on goal, but Leeson brushed them all aside. The Wolves notched 29 shots on goal. Six WSFLG

penalties didn't help their cause. Ely's Kadein Zupancich spent four minutes in the box on tripping and roughing penalties, while Huntbatch was tagged for a two-minute interference penalty.

Playing in St. Paul last Friday, an early goal by Drew Marolt, with an assist from Richards, gave the Wolves a momentary

lead in a game they went on to lose 4-1. St. Paul Johnson went on to tie the score toward the end of the first period and added two more in the second and an insurance goal in the third. The Wolves were plagued by penalties in the first two periods, including 15-minutes in the box for Sandberg on two unsportsmanlike conduct penalties halfway through the second period. Sandberg spent another two minutes off ice early in the first period on a roughing charge, and the Wolves were assessed another two minutes at the 4:36 mark for having too many skaters on the ice. Sandy was pinched twice, first for cross-checking and finally for slashing. Huntbatch was called twice for tripping and goalie Ben Leeson was called on a tripping charge as well.

The Wolves tallied 29 shots on goal, to 30 for St. Paul Johnson.

Ely was set to travel to Moose Lake on Friday in their final game of the regular season. The Section 7A playoffs get underway on

## NORDIC SKIING

## Ely boys place six in top 20 at Duluth East Invite

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

DULUTH— The relatively young Ely boys Nordic ski team showed once again that it's a potential powerhouse down the

road as it placed six skiers in the top 20 in a field of 76 racers at the Duluth East Invite held here last Thursday, Feb. 1.

Juniors Dylan Durkin and Silas Solum essentially tied for seventh place with combined pursuit times of 27:05. Freshman

Aksel Skustad was right behind in ninth place with a time of 27:32, while fellow freshman Oliver Hohenstein came in 14th in 28:14. Juniors Milo McClelland and Eli Olson finished 16th and 17th respectively in times of 28:30 and 29:05, while freshman Caleb

Larson came in 21st with a time of 29:48.

Those times gave Ely the second-place team finish, behind senior-dominated Duluth East.

On the girls side, Ely senior Ava Skustad finished in 15th place with a time of 32:49, while senior

Claire Blauch took 20th with a time of 33:22. As a team, the Ely girls finished in third place behind winners Duluth East and second place Proctor/Hermantown.

## BIANCO...Continued from page 1B

and Montana and recently qualified for the World Cup circuit based on her performance in a 1.5 km sprint competition in Utah.

She spent two weeks last month competing for the U.S. in World Cup events in Germany and most recently in Goms, Switzerland. She's now back home in Bozeman, Mont., where she moved last June, training for upcoming World Cup events. She's on an intensive 700-hour annual training regimen that begins in May and ends in March each year, leaving April as her only month off. When she's not training or traveling for her racing events, Bianco works as a recruiter for a Bozeman-based consulting firm.

While the World Cup events typically take place in Europe, the tour is coming to North America this year for the first time in several years. Bianco will be in Canmore, Alberta, this weekend for World Cup events planned there and she'll be back in Minnesota later in the month for the World Cup event set for Feb. 17 and 18 at Theodore Wirth Park in Minneapolis. Snow-making equipment should allow for the race to take place despite the record warm and largely snowless conditions this winter.

Bianco hopes to be back in the Midwest later this month to take part in the 50th annual Birkebeiner in Cable, Wis. While the

lack of snow has led to the cancellation of cross-country skiing events around the region this winter, the Birkebeiner is expected to be run regardless of snowfall thanks to the purchase of snowmaking equipment.

## Family ties

Bianco's success has taken her parents Joe and Mary in some unexpected directions. The couple was in Goms last month to cheer Erin on in the World Cup races held there and Joe said it was the first time that World Cup skiing had ever been on his radar. "It was an amazing experience," said Joe, who was stunned at the size and enthusiasm of the crowds. "It was a huge sporting event," he said, one that rivaled the crowd size and enthusiasm of a

major professional football or baseball game in the U.S.

And the setting, high in the Alps? "Goms was just beautiful," said Joe. "It was like cross country skiing heaven, with about 100 kilometers of perfectly groomed trails, with hundreds of people of all ages skiing all day."

Joe, who spoke to the *Timberjay* on Tuesday of this week, was on his way to Minneapolis to meet Mary for their flight to Canmore, where Erin is scheduled to take part in four races this weekend.

Erin said she's excited to be able to race at the World Cup level in the U.S. for the first time, which should allow more of her family to attend.

Of course, having grown up in a small town,

the sense of family can be a bit broader. Bianco said she regularly receives messages from Ely residents wishing her well. "It's nice getting all these messages from Ely," she said. "It's nice to know that's where it all started. I think being from a small town makes it all extra special."

Joe agreed, and said he was incredibly thankful for all the support that Nordic skiing receives from the Ely community and said Erin is well aware that her success is a collective effort of so many people who helped her along the way.

And the path ahead? With the winter Olympics set for February 2026 in Italy, Erin will definitely be in the hunt for a spot on the U.S. Olympic team. "I think that's something that

she now has a shot at," said Joe, although he tempers his expectations with the recognition that the U.S. womens ski team is currently flush with remarkable talent and is competing well against some of the European Nordic powerhouses. "Seeing my daughter even being a part of that mix is sort of surreal," said Joe. "I'm very proud of how hard she's worked."

He notes that Erin has continued to get faster every year and, now in her mid-20s, she could have several more years to achieve her peak performance. "She seems really focused right now and she wants to keep striving forward," Joe added. "We support her either way."

