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# The TIMBERJAY



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989

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## CITY OF ELY

# Canoe incentive proves effective for Ely police

Department saw 19 applicants in latest hiring round, far more than earlier efforts

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY— The city of Ely's unique police hiring incentive appears to be making a difference. That was the report from Police Chief Chad Houde, who told the city council here on Tuesday that applications for open positions in the

department have jumped sharply since news spread of the city's offer to provide new recruits with a free canoe and paddling gear.

"In this last hiring process, we ended up with 19 applicants, which is 18 more than the previous hiring cycle," said Houde. "So, I want to thank you for that (the

incentive program). Several applicants mentioned the incentive canoes in their interviews, so the program has definitely done its job. Now we need to wait to see if it helps with retention."

The discussion on the incentive came during Houde's report on a conditional job offer to Charles Petersen for the open police

officer position, pending a background investigation, and psychological and medical examinations.

### Household hazardous waste

St. Louis County will collect household hazardous waste from Ely area residents at the Ely Joint See...COUNCIL pg. 9



An Ely police cruiser with a canoe on top. The city's new incentive has proven to be a significant draw for new police applicants. file photo

## ACQUISITIONS

# ALLETE sale approved by directors

## Duluth-based company owns Minnesota Power

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Officials with Duluth-based ALLETE Inc., the parent company of Minnesota Power, announced this week that they have agreed to be acquired by a partnership led by the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board and Global Infrastructure Partners.

The deal, estimated at \$6.2 billion including assumption of debt, according to an ALLETE press release, would take the assets currently controlled by the publicly traded company private.

Under the deal, the partnership will acquire all outstanding ALLETE common stock for \$67 per share, a premium of nearly 12 percent over the closing share price on April 30 of this year. The ALLETE board of directors unanimously approved the deal and is expected to close in mid-2025, subject to the approval of shareholders and regulators.

The Canada Pension Plan Investment Board, which goes by the acronym CPP Investments, is a Canadian Crown corporation created in 1997 to oversee and invest the funds within the Canada Pension Plan. The

See...MN POWER pg. 9

## RESTORATIONS

# And every one has a story

Plans afoot for more car shows in Tower this summer

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- A rainy Saturday morning was not an auspicious start for what the new owners of the Tower Café are hoping to become a regular feature in downtown Tower. But plans for future car show events are already in the works.

Three vehicles were parked in the bank parking lot adjacent to the café, but the three hit most of the high points for restoration enthusiasts: a shiny classic 1950s road car, a working 1960s vintage truck, and a teenager who turned a 20-year old junker into a working vehicle.

Café owner Bob McDonough is a car enthu-

Above: Mike Forsman, of Ely, was showing off his 1957 Chevy 210 Station Wagon along with his grandson Isaiah Forsman.

Right: A view of the engine powering the 1967 Chevy Hereford farm truck restored by Rob Mattson.

photos by J. Summit

siast himself, and he is confident that with warmer

See...SHOW pg. 10



## ST. LOUIS COUNTY

# Road projects in the works for Cook, Lake Vermilion areas

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Spring heralds the onset of road construction season, that time when drivers have to satisfy themselves that a little short-term pain will bring some welcome long-term gain.

St. Louis County Public

Works has plenty of projects lined up for the Cook and Lake Vermilion area that will bring with them some traffic slowdowns, but few detours.

One of the challenges to understanding exactly what roads are affected is the designation of roads as County State Aid Highways, or CSAHs. A road a

driver thinks of as one continuous road may actually be comprised of two or more CSAHs, each with their own official project designation. When looking at the county's project list online at <https://engage.stlouiscountymn.gov/project-list>, one may need to look at more than one designated project to come up with all the

work being done on their usual travel routes.

### CSAH 115/77

Such is the case for the highway that begins at the Peyla Junction at the Y-Store. Initially going northwest from Hwy 169 across the Pike River bridge toward Cook, CSAH 77, also referred to as Angus Rd., eventu-

ally becomes CSAH 115, which runs past the north side of Cook as Ashawa Rd. before intersecting with Hwy 53. It might seem like one project, but for funding and management purposes it's actually three projects, involving two different contractors, KGM and

See...ROADS pg. 9



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**Community notices**

**Ladies of Kaleva and Knights to meet May 23**

VIRGINIA - The Ladies of Kaleva Soinnuttaren Tupa 32 and the Knights will be meeting Thursday May 23 at 6 p.m. at Kaleva Hall. The Ladies will have their annual Memorial Service. Please wear white. This is the last meeting until fall. Everyone is welcome.

**Shannon Gunderson in concert on May 19**

EMBARRASS- Sisu Heritage, Inc. will host a concert by Shannon Gunderson on Sunday, May 19 at 3 p.m. in the Embarrass Finnish Apostolic Lutheran Church.

Gunderson, of Virginia, is well known in the region as a piano teacher and a member of The Divas trio. For this concert, she will be performing solo, adding vocals to her keyboard playing. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$8 for Sisu members; children ages 12 and under are free.

The historic church building was gifted to Sisu by its former congregation and is a great venue for live music. Parking is available on the lawn. The address is 5103 Hwy. 21, across from Hope Lutheran Church.

This family-friendly concert is generously sponsored by Knuti Farm of Embarrass. For questions or further details, call 218-984-3012 or visit sisuheritage.org.

**Beyond the Yellow Ribbon-Hibbing/Chisholm to host Veteran Resource Fair**

HIBBING - Beyond the Yellow Ribbon will host its Veterans Resource Fair in a new location in the commons area at the Minnesota North-Hibbing Community College Campus at 1515 East 25th Street (Use the parking lot behind the Paulucci Planetarium).

DAV National Service Officers will present a benefits seminar at 1:30 p.m. and will be assisting with benefit claims from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

More than 30 benefit providers at the federal, state and local level will be available with resources about education, employment, health and wellness. As well as local members of DAV, VFW, American Legion, Beyond the Yellow Ribbon, and NE MN Women Veterans groups.

New to the event this year will be COVID and Flu shots provided by Lighthouse Center for Vital Living.

For more information call 218.969.7137 or email btyrhc@gmail.com.

**80th anniversary tribute to D-Day and WWII heroes scheduled for June 6**

VIRGINIA - This year marks the 80th anniversary of D-Day. In recognition of this important day in history Veterans and family/friends of Veterans are invited to the Elks Lodge located at 200 N Fifth Ave. W on Thursday, June 6 for a tribute to D-Day and WWII heroes. The tribute will be from 5-7 p.m. Food and drinks will be provided with a short program at 6 p.m. If you plan to attend, advance notice is requested. To RSVP call Larry Cuffe Jr. at 218-780-9941.

**"Israelism" to be screened at EHST May 14**

ELY - The public is invited to a screening of the movie "Israelism" at Ely's Historic State Theatre located at 238 E Sheridan St. on Tuesday, May 14 at 6 p.m.

The screening is presented by Northern Progressives and the Ely Palestine Solidarity Group as part of an educational series "Understanding Gaza 101." The movie helps us understand one more piece of the current Gaza war. Ironically, the growing generational divide in the American Jewish Community, as depicted in this movie, may offer hope for a future of peace, security, and equality for both Israel and Palestine.

According to Tikkun Olam Productions, the movie "uniquely explores how Jewish attitudes towards Israel are changing dramatically, with massive consequences for the region and for Judaism itself. . . painful cracks have emerged within the Jewish community over the Israel-Palestine conflict, inspiring argument, protest and even censorship. "Israelism"— a controversial film— explores the past, present and future of the relationship between American Jews and Israel."

The event is open to the public. Organizers are asking attendees for a donation that evening, in lieu of a ticket fee, to MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES / DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS, one of the few aid groups still providing humanitarian aid in Gaza.

**INVESTING IN YOUTH**

**Sign up early to get your kid fishing**

LAKE VERMILION - Sign up is now open for the 15th Annual Take a Kid Fishing event sponsored in part by the Lake Vermilion Guides League taking place on July 17 at the marina at Fortune Bay. Kids ages 10-15 years old are invited to join members of the Lake Vermilion Guides League and other highly experienced fishermen volunteers in their boats for a free day of fun and fishing on Lake Vermilion.

All fishing gear, tackle, bait life vests, fish cleaning/packaging and boats are furnished for this event. A free meal will be served after the event in the tent at the marina. All kids, parents and boat operators are invited.

All kids attending this event will receive a free rod and reel, tackle box, and event t-shirt. In addition, drawings will be held during



and after the meal for many gifts.

Be sure to sign up early as most years the 100 kid quota fills quickly. Signup online at [www.lakevermilionguidesleague.com](http://www.lakevermilionguidesleague.com) in the events

section. Event details are also available on the website.

**SHOP TILL YOU DROP**

**Citywide Rummage, Business Crazy Day, and Used Equipment and Watercraft Sale is May 18**

ELY - Spring is here, and that means the 13th annual Citywide Rummage Sale, Business Crazy Day, and Used Equipment and Watercraft Sale is just around the corner. This is a ONE-day event on May 18. The event map with the sale locations and lists is available at the Chamber of Commerce office or at [Ely.org/citywide](http://Ely.org/citywide) on May 14, providing just enough time to plan out shopping routes and strategies.

Dozens of area residents are holding rummage sales starting at 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. There are plenty of locations with clothing, household goods, plus some with outdoor gear, sporting goods, and more.

Area businesses are on the list too, featuring in-store and sidewalk sales. Some of our area outfitters have used equipment and watercraft on their sales lists. Business hours vary and are listed on the

event map.

Restaurants, coffee shops, and bakeries are open too, so swing in and fill-up on great food and beverages while shopping.

The Ely Chamber of Commerce is open from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 18, so you can swing in and pick up your map, or download a copy off the website at [Ely.org/citywide](http://Ely.org/citywide).

**PROTECT AND SERVE**

**"Kids, Cops, and Cars" free event is May 16**

VIRGINIA - Squad cars and other law enforcement vehicles, K-9s and more will be on display during the third annual "Kids, Cops and Cars" event on the Iron Range. The free, family-friendly celebration is Thursday, May 16, 4-7 p.m. at the Iron Trail Motors Event Center located at 821 S Ninth Ave.

As the name suggests, "Kids, Cops and Cars" is an opportunity for children and families to meet local law enforcement officers, see emergency vehicles up close, watch various demonstrations including from law enforcement K-9s, and

more. Free goodie bags will be provided while supplies last. Food will be available for purchase through ITMEC concessions and a local food truck.

The event is hosted by the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office and Virginia Police Department and will also include representatives and activities from about 10 other local law enforcement agencies.

"We are excited to bring this event back to Virginia, which is where we first held it," said St. Louis County Deputy Sheriff Brock Kick. "But we have law enforce-

ment from around the region involved, so we hope to see kids and families from throughout the Iron Range join us for the fun activities planned."

"This is always such a fun event for families and for our officers," said Virginia Police Lt. John Swenson. "It's a great opportunity to connect with kids and the communities we serve, and let them learn more about the people and the equipment we use to protect them."

**IN CONCERT**

**Minnesota Discovery Center announces the "Red Dirt Concert Series" in its iconic amphitheater**

CHISHOLM - Music lovers, mark your calendars. The Minnesota Discovery Center (MDC) is thrilled to announce the launch of the "Red Dirt Concert Series," an exhilarating lineup of performances set to take the stage at the picturesque outdoor amphitheater. This series promises to bring a diverse mix of sounds and stories to the heart of the Iron Range, showcasing a blend of classic rock, pop, country, and cultural melodies that will resonate with audi-

ences of all ages.

Kicking off the series, MDC is excited to welcome the legendary rock band Great White on June 14, who are known for their electrifying performances and timeless hits. Following them, Arrival from Sweden will grace the stage on July 25, offering an unforgettable tribute to ABBA that's guaranteed to have everyone dancing. Next up, The Tamburitzans will present a vibrant display of Eastern European culture through music, song, and dance, providing a truly unique experience on August 9. Later this summer, country music sensation Jo Dee Messina will bring her chart-topping hits to

the amphitheater on August 23, captivating fans with her powerful vocals and heartfelt lyrics. Rounding out the summer music lineup, Marshall Charloff's band, Purple Xperience will bring the greatest and most authentic production of Prince and The Revolution to audiences of all generations on September 6.

"Our amphitheater provides the perfect backdrop for these incredible artists, and we can't wait to share this experience with our community," said Char Conger, Executive Director, Minnesota Discovery Center. "The 'Red Dirt Concert Series' is more than just concerts; it's a celebration of mu-

sic, culture, and the great outdoors. We're proud to offer a venue for these talented performers and to bring people together for unforgettable evenings under the stars."

Tickets for each "Red Dirt Concert Series" show are available for purchase on the Minnesota Discovery Center's website, [www.mndiscoverycenter.com](http://www.mndiscoverycenter.com). Food and beverage options will be available onsite, ensuring a perfect accompaniment to the musical lineup.

Don't miss out on this spectacular musical journey at the Minnesota Discovery Center. For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit [www.mndiscoverycenter.com](http://www.mndiscoverycenter.com).

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ORR HIGH SCHOOL

# High school history museum opens at Orr Center

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

One of many transformations at the old Orr School building, now a community site

ORR- When a small-town school closes, a community loses a piece of identity. But volunteers at the Orr Center are trying to restore that historical sense of community pride by creating the Orr High School Museum in the former school building.

A sense of school is immediately apparent when looking down the hall after entering the building. On one wall is the scoreboard from the basketball gym and a huge circular Orr Braves mascot sign made by a school shop class, and opposite that are display cases filled with music and athletic memorabilia. Looking straight ahead one sees athletic lockers decked out with old uniforms, and next to that a desk with a typewriter honoring the school's Quill and Scroll student journalism honor society chapter.

Turning the corner, one finds a centerpiece of the museum, a large glass display case highlighting the exploits of the Orr High basketball team under the leadership of legendary Coach Bill King. King donated a number of items he was given over the years for the display, and on a recent visit gave the center a \$5,000 donation to continue developing the museum.

"He put us on the map, that's what he did," said Wendy Purdy. "That's wonderful for a little town like this. So we have his stuff."

Across from the King display in another long row of display cases containing all sorts of trophies won by the school's athletes and students.

"We always knew we wanted to do something with the history because it was here, all this stuff was here," said Purdy. "We knew that people would enjoy viewing it as we go forward. There was almost 80 years in the school that we don't want to disappear, so we thought well, let's do what we can."

So far, almost everything in the museum was already in the building, some of it needing some tender loving care to be museum ready, like the trophies.

"There were a lot of broken



Legendary Orr basketball coach Bill King stands beside the display honoring the team's many accomplishments. Below: Visitors will want to reserve some time to relive yesteryears by browsing old yearbooks and school newspapers. photo by D. Colburn

trophies from years and years ago, and we tried to pull out as many as we could and clean them up," Purdy said. "There was pieces that had fallen off, and nameplates and things like that, and there's still a bunch that need repair, but we'll keep working on them and try to get more of them put out."

Keeping with sports vein, Purdy said that they also have Bill King's scrapbooks filled with newspaper clippings about his teams. "We're going to try to find a way to laminate those and put them out so people can sit down and flip through them," she said. But she emphasized that this is not just a place for former athletes to come and reminisce.

"This is more than just sports," Purdy emphasized. "We have the Quill and Scroll display where we brought out the old typewriter and desk so people could see how that was." Back in the entry hallway, Purdy pointed to some other non-sports features.



"These cases here we pulled from the science labs; this one has things from the choir when they went to Florida, and the band. Then there's some local award stuff in there, too, that was brought in. So we're trying to hit more than sports."

And for folks wanting an even deeper dive into the

school's history, there's a case that contains most of the school's old yearbooks and numerous bound copies of the school newspaper.

"I have almost all of them," Purdy said about the yearbooks. "I think I'm missing maybe four years from in the beginning, but otherwise I think we have them

all. And we have all the copies of the newspaper, so we can go back and look at what happened, when and who was involved. So we have a lot of information to share with people."

Two of the main reactions from visitors that Purdy has seen are excitement and happiness, she said.

"To keep it alive, I think that's the biggest part," she said. "There's a lot of 'Oh, that was mine,' or 'I had that,' or 'Come look, that's me in the picture.' So it's exciting. It's Orr history. This is what we had, and to keep it alive is important."

## Center updates

If a museum visitor wants to sit down for a leisurely look through a yearbook, they can carry it around the corner and take a comfortable seat in the Orr Center's new coffee shop. The hallway location has been outfitted with a row of tables and chairs situated in a book lover's paradise. Bookshelves line the wall behind the tables, and the wall of the inclined corridor leading to an expanded portion of the thrift store has more books still, tucked in a decorative tiered set of bookshelves built and installed by volunteers. All the books are organized by topic and alphabetized and were relocated from the main thrift store and are for sale for \$1 each. You won't find a Starbucks-style menu, but a cup of java from the big coffee pot is a satisfying sipper for anyone who wants to browse or just come in for a place to meet with friends. And you can also enjoy a fanciful north country mural that students painted on one of the walls that remains in excellent condition.

Moving the books freed up room for more merchandise in the thrift store, which has a more open feel with reconfigured clothes racks. Household items have a new home in the space that once housed the Rusty Pelican. Purdy said that the center board is renewing the

See ORR...pg. 5

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# OPINION

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The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

## Editorial

### Hikers losing ground

As ATV use has spread, forest trails have become untenable for walking

Social media has its uses. Unfortunately, it tends to generate more heat than light.

That was certainly the case with a recent post on the Facebook group, “What’s Up Tower MN,” that took issue with a decision by the city of Tower to close two very short segments of trail on the hillside north of town that saw occasional use by ATVs along with a roughly mile-long trail segment that has seen little ATV use in recent years.

The two short segments, which are no more than a few hundred feet long, have been mostly ignored by ATVs as well because they were both dead ends. That made them of little interest to riders, particularly because there were miles of other inter-connected ATV trails on the northside of town. That’s where the vast majority of riders spend their time, and still can because those trails remain open to ATV use.

Of course, there’s nothing that will spur interest in a trail—no matter how short or uninspiring—like a rule that says to stay off it. And with social media there to fan the flames of discontent, almost anything can be turned into a source of grievance.

In this case, the closure of these segments generated the usual complaints that those behind it simply hate ATVs and want to favor tourists over the locals who like to ride their ATVs.

Such arguments, sorely lacking in context, are typical on social media. So, here’s the rest of the story. As we’ve reported previously, local volunteers helped create the Pine Ridges Trail, a narrow footpath through some of the spectacular pine groves and overlooks on the hill north of town. The trail utilizes two short dead-end segments of old forest road that had seen very occasional ATV use over the years, and these are the two segments that the group behind the new trail, the Wagoner Trail Club, asked to have closed to motorized use.

