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The TIMBERJAY



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989 VOL. 35, ISSUE 13 April 5, 2024 \$1.50

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Ambulance study delay adds fuel to suspicions

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

REGIONAL - Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital (EBCH) CEO Patti Banks accepted some of the responsibility this week for the delay in the completion of the long-promised regional ambulance study commissioned by the hospital from a prominent health care consultant.

"It's part due to my schedule, (the consultants) schedule, and the Legislature," Banks said in a phone interview on March 30.

Banks has since promised local officials associated with the ambulance joint powers board that the study will be completed by the end of April.

Banks, who serves on the board of directors of the Minnesota Hospital Association,

has been in St. Paul frequently since the beginning of the legislative session lobbying on behalf of hospitals. She will return to St. Paul in that role for two more weeks yet this month.

In addition to her own time crunch, Banks said EBCH's consultants have also played a role in the delay due to their own busy schedules. "SafeTech works with clients nationally. Most of

their staff consults and works in emergency medical services," she said.

Banks also mentioned that the schedules for both her and the consultants have been mutually incompatible at times. "Coordinating our schedules has been the biggest challenge," Banks said. The schedule mismatch causes problems with the EBCH's review of the study. "The

hospital will get the preliminary results. It must then be reviewed to desensitize data and results to meet the (federal privacy) regulations."

The study

After multiple requests to continue contributing funds to the Ely Area Ambulance Service (EAAS), the EBCH board of

See...STUDY pg. 9

LITIGATION

Federal suit filed over deer farm regulations

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Has Minnesota gone too far in imposing regulations on cervid farms intended to prevent the spread of chronic wasting disease?

A lawsuit filed with the Minnesota federal district court in December says yes, contending that regulatory amendments passed by the Legislature in 2023 imposing strict restrictions on the registration and operation of white-tailed deer farms severely infringe upon the plaintiffs' constitutional rights and livelihoods.

Chronic wasting disease

The situation at the heart of the dispute is the state's ongoing effort to control chronic wasting disease (CWD) in both the farmed and wild cervid population, including deer, moose, elk, reindeer, and sika deer. CWD, a disease caused by prions, misfolded bits of proteins, is incurable

See...LAWSUIT pg. 10

TRAGEDY

Gordy Adams Jr. a victim of house fire

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

NETT LAKE- A house fire here on Sunday, March 24 claimed the life of the home's resident, 66-year-old Gordon Adams Jr., marking a significant loss for the Nett Lake community.

Adams was well-known throughout Indian Country, having served in a variety of tribal positions over the years, including executive director for the Bois Forte Tribal Council. He later served two terms on



Gordy Adams Jr.

See...FIRE pg. 10

'TIS THE SEASON

Road construction ahead

Mesabi Range highways to face the most work and delays this summer

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Spring is coming and that means road construction can't be far behind. This week, the Minnesota Department of Transportation announced its line-up of nearly 200 road construction projects it has planned for the upcoming construction season.

Unlike in some recent

Motorists can expect some delays this summer from highway projects planned to major corridors, like Hwy. 169, shown above.

years, the project list in northern St. Louis and Lake counties is limited, but some projects are likely to significantly impact area motorists, particularly those who regularly travel to Mesabi Iron Range cities.

A six-mile-long resurfacing of Hwy. 53 in the

Virginia area is likely to have the most significant impact. The \$5.5 million project will include resurfacing and culvert replacement on both sides of the divided highway, starting at S 2nd Ave. on Virginia's south end, to 0.1 mile north of the Forest Service wayside rest north of Virginia. Four ramps along the stretch, located at the intersection with Hwy. 169, will also be resurfaced. Work on the project is expected to get

underway in July and continue into September. Drivers can expect lane and ramp closures once work gets underway.

A \$14.87 million resurfacing of nearly 16 miles of Hwy. 169 between Mt. Iron and Chisholm is the most expensive project planned in northeastern Minnesota outside Duluth. The project is expected to get underway

See...ROADS pg. 9

LOOK TO THE SKIES

Partial solar eclipse to be visible in area April 8

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

REGIONAL- The North Country will experience a partial solar eclipse this coming Monday, as the

Left: You'll want to use special eclipse glasses to see Monday's partial eclipse in Minnesota.

sun will be partially blocked by the moon as it passes between the sun and Earth.

The partial solar eclipse will occur between 1-3 p.m. on Monday and may be visible with proper glasses if the sky is clear. It will coincide with the total solar eclipse that will be visible along a narrow band of the

mainland U.S., extending from Texas to Maine. The next total solar eclipse to be visible in the U.S. is set for August 2044.

Here in northeastern Minnesota, the eclipse will block about 65-70 percent of the sun's rays and is

See...ECLIPSE pg. 10



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Community notices

Cook's annual Timber Days, June 7-9

COOK - The Cook Timber Days, Inc. committee is pleased to announce that planning for Cook's Annual Timber Days festival is underway. Dozens of food and craft vendors will once again be in Cook all weekend. Favorite shows and events enjoyed during Timber Days 2023 will be on the schedule, and new entertainment is being added. The spectacular fireworks show will be on Saturday night, and Timber Days will culminate with a huge parade on Sunday. Flyers with the events schedule will be published and distributed in the coming weeks. Photos and details will also be posted on social media. Mark your calendars to attend the festival the weekend of June 7-9.

Timber Hall to host Spring Fling pancake breakfast April 6

EMBARRASS - The Embarrass Region Fair Association invites everyone to the Timber Hall located at 4855 Highway 21 on Saturday, April 6 for the Spring Fling pancake breakfast. The breakfast runs from 8 - 11 a.m. and includes all-you-can-eat pancakes, choice of ham or sausage links, fruit cup, juice, and a bottomless cup of coffee. The cost for breakfast is \$7 for adults, \$4 for children (6-10 years of age), and children under 5 years eat free.

Ladies of Kaleva Soinnuttaren Tupa 32 and the Knights to meet April 11

VIRGINIA - The Ladies of Kaleva Soinnuttaren Tupa 32 and the Knights will meet at Kaleva Hall Thursday, April 11 at 6 p.m. The meeting will include installation of officers. Coffee an' will be served. New members are welcome.

Strides for Stroke Walk 2024 now open for registration

REGIONAL - The 2024 Strides for Stroke Walk is now open for registration. The walk will be on Saturday, May 18 at 10 a.m. at locations in Duluth, St. Cloud, and the Twin Cities. For more information on the walk and to create your team please visit the Minnesota Stroke Association website. Participant and team captain Carl Antus (Alango Township) named his team "Carl's Walking Warriors." Carl is walking to educate, to raise awareness, and to remember those who have passed on due to complications of strokes. Carl's team member Carly Antus Wilk is walking in honor of her Dad in recognition of his epic journey of life after stroke. Carl and Carly would love to hear why you walk and/or donate to support the Minnesota Brain Injury Alliance/Minnesota Stroke Association.

"We are hoping this year's event will have more participation. Duluth's Walk is being held in the Miller Hill Mall, gathering at the Essentia Polinsky entrance. The event is accessible to all abilities," Antus said.

Minnesota North College, Vermilion to host 2024 Sigurd Olson lecture series

ELY - On Tuesday, April 9, Minnesota North college will present the 2024 Sigurd Olson lecture series: "Wild California and the Antiquities Act." The program will be at 5:30 p.m. in the theater.

California is the most biologically diverse and most populous state in the U.S., and home to 100 federally recognized tribes, and has 25 million acres of land protected from development and extraction.

Speakers Nobby Riedy (WildSpaces) and Matt Keller (Resources Legacy fund) will explore the Antiquities Act as a land preservation tool. National Monuments have a nearly one-hundred-year history in California and have been essential in the establishment of the statewide network of protected landscapes.

Annual White Elephant sale scheduled for April 27 at Our Savior's Lutheran

HIBBING - Our Savior's Lutheran Church will host their annual White Elephant sale on Saturday, April 27 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Hibbing Memorial Building Arena. The hockey floor, bleachers and hallways will be filled with gently used items from toys and clothes to dishes, furniture, tools, holiday decorations and much more. Sloppy Joes and dessert lunch will be available to purchase. Gently used items can still be dropped off Tuesday-Friday the week of the sale. For more information contact the church office at 218-263-7422 or osclhibb@mchsi.com

LIVE DANCE

Mesabi Community Band to feature live Argentine Tango performance by Miriam Lea on April 18

EVELETH - The Mesabi Community Band, known for its captivating performances blending various musical styles, is set to enchant audiences once again with its spring concert. This year's program will showcase diverse composers, such as Mozart, Dvorak, Herb Alpert, and Astor Piazzolla, and promises an evening of diverse musical delights.

The highlight of the concert will be a live Argentine tango performance by professional dancer, choreographer, and instructor Miriam Lea, who has been engaged as a guest performer. This captivating performance will take place on April 18 from 7 - 8 p.m. at the Eveleth Auditorium, located at 421 Jackson St. Renowned for her mastery of Argentine tango, Miriam will grace the stage with mesmerizing performances set to the iconic tunes of "La Cumparsita" and "Libertango."

In addition to the concert, Miriam Lea will be hosting her "Begin Tango Bootcamp" on the Iron Range, offering an intensive six-hour training session in Argentine tango dance. No partner is required to participate, making it the perfect opportunity for individuals to challenge themselves, make new friends, and have fun on the dance floor.

The bootcamp sessions are



scheduled for April 19 from 6 - 9 p.m. and April 20 from 3 - 6 p.m., followed by an Argentine food experience at 6:30 p.m. The bootcamp and meal will be held at the Chisholm High School auditorium located at 301 4th St. Chisholm. These sessions are sure to provide attendees with valuable skills and unforgettable experiences.

Don't miss this extraordinary opportunity to experience the artistry of Miriam Lea and the Mesabi Community Band as they take you

on a musical and dance journey around the world. For more information about the concert and bootcamp, contact Miriam Lea Dance at 1-847-340-6854 or miriam.ziven@gmail.com.

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund, as authorized by Minnesota Statutes, section 129D.15.

BUSINESS GRANTS

Promise Act program providing grants up to \$50,000 for Minnesota small businesses

REGIONAL - The Northland Foundation announces the Promise Act grant program, making available \$1.1 million for grants to eligible northeast Minnesota businesses and nonprofit organizations. Funding and eligibility guidelines were established in law during the 2023 Minnesota legislative session.

This is the first of two rounds of funding, with a second round anticipated for spring 2025. Applicants may only receive a total of one grant. Competitive grants from \$10,000 to \$50,000 from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development will be awarded to applicants in communities adversely affected by lack of access to capital, loss of population or an aging population, structural racial discrimination, civil unrest, and/or lack of regional economic diversification.

"We are pleased to be on-the-ground partners to DEED to help scores of small businesses in our region that have faced, and continue to face, major ecosystem challenges," said Michelle Ufford, Director of Grantmaking at the Northland Foundation.

The Northland Foundation will accept applications through 5 p.m. on May 21, 2024, from businesses whose primary location is in Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, or St. Louis counties or the Tribal nations of Bois Forte, Fond du Lac, Grand Portage, Leech Lake (District I), and Mille Lacs (District II).

Visit the Northland Foundation website at <https://northlandfdn.org/grants/special-grants.php> for details about the grant opportunity, eligibility, and to apply. The program is aimed at currently operating businesses with annual gross revenues of \$10,000 to \$750,000 as documented in their 2021 tax returns. If the business was established after 2021, it must show revenues of \$750,000 or less based on the 2022 tax year. Successful, eligible applicants with documented 2022 revenues of:

➤ At least \$10,000 but no more than \$100,000 may receive a \$10,000 grant.

➤ At least \$100,000 but no more than \$350,000 may receive a \$25,000 grant.

➤ At least \$350,000 but no more than \$750,000 may receive a \$50,000 grant.

Funds may be used for working capital to support payroll expenses, rent or mortgage payments, utility bills, equipment, and other similar expenses that occur in the regular course of business. Nonprofit organizations may apply provided they earn 30 percent or more of revenues on an ongoing basis through non-tax-deductible sales or dues in a fee-for-service model as reflected on their Form 990 and meet other eligibility guidelines.

Confidential and no-cost technical assistance is being provided by the Northland Small Business Development Center [<https://northlandsbdc.org/>] to organizations that would like help with the application process. A schedule of SBDC virtual and in-person office hours and locations across the region, and a video about Promise Act Grants, can be found at <https://northlandsbdc.org/promise-act/>.

Drivers 55 and older can take defensive driver refresher courses via ZOOM

REGIONAL - If you have a computer, tablet or smart phone you can take defensive driving refresher courses via Zoom from the comfort of home Wednesday April 24 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This course is for drivers age 55 and older who have already

completed the beginner's course and want to continue receiving the discount on their insurance. Class materials need to be mailed out, so early registration is recommended. Cost of the course is \$14. The instructor is retired Minnesota State Trooper Mike Flatley.

Anyone interested can pre-register by calling 218-750-3189 or by email to mnflats@hotmail.com. For more information on Mike Flatley's upcoming courses visit mndefensivedriving.blogspot.com.

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- If you have a child who will be 5 years old by September 1, 2024 they are eligible to enter Kindergarten in Ely next fall.
- You are invited to attend Parent Information and Registration Night on Wednesday, April 10th from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in Washington Auditorium.
- This informational session is a chance for parents to ask questions and start the registration process.
- If your child is not enrolled in a pre-school program, please contact the elementary office at 365-6166, ext. 4.
- We look forward to creating a positive transition to kindergarten for your child! Feel free to contact us if you have any questions - 218-365-6166, ext. 4.

BOIS FORTE

Morrison receives county public health award

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Bois Forte Community Health Program Manager Teri Morrison received a St. Louis County Public Health Achievement Award on Tuesday for her work with the band's Health and Human Services department.

Public Health Division Director Amy Westbrook presented the award to Morrison at Tuesday's regular meeting of the board of commissioners.

The Public Health Achievement Awards are given out as part of National Public Health Week, which is the first full week of April each year. The awards highlight the broad role of public health staff and the importance of the many partners they work with to improve the health of both individuals and larger groups in their communities of service. "Public health is more than just health care," Westbrook said. "It's the steps we take to make sure our neighborhoods have access to healthy food, quality streets, and a well-maintained environment. It's making sure our food and water are safe to



The county board presented a Public Health Achievement Award to Teri Morrison, the Community Health Program Manager at Bois Forte Health and Human Services on Tuesday. She is shown (center) with commissioner Patrick Boyle and St. Louis County Public Health Division Director Amy Westbrook. submitted photo

eat and drink. It's working in community to prevent substance misuse, prevent suicide, and promote harm reduction strategies. It's also the relationships

we foster in our communities." Westbrook highlighted Morrison's collaborations with state, county and tribal entities to protect the community and

build a sustainable public health system for Bois Forte Band members. She praised Morrison's leadership and the work of Bois Forte Health and Human Services staff who work to educate and engage people with services including nutrition education and food sovereignty, family spirit programs, and diabetic prevention programming. Westbrook singled out a project last year that developed a new community food shelf for Nett Lake that offers many local, culturally driven foods such as bison, wild rice and Red Lake walleye and serves enrolled members and non-members in nearby communities.

"The food shelf in one day served 476 people in November," Westbrook noted. "Programs such as these constantly demonstrate originality and innovation. Teri is adaptable and innovative in creating solutions for rural areas to increase support services for the community. Teri Morrison at Bois Forte Community Health is a clear definition of community health improvement, collaboration and advocacy for the Bois Forte members. I've known Teri for a long time so it's nice to see her work recognized. I know how

hard she works."

After the presentation, Morrison shared some brief remarks of appreciation with the board.

"I just wanted to say thank you," she said. "We have collaborated with St. Louis County for years and years. I've worked here 22 years and I think we've collaborated the whole time. We cover most of our bases and we're continually working on expanding. Thank you for the recognition."

Additional awards were presented to Divine Connections Inc., a Duluth organization that operates Annie's House of Refuge and Restoration, a communal-style home for displaced young mothers of color and their babies to live safely and securely; the Youth Mental Health Days Committee, which collaborates with school districts and health agencies in northern St. Louis County to offer events and resources to address the youth mental health crisis; and Mallory Cummings, a registered nurse working in Women and Children's Services at St. Luke's Hospital system.

Timberjay's Easter giveaway winners announced



REGIONAL- Congratulations to the winners of this year's Easter Giveaway drawing, sponsored by the w, Zup's Grocery, Pelican Bay Foods, and these participating businesses.

Lars Gabrielson, who was the winner from the Orr Muni, won the \$100 grand prize drawing, and will receive a \$100 gift certificate from one of the

participating businesses of his choosing!