## GRIZZLIES..Continued from page 1B

## Greenway

The Grizzlies' press was dominant in the first half against the Raiders, at one point forcing turnovers on six consecutive Greenway possessions. The Raiders had an early 10-9 lead, but a Burnett deuce and a Will three-ball ignited a massive 39-6 run to put the Grizzlies in total control at 48-15. Greenway recovered its footing to pull

back to within 58-35 at the half. The scoring pace slacked off for both teams in the second half, but the Grizzlies wrapped up with a 17-6 blitz in the last 10 minutes of the game to win easily, 93-62.

North Woods had a huge edge in points off turnovers, 35-4, and took good care of the basketball, giving it up just 10 times. North Woods scored 62 of

its points in the paint while going six-of-21 from three-point range.

Burnett paced the Grizzlies with 31 points, followed by Will with 23 and Panichi with 22.

## Stretch run

Looking ahead, the Grizzlies are primed for a strong stretch run to finish the regular season with an increasingly tough defense

and a trio of top scorers with Burnett, the state's seventh highest scorer on the season, Panichi and Will. Ranked 25th in Class Aby the Minnesota-Scores.net QRF formula, used to seed sectional playoffs, the Grizzlies have an edge over each of the nine teams remaining on their schedule. If they run the table and the cards fall right they could lock down second

place in the Section 7A SS2 division, but they'll have to get through three final tough games to do it. They'll travel on Feb. 23 to Chisholm, always a tough environment to play in, followed by a game Feb. 26 in the hostile environment of Ely's historic gym, where the Wolves will be eager for the chance to avenge a January loss to the Grizzlies. They'll be back

home for their finale on March 1 against Deer River, currently the Grizzlies' highest-rated foe at 29th in the QRF. Averaging 84.9 points per game, North Woods is outscoring Deer River by 10 for the season while the Warriors have a two-point edge in defense.

## NW GIRLS..Continued from page 1B

Tatum Barto was whistled for a defensive foul. But a second official waved off the foul, ruling that Cherry had called a time out before it was called. Instead of going to the line with a chance to tie or take the lead, Cherry had to inbound the ball, and after a three-point attempt clanged off the rim Cherry knocked the rebound out of bounds. Koch took the inbound pass and was immediately fouled with only two seconds remaining, and she calmly sank both charities. A desperation three-quarter court heave by Cherry for the tie fell far short of the mark, giving the Grizzlies the narrow three-point win.

"I'm so proud of this team," Koch said after the game. "We just stayed in control the best we could and just worked hard. We had the drive and we really

wanted it."

Koch said there were some nerves in the first half, both in pursuing the milestone and in going against a tough Cherry defense. But the senior leader was as eager to talk about her teammates as she was about scoring 1,000 points.

"They're just so fun to play with," she said. "Most of us have a good attitude all the time, so it's fun to be a leader on this team and play with these girls. Our defensive work has gotten a lot better over the season, and our offense is moving all around. I can see the improvement and I think we're on the right track for the playoffs."

Grizzlies Assistant Coach Becca Bundy has watched Koch's career blossom since eighth grade and had high praise for her development.

"The girls can look to her to find her anywhere as the leader on the court, picking them up and encouraging them, recognizing who needs to be built up if they're having a bad game or a bad day. She's just an all-around good leader. This was an amazing milestone for her career, so everybody's excited."

Bundy, who filled in for Head Coach Liz Cheney on the bench Tuesday, wasn't left entirely on her own. "Coach Liz was texting back and forth and giving her input, so it was good," Bundy said.

Bundy backed away from an initial full court press after Cherry proved adept at breaking it, but later employed both a full and half-court press to take some time off the clock.

The Grizzlies picked up their fourth win in

five games, a good sign as the Grizzlies enter the final stretch of the regular season, Bundy said.

## Deer River/Hill City

The Grizzlies completed a marathon four games in five days last week with wins over Deer River, 68-66 on Thursday and over Hill City/Northland, 74-49 on Friday.

The Grizzlies got off to a fast start against Deer River, going up 20-12, and took a seven point 33-26 lead into halftime. But the Warriors made some adjustments during the break that propelled them to a 35-35 tie with about three minutes elapsed in the second stanza.

After the lead changed hands several times, North Woods went back on top until the Warriors tied it again at 49 with 7:33

remaining. The Grizzlies went on an 8-0 run, but Deer River knotted the score again and grabbed a 66-62 lead with 1:06 remaining.

Tatum Barto was fouled on a putback of a missed three-pointer and hit the free throw to get the Grizzlies within one at 66-65. With 34 seconds left, Deer River squandered four free throw opportunities in six seconds, opening the door for the Grizzlies. North Woods went down low to Cheney for the bucket and the lead with 19 seconds on the clock. Deer River missed on a drive into the lane, and in the scrum for the rebound Cheney tied up a Deer River player for a jump ball, and North Woods had the possession arrow pointing in their favor. Cheney was fouled on the inbounds play and made one of two free throws with

1.2 seconds left, to clinch the win. Cheney led the Grizzlies in scoring with 19 points, Barto hit for 16, and Koch had 14.

The Grizzlies never trailed in their road win against Hill City/Northland on Friday. North Woods had a comfortable 38-22 lead at the break, and cruised to a 74-49 win.

Ten Grizzlies scored in the contest, led by Cheney's 21 points. Chosa stepped up with 16, and Koch had 13.

North Woods' final home game of the season was scheduled for Thursday against winless Fond du Lac. The Grizzlies' road slate to finish out the regular season includes matchups against Mesabi East, Greenway, Ely, and Littlefork-Big Falls.

CELEBRATING WINTER

# Warm weather doesn't dampen spirits at this year's Winter Fest

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- It was billed as the Winter Festival this week in Ely, but Mother Nature had other ideas. The snow sculptures in Whiteside Park, a centerpiece of the eleven-day event, took a beating from the extraordinarily warm temperatures this week, but festival events continue undaunted through this Sunday, Feb. 11.