Another longer segment of trail runs around the base of the hill and had fallen into disuse by deadfall recently until it was cleared by the trail club. Having cleared it, club members were justifiably concerned that ATVs might start using it again, which would soon make it far less desirable for hikers.

What ATVs might not recognize is that the use of heavy, motorized machines on forest trails quickly renders them dif-

icult for walking or hiking because they create deep ruts and mud as their tires churn up the soil.

That’s not just hypothetical. The hill on Tower’s north side has already seen extensive rutting and erosion from ATV use, and it has made portions of those trails difficult to walk, particularly when conditions are wet. Significant amounts of crushed rock and gravel have had to be added by the city to harden areas of the trails that ATVs had turned into deep mud holes.

In the right conditions, the damage caused by ATVs is limited and can be mitigated, but as ATV use has increased on the north side of Tower, the deterioration of the trails, that were once popular for walking, is readily apparent. The bottom line is that ATV use is not compatible with trails designed for hiking because they can quickly render them unfit for those on foot.

And, while ATVs might not recognize it, there are still substantially more walkers than riders, even among local residents. A comprehensive trails plan developed by the city and Breitung township included a survey that asked respondents about their trail use. Nearly 45 percent of the 200 people who responded said they used trails in the Tower area at least weekly and three-quarters used them at least monthly. And the vast majority of those respondents were from either Tower or Soudan, not tourists.

When asked how they use the trails, 69 percent cited walking, while 52 percent cited hiking and 53 percent said they use bicycles. Thirty-two percent indicated they use ATVs or other off-road vehicles.

Given the dramatic rise in the use of ATVs in our region, and the likelihood that ATV use will continue to increase in our area when the new state OHV campground opens next year, there clearly has to be some ability to protect the rights of the majority of local residents who aren’t using ATVs but simply want to have the ability to walk, hike, or mountain bike on forest trails without having to dodge ruts, mudholes, and OHV drivers going too fast.

If there is any group of users that is, effectively, being shut out from many of our forest trails, it is those who prefer to walk rather than ride. And that’s unfortunate.



## Letters from Readers

### Trump is the American nightmare

Once again, Donald Trump is declaring that he will not commit to accepting the results of the 2024 election. His statement is chilling.

This same madman refused to accept the results of the 2020 election and as a result, we faced one of the darkest and most terrifying events in the history of this nation. Many of us still reel in horror as we recall watching our televisions as an angry and violent mob egged on by Trump stormed the Capitol in an attempt to abort the electoral college from certifying the results of the election. Never before had this nation dealt with a defeated president who refused to engage in a peaceful transfer of power. The work of the January 6th Committee was even more revealing as to the extent that many went through to create fake electors and deny the tabulation of a valid electoral count. This was a carefully planned assault. Yet, despite all of the evidence and recounts, Trump to this day still claims that the past election was rigged as do his followers, the MAGA election deniers.

Former Federal Judge, J. Michael Luttig, a conservative, blasted Trump for his attacks on judges in the multitude of legal cases facing him. The objective of Trump’s attacks are to dele-

gitimize the courts and the legal system so that when and if they rule against him in the various matters with which he’s been charged, his followers would dismiss those rulings as politically motivated. They are not.

Luttig stated, “Make no mistake, a mobster could never pose the threat that Donald Trump poses to American democracy and the rule of law. It is a fact that he was President of the United States of America and is now attempting to delegitimize America’s democracy, the Constitution, and the rule of law. That is the existential threat that faces America today.”

Luttig added that Donald Trump has bludgeoned many Americans into submission to his will over the will of the U.S. Constitution. “The only way to break that is through the rule of law.... Until or unless the courts of the United States apply the rule of law to Donald Trump, I don’t see a way out of the predicament that the country finds itself today.”

After the current court hearings, Trump consistently steps in front of the microphone, ranting and whining about how unfairly he is being treated. Gag orders are issued as he refuses to comply with the orders of the court. And once again, he pathetically demonstrates that he truly believes he is above the law, entitled to do as he pleases....

More terrifying are the promises he makes if he be-

comes president, revenge and retribution towards his perceived political enemies.

That would be the end of our democracy as we know it today.

**Ellie Larmouth  
Tower**

### Take some time to visit a Veteran

While visiting cemeteries you may notice that headstones marking certain graves have coins on them, left by previous visitors to those graves. These coins have distinct meanings when left on the headstones of those who gave their life while serving in America’s military, and these meanings vary depending on the denomination of the coin.

A coin left on a headstone or at the gravesite is meant as a message to the deceased soldier’s family that someone else has visited the grave to pay respect. Leaving a penny at the grave simply means that you visited. A nickel indicates that you and the deceased trained at boot camp together, while a dime means you served with them in some capacity. By leaving a quarter at the grave you are telling the family that you were with the soldier when they died.

Please consider visiting the Veterans while they are still alive.

**Beryl A. Novak  
Vietnam Veteran  
Orr**

## COMMENTARY

### Road trips: exploring and simply meandering

The almighty road trip is a favorite activity in my household.

Journeys too often get second billing to destinations. For that reason, the road trip gets top billing in my house. Many a weekend has been lost to



**CATIE  
CLARK**

Some of the best discoveries have been in a m e s . One of my recent favorites is Home on the Range, N.D. The friendly N.D. Dept.

of Transportation even has sign on the Interstate for this famous place.

If you exit I-94 at Home On The Range, hoping to find all those deer and antelope from the song, you won’t find anything other than a few cattle and some houses.

Notably, you’ll also find a huge sign made out of white-painted rocks. The rocks spell out the words

of good names, like Trout,

“Home On The Range” on the side of Sentinel Butte. To add to the discouraging words about this faux destination, Sentinel Butte is only around 100 feet high.

You might think the “Home On The Range” sign was to lure unsuspecting road trippers to a local eatery, gas station, or tourist trap. If so, you would be wrong. There are no services whatsoever, either at the exit or at Sentinel Butte. Go figure.

A few miles down the interstate from the Home On The Range exit is the exit for “Rough Route.” Needless to say, we didn’t explore that one.

Sometimes a name is enough to spur a road trip. We visited many wide spots in the road because of good names, like Trout,

Idaho, a patch of sagebrush desert with neither river nor fishing pond. Many other places on our visitation list include Nowhere, Okla., Uncertain, Texas, and Wequetequonk, Conn. I dare anyone to say Wequetequonk three times fast!

I wasn’t on this trip, but the long-suffering spouse took a train to Wales just to say he had been to Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwillllantysiliogoch. On the other hand, he wasn’t on the trip when I took the Austrian postal bus to visit the villages of Unterstinkenbrunn and Oberstinkenbrunn (Lower and Upper Stinking Wells). I regret to report that the wells have been retired for over a century

and the water treatment plant has equipment to remove that rotten egg smell.

When road tripping, we avoid interstate highways if possible. Doing so may add an hour or two to a trip, but the rewards are worth it. By taking older, slower highways, we discovered a wonderful little museum dedicated to firefighting aircraft in Greybull, Wyo., a scenic route across Nebraska that doesn’t put us to sleep, the first railroad tunnel in the U.S. in Pennsylvania, and a road that follows the San Andreas Fault for over 100 miles through rolling hills filled with cattle ranches.

Taking a back road can uncover a hidden community with a great

name, like Earth, Texas. This community of a few hundred has painted its water tower so it looks like the head of an alien. Visiting planet Earth jokes abound on murals down the one-street business district. The post office has a special hand cancellation stamp that says, “I visited Earth!” The postmaster told us that they entertain stamp collecting tourists every month but that the crunch usually comes in April, around Earth Day.

Navigating without a map can be fun but having a map won’t save you from mishaps. We discovered the worst road I have ever driven because of a

See **TRIPS**...pg. 5

# Letters from Readers

## What Trump promised, and what he really did

Because some voters will believe anything I tell them, no questions asked, I, Donald Trump:

- Promised voters "Mexico will pay for" my wall. (But you did - and swallowed all my promises hook-line-sinker.)
- Told voters I'd "completed" that wall. (I didn't - not even close. Most of our 1,900-mile border is still unwallled.)
- Insisted I'd release my taxes. (I then did all I could to keep them hidden. Ah, the old "Bait 'n' Switch." Classic!)
- Told voters early COVID was "totally under control" on my watch. (It wasn't. It soon killed over 1,000,000 of us.)
- Claimed crime was at "record" levels with Obama. (It wasn't - but falsely smearing Obama boosted my image.)
- Promised voters I wouldn't "have time to play golf" in office. (I found time to golf - lots

and lots and lots of golf.)

- Accused mail-in voting of being rife with "fraud." (But it isn't. In fact, I've voted by mail myself, more than once.)
- Trashed Hillary Clinton, Biden and others for sloppy secrets-handling. (But I freely took box after box to Florida.)
- Declared myself pro-"law and order." (But I break laws - and glorify Jan. 6 thugs who openly committed crimes.)
- Blasted Obama's costly vacation trips. (But I took even more of those pricey "days off" than he did. Well? So?)
- Attacked the very idea of "defund the police." (But then I urged my party to "defund" the FBI and even the DOJ.)
- Vowed to staff my team with "only the best people." (But I didn't. I prefer the corrupt and the easily corruptible.)
- Claimed my poll numbers topped Lincoln's. (So scientific polling didn't exist then. Details, details.)
- Promised to "drain the swamp." (Instead, I

just restocked D.C. with my own dishonest, cagey swamp-cronies.)

- Said I didn't know about a Stormy Daniels payout. (But I did. I even signed a check reimbursing my lawyer for it.)
- Decried "fake news." (But by "fake," I mean "uncomplimentary." I love "fake news" if it's a pro-Trump rave.)
- Blasted judges for "bias." (But by "biased," I mean "free-thinking." I admire any judge with a pro-Trump agenda.)
- Scared ailing voters into thinking Biden would end pre-existing illness protection. (It wasn't true - but so what?)
- Labeled people who "Take the Fifth" as crooked. (But I've used it myself - again and again.)
- Bashed Biden relatives for "cashing in" on influence. (But Jared's Saudi deal, Ivanka's China trademarks? Fine.)
- Denounced opportunists who profit off the "Trump" name. (But I'll use a Bible as a "prop" in a staged photo-op.)
- Claimed Jan. 6 ri-

oters were "hugging and kissing" Capitol police. ("Shoot him with his own gun!" = words of love.)

- Treated "Lock her up!"/"Lock 'em up! as good fun. (But "lock Trump up"? No, my crimes must go unpunished.)
- Bragged that I have "much more" money "than I'll ever need." (Yet, I chase nonstop donations from the gullible poor.)
- Assured rough-necks I'd "pay the legal fees." (But I won't. In fact, I want them to give me money to pay for mine.)
- Said I'd pivot and "become so presidential" you'd be amazed. (I never pivoted. I just behaved worse than ever.)
- Swore an oath to defend and uphold the U.S. Constitution... (...but then proposed we "terminate" that Constitution to declare me President!)
- Repeatedly promised I'd "rebuild the infrastructure of our country"... (...but "Infrastructure Week" always fizzled. At

least Biden got it done.)

- Decried befriending the white supremacists who hang on my every word... (...but then alerted them to "stand back and stand by" until further instructions!)

And that's just some of the deceptive and disingenuous promises, claims, and boasts I've has made in recent years. How many more deliberate falsehoods could we add here? Dozens? Scores? Hundreds?

"Religious" voters argue that backing this man can somehow "save the soul" of America. But is his spiteful fury bringing out the best in us- or just making us angrier, crueler, harsher, meaner? Can we trust the promises he makes, the claims he asserts, the "wins" he takes credit for- or is he just pushing falsehoods and rage and grievance? "Evangelicals" say none of that matters. But shouldn't it?

**Brad Trom  
Blooming Prairie**



## Your letters

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

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!

## ORR...Cont. from page 3

original focus of the center as a nonprofit community-focused operation.

And as part of that community focus, the most significant change to the thrift store is the pricing. It's been slashed. "We're much cheaper, all of our pricing has dropped way down so we can move product out," Purdy said. "We move the two rooms from the other end of the building where the housewares were up here, so everything's contained in this wing. It'll make it easier to shop now that you're not running to the other end of the building to get something. It's a whole new look."

Also open to the public is the center's library and art studio.

"The art room is usable for anybody who wants to come," Purdy

said. "Our garden club meets in the art studio in one room and then they go into the other room to do their gardening. We have a lot of product as far as supplies, everything from stained glass to painting to drawing, sewing, and quilting, we have all the stuff here they need. Hopefully down the road we'll have lots of classes going on in there."

Another plan for the future is the Orr Mercantile, an upscale version of the thrift store with "antiques, artwork, higher end things that may be donated that we don't want to sell for \$2," Purdy said. "This will be another more touristy kind of place. It may be mid-June by the time we get that open. Down the road we hope to have a little coffee shop with ice

cream down there. Volunteerism is going to be the biggest thing as to whether or not we can make it work because now we'll have two stores to staff, not one."

The center has also collaborated with the Orr Lions Club on a community food shelf, and some re-configuration has allowed that operation to expand as well, now equipped with more shelving and a freezer.

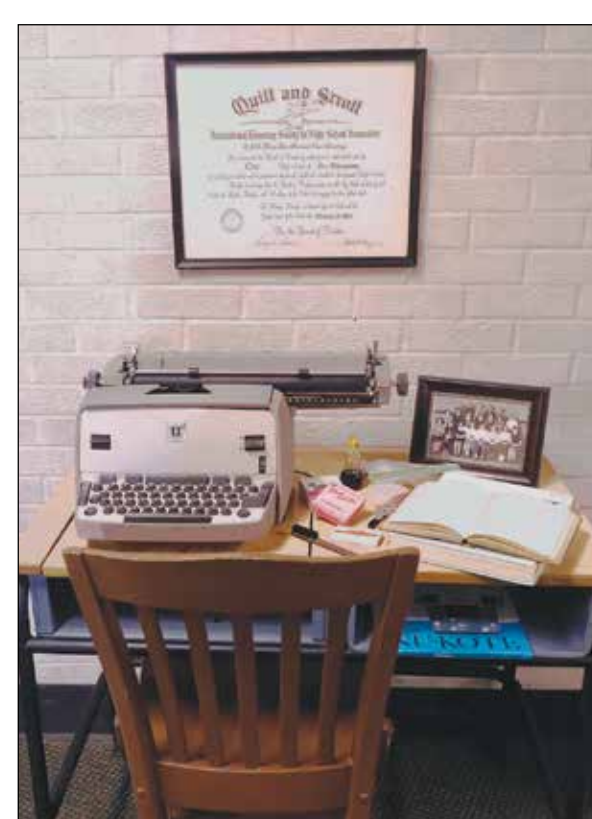
Purdy likes to describe everything at the center as a "work in progress," and with an active and engaged board and some new volunteers, new ideas are flowing fast and free, with the whole purpose focused on serving the needs of the community.

Purdy said they would welcome any donations of

school memorabilia that folks may have tucked away that they would want to share. And she's particularly interested in recovering some of the missing sports trophies that may have disappeared when the school closed.

Drop by the center with donations of any kind on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m-3 p.m. Donations may also be dropped off at Manick Docks and Recreation, 9240 Hwy 115 in Cook from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**This display celebrates the Quill and Scroll honorary journalism society chapter at the high school.**



## TRIPS...Cont. from page 4

map. We were driving one day out on the lava plains of southern Idaho. The road we were on wound its desolate way between lava flows, ground fissures, and basaltic shield volcanoes. We hadn't seen anyone for hours. We wanted to get back to civilization.

Consulting my newly acquired Bureau of Land Management map of the area, I noted a road crossing a lava flow that would return us to the nearest town in about an hour. The alternative route would take two and half hours. The long travel times are indicative of how good these roads are. I dismissed the notation for "4x4 only." We were in my big Chevy Silverado 4x4, and I wasn't worried about a little four-wheel driving. My hubris came from three decades of off-road driving experience from my previous career as a rocktologist.

I made for the road and immediately regretted it. It was thankfully short,

less than a quarter mile, but easily the worst road I have ever driven. It was as if someone had taken a grader through a field of

boulders. I should have stopped to take a picture but I was afraid the truck would get stuck if I did. It was one of the few times

I was grateful for the destination because the journey had been a slog.



**FIREARM ESTATE AUCTION**  
Estate of Tony Cicak; Deonn Cicak, Owner

**LIVE AUCTION ONLY-NO ONLINE BIDDING**  
**SATURDAY, MAY 18 • 10 AM**  
**7904 W. Hwy. 61, Schroeder, MN 55613**

**10:00 shop items, 10:30 splitting crews-Ring 1-selling firearms.**  
Ring 2 cont. on shop. Entire auction to be conducted outdoors. Dress accordingly!  
There will be a 7% buyer's premium & MN Sales tax charged. Conducted under a FFL.  
You will be required to fill out a Fed Form 4473 and be NICS checked. Bring your photo ID, permit to carry/purchase or FFL. Tony had been in the firearm and repair business since 1982. This is just a surface listing!

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*the*  
**TIMBERJAY**

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

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

Week of May 13

**Monday**

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

Tower City Council- 5:30 p.m. on May 13

**Tuesday**

Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5 p.m. Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is May 21.

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 May 14

**Thursday**

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

Breitung Town Board- 6 p.m. on May 16

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

**TSHS weekly winner**

TOWER- The winner of the Charlemagne's 52 Club \$100 cash prize for week 41 is Sherry Anderson of Tower. Congratulations Sherry!

History Tidbit: The 1915 Settler's Cabin (part three). In 1965 the Tower-Soudan Historical Society started a search for a Finnish homesteader's cabin that could be moved to the Tower City Park. Bob Olson, Frank Franson, and "Chub" Shoberg knew where Mike's abandoned cabin was located. It had been vacant for many years.

In 1968, the Historical Society took ownership of the cabin. It was moved during the winter over the ice to Moccasin Point and then by road into Tower to its new home in the Tower City Park. The original tin roof was replaced with wood shingles, windows were replaced, and some of Mike's tools were put on display. Historical Society's members have been researching the original roof material and plan to replace the roof this summer.

**Bookmobile stops**

REGIONAL- The Arrowhead Bookmobile will be in the Tower-Soudan area on Wednesdays: May 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](mailto:als@alslib.info), or website at [alslib.info](http://alslib.info).

## LAKE VERMILION CULTURAL CENTER

**Lepak and Solkela in concert in Tower on May 18**

TOWER- The Lake Vermilion Cultural Center is pleased to host a spectacular show on Saturday, May 18 featuring two local performers, Jeremy Lepak and Steve Solkela.