Orr

- Lumber Orr Hardware: Jon Mount
- Pelican Bay Foods: Jerry Dahl
- Orr Muni: Lars Gabrielson
- Park State Bank-Orr: Nikki Johnson

Cook

- Waschke Family Chevrolet: Ashley
- Cook Building Center: Barb Dantes
- North Star Credit Union: Mike Keister
- 1st National Bank: Kathy Cheney
- McDonald's Cook: Diane Cin
- Park State Bank-Cook: Morris Lindgren
- Barb Hegg (Vermilion Land Office): Lilyana Reing
- Zup's Grocery Cook: Sandy Bergman
- Cook VFW: Elaine Tibbetts

Cook Hospital: Edie Peterson

Tower-Soudan

- Tower-Soudan Agency: Kalee Bjorgo
- Soudan Store: Ron Alarcon
- Frandsen Bank Tower: Sandra Edwards
- Vermilion Fuel & Food: Ethan Bergman
- EVCU Tower: Kelly Sheffield
- Ubetcha Antiques & Uniques: Richard Beard
- Lamppa Manufacturing: Taimi Lamppa
- Zup's Grocery Tower: Matt Skala
- D'Erick's Tower Liquors: Jim Runkle

Ely

- Dee's Bar: Syndney Mathias
- Frandsen Bank Ely: Emily Seliskar
- Merhar's Ace Hardware: Chris Marks
- Piragis: Susan Sauls
- Ely Auto: Dora
- Grand Ely Lodge-Evergreen: Val Hancock
- Zup's Ely: Dave Aldrich
- Ely Flower & Seed: Cheryl Huber
- Mealey's: Kate Willis
- Ely Surplus: Kenzie Cannon
- Range Cenex Ely: Sandy Thom
- EBCH: Patty Niskala

Babbitt-Embarrass

- Range Cenex Babbitt: Darlene Mackie
- EVCU-Embarrass: Linda Koskela



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OPINION

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The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

Editorial

Expensive audits

It's time for lawmakers to consider changes to auditing requirements for small cities

It's the auditing season for small cities in our region and, if this year is like others we have covered over the past three-plus decades, taxpayers will learn very little from a time-consuming and expensive process.

Auditing of public books has merit, as a way to ensure that public finances are being tracked appropriately, using well-accepted accounting methods. But when you consider what small cities are paying for their annual audits, taxpayers have a right to expect more.

Tower, for example, will spend about \$30,000 on its audit this year, or nearly eight percent of the city's total tax levy. That's \$30,000 that won't be going for street repairs, emergency services, snowplowing, recreation, or any of a dozen other things that would provide more real value to the residents of the city. And for that money, the city will receive a document that is largely unreadable and of little practical value to city officials.

Sometimes, they just create unnecessary confusion and controversy. Even auditors will advise the public not to put too much credence in the numbers they present, which at best are mere snapshots of a point in time usually months in the past and, at worst, are simply wrong.

There's a general perception that audits are designed to uncover financial wrongdoing, but that's not the primary objective of most municipal audits. They'll do a few spot checks of a sampling of bills or other expenditures to make sure that the money went to the right place and had adequate backup documentation, but the public should be aware these aren't forensic audits designed to catch intentional fraud or misallocation of funds.

While cases of fraud in government are not uncommon, they are rarely uncovered through audits. It's typically whistleblowers within the organization who bring such cases forward. That was the case in Dixon, Ill., several years ago, where the city's comptroller systematically embezzled more than \$54 million over more than 20 years. For that entire time, a large and experienced accounting firm gave the city a clean bill of health year after year.

Auditors routinely note that they are providing an “unqualified” opinion, which means they are confident that the city's financial accounting is being done according to standard accounting practices. That's fine, but it provides no evidence that the city's

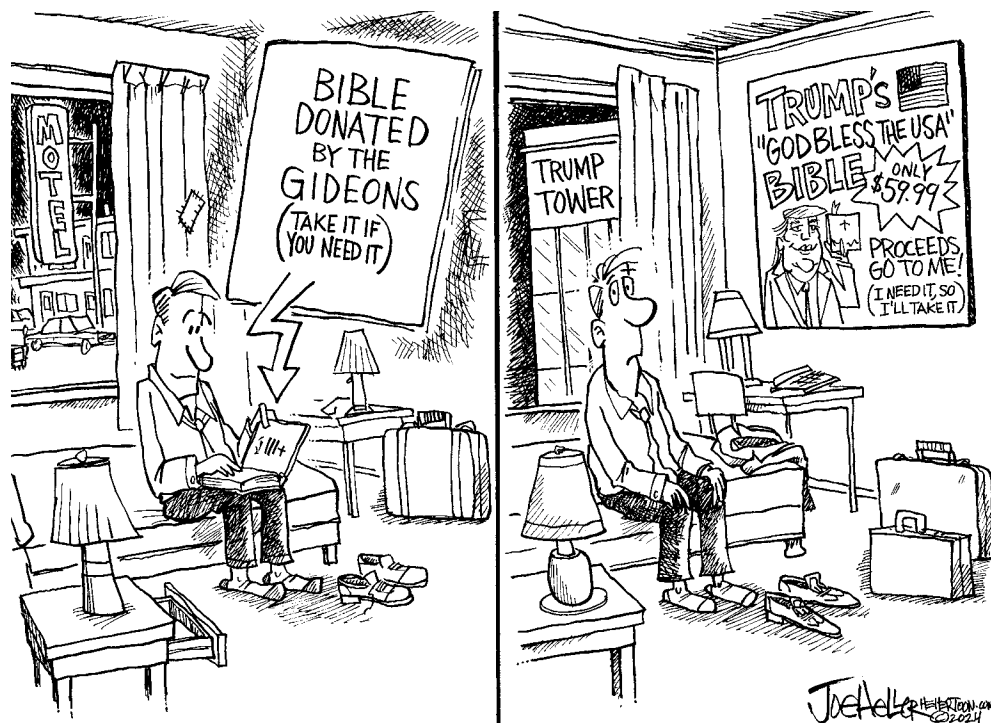
finances are in good health or that public funds are being spent efficiently, which is a justifiable concern for the public.

We recognize the value in proper accounting of municipal funds, but that goal could be better served far more affordably by requiring regular training in public accounting for city clerks or treasurers. Auditors could be tapped as needed to assist city officials in establishing proper accounts—based on the state's approved chart of accounts—and understanding how to properly allocate the funds that come in and go out of the city's coffers. It's far better to head off the accounting errors that auditors catch by helping city staff better understand how to do their jobs.

The cost of municipal auditing is particularly onerous for the smallest cities, which have a limited tax base from which to pay those costs. So, why do small cities continue to pay these exorbitant bills for an audit most city officials will barely understand once it's completed? Certainly not because they want to. State law currently requires annual audits for all cities with a population over 2,500 and for all cities under that threshold that combine the offices of city clerk and treasurer, as long as they have annual revenue of \$275,000 or more. Even the tiniest cities in our region typically exceed that limit, due mostly to grants. Unfortunately, those grants don't pay the auditing bill.

Keep in mind, the cost of auditing goes well beyond the bill from the auditors themselves. The audits, which can take two or three weeks depending on the year, consume an enormous amount of city staff time as well, and that can be particularly difficult for small cities, which tend to be understaffed as it is.

The law, as it exists today, already recognizes that there has to be a balance between the size of the city and the frequency and cost of auditing. Yet, the Legislature could do more to help small cities by changing the auditing requirement thresholds to allow more small cities to avoid costly audits or require them with less frequency. That would undoubtedly be opposed by the CPA firms that rake in hundreds of millions of dollars annually on public audits in Minnesota, yet it would be good news for the taxpayers who have to pay these exorbitant bills each year for a document that, in reality, provides very little benefit to the public.



Letters from Readers

Let nature take its course

We humans are an impatient and myopic species. Once again, after a deer season with somewhat meager results, the torches and pitchforks come out for our convenient scapegoat for hunters' lack of success. The yodeling resurfaces every year for wolf management, the politically correct word for killing wolves to reduce their population. Every tool available to those who actually study the situation point to winter severity as the most important limiting factor for deer, not wolves.

The wolf population has been remarkably stable over the past ten years at 2,600+/- and are essentially held in check by the deer numbers within northeast Minnesota. If one reviews the Zone 1 deer harvest from 2002 to 2008, during a period of remarkably mild winters, deer harvest was peaking with a maximum take of 93,075 deer of both genders in 2007 by 172,112 hunters for a success rate of 43.7 percent. With a tougher winter in 2008, the deer harvest proceeded to drop. Hunter numbers peaked at 181,143 in 2012 with a take of 58,947 deer, 25,823 of which were does (about half the number taken in 2006 and 2007). Wolf numbers also peaked, coinciding with the deer population during the same period of time.

Tough winters in 12/13 and 13/14 ensued, and even with wolf hunting, the deer harvest has never approached the 2002-08 numbers as we have bounced between average and tough winters, all the while wolf numbers have remained relatively stable. Still, the clamor for wolf

management continues. Poor deer harvest is an excuse for the drop in hunter numbers, but the same phenomenon occurs across the board with newer generations having less desire to experience the beauty and hardships of seasonal outdoor experiences, while older adventurers drop out.

Yet, the clarion call to help “our deer herd”, at the expense of everything else continues to ring. Deer have spread brain worm to our moose. Culling wolves to increase deer numbers won't help moose. Areas of cedar are not producing saplings due to deer. Sapling production of white and red pine languish because of deer. The DNR has all but begged people to stop feeding deer, which alters deer behavior, artificially increasing deer numbers where they shouldn't be. Often times our dogs are then caught between a rock and a hard place as occurred this past summer. Reports said, “deer feeding was a contributing factor” to the wolf attacks on dogs as the wolves follow the deer into town.

State Rep. Dave Lisle sings the same song about an over-abundance of wolves negatively affecting deer populations, yet the wolf population has remained consistent for a decade. He calls for the creation of a task force of various stakeholders to explore means of rebuilding the deer population in northern Minnesota. Northern Minnesota was never prime white-tailed habitat, and it still isn't. I wonder what “means” will be explored other than a wolf cull. Nature harbors cycles that are controlled by winter severity and habitat. Boosting deer numbers will come

at the expense of wolves, pine and cedar seedling, and moose as the incidence of brain worm increases. Then, a couple back-to-back winters like 95/96, 96/97, or 2012/13, 13/14, and watch deer numbers collapse again, and all you have to show for it is dead wolves.

Aldo Leopold wrote: “The last word in ignorance is the man who says of an animal or plant, ‘What good is it?’ If the land mechanism as a whole is good, then every part is good, whether we understand it or not. If the biota, in the course of aeons, has built something we like but do not understand, then who but a fool would discard seemingly useless parts? To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution of intelligent tinkering.” Humans cannot manage nature better than nature can manage itself. Leave the wolves alone.

Mike Ruzich
Ely

We welcome your letters

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

We ask that letters be limited to 300 words.

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

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

COMMENTARY

Facing the fear and finding the hope

When I wrote an article months back about my intention to overcome my excessive anxiety over spiders, I had no idea the reactions I would get from readers! One email thanked me for publicly acknowledging my irrational fear of



KATHLEEN MCQUILLAN

these mostly benign creatures. Another person sent a book all about the many spiders found in Minnesota, complete with close-up photographs. Staring at those photos — “feeling the fear and doing it any-

way” — was a perfect at-home, self-inflicted form of Exposure Therapy. And it's helped! Since the intent of my story was about facing fear and growing beyond it, I finished my article with... “Now onto my next endeavor — ticks!” I figured I had all winter to prepare myself for spring, but I didn't really have a plan. Little did I know that my intention would not fall on deaf ears.

I soon received a message from a reader in Ely who asked if I'd be interested in hearing about her life-changing experience with a different arachnid, *Ixodes scapularis* — the infamous deer tick, a known transmitter of Lyme Disease. I accepted her invitation and arranged to meet for lunch at a local cafe. This woman's story was harrowing and also remarkably informative.

Kelly began the conversation by sharing her passion for nature photography that often took her into Minnesota's backcountry. She loved explor-

ing the Northwoods, especially from unique angles, some of which were shot from ground level. She was aware of the risks of insect and tick bites, and the infectious diseases they were known to carry, so she took precautions to reduce those risks. But one summer day, while with her sister exploring some undeveloped land just outside of Two Harbors, things went terribly wrong.

During their scoping mission, weather conditions became warm and humid. Kelly stripped off her sweatshirt and inadvertently dropped it to the

ground. Once ready, she stuffed her shirt back into her pack and resumed the hike. Unknowingly, it had landed on what she later realized was a mouse nest, the ideal place for female ticks to lay their eggs. Later that day, after having put her sweatshirt back on, she discovered close to three dozen ticks on her torso, and some already attached. She quickly went about removing them, but it wasn't long before she developed signs of bites that were likely infected. She watched them worsen and soon decided to visit her doctor. She was tested for Lyme Disease.

Initially, test results were negative but she continued to develop more serious symptoms. Her doctors began suspecting other diseases and administered tests to rule out conditions with similar symptoms such as lupus, multiple sclerosis and other neurological and immune system disorders. In November, 2021, lab results came back positive for *Borellia burgdorferi*, the bacteria that causes Lyme Disease. Finally, she had a definitive diagnosis. Here's where Kelly's long and arduous

See **FEAR**, pg. 5

Letters from Readers

Shameless is the only word for Trump

A friend of mine refers to Donald Trump on Facebook as the “American nightmare”, a simple, absolutely spot-on description that is better than anything I’ve come up with over the past nine years.

And now the “chosen one” is comparing himself to Jesus and hawking Bibles! (It’s been pointed out that REAL Christian billionaires would be donating Bibles, not selling them.) Every time we think he can’t possibly stop any further, he lowers the bar again. “Shamelessness” takes on new meaning with every Trump press briefing.

Then again, the true MAGA cult followers will believe whatever he says, so why shouldn’t he say more and more outrageous things? Limited as he is by a third-grade vocabulary (despite having “all the best words,” his inner circle undoubtedly tells him HOW to say the outrageous things he wants to say anyway, knowing the deluded faithful will believe it regardless.

We are truly in “Twilight Zone” territory here, folks, and have been for almost ten years now. Rod Serling must be continually rolling over in his grave.

**Lynn Scott
Soudan**

The election deniers are harmful to all

Kari Lake, who lost the 2022 Arizona gubernatorial election, immediately claimed the election had been stolen from her by a “corrupt” [her

term] county official, Maricopa County Recorder Stephen Richer. Richer began receiving death threats and was harassed at his home by her supporters.

Kari Lake never actually produced any evidence that the election was rigged, she only made the constant and continual claim that it had been. Without any initial evidence, her lawsuits and demands that the election be overturned were therefore dismissed for “lack of standing.”

She was then and recently surprised when Mr. Richer, a Republican, sued HER for defamation of character, claiming she had caused significant financial, reputational, and personal risk to him and his family. And again, he demanded that she finally PRODUCE any evidence to prove the election had been rigged or otherwise tampered with in any way. And THIS time she would have to produce it in a court setting, in front of a judge.

She couldn’t. Instead, she filed a motion to the court to move directly into the “damages” phase, to determine how much money was actually owed to Mr. Richer. In short, she had lied. She knew she had lied. By declining to respond to Richer’s charges, she ADMITTED she had lied.

The harm. The harm that these people do to others with their lies is as disgusting as it is perverse.

**Duane Behrens
Ely**

Seasonal Tax Base Replacement Aid is needed for education fairness

The 2001 legislative session brought major changes to the state’s property tax system and one of the results was that seasonal properties, “cabins” if you will, were taken off the school district tax rolls for excess operating levies. The result was an impoverished local tax base that put more of the burden for funding excess operating levies on local residents. The Legislature wasn’t so generous with the seasonal properties either as they now pay into the state’s general property tax levy. Yes, the state collects property taxes as well as local governments. The result is a \$40 million infusion into the state’s general fund from seasonal property tax revenue and on the flip side, 92 school districts, primarily in central and northern Minnesota, are struggling to generate operating levy funds.

Operating levies are authorized under state law to allow voters to decide if they want to have “extras” for students as they journey through their educational experiences. However, with state funding for education failing to keep up with inflation over the last 20 years, operating levies are now used to simply pay the bills, for basic staffing, support services, and supplies. This is at a time when schools are being asked to do more for students and families.

State aid for school district levy equalization was the intended program to level the

playing field for school districts, aimed at helping property poor school districts. However, the state has significantly backed away from its commitment to this program. In 2018, the state was contributing almost \$150 million to offset the local tax impact of \$625 million in local excess operating levies, covering about 24 percent of the cost. Fast forward to 2023 and the state’s share has fallen to less than \$28 million on just over \$810 million in local operating levies, covering just 3.4 percent. All this additional financial burden on local taxpayers is one of the reasons that passing a local operating levy has become more difficult, especially in “lake country.”

Asking the Legislature to restore hundreds of millions of dollars into levy equalization is a tall order and yes, it’s a long-term goal they should make progress towards. However, in the meantime we see a more targeted and cost-effective approach being offered in this legislative session.