The Ely Film Festival is the biggest event on the schedule for the winter festival's second weekend, but it isn't the only thing happening. The Listening Point Foundation has tours for Friday and Saturday, Feb. 9 and 10. The Ely Folk School is offering classes on chip carving, snow sculpting, and diamond willow carving over the weekend. The Ely Senior Center is hosting the Northern Lakes Arts Association's "Down Town Arts Market" on Saturday, and wraps up the active festival events with a speed chess tournament on Sunday. Details on this weekend's events are available at [elywinterfestival.com](http://elywinterfestival.com).

The Ely ArtWalk will continue through the end of February, with the works of over 150 artists displayed in the windows of Ely's downtown businesses and organizations. ArtWalk maps are available at Northern Grounds and online at [elyartwalk.org/map](http://elyartwalk.org/map).

## Film Festival

Rolling into the second weekend of the festival, the Ely Film Festival no longer has all-access passes for sale, but tickets to individual shows are still available. According to film festival director Jacob White, half of the films and short film blocks are already sold out but movie-goers can place their

names on a waiting list for the shows they hope to see. Those on the wait lists will have the opportunity to take the seats of those who don't show up for sold-out shows.

Tickets for the film festival can be purchased online and also at Ely's Historic State Theater up to the time of each film or short film block. The complete schedule for the film festival is at [elyfilmfest.com](http://elyfilmfest.com).

## Snow Sculpture

No other event embodies the Ely Winter Festival better than the annual Snow Sculpting Symposium in Whiteside Park. The snow sculptors arrived in town on Wednesday, Jan. 31, and were treated to a private welcoming dinner, according to festival coordinator Shauna Vega. They began carving their 8x8 snow blocks on Thursday, Feb 1.

Like previous festivals, this year's symposium drew an international array of snow sculptors, including two new teams from Canada and another visit from Germany's award-winning Franziska Agrawal, a bronze medalist in the 2024 International Snowsculpture Championships. Agrawal's snow sculptures explore different fantastical geometric shapes. This year's sculpture for the festival was two orthorhombic prisms inside each other.

One of the new Canadian teams to visit the Ely Winter Festival was the Freeznart team of Daniel and Helen Friesenn from Winnipeg. Their "SnowBeast" sculpture was a twenty-foot long sea serpent-like creature which was perhaps the most eye-catching creation of this year's festival with its street-side frontage along Sheridan St.

On Saturday afternoon,



Ely podcaster and Boundary Waters Connect manager, Lacey Squier, was this year's Ely Winter Festival Grand Marshal, shown here with the torch to light the ceremonial fire to officially start the festival on Friday evening. Below: Ely area locals Chris Koivisto (right) and Oskar Koivisto (left) working on their "Lentava Suomalainen" ("Flying Finn") sculpture. photos by C. Clark

one of the magic moments of the weekend was the impromptu creation of a snow sculpture called the "Dragon Sapling." This sculpture was the work of Ely ninth-grader Starla Forsman, who decided to craft it around the tree next to the "SnowBeast." The head and front legs came out of the north-facing side of the tree trunk, and a tail came out the south end. After Forsman started her sculpture, the Friesenns lent her some of their snow sculpting tools and also offered her the extra eyeballs they made out of ice for the "SnowBeast." It was a uniquely Ely moment at the winter festival.



## ELY BASKETBALL

# Ely girls move up to 16-5 with win over Two Harbors

by MARSHALL  
HELMBERGER

TWO HARBORS—The Timberwolves rebounded from last Friday's loss to the Rangers, by cruising to an 74-42 win over Two Harbors in a makeup game played here on Tuesday. The win lifts the Wolves to 16-5 on the season.

It was a nice bounce-back win for us," said Wolves Head Coach Max Gantt.

The Wolves dominated the first half of play, taking a 30-point lead into the break. "From there, we took care of business," said Gantt. Senior Grace LaTourell had a big night, pouring in 25 points, including five treys. Senior Hannah Penke connected

three times from beyond the arc on her way to 17 points for the night. The Wolves dominated defensively as well, notching an impressive 20 steals in the contest.

Tuesday's win came on the heels of an 83-38 drubbing last Friday, care of Mt. Iron-Buhl. Turnovers plagued Ely and they struggled to contain the Rangers' Jordan Zubich, who racked up 30 points on the night. "We were down 18 at the half and hung around for a while in the second half but they just overpowered us," said Gantt. "If we hadn't turned it over as much we could have hung around in that game for

longer."

Despite the loss, Gantt said the game will help Ely in the upcoming playoffs. "We'll be playing good teams in big

games," he said.

The Wolves were set for another test on Thursday, after the *Timberjay's* weekly presstime, when they host Mesabi East.

"We lost a close game to them earlier in the year," noted Gantt. With the regular season wrapping up later this month, Gantt said he's feeling good

about the team's record and the road ahead.

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**EBCH**  
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Community Hospital

**Hospital Connection**  
Statewide Topics Affecting Healthcare

**Q: What will happen in the upcoming legislative session that affects healthcare?**  
**A:** Our current legislative session in Minnesota is set to convene on February 12, 2024. There was much talk in last year's session about the *Keeping Nurses at the Bedside Act*. This was a bill that would have imposed statewide staffing mandates for Hospitals. We anticipate these potential staffing mandates to be a topic again this year as the MN Nurses Association (MNA) is currently meeting with legislative leaders.

**Q: What won't we see during this session?**  
**A:** This session is not a budgeting session, so we most likely won't see much happening regarding bonding or funds distribution throughout the State. Although we know many healthcare entities, including Hospitals and Emergency Medical Services statewide, ended last year with negative margins, we most likely will not see much funding during this session.