Lepak, a local ventriloquist, will begin the show at 6 p.m. Lepak has been a professional ventriloquist for 16 years. He and his puppets will entertain the audience with comedy and music incorporating variety show charm.

Once again, Steve Solkela, "The Funny Finn from Palo, Minn." will perform an action-packed recital beginning at 6:30 p.m. Steve is an accomplished musician, comedian, stuntman, opera singer, actor, and composer known for his nonsensical sense of humor, creative mind, and unpredictable musical combinations. This local favorite's "overpopulated" one-man band is made up of 14 instruments, some of which are



the accordion, trumpet, cowbell, train horn, double bass drum pedal, and one blonde guy who sings.

Save this date because you won't want to miss seeing these two amazing performers. A free-will donation will be accepted at

the door. The cultural center is located on Tower's Main Street, across from the fire hall.

The LVCC is dedicated to community enrichment through education and the arts by offering quality programming and providing opportunities to showcase the



Longtime Tower-Soudan area favorite entertainer Steve Solkela (left), along with Northland ventriloquist Jeremy Lepak (above), will be live in concert at the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center on Saturday, May 18, starting at 6 p.m.

rich cultural heritage of the area. To learn more about the organization or to donate, visit [vermilionculturalcenter.org](http://vermilionculturalcenter.org).

## COMMUNITY NOTICES

**Registration for Bois Forte's early childhood programs starting soon**

REGIONAL- Bois Forte Head Start and Early Childhood Programs will begin enrolling children ages 0-5 for the upcoming school year.

Enrollment starts May 20 for returning children. Enrollment for new children will be held June 4 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. and June 18 from 12 noon - 8 p.m. in Nett Lake, and June 6 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. and June 20 from 12 noon to 8 p.m. at Vermilion.

The early childhood programs include experiences and caring educators, engaging curriculum, a safe and nurturing environment, well-equipped classrooms, full-day programs Monday-Thursday, field trips and special events, and parent-teacher conferences.

Enrollment paperwork needed: household proof of income, child's birth certificate, stamp/commodity numbers, health insurance cards, up-to-date immunization records, medical and dental physical forms. Applications cannot be accepted without all the required information.

Contact Christine Lundemo or Sara Howe at 218-757-3261 opt. 3 for more information.

**Elizabeth Deegan graduates from Minnesota State University, Mankato**

MANKATO- Elizabeth Deegan, of Tower, was among 2,133 students who graduated from Minnesota State University, Mankato at the end of the spring 2024 semester. Commencement ceremonies were held Friday, May 3. Deegan graduated with a BBA in Business Administration.

**Highway 77 and 115 to be resurfaced, new mailboxes to be installed**

REGIONAL- St. Louis County Public Works will be resurfacing Highways 77 and 115, from Cty. Rd. 169 (Y Store) to Frazer Bay Rd. The project is scheduled between May 20 and Aug. 10. The project includes a reclaim and overlay with new asphalt. There will be no detour and all work will be completed under traffic.

As part of St. Louis County's safety policy, new mailbox supports and mailboxes meeting the federal crash guidelines will be installed by the contractor. The new mailbox will be installed in approximately the same location as the existing mailbox. The old supports and mailboxes will be deposited next to the residents' driveway for possible salvage by the owners. About two weeks after installation of the new supports and mailboxes, any supports and mailboxes not salvaged by the property owner will be picked up for disposal.

**Fourth of July planning underway**

TOWER-SOUDAN- The Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board has started planning for this year's Fourth of July events. Fourth of July falls on a Thursday this year. Events set for July 4 include the pancake breakfast, 10K/5K run/walk, kiddie parade, parade, sawdust scramble, and kids races.

Fireworks will once again be out on Lake Vermilion, on Wednesday, July 3 in Big Bay, and Saturday, July 6 in Niles Bay. The date of the Breitung Community Picnic will be finalized soon.

Vendors and float participants are needed. Please email the



Local members of Northern Progressives spent several hours showing their support for Biden and Harris last Friday in Tower. The group says they plan on campaigning monthly on the first Friday through the summer, and then weekly closer to the election. photo by J. Summit

[tseventsboard@gmail.com](mailto:tseventsboard@gmail.com) for information or to sign up.

**Memorial Day Tribute set for Monday, May 27**

TOWER- Plans are being finalized for the Tower Soudan area-wide annual Memorial Day Tribute to be held on Monday, May 27, at the Herbert R. Lamppa Civic Center from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. This tribute will honor the military service and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform, their families at home, and those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

The names of local veterans killed in action and deceased veterans will be read. A medley of patriotic songs will be sung by the Tower-Soudan Area Singers under the direction of Rolf Anderson.

If you know the name of a recently deceased veteran whose name should be added to our roll call, or if you need to make a change to last year's list of veterans, contact Barb Peyla. Call or text 218-410-7883 or send an email to [bngepyla@gmail.com](mailto:bngepyla@gmail.com).

The Tower Soudan Area Singers will practice on Monday May 13, and Monday, May 20, from 5 - 6:30 p.m. in the music room at the Tower Elementary School. If you are interested in joining the singers, Contact Rolf Anderson at 218-753-3262. All are welcome.

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

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

**Little Church to meet May 11**

VERMILION LAKE TWP- The Little Church Committee business meeting will be held on Saturday, May 11 at 10 a.m. The group will also be doing their spring cleaning after the meeting. The group always welcomes anyone and are looking for people interested in keeping The Little Church preserved and maintained in our community. The group hosts a men's group that meets every Thursday at 9 a.m. for coffee and conversation. There is also a new women's group that will begin at 10:15 a.m. on

Thursdays. All are welcome. The Little Church is located in Vermilion Lake Township on Co. Rd. 26/Wahlsten Rd. Any questions, contact Len Hujanen at 218-7492014, leave a message.

**Lunch Bunch to meet on May 16**

GREENWOOD TWP- The Lunch Bunch will meet at Tavern in the Bay (Bayview) on Thursday, May 16 at 12:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join the group for these monthly lunch get-togethers. Call Kathy at 218-753-2530 to RSVP.

**Looking for used tin roofing material for TSHS project**

TOWER- A small group of volunteers, led by Joe Morin, will be replacing the roof on the Old Settler's Cabin at the mini-park that is maintained by the Tower-Soudan Historical Society.

They are looking for donations of gently-used corrugated tin in decent condition.

They will need at least 20 sheets that are 24"x9' or 24"x10'. Tin that is 26" wide would also work. The pieces need to be at least 9' long.

Anyone with material to donate can contact Morin at 218-780-7306.

**NOTICE**  
STUNTZ BAY ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL MEETING

Friday, May 17  
6 PM

Breitung Community Center  
Call Dan Wiirre 218-969-6374

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[timberjay.com](http://timberjay.com)

## ELY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Washington Elementary presents "Imagine a Dragon"



by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- The fourth and fifth grade musical at Washington Elementary last Friday told the story of the staff at the Dancing Dragon Inn who were desperate for customers. The neighborhood of the inn was previously plagued by a dragon. The dragon drew all sorts of adventurers, and the inn once had a booming business. Now the inn staff is dodging the bill collector who wants either the rent or the inn's eviction from the premises. Trying to stay in business, the staff creates a false story that the dragon has returned without telling their

boss, the innkeeper.

Soon the inn is full of visitors looking for the dragon. The first is a group of princesses out to prove their bravery, followed by a band of out-of-work heroes hoping for a new dragon to run off. Mayhem breaks loose when the bill collector, the princesses, the heroes and the innkeeper discover the lie about the dragon.

The musical was funded through donations from last year's elementary school musical and from local businesses and civic groups. Donation collected at the door this year go to funding next year's musical.

**Above** The inn staff sings of their troubles.

**Left:** The band of heroes strut their stuff. photos by C.Clark

## AROUND TOWN

## Blueberry/Art sells out

by CATIE CLARK

ELY- If you were hoping for a spot at this year's Blueberry/Art Festival and you haven't already reserved it, you're most likely out of luck. All the vendor booths and food court slots were sold out for this summer's big event as of April 20.

"The festival has never filled this quickly," said Eva Sebesta, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce, which runs the event. "We never filled all the booths last year."

The annual event, now in its 42nd year, draws 30,000-40,000 people each summer to Whiteside Park. Set for July

26-28 this year, the festival will feature 237 vendor booths for artists and crafters, 25 food vendors, and the Whiteside Park Pavilion with the Kiwanis's freshly baked blueberry pies.

"What has happened is referrals," Sebesta remarked. "A lot of our long-time vendors have been spreading the word about the festival and how we attract well-crafted hand-made goods and not a lot of the cheap stuff you see elsewhere. So, we've gotten a reputation for high quality and that's drawing more vendors."

Sebesta said that this year's festival will add a kids' section, with hand-crafted goods specifically for children.



**Ely's Largemouth Brass Ensemble played for the residents of the Boundary Waters Care Center on Tuesday. Front left-to-right: LynnAnne Vesper, Elton Brown, Catherine Helm-Clark, Karl Kubiak, Nate LaFond, and Ron Forsman.** photo by Emily Brown

## COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

## Ely Public Library

ELY- The spice for May is caraway. Pick up a spice kit with a sample and recipes at the circulation desk.

The library will hold a Kahoot online trivia game for all ages on the Babysitter's Club series books 11-15 by Ann Martin. Preregister with an email address so the library can send the link for the trivia game. The Kahoot will start at 3 p.m. on Friday, May 10, and end at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, May 14.

The Friends of the Library Book Club will meet on Monday, May 13, from 3-4 p.m. The book for discussion is "The River We Remember" by William Kent Krueger.

The Friends of the Library monthly board meeting will be on Tuesday, May 14, 1-2 p.m.

The Get Crafty group will hold a session for adults on making DIY bath scrubbies on Thursday, May 16, at 1 p.m. All materials will be provided. Preregister so the library can order enough materials for participants.

The Library Scientists group for grades 4-6 will hold a session on pol-

lution on Friday, May 24 from 3-4 p.m. The event will include a hands-on project. Preregister so the library can order enough materials for participants. Registration is limited to 25.

The library will be closed on Monday, May 27.

Preschool Storytime is held every Friday from 10:30-11 a.m. All library events are at the Ely Public Library at 224 E. Chapman St., unless otherwise noted.

## Reflections Dance Company

ELY- The Northern Lakes Arts Association's Reflections Dance Company will present their spring showcase, "Constant Changes" on Saturday, May 11, at 6:30 p.m. at Vermilion Fine Arts Theater at Minnesota North College, 1900 E. Camp St. Dance styles include acro, ballet, contemporary, hip hop, jazz, swing, and tap. Tickets are available at the door on a "pay-what-you-can" basis.

## Volleyball Fundraiser

BABBITT- Come watch or form a team

and play in the volleyball tournament to support Northeast Range student Lillianna Fonseca. All proceeds will go to Lilli and her family to pay expenses not covered by insurance as she undergoes chemotherapy. The tournament will be on Tuesday, May 14, from 5-7 p.m. at Northeast Range School. The volleyball tournament will be open to six teams of six players with an entry fee of \$30 with cash prizes for first, second, and third place! Contact the Northeast Range School office to sign up. The event will also have concessions, 50/50 raffle drawings and more. An account for donations is also available at the Ely Credit Union, named "Lilli's Benefit." Make direct donations to the account in person or by mail at 24 Commerce Rd., Babbitt, MN, 55706.

## History Happy Hour

ELY- The next History Happy Hour will be on Wednesday, May 15 from 5-5:30 p.m. at the Boat-house Brewpub, in the upstairs Lookout Lounge. The upstairs opens at 4:40 p.m. and closes at 5:45 p.m. May's History Happy Hour will focus on a

history of the Boundary Waters, beginning well before the 60-year-old Wilderness Act. From the establishment of the Superior National Forest to the post-WWI popularity of resorting in the Northwoods and the growth of resort businesses in the Ely Area to banning of dams in the Superior Roadless Area - all before 1964. History Happy Hour is a free event.

## Disc Golf Fundraiser

BABBITT- All are welcome at a disc golf tournament on Saturday, May 18, on the Babbitt disc golf course. Check-in starts at noon at the Assembly of God Church, 29 Babbitt Rd. The tournament starts at 1 p.m. The entry fee is \$15 per team, with two people on each team. Sign-up to play at the event. All proceeds will go to the Northeast Range Class of 2026.

## 25th Anniversary Recital

ELY- Studio North will hold its 25th anniversary dance recital on May 18 with two performances at 1 and 5:30 p.m., at Washington Auditorium, 600 E. Harvey St. Admission for adults is \$12 in

advance or \$15 at door, and for youth is \$10 in advance and \$13 at door. For more information, call 218-365-2493.

## Bake Sale

ELY- The Ely Senior Center, 27 S. First Ave. E. will hold a bake sale on Saturday, May 18, from 9 a.m. until noon.

## New Homeowners Class

ELY- Ely Continuing Education will present a homeowners buying class taught by banker Tom Omerza on May 29, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. The class will be in the Ely School District Media Center, 600 E. Harvey St. Enter through door No. 1. Turn right after the double doors. The media center is on the right across from the new gym. For more information and to register, go to [ely.k12.mn.us/communityed](http://ely.k12.mn.us/communityed) or call 218-365-6166 ext. 1784.

## Ely High School All Class Reunion

ELY- The Ely High School All Class Reunion in honor of 100 years of the Ely Memorial High School building will be June 29-July 6. Information and register at [elyall-classreunion.com](http://elyall-classreunion.com)

## In Brief

## Tuesday Group schedule

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

Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

► May 14: Electric School Buses - Health Benefits & Funding Opportunities

► May 21: Jessica Hellmann, Executive Director, University of Minnesota Institute on the Environment

## Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2024



color enchantment  
beauty in the shapes and form

pushing up from earth

## 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.

## A GOOD NEIGHBOR FOR ELDERS

## Cook Zup's gets regional award for helping seniors

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- Zup's Market in Cook is well-known locally for the many things they do to support activities in the surrounding communities, and now Matt Zupancich and his crew are getting recognition on a regional level by receiving the Aging Impact Award from the Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging (AAAA) in Duluth. Nominated for the award by St. Louis County Public Health and Human Services Social Worker Sasha Lehto, AAAA recognized Zup's for their efforts to insure that people over 60 have access to essential food items, displaying both hometown community values and a commitment to personal customer service.

The award letter begins by mentioning the

devastating fire that consumed the old Cook store in 2018, noting that the mini-store Zup's opened in the aftermath of that tragedy helped to ensure that the community, and in particular the elderly, continued to have access to needed food items.

But Lehto also talked extensively in her nomination about what Zup's did after they reopened in the new store in May 2020.

"When (Zup's) Market became open again, we approached him (Matt Zupancich) with an issue of (elders) needing/wanting Meals on Wheels in the area and he stepped up to answer this call," she wrote. "All AEOA meals on wheels are now cooked through the Zups Deli and delivered to the elderly in our communities by community partners. Matt really needs kudos for all the things he has done for



Matt Zupancich receives the Aging Impact Award from Georgia Lane, left, and Sasha Lehto. submitted photo

our rural elder population – often times this is the only meal they have."

The award letter indicated that the decision of the awards committee was unanimous.

"Once again, congratulations on receiving this

award!" wrote Georgia Lane, AAAA Aging Services Planner. "On behalf of the Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging and older adults in your community, thank you for going above and beyond to meet the needs and wants of

older adults!"

#### About AAAA

Operating under the umbrella of the Older Americans Act, a federal law passed in 1965, AAAA's vision is that all people 60 years old and above in the Arrowhead

region have access to supportive services and the choice to be independent, active and stay in their own homes as long as possible. Lane noted that the work of the organization is becoming ever more important as Minnesota's elderly population grows. The number of Minnesotans 65 and over now outnumbers the number of children 18 and under. The number of Minnesotans turning 65 in this decade (about 285,000) will be greater than the past four decades combined. AAAA is part of a statewide, national, and global Age Friendly movement to help communities become more inclusive and respectful for people of all ages, while acknowledging that older adults are key contributors to the social, economic, and civic fabric of our communities.

## Betterley feted at teacher of the year ceremony in St. Paul

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- From her successful pageantry exploits, North Woods art teacher Rachel Betterley is certainly accustomed to large crowds, but on Sunday the setting was a bit different.

Hundreds of educators, families and friends of the 11 finalists for Minnesota Teacher of the Year, including Betterley, were packed into the ballrooms at Saint Paul Rivercentre in the state capital impatiently enduring the banquet luncheon and all the requisite speeches and videos as they waited to hear the announcement of the winner.

Making the cut to 11 from the 159 original nominees, the finalists met as a group for the first time on Saturday as they each had 30-minute interviews with the selection committee. Meeting her fellow finalists was something Betterley described



Finalists Rebecca Buck, left, and Rachel Betterley, center, celebrate with Washburn High Minneapolis teacher Tracy Byrd moments after he was named the 2024 Minnesota Teacher of the Year on Sunday. D. Colburn photo

as "kind of surreal."

"It's because you can feel their passion when they come into the room – you feel this energy and you feel motivated because you know these teachers are really great at what they do," Betterley said. "Being around these educators who have so many accomplish-

ments, you just feel really empowered to be in that same room, because yes, I'm here, too, and I've done some pretty great things as well. It's just a really cool thing and we built really great camaraderie."

On Sunday morning it was time for group photos at the historic St. Paul

Hotel, and then the candidates were whisked away to Saint Paul Rivercentre for a meet and greet with families, friends and supporters prior to the 1 p.m. banquet.

By virtue of the alphabet, Betterley was always first in videos and comments highlighting each individual finalist during

the program, and she took it all in stride, clearly happy to be included in the mix as she enthusiastically applauded her fellow finalists.

When 2023 Teacher of the Year Michael Houston stepped to the podium a second time, he was there to announce the winner, who was Tracy Byrd, an English Language Arts teacher from Washburn High School in Minneapolis. Betterley quickly rushed over to Byrd with congratulations and to take a picture with him and other finalists. There was nothing but smiles all around.

"I'm so thrilled for Tracy," Betterley said after the ceremony. "And I know I'm going to continue talking to these people. We already have a group chat going on. I'm just thrilled and honored."

Betterley also noted an honor that was uniquely her own. She was the only finalist from Greater Minnesota – all the others hailed from Twin

Cities-area schools. And along with pride came a sense of responsibility.

"I would love to see more rural teachers nominated," Betterley said. "We've got to get our voice out there. We need to share more accomplishments from where we live and not be afraid to shine a light on that because we are great, too. I want to pave the way for that. It's up to anyone who wants to nominate a teacher who's doing great things, so let's do it. Let's make it happen and get more people on that stage. It should not just be me."

Betterley was still taking it all in as the ballroom emptied rapidly.