HF4986, authored by Rep. Dave Lislegard, and SF4995, authored by Sen. Grant Hauschild, would create a “seasonal tax base replacement aid” that would send state general fund dollars to school districts that have voter approved operating levy authority in place, with a further action required by the legislation that the school must offset the operating levy locally, based on the aid they receive. The amount of aid is determined based on how much seasonal property is in the school district. Some schools in central and northern Minnesota could see local levy burdens reduced by

upwards of 50 percent.

The legislation is triggered by the existence of voter approved authority and it doesn’t matter when the vote occurred, therefore existing levies would see an immediate reduction of \$8.5 million around the state if the bill is passed into law. The legislation doesn’t change how seasonal property is taxed and it still requires voters to approve an operating levy. The growth of this program would be slow as communities discuss the new program and its potential impacts on educational services and taxes. It’s a pragmatic approach that comes with a cost of several million dollars to the state instead of hundreds of millions to the state when compared to traditional levy equalization programs. Lastly, the legislation is a recognition of the state’s taking of this seasonal property tax wealth and that it is needed to create more fairness in our education funding system.

What can you do? Contact your state Representative and Senator. Ask them to become a co-author on HF4986 and SF4995. Ask them to also advocate for the passage of this bill. You can also spread the word about the bill. Ask others to also get engaged in helping get this much needed bill passed.

All students in Minnesota deserve fair and equitable funding, and the disparities in school levy programs must be addressed. Our children are counting on us, so let’s get it done!!

John Ward is a former state Representative and is a current member of the Brainerd School Board.

FEAR...Cont. from page 4

struggle set her on a path of discovery.

Early in our visit, she emphasized that she did not want her story to frighten readers away from enjoying the outdoors. Her goal was to share information that could help keep them safer whenever they ventured out in nature. During our visit, she handed me research articles with info and statistics that supported her narrative. I appreciated all of it as it’s certainly helped me become more educated and less fearful of these little buggers and their potential for mayhem.

Kelly’s story will be told in two parts. This one focuses on the deer tick, perhaps our most feared “vector,” and how, during their reproductive cycle, they transmit *Borellia burgdorferi*, the microbe that triggers Lyme Disease. It will also explain the role that humans and other large mammals play in the deer tick’s reproductive cycle, as while we simultaneously provide a perfect environment in which undetected *Borellia* bacteria can multiply.

Interestingly, not every tick is a carrier and not every person who receives a bite from an infected tick will develop symptoms of Lyme’s. But when it does occur, this disease can have profound and sometimes lifelong effects on one’s physical, cognitive and mental health. This is why Kelly’s story is so valuable, especially with spring right around the corner.

A healthy immune system will attack and destroy *Borellia* just as it does with many other forms of bacteria that invade our body. But if our immune system is not functioning adequately,

this bacteria can travel throughout our body via our blood stream, evading our immune system and infecting muscle and joint tissue as well as our vital organs. This usually triggers symptoms of pain, stiffness, chronic fatigue, and an array of other serious complications due to tick-borne illnesses.

Lyme Disease got its name from a small town in Connecticut when, in 1975, a mysterious outbreak of mysterious illness occurred in fifty-one people all reporting recent experiences with tick bites. Prior to this occurrence, other incidents of tick-borne diseases had been identified in humans. Scientists discovered frozen and fossilized ticks carrying *Borellia burgdorferi* dating back thousands and even millions of years.

Ticks are a wily and hardy parasite. At certain stages in their reproductive cycle they are smaller than the head of a pin. And they rely on other animals to participate in their successful reproduction. Ticks must feed on blood at each of their developmental stages. In spring, a blood-engorged female will fall from a “host,” seek a suitable nest, often amidst debris on the forest floor, and lay 2,000-3,000 eggs. After a month, the eggs enter a larval stage and may climb up branches, brush or dry grass, in search of an unsuspecting host upon which to feed. The larvae are so minute that they can easily escape detection before attaching to their host. With their bite, tick saliva is injected into the host’s bloodstream, possibly infecting it with *Borellia* bacteria. Studies estimate between 1 and 25 percent of ticks can carry the bacteria. Many vary

ables like weather and climate conditions influence these carrier rates.

Larval tick populations generally peak in late summer and feed primarily on the blood of mice and other ground rodents like squirrels and chipmunks before entering the nymph stage and where they become more noticeable to the human eye. Developing nymphs’ feeding needs increase, requiring larger mammals like deer, dogs, and humans to serve as hosts. Here, female nymphs can gorge themselves with blood, drop from the host, produce more eggs, and begin the whole cycle again.

Ticks often engage in partial feeding which enhances their reproductive success and further spreads the bacteria. Partially fed ticks become the perfect vectors as they seek multiple hosts. Humans play a vital role in this quasi-symbiotic relationship. As for the individual bitten by an infected tick, becoming the host for *Borellia*, if left undetected, can turn their world upside down. Kelly contracted not just one tick-borne disease

but three — Lyme, Bartonella, and Anaplasmosis. She presented with an overwhelming tangle of enigmatic symptoms that set her on a long journey with medical specialists in search of answers.

It was over a month before Kelly knew what was making her sick. And for nearly two years, she endured numerous tests and treatments. Her world became a nightmarish roller coaster of hope and disappointment. Her health swung from acute pain and discomfort to periods of improvement, then a return to exhausting impairment, only to see it turn into a chronic condition. Her illness was eroding her physical and mental health. She watched her ability to work, recreate, and concentrate deteriorate. She pointed out that she was more fortunate than many sufferers who have waited decades before identifying their illness.

Once receiving a definitive diagnosis, Kelly’s mission was to learn as much as possible about her disease. She looked at how the medical community was responding and discovered that all too

frequently, it wasn’t. She investigated the research, diagnostic protocols, and treatment modalities being used by mainstream western medicine as well as alternative approaches from holistic, herbal, movement, and meditation therapies.

In the course of her self-education, Kelly’s primary goal was her own healing, but she didn’t stop there. She has dedicated substantial attention

to developing materials for people suffering with Lyme Disease as well as other chronic conditions that are characterized by complicated and enigmatic symptoms.

Part Two of Kelly’s story will explore some helpful healing practices she’s discovered and resources she’s developed to help herself and others regain a more adventurous and gratifying life.



the
TIMBERJAY

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Week of April 8

Monday

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

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

Tuesday

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

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 April 9.

Thursday

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

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

**TSHS weekly winner**

TOWER- The winner of the \$100 cash prize for week 36 of the Charlemagne's 52 Club is Andrea Ward of Fridley.

History Tidbit: The Historic Tower Fire Hall exterior brick walls were built on a rock foundation. These exterior brick cavity walls are 16 inches thick and were constructed in 1895 with local bricks manufactured in Soudan. This double wythe wall is an uncommon construction detail consisting of two layers of brick, a cavity, and two more layers of brick contrasting to the common cavity wall of one layer of brick, a cavity, and another layer of brick usually 10-12 inches in thickness. For this reason, a crack may only be in one layer and not all the way through all 16 inches of wall or similar cracks may appear in the other wythe or layer.

Joint Powers Recreation Board to meet April 9

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Joint Powers Recreation Board will meet on Tuesday, April 9 at 8:30 a.m. at Good Ol' Days. Any requests for funding must be made in writing prior to the meeting, and sent or dropped off to Tower City Hall, PO Box 576, Tower, MN 55790.

Bookmobile stops

REGIONAL- The Arrowhead Bookmobile will be in the Tower-Soudan area on Wednesdays: April 17, May 8 and 29, no bookmobile stop in June, 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, or website at alslib.info.

New faces at the table in Breitung Township

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA
Staff Writer

SOUDAN- Breitung Township continued its transition to a younger generation at the town board's reorganization meeting held March 28. Longtime supervisor Chuck Tekautz, who served on the town board for the past 18 years, left the board table to make way for Erin Peitso, who filed for the seat after Tekautz had indicated his intention to retire.

During his career in public service, Tekautz had previously served as a Tower City Council member, a Tower-Breitung Waste Water Board member, and on the Tower Ambulance Commission. Tekautz said he would like to be remembered for his responsible handling of township funds. "Everything I did I tried to get the best bang for the buck," he said. Tekautz said he plans to enjoy his retirement and time with family.

Outgoing clerk Dianna Sundahl, who opted not to seek re-election after serving one four-year term, made way for Amber Zak, who won as a write-in candidate.

Town board chair Tim Tomsich thanked both Tekautz and Sundahl for their service to the township. "For keeping our township open and honest you will be missed," he said.

In other business, the town board:

- Passed a resolution to apply for funding from the Firehouse Subs Foundation grant program for up to \$35,000 for an all-terrain vehicle for police to use for trail incidents. "It's our biggest need right now," said Matt Tichel. Police Chief Dan Reing and Tichel spoke of how the fire department and police departments could use the vehicle, especially with the increase in area trails and trail traffic.

- Passed a motion to not apply for funding for the recreation area this year.

- Will send a letter of completion on the bike trail project for reimbursement of \$150,000 from the DNR.

- Accepted a donation from Corrine Hill to the police department of \$216.

- Heard that in the month of February, the fire department responded to one personal injury



Long-time supervisor Chuck Tekautz joins his wife, Nancy, at a table in back of the meeting hall. Tekautz has retired after 18 years of service to the township.



Outgoing clerk Dianna Sundahl swears-in Amber Zak (left) and Erin Peitso (right). photos by S. Ukkola

accident, two structure fires, and a chimney fire.

- Determined that the township has no public need for a tax-forfeit four-acre parcel on Four Mile Rd. The parcel will go up for auction on the county tax-forfeit site.

Township reorganization

- Chose the *Tower News* as the legal publication for the township. The *Tower News* bid \$0.65 for legal notices and \$2.50 for display ads. The *Timberjay* bid \$1.99 for legal notices and \$3.75 for display ads, but the *Timberjay* also posts all legal notices online, and they are archived week to week without needing a subscription.

- Chose Robert Pearson Law Office, the Fryberger Law Firm, and the MN Association of Townships as legal advisors.

- Raised part-time police

officer pay from \$24 per hour to \$24.50.

- Raised the clerk's pay from \$26,000 yearly to \$27,000.

- Raised the deputy clerk's pay from \$20/hour to \$21/hour.

- Raised the deputy treasurer's pay from \$20 to \$21/hour.

- Raised election judge pay from \$16 to \$17 per hour.

- Named Peitso to the wastewater board in place of Tekautz.

- Changed the McKinley Park liaison from Tomsich to Peitso.

- Changed lodging tax board representative from Greg Dostert to Tomsich.

- Passed a resolution to appoint Tichel as vice chair.

- Passed a resolution for treasurer Jorgine Gornick to work as an election judge at \$17/

hour.

- Changed project inspector, a paid position, to project liaison, an unpaid position, and designated Tichel to the new position.

- Made recreation liaison a shared position between Peitso and Tichel, based on availability. The position doesn't grant any extra pay.

- Set monthly town board meetings for the third Thursday of the month at 6 p.m.

Police report

In February, the Breitung Police had 65 calls for service, 1 adult female citation for speed (62 in a 40), and 1 adult cited for no proof of insurance.

A week-long investigation resulted in felony charges of issuance of a dishonored check.

Chief Reing reported that February always moves along so fast. Officer Karolczak continues to learn the job and is gaining valuable experience. As he has become aware, you never stop learning the job. G.R.E.A.T. educational programs are in full swing. There are currently three classes in progress: a fourth-grade section at North Woods School, and two sections for upper elementary students at Tower-Soudan. The students enjoy the program, Reing said, and the feedback has been positive.

It was a much busier month for calls as compared to last February, with 18 more calls. We are currently well above last year's call volume as well. The department wants remind everyone to make sure your vehicles are off the street for our plows. It has been a mild winter, but you never know when we could get a pile of snow. It is northern Minnesota after all, even a mild winter is unpredictable. Spring is coming soon; it will be very busy in our area in a short time. With spring comes much more traffic and people to our area. Please watch your speed, especially on Hwy. 169 between Tower and Soudan. There is a 50-mile speed limit between Jasper St. in Soudan to Alder St. in Tower. Please slow down and be safe.

COMMUNITY NOTICES**Matt Hoffland to perform in Embarrass April 7**

EMBARRASS- The Evangelical Free Church of Embarrass will host a concert by Matt Hoffland on Sunday, April 7, at 10 a.m.

Matt Hoffland is from Westboro, Wis., and is a worship leader at Camp Forest Springs.

Everyone is invited to come out and be blessed and encouraged by the inspirational music that Matt shares. For further information, call the church at 984-3402.

Lunch Bunch to meet on April 17

ANGORA- The Lunch Bunch group will meet at the South Switch Bar and Grill on Wednesday, April 17, at 12:30 p.m. RSVP to Kathy 218-753-2530. Everyone is welcomed to join the gathering.

Tower-Soudan youth soccer to begin in April

TOWER- Area youth ages 7 to 12 are invited to play soccer on Thursdays, from 3 - 4:30 p.m. The sessions will run April 18 through May 23, with play outdoors, weather-permit-

ting, on the ballfield. This will be the fourth year soccer has been held and lead coach Amy Banks is hoping to see lots of returning and new players. Participants will practice kicks, passing, drills, and scrimmages, while focusing on teamwork and sportsmanship.

Students are asked to register by April 11. Cost is \$8. Register online at <https://slc2142.RevTrak.net>. Any questions, call the school at 218-753-4040 or email cdahl@isd2142.k12.mn.us.

Swim lessons at NE Range pool

BABBITT- Registration for swimming lessons will be held Monday, April 8 from 4-6 p.m. in the NER Media Center. There will be a maximum of 16 students allowed

per class, so please be aware that sessions fill up quickly and in-person registration is required. Anyone who cannot make the registration date can be placed on the list for the summer sessions of lessons in June. Swim lessons are held in the school pool. Children should bring a water bottle, two dry towels, and change of clothing to their lessons.

Spring swimming is for levels one and two. Class times will be Monday through Friday from 4 - 6:40 p.m., and specific class times will be provided after registration.

Summer swimming lessons for levels one, two, and three are planned. If there is enough interest, a infant/toddler class, along with levels four through six may be offered.

Cost is \$65 per person.

Lifeguard training class

BABBITT- Northeast Range Community Education will hold a lifeguard training class for ages 16 and older. NER currently has open lifeguard positions. This is a hybrid Red Cross class with online classroom starting in May and water training and testing June 3 - 7. Lap swimming and conditioning times will be announced on the first day of class. Cost is \$160 per

person. Limited scholarships are available for NER students. For more information contact Joe Kaufenberg at 218-827-3101 or email jpkauferberg@isd2142.k12.mn.us. Class instructor is Sue Pasmik.

Indoor walking at the Timber Hall

EMBARRASS- This winter the Timber Hall will be open for indoor walking on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

Karate classes in Embarrass

EMBARRASS- Karate North Tae Kwon Do will be holding classes at the Timber Hall Event Center, 4855 Hwy. 21, on Mondays and Wednesdays. Beginner class is from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. and color belt students from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$20 per month per person.

Timber Hall will be open those nights for indoor walking on the perimeter from 5 - 7:30 p.m. at no charge, but walkers need to wear indoor shoes.



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AROUND TOWN

Smokey Bear and paintings visits Ely



Rogan Van Scoy posing with Smokey Bear at the Superior National Forest Kawishiwi District Office on March 28.

ELY- Smokey Bear visited the Kawishiwi District Office of the Superior National Forest last Thursday, along with 19 historic paintings of him. The oil paintings were by famous Smokey Bear artist Rudolph Wendelin (1910-2000), who is responsible for Smokey's iconic image in blue jeans and a ranger's hat. On loan from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture National Agricultural Library, the paintings were completed between 1977 and 1995. They have been on tour around the country since January 2023, as a lead-in to the 80th birthday of Smokey Bear in August 2024.



Visitors at the March 28 show of Smokey Bear paintings at the Superior National Forest Kawishiwi District Office. photos by C.Clark

In Brief

Tuesday Group schedule

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

Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

►April 9: Basics for Solopreneurs: “What I wish I Knew” with Heather Westmoreland

►April 16: Local Author Scott Stowell on His New Book, “Back Road Grace”

WINDOWS INTO YESTERDAY

Four that are no more

by DAVID KESS
Ely-Winton Historical Society

Supper clubs, they were called. They opened in the evening for dinner guests, although a few had some meal accommodations for resort guests during the day. Part of the appeal of supper clubs was their woodland or lake scenery. The Breezeway, the Paul Bunyan restaurant, Shig-Wak, and the Viking Manor have gone by the wayside, although in two cases the resort businesses have survived.

The Breezeway was a large log structure at the corner of Highway 88 and Van Vac Rd. It was built and operated by Gertrude and Rom LaMontagne. Steaks seemed to be their

specialty. Two rental cabins were also a part of the operation. When the restaurant closed around the late 50s, the main building was turned into a duplex. That lasted ten or so years. The restaurant had a huge split stone fireplace crafted by local artisan John Brown. It was dismantled and sold to a local party. No sign is left of the buildings.