**Q: Do hospitals need funding from the government?**  
**A:** According to a Press Release issued by the MN Hospital Association (MHA) on January 31, 2024, patient discharge delays cost Minnesota hospitals nearly half a billion dollars in 2023. A new comprehensive survey of patient care in Minnesota hospitals has found persistent, ongoing delays in discharges from emergency departments and inpatient care, resulting in tens of thousands of days of unnecessary hospital-level patient care and staggering financial losses. "Minnesota hospitals have gone from being a safety net, to being a catch-all for patient care," said MN Hospital Association CEO and president Dr. Rahul Koranne. "This is a function they were never intended for, can't afford, and isn't good for patients. This gridlock is preventing Minnesotans from getting care that their lives depend on. Policy makers must act." EBCH is not immune to these delays in getting patients to another level of care. It is currently challenging to find a facility for a patient who needs mental health or substance use disorder care, and they often wind up staying at EBCH for an extended time. If you would like a complete copy of the recent MHA Press Release, please contact [jmartin@ebch.org](mailto:jmartin@ebch.org).

Hospital Connection is a new feature from Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital (EBCH) this winter. We are excited to share our most recent updates and information in a question-and-answer format featuring a new topic each week. Throughout the next several weeks, we will share exciting information about EBCH, our newest services, and how we are a partner in the communities we serve. You can also find more information about EBCH by visiting our website at [www.ebch.org](http://www.ebch.org). Like our Facebook page to keep up with current events and announcements.

Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital is committed to caring for and enhancing the health and well being of the community it serves.

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# Outdoors

Our lives in the  
Northwoods

## PUBLIC HEALTH

# U of M group prepping for CWD spillover

Contingency plan will address possible cervid-to-human transmission

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

**REGIONAL-** Chronic wasting disease is a known fatal neurological disease of deer and other cervids such as elk, caribou, and moose—but are humans at risk of contracting the disease as well?

Scientists don't have a definitive answer to that question, but research with monkeys that have contracted it and emerging novel strains of the agent that causes it raise the

possibility that it could one day be transmitted to humans, with potentially devastating effects.

That's why the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) at the University of Minnesota is getting out ahead of the potential problem by spearheading a global initiative involving 67 experts from seven countries to develop contingency response plans in the event of a spillover of CWD to humans or non-cervid farm animals.

The work is funded by the

Minnesota Legislature, administered by the Department of Natural Resources and led by CIDRAP and CWD Project Director Michael Osterholm and co-directors Jamie Umber and Cory Anderson.

The legislative effort was led by Rep. Rick Hansen, DFL-South St. Paul, who will be a member of one of the project's work groups.

"I think the beauty of the CIDRAP proposal is you've got groups working on a variety of things, whether it's human

**Right: Could deer eventually pass chronic wasting disease onto humans? It's a question now being explored.**

file photo

health, management, research, what's happening with other species, so you've got wildlife health, public health and management," Hansen said. "We have a lot more to learn."

The *Timberjay* spoke with project co-director Anderson

See CWD...pg. 5B



## OUT THERE

# Big sky country

A million acres of Lilliputian forest stretches across Minnesota's peatlands

Of all the landscapes found in Minnesota, the roughly one million acres of stunted spruce forest found across the state's vast peatlands would probably be seen by most people as the most desolate and forlorn. You can count me as among that small group of humans that finds them strangely compelling.

While black spruce grow in uplands, here in northern Minnesota, it dominates our peatland landscapes. In older parts of peatlands, where the accumulated peat has built up enough to stay relatively dry, black spruce as well as tamarack can grow to full size in surprisingly dense stands. But in those places where the bog mat is thin and the roots of the spruces remain mired in the acidic waters, their growth is slowed dramatically, so slowly in fact that a six-foot tall tree may be 150 years old.

It's like life at the tree line, only in this case it's the cold acidic waters and lack of nutrients, rather than the brutal cold of the tundra's edge, that limits and distorts their growth. The trees created by these conditions often take on unusual forms, as the living branches of older trees

are typically found atop long and twisted trunks, like an image from Dr. Suess.

These vast stretches of open peatlands can offer the feel of the open plains as well. They're open and flat and offer up that big sky that only vast stretches of open country can provide. While encased in snow and ice in winter, these areas fill with sedges in summer that sway in the breeze like a bluestem prairie. They even attract open country species like savannah sparrows, sharp-tailed grouse, or sandhill cranes.

Out in the open peatlands, the black spruce grow in isolated clumps, like Lilliputian forests set atop small clumps of sphagnum moss. These miniature forests are typically an illusion. In fact, they are most commonly the creation of a single tree. Black spruce has the ability to grow through what's known as layering, which occurs as these slow growing spruces are gradually engulfed by sphagnum moss, which can grow more quickly in these environments. As the moss reaches and gradually engulfs the lower branches of the tree, new stems form from the branches and, over time, appear



MARSHALL  
HELMBERGER



**Top: A view across an area of open stunted spruce in the Lost Lake Swamp.**

**Above: A miniature stand of black spruce, likely created through layering.**

**Right: A close-up of a spruce top shows the tiny amount of annual growth.**



## CHANGING CLIMATE

# Early February brings more extreme warmth

**REGIONAL—** The astonishing warmth of the winter of 2023-24 continued this week as reporting stations across the region reported running anywhere from 20-25 degrees above average for the first week of February.

A reporting station located at the end of the Fernberg, 25 miles east of Ely, set an average temperature for the first week of the month at an astonishing 30.9 degrees F, a whopping 26 degrees above normal. That included a high temperature reading for the period of a jaw-dropping 55 degrees during a week that is typically the coldest of winter here in the North Country.

But not this winter. At a time when the average temperature for the week normally hovers a few degrees above or below zero, Tower averaged 29.3 degrees above, or 25.1 degrees above average. The official reporting station three miles east of Orr averaged 30.1 degrees, or 25.9 degrees above average, and most other stations in the northeast reported similar departures from the norm.