"It's almost like I'm not processing it yet," she said. "On my long drive home, I'm going to finally process it, and I'm so thankful for the experience. I recommend it to anyone who ever gets nominated."

## Cook-Orr Calendar

#### Transportation needs survey deadline nears

COOK- Have you or someone you know had problems getting the transportation you need to go grocery shopping, get to medical appointments, or other such issues getting around the community and area? The Cook Area Transportation Committee, a volunteer group of local citizens, needs your input for the Cook Transportation Needs Survey to help this community collect information on the travel barriers affecting Cook area residents. Information will help find solutions to transportation problems.

Time is running short to fill out your survey – they must be completed and returned by Wednesday, May 15. Surveys and drop boxes may be found at the Cook Library, the Homestead and Pioneer HRA buildings, Cook Scenic Rivers Clinic and Zup's Market.

If you need to obtain a survey in another way, please call Judith at 218 750-4304.

#### Elementary concert set for May 17

FIELD TWP- North Woods School will be ringing with song when the Elementary Spring Concert is presented at

1:30 p.m. on Friday, May 17 in the school gymnasium. The concert is free and open to the public.

#### Upcoming events listed by NWFA

COOK- Northwoods Friends of the Arts has plenty to offer in exhibits and classes in May and June.

Student Art Reception and Exhibit, May 15-31 – The North Woods School Art Club will be exhibiting art that was entered in the Minnesota Visual Arts Festival Competition in April. An opening reception for the artists will be Wednesday, May 15 from 4-6 p.m. at the gallery.

Spring Fling Shop Hop, May 18 – Put a little hop in your shopping with this special Saturday event featuring extended gallery hours from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Spring Art Expo, June 5-29 – The window for registration for this annual favorite is closing fast – get yours in by May 22 for your art to be part of the exhibit. No commission is charged on the sale of artwork, and you don't have to be an NWFA member to participate. Contact [nwfamn.org@gmail.com](mailto:nwfamn.org@gmail.com) or register at the gallery during open hours. A grand opening reception will be held Friday, June 7 from 5-7 p.m.

Open Art Mondays – Every Monday from 6-8 p.m. at the gallery join fellow artists and do art together. Just come and have fun.

Classes – Openings remain for NWFA art classes, including:

"Your Story As Art," Thursday, May 23; noon-2 p.m. Use drawing, collage, paint and paper to create your story. Supplies provided plus materials you bring. The instructor is Kris Musto.

"Watercolor Play for Kids," Thursday, June 13, noon-2 p.m. Kris Musto will present a fun, free instructional class for kids eight and older to learn about painting with watercolors. Must register in advance.

"Block Printing," Saturday, June 15, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Students will learn from Lyn Reed how to carve a printable design when block is dipped in paint and applied to paper. Materials provided.

"Beading," Thursday and Friday, June 20- 21, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Native American artist Malita Spears will hold a two-day workshop on beading. Materials will be provided.

"A Writers' Gathering," Friday, June 28, 12-2 p.m. Dr. Ellie Lar-mouth will hold this interactive discussion about writing with an opportu-

nity to share one's writing and do some writing using a prompt.

Registration for art classes is required so drop in at the gallery, call Alberta at 218-666-2153, or contact NWFA through email, [nwfamn.org@gmail.com](mailto:nwfamn.org@gmail.com). Membership is not required to take a class. See more information online at [www.nwfamn.org](http://www.nwfamn.org).

#### Registration to begin soon for Bois Forte Head Start

REGIONAL- Bois Forte Head Start and Early Childhood Programs will begin enrolling children ages 0-5 for the upcoming school year on Monday, May 20.

Enrollment on May 20 is for returning children. Enrollment for new children will be held Tuesday, June 4 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and Tuesday, June 18 from noon-8 p.m. in Nett Lake, and Thursday, June 6 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and Thursday, June 20 from noon-8 p.m. at Vermilion.

The early childhood programs include caring educators, engaging curriculum, safe and nurturing environments, well-equipped classrooms, full-day programs Monday-Thursday, field trips and special events, and parent-teacher conferences.

Enrollment paperwork needed includes household proof of income, child's birth certificate, stamp/commodity numbers, health insurance cards, up-to-date immunization records, and medical and dental physical forms. Applications cannot be accepted without all the required information.

Contact Christine Lundemo or Sarah Howe at 218-757-3261 opt. 3 for more information.

#### North Woods student art to be on display at NWFA

COOK- Come see a variety of student art submitted to the Minnesota State High School League Art Competition, including North Woods' five "Best in Show" winners, at the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery from May 15-29. An opening reception will be held at the gallery on Wednesday, May 15 from 4-6 p.m. featuring the student artists.

The students whose work will be on display are: Trinity Vidal, Ella Smith, Lemar Drift, Mya Kinsey, Cynthia Kirkman, Haley Leinonen, Emily Grahn, Rory Bundy, Nia Gaskell, Rose Christian, Alex Niles, Sheyenne Schuster and Jaida Lam-

bert. The exhibit is at the gallery located at 210 S. River St. Open hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

#### Popular Lions Club fish fry returns tonight, May 10

COOK- There's no better way to get psyched up for fishing opener than by going to the Cook Lions Club Fish Fry on Friday, May 10 from 5-7 p.m. at the Cook VFW, 206 1st St. SW in Cook.

The popular event returns this year as good and tasty as ever. A \$12 meal comes with two pieces of fish, baked beans, coleslaw and dessert. For lunker-sized appetites, get the \$15 Big Fish Meal with three pieces of fish, baked beans, coleslaw, an extra side and dessert.

Too busy organizing your tackle box and rigging your rods? Take out orders are available, and the Lions Club will even deliver your meals for a \$2 fee per address. Please call or text 218-750-0310 to place your delivery order, or email [cookmlions@gmail.com](mailto:cookmlions@gmail.com).

And don't miss out on the basket auction at this fundraiser to support Lions Club projects.



## EAGLES NEST

## County to take major action to address Trygg Rd. flats

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

**EAGLES NEST TWP**—After months of criticism over the impact of tire-piercing aggregate on Trygg Road, St. Louis County Public Works has opted for a major overhaul of the winding gravel road.

According to an email from

Brian Boder, deputy public works director, county officials have opted for the removal of 12 inches of gravel from Trygg Rd., followed by the replacement of the gravel base from a pit on Hwy. 1. According to Boder, the pit was selected because of “the favorable fractured rock properties and the fact that there have been no historical issues with

aggregate from the pit.”

The county, through public bidding, has selected TNT Aggregates for the crushing contract in the north half and they have been instructed to crush sufficient material at the Hwy. 1 pit to meet the need on Trygg Rd.

According to Boder, his office is currently developing plans and specifications for the

road reconstruction and will likely be put out on public bid depending on the estimated price tag. Given timelines for bidding, acceptance and issuance of contract documents, Boder estimated the work would begin in late August or early September and be completed by October.

The gravel removed from Trygg Rd. will be repurposed

for parking lots or other projects where the sharp nature of the aggregate won’t pose a problem. Residents and users of Trygg Rd. have reported dozens of flat tires over the past year as a result of fresh gravel added to the road early last year.

## ROADS...Continued from page 1

Hawkinson Constructions. Drivers can expect delays at various points along the route for five months beginning May 20 on the east end as the contractors will reclaim and resurface the 21 mile stretch with plant-mixed asphalt. The western half, running from Frazer Bay Rd. to Hwy. 53, will get underway July 22, with work continuing into early October. No detours are planned, but slowdowns can be expected.

**Vermilion Dr. (CSAH 25)**

Vermilion Dr. is the east-west corridor running along the north end of the downtown business district of Cook, stretching from Second St. SE (CSAH 24) on the east to Hwy. 53 on the west, encompassing both business and residential areas. The road will get a complete reconstruction from Hwy. 53 to 300 feet west of Second St. SE, to include reconstruction of the paved roadbed, curb

and gutter, storm sewer components, sidewalk, lighting, and intersection improvements. The schedule originally called for work to begin on May 20, with an anticipated completion date of Sept. 21, but according to a revised schedule work has been shifted to start on Vermilion Dr. after the annual Timber Days celebration, likely commencing the first week of July. Construction will be phased to accommodate access for residents and businesses.

Reconstruction of N River St., from Vermilion Dr. to Ashawa Rd. is also in the works for this year. This project won’t be found on the county’s project list, as it is not a state aid road and is being financed by the city of Cook from other sources. The city worked together with the county to have the two projects bid together for potential cost savings, however the bid

came in about 26 percent higher than the engineer’s estimates. According to city council minutes, the council decided in March to move ahead with the project in either case. The N River St. project will commence first, with alternative estimated start dates of May 13 or May 20.

**Olson Rd. (CSAH 540/910)**

Olson Rd. is a 5.3-mile-long road north of Cook connecting CSAH 24 on the east to Hwy. 53 at the North Woods School intersection to the west. Drivers have seen the road deteriorate significantly in recent years, with large patches of crumbling pavement managed back to compacted gravel. The scope of work includes stabilization of the road base, bituminous reclamation and bituminous paving. The project is scheduled to begin May 20 and finish on Sept. 21. No road closures or detours

are planned.

**Beatty Rd. (CSAH78)**

CSAH 78 extends east from CSAH 24 north of Cook as Beatty Rd., then continues south on Vermilion Lake Rd. to the intersection with CSAH 115. The entire four miles will be paved. The work will involve bituminous reclamation, culvert replacements, grading and bituminous paving. Two road closures will be necessary for the project, one of up to 14 days for culvert replacement from CSAH 24 east to CR 540, and the second for up to 28 days from CR 540 south to CSAH 115 for road realignment and culvert replacement. The closures will not happen simultaneously. The contractor will select the dates for the closures.

**CSAH 22**

A four mile stretch of CSAH 22 beginning at

the intersection of Hwy. 1 and Hwy. 53 and running west to the intersection with Samuelson Rd is also scheduled for resurfacing this year. Work on pavement reclamation and bituminous surfacing is scheduled to begin on July 22 and be completed by Oct. 12. No detours or road closures will be necessary.

**CSAH 25 Culverts**

This culvert replacement project will begin at the intersection of E Lind Rd. and Samuelson Rd., proceeding north on Samuelson Rd. and winding its way to the intersection with Hwy. 53. Work will involve replacement of 11 culverts and is scheduled to begin on Aug. 26, with an anticipated completion date of Oct. 12. No road closures or detours are expected.

**CSAH 25 bridge**

The bridge on Samuelson Rd. (CSAH 25) over the Rice River, three

miles southwest of Cook, is set for complete replacement, including approach grading and paving. A detour route will be utilized and signed for the duration of construction. The project is scheduled to begin on July 8, and is scheduled to be completed by Oct. 12. A detour utilizing CR 923, CR 912, and CSAH 25 will be signed about one week prior to the closure indicating the actual date the road will be closed.

**CR 958 Bridge**

A bridge on Three Rivers Rd. (CR 958) that spans the Rice River approximately 3.8 miles southwest of Cook will be completely replaced, with work scheduled to begin on July 29. A detour using sections of Alango, Leander, and Ralph Rds. will be posted. Work is scheduled to be completed by Nov. 11.

## MN POWER...Continued from page 1

firm currently has nearly \$600 billion in assets under management.

U.S.-based Global Infrastructure Partners, or GIP, is a private equity firm founded in 2006 that specializes in investments in infrastructure. The company, headed by Adebayo Ogunlesi, was acquired by the investment behemoth BlackRock earlier this year for a reported \$12.5 billion.

According to the press statement, the sale of ALLETE will not impact the company’s workforce, union agreements, or its commitment to a clean energy future. The company will remain

locally managed and operated from its headquarters in Duluth.

“Through this transaction with CPP Investments and GIP, we will have access to the capital we need while keeping our customers, communities and co-workers at the forefront of all that we do, with continuity of our day-to-day operations, strategy and shared purpose and values,” said ALLETE Chair, President, and Chief Executive Officer Bethany Owen.

“CPP Investments and GIP have a successful track record of long-term partnerships with infrastructure businesses, and they rec-

ognize the important role our ALLETE companies serve in our communities as well as our nation’s energy future.”

According to ALLETE, CPP Investments and Global Investment Partners have made several commitments as part of the deal, including:

- Retaining workforce: The agreement commits to retaining workforce as well as compensation levels and benefits programs. It also honors union contracts, including with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

- Maintaining the current headquarters and

leadership: ALLETE’s Minnesota Power and Superior Water, Light and Power will continue as independently operated, locally managed, regulated utilities. Bethany Owen will continue as Chief Executive Officer, and the current management team will continue to lead ALLETE and remain as the primary points of contact for customers, regulators and other stakeholders.

- Contributing to community: ALLETE and its family of businesses and the Minnesota Power Foundation will continue to make economic and charitable contributions in its service territories to

support vibrant and sustainable communities, close opportunity gaps, and help people of all ages live with purpose and passion.

In addition, the transaction will support existing commitments made by ALLETE such as:

- ALLETE’s clean-energy goals: All ALLETE companies will remain committed to advancing a clean-energy future, through solar, wind, storage and transmission infrastructure and achieving carbon-free goals of the respective states in which the companies operate.

- Retail or municipal rates for utility customers: Following the close of the

acquisition, ALLETE’s utilities will continue to be regulated by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and other state and federal regulators.

The acquisition is not expected to impact retail or municipal rates for utility customers, which includes Minnesota Power customers in Tower-Soudan and parts of Lake Vermilion as well as customers of Ely public utilities, which purchase electricity from Minnesota Power on contract.

## COUNCIL...Continued from page 1

Public Works Facility, located at 2210 E. Sheridan St., on June 13 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., unless rescheduled due to bad weather or emergencies. The next Ely area collection will be at the Northwoods Transfer Station on Cty. Rd. 21 on Aug. 29.

The county will accept paint products, automotive fluids and greases, deep fat fryer and other cooking oils, pesticides, aerosol products, rechargeable batteries, caustic or corrosive products, other household chemicals and cleaners, fluorescent tubes, CFLs, and ballasts, mercury, adhesives, and lead sinkers and other lead items.

Treated wood is not accepted as household hazardous waste or as demolition material, but must go in the regular garbage. Used car batteries, motor oil, and oil filters are also not household hazardous waste but are collected instead for recycling at several county transfer stations.

Household medical waste has its own set of handling rules which are online at stlouiscountymn.gov/hw.

In other matters for the business, the city council:

- Approved a resolution authorizing the city to pursue an official trail town designation for the North Country National

Scenic Trail. The trail, which is part of the National Park Service, was rerouted through Ely, Soudan, and Tower last year.

- Approved the purchase of dirt for the Little League field.

- Approved the appointment of Emily Roose, chair of the planning and zoning commission, to the sanitation committee as the planning and zoning representative.

- Heard the report that the Ely Board of Adjustment approved the conditional use permit for 26 and 36 E. Conan St. for the construction of a public and private parking lot. According to Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski, the creation of a parking lot at this currently blighted property will help further the development of the city’s previous community center at the corner of Harvey St. and First Ave. The developer intends to convert the former community center into a boutique hotel. One of the contract conditions that the developer has with the city is the creation of off-street parking for use by the hotel’s customers. The city will retain ownership of the property, part of which will be dedicated to the use of the hotel. The rest of the parking will be public.

- Approved the recommendation from the board of adjustment to rezone the former railroad depot property at 212 N. Central Ave. from the industrial (M) zoning code to commercial (C1) zoning code. According to Langowski, the rezoning is one step in the process to redevelop the property. The depot was formerly used by an outfitter.

- Approved the purchase of a replacement pump for the Pioneer lift station from Quality Flow Systems for \$11,980.

- Approved the rental of a biosolids press from Fergus Power Pump for \$18,340.

- Approved attendance at the Minnesota Wastewater Operators Association Conference, July 24-26 in Grand Rapids for WWTF staff members.

- Approved a \$447,949 payment for the Ely Utilities Commission March bills.

- Approved a recommendation from the telecommunications advisory board that the city act as the fiscal agent for Ely Area Television’s grant request to the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council.

- Approved a recommendation from telecommunications advisory board to approve \$200 for additional filming by Ely Area Television in April.

- Approved the recommendation from the employee relations committee to approve the revised direct deposit form.

- Approved a revised police sergeant job description at the recommendation of employee relations.

- Approved the donation of an unused server to the nonprofit Ely Community Health Center at the recommendation of Langowski.

- Approved closing the library for four days, Sept. 11-14, so the staff can attend the Association of Rural and Small Libraries conference in Springfield, Mass.

- Approved a note and mortgage for a residential rehab loan of \$4,143 for Taylor Davis at 915 E. White St. for sewer repairs.

- Approved the notification and cancellation of a purchase agreement for Gregory Paul Demarce for Lot 6, Block 4 in the East Spaulding Plat. City Attorney Kelly Klun reported that the city has not had any contact with the purchaser for an extended period. Once the city has delivered the notification, it will relist the property for sale at its currently market value.

- Received the invitation from the Ely Climate Group and the nonprofit group CURE to attend a conversation on sustainable

development in rural communities on May 9 at 4 p.m. at the Ely Senior Center.

- Approved \$67,889 of claims for payment for the city and the Ely Utilities Commission for May 7.

- Approved SEH invoice No. 464627 for Prospector ATV Connector for \$4182.

- Appointed Bonnie Starkman to a resident seat on the tree board with a term expiring on Jan. 31, 2027.

- Approved change order No. 1 for the trailhead site rebid project.

- Approved change order No. 1 for the 2023 taxi lane reconstruction project

at the airport.

- Approved a temporary liquor license for the Boundary Waters Connect/Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness for July 5 at Chapman Street Commons, 115 E. Chapman St.

- Accepted the resignation of John Hunn from Heritage Preservation Commission.

- Approved a residential rehab loan application for Kathy Quigley and Madalynne Reese for \$5,034 at 1139 E. Washington St. to install a moisture barrier in the basement, pending relevant paperwork.

## VERN'S Greenhouse & Nursery Gifts For Mom!



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## THE POST OFFICE

# Postal audit finds major problems at Bemidji PO

Review requested by Sens. Klobuchar, Smith; findings reflects widespread issues in rural delivery

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — An audit report released this week has shed light on some of the problems facing the U.S. Postal Service as a result of the expansion in its package delivery service. The audit of the Bemidji Post Office found thousands of pieces of delayed mail, much of it unreported, as well as serious management failures that contributed to the delays.

The audit was requested by Sens. Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith in the wake of numerous complaints from Minnesotans about mail that was either delayed or lost entirely.