The other three eating places also went by the wayside, though parts of them remain. Just a few miles further east on Hwy. 88 is the Ladybug Lodge. No longer an eating place, once it was home to the Paul Bunyan Wilderness Lodge. It was the “go to” place for burgers of all sizes and combinations. When owners changed so

did the business. It is now a resort with rentals of boats, pontoons, and other watercraft. (Ed. note: the Ladybug Lodge changed hands in January and will reopen as the Lake View Lodge this season.)

The original building has an interesting history. Beginning its life as a Finnish social hall in Winton, it was ferried over the ice to Olson's Bay on the west side of Shagawa Lake. Leonard Klun made this happen. After he sold the lodge and resort, the new owners added the restaurant serving fabulous burgers. With another change of owners again, the food service was dropped.

Up the Echo Trail on Little Long Lake, Arlo and Margaret White opened the Shig-Wak Resort, and soon a supper club. Seafood became the main attraction. When the Whites decided to sell, the new owners went back to resort-only accommodations.

Bear Island Resort, on Bear Island Lake, began as Rothman Cabins, started by Joseph and Clara Rothman. When they sold to Wally and Liz Ahlquist, Svea Ahlquist, Wally's mother thought they should add a restaurant. Svea was herself from Sweden and was indeed a colorful character. With both a culinary and artistic flair, she created a dining room with rose-maled beams and Scandinavian folk painting. The



Promotional literature from Shig-Wak Lodge. submitted image

restaurant was called the Viking Manor.

Viking Manor had an interesting atmosphere and a unique menu. It also had a stellar reputation, enough so that when Lynda Bird Johnson, President Johnson's daughter, was here on a canoe trip, she made a point of dining there.

The menu featured ebelskivers, Swedish pancakes, fruit soup, and special breads. Then the resort was sold, several times over, and the Scandinavian atmosphere disappeared. The entire resort property was eventually divided up and sold privately.

Having had the good fortune to eat at all these places, I can say I miss ev-

ery one of them. It was a nice thing to drive out into the country to have a meal in a different setting than being home or even going “downtown.” There is practically no opportunity for that now.

An exhibit of pictures and menus is currently featured at Minnesota North College-Vermilion, 1900 E. Camp St. in Ely (next to the Vermilion Fine Arts Theater). For more information, call the historical society office at 218-365-3226, which is open Tuesdays through Fridays, noon-4 p.m. The new manager is Adam Kovall.



Promotional literature from the Viking Manor restaurant. submitted image

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando ©2024



melt, melting, melted as soon as it came, snow's gone

and then there's april

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

Phone: 218-827-3345

Support groups

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous

OPEN AA - 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, in-person, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St., Ely.

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 hold a Kahoot online trivia game for all ages on the early reader and picture books by Mo Willems. Register in advance with an email address so the library can send the link for the game. The Kahoot will start at 3 p.m. on Friday, April 5, and end at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, April 10.

The Friends of the Library Book Club will meet on Monday, April 8, from 3-4 p.m. The book for discussion will be “Invisible Child” by Andrea Elliott.

The library will have solar eclipse programming on April 8 from 1-3 p.m. The library will have a live feed from total eclipse areas. The staff will also have fun activities for all ages related to the eclipse. Solar eclipse viewing glasses available through April 8 while supplies last, with a limit of 2 per person.

The Friends of the Library monthly board meeting will be on Tuesday, April 9, from 1-2 p.m.

The Library will celebrate National Submarine Day on Thursday, April

11, from 3-4 p.m.

The Get Crafty group for ages 5 and up will meet on Tuesday, April 16, from 3-4 p.m. Participants will learn to make their own mini masterpieces. All materials are supplied. Pre-register for this event so the library can order enough supplies.

The Library Scientists group for grades 1-3 will meet on Tuesday, April 23 at 3 p.m. Participants will learn about plant science and do a hands-on project. Pre-registration is required for this event so the library can order enough supplies. This activity is limited to 20 participants.

This library will host a grief-writing workshop for adults with Lisa Simons on Wednesday, April 24, from 1-4 p.m.

The library will hold a Kahoot online trivia game for all ages on the Meg Langslow series, books 1-3 by Donna Andrews. Register in advance with an email address so the library can send the link for the trivia game. The Kahoot will start on Thursday, April 25, at 3 p.m., and end on Tuesday,

April 30, at 8 a.m.

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.

Babbitt Public Library

BABBITT- The Babbitt Library has solar eclipse viewing glasses through April 5, while supplies last.

The library will host live entertainment with Gerry Mealey on April 11 at 2 p.m. Refreshments provided by library.

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

Calligraphy at the Libraries

BABBITT/ELY- Silver Bay calligrapher Lynn Prouty will give an introductory talk and demonstration of calligraphy. The program will be at the Babbitt Public Library on Tuesday, April 9, starting at 4 p.m. and at the Ely Public Library on Wednesday, April 10 at 10

a.m.

This hands-on activity for teens and adults includes writing with a dip pen and ink, a quill pen, and a glass pen. The top 10 calligraphy books for beginners will be on hand to browse, as well as a gallery of Prouty's calligraphy projects. All attendees will receive their name, in calligraphy, on a bookmark.

Summer Youth Programs

ELY- Registration is now open for the Northern Lakes Arts Association summertime arts and theater camps and programs for kids and teens. Details are online under the “Youth Art Experiences” tab at northernlakesarts.org.

Ely Citywide Rummage Sale

ELY- Registration is now open for the Ely citywide rummage sale, business crazy sale day, and the used equipment and watercraft sale, all on Saturday, May 18. Register by May 9 at the Ely Chamber of Commerce office, 1600 E. Sheridan

St. Registration forms are available at the chamber office or online at ely.org/citywide.

Fix That Bike Tire

ELY- The Ely Bike and Kicksled at 125 N. Central Ave. will hold a hands-on workshop on fixing flat bike tires on Saturday, April 6, from 4-6 p.m.

Youth Auction

ELY- Ely Young Life will hold an online auction starting on Sunday, April 7, at 6 p.m. and closing on April 14. Proceeds will go to sending kids to summer camp. Details and the auction link are at ely.young-life.org.

Braver Angels

ELY- The next meeting and workshop of the Ely Braver Angels will be on Thursday, April 11, at the Ely Senior Center, 27 S. 1st Ave E., from 6:30-8 p.m.

Job Fair

ELY- Northspan's Northforce Program will hold a job fair at Minnesota North College-Vermilion on Tuesday, April 16 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

COMMUNITY EASTER CELEBRATION

Families flock to community center for party



A huge turnout of excited kids and happy families showed up Saturday for the community Easter Celebration put on by the Cook Lions Club, with support from co-sponsors Northwoods Riders, VFW, Zup's Grocery Store, Cook Timberwolves Snowmobiling Club, Cook Fire Department, Cook Building Center, the *Cook News-Herald* and the Junction Bar. *Timberjay* photographer David Colburn was there to capture these images of the festivities.

Top left: Ira, Ada, Riley, and Keelan Bergstrom get their picture taken with the Easter Bunny, one of two in attendance.

Top middle: Eight-month-old George Gillson plays with a bunny toy as mom Jessica watches.

Top right: Bicycles were the coveted take home of the day for kids, while parents were satisfied with the smiles they created.

Lower middle: Children enjoy an Easter version of the game musical chairs.

Lower left: Ellie Bevington, fast approaching her second birthday, picks up a second crayon for her artwork.

LIONS CLUB AT NORTH WOODS SCHOOL



Cook Lions Club members went to North Woods School in mid-March bearing gifts of blankets, stuffed lions, and children's books to be given to children in need. Pictured are, from left, Alyssa Sabatino, Parker Kajala, Julia Maki, assistant principal Crystal Poppler, Steve Kajala, and principal Kelly Engman. photo by D. Colburn



The Lions were back at North Woods on March 21, this time with a \$400 donation to support the elementary Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program. Those present for the presentation were, from left, Julia Maki, Kari Hultman, Beth Wilenius, Steve Kajala, Makenzie Pierce, Kelly Engman, Katie Mickle, and Crystal Poppler. submitted

COMMUNITY NEWS

Bookmobile dates set for area towns

REGIONAL- The Arrowhead Library System Bookmobile has announced its schedule for area towns running into June. The bookmobile stops every three weeks at these locations:

►Nett Lake, at the Community Center from 9:30-10:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 4 and 25, May 16, June 6 and 27.

►Crane Lake, at the Ranger Station from 12:30-1:15 p.m. on Thursday, April 4 and 25, May 16, June 6 and 27.

►Buyck, at the Vermilion River Tavern from 1:45-2:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 4 and 25, May 16, June 6 and 27.

►Orr, at the Lake Country RE/MAX building from 3:15-4 p.m. on Thursday, April 4 and 25, May 16, June 6 and 27.

►Britt, at Sand Lake Storage from 9-9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 17, May 8 and 29.

►Bois Forte at the Boys and Girls Club from 11-11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 17, May 8 and 29.

The Bookmobile offers print books, cookbooks, large print books, DVDs, audiobooks and video games. In addition, you can renew your library card, update your library account information, learn how to use library services and participate in special programs. Learn more about what your library can offer you at our website, alslib.info.

For further information on the Bookmobile or Mail-A-Book services, contact the Arrowhead Library System, 5528 Emerald Ave., Mt. Iron, MN 55768, 218-741-3840, see us on Facebook or check our website at www.alslib.info.

Farmers market group will meet on April 12

COOK- The Cook Area Farmers Market will have another of its spring meetings to prepare for a fun and exciting summer season on Friday, April 12 at 11 a.m. at the Montana Cafe. Producers of locally grown or gathered veggies, fruit and berries, hon-

ey, canned goods, baked goods, art, crafts and other fun stuff are welcome.

Participating vendors will be able to offer fresh produce to SNAP recipients and the Power of Produce (free tokens to buy produce) for kids and older adults. The group enjoys fun, laughs and getting together at the weekly community event, and planning for the festivities over food and coffee will be enjoyable, too.

Big April art sale is underway at NWFA

COOK- Deals galore await shoppers at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook this month at the "Good Stuff Art Sale." It's an art garage sale with hundreds of art bargains. Gift certificates are available at NWFA.

The gallery is open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. The NWFA Gallery is located at 210 S. River St in Cook.



"Jack Frost" by photographer Wendy Latuff

It's a tie! Drawing decides NWFA photo contest winner

COOK- Those who attended Friday's reception for the announcement of the NWFA "A Closer Look" photo contest surely blinked twice when the votes were revealed, as photographers Wendy Latuff and Carol Bowman tied in the public vote. Latuff's chilly intricate close-up photo titled "Jack Frost" was

declared the contest winner and recipient of the \$100 first-place prize in a decisive special drawing. Bowman's lovely photo of sun dogs titled "And We Rise Again" was awarded the \$50 runner-up prize.

The contest drew 105 entries of varied subjects related to the theme.

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THE LEGISLATURE

Clarification of last week's story on permitting reform

EDITOR'S NOTE: Last week's news report on an amendment to a bill reforming the permitting process for certain energy projects, authored by Sen. Grant Hauschild, included provisions in the amendment that had been removed prior to the amendment's introduction. The following should correct and clarify the matter. The Timberjay regrets any confusion this may have caused.

ST. PAUL—An amendment to a permitting reform measure designed to speed up the approval process for clean energy projects in Minnesota would put a longstanding practice in project permitting into state law.

The amendment, introduced by Third District Sen. Grant Hauschild, would require state regulatory agencies to offer “coordinated project planning” for any project requiring an environmental impact statement, a process that the agencies say

they already use informally. The coordinated process would help establish clearer timelines and would require the agencies to update designated legislative leaders if they're unable to meet the established deadlines.

Sen. Hauschild said he'd been working with the Department of Natural Resources, the Pollution Control Agency, Senate leadership, and the Governor's office to agree on wording for the change. At this point, Hauschild said state agencies are supportive of the

change.

Business groups appear to also be on board, even though the measure falls short of fully implementing a proposal backed by the state's Chamber of Commerce.

“You're never going to get the whole loaf,” said Tony Kwilas. “Sen. Hauschild did a great job of advancing the portion that he did related to the coordinated project planning. It lays out and provides the certainty that businesses need as they go through the regulatory process,”

he said.

Kwilas said the chamber will continue to look for opportunities in the remaining weeks of the session to advance other parts of their overall agenda to advance permitting reform.

A broader initiative by the chamber, that would have implemented several other changes to the state's permitting system, was introduced last week in the House by Rep. Dave Lislegard and in the Senate by Hauschild but is likely too late to advance this year.

ROADS...Continued from page 1

in mid-May and could continue into October. The contractor will be utilizing a “cold in-place recycling” process in which the top 3-4 inches of existing pavement is milled up and remixed with fresh asphalt binder before being reapplied.

In International Falls, MnDOT is planning a \$3.5 million project to install a new roundabout at the intersection of Hwy. 53 and County Rd. 332. That project is slated to get underway June 5.

A \$350,000 culvert replacement along Hwy.

135, about 1.3 miles south of County Rd. 26, is the only other planned project in northern St. Louis County. That work is scheduled to get underway June 17.

MnDOT is urging travelers to slow down for construction work zones as road projects get underway later this year. The 2024 construction season includes 193 planned road and bridge projects, plus 54 projects that will improve airports, water ports, railroad crossings and transit infrastructure.

“Drivers throughout

Minnesota can expect to see more work zones, more orange cones, more closed lanes, and more people working along the road wearing their high-visibility gear,” said Transportation Commissioner Nancy Daubenberger. “We need everyone on the road to work together to keep our crews, and yourselves, safe in work zones. When we all slow down and obey work zone speed limits, set aside our cell phones and other distractions, plan ahead and remain patient, we become safer together as we share

the limited space inside work zones.”

Safety in work zones

Motorists should always be prepared to encounter traffic changes when approaching work zones including lane closures, lane shifts, uneven road surfaces, slow-moving heavy equipment and slow or stopped traffic. To keep everyone safe, drivers must:

► Obey posted speed limits. The fine for speeding in a work zone is \$300.

► Drive undistracted. Avoid using cell phones,

mobile devices, adjusting the radio – even eating – while in work zones.

► Move over. Give workers room to safely complete their work.

► Know before you go. Get real-time information about traffic and road conditions at www.511mn.org or get the free 511mn smartphone app at Google Play or the App Store.

► Be patient. Expect delays, especially during peak travel times.

► Do the zipper merge.

► Avoid making unnecessary lane changes.

► Never enter a road blocked with barriers or cones.

Travelers can use several online tools to plan ahead for construction impacts like detours and lane closures.

Visit mndot.gov/construction for the statewide view of the 2024 construction season's projects. The site includes interactive maps linking to more detailed construction project websites, full project lists and other information.

STUDY...Continued from page 1

directors decided last year that it wanted a better solution to the funding problems at EAAS. The ambulance service has been suffering many of the same problems shared by other rural ambulance providers throughout the country—diminishing revenues, insufficient local volunteers and pay for staff, declining governmental and insurance reimbursements rates, and inflation.

“The hospital was asked to donate increasing amounts of money,” Banks remarked. As a result, the board decided to look for outside input for a better solution, rather than continuing to fund “the same old thing that isn't working” as a business model. “The board wanted to investigate doing something different to innovate and collaborate, to find ways to work better together to meet the area's EMS needs.”

In August 2023, EBCH hired Safe Tech Solutions of Isanti, Minn. to conduct a \$70,000 fixed fee study on “how to set up an ambulance service for success.” At the time, Banks told members of the joint powers board that the study would “look beyond Ely for that answer, potentially encompassing other area services in northern St. Louis and Lake counties.” Banks confirmed this week that the scope of the study has not changed since last year. She did confirm that Safe Tech has interviewed and gathered data from the EAAS, and the two other ambulance services with “primary ambulance service areas” assigned by the Minnesota Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board.

Suspicious

Despite several denials from EBCH that the study is a ploy to wrest control of local ambulance services from the existing providers, suspicions continue to circulate.

EMS professionals approached by the *Timberjay*, excluding the EAAS, declined to speak on the record. Speaking on conditions of anonymity, one local paramedic expressed concern that the study would push for a regional model or takeover of small community ambulance service by a commercial service like Mayo, leading to a decline of quality in effective area coverage, patient care and response times. “Either way, it's a lose-lose for us and our local residents.”

Another local EMS professional at a different ambulance service remarked that the study wasn't completed yet because its conclusions didn't “mesh” with what the hospital wanted to hear, though what those conclusions might be wasn't explained.

The evidence of mistrust and misunderstanding is much easier to verify than the rumors and suspicions that continue to circulate.