While the entire state was mild, Crookston in far northwestern Minnesota set the mark for the greatest departure from normal, with an average temperature of 35.4 degrees for the first week of the month, an astonishing 29 degree departure from average for the week.

## Fishing reports

### Ely area

Lake trout fishing was slow but steady for many anglers. Some real quality lakers were caught this last week on red/white and chartreuse colored tubes. Early and late in the day seemed to be when those big trout were active. Small suckers on the bottom, under a tip up, were very effective on those lakers that were inactive and wouldn't leave the bottom.

Warm temps also had rainbows and splake active in area lakes. Rainbows were hitting wax worms and salmon eggs, tipped on a small tungsten jig and dead stick. Key depth for rainbows was 5-10 feet under the ice in 20-30 feet of water. Splake on the other hand we're liking an active bait. Small ripping raps, small 3" tubes and waxies on a spoon were all effective in 10-15 feet of water.

Walleye fishing was on the tough side this last week. Deadsticking or rattle reels accounted for the majority of walleyes caught this last week. Evening and overnight hours have remained the best time. Small handful of walleyes were caught mixed in with crappies too. Mud flats have been the best areas to target in 20-25 feet of water.

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

See STUNTED...pg. 5B



WILDERNESS RECREATION

# BWAC prepares for upcoming trail maintenance season



Training attendees have a welcome visit from Mike Running of the U.S. Forest Service during their recent training held at Camp Widjiwagan. submitted photo

ELY — More than fifteen Boundary Waters enthusiasts recently attended a “Crew Leader Training” retreat at Camp Widjiwagan on Burntside Lake to highlight safety and best leadership practices for working with volunteers on trail maintenance projects in the BWCAW. The Boundary Waters Advisory Committee, or BWAC, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that advocates for hiking trails in the wilderness, sponsored the training event.

The training brought together trail enthusiasts with a combined total of over 113 years of experience guiding trail-clearing trips in the Boundary Waters. They came with a variety of backgrounds and leadership skills. Attendees were happy to get outside for a little recreation in the snow during breaks from training. The train-

ing included a visit from U.S. Forest Service trails lead and coordinator Mike Running.

Trails maintained by BWAC, such as the Powwow, Eagle Mountain, Brule Lake, and Sioux Hustler hiking and backpacking trails, together comprise over 70 of the approximately 200 miles of maintained hiking trails in the BWCAW. More information is available at: Boundary Waters Advisory Committee: <https://www.boundarywaterstrails.org/>

BWAC is holding a Spring Trails Kickoff on March 23, in partnership with the Border Route Trail Association and the Kekekabic Trail Chapter of the North Country Trail Association. Contact Mel Yackley, BWAC vice president at 763-807-7955 for more information about this event.

## LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
34 19					25 15					25 14					28 17					27 12				
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.
01/29	36	16	0.00		01/29	39	26	0.00		01/29	42	27	0.00		01/29	39	27	0.00		01/29	40	22	0.00	
01/30	32	28	0.02	0.2"	01/30	36	29	0.00		01/30	38	30	0.02		01/30	34	28	0.00		01/30	35	29	0.00	
01/31	33	26	0.00		01/31	36	29	0.00		01/31	34	29	0.00		01/31	52	28	0.00		01/31	33	21	0.00	
02/01	45	19	0.00		02/01	49	25	0.00		02/01	47	28	0.00		02/01	36	27	0.00		02/01	50	23	0.00	
02/02	37	15	0.00		02/02	37	22	0.00		02/02	35	22	0.00		02/02	36	25	0.00		02/02	36	21	0.02	
02/03	40	6	0.00		02/03	33	12	0.00		02/03	35	17	0.00		02/03	36	18	0.00		02/03	39	8	0.00	
02/04	43	2	0.00		02/04	43	11	0.00		02/04	34	15	0.00		02/04	30	27	0.00		02/04	36	8	0.00	
YTD Total			0.56	23.3"	YTD Total			0.85"	17.3"	YTD Total			1.06	33.2"	YTD Total			NA		YTD Total			0.82	23.2"

## CWD...Continued from page 4B

last week for more information.

“In 2019, CIDRAP launched our online CWD program to provide a kind of one-stop shop for CWD information,” Anderson said. “This project that was more recently funded builds off of that and focuses in a bit more on a collective effort putting together these contingency plans.”

“Scenario-based planning is really what we’re doing,” Anderson continued. “We’re bringing together these folks to talk about the current situation where CWD continues to spread and we have the potential for novel strains emerging and don’t necessarily know what that means as far as risk for potential interspecies transmission. What would be their concerns or what would we need to do if we did see a suspect or confirmed case in a non-cervid production animal like a cow or swine and then similarly with humans and so on?”

Having just gone through the COVID pandemic, in which much of the response was created as the disease was unfolding, Anderson sees planning for possible CWD spillover now to be essential.

“I think there’s a lot of merit and a lot of value in having a plan, having these conversations, as opposed to waking up and having a situation and we’re trying to come up with these plans on the fly,” he said.

### An odd deadly agent

CWD presents a novel problem in no small part because of what causes it, prions.

A prion is an infectious agent composed entirely of misfolded protein. Prions do not contain DNA or RNA which are the usual genetic material found in living organisms and viruses, and therefore don’t replicate in the same way. When a prion comes into contact with a normal protein, it causes that protein to change form to become another prion. As prions build up they form fibrils and plaques which disrupt normal cell processes, ultimately causing cell death.

Prions are known to cause

a variety of neurodegenerative diseases in mammals, including Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE, commonly known as “mad cow disease”) in cattle. Prion diseases are fatal and currently there are no known effective treatments for them.