“When the mail is unreliable, it hurts Minnesotans, especially those who rely on the Postal Service to pay bills and

receive paychecks and prescriptions,” said Sen. Smith. “Yet when I ask the Postal Service for information on these disruptions, they insist everything is fine. This report confirmed what I’ve heard from Minnesotans and postal workers across the state for years: the Postal Service management is failing Minnesotans.”

The Bemidji Post Office became the subject of national attention last November when the Washington Post reported on the sudden influx of thousands of Amazon packages to the facility. While the story focused on Bemidji, post offices around the country, including here in northeastern Minnesota, experienced a similar deluge of packages during the same period as part of an effort by top Post Office management to boost revenue through

package delivery, particularly in rural areas where other delivery services find it too expensive to operate.

Representatives of the Post Office’s Inspector General’s office visited the Bemidji Post Office last Dec. 12-14, and found nearly 79,000 pieces of delayed mail in the facility on those three days alone and that facility management failed to accurately report the delays. At the time, Bemidji postal workers were inundated with thousands of packages daily and had been instructed to prioritize package delivery over regular mail. The report also makes it clear that management failures, not the failures of postal workers, are responsible for the problems.

Sen. Smith, in a press statement, noted that the audit findings

directly contradict the Postal Service’s response to a Nov. 28, 2023 letter she wrote expressing concerns about problems with mail delivery. The Postal Service had responded, claiming that the service “has well-established procedures and guidance to help every facility in the country prepare for the busiest time of year.”

In fact, the audit report found that Post Office headquarters “did not have a program in place to provide Bemidji Post Office management with training on mail processing operations.”

At the same time, the Post Office had failed to fill a number of job vacancies, which further added to the backlog and chaos.

The *Timberjay* also heard from local postal workers last November and December about

the untenable volume of packages that they were expected to deliver, without adequate staffing to accomplish the task without letting other post office priorities fall by the wayside.

Earlier this year, the *Timberjay* reported on problems that it and other newspapers were experiencing with delivery of their newspapers by the Post Office.

Klobuchar and Smith said they plan to continue pushing for improvements. “This isn’t the end of this story. The Inspector General’s district-wide report will be released soon, and I look forward to getting a full picture so we can hold the Postal Service accountable for real solutions,” said Sen. Smith.

## SHOW...Continued from page 1

weather, the next car show slated for Saturday, May 18, will line classic cars up and down the block. This will include his family’s own treasured collection: a 1972 Corvette, a 1979 El Camino, and a 1929 Ford Model A that has been modified to drive “more like a dragster.”

Bob comes from a family of car buffs. His brother is the president of a car club in Lakeland, Minn., and that club plans to bring a nice selection of classic cars up for the May 18 date.

The café will be roasting corn outdoors, state fair style, with sales to benefit the Tower Area Food Shelf.

The café is hoping to host many more car show events over the summer.

Jaymes Scholz, of Ely, showed off his 2004 Jeep Liberty 4x4, a vehicle older than he was.

“It’s just a beater that I bought this winter,” he said. The car has over 230,000 miles and he bought it from a family friend for \$200, and has since spent about \$500 on needed parts, including v-joints, ball-joints, new exhaust, and an LED light



Randy Thompson gestures as he talks with Rob Mattson about Mattson’s restored 1967 Chevrolet Hereford farm truck. photo by J. Summit

bar. This is a practical restoration, giving him a car to commute to Vermilion Country School in Tower, where he is a sophomore, and to work on a construction crew. Getting rid of the rust and restoring the paint job wasn’t the goal for this vehicle — he was just looking for a reliable ride. Jaymes has worked with his father on other restoration projects, including a 1979 Ford highboy truck, and

a 2010 Ford Raptor. He and his father also restore vintage snowmobiles.

The other two vehicles on display were more familiar car show entries.

Rob Mattson bought a 1967 Chevrolet Hereford, a 2WD working farm truck back in 2018, and has since turned it into dump truck. He installed a 4WD drivetrain, and then added a working dump, that he had bought used.

“They never made a 4WD model of the C30 dually,” he said. “It was kind of fun to turn it into a 4WD.”

Mattson, a chiropractor in Ely, said his two big hobbies are cars and guitars (he is a popular local musician).

This project had a practical purpose. He uses the truck to haul brush and bring garbage to the dump.

“I’ve always mon-

keyed with cars,” said Mattson. “My first car was an Impala which I bought when I was in high school,” Mattson said. “They are cool and fun to drive.”

Mattson was happy to see a teenager excited about car restorations.

“Young guys like Jaymes will keep it going,” he said.

The “classiest” of the cars on display was a 1957 Chevrolet 210 Station Wagon, which had been totally restored by Mike Forsman, also of Ely.

“I bought it from my insurance agent back in 1975 for \$100,” he said. He planned to turn it into a family car, but the vehicle ended up sitting in his backyard for a little over 40 years, before he finally had the time to tackle the project once he had retired.

“I pushed it into the garage in 2017,” he said. “I took it all apart. It was a fun project.”

Forsman installed safety features, like front and rear seatbelts, and has

driven the wagon as far as Fargo, for a car show in March, which involved driving through some nasty winter weather.

“The car has never been on a trailer,” he said.

The car attracted some attention from a young car enthusiast, Cy Bishop who had convinced his grandmother to give him a ride to Tower to see the car show. Cy was pretty sure the wagon would have fit right into a Ghostbusters movie.

Many others stopped by to see the vehicles and visit with their owners. Randy Thompson didn’t bring a car to show on Saturday, but was clearly a classic car enthusiast talking “shop” with the others in the parking lot before volunteering to help with organizing future car shows.

While turnout may have been light for this event, the enthusiasm was clearly running high.



**Ely-Bloomenson  
Community Hospital**



## Hospital Connection

### EMS Study – Part II

**Q: Why did EBCH commission a study of Emergency Medical Services?**  
**A:** As the only local hospital, Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital (EBCH) is an essential part of the healthcare sector, and we take our responsibility of caring for the communities we serve very seriously. We understand and know the challenges Emergency Medical Services (EMS) face at the national, state, and local levels. We acknowledge the instability of the current climate facing EMS and have proactively taken the initiative to commission a study that examines all possible options to create a sustainable and viable solution for EMS in our region.

**Q: Did EBCH see the results of this study?**  
**A:** Yes - on April 30, 2024, the SafeTech Solutions Team presented the EBCH Board of Directors with a comprehensive report on their commissioned study. The report presented four models as potential solutions for the EMS sustainability problem. While many models were considered, the proposed solutions were meticulously analyzed and presented to the board clearly and concisely. The board was impressed with the quality of the report and looks forward to sharing the results publicly.

**Q: What are the next steps?**  
**A:** To show respect and inclusivity toward all the parties involved in the study, EBCH has decided to develop a rollout plan that will include a public presentation. This presentation will be open to all those who participated in the study and any members of the public interested in the future of Emergency Medical Services in our service area. Coordinating the presentation will take some time, but we will advertise the date well in advance.

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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](http://www.ebch.org). Like our Facebook page to keep up with current events and announcements.

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TRANSPARENCY

# Birth records open to adult adoptees July 1

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Starting July 1, Minnesota-born adoptees, 18 years and older, will have new access to their original birth records, a move that promises to unlock deeply held questions about their biological heritage. This access is part of a law passed last year which no longer allows birth parents to conceal their identities from adult adoptees.

After an adoption in Minnesota, birth records are changed to show the new name of the adopted person and the adoptive parents, and the original birth records and all related correspondence are sealed, making the records confidential and only accessible under certain provisions laid out in state law. Access to the records has prioritized the specified intentions of the birth parents to restrict or share the information.

But now the original birth record will be available not only

to adult adoptees, but also to an adoptee's legal representative or relatives if the adoptee is deceased.

Noncertified copies of original birth records may also be released to:

➤ A birth parent named on the original record.

➤ A representative of a federally recognized American Indian tribe for the sole purpose of determining an adopted person's eligibility for tribal enrollment or membership.

➤ A person with a certified copy of a court order directing the release of the original birth record to them.

The law also introduces a contact preference form for birth parents, allowing them to indicate their openness to being contacted. This form, which includes space for a brief message, will accompany the released birth record, though the decision to initiate contact rests solely with the adoptee. Birth parents retain the right to alter their contact

preferences at any time.

## Reactions to the change

The provision for changing the law for adoptees to access their original birth records was slipped into the massive health policy bill passed by the legislature and signed by Gov. Tim Walz in May 2023. The provision was largely overlooked by legislators as they considered other significant issues.

An *MPR News* article in August 2023 revealed the feelings of people on both sides of the open records debate, including reservations expressed by Sen. Warren Limmer, R-Maple Grove.

"There were promises made by government officials that (birth parents') identities would never be revealed unless they got word from the mother to do that," Limmer told *MPR*. "We have to think about that promise that was made by government."

Limmer also articulated a concern voiced by many pro-life advocates that the prospect of

future disclosure could lead to a decision to abort.

"If a woman's identity can't be protected, some women would resort to an abortion," Limmer said. "And quite honestly, that's a very serious prospect."

But as Erin Merrigan, who helps run a birthparents support group, noted to *MPR*, times have changed, and that it's just as possible that the emotional toll of having a baby and the prospect of never seeing them again could cause prospective birth parents to terminate a pregnancy.

Gregory Luce, a Minneapolis attorney and adoptee, framed the matter as one of human rights.

"I think people are finally recognizing the human right to know who you are and where you came from," he said. "And making adoption secret in this way is just an anachronism. It's a human rights issue. It's found its day, it's found its advocates, and it is currently now a real movement."

Part of the change is being driven by DNA and the increasing

knowledge base about the role of genetics in influencing people's physical, behavioral, and psychological traits, including genetically-linked health conditions. A heightened societal interest in genealogy has also informed the debate over open records, particularly with the proliferation of large voluntarily DNA databases maintained by companies like Ancestry that will find genetic matches with others in the database. Also important in the shifting norm has been the increasingly common practice of open adoption, where the birth parents' identities are acknowledged from the very outset of the adoption process and open communication and relationships are established between them and the adoptive parents and the adoptee.

More information about the new law, as well as required forms and fees, are available on the Minnesota Department of Health website at [www.health.state.mn.us/people/vitalrecords/adoption.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/people/vitalrecords/adoption.html).

PUBLIC HEALTH

# City of Ely asking residents to check their water lines

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- The city of Ely is looking for information from all its residents on their water intake lines. The payoff will be a free replacement if an intake line is found to be made of lead. The Minnesota Department of Health's lead service line replacement funding program will

replace lead intake lines at no cost to residents. But to obtain those free replacements, the city needs to identify the materials used in each intake line.

"We can get the money through the Department of Health," said Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski. "Then, we can get those lead lines replaced at no charge, all the way from the house to the meeting point (with the

water main) all the way to the middle of the street or the alley. The cost will be entirely covered by grant funds."

The Ely Utilities Commission is sending a notice to every water customer with instructions on how to identify the material in their intake line. The test is simple: find the water intake and scratch it with a knife. If the scratch is reddish, it's copper. If the

scratch is silver-colored, it's either lead or iron. If a magnet sticks to the intake pipe, it's iron. The instructions go on to ask that the customer take a picture of the scratch—and magnet if applicable—to document the intake material.

Al Forsman, the city council liaison to the utilities commission said the notice will be mailed with the monthly utility bill. He cautioned that the envelope

may look like junk mail, so residents will want to be aware. "I will point out that if you're used to seeing your billing postcard in the mail, this looks like a card but in an envelope so you may not think it's valid mail—so watch for an envelope with your postcard this month."

Langowski said that customers should receive their mailed notice by June 1 and that the city needs the information back from

residents by June 14. If you don't receive a notice, contact the Ely utilities for a replacement.

Customers may also have the city collect the water intake information by contacting Jason, the city's water meter technician at 218-235-3080.

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## STATE LEGISLATURE

## Sports betting bill faces long odds of passage

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- What began the legislative session wrapped in an aura of optimism is now the target of widespread pessimistic speculation as the clock ticks down on the dwindling chance to pass a bill legalizing sports betting in Minnesota.

On the first day of the new legislative session in February, Gov. Tim Walz was on board with the idea that this could be sports betting's year for passage.

"I would guess they'll probably get close to getting something done," Walz said, when asked about the prospects of sports betting during the first day of the 2024 legislative session. "It seems, to me, like this is probably the year to talk about that in a non-budget year."

That was the same day Sen. Jeremy Miller, R-Winona, officially introduced the Minnesota Sports Betting Act 2.0, a bill he previewed in January.

"This updated proposal combines ideas from my original Minnesota Sports Betting Act along with provisions from other sports betting bills that were introduced last session," he said. "It also includes ideas brought forward by constituents and stakeholders. The goal of this proposal is to bring folks together to work toward a bipartisan solution to legalize sports betting in Minnesota. I strongly believe we can get it done this year."

Now contrast that optimism with some of the headlines from the past 10 days or so:

► Minnesota Sports Betting Discussions Getting Hot ... and Not in a Good Way.

► Minnesota Sports Betting Bill Unlikely to Pass.

► Bizarre Arrest Threatens Minnesota Sports Betting Legislation.

► Is Sports Betting Legalization Dead Again in Minnesota?

So how is a proposition riding on a wave of optimism in February now on life-support with a bleak prognosis for survival? In short, the journey sports betting has taken reflects the challenges of navigating divided political landscapes and divergent public interests.

While Miller's bill languishes in the State and Local Government and Veterans Committee in the Senate, it is the House version of the bill, sponsored by Rep. Zack Stephenson, DFL-Coon Rapids, that's seen the most debate and generated most of the recent negative buzz. Despite a series of approvals in various House committees and a recent nod from the House Taxes Committee, where it passed on a 12-9 party-line vote, Stephenson acknowledges the bill faces an uphill battle as it awaits yet another hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee. House Speaker Melissa Hortman is on record saying the House will probably pass Stephenson's bill in the final days of the session.

"We can send something over (to the Senate) and maybe that helps break the logjam," Hortman said.

But the odds of such a move are highly uncertain, according to Sen. Matt Klein, DFL-Mendota Heights.

"If you talked to me a month ago, I would have said we're at 60-70 percent," Klein recently told *MPR News*. "I think we're down around 20 percent now."

### Arrest clouds the picture

The bill's outlook in the Senate took a turn for the worse with the recent arrest of Sen. Nicole Mitchell on a first-degree burglary charge for allegedly breaking into her stepmother's Detroit Lakes home before sunrise on April 22. Officers found Mitchell in the basement wearing a black hat, black clothes and in possession of a flashlight covered with a sock and she admitted entering the house through a sliding glass window in the basement. Mitchell had allegedly intended to take several sentimental items belonging to her late father but posted to her Facebook page that she drove from Woodbury to Detroit Lakes in the middle of the night to conduct a welfare check on a family member after she "learned of medical information which caused me grave concern" due to their "Alzheimer's and associated paranoia."

Since returning to the Senate, Mitchell has survived Republican attempts to have her

voting privileges stripped, but has been partially sidelined by the Senate DFL Caucus, which removed her from committee assignments and caucus meetings.

The conflict continued on Tuesday with an ethics committee hearing at which Mitchell refused to testify. The committee deferred any action on the matter for the time being.

Mitchell's murky status further clouds the picture in a Senate that the DFL controls by only one vote and where opposition to sports betting among some DFL senators almost guarantees passage of the bill would require a bipartisan effort.

Stephenson's bill would authorize and regulate wagering on certain athletic and electronic sports events, alongside establishing related crimes and creating grants administered by the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission. It also includes provisions to fund a study on gambling among young adults.

The bill would give exclusive rights for sports betting operations to Minnesota's 11 federally recognized tribes that already operate casinos, a provision opposed by the operators of the state's two horse-racing tracks and numerous Republican supporters.

It also includes significant tax breaks for charitable gaming operations up to \$40 million a year, funded by a 20 percent tax on revenues, a feature that has been pitched as being particularly beneficial to Veterans'

groups that have building maintenance costs. At a recent House Tax Committee hearing American Legion Legislative Chairwoman Kristy Janigo spoke in favor of the bill, noting that tax breaks would allow Veterans to do more to support their communities.

And when multiple Republican members voiced their opinions that the bill was effectively dead, Rep. Dave Lislegard, DFL-Aurora, responded.

"When I heard, during the conversation, that the bill's not going anywhere, I looked over at the Veterans and watched their demeanor change as this hearing went on," Lislegard said. "I feel for you. Because, basically, you were told that this has no chance. Is this a perfect bill? Probably not, but it was moving in the right direction. And I'm going to keep fighting for it."

Minnesota is not alone in contentious legislative battles over sports betting this year.

Minnesota is not alone in contentious legislative battles over sports betting. Georgia and Alabama both have rejected sports betting, leaving the number of states that have ratified the practice at 38. And it appears altogether likely that Minnesota will not add to that total in 2024.

*MPR News contributed to this report.*

## LIVE MUSIC

## KAXE's Riverfest set for Saturday, Sept. 7; tickets on sale now

GRAND RAPIDS- KAXE and the City of Grand Rapids are pleased to announce the Fourth Annual Grand Rapids Riverfest on Saturday, Sept. 7.

Spoon is this year's Riverfest headliner, which will also feature Shakey Graves, Sarah Jarosz, S.G. Goodman and Corey Medina & Brothers. A limited number of early bird tickets are now on sale until May 10 (or sold out), with additional discounts for KAXE members. General entry tickets go on sale May 11 or once early bird tickets sell out.

The festival, is a collaboration between KAXE and the City of Grand Rapids, combines a hometown feel with national touring acts. It has seen extraordinary success with sought-after performers like Wilco and Trampled by Turtles.

Part of the beauty of this small-town festival with national appeal is the venue. Nestled on the banks of the mighty Mississippi, and in a natural landscape on a hill by the town's public library, festivalgoers have said their experience has been "magical" with a "relaxed vibe."

### Growth

KAXE was the first rural public radio station



in the country in 1976 and has seen incredible growth in recent years. With new and local management committed to community, a loyal radio and digital audience as well as much needed expanded programming to cover local and national news, music, arts and culture, KAXE is more vibrant and relevant than ever. Through the years, the station, based in Grand Rapids (91.7FM), has expanded by adding a tower in Bagley (90.5FM), station in Bemidji (KBXE) and transmitter in Brainerd (89.9FM), covering much of the north central and northern part of Minnesota.

"We've always been a small but mighty station. We were founded with a lot of grit and determination," said Sarah Bignall, General Manager and CEO of KAXE. "Over

the past couple of years, we've been evaluating what our role in the community is. We have the ability to bring people together. Live music events

## A small-town station festival gains national appeal

are the perfect way to do that."