Not every ambulance provider contacted by Safe Tech shared the suspicious view of the consultant or study. Tower Ambulance Supervisor Dena Suihkonen reported a positive experience with Safe Tech. “They are doing a good job, not rushing through things,” Suihkonen told the *Timberjay*. “Rather, they are putting in the time and effort to do a thorough job.”

Suihkonen said she was impressed by Safe Tech's

professional demeanor and efforts to look at five years of operating data. “What they asked for says they are looking pretty deep,” she added, relating that the consultant wanted details on rosters, experience, certification levels, service areas, call volumes, the types of calls, when those calls come over time, and other matters needed to profile an ambulance service.

“I know they got behind” Suihkonen remarked, “because some of the [providers] they contacted didn't get them their information [promptly].”

Delay worsened mistrust

The delay in the completion of the study has not helped to quell suspicions or bridge misunderstandings. At the last JPB meeting on January 29, Banks said the study would be done in time for the Feb. 26 JPB meeting. That meeting was canceled when the study wasn't done and the JPB had no EAAS financial items to discuss. The hospital didn't issue an update on the delayed study before last week, a lag of two months with no news.

“What's taking so long? ... It was supposed to be presented to the JPB in January,” said EAAS board chair Chuck Novak. “Then there was no study in February and no study in March. Now there won't be a study until next month ... Is the consultant firm not as good as they were portrayed to be?”

The study created other opportunities for miscommunications to spread. For example, Safe Tech interviewed EAAS staff in late 2023, according to EAAS executive director Dustin Moravitz, who spoke to the *Timberjay* in mid-February. “Then, they got back

to us wanting to know the same stuff,” Moravitz said. “It seems like one thing after another.” The repeated information regarded the roster, staff certification levels, and other routine items like the population of the service area.

Banks appeared to confirm the ongoing requests for information at the January JPB meeting. “When I checked in with Safe Tech Solutions, they had received the final information from the Ely ambulance service as of Tuesday or Wednesday last week (Jan. 23 or 24),” she said at the time. When the *Timberjay* asked Banks about the repeated information requests, she stated that the initial information provided in 2023 wasn't complete because Safe Tech wanted data for more than one year.

Talking to Novak, a third version of events emerged. Novak said Moravitz initiated the communication with Safe Tech on Jan. 24, not the other way around, as doc-

umented in Moravitz's notes, and Safe Tech told him that they didn't need more information at that time. With three versions of what may have happened between Safe Tech and EAAS, this reporter notes it is easier to document the miscommunications than it is to uncover what really happened.

Regarding the miscommunications and trying to work with EAAS, Banks admitted, “it is a strained relationship.”

EAAS finances looking improved

While everyone is still waiting for the study, the EAAS has seen an improvement in finances. “(EAAS) has the cash flow to meet their payroll and expenses,” JPB chair Marlene Zorman told the *Timberjay*. “The new collections service is helping a lot.”

The EAAS replaced its former billing service last year because of poor performance. Upon investigation, the EAAS board uncovered that “ten other

ambulance services” had similar issues with this firm's underperformance, according to Novak, which is a nice way to say the old billing firm wasn't doing its job.

“The new company for collections is great,” Novak commented. “They have a conference call every week with our executive director and check in frequently if there are any issues.”

As for the former firm Novak mentioned at the last JPB meeting that EAAS and the other ambulance services were considering legal action when they finished investigating the problem. When the *Timberjay* interviewed Novak this week, he said that next week, “I will be crafting a letter to the Attorney General of Minnesota requesting the state take action.”

The *Timberjay* will continue to follow this developing story.



Annual Meeting Notice

Lake Country Power will hold the annual membership meeting on Thursday, April 25, 2024, at the Merritt Elementary School — located at 5529 Emerald Avenue, Mountain Iron, MN.

Registration begins at 5:00 p.m.

- Dinner with parmesan crusted chicken breast and sides
- Visit with members, employees and directors
- Live music by Morning Bird, local group from Hibbing
- Grand prize is an electric lawnmower

Annual Business Meeting begins at 6:30 p.m.

- Lake Country Power updates
- Great River Energy updates
- Announcement of director election and other business

Director election ballots will be mailed to LCP members only in Districts 1, 5 and 9 between April 5 and April 10, 2024.

Members may vote electronically, in person at the annual meeting, or by U.S. mail to Survey & Ballot Systems using the provided ballot envelope and postage-paid envelope. Online polls open at 8:00 a.m. CST, April 10. Ballots will include detailed voting instructions.

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FALL PREVENTION

LAWSUIT...Continued from page 1

and always fatal to the animals that are infected. The disease causes symptoms such as drastic weight loss, stumbling, listlessness and other neurologic symptoms followed by death. While the overall incidence of CWD in free-ranging deer is quite low across the 32 states where it has been discovered, in locations where the disease is well-established rates may exceed ten percent, and some localized rates exceeding 25 percent have been reported, according to the Centers for Disease Control. Infection rates in confined farm herds can be higher, and a 2020 study found that movements of cervids between farms presents a risk for spreading CWD in Minnesota.

The Department of Natural Resources reports that 273 cases of CWD in wild deer have been identified since 2010, 63 percent of which were identified through samples provided by hunters. With increased surveillance efforts, the number of cases identified since July 1, 2023, is 56. The majority of total cases have been found in five southeastern Minnesota counties, although four cases have been reported in nearby Itasca County.

Officials are not only concerned about the health of wild deer populations, but also of humans. While there are no documented cases of CWD affecting humans, studies using

primates have shown that they can get CWD by ingesting affected meat. A new Minnesota-based multidisciplinary international effort is intended to develop plans to deal with the possible transmission of CWD to humans.

The movement for controlling CWD by regulating registered cervid farms in Minnesota has been taken up primarily by DFL legislators, who have been pushing for increased restrictions since the early 2010s. Their cause has been supported by the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, and former executive director Craig Engwall said in a 2021 news report that increased regulation doesn't go far enough. "We're really past the point of taking incremental measures now, like double fencing or restricting (shipping) movement of farmed deer," Engwall said. "For the sake of the state's population of wild deer, and our tradition of deer hunting, we need to eliminate deer farms entirely."

And a pair of DFL legislators interviewed by *MinnPost* prior to the 2023 legislative session expressed similar sentiments.

"When you're dealing with disease, stopping the bleeding – metaphorically – is what a moratorium does," said Rep. Rick Hansen, DFL-South St. Paul. "A moratorium is the minimum, not the answer."

Sen. John Marty, DFL-Roseville, was more direct in speculating about what action the Legislature might take.

"I'm guessing at a minimum not allowing new deer farms and probably more likely phasing them out," he said. Courtney Wheeler, a senior veterinarian with the Board of Animal Health, told *MinnPost* that deer farmers have already gotten the message. "A lot of producers are electing to get out because of the very strict regulations in this state," she said. And in December, the DNR's farmed deer and captive species coordinator Mike Oehler told *Outdoor News* he expected the decline in the number of white-tailed deer farms to continue. The state has already seen a drop from 195 registered farms at the end of fiscal year 2020 to 117 last October, Oehler said. "I have about 20 producers that will be out before the close of the year," Oehler said. "The take home message is that we're going to be sitting below 100 farms (going into) 2024. We're going to be well below 2,500 (farmed) deer statewide." The federal lawsuit is the clearest evidence to date that deer farmers blame increased regulations for the dire state of the industry in Minnesota. **Lawsuit claims**
The Minnesota Deer

Farmers Association was joined in the lawsuit by 40 individual plaintiffs, including former deer farm operator Dennis Udovich, of Greaney. Udovich figures prominently in the case, as after voluntarily ceasing his deer farming activities, he now finds himself unable to re-enter the profession due to a moratorium on new registrations for white-tailed deer farming. The regulations also limit the transfer of existing registrations to immediate family members, effectively prohibiting non-family members like Udovich from entering the industry. Udovich's situation illustrates the broader impact of the law on individuals wishing to pursue deer farming.

In Udovich's written statement included with the lawsuit, he noted that he discontinued his deer farm in 2021 after an emergency rule issued by DNR stopped the complete movement of farmed white-tailed deer due to a CWD incident involving three Minnesota farms and five deer from Wisconsin. This cut off Udovich's ability to sell his bucks to established clients in Wisconsin, Iowa, and Louisiana, a key component of his business operation.

The lawsuit claims that legislative changes enacted in Minnesota violate several constitutional rights, including the Equal

Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, by discriminating against deer farmers without immediate family members and those without registrations. They also assert violations of the Takings Clause of the Fifth Amendment, arguing that the DNR is authorized to destroy herds without just compensation, and the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, noting how the regulations represent a complete prohibition against pursuing their trade.

The plaintiffs argue that the state's regulatory framework, which they claim is aimed at eradicating white-tailed deer farming, lacks justification. While the stated purpose of these restrictions is to contain CWD, the plaintiffs assert that the measures aren't reasonable, given the industry's efforts to manage and contain the disease effectively. They point out that there is no direct evidence linking CWD incidents among farmed deer to those in the wild and vice-versa and criticize the state's failure to recognize the industry's proactive measures to address CWD, including monitoring programs and DNA testing for disease susceptibility.

The lawsuit also emphasizes the economic hardship forced on deer farmers through the restriction on the ability to transfer their registration and

herds to anyone other than close family members, and by costly new fencing requirements intended to prevent physical contact between wild and farmed deer. The DNR has three fencing options that would involve constructing a second fence, and a third which would require covering an existing fence with wood, tin, or densely-woven shade cloth.

One of the plaintiffs, Steve Uchtyl, owner of Crow River Whitetails in Atwater, said in the fall MDFA newsletter that he intended to clear out his entire herd and start over in another state because the fencing requirement is cost-prohibitive.

The state has responded with a motion for the judge to dismiss the suit, arguing that the regulations are justified and therefore constitutional by the state's interest in preventing the spread of CWD and protecting public health and the wild deer population. The state's motion said the lawsuit lacks merit and does not establish viable claims upon which relief can be granted to the plaintiffs under the constitutional arguments they advanced. As of Tuesday, no hearing date had been set by the court to consider the dismissal motion.

ECLIPSE...Continued from page 1

expected to reach its peak at approximately 2:06 p.m. Unlike under a total solar eclipse, spectators cannot safely view a partial eclipse, without using eclipse glasses, or without projecting the sun's image onto another surface.

For those wanting to get a deeper experience, the Ely Public Library will have the NASA livestream from areas under the total

eclipse path from 1-3 p.m. Both the Ely and Babbitt public libraries have solar eclipse viewing glasses to give out while supplies last.

The path of the total eclipse will extend from Texas to northern Maine during the early afternoon. Total solar eclipses occur somewhere on Earth every 18 months on average. Any place on Earth will experience a total solar eclipse

only every 360 to 410 years on average. The last total solar eclipse visible in the U.S. occurred in 2017, although Monday's eclipse is set to be substantially longer, about four minutes in most locations, compared to about two-and-a-half minutes in 2017.

The moon's diameter is roughly one-quarter of Earth's, so the shadow it casts is small. The shadow

for the 2017 total eclipse was around 70 miles wide. The shadow for Monday's eclipse will be around 120 miles wide and it will travel slower across the country, taking twice as long to pass overhead. This eclipse will also pass over more populated areas than the last eclipse, with almost half the nation's population living within 200 miles of the path of total backout on

Monday. The 2017 eclipse passed over the relatively low-population areas of the southern and central plains and the northern Rocky Mountains.

The American Academy of Ophthalmologists (AAO) warns eclipse watchers not to look directly at the sun without proper eye protection for even a short time. Without the right kind of

protection, an observer can permanently damage their eyes or go blind. The AAO cautions that ordinary sunglasses—even very dark ones—or homemade filters are not safe for looking at the sun.

The American Astronomical Society has more information on how to safely watch a solar eclipse at eclipse.aas.org/eye-safety/eyewear-viewers.

FIRE...Continued from page 1

the tribal council and was a representative from Bois Forte to the National Indian Gaming Association. He also served as business manager for Bois Forte Enterprises and was a First Responder for the Bois Forte Ambulance. His full obituary appears on 3B of this week's edition.

Early morning fire

According to a report by Friends of the Northland Firewire, the fire on Ridge Dr. was reported to dispatchers about 4:20 a.m. The Bois Forte, Orr, Cook, and Buyck fire departments were paged out for the call,

but the Cook and Buyck departments were canceled before arriving at the scene. When the Bois Forte and Orr departments along with the Bois Forte Ambulance arrived on the scene, the house was engulfed in flames. They received word that a person was in the house but the fire was apparently too involved and intense to safely attempt a search and rescue.

According to Adams' obituary, he succumbed to the fire after getting the rest of his family out of the house. Adams' body was later discovered in the remains of the house.

The Minnesota State Fire Marshal's Office is assisting in determining the cause of the fire.

Second fire

On the afternoon of Wednesday, March

27, the Cook department responded along with the Pike-Sandy-Britt and Kinney-Great Scott departments to another house

fire in the 9500 block of County Hwy. 65 in the Lake Leander area north of Virginia. The house was totally engulfed in flames

and was a total loss. No injuries were reported. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

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HEALTH CARE

Scenic Rivers seeks support from communities

Funding will help health centers increase staff, expand service area

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

REGIONAL- “We love what we do and the people we serve and want to continue to create a solid foundation for Scenic Rivers Health Services to build off for generations to come,” said Kara Jean Baker, an administrative assistant at Scenic Rivers. Baker, who works out of the clinics in Cook and Bigfork, has spearheaded a campaign with the aim to grow the clinic’s financial base, allowing them to hire more staff and

even expand into other underserved communities.

The aim is to raise as much as \$100,000.

“We are a 501(c)(3),” said Baker, “which means we can take tax-deductible donations.”

Baker began her career at Scenic Rivers over three years ago, working with dental patients. When she moved into the administrative assistant position, she realized that building a financial base could be vital to the growth of the organization. Her other job duties include

working with insurers, helping with marketing and advertising, and writing grants.

A big part of her job has also been recruiting, especially looking for more dentists.

“My background is in dental, and I see the impact the lack of staffing has on the community and our staff,” she said. Scenic Rivers has been building relationships with dental schools in the Midwest, as well as the dental school at the University of

See SUPPORT...pg. 2B



A LITTLE MORE HISTORY...

The big iron strike that wasn't

Three years of painstaking digging failed to yield a productive vein

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

PINE ISLAND- An abandoned mine shaft identified in 2019 on Lake Vermilion's Pine Island that was once touted as having the potential to be “one of the largest mines on the range” turned out to be one of the biggest mining speculation busts instead.

As reported in the *Timberjay* in 2019, Pine Island landowner Wayne Dahl reached out to St. Louis County officials in 2018 about what he thought at the time were water-filled exploratory pits on property adjacent to his near Canfield Portage. He was planning to build a lake cabin on his property but was concerned about the hazard the pits would present for his visiting grandchildren. The pits were on tax-forfeited property, so it fell to St. Louis County to remedy the situation.

When county mine inspector Derek Harbin visited the site in August 2019, the smaller pit proved to be about 12 feet deep. When he tried to measure the larger of the pits, his 100-foot tape measure wasn't long

enough, and with additional clues in the immediate area, it wasn't hard to conclude that the pit was actually a mine shaft. Needing to remediate the hazard, Harbin looked at various options before choosing a traditional one — backfilling the hole by using the material from a nearby waste pile, at a cost of about \$14,500. It was around Halloween in 2019 and the fill operation took two or three days, Harbin said. “The dump truck was dumping and dumping and dumping and we got through day one and I still wasn't getting anything on the 100-foot tape measure,” Harbin said. “We're watching the pile dwindle and still weren't getting a reading. Ultimately it took that entire spoil pile, and our estimate was around 300 feet for that shaft. Someone did find a little bit of information regarding this and that was the measurement they had as well. It took nearly all the pile back in until we were able to get a mound on top of it.”

Before the backfilling began, Harbin coordinated with the DNR and Natural Resources

See MINE SHAFT...pg. 2B



Top: Inspecting the mine shaft prior to filling it in.

Above: The white arrow points to the approximate location of the now-filled mine shaft on Pine Island, near Canfield Bay.

Right: A 1911 Duluth Herald headline tells of the mining operation.



CITY OF ELY



Police Patrol Office Bradley Roy presented Ely's new interactive evacuation map at Tuesday's city council meeting.

Ely updates its emergency response plan

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- Ely Police Patrol Officer Bradley Roy presented Ely's new online interactive evacuation map during the April 2 meeting of the city council here. He also presented Ely's portion of the St. Louis County's updated “mitigation action plan,” which was unveiled formally at a press conference in Duluth on Wednesday afternoon.

The evacuation map went live on the city's website under the emergency management link after the press conference.

“Residents will be able to click on where they live on the map,” Roy explained, “and will be able to see at a glance if their neighborhood should prepare to evacuate or needs to evacuate immediately in case of a wildfire.”