And mad cow disease provides a precedent for animal-to-human transmission of a prion-based disease. Different from its similarly named companion, variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease cases in humans are believed to have been contracted from the consumption of cattle products contaminated with the BSE agent, according to a U.S. Centers for Disease Control fact sheet. It is believed that it takes years for vCJD to develop after exposure, and it is always fatal.

There hasn’t been any documented case of CWD spilling over to humans, and Anderson stressed that it’s not inevitable that it will.

“We don’t want to imply that a spillover event is going to happen,” he said. “Given the situation on the ground where we see more exposure happening and thinking through what we don’t know about strains, it warrants more attention and preparedness. It’s not like we’re saying it’s going to happen, it’s just something we’re considering and preparing for.”

One concern Anderson noted is that CWD prions do have different strains, somewhat similar to the variants of the COVID virus.

“These different strains can actually pose different risks as far as interspecies transmission,” he said. “We know that prion strains can evolve and change over time. Are they comparable to what we’re seeing now and what’s the risk associated with that? That’s a lingering question that no one really knows the answer to. We have enough data to show that some of these strains might pose a higher risk than others, we just don’t have a great way of characterizing what that risk actually looks like.”

### Project components

From the public’s perspective, CWD has been viewed as largely an issue for wildlife management experts. CIDRAP’s collaborative project will bring far more disciplines together to develop contingency plans for its potential transmission to humans.

Representatives from 18 universities, four U.S. federal agencies, seven state agencies, and four tribal communities, including members from the U.S., Canada, France, Germany, Norway, Spain, and the U.K. will be brought together in five distinct working groups, each addressing a different aspect of the situation. Those groups include:

- ▶ Human medicine and public health surveillance, epidemiology, laboratory capacity, planning and response.
- ▶ Cervid and production animal surveillance, laboratory capacity, planning and response.
- ▶ Prion disease diagnosis.
- ▶ Carcass and contaminated item disposal.
- ▶ Wildlife health and conservation.

The project will draw on CIDRAP’s past experience in developing roadmaps to deal with diseases like influenza, coronaviruses, and zika, Anderson said.

“This isn’t exactly a direct comparison,” he said. “But it’s the same sort of precedent. Thanks in large part to the funding provided by the legislature, we felt we had the template for bringing together folks who are leading the charge in their respective areas. You have extremely intelligent bench scientists, some of the leading prion researchers, then of course you have wildlife agencies working on it, a lot of different regulatory agencies. There’s not necessarily a disconnect, but a lot of these conversations haven’t happened or been thought out in this way.”

And a driving mantra for the effort to create contingency plans, Anderson said, is a favorite phrase of Osterholm’s in his public health work.

## STUNTED...Continued from page 4B

as separate trees in a tight clump. These new “trees” are as slow growing as the parent tree, which often grow no more than half an inch a year. Which means what appears to be a mere seedling, barely above knee height can in fact be nearly half a century old. These

are places rarely visited by humans, where the time that controls our hyper-active lives passes more slowly and where the sounds of our “civilization” tend to disappear in the breeze. Compelling to say the least.

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**FEATURING**

Walton: Crown Imperial (Coronation March)  
Mussorgsky: A Night on Bald Mountain  
Beethoven: Egmont Overture, Op. 84  
Tchaikovsky: Capriccio italien, Op. 45

**17 FEB** 7:00PM

Hibbing High School Auditorium  
Hibbing, MN

[www.mesabisymphonyorchestra.org](http://www.mesabisymphonyorchestra.org)

Operating support is made possible in part by the voters of Minnesota through grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board and the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

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Steve Fields  
Minnesota Attorney

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## EMPLOYMENT

### OPENINGS



**Vermilion Country School (VCS) is seeking applicants for the following positions:**

Vermilion Country is a project based learning school seeking to expand our staffing. We are adding new positions! Currently open for interview on a rolling basis - call 218-248-2485 or email [info@vermilioncountry.org](mailto:info@vermilioncountry.org) for more information:

**Licensed Teaching positions grades 7-12(B.A. or teaching license required):**  
 > Literature/Language Arts &/or Social Studies (Licensed) 40K-54K DOE  
 > Science &/or Math Teacher (Licensed) 40K-54K DOE

**Student Support and Community positions (no education license required) Benefits Eligible**  
 > Special Education Assistant /para(Special Education ) (Hourly \$17.50 - 24.50/HR +)  
 > Student Success Counselor (salary) (\$40K annual salary)  
 > Student Success Program Specialist (hourly \$24-30/hr+ DOE)

**Part Time:**  
 > American Indian Programs Liaison & Community Organizer (Hourly \$24-30/hr+ DOE) Part time 4-8 hours per week  
 > Transportation Driver (Van) 5-20 hours per week. Hourly rate DOE  
 > Transportation Driver (Class C School Bus) 5-20 hours per week. Hourly rate DOE

**For inquiries, contact [info@vermilioncountry.org](mailto:info@vermilioncountry.org) and/or 218-248-2485**



### Hiring - Lodge Administrator

**Veterans on the Lake Resort** is unlike the average resort, providing the finest vacations for disabled Veterans, disabled public, their families, and friends.

We are seeking a highly motivated, ambitious and flexible person for our team. The Lodge Administrator has overall responsibility for supervising Guest Services for the resort and for the quality and satisfaction of every guest's stay. This is a full-time salaried position within the resort. Pay will be based on qualifications and experience.

#### Qualifications Required

- Some college experience and/or experience in Lodging and Hospitality AA or above.
- 2+ years of direct customer service in hospitality industry, 1+ year of employee supervision.
- Professional demeanor, proven leadership ability.
- Proficient in Microsoft based Software: Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Email.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.

Please stop by or contact Veterans on the Lake Resort for a full job description and an application.