### Spoon

This year's headliner, Spoon (pictured at left), has been hailed by *TIME* magazine as "one of the greatest American rock bands." Led by magnetic frontman and songwriter, Britt Daniel, Spoon has carried the flag for guitar-based rock 'n' roll since their debut in 1996.

One of the most consistently excellent rock bands, Spoon has released 10 albums and has toured the world with tight and

incredible live shows. Their latest full-length release, "Lucifer On the Sofa" received widespread acclaim, and was nominated for Best Rock Album at the 65th Annual Grammy Awards. There is no filler when it comes to Spoon, just rock and roll.

Tickets to Grand Rapids Riverfest are on sale now at [www.grandrapidsriverfest.com/tickets](http://www.grandrapidsriverfest.com/tickets). Early Bird tickets are \$109 for adults, \$39 kids 13-17, \$10 kids 5-12 and free for children 4 and under. Adult ticket prices increase on May 11 or

when early bird tickets are sold out. Follow Grand Rapids Riverfest on social media for all of the latest updates.

Northern Community Radio is an independent, listener-supported, non-profit, NPR-Affiliate that operates KAXE 91.7 FM in Grand Rapids, KBXE 90.5 FM in Bagley-Bemidji, 89.9 FM in Brainerd. on your smart speaker and streaming online at [www.kaxe.org](http://www.kaxe.org). For more information contact Kari Hedlund at 800-662-5799 or email [khedlund@kaxe.org](mailto:khedlund@kaxe.org).

**EBCH**  
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Community Hospital

## Celebrating our Nurses!

Thank you for all that you do for EBCH!

EBCH Nurses work hard for the hospital, our patients, and the communities we serve. Please join us in celebrating National Nurses Week 2024 and saying "THANK YOU" to our dedicated caregivers!

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# SPORTS

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## SOFTBALL

# Wolves down undefeated Broncos



by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**  
Managing Editor

ELY — The Broncos came to town sporting a 10-0 record as the softball seasons heads into the home stretch. They boarded the bus back to the Falls nursing their first loss of the season as Ely sophomore Ella Perish drove in four runs for the Timberwolves enroute to a 5-4 win.

“This was one of our better played games. It was a big win for us,” said Ely Head Coach Cory Lassi. “I thought we did a really good job against a tough pitcher. I liked our approach at the plate.”

## Fall hard to Panthers at South Ridge, 17-7

The Wolves enjoyed solid pitching from freshman Amelia Penke, who pitched seven full, allowing just two earned runs on four hits, while striking out three.

“We made the plays in the field behind Amelia, and we were able to get out of some jams,” said Lassi. Perish went 3-3 at the plate, ripping two doubles to give Ely the edge. Junior Clare Thomas went 2-3,

including a run scored, while senior Hannah Penke scored twice.

Ely’s scheduled Saturday contest with Cook County was rained out. In a make-up game last Friday at South Ridge, the Wolves struggled both on offense as well as defensively as the Panthers outpaced them 17-7.

“We made some mistakes mentally in the field that gave South Ridge extra base runners,” said Lassi. “This is one of those games we just need to put behind us and move on.”

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

## SOFTBALL

# Ely nabs comeback at North Woods

by **DAVID COLBURN**  
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- The Ely Timberwolves softball team came on strong in the latter innings of a road game against the North Woods Grizzlies on Thursday, May 2, going home with a 12-9 victory.

Moved to North Woods due to field conditions, the game was originally scheduled to be played in Ely, so the Wolves took the field as the home team.

The Grizzlies got off to a hot start in their first at-bat against Ely pitcher Zoe MacKenzie. Leadoff batter Nevada Gauthier got on board with a single and came around to score on an RBI by Zoey Burckhardt. Burckhardt came home on an RBI by River Cheney, who then scored the team’s third run of the inning to put North Woods ahead 3-0.

Ely answered back in the bottom half of the first when Hannah Penke took a 3-2 pitch from Grizzlies starter Zoey Burckhardt deep over the wall for a solo home run, cutting the deficit to 3-1.

North Woods plated three more runs in the second. Evalyn Thiel and Talise Goodsky both crossed the plate after getting on board with singles, and Zoey Burckhardt reached third on a triple. Addison Burckhardt brought her home with a double off of MacKenzie to extend the lead to 6-1.

But the Wolves came snarling back in their second inning stand. MacKenzie led off with a walk, and Brielle Lindland reached base after being hit by a pitch with two outs. A walk to Peyton Huntington loaded the bases, and Clare Thomas was hit by a pitch to bring home Ely’s first run of the frame. Penke and Ella Perish came through with a double and triple respectively to clear the bases as the Wolves plated five runs in all to forge

See **GIRLS...** pg. 2B



## SOFTBALL

# Grizzlies split a pair

by **DAVID COLBURN**  
Cook/Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- The North Woods softball team split a pair of games bracketing the weekend this past week with a Friday home loss to South Ridge balanced by a Monday road win over Mt. Iron-Buhl.

The 6-4 win against MIB was the Grizzlies’ second of the season over the Rangers, a complete turnaround from last year’s results.

MIB took the early lead with a run in the bottom of the second, but the Grizzlies’ Rory Bundy scored the equalizer in the top of the third. The Rangers responded with two runs in their half of the inning, carrying a 3-1 lead into the fourth.

The Grizzlies held tough defensively, keeping MIB off the board in the fourth, and notched three-and-outs against the Rangers in the fifth and sixth.

That gave the Grizzlies the chance they needed to take the lead, getting two runs from Emarie Gibson and Ella Kruse

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

**Top: The Grizzlies’ River Cheney slides in safe at third after hitting a triple during last Friday’s contest with South Ridge.**

**Below: The Grizzlies’ Evalyn Thiel keeps her eye on the ball as she makes a catch for an out.**

photos by D. Colburn



## GIRLS GOLF



**Tori Olson, of North Woods, with her recent second place medal at the Mesabi East Invitational meet.**  
submitted photo

# Olson notches seconds at GR, Babbitt tourneys

by **DAVID COLBURN**  
Cook-Orr Editor

GIANTS RIDGE- North Woods senior golfer Tori Olson is rounding into good midseason form with a pair of second-place finishes in her last two tournaments, the most recent at the Mesabi East Invitational at Giants Ridge on Monday.

Olson toured the difficult par-73 layout in 91 strokes, well back of tourney champ Kelby Anderson of International Falls, who scorched the links with a 77 that included two birdies and only six bogeys. Olson and Anderson are likely to lock horns the rest of the season, with the pair ranked 73rd and 74th respectively in the Minnesota Golf Association’s most recent statewide rankings.

The Giants Ridge 18 proved to be a daunting challenge for the North Woods junior high members of the varsity squad. Eighth-grader Sophia Hoffman turned in a round of 120, placing 30th. Seventh grader Laurin Glass scored a 151 to finish in 40th. Eighth-grader Carsyn Burnett was at 62-over-par after 17 holes, but a final round total was not available in the iWanamaker electronic scoring system.

Olson and Anderson waged a much tighter battle at the East Range Conference tourney on Thursday, May 2 on the Babbitt Course. Anderson shot a one-under-par 35 on the nine-hole circuit, while runner-up Olson carded a four-over

See **GOLF...** pg. 2B

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## BASEBALL

# Grizzlies notch first win at Hill City

by DAVID COLBURN

Cook-Orr Editor

HILL CITY- The Hill City/Northland baseball team was ripe for the picking last week when North Woods came visiting, with the Storm riding a six-game losing streak. The Grizzlies cashed in for their first win of the season. North Woods pitcher Louie

Panichi led off the Thursday game with a single and came around to score, staking the Grizzlies to an early 1-0 lead. Panichi scored again in the third after hitting a double before the Storm notched their first run of the game in the bottom of the inning.

Panichi was sharp and the Grizzlies defense strong as North Woods recorded four innings of

three-and-out play in the game. While keeping the Storm at bay, the Grizzlies continued adding to their lead, scoring three runs in the fifth. Carson Johnson got on base and came home on a triple by Panichi, adding to his earlier single and double. Levi Chaulklin brought Panichi home with a single, then crossed the plate himself for the third run of

the inning and a 5-1 advantage.

It was Dawson Stavenger's turn to single and score in the top of the sixth, with Panichi missing the chance to hit for the cycle when he stroked his second double and fourth hit of the game. Panichi then crossed the plate for his fourth run of the game, putting North Woods up 7-1.

Panichi carried the ball to

the mound for the bottom of the seventh, but after a shaky start was relieved by John Warren after throwing his 91st pitch. The Storm scored one run, but Warren and the Grizzlies closed out the game from there, ringing up the 7-2 victory.

## TRACK

# NER-Ely finishes in fifth at Hibbing meet

by DAVID COLBURN

Cook-Orr Editor

HIBBING- The Ely boys and girls track squads traveled to Hibbing last Saturday for the 68th annual Doc Savage Invitational meet and came home with fifth place finishes out of seven teams competing.

Junior Eli Olson was the top placer among the boys, capturing the team's only first place finish of the day in triple jump with a leap of 39'1.5".

Top-15 finishers for the boys included:

100 meters – Caleb Larson, 11th, 12.75.

200m – Dylan Durkin, sixth, 25.13.

400m – Caleb Larson, 14th, 58.42.

800m – Wyatt Devine, 12th, 2:26.47.

1600m – Oliver Hohenstein, seventh, 5:21.79; Brooks Brenny, ninth, 5:28.55.

3200m – Mason Kurnava, ninth, 12:33.34; Blake Houde, tenth, 12:39.81.

110m hurdles – Leo Stalmer, third, 17.91.

300m hurdles – Leo Stalmer, fourth, 47.56.

4x100 relay – Eli Olson, Wyatt Mattson, Jack Rintala, Milo McClelland, eighth, 51.19.

4x200 relay – Noah Axleson, John Schlitz, Jack Rintala, Mason Kurnava, seventh, 2:01.62.

4x400 relay – Eli Olson, Caleb Larson, Dylan Durkin, Leo Stalmer, third, 3:53.48.

4x800 relay – Milo McClelland, Wyatt Devine, Brooks Brenny, Oliver Hohenstein, fourth, 9:27.38.

Shot put – Wyatt Mattson, tenth, 33'3".

Discus – Milo McClelland, 13th, 86'11"; Wyatt Mattson, 15th, 83'3".

High jump – Dylan Durkin, third, 5'8".

Long jump – Dylan Durkin, third, 18'3"; Eli Olson, seventh, 17'7"; Leo Stalmer, 13th, 15'10".

Triple jump – Mason Kurnava, 15th, 28'5.25".

## Girls

Freshman Molly Brophy grabbed the only gold for the girls

in the 3200-meter run, winning the event with a time of 12:49.21.

Other Ely girls with top-15 finishes included:

200m – Grace LaTourell, fourth, 29.09; Anna Larson, 12th, 30.64.

800m – Ivy Ohlhauser, ninth, 2:57.11.

1600m – Mattie Lindsay, fourth, 5:59.43; Katy Brophy, eighth, 6:17.66; Elsa Ellerbroek, ninth, 6:18.93; Anna Dunn, 11th, 6:35.33.

4x100 relay – Carmen Nelson, June Nelson, Brynn Larson, Molly Brophy, eighth, 1:02.12; Anna Larson, Maddie Johnson, Siiri Nelson, Bela Moskowitz, ninth, 1:08.2.

4x200 relay – Chantel Ridings, Bela Moskowitz, Addison Kannas, June Nelson, eighth, 2:20.91.

4x400 relay – Sarah Visser,

Mattie Lindsay, Anna Larson, Grace LaTourell, fourth, 4:41.73; Ivy Ohlhauser, Maddie Johnson, Isabella Macho, Anna Dunn, sixth, 5:06.06.

4x800 relay – Mattie Lindsay, Elsa Ellerbroek, Katy Brophy, Molly Brophy, third, 11:00.48.

Shot put – Rachel Carter, 11th, 24'10"; Kaylin Visser, 23'10".

Discus – Kaylin Visser, third, 86'8"; Rachel Carter, fourth, 80'8"; Sarah Visser, sixth, 78'6"; Addison Forsman, ninth, 70'2".

High jump – Selam Houle, tenth, 4'.

Long jump – Addison Forsman, eighth, 13'2"; Anna Dunn, tenth, 12'5"; Sarah Visser, 12th, 12'4".

Triple jump – Sarah Visser, fourth, 29'5"; Addison Forsman, 11th, 27'6"; Anna Dunn, 12th, 26'8.5".

# North Woods tracksters compete in unique meet

by DAVID COLBURN

Cook-Orr Editor

CROSBY- The South Ridge combined track team, including North Woods student-athletes, made the long trek to Roger Twigg Track in Crosby on Tuesday for the Crosby-Ironton Section 7A True Team meet.

True Team is a scoring concept found only in Minnesota track and field, organized, governed, coordinated, and sponsored by the State Track and Field Coaches Association, rather than the Minnesota State High School League. True Team competition is meant to emphasize total team

strength over individual performance.

At the Class A level, schools are allowed only two competitors per event and one team in relays, with each scoring points for their team. In regular track scoring, a handful of elite athletes can win a state championship for their school, as points are awarded only to the top finishers in events. In True Team scoring, points are assigned to each competitor according to the order of their finish in an event.

Teams, not individuals, earn the right to go to the True Team state meet. Eight sectional team champions in each class advance

to state, with four additional "wild card" teams decided by a "paper meet" comparing the strength of the 32 teams that finished second through fifth in the eight sectional competitions in a particular class. The state meet features 12 teams in each class.

The Panthers won't be in the mix for a wild card team bid this year, as the South Ridge boys placed ninth in Tuesday's meet and the girls finished eighth. Host Crosby-Ironton won the boys championship and Pierz won the girls title, each qualifying for True Team state.

North Woods girls contributing to the team's 200-point total

included:

100 meters – Addy Hartway, 13th, 14.66.

200m – Addy Hartway, 14th, 30.81; Mya Kinsey, 19th, 34.09.

400m – Grace Bundy, 16th, 1:23.800m – Brynn Chosa, 15th, 13:16.79.

100m hurdles – Grace Bundy, 14th, 29.23.

4x100 relay – Sixth (individual names unavailable for all relays), 57.28.

4x200 relay – Tenth, 2:17.30.

4x400 relay – Sixth, 4:37.53.

4x800 relay – Fifth, 11:24.12.

Shot put – Amber Sopoci, 12th, 24'5.5".

High jump – Izzy Pascuzzi, ninth, 4'4"; Lauren Burnett, 17th, 4'0".

Long jump – Izzy Pascuzzi, seventh, 14'1"; Lauren Burnett, 17th, 11'3.5".

## Boys

On the boys' side, the Panthers scored 250.5 points on the day. North Woods athletes cashing in points for the Panthers included:

100 meters – Aidan Hartway, seventh, 12.22; Trajen Barto, 16th, 12.8.

400m – Evan Huismann, 19th, 1:07.94.

800m – Jonah Burnett, sixth, 2:17.2.

3200m – Khalil Lightfeather Spears, third, 10:57.46; Lincoln Antikainen, seventh, 11:23.98.

4x100 relay – Ninth, 51.65.

4x200 relay – Eighth, 1:46.27.

4x400 relay – Second, 3:46.24.

4x800 relay – Eighth, 10:34.55.

High jump – Jonah Burnett, third, 5'8".

# Local boys find Giants Ridge course a tough challenge

by DAVID COLBURN

Cook-Orr Editor

GIANTS RIDGE- The North Woods Grizzlies and NER-Ely Nighthawks brought up the rear of the pack in Monday's nine-team

Mesabi East Invitational at Giants Ridge in Biwabik on Monday.

Neither team had a full foursome complete the tourney to qualify for an official team score, and Ryder Gibson of North Woods and Lewis Powell

of NER-Ely withdrew before completing their rounds.

Grizzlies golfer Gage Aune was the best of those that remained, shooting a 102 on the challenging par-72 layout, placing 26th. NER-Ely's Wesley

Sandy wasn't far behind in 30th place with a round of 105. North Woods' Sawyer Glass carded a 108 and placed 34th, while NER-Ely's Robert Towley was five stroked further back at 113, finishing 36th.

Both squads were scheduled to be back in action on Thursday for an East Range Conference meet hosted by Mesabi East at Hoyt Lakes, and again on Friday at Hibbing.

# NER-Ely girls take second at Babbitt meet, third at Giants Ridge

by DAVID COLBURN

Cook-Orr Editor

GIANTS RIDGE- On an unforgiving 18-hole layout at Giants Ridge on Monday, junior Carena DeBeltz sparked the

Northeast Range – Ely girls golf team to a third-place finish in the Mesabi East Invitational.

DeBeltz carded a score of 100 on the par-73 course, placing seventh among the 40 golfers competing. Teammates Abby

Koivisto and Maizy Sundblad weren't far behind, finishing in a tie for tenth place with identical rounds of 102. Danica Sunblad fired a 102, coming in at 21st to round out the team scoring. NER-Ely finished 25 strokes

behind team champion Rock Ridge,

The Wolverines of Rock Ridge were again a nemesis NER-Ely couldn't overcome in an East Range Conference tourney at Babbitt on Thursday, May 2.

Koivisto and Maizy Sunblad led the way this time for the second-place NER-Ely squad with duplicate scores of 45 on the par-36 links, tying for fourth. Danica Sunblad and DeBeltz tied for 12 with each carding a 53.

## GRIZZLIES...Continued from page 1B

in the fifth before cleanup hitter River Cheney stepped to the plate in the sixth and crushed a two-run homer, bringing Zoey Burckhardt home ahead of her. Bundy scored an insurance run in

the seventh before MIB's final at bat, and the Rangers could muster only a solitary run to fall to the Grizzlies 6-4.

The home game against South Ridge the Friday

prior was a prime example of what happens when one team gets hitting fever, and unfortunately that team wasn't North Woods. When starter Addison Burckhardt was throwing strikes and

even when she wasn't, the Panthers batters were putting the ball in play with hits and forcing Grizzlies errors. The Panthers were well-disciplined at the plate as they scored two runs in

the first, six in the third, two in the fourth and one in the fifth. In contrast, the Grizzlies were shackled at the plate, pushing across only one run in the second by River Cheney after she

stretched an outfield hit into a triple with a belly slide into third. South Ridge won the run-rule shortened game in five, 11-1.

## GIRLS...Continued from page 1B

a 6-6 tie.

North Woods went back up again in the third on hits and scores by Emarie Gibson and Ella Kruse, and preserved the 8-6 lead with a three-up, three down turn against the Wolves in the bottom of the inning.

After a scoreless fourth

for the Grizzlies, a pair of walks, a pair of steals, and a trio of North Woods errors put Ely back in the driver's seat in the bottom of the inning, as Huntington, Thomas, and Penke all crossed the plate with Penke picking up her third hit of the game. Ely

had finally manufactured a 9-8 lead.