Roy noted that the city has multiple ways to inform residents of an evacuation, including phone calling, using the Northland Alert system, and going from door-to-door. The Northland Alert system will text those who register for the service in the event of city alerts. The sign-up link is also on the city's emergency preparedness page.

St. Louis County has identified Ely as a “high risk wildland urban interface area,” a designation that allows the city to receive funding and resources to develop public safety tools like fire evacuation plans.

A U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Community Wildfire Defense Grant awarded to the county funded Ely's map and contribution to the county's hazards mitigation action plan.

In other business, the council:

- Heard from Mayor Heidi

See COUNCIL...pg. 2B



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RECORDING THEIR STORIES

United Way launches Operation: Soldier Story oral history project

REGIONAL – When United Way of Northeastern Minnesota (UWNEMN)'s United for Veterans initiative brought The Wall That Heals traveling Vietnam Veterans Memorial to Chisholm in 2022, UWNEMN staff heard from veterans and their loved ones about an unexpected and significant impact.

"Many veterans shared their stories for the first time, and it was so powerful – in some instances, life-changing," said UWNEMN Community Impact Coordinator Michelle Lampton.

In hopes of bringing that

experience to more veterans and servicemembers across its service area (Iron Range, Koochiching County, and Lake of the Woods County), UWNEMN has launched "Operation: Soldier Story," an oral history project and new component of United for Veterans.

Through the project, local volunteers will be trained to conduct interviews, and UWNEMN will coordinate scheduling interviews, getting them professionally transcribed, and professionally preserving them in the manner of participating veterans/ser-

vicemembers' choosing. Options include local, state, and national archives as well as future educational purposes including a potential future book project; veterans/servicemembers can also elect their histories be kept private.

Participants will be asked to provide a DD214 or military ID to verify their service; these documents will be kept private with UWNEMN. Local veterans/servicemembers from all branches and all eras are invited to be interviewed.

"Local men and women who served in our armed forces

shaped our nation's history, and their unique perspectives and stories are an important part of our local history," said UWNEMN Executive Director Erin Shay. "We are honored for this opportunity to preserve those stories the way they deserve to be."

"Operation: Soldier Story" was created in partnership with St. Louis County Historical Society (SLCHS)'s Veterans Memorial Hall oral history project and with financial support from Veterans Community Thrift Store in Hibbing.

SLCHS has been tasked with collecting oral histories of all

veterans/servicemembers across St. Louis County and will be training "Operation: Soldier Story" volunteers to collect interviews this month. Once volunteers are trained, veterans/servicemembers interested in being interviewed can contact UWNEMN at any time to schedule an interview at a location of their choosing.

Learn more about "Operation: Soldier Story" at www.united-waynemn.org/history. Paper versions of interest forms are available as well; call 218-215-2424 for more information.

MINE SHAFT...Continued from page 1B

Research Institute geologist Dean Peterson to have the site assessed. "It was great that we were able to get the geologists out there to document everything appropriately and make sure that we did our due diligence from a historical mine relevance point of view," Harbin said.

Peterson told the *Timberjay* at the time that there appeared to be no record at all of the mining operation on the island.

His assessment pegged the date of the mine to the late 1800s or early 1900s and ruled out initial speculation that it might have been associated with the gold rush era in the late 1860s.

Mine history

While there initially appeared to be no documentation of the Pine Island mining operation, a sharp-eyed *Timberjay* reader, Harold Poylio, recently forwarded an image from the front page of the May 13, 1911 *Duluth Herald*, which contained a story on the mine and the hopes that it could become a major iron producer. Additional research by the *Timberjay* together with accounts from various newspaper reports found in the Minnesota Historical Society's Digital Newspaper Hub, uncov-

ered more of the interesting story of this mine that never hit the big time. Where conflicting information was found, usually in the reported depth of the shaft, the *Timberjay* selected the data that appeared most consistent with the overall reported progress.

Initial interest in the possibility of a Pine Island mine came about when Albert and A.S. Kitto secured the title to a tract of island property in 1900 with the belief that it would someday prove valuable for its mineral resources. They sold two-thirds interest in the property to two Duluth mining men for \$11,000, and then they collectively leased it to the Biwabik Mining Company in 1906 for exploration and possible mine development. The company drilled for eight months but did not find "anything of importance," according to an article in the May 31, 1907, *Tower Weekly News*.

But that didn't deter another group from taking a chance on Pine Island. In September 1909, Duluth entrepreneurs James Cardle and Tilton Lewis joined forces with Dr. T.F. Rodwell, a physician and superintendent of the Vermilion Lake Reservation School, Fredrick Merrill, of Tower, and Soudan mine superin-

tendent Paul Chamberlain to form the Vermilion Iron Development Company (VIDC). They were encouraged by samples from surface trenching of the two veins of ore on the property that had iron content up to 61 percent, and the belief that the Pine Island veins were a continuation of the iron-rich Soudan formation. The company was capitalized for \$750,000, with none of the organizers taking a salary.

Work on the mine shaft commenced in November 1909 and by the following April had reached about 45 feet. VIDC built a new machinery plant in May or June 1910 with a 70-hp steam boiler, a cylinder hoist, a two-drill air compressor, and a blacksmith shop, and in early July the now 65-foot-deep shaft was growing at about two feet per day, with 15 miners working two shifts. Some harder rock encountered by miners slowed that pace by half at the end of the month.

The ore being excavated was initially running well below the surface sample content, from 34 to 42 percent iron content as the shaft got deeper, but the trend was positive, as VIDC expected iron concentrations to grow the deeper they went. By November 1910 the shaft

was 150 feet deep, and they had found some selected samples as high as 64.89 percent iron content, a level that on a consistent basis would be considered commercial grade. VIDC announced plans to start a crosscut tunnel when the shaft hit 200 feet, something that wouldn't happen for another nine months.

By the summer of 1911, the mine-in-progress had become a popular tourist attraction for locals and travelers alike. "Last Saturday, Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Hingeley of Floodwood and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Carhart of Duluth were among the visitors at Pine Island, and the ladies donned the oilskin suits and miner's hats and took positive pleasure in the trip to the bottom of the shaft in the big iron bucket. The shaft is down 175 feet at the present time, and the last 25 feet has been in commercial ore," reported the *Tower Weekly News* at the time.

Reports coming from the mine gave encouraging news and predictions of great success. With that in mind, optimistic rumors grew of a possible Canadian Northern railroad line to be built from Cook and running alongside Lake Vermilion to Pine Island and then on east to Ely. A

mine anticipated to be one of the largest in the region would surely need rail service to move its ore to market, people speculated.

The mine shaft reached 200 feet in late July 1911 after VIDC upped the ante by investing in a new electric generator to power six new electric drills as well as lighting for the mine and camp, and with promising finds of 62-percent iron content ore, VIDC began a crosscut tunnel to the north of the shaft. When the tunnel hit 70 feet in length in September, running through a mix of iron ore and jasper, company officials said they expected to hit the main ore body in 30-40 more feet. Instead, they dug 130 more feet, a total of 200, and never found what they were looking for. The ore was deemed "very satisfactory," but wasn't clean enough for sustainable commercial mining.

So VIDC went deeper, banking on their experience that the ore would continue to get better the deeper they went. In August 1912, they reached 300 feet, encountering a formation that included soapstone and quartz, and instead of mining another crosscut tunnel they widened the base of the shaft to accommodate a diamond

drill, intending to bore in all directions in search of solid commercial ore.

Once again, they were unsuccessful. While industry journals in 1909 reported that VIDC was planning a 500-foot shaft, company officials apparently had seen enough and abandoned the project.

Unsurprisingly, the failure didn't receive the same fanfare in the press that the persistent promise of success had. It wasn't until March 1913 that the *Tower Weekly News* reported that the company "ceased operations at Pine Island last fall." The quest for one of the richest veins of iron ore on the Vermilion Range had failed. VIDC had been reorganized as the Mutual Iron Company, and all the Pine Island equipment was being transferred to reopen the old McComber mine at Armstrong Lake, where they hoped to have greater luck.

And with that, the Pine Island mine faded from memory, masquerading as an excavation pit until over a century later its true nature was revealed by a man with a too-short tape measure. A unique bit of history uncovered, then covered again with the rock extracted to create it.

SUPPORT...Continued from page 1B

Minnesota. Dental students from the U of M do come to Scenic Rivers clinics where they work under staff as well as do community outreach.

"We are very rural, and it takes special people to want to work in our communities," she said. Scenic Rivers currently employs about 140 staff and maintains medical and dental clinics in Cook, Tower, Bigfork, and Floodwood, along with medical clinics in Big Falls, Eveleth, and Northome.

"Our communities do appreciate us," she said. "They want to help us."

"We've never done any

fundraising in the community in the past," said CEO Keith Harvey. "I think it's a great idea and want to expand on it. There are people out there who are able and willing to donate," he said.

Financially, the organization is facing the same challenges as other rural health providers, specifically rising costs, along with the challenge of hiring new dentists, which is a nationwide problem, he said.

"Everybody is recruiting dentists," he said. "It's a tough market." Community financial support might be very useful in helping Scenic Rivers in this

recruiting environment, he said.

Harvey said there are some dental schools in the Midwest that focus on training dentists for rural areas, and they have been strengthening their ties with these programs.

Scenic Rivers has had much greater success in recruiting medical staff, especially those who already have strong ties to the area and enjoy working in a rural community. "They are not going anywhere," Harvey said.

The support campaign is part of a wider outreach program. "We are looking at different ways to get our

organization participating in our communities," Baker said. They have been reaching out to area businesses to see how they could be involved and are doing outreach health events throughout the Range area.

Community Health Center

As a Community Health Center, Scenic River's mission is to serve all patients, regardless of their income and ability to pay. Originally started as the Cook Area Health Services in 1979, the organization has expanded to serve an 8,300 square mile region. Scenic Rivers Health Services is also

associated with critical access hospitals in Cook and Bigfork, which provide patient care 24 hours a day.

Scenic Rivers offers a sliding fee scale for medical, dental and behavioral health patients. Patients who are uninsured or under-insured may qualify for a sliding fee scale.

Scenic Rivers also has staff that can help patients sign up for MNsure, Minnesota's health insurance marketplace where individuals and families can shop, compare and choose health insurance coverage that meets their needs. They also offer the SAGE program, which

offers cancer screenings for women ages 40 and over who qualify based on income guidelines. They also have a patient representative available to assist patients with payment for medications not covered by insurance or with high co-pays.

Donate

If you'd like to give directly to SRHS, please send donations to:

20 5th Street South, Cook, MN 55723, attention: Kara Jean Baker

Donations are also taken online at spotfund.com (search for Scenic Rivers).

COUNCIL...Continued from page 1B

Omerza, who said she wants to revive Ely's Volunteer of the Year award, stating that she was open to suggestions as to how to do so, hoping to have something in place for council approval by early summer.

► Approved the April 9 housing and redevelopment authority meeting, set for 10 a.m. at the Pioneer Apartments, as a special council meeting. The designation allows any council members who choose to attend to do so legally under Minnesota's Open Meeting Law. The meeting will include a discussion on the recent progress of the city's proposed workforce housing project.

► Approved a recommendation from the park and recreation board to redraw the basketball and pickleball lines on the recreation center courts.

► Approved a recommendation from park and recreation board that the city council direct the city's staff to investigate opportunities with local joint powers organizations to help fund a feasibility study for a "joint recreation type facility."

► Heard the report from the board of adjustment that it approved a variance requested by All Phase Construction for 255 W. Camp St., Parcel No. 030-0500-00050. The variance will allow a zero-foot setback on both the rear and corner side yards for the construction of a building for vehicles and equipment.

► Approved the mid-term appointment of Ely resident Joseph Pioreschi to the open P&Z seat formerly occupied by Banovetz, with a term expiring on Jan. 31, 2025.

► Approved the recommendation from the sanitation committee to renew the existing commercial waste disposal contract with GMen for an additional 4 years. The contract is not exclusive, and businesses have the liberty to hire with other firms for waste disposal, and other waste firms or free to apply for license to operate in Ely.

► Approved the recommendation from the sanitation committee to approve Spring Clean Up Days for April 26-27.

► Approved the recommendation from the Ely Utilities Commission to purchase a polymer pump for \$3,840 for the waste water treatment facility (WWTF).

► Approved a recommendation from EUC to hire Water Conservation

Services for a full water system survey for \$3,750. Previous surveys commissioned by the city have been effective at discovering leaks in the city's water system, reported Forsman.

► Approved a recommendation from EUC for the variable frequency drive manufactured by Qualus for \$1,972.

► Approved a recommendation from EUC to sell scrap metal, pipe fittings and valves to Bob Koschak for \$300.

► Approved a recommendation from EUC to pay off January EUC bills for \$494,423.

► Approved a recommendation from EUC to pay Mick Shusta \$850 for Operator-A and additional consulting services.

► Heard a report from Fire Chief David Marshall that one of the departments

two fire calls since the last city council meeting involved a carbon monoxide incident, where a carbon monoxide alarm alerted the occupants to leave the building. The fire department did need to ventilate the structure. Marshall used this to remind everyone to have a CO detector in their home or business and to make sure it is in working order.

► Heard the report of Police Chief Chad Houde that most of the department now had their canoes, and that the department's most recent hire, Christian Debrey, would receive his hiring incentive canoe soon. Houde added, as snow fell outside the city council chamber windows, "hopefully with this warm weather he'll be able to use it."

► Heard the report

from Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski that the local board of appeal and equalization meeting for Ely will be on April 11, from 5-6 p.m. in the council chambers at City Hall.

► Approved city and EUC claims for payment for April 2 totaling \$181,037.

► Approved a partial pay estimate for the East End Development Project for \$23,589 from Low Impact Excavators.

► Approved the payment of Short Elliott Hendrickson (SEH) invoice No. 462635 for \$11,797 for work on the Prospector ATV Trail.

► Approved the appointment of Ely resident Catherine Helm-Clark to the open seat on the Donald Gardner Trust.

BOIS FORTE

Chavers, Drift top Bois Forte primary election results

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

Top two candidates move to June general election ballot

BOIS FORTE RESERVATION- Incumbent Bois Forte Band Chair Cathy Chavers outdued three competitors in the Bois Forte Band's primary election on Tuesday but will still face a challenge in the June 11 general election.

Unofficial results show

Chavers winning with 41 percent of the vote, nine percent shy of the 50 percent threshold to prevent a two-candidate runoff. Chavers received 157 votes to runner-up Hannah Lehti-Chosa's 125, or 32 percent of the ballots cast. The winning margin for Chavers came from

Nett Lake and urban voters, while Lehti-Chosa beat Chavers 57-51 among Vermilion district voters. The two tied in absentee voting. A total of 387 votes were cast by voters in the contest.

Eliminated from the chair race were Brian L. Whiteman Sr. with 19 percent of the vote

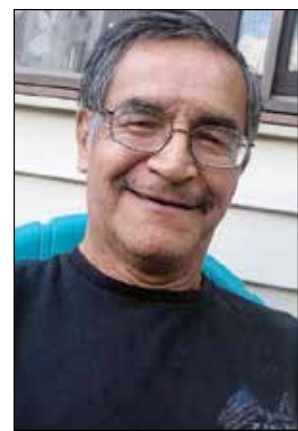
and Carlos Hernandez with eight percent.

In a crowded field for District 1 Representative, Perry L. Drift led among the six candidates, with 32 percent, representing 78 of the 245 votes cast. In second place was Edward Villebrun with 55 votes, or 22

percent. Candidates who failed to advance to the general election and their vote percentages included William G. Isham, 19 percent, Robbie Goggleye, 17 percent, and David H. Villebrun Jr., 10 percent.

Drift and Villebrun will now face off in the general election for the District 1 seat.

Obituaries and Death Notices



Gordon C. Adams Jr.

Gordon "Jones" Clifford Adams Jr., 66, longtime resident of Nett Lake, died on Sunday, March 24, 2024, in his home from a tragic house fire. A wake was held on Friday, March 29 and a Tribal Rites funeral was held on Saturday, March 30, both at the Bois Forte Tribal Government Center in Nett Lake. The Spiritual Advisor was Billy Blackwell, assisted by Clint Miller. Family services were provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.

Gordy was born on Oct. 15, 1957, in Fort Francis, Ontario, Canada, the son of Gordon Clifford Adams Sr. and Martha Jane Burnside Adams.

Gordy "Jones" was a 1975 graduate of Orr High School and played basketball for the Orr Braves team under the direction of William "Bill" King. In 1975, the Orr Braves won the District 27 Tournament and Gordy was a member of the starting five. He was also selected as the outstanding Native Athlete his senior year. After graduation he joined the United States Marine Corps. He was an accomplished Marine and received many honorary medals including Rifle Sharpshooter, Infantry, and Good Conduct. He was honorably discharged

as an E-4 Corporal in 1979.