Email: [veteransonthelakeresort@gmail.com](mailto:veteransonthelakeresort@gmail.com)  
 Phone: 218-365-6900

## STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION

Estate of Peter Raymond Elj, Decedent

Court File No. 69VI-PR-24-7 NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR SUMMARY ASSIGNMENT OR DISTRIBUTION. NOTICE TO CREDITORS—NON-EXEMPT ESTATE.

Notice is given that a petition has been filed requesting that the Estate assets be summarily assigned. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the

Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper, and if no objections or claims are filed or raised, the Court may issue a decree distributing or assigning the Estate's assets. It is Ordered and Notice is now given that the Petition will be heard on March 4, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. by this Court at 300 S. 5th Ave., Virginia, MN 55792, Minnesota. \* This hearing will be held remotely via Zoom Technology.

Notice is further given that (subject to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

Dated: January 16, 2024 BY THE COURT

Robert Friday Judge of District Court Sara McDonld, Interim Court Administrator Chelsea Opdahl, Deputy

Attorney for Petitioner Angela E. Sipila Sipila Law Office, LLC 412 1st St. S. Virginia, MN, 55792 Attorney License No: 024501x Telephone: (218) 740-5000 FAX: (218) 741-5000 Email: [ange@sipilaw.com](mailto:ange@sipilaw.com)

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 9 & 16, 2024

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Notice of Public Hearing South Shore Sanitary Sewer District Members:

Notice is hereby given that the Kabetogama Township Board will meet at the Kabetogama Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. on February 22, 2024, to consider the findings of the Facility Plan for the Kabetogama Collection and Treatment System. Such persons as desire to be heard with reference to the proposed improvements will be heard at this meeting.

The meeting will also be conducted virtually via Microsoft Teams: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-teams/join-a-meeting?rtc=1> Meeting ID: 229 386 345 415 Passcode: 4McsGy

Or call in (audio only) +1 872-242-7640,,290520304# United States, Chicago Phone Conference ID: 290 520 304#

Or, you can email SEH Project Manager, Colin Marcusen, at: [cmarcusen@sehinc.com](mailto:cmarcusen@sehinc.com), to be added to the meeting invitation.

Larry Kec, Township Chair

Published in the Timberjay on Feb. 9 & 16, 2024

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- Pt. of a sentence
- Skirt edge
- Some GIs
- Nest setting
- Commotion
- Inter -
- Admin. aide
- Prepared
- Fake fireplace fixture
- Baker Street sleuth
- Competent
- Roman 151
- Started
- Editor Wintour
- Prior night
- Wrap up by
- Martini ingredient
- Painter Chagall
- Coexisted
- Chinese chairman
- "Not so fast!"
- Pub game fodder
- Honor
- Matured
- Jazzy James
- Robert of "The Sopranos"
- Census stat
- Winter fall
- Suffix with song or gab

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12					13			14			
15					16		17				
18				19		20					
			21		22		23				
24	25	26				27		28	29	30	
31				32			33		34		
35			36		37			38			
			39		40		41				
42	43			44		45			46	47	48
49					50			51			
52					53				54		
55					56				57		

- Chic, to Austin Powers
- Funny - (2003 Derby winner)
- Frolic
- Most recent Tin Man's need
- Utters
- Sinbad's bird
- Pre-weekend yell
- Men-only woodwind
- Actor's quest
- Major
- Fund
- Driver of "Logan Lucky"
- Porgy's love
- Jewel
- "Logan Lucky"
- Air travel
- Eggs
- Little home wreckers?
- Thames town
- Negotiating a price
- Amassed
- Director Lee
- Tokyo, once
- Diarist Anais
- Conceit
- Closet invader
- "Life of Pi"
- Spanish dish
- New Mexico resort
- Pink wading bird
- Gulleys

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**Read us online at [timberjay.com](http://timberjay.com) 218-753-2950**

## CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

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

C YHSOZ SQCZM SQUS SQO  
 ZCBQS CV AYGO UKCWO UZN  
 AYGO GCPQKL PYKYGON SQUZ  
 SQO NUL.  
 - WCZPOZS WUZ BYBQ

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## CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: Y equals O

HIQ MYYU WMYSV VNLUT WHX  
 ZFIWT QCY LYSFXH'V ZNHX  
 BKYBIK CYTVT:  
 "BWKWTNVIT FYTV."

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## Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

- |                      |         |                      |         |
|----------------------|---------|----------------------|---------|
| 1. Hiker's pathway   | _____ L | Casey Jones' vehicle | _____ N |
| 2. Lure              | _____ C | Every bit            | _____ R |
| 3. Bat one's eyes    | _____ R | Firestarter          | _____ N |
| 4. Icon Parton       | _____ O | Dawdle               | _____ A |
| 5. Self-service meal | _____ T | Shock absorber       | _____ R |
| 6. Clergy            | _____ A | Individual human     | _____ E |
| 7. Dog lead          | _____ H | Rental contract      | _____ E |
| 8. "Ghost" actress   | _____ R | Bullwinkle, e.g.     | _____ S |
| 9. Football blunder  | F _____ | Speak unclearly      | M _____ |
| 10. Lead crystal     | _____ L | Lawn mower's target  | _____ R |

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## Super Crossword

### Answers

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

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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.