North Woods came back to tie in the fifth when Rory Bundy walked and stole two bases on her way to crossing the plate, but it would be the last time the Grizzlies would cross home.

Lindland scored the decisive run in the bottom of the fifth, coming around to score after being hit by a pitch to give Ely a 10-9 lead. Perish and Maija Mattson scored insurance runs in the top of sixth, and then the Wolves dealt the Grizzlies a three up, three down frame

to secure the 12-9 win.

"We found ourselves down early, but we battled back," Ely Head Coach Cory Lassi said. "It wasn't our cleanest game, but we found a way to pull off the win. We did a good job erasing a few base runners with solid relays."

It was the fourth consecutive win for the Wolves, while the loss ended a short two-game win streak for the Grizzlies.

## GOLF...Continued from page 1B

40 with a pair of birdies. Four of the six schools competing had foursomes to qualify for the team competition, and North Woods finished third, sliding in ahead of Greenway-Nashwauk-Keewatin. Hoffman came

in with the second lowest round for the Grizzlies, finishing 16th with a 55. Glass toured the links in 60, placing 18th, and Burnett placed 12th with a score of 63.

## SOFTBALL...Continued from page 1B

Ely managed just four hits in the contest. Amelia Penke and sophomore Zoe MacKenzie made their count, driving in two runs apiece on hits. Junior Maija Mattson scored twice and forced in a run, both on walks. Perish walked twice and

scored twice in the contest.

Penke took the loss, allowing 10 earned runs in four innings pitched.

The Wolves ended the week at 6-4 on the season. They were set for an extended home stand, beginning Thursday when they host

Chisholm. They'll have another go at North Woods on Friday and Mt. Iron-Buhl comes to town on Monday. The Wolves will be back on the road Wednesday when they take on Littlefork-Big Falls.

Obituaries and Death Notices



**Rebecca L. Swan**

Rebecca Lynn “Becky” Swan, “Waawiyaaasinokwe” Whirlwind Woman, 45, of Virginia, died unexpectedly on Tuesday, April 30, 2024, in her home. A funeral service was held on Sunday, May 5 at Bauman’s Vermilion Funeral Home in Tower. Spring interment will take place in Lakeview Cemetery in Tower. Family services are provided by Bauman Vermilion, a Bauman Funeral Home in Tower.

Becky was born on June 11, 1978, in Bemidji, the daughter of Victor Swan and Dawn Rae Sam. Becky grew up in Tower, moved to Virginia, and graduated from Virginia High School. She was employed by the East Range DAC in Eveleth and thought of her co-workers as family. Becky was very kind and social, enjoyed gardening, country music, and loved the Purple and Gold.

Becky is survived by her moms, Pam Sherman of Tower and Dawn Rae Sam of Virginia; siblings, Jolene Swan and Blaine Swan, both of Virginia, Zowie Swan III and Josh (Alanna) Sherman, both of Tower, and Jason (Marissa) Sherman of Wisconsin; numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, extended family and friends, including her group home and ERDAC families.

She was preceded in death by her father; and grandma, Margaret Hackey.

**Cathryn M. Housey**

Cathryn Mary Klaesges Housey, 66, of Sartell, originally of Ely, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, with her family by her side. A private family memorial will be held at a later date.

She is survived by her husband, Randy Housey of Sartell; son, Anthony Housey of Albany; daughter, Kimberlee Housey of Sartell; granddaughter,

Cailin Bowdich of Sartell; grandson, Jacob Housey of Albany; brother, David Klaesges and sister, Jean Zaverl, both of Ely; and other relatives.



**Judy Pearson**

Judy Pearson, 81, of Duluth and Lake Vermilion, died peacefully at Solvay Hospice House in Duluth on April 29 after an unexpected and swift decline from pancreatic cancer. A memorial service for Judy will be held at Peace United Church of Christ in Duluth on Sunday, May 19, at 3 p.m. In lieu of flowers, please consider memorial contributions in her name to Solvay Hospice House, Peace Church, or CHUM, all located in Duluth.

The daughter of Addis and Robert Holmstrom, Judy was born in Joliet, Ill., on September 11, 1942. A graduate of Joliet High School, Judy attended Augustana College in Rock Island, Ill., where she fell in love with David Pearson, a Lutheran seminarian with a sparkle in his blue eyes. The two married in 1963 and she graduated soon after.

Deeply in love, Judy and David were inseparable for 54 years, until his death in 2017. Despite David’s role as a Lutheran minister that led them to parishes in Chicago, Rice Lake, Minneapolis, Brainerd, Duluth, and Woodbury, Judy still pursued her own career, most recently in marketing at Duluth’s Spirit Mountain, until she retired in the 1990s.

Judy and Dave had five children, two of whom they adopted. They were also passionate advocates for peace and justice. In conjunction with First Lutheran Church in Brainerd, they sponsored a family of 13 Vietnamese refugees. Judy worked tirelessly for weeks to welcome the family to their new country, forming relationships that lasted the rest of her life.

Beyond her husband,

her family, and a few dear friends, Judy’s greatest love was the outdoors. From the day they found shoreline property on Lake Vermilion on their honeymoon, Judy worked alongside Dave to build a cabin that became the focal point of vacations, holidays, and celebrations. It eventually evolved into their full-time home, where Judy spent her days riding her bike, doing chores, growing flowers, reading alongside lapping waves, and taking nightly saunas. Every winter, Judy migrated to Sedona, Arizona. red rocks, which she did a month before she passed away.

Judy’s joy for life, love for others, and peaceful equanimity radiated from within. She carried herself with class, was always present, had a fabulous sense of humor, and listened more than she spoke. When she did speak, it was with wisdom.

Judy is survived by three sisters, Nancy Youngdahl, Carol (Art) Ogren, and June (David) Kroog; her children, Jen (Doug Hoffman), Scott (Kristi) Pearson, Stephanie (Brian Hayden) Pearson, Jon (Deborah) Pearson, and Tim; and her 11 grandchildren, Ellie, Seth, Kai, Jack, Sam, Hannah, Sieanna, Devon, Lucas, Joshua, and James. She will be deeply missed.

**Ronald L. Freeman**

Ronald Louis Freeman, 69, of Babbitt, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, April 23, 2024, at St. Mary’s Medical Center in Duluth. A celebration of life will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 18 at the Babbitt Golf Course.

He is survived by his brother, Tom (Linda) Freeman of Rapid City, S.D.; uncle, Donald Santa; daughter, Jessica Weaver of Rapid City, S.D.; son, Ronald Louis Freeman Jr. of Hibbing; four grandchildren; and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

**Stephen D. Comings**

Stephen D. “Steve” Comings, 72, of Cook, passed away on Thursday, May 2, 2024. A celebration of life will be held on Sunday, May 19 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the VFW in Cook.

**Samuel T. Okstad**

Samuel “Sam” Thomas Okstad, 80, born and raised in Winton, died surrounded by loved ones on Thursday, April 11, 2024, after a two-year battle with cancer. Family and friends are kindly invited to attend a celebration of life in Winton on Sunday, July 7. Additional details will be provided closer to the date.

He is survived by his wife, Mary; son, Paul (Tessa); daughters, Karen and Kathryn; grandchildren, Persephone, Topher and Petra; and siblings, Marge and Walter (Bonna).

**Chester C. Leathers**

Chester C. Leathers, 84, of Cook, passed away on Thursday, May 2, 2024, at his home. Funeral arrangements are pending with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

**Roger N. Waisanen**

Roger Neil Waisanen, 81, of Angora, passed away on Monday, May 6, 2024. A memorial visitation will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday, May 17 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook, with a short prayer service at 6:45 p.m. followed by Military Honors.

**Thomas R. Whiteside**

Thomas “Tom” Richard Whiteside, 71, of Angora, passed away on Tuesday, May 7, 2024. A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, May 17 at First Baptist Church in Cook, with visitation held one hour earlier at 10 a.m. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.



**Charles B. Haxton**

Charles Bradley Haxton, affectionately known as Chuck, aged 70 and a resident of Cook, MN, passed away peacefully on May 6, 2024, at his residence surrounded by his devoted family, following a valiant battle against pancreatic cancer. Arrangements made by Landmark Funeral Home of Virginia. No formal funeral services will be held. A burial service will be held at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery-Duluth on Wednesday, May 15 at 2 p.m.

Chuck was born on August 19, 1953, in Wellsville, N.Y. He graduated from Perry Central High School in 1971 before embarking on a distinguished military journey, enlisting in the Air Force in 1972. His military career spanned decades, culminating in his retirement in 2013 as a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army, where he served as a Battalion commander. Beyond his military service, Chuck dedicated himself to serving others, as a weatherization auditor for Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA), a furnace technician for Edward’s Oil, and a TSA officer.

He was a man of many talents and passions, from his love for family to his enthusiasm for flying, firearms, westerns, history, gene-

alogy, and music. Relocating from New York to the scenic landscapes of Minnesota, he transformed his property into a homestead complete with honeybees, chickens, donkeys, and cherished “puppies.” Chuck’s place was a hub of adventure for his children and their friends, who enjoyed activities ranging from hunting and fishing to snowmobiling and dirt biking. An avid ultralight pilot, he found solace in soaring through the skies. A gifted musician, Chuck shared his musical talents across the Iron Range alongside his sister and brother-in-law, even garnering recognition for his abilities while stationed in Korea.

Chuck is preceded in death by his sisters, Judith Anne Haxton Mowrer and Judy K. Allen Johanson, his brothers-in-law Brian P. Hanke and Richard C. Edblom, and his parents, Charles R., and Beverly McCracken Haxton.

He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Ida Mowrer Haxton, his children Daniel Haxton of Cook, Jared (Jennifer) Haxton of Duluth, Chelsea (Paul) Haxton Raukar of Chaska, his brothers Stephen M. Haxton of Austin, Texas, James (Kim) Haxton of Levittown, N.Y., his sisters Marianne (Rod) Haxton Violette of Natchez, Miss., Jo Haxton Edblom of Elizabethtown, Ky., Rebecca (Fred) Haxton-Johns of Colonial Beach, Va., his grandchildren Kylie Haxton, Ellis Haxton, Evan Raukar, Miles Raukar, and Jana Raukar, as well as numerous other relatives and friends whose lives were touched by his kindness and warmth.



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# Outdoors

Our lives in the  
Northwoods

## WARBLERS

# The early bird

The pine warbler gets by with a little help from its friends

The return of warblers to the North Country is always a sure sign that spring is on its way, although a couple species can make an appearance even as winter is still holding on.

Our two earliest warbler arrivals are pretty predictable and can differ from year-to-year.



**MARSHALL  
HELMBERGER**

Sometimes, it's the distinctive chip of the yellow-rumped warbler that first grabs my attention on a sunny, mild day in late April. This year, by contrast, it was the trill of the pine warbler that first signaled the season of the warblers had arrived around our

**Right: A pine warbler looks for an opening at a local bird feeder. Pine warblers are the only warbler in the region that regularly makes use of bird feeders during the early season.**

photo by M. HelMBERGER

house on the edge of the Lost Lake Swamp.

Like most members of this colorful and distinctive family

See **WARBLER**, pg. 5B



## FISHING OPENER 2024

# Ready and waiting...

With an early ice-out walleye should be scattered, and active

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**  
Managing Editor

**R**EGIONAL— If there's a consensus about the prospects for anglers when they hit the water on Saturday, it's that the outlook is favorable for a solid opener.

While water temperatures have remained fairly cool, this year's early ice-out, which ran about two weeks ahead of schedule on most area lakes, should have allowed most walleye to wrap up with spawning activities by opener.

That means anglers may not be able to rely on their typical early season approaches or locations if they hope to find fish. With a few more sunny days and highs in the 50s and 60s this week, water temperatures should finally start to budge out of the mid-40s, where they had seemed to be stuck in recent days.

"I think with the water warming up, the fish should get pretty active," said Lake Vermilion fishing guide Rob Bryers. "I think it could be a really good opener."

Matt Hennen, the large lake specialist at the DNR's Tower area office, agreed that warmer water would help. "The water temps are not getting up there like expected with early ice-out," he said. But with more sunshine forecast for the end of the week and over

**Top and right: Anglers are expected to be out in force beginning early Saturday, May 11 when the Minnesota walleye opener gets underway. Pictured are scenes from the 2023 walleye opener on Lake Vermilion.**

file photos by M. HelMBERGER

the weekend, Hennen is optimistic that warming water will spur more walleye activity. On Vermilion, he said the walleye population is solid. "The fish population is definitely there for a good opener," he said.

Rob Nelson, who has operated Ely Fishing Guide Company for the past 25 years, agrees that the fish are out there, but he expects they might be a bit harder to find as they disperse from the spawn. "Some people might have to give up their traditional opener tactics because they'll be more scattered," said Nelson, who plans to be out with his daughters on White Iron Lake— a family tradition— on opening day.

Nelson sees two trends that might work to the advantage of anglers over the next few weeks. One is rising water levels thanks to recent rains, while the continued seasonably cool temperatures through at least the middle of the month should keep water temperatures from rising too



quickly over the next few weeks. "If the temps remain fairly cool, it keeps the fishing better longer," he said. "But we need the water to continue coming up," he said, noting that many area residents reported the lowest early spring water levels they had ever seen back in April.

Anglers up at the border will be happy with the rising

water as well. While water levels were shockingly low early on with this winter's lack of snowpack, levels have rebounded quickly and are now back in the middle of the rule curve, according to Jerry Pohlman, who owns and operates Nelson's Resort. With the early ice-out, Pohlman expects the walleye will have

See **OPENER**, pg. 5B

## Wildflower Watch



This week's featured flower  
**BEAKED HAZEL**

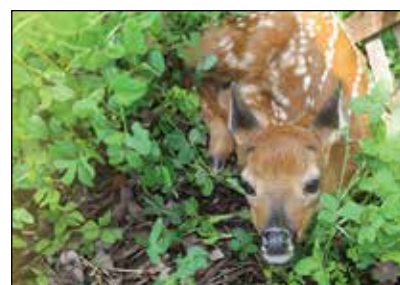
For most North Country residents, **Beaked Hazel**, *Corylus Cornuta*, is one of our least favorite shrubs as its many branches seem to grow at just the right height to smack us in the face as we're walking through the woods.

But just as these shrub's leaf buds are starting to pop, a tiny but brilliant scarlet flower emerges from from a small number of buds, reaching out for the many pollen grains emitted by the catkins that also emerge this time of year.

You'll need to look closely, and soon, to find them before they disappear for another year.

The beaked hazel is a member of the Birch family.

## Outdoors briefly



## DNR urges public to leave fawns alone

**REGIONAL**—The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources asks that people avoid disturbing or touching deer fawns, which are born around this time of year.

Most fawns are born in mid-May to mid-June, and fawns do not attempt to evade predators during their first few weeks of life. Instead, they remain still to avoid being seen. During these times, fawns are learning critical survival skills from their mothers but are often left on their own while their mothers forage watchfully nearby.

Be assured deer fawns are likely fine even if they look abandoned or fragile. Even if the fawn is known to be wounded or abandoned due to a car strike or animal attack, do not transport it without talking to a wildlife rehabilitator. Moving a fawn can be detrimental to the animal and increase the risk of disease spread. For more information about what to do when people find fawns or other species of young wild animals, visit the Minnesota DNR website ([mndnr.gov/eo/nongame/rehabilitation/orphaned-wildlife.html](http://mndnr.gov/eo/nongame/rehabilitation/orphaned-wildlife.html)).



ENFORCEMENT

# Walz signs new law allowing digital images of game and fish licenses

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Gov. Tim Walz, this week, signed into effect a new law that allows anyone with a state game or fish license to use a digital image of their license in place of a paper copy when presenting their license to a conservation or peace officer.

The measure is designed as a convenience for sportsmen and women or as a fallback for anyone who misplaced or lost their license.

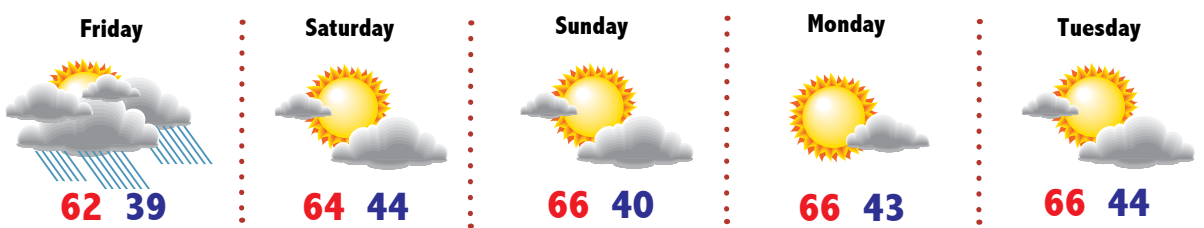
The new law, which took effect on Walz's signature, is set to expire on March 1, 2026, but may well be made permanent prior to that date assuming the measure works as intended.



Left: Four local guys display their haul of white suckers, which they speared in the East Two River last week, when the spawning run was in full force. Pictured are Ethan Bryan and Christopher Chauklin, of Cook, Erron Anderson, of Ely, and Carter Holman, of Orr. The fish are slated for smoking.

## LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather



Location	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
Ely	39	31	0.25		42	32	0.33			39	32	0.28			39	32	0.72	0.5"		40	32	0.26	tr	
04/30	39	33	0.20		40	32	0.25			40	32	0.25			54	34	0.13			40	33	0.30		
05/01	50	35	0.22		55	37	0.22			51	35	0.34			54	34	0.50			54	36	0.27		
05/02	50	28	0.30		54	29	0.02			53	36	0.07			52	36	0.03			59	29	0.05		
05/03	52	39	0.03		52	32	0.02			49	38	0.09			61	41	0.11			51	32	0.04		
05/04	64	42	0.12		66	40	0.10			61	39	0.02			55	41	0.00			63	42	0.06		
05/05	48	na	0.15		54	27	0.13			53	35	0.05			63	30	0.00			52	28	0.32		
YTD Total	6.55 44.6"				5.86 30.7"				4.99 53.0"				NA				6.90 41.9"							

## WARBLER...Continued from page 4B

of birds, known as the Parulidae, the pine warbler is a habitat specialist and as its name suggests it spends its life in pines.

Yet unlike most others in this large family of what are generally neotropical insect gleaners, the pine warbler spends its life within the confines of the U.S. and portions of southern Canada. They spend winter in the pine forests of the southern U.S. and some remain in those forests year-round, breeding there as well. Most of them head north, however, with some reaching the North Country each year, near the northwestern-most tip of their summer range.