Upon completion of his military service, Gordy worked for the Bois Forte Sawmill, served as construction manager for the Nett Lake School project, and also was an accomplished self-employed carpenter, instrumental in the remodeling of many reservation construction projects. He also worked for the Bois Forte Energy Assistance Program, was Executive Director for the Bois Forte RTC, and later served on the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council as District One Council Member and was elected for two terms. Gordy was well known throughout greater Indian Country, serving as a representative for the National Indian Gaming Association and as a Regional Vice President for the National Congress of American Indians. He later worked for Bois Forte Enterprises at Fortune Bay Resort Casino as the business manager and at Power-Rain. He volunteered on the Bois Forte Ambulance as an EMS First Responder, took pride in his many past accomplishments, and was a proud USMC veteran.

Gordy enjoyed fishing. He loved taking his boat on Pelican Lake, fishing with his family, hunting ducks and deer, guiding, netting fish on Lake Vermilion, picking berries, and was an accomplished ricer. He enjoyed cookouts with family and friends. He took pride in raising his grandchildren, Everly and Ivy, whom he thought of as his own. On Nov. 16, 1985, he married the love of his life, Kathleen "Patsy" Day Adams in Nett Lake. They were married for 37 years. On Dec. 28, 2022, he lost the

love of his life, Patsy, and was in deep mourning. It brings his family great comfort knowing that they are now reunited. Once a Marine, always a Marine; he died a hero, as he saved his family from a catastrophic house fire by awakening everyone and getting them out before saving himself.

Gordy is survived by his daughters, Rebecca (Craig) Adams and Tyla Adams, both of Nett Lake; sons, Gordy (Nikki) Adams III of Nett Lake and Mike Adams of Virginia; siblings, Vern (Cindy) Adams of Virginia, Randy Adams of Hoyt Lakes, Les (Roberta) Adams of Duluth and Sherrie Laitenen of Tower; grandchildren, Owen, Liam, Della, Everly, Ivy and Avis; and numerous nephews, nieces, friends and other relatives.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Gordon Sr. and Martha Adams; brothers, Norm, Bill, Lester, Lorne and Bob; and sisters, Carlene and Mary.

Daniel Schmiechen

Daniel Schmiechen, 90, of St. Louis Park, died peacefully at home on Thursday, March 21, 2024. Memorial services will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 18 at Edina Morningside Community Church, and at Madison Christian Community Church later this summer. Donations to the Friends of the Boundary Waters would be greatly appreciated.

Dan was born in

Augusta, Mo., in 1933, to Samuel and Marie Schmiechen and grew up in St. Louis, Chicago and St. Paul. Dan obtained a degree in History at Elmhurst College and a Bachelor of Divinity at Eden Seminary. He served congregations in Ellsworth, Tomah and Madison, Wis., and Davenport, Iowa, from 1957 to 1997. He loved the family cabin near Ely and spent many years leading canoe trips into the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. Dan will always be remembered for his service to people and the community.

Dan is survived by his wife, Barbara; children, Paul, Sue, Andrea Earnest (Roy) and Dave (Anne); grandchildren, Kate, Aidan, Brady, Megan and Nolan; brother, Peter (Jan); and sister, Abbie Bahneman (David).

Clarice D. Lynn

Clarice Diane LeMoine Lynn, 89, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, in St. Lucie County, Fla.

Clarice was born in Duluth on April 3, 1934, the daughter of Vienna Maki LeMoine and Sylvion Rosario LeMoine. She was a student at Duluth Public Schools and attended high school at Stanbrook Hall through eleventh grade. She then moved to Ohio where she graduated from Hubbard High School in 1952 and went on to get her BA in Education. Clarice married Francis Wayne Lynn on Aug. 20, 1955, in

Ohio. The couple moved to Florida in 1969 where they lived most of those years in Coral Springs. Clarice retired from Broward County Schools after 42 years of teaching. For most of her retirement she lived in both Cook, Minn., and Coral Springs, Fla. Her final year was spent in Port St. Lucie.

Clarice is survived by her children, Mark Stephen Lynn, Mary Cynthia (William) Sayers, Kim Marie Mosley and Jennifer Ann (Paul) Grilo; daughter-in-law, Susan Lynn; 14 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren; four sisters; two brothers; many nieces and nephews; extended family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Sylvion LeMoine in 1985 and Vienna LeMoine in 1992; husband, Francis Wayne Lynn in 2013; and son, Gregory Francis Lynn in 2014.

Richard P. Johnson

Richard Paul "Ricky" "Dick" Johnson, 72, of Cook, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, after a tragic accident on Thursday, March 14. The family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the compassionate team of medical professionals at St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth who cared for him in his final days. A celebration of life will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 18 at the Cook Community Center, with a prayer service and moment of sharing at

1:30 p.m. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

He is survived by his wife and best friend of 26 years, Jennifer; mother, Mary Anne; seven children, Shawna Frank, Holly Spanjers, Lynnae Johnson, Paul Johnson, Stephanie Loberg, Tara Swedzinski and Brian Weins; four siblings; 14 grandchildren; and many other family members and friends.

Gladys Kujala

Gladys Salo Kujala, 93, formerly of Parkville, originally of Angora-Alango, passed away peacefully in her sleep on Monday, March 18, 2024. The family would especially like to thank the staff at Northern Pines Care Center in Aurora for their kind and compassionate care. She always commented on how wonderful her care was. The family requests no flowers; memorials can be directed to the charity of your choice in her honor. There will be a celebration of life later this spring.

She is survived by her sons, Larry (Jane) Kujala and Clayton Kujala; grandchildren, Jake, Nick (Alicia), Kristen (Chad) and Meredith (Erin); and great-grandchildren, Emma, Claire, Paige, Mazie, Mack, Kendal, Addison and Keegan.

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Community Hospital

Hospital Connection
Transitional Care (formerly Swing Bed)

Q: What is Transitional Care?
A: Often, the road to recovery doesn't lead straight home. Patients may need a little extra care following surgery, major illness, or injury. This is when they may need the services of a Transitional Care bed. In Transitional Care, patients can get the extra help they need to recover in a safe and secure environment with plenty of help and encouragement through hospital-based services such as Physical and Occupational Therapy. These stays are typically short and last ten to fourteen days.

Q: Why was this type of care formerly called a Swing Bed?
A: The term 'Swing Bed' was previously used by Medicare to describe extended care provided in a hospital setting. It was designed for patients who didn't require a Skilled Nursing Facility like a Nursing Home but weren't ready to return home. This program, now known as Transitional Care, was initially created for rural hospitals that might not have other care options available locally.

Q: How can I find out more about EBCH Transitional Care?
A: Our dedicated social worker is here to assist patients who need a Transitional Care bed. She plays a crucial role in connecting with discharge planners from larger facilities when patients are transferred from our Emergency Department to another hospital. She can advocate for patients to return to EBCH and recover closer to home, ensuring their needs are met. If you know in advance that you may need a Transitional Care bed (such as after surgery), we can work with you to help facilitate the process and ensure that your insurance will cover the costs. For more information, visit our website at www.ebch.org or contact our social worker at 218-365-8758.

Hospital Connection is an ongoing feature of Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital (EBCH). We are excited to share our most recent updates and information in a question-and-answer format featuring a new topic each week. We will share important information about healthcare at local, state, and national levels, along with exciting information about EBCH, our 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. Like our Facebook page to keep up with current events and announcements.

ebch.org 328 W Conan St
Ely, MN 55731
218-365-3271

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



Outdoors

Our lives in the
Northwoods

WEATHER

Forecasters predict expanding drought in region

Outlook for April strongly favors above normal temperatures, near normal precipitation

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Last week's major snowstorm helped but didn't alleviate the ongoing drought conditions now in place over virtually all of northeastern Minnesota, and forecasters say they expect drought conditions to continue and possibly worsen over the next several weeks.

Forecasters with the National Weather Service office in Duluth recently

issued an extensive update on the developing drought, which highlights the prospects for worsening drought conditions in the region.

According to the update, all but the far northwestern corner of St. Louis County remains in moderate drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. Further west, much of north-central Minnesota is experiencing severe drought conditions.

But the outlook for the

future holds little prospect of improvement. According to the National Climate Prediction Center, the three-month drought outlook shows the current drought is expected to persist and worsen in the eastern two-thirds of Minnesota and will develop in northwestern St. Louis and eastern Koochiching counties, which are currently only listed as abnormally dry.

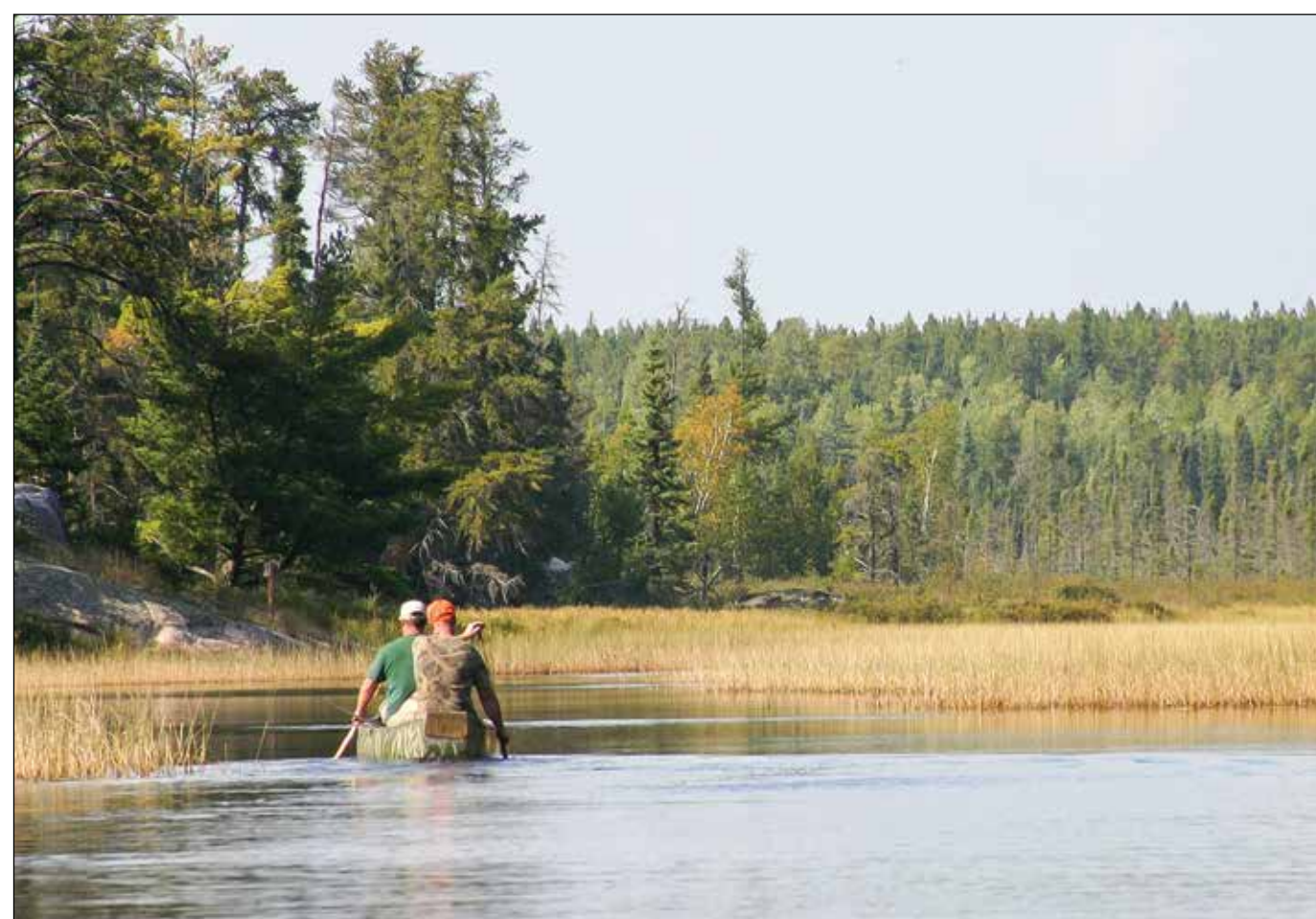
Meanwhile, temperatures are strongly favored to run

above normal in April, with conditions slightly favoring below normal precipitation for the month. Next week's forecast does call for off-and-on chances of mostly light precipitation which may reduce fire danger for periods but likely won't ease drought conditions.

Limited snowpack having an effect

Precipitation in March

See **DROUGHT...**pg. 5B



WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT

Forest Service seeks input for changes in BWCAW management

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

THE BOUNDARY WATERS— Change appears to be afoot in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness as officials on the Superior National Forest look to update a management plan to better fit the changing uses and challenges facing the 1.1-million-acre wilderness.

“The management direction for the BWCAW was last updated in 1993,” said Tom Hall, Forest Supervisor on the Superior National Forest. “Our implementation and monitoring over the past 30 years, and changes to national wilderness management policy and guidance, has highlighted several issues affecting wilderness character in the BWCAW and the wilderness experience for visitors.”

Officials on the Superior are looking for public input as part of their effort to update management policies and practices within the wilderness, and there will be multiple opportunities (see sidebar) for those who care about the Boundary Waters to weigh in on possible changes between now and May 17, when the public input phase will come to a close. According to Hall, this initial input phase is meant to be collaborative, to help the Forest Service better understand public desires for

“In my mind, all things are on the table, but not all things are going to change.”

Tom Hall
Superior National
Forest Supervisor

future management of the popular wilderness. “In my mind, all things are on the table, but not all things are going to change,” said Hall during a Tuesday interview with the *Timberjay*.

The possible changes would come as an amendment to the current forest plan, which entails an extended NEPA process with multiple opportunities for public input. The current round of input will help the Forest Service gauge the extent of the change, if any, sought by the public. “It’s about determining the scope and the scale as we start to think about this,” said Hall.

The latest call for comment comes in parallel with a study by the John S. McCain III National Center for Environmental Conflict Resolution, commissioned by the Forest Service, that includ-

Make your voice heard

Public comments can be made through May 17 on the project webpage electronically, or in hard copy submitted to: Superior National Forest, RE: BWCAW Forest Plan Amendment, 8901 Grand Ave. Place, Duluth, MN 55808

Open House: An in-person event will be held Thursday, April 11, from 4:30-7 p.m. at the SNF Headquarters at 8901 Grand Avenue Place, in Duluth.

Open House: A virtual open house will be held on Thursday, April 18 from 4-6 p.m., utilizing Microsoft Teams for your computer, mobile app or room device. Join the meeting by using Meeting ID: 289 483 854 876, Passcode: XPqvvs. You can download Teams, join on the web or call in (audio only) to 1-202-650-0123, with a code of 407805385#.

ed in-depth discussions with more than 100 individuals in hopes of better understanding concerns around management of the Boundary Waters. The forum created by the center for that effort is expected to continue through the amendment process, as the Forest Service recently entered into a new contract with the center. The forum, known as the Boundary Waters collaborative, had a kick-off meeting last week that included stakeholders across a broad range of categories. “We fully expect this will be a forum to discuss the broader issues [associated with the plan amendment],” Hall said.

The Boundary Waters is not only the most heavily-used wilderness area in the

country, it is relied upon by an exceptionally large array of service businesses that are a major part of the economy in wilderness-edge communities, like Ely and Grand Marais.

While the economic impact of the wilderness is significant, recreation is just one of several management goals associated with the BWCAW, and Forest Service officials note that their mission is to balance the demand for recreation with protection of the wilderness itself. As managers of the wilderness, Hall said the Forest Service has to respond to indicators that point to degradation of the wilderness through misuse

See **BWCAW...**pg. 5B

Outdoors briefly



As weather warms, bears become active

REGIONAL — With spring-like weather returning to the area in recent days, DNR wildlife officials are urging residents to prepare for the return of bear activity in the region by addressing food sources around their homes or cabins.

“While most of the female bears with cubs and yearlings are still near their denning areas, the mild winter has caused some full-grown bears to emerge from dens early to look around or find a quick, high-calorie snack.

“Bird feeders can become bear feeders,” said Andrew Tri, DNR bear project leader. “Bird seed and grains are very attractive to bears looking for a quick, high-calorie meal. Prevention is key. Once a bear finds a food source, it will likely return.”

As bears emerge from hibernation, their metabolism gradually ramps up as they transition from nibbling on plants to more substantial meals. Food and food odors attract bears, and they can pick up a scent from over a mile away.

Home and cabin owners can prevent bear conflicts now by following these bearwise basics:

- Remove bird feeders when bears are active.
- Secure food, garbage and recycling.
- Never feed or approach a bear.
- Never leave pet food outdoors.
- Clean and store grills and smokers.
- Alert neighbors to bear activity.

People should be cautious around bears and give them space. If bear problems persist after cleaning up food sources, contact a Minnesota DNR area wildlife office for advice.

DNR authorizes more species for catch-and-release records

REGIONAL — Anglers will have new opportunities to claim the glory of catching a Minnesota state record fish.