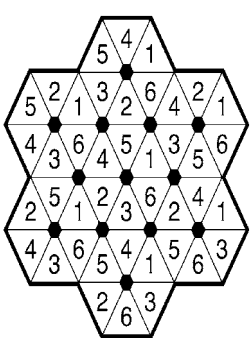
**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦**

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
 ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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## SNOWFLAKES

solution



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

**PET CREMATION**

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

**SUPPORT GROUPS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

AA MEN'S PRIMARY PURPOSE meeting, Tuesdays at 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 226 E Harvey St., Ely, 218-235-38191

**WANTED**

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**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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**FUNERAL SERVICES**

**Range Funeral Home**

Virginia 741-1481  
 Hibbing 263-3276  
 "Friends Helping Friends"

**Weekly SUDOKU**

**Answer**

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

**Super Crossword**

**ACROSS**

1 Auxiliary professor  
 8 Nickname for baseball great Ruth  
 15 Cultural value system  
 20 High-fashion clothing  
 21 Knows someone at the company, say  
 22 Reluctant (to)  
 23 "Wait, my rant isn't finished ..."  
 25 Private, as desires  
 26 Agnus — (lamb figure)  
 27 "Cool beans!"  
 28 Down dinner  
 30 Look lewdly  
 31 2018 war documentary directed by Peter Jackson  
 38 Composer — Sebastian Bach  
 40 Hamilton/Burr confrontation  
 41 Era upon era  
 42 Turndowns  
 43 Stati — (America, in Italian)  
 44 Stage design  
 47 La — Tar Pits

49 Gp. opposed to leather  
 51 Made a habit of taking risks  
 54 Actress Cuthbert  
 57 French for "summers"  
 58 Bible book after Micah  
 59 Dwell at  
 61 —Ops (CIA mind games)  
 62 Coffee holder  
 63 In love  
 67 Big name in candy wafers  
 68 2011-13 Fran Drescher sitcom  
 71 Give it — (try)  
 74 Paris' Champs- —  
 75 Certain scanning device: Abbr.  
 76 St. crossers  
 79 First book section  
 81 Former U.N. chief Boutros Boutros- —  
 83 Stool or pew  
 84 Milk container  
 85 Just a tiny bit  
 90 Op-ed writer  
 91 Art of Erté  
 92 Once existed  
 93 Eldritch  
 94 Links gp.

96 Canon camera brand  
 98 — part (role-play)  
 100 1996-2002 sports sitcom  
 101 Song phrase following "See you later, alligator"  
 107 Amazes  
 108 Daddy's boy  
 109 Prague citizen  
 110 Victor's hand gesture  
 113 Prefix with type or plasm  
 115 What's spelled out by the starts of six answers in this puzzle  
 121 Lot units  
 122 Countering an attack by missile, e.g.  
 123 Pundit  
 124 Hockey feints  
 125 Fill with more inventory  
 126 Like soon-to-be-unveiled tech

**DOWN**

3 She won a Tony for "Hurlyburly"  
 4 Stage actress Hagen  
 5 Pious sister of "Cocoon"  
 6 Actor Hume  
 7 Heads, to Henriette  
 8 Iota preceder  
 9 Novelist Robbins  
 10 N.Y. hours  
 11 Cranky cry  
 12 Singer DiFranco  
 13 Stanford- — test  
 14 Occupy  
 15 — Lilly & Co.  
 16 Until this time  
 17 "Just one moment"  
 18 Verdi opera  
 19 Tears to bits  
 24 "Told ya so!"  
 29 Recurring themes  
 32 Detests  
 33 Author Blyton  
 34 Oil, informally  
 35 Dweeb's kin  
 36 Cassini of 20-Across  
 37 Quick quip  
 38 Minty Kentucky Derby drink  
 39 — last legs (about to collapse)

44 Biting turtle  
 45 Ordinal suffix  
 46 Like so, informally  
 48 Correo — (Spanish airmail)  
 50 — over (satisfied for the moment)  
 52 "Movin' —" (sitcom theme song)  
 53 Tube prizes  
 55 Brand of fruit drinks  
 56 Year, in Brazil  
 60 Signs up  
 62 Multilevel structure for Fluffy  
 64 Suffix with chlor- or fluor-  
 65 Model Cheryl  
 66 "ER" or "CSI"  
 68 Get a move on  
 69 Lead-in to "So sue me!"  
 70 Caesar's 202  
 71 N.C. State's NCAA div.  
 72 "— Na Na"  
 73 Toiling away  
 76 Fetching  
 77 Certain surrealist paintings  
 78 Eye maladies

80 Funds  
 82 Sly — fox  
 83 Tortoise's top  
 86 Calf product  
 87 Caesar's "Behold!"  
 88 Campus mil. program  
 89 Singer Halliwell  
 94 Underside of a dog's foot  
 95 Liftoff stress  
 97 Hebrew horn  
 99 With 106-Down, North Pole surrounder  
 100 Cling (to)  
 102 Perfumer Lauder  
 103 Absurd  
 104 Missouri's — Mountains  
 105 Toon pic  
 106 See 99-Down  
 111 Kin of -ette  
 112 Novelist Jennifer  
 114 Pre-CIA gp.  
 116 "— a girl!"  
 117 Fabric dye brand  
 118 Retired NBAer Ming  
 119 Vote down  
 120 "True —" ("Indeedy")

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20							21							22					
23						24								25					
26				27						28		29		30					
		31	32	33				34	35	36				37					
38	39							40				41				42			
43					44	45	46		47		48		49		50				
51					52				53				54				55	56	
57					58							59	60						
61					62			63	64	65	66			67					
					68			69						70					
71	72	73				74						75				76	77	78	
79					80						81		82			83			
84							85	86	87	88					89				
		90					91					92			93				
94	95			96		97		98				99			100				
101			102					103				104	105	106					
107						108						109					110	111	112
113					114		115	116	117	118					119	120			
121									122						123				
124								125							126				

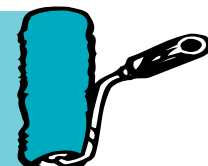
**King Crossword**  
 Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.

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



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1. Trail, Train
2. Enice, Entire
3. Flirt, Flint
4. Dolly, Dally
5. Buffet, Buffer
6. Parson, Person
7. Leash, Lease
8. Moore, Moose
9. Fumble, Mumble
10. Glass, Grass