Anglers can now earn catch-and-release records for 18 species beyond the four current species that are recognized, a change the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is making in response to the increasing popularity of catch-and-release fishing and to raise the profile of native rough fish. But the change also includes some highly-sought game fish that weren't previously included

See **RECORDS...**pg. 5B

Outdoors briefly

DNR seeks input on muskie plan update

REGIONAL — The Minnesota DNR is asking the public to share their thoughts on how the DNR manages muskie as part of an update to the state's long-range muskie plan.

"We're gathering input as we update our muskie plan for the future," said Leslie George, northeast region fisheries manager. "As a first step in updating the plan, we're asking about the experiences and interests of anglers and others related to muskie

management." For the plan update, the Minnesota DNR hopes to hear from anglers who fish for muskies, other anglers, lake-user groups, partners in tribal nations, and anyone interested in muskies. People can share input in an online scoping survey on the Minnesota DNR muskie webpage (mndnr.gov/muskie). A webinar about the update process is planned for fall 2024, and in the winter of 2024-2025 the public will be able to review and provide input on a draft plan.

DROUGHT...Continued from page 4B

was close to normal throughout most of the region, thanks in part to the late season snowfalls, but the lack of a substantial winter snowpack has been impacting the region's hydrological patterns for weeks. While most area streams were still ice-covered as of mid-week, most rivers which are ice-free are showing remarkably limited flow for this time of year. The Rainy River, for example, is running below its average Q90 for the year, which means it is in the lowest tenth percentile for flow. And that's at a time of year when flows are typically bolstered by spring snowmelt.

the latest snowfalls have added about 0.5-1.5 inches of liquid equivalent to the snowpack, which should boost water levels as it melts. But the amount of water in the snowpack remains well below the typical levels for this time of year.

Due to the limited snowpack, which is expected to have largely melted by this weekend, fire danger could well ramp up in the next few weeks. The National Interagency Coordination Center shows all of Minnesota experiencing above normal fire potential throughout April. That is expected to diminish significantly in May as the forest greens up.

RECORDS...Continued from page 4B

in the catch-and-release record program.

"Angler stories and photos of the huge fish caught from Minnesota's lakes, rivers and streams generate major excitement," said Mandy Erickson, fisheries program consultant. "We also hope the buzz around some of these records brings more attention to native rough fish, which, besides being fun to catch, are important to aquatic ecosystems."

Records established prior to requiring weight to be documented on a certified scale will continue to be recognized as historical records. After March 1, the Minnesota DNR will recognize three categories of record fish: historical weight records, catch-and-release documented by photos, and certified weight documented by keeping a fish and weighing it on a state-certified scale.

Anglers can also apply for a certified weight record for yellow bass, added to the category because the species has dramatically increased in both presence and popularity, particularly in south-central Minnesota.

Species being added to the catch-and-release category are blue sucker, bigmouth buffalo, bowfin, brook trout, brown trout, channel catfish, freshwater drum, lake trout, largemouth bass, longnose gar, rainbow trout, sauger,

shortnose gar, shovelnose sturgeon, smallmouth bass, smallmouth buffalo, tiger muskellunge and walleye. The category will continue to include muskellunge, northern pike, lake sturgeon and flathead catfish. There will be a minimum fish length requirement for new submissions, which will prevent an abundance of record applications for commonly caught sizes.

Certified weight records will be available for black crappie, bluegill, brown bullhead, channel catfish, common carp, flathead catfish, lake trout, northern pike, smallmouth bass, walleye and yellow perch. For each species, anglers will be required to meet a minimum weight to apply for a record.

"Before making these changes we discussed possible approaches with angling organizations and tribal interests, and sought input via fishing-related Facebook pages and DNR email lists. Overall, we received very positive feedback," Erickson said.

The record fish program has been managed by the state's fisheries resource agency in various forms for nearly 100 years. More information, including minimum fish length and weight requirements for new submissions, is available on the Minnesota DNR record fish webpage (mndnr.gov/recordfish).

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

					Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
					46 22					50 28					51 32					50 32					55 34				
Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.					
03/25	26	11	0.20	3.0"	03/25	28	22	0.21	3.3"	03/25	27	3	0.07	1.4"	03/25	26	11	0.16	3.0"	03/25	27	16	0.18	3.4"					
03/26	30	na	0.62	4.5"	03/26	31	17	0.37	3.7"	03/26	28	16	0.09	2.0"	03/26	30	na	0.46	3.0"	03/26	30	15	0.62	5.4"					
03/27	17	10	0.50	5.4"	03/27	18	12	0.28	2.5"	03/27	17	12	0.15	3.0"	03/27	17	10	0.16	4.0"	03/27	17	11	0.28	3.8"					
03/28	18	na	0.11	2.0"	03/28	19	12	0.07	0.5"	03/28	19	11	0.19	3.5"	03/28	18	na	0.02	2.0"	03/28	18	12	0.06	1.8"					
03/29	32	0	0.00	03/29	35	-3	0.00	03/29	32	9	0.00	03/29	32	0	0.00	03/29	35	-2	0.00	03/29	35	-2	0.00						
03/30	39	13	0.33	3.0"	03/30	40	-3	0.10	1.2"	03/30	37	8	0.36	4.5"	03/30	39	13	0.15	3.0"	03/30	39	-1	0.22	2.5"					
03/31	38	16	0.00	03/31	37	28	0.00	03/31	35	28	0.00	03/31	38	16	0.00	03/31	34	27	0.00	03/31	34	27	0.00						
YTD Total	2.87 44.6"				YTD Total	2.44 30.7"				YTD Total	2.80 52.2"				YTD Total	NA				YTD Total	3.23 41.9"								

BWCAW...Continued from page 4B



Left and above: Examples of rule violations, including exceeding the four-canoe limit per campsite and the prohibition on cutting and burning of green wood. photos courtesy USFS

or overuse. "We have seen some impacts to campsites and portages, through things like erosion or site expansion," said Hall. "When people find degraded sites, it impacts their wilderness experience."

Hall said changes to the forest plan can better position the Forest Service to restore and preserve wilderness character and meet the purposes of wilderness described in the 1964 Wilderness Act and 1978 BWCAW Act.

Among the many issues related to wilderness management that the Forest Service is considering as part of the updated management plan:

►How increasing visitation and changing trends in the ways that wilderness users utilize public lands and primitive management areas is adversely impacting all four management areas of the BWCAW. Monitoring has indicated both social and ecological impacts, such as crowding, noise, lack of campsite availability, littering, campsite and portage erosion, water quality degradation, and other issues that

are negatively impacting the wilderness, both in high-travel zones as well as primitive management areas. There is a need to update management direction to preserve wilderness character to provide opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation, restore naturalness, and protect other features of value across the wilderness.

►Possible updates to the management of towboats in portions of the wilderness. The Forest Service issued a BWCAW towboat pre-scoping notice last August, which generated over 1,300 comments, most of which expressed concern with how towboats are managed in the overall motorboat cap within the BWCAW and the impact that towboats have on the wilderness character. Management of the towboat commercial service is just one aspect of the broader issue related to both motorized use and wilderness character, noted Hall, who gave no indication that any

major change in the service is in the offing. "Towboats existed prior to 1978 act, was a pre-existing use," he said. "Until the court tells us otherwise, it's still within our discretion on how to manage that," he said. In addition to commercial towboat use, there is a need to consider the context of motorized use in general within the BWCAW, as provided for by existing law.

►How lightning fires could be allowed to play a more natural role within the wilderness. Much of the Superior National Forest has fire-adapted ecosystems and large fires naturally occur in the region periodically. The current forest plan does allow for the use of management-ignited prescribed fire in the BWCAW on a project-by-project basis, which acknowledges the value of fire as a management tool within the wilderness.

Other issues likely to be addressed include but are not limited to fisheries stocking, survey and spawn take, commercial outfitter and guide operations, visitor use management (overnight paddle and hiking quota, campsites), wilderness education plans, the reservation system, and research needs.

Next steps

Based on public input, as well as applicable laws, policies, and regulations, the Superior expects to develop a proposed forest plan amendment to address any need for change identified through the planning process. Once completed, the Forest Service will again notify stakeholders and partners of the proposed amendment and solicit public involvement again as part of its NEPA requirements. Formal public scoping for this project is anticipated in early 2025.

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EMPLOYMENT

TOWN OF EMBARRASS Summer Job Opening

The Embarrass Township will have an opening for a Seasonal Maintenance Laborer. This position will be Monday – Thursday 7:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. but hours may vary depending on needs. The position will be held from June to August.

Please stop by or email the Embarrass Town Hall Clerk Office for an application. Call Clerk with questions at 984-2084 or embarrasstownship@frontiernet.net

Seasonal Maintenance Labor shall complete the following duties:

1. Carry out responsibilities set by the Township Board of Supervisors, Clerk and Maintenance Contact.
2. Coordinate and resolve work-related problems.
3. Mowing, raking, trimming, and clearing away brush.
4. Painting and repairing masonry or wood-work features of buildings.
5. Cleaning of Town Hall, rest rooms, and other work and public areas
6. Transport garbage and waste to disposal area.
7. Replenishes bathroom supplies, light bulbs and other supplies.
8. Transport equipment and tools to work sites.
9. Maintains equipment when needed.
10. Set up and take down tables & chairs at Town Hall.
11. Abides by all local, state and federal safety and health laws.

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

Must be at least 16 years or older and have a valid driver's license.

Published in the Timberjay, March 22, 29 & April 5, 2024



Now Hiring: Full and Part-Time Hours with Flexible Scheduling: Summer Season is Almost Here! Positions Available April – October Apply in Person or at Piragis.com

Are you looking for a fast paced and incredibly fun summer where you can work and play at the edge of the Boundary Waters Wilderness? Piragis Northwoods Company is actively seeking and hiring seasonal staff to join our team from April through October. Stop into the shop to see Jay or give him a call. Feel free to send in your resume or fill out an application online as well. We're so excited to meet you! Jay Gustafson jay@piragis.com 218.365.6745

105 North Central Avenue piragis.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

KABETOGAMA TOWNSHIP Important Information Regarding Assessment And Classifications of Property This may affect your 2025 property tax payments.

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeal and Equalization of the Township of Kabetogama shall meet on April 17, 2024, from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the Kabetogama Town Hall, 9707 Gamma Rd, Kabetogama, MN 56669. The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether taxable property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor, and also to determine whether corrections need to be made.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you are still not satisfied with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the local board of appeal and equalization. The board shall review the valuation, classification, or both if necessary, and shall correct it as needed. Generally, an appearance before your local board of appeal and equalization is required by law before an appeal can be taken to your county board of appeal and equalization.

Mary Manninen, Clerk
Kabetogama Township

Published in the Timberjay, April 5, 2024

FIELD TOWNSHIP

The Board of Appeal and Equalization for Field Township will meet on April 30, 2024 from 11 AM– 12 Noon at the Field Town Hall, 1627 Hwy 25

The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, contact the County Assessor at 218-471-7277 – Often issues can be resolved at this level.

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

Pat Chapman/Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, April 5, 2024

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.

V'U UYTS RYTTVSJ WIYAD
ISVEK W KYYJ FSTLYE DOWE
ISVEK DOS ISLD BYYDIWCC
FCWNST VE DOS RYTCJ.
— CVYESC USLLV

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Super Crossword

Answers

I	O	T	A	D	E	L	H	I	H	I	T	O	N	P	O	S	H			
F	L	A	B	A	L	O	A	N	A	D	E	L	A	H	U	M	E			
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Y	E	T	T	O	B	E	P	A	N	S	A	Y	U	N	C	L	E			
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D	E	F	Y	P	E	E	T	E	S	E	N	A	T	R	H	O	S			

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! Also interviewing for positions for the 2024/25 school year for other licensed teaching positions. Currently open for interview on a rolling basis - call 218-248-2485 or email info@vermilioncountry.org for more information:

Licensed Teaching positions grades 7-12 (B.A. or teaching license required):

- Special Education Teacher (licensed)
- Literature/Language Arts and/or Social Studies (licensed)
- Science and/or Math Interdisciplinary Teacher (licensed)
- Social Worker (skills and students services focus on individual and small group skills work. LSW, LGSW, LICSW, Licensed School Social Worker, or alternative certification considered LADC etc.)

Student Support and Community positions (no education license required) Benefits Eligible

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 - Student Success Counselor (\$40,000 annual salary)
 - Student Success Program Specialist, (hourly \$24-\$30/hr+ DOE)
- Part Time:**
- 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 and/or 218-248-2485

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Goal
- 4 Hosp. hook-ups
- 7 "Peter Pan" pooch
- 11 "Pygmalion" writer
- 13 Use a straw
- 14 Bone-dry
- 15 Teeny bit
- 16 Capita lead-in
- 17 Makes lace
- 18 Tic
- 20 Laptop connection
- 22 Dell choice
- 24 Radiated
- 28 Reach
- 32 Battery part
- 33 King of the jungle
- 34 Dog's foot
- 36 Similar
- 37 Canal vessel
- 39 iPads, e.g.
- 41 "In America" writer Susan
- 43 — Perignon
- 44 Partially mine
- 46 Chip choice
- 50 First light
- 53 Suitable
- 55 Roller coaster feature
- 56 "Zounds!"
- 57 Three, in Rome
- 58 Links org.
- 59 Pear variety
- 60 Storm center

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		

- 61 Designer monogram
- 9 Quibble
- 31 Chow down
- 10 Billboards
- 35 Bankroll
- 12 Capital on the Potomac and 7-Down locale
- 38 Vichy water
- 40 "— voyage!"
- 42 Shred, as cheese
- 19 Astronaut Jemison
- 45 Agile
- 21 Ga. neighbor
- 47 Mimic
- 23 Super Bowl VIP
- 48 Swine
- 25 Stirred
- 49 October birth-stone
- 26 Tend texts
- 50 Cotillion celeb
- 27 Cozy rooms
- 51 Previously
- 28 Priestly vestments
- 52 Existed
- 29 Pisa farewell
- 54 Golf peg
- 30 Trumpet

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PUBLIC NOTICE

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

BOIS FORTE VERMILION PUBLIC WORKS / FOOD SHELF FACILITY TOWER, MINNESOTA

The Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Indians will receive sealed bids for the "BOIS FORTE VERMILION PUBLIC WORKS / FOOD SHELF FACILITY", until 10:00 a.m., THURSDAY, APRIL 25th, 2024, at the office of the Nett Lake Tribal Government Center, ATTN: Carol Burr, 5344 Lakeshore Drive, Nett Lake, Minnesota, at which time all Bids will be publicly opened, and read aloud. Tribal Council to act on this item at the May 1st, 2024 council meeting.

All bids must be sealed and clearly marked, "BID FOR: BOIS FORTE VERMILION PUBLIC WORKS / FOOD SHELF FACILITY", along with bidder's name, and must be accompanied by a certified check or bidder's bond in the amount of five percent (5%) of the net base bid amount, payable to the order of Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Indians, as warranty that the successful bidder will enter into a contract and furnish the usual Bonds (Performance Bond and

Labor and Material Payment Bond) as required by the Specifications within ten (10) days after Notice of Award of Contract.

Bid Documents (plans and specifications) will be available electronically beginning March 28th, 2024. Free access to the plans & specifications may be obtained by contacting DSGW Architects, Inc., (218) 727-2626. Bid Documents may also be examined at the builder's exchanges of: Minnesota Builders Exchange, Construct Connect, and Dodge Data & Analytics. Pre-printed plans and specifications will not be provided.

No Bidder shall modify, withdraw or cancel their Bid or any part thereof for sixty (60) days after the date designated for the receipt of bids. The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any irregularities and informalities therein and to award the Contract to other than the lowest bidder, if in their discretion the interest of the project will be best served thereby.

Contractors who would like to visit the site are to contact Carol Burr to set up a date & time via email at cburr@bois-forte-nsn.gov.

Published in the Timberjay, April 5, 12 & 19, 2024

FIELD TOWNSHIP MEETING CHANGE NOTICE

The April and May regular board meetings of the Field Town Board will be held the second Tuesday of the month at the Field Town Hall, 1627 Highway 25, beginning at 7 p.m.

Pat Chapman/Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, April 5, 2024

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 X

PZNM AV MZX MXHO EQH
VQOXQWX PZQ'V XYNOAWAWF
MZX UAEX QE CHXVASXWM
FXHNUS? N EQHS XYCUQHXX.

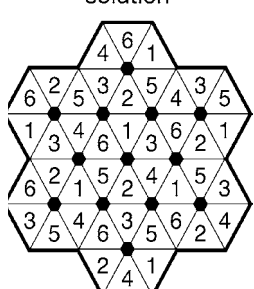
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SNOWFLAKES

solution



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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.

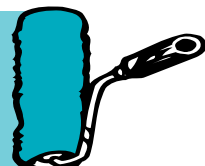
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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