For most warblers, winter, even in the southern U.S. is harsher than they could survive, since cold outbreaks could largely send their primary food source into hiding. The pine warbler has adapted to these conditions, with a shorter, slightly stubbier peak and a larger crop that allows them to survive on seeds to a much greater extent than other warblers. That

includes pine seeds, but also the types of seeds found in most bird seed mixes, like sunflower, millet, peanuts, and cracked corn. While most other warblers will set foot in a bird feeder only for a moment to see what the excitement is all about, pine warblers can become regular feeder users this time of year in our region.

The one pictured on the previous page has been a regular at our feeder for the past few weeks as the typically cool April conditions kept any insect life well under cover. It's been happily feeding on sunflower seeds since late April.

Pine warblers aren't the most colorful members of their family, but they do stand out this time of year after months of looking at our limited fare of winter residents. They're pretty easily identified by their yellow throat, streaked chest, olive back, and prominent wing bars.

An early arrival, such as anytime in April, is another good indicator you're dealing with a pine warbler. The yellow-rumped warbler looks nothing like its piney cousin.

Once the bugs come out for real, our local pine warblers will likely disappear for the summer. They'll still be around, and can still occasionally be heard singing their mechanical trill from the tops of tall pine, but you'll need to crane your neck and look very hard to spot them. So enjoy them while you can.

## OPENER...Continued from page 4B

mostly moved out of spawning areas and are likely to be more scattered than is typical for opener. Even so, he said he doesn't expect that will prompt many anglers to change up their methods.

For now, Rob Nelson will likely stick to some of his usual early season Ely area haunts, working areas of current where Birch Lake enters near the south end of White Iron or up to the north, by Silver Rapids.

Most anglers will likely start their quest for walleye this weekend with the usual early season standby, a colorful jig and a minnow, generally worked just off the bottom. Bryers said that's always a good starting point, and he'll be working a jig and minnow himself, in about 20-25 feet of water over hard bottoms. He expects dock fishing, usually done with a bobber and minnow in the early season, should be strong in the evenings and he'd consider switching over to a leech as bait in some of the shallower, dark water bays that tend to warm faster, particularly if the weather continues to warm.

### Working west?

While Vermilion's east end has traditionally attracted the most walleye anglers, that could start to change this year after the DNR's latest fish survey showed record



Enjoying last year's opener on Lake Vermilion. Now, how about everyone puts on a life preserver? The ice may be off but the water's still cold!

file photo by M. Helmsberger

numbers of walleye on the west end of the lake. With an average of 22 walleye per net in the most recent survey, the west end walleye population is running about twice as high as in the recent past and that will undoubtedly get the attention of anglers who track that kind of data. "The west end just looks phenomenal," said Hennen.

Bryers said it isn't just DNR test

netting that speaks to the improvements in the west end's walleye numbers.

"The people fishing on the west end are seeing it," he said. "The guys based on the west end... you're not seeing them on the east side as much as they were. It's not just Niles Bay. It's also around Wakemup and Head-o-Lakes bays. And they're catching nice sized fish."

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Opens: 5 PM  
Games Start: 6:30 PM  
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# CLEAN.DRAIN.DRY.

**CLEAN**

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

**DRAIN**

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

**DRY**

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

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# EMPLOYMENT

## ELY PUBLIC SCHOOLS POSITION OPENING .80 FTE English Teacher

Ely Public School District is looking for a .80 FTE English Teacher starting the 2024-2025 school year. We are an EC - Grade 12 district, seeking an energetic, self-starting, personable, and highly motivated individual. Background check required.

### Qualifications include:

- Current Minnesota teaching license in 7-12 English/Language Arts or other applicable Minnesota teaching license.
- Preferred Master's Degree
- Preferred teaching experience with high school levels
- Excellent communication skills including verbal and written

### Responsibilities:

- Demonstrate knowledge of subject matter through effective teaching practices, with expectations of high student achievement.
- Assess student progress, modify instruction, and improve student learning.
- Communicate and collaborate with parents and the school community to foster individual student success and growth.
- Plan, organize, and teach competency-based English courses.
- Demonstrate effective classroom and equipment management.

Application available at: [www.ely.k12.mn.us](http://www.ely.k12.mn.us)

A complete application must include the following:

- Cover letter
- District Licensed Application
- Resume
- Copy of official transcripts
- Current Minnesota teaching license
- 3 letters of recommendation

Return materials to: Ely Public Schools, Attn: Superintendent, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731 or email [lwestrick@ely.k12.mn.us](mailto:lwestrick@ely.k12.mn.us). Contact Memorial MS/HS Principal Jeff Carey at (218) 365-6166 ext. 1726 or [jcarey@ely.k12.mn.us](mailto:jcarey@ely.k12.mn.us) with any questions.

Application review to begin: 5/13/2024; open until filled.

*Published in the Timberjay, May 3 & 10, 2024*



## Northern Tier High Adventure Looking for Summer Kitchen Staff starting as soon as possible.

Housing and meals available.  
\$19/ Hour no skills necessary.  
We will train or put you in a position that best suits your high skillset.  
Located on Moose Lake in Ely, MN  
Apply at [ntier.org/jobs](http://ntier.org/jobs) or call 218-365-4811

5/10

## CITY OF TOWER Job Posting Seasonal Maintenance Worker

**\$13-\$17/hr • Mowing, Snow Removal, Etc. • Must be able to lift 50 lbs**  
For full job description and to apply, visit [www.cityoftower.com/positions-available](http://www.cityoftower.com/positions-available)

*Published in the Timberjay, May 3 & 10, 2024*

## Tribal Police Officer Closes: 05/24/2024

**Position Purpose:** A Police Officer ensures safety, security, and the preservation of life and property by maintaining law and order and enforcing laws and ordinances. Solves community problems by fostering open and continuous communication and cooperation between the community and law enforcement. Maintains confidentiality of all privileged information.

### Excellent Benefits:

- Single Medical & Dental - Free
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- Sick Leave
- 401k match
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- LTD
- Voluntary Benefits available by payroll deduction

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

*Published in the Timberjay, May 3, 10, 17*

# PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS  
SIXTH JUDICIAL  
DISTRICT  
DISTRICT COURT  
PROBATE DIVISION  
Court File No. 69VI-PR-24-74

Estate of Darrell Ray Maki,  
Decedent

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION OF INTERESTACY, DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP, APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on June 3, 2024, at 9:30 a.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at Virginia, Minnesota, for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of heirship of the Decedent, and for the appointment of Daniel Maki, whose address is 501 15th Ave. W, Eveleth, MN, 55734, as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full

power to administer the Estate, including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate. This hearing will be held remotely via Zoom Technology.

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

BY THE COURT  
Andrew Peterson  
Judge of District Court  
Jennifer Miller  
Court Administrator  
Chelsea Opdahl, Deputy

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

*Published in the Timberjay,  
May 3 & 10, 2024*

## KUGLER TOWNSHIP MEETING NOTICE

The Kugler Town Board will hold their annual road inspection on Tuesday, May 14, 2024, at 5:30 p.m., with the regular meeting to follow.

Christopher Suihkonen, Town Clerk

*Published in the Timberjay, May 10, 2024*

Legal notices are online each week  
at [timberjay.com](http://timberjay.com) and at  
<https://www.mnpublicnotice.com/>

## Super Crossword

### Answers

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

# 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](mailto: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

- Special Education Assistant /para(Special Education) (Hourly \$17.50 - 24.50/HR +)
  - 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](mailto:info@vermilioncountry.org) and/or 218-248-2485

# PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS  
DISTRICT COURT-  
CIVIL DIVISION  
SIXTH JUDICIAL  
DISTRICT  
Court File No.  
69HI-CV-24-101  
Case Type: Other  
(Quiet Title)

Civil Summons  
To be tried in the city of  
Hibbing

Paul M. Byrd  
And Nancy J. Byrd  
Plaintiffs  
Vs.  
Holly M. Perttu (aka Holly Skubic)  
The Estate of Verna M. Samich  
The Estate of Peter J. Samich  
And any others who claim  
an interest in the subject real  
property, also all of persons  
unknown claiming any right,  
title, estate, interest, or lien  
in the real estate described in  
the Complaint herein,  
Defendants

This Summons is directed to Holly M. Perttu (aka Holly Skubic), by and through her attorney David Lutz, and to the Estate of Verna M. Samich (dod 9/5/2020), and the Estate of Peter J. Samich (dod 2/16/2021). The heirs of both Verna Samich and Peter Samich are believed to be: Gayle Samich, Paula Schweiger, Holly Skubic, Michael Samich, and Mark Samich, and no others.

1. You are being sued. The Plaintiff has started a lawsuit against you. The Complaint is attached to this Summons. Do not throw these papers away. They are official papers that start a lawsuit and affect your legal rights, even if nothing has been filed with the court and even if there is not court file number on this Summons.

2. You must BOTH reply, in writing, AND get a copy

of your reply to the person/business who is suing you within 21 days to protect your rights. Your reply is called an Answer. Getting your reply to the Plaintiff is called service. You must serve a copy of your Answer or Answer and Counterclaim (Answer) within 21 days from the date you received the Summons and Complaint.

ANSWER: You can find the Answer form and instructions on the MN Judicial Branch website at [www.mncourts.gov](http://www.mncourts.gov) forms under the "Civil" category. The instructions will explain in detail how to fill out the Answer form.

3. You must respond to each claim. The Answer is your written response to the Plaintiff's Complaints. In your Answer you must state whether you agree or disagree with each paragraph of the Complaint. If you think the Plaintiff should not be given everything they asked for in the Complaint, you must say that in your Answer.

4. SERVICE: You may lose your case if you do not send a written response to the Plaintiff. If you do not serve a written Answer within 21 days, you may lose this case by default. You will not get to tell your side of the story. If you choose not to respond, the Plaintiff may be awarded everything they asked for in their Complaint. If you agree with the claims stated in the Complaint, you don't need to respond. A default judgement can then be entered again you for what the Plaintiff asked for in the Complaint.

To protect your rights, you must serve a copy of your Answer on the person who signed this Summons in person or by mail at this address: Sipila Law Office LLC, 412 1st St. S., Virginia, MN 55792, email: [ange@sipilaw.com](mailto:ange@sipilaw.com), fax: 218-741-5000.

5. Carefully read the Instructions (CIV301) for the Answer in your next steps.

6. Legal Assistance. You may wish to get legal help from an attorney. If you do not have an attorney and would like legal help:

- Visit [www.mncourts.gov/self-help](http://www.mncourts.gov/self-help) and click on the "Legal Advice Clinics" tab to get more information about legal clinics in each Minnesota county.

- Court Administration may have information about places where you can get legal assistance.

NOTE: Even if you cannot get legal help, you must still serve a written Answer to protect your rights or you may lose the case.

7. Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). The parties may agree to or be ordered to participate in an ADR process under Rule 114 of the Minnesota Rules of Practice. You must still serve your written Answer, even if you expect to use ADR.

8. This lawsuit involves interest in real estate legally described as: NW1/4 of SW1/4, except the railway right of way, Section 5, Township 57, Range 19, in St. Louis County, Minnesota, together with all hereditaments and appurtenances thereto.

Dated: The 2nd day of May, 2023

Sipila Law Office LLC  
Angela E. Sipila  
Attorney for Plaintiffs  
412 1st Street South, Suite 1  
Virginia, MN 55792  
Attorney ID No 024501X  
[ange@sipilaw.com](mailto:ange@sipilaw.com)  
Phone and fax: (218) 741-5000

*Published in the Timberjay,  
May 3, 10 & 17, 2024*



## Hiring Seasonal Help

Seeking passionate and professional individuals to work regular shifts at Ely's Historic State Theater, starting late May through September.

10-20 hours per week, Hourly wages \$14-\$19 based on experience.

**Job skills required:** Must be 18+, Cashier experience/working a point of sale system, great attitude and customer service, good problem solver, self-motivated, must be able to lift 50 lbs and works well with others, bartending/food service experience a plus.

Bonus points for experience working with social media, graphic design, marketing, spreadsheets/data entry, and live events.

Join our growing team at Ely's community theater! Opportunities will exist for the right candidate to join the team year-round.

Please submit your detailed resume and cover letter to [manager@elystatetheater.org](mailto:manager@elystatetheater.org) NO LATER THAN May 20, 2024. 5/17

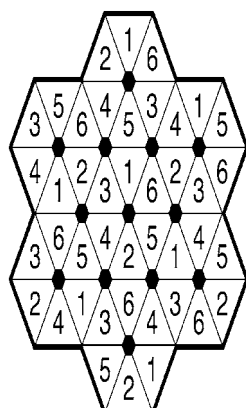
## CryptoQuote answer

Good health is not something we can buy. However, it can be an extremely valuable savings account.  
— Anne Wilson Schaefer

## CryptoQuip answer

The cereal fungus was rapidly encroaching upon the yearly crops of rye and wheat. Ergo, ergot.

## SNOWFLAKES solution



# Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

## DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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# TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

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

## AUTOMOTIVE

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## SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## HAIR CARE

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

## HOSPICE

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

## PET CREMATION

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

## GARAGE SALE

Ely's City-wide Rummage, Business Crazy Day, Used Equipment & Watercraft Sale, and Shop Local promotion launch are all happening Saturday, May 18, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Many rummage sales and special deals at local retailers. Maps available on May 14 at the Ely Chamber of Commerce, 1600 E Sheridan St & online at Ely.org/citywide. 5/10

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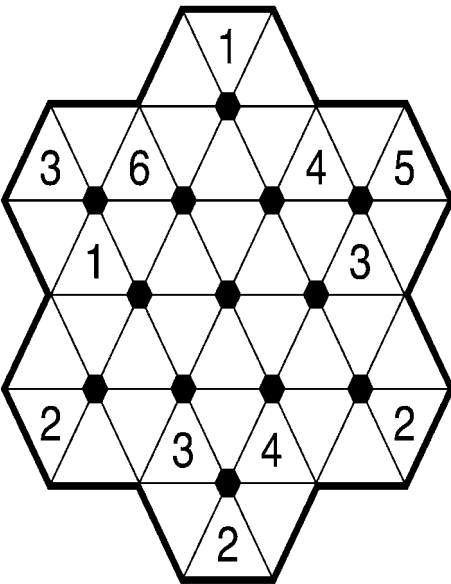


91.7fm - Grand Rapids  
90.5fm - Bemidji  
89.9fm - Brainerd  
kaxe.org

## SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

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



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Easy ◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆ Difficult

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## Super Crossword

QUALITY COUNTERFEITING

- |                              |   |                               |   |  |                              |
|------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|---|--|------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                | 56 Belgian painter James                  | 106 End of the riddle         | 8 "No more for me"                        | 45 "Rock and Roll, Hoochie —" (1974 hit) | 86 Sunbathes                 |
| 1 Pour drippings on          | 57 Pro photog's camera                    | 109 See 10-Down               | 9 Federal health agcy.                    | 46 Amount of jelly or olives             | 87 Gumbo, e.g.               |
| 6 J. Edgar Hoover's org.     | 58 Bamboozle                              | 111 Best Picture of 2012      | 10 With 109-Across, Beatles song or album | 47 Visit casually                        | 89 Horse gait                |
| 9 Blocks up                  | 60 "Pride and Prejudice" actress Jennifer | 112 Arbor Day mo.             | 11 Brand of nail polish                   | 49 Smeltery stuff                        | 91 The last Mrs. Chaplin     |
| 14 Sailing                   | 61 Fleming who created Bond               | 113 Poker champion Stu        | 12 Start to melt                          | 50 Sammy with 609 homers                 | 92 Rod's partner             |
| 19 Earthy hue                | 64 Shaving balm brand                     | 115 "Ticklish" doll           | 13 Rod's partner                          | 52 Part of SASE                          | 93 Not, to Scots             |
| 20 Arsenal for weapons       | 67 Handheld telescope                     | 118 Top hats' go-withs        | 14 Liable                                 | 53 — -Pei                                | 94 Whirling                  |
| 22 Limericks, e.g.           | 69 Riddle, part 4                         | 120 Riddle's answer           | 15 "It's a shame"                         | 54 Additionally                          | 96 "Exile" New Age singer    |
| 23 Start of a riddle         | 75 Golden-coated horse                    | 125 Old TV parts              | 16 Upper House of Congress                | 55 Polite rural assent to a lady         | 99 Noisy kisses              |
| 25 Color qualities           | 76 "Star Wars" princess                   | 126 Captive's angry shout     | 17 Celebrity chef Lagasse                 | 59 Singer Lovett                         | 100 Albanian capital         |
| 26 Drain-clearing chemicals  | 77 To this point                          | 127 — Carlo                   | 18 Size up                                | 62 Doing the job                         | 101 Yule drink               |
| 27 Forster's "— With a View" | 78 Uganda's Idi                           | 128 "Full House" actor Bob    | 21 Rikishi's sport                        | 63 A ripe old age                        | 102 Singer Snow hanging ten  |
| 28 Frequently, to a bard     | 79 Side in sports                         | 129 Walk over                 | 24 Golfed acceptably                      | 65 Sports draw                           | 104 Ember                    |
| 30 Unadorned                 | 81 Pewter metal                           | 130 Crimson, e.g.             | 29 "Bye 4 now"                            | 66 The way things stand                  | 107 Eye-teasing paintings    |
| 31 Brandy fruit              | 83 Kinds                                  | 131 Limerick penner Nash      | 32 Pithy saying                           | 68 Scrams                                | 108 San — Obispo, California |
| 33 Riddle, part 2            | 88 Certain believer in God                | <b>DOWN</b>                   | 34 Membrane enclosing a fetus             | 69 Tablet since 2010                     | 110 Envelop in haze          |
| 38 Halt                      | 90 Riddle, part 5                         | 1 Cereal holder               | 35 Supermodel Heidi                       | 70 Appoint                               | 114 In the sack              |
| 40 Everyday worker           | 95 Marina del —, California               | 2 In need of a massage, maybe | 36 — Olay (face cream brand, formerly)    | 71 Livy's 552                            | 116 Put in silent mode       |
| 42 Disembarked               | 97 Bucks' mates                           | 3 Border collies, e.g.        | 37 Boxer Oscar de la —                    | 72 Bits in physics                       | 117 Yaks, e.g.               |
| 43 Sings Alpine-style        | 98 Car fuel                               | 4 In need of a massage, maybe | 38 Additionally                           | 73 Ark crafter                           | 119 Former Brit. Airways jet |
| 44 "Listen up!"              | 99 Walk over                              | 5 History unit                | 39 12:00 p.m.                             | 74 Alexander of Reagan's Cabinet         | 121 Corrida shout            |
| 46 Vaping device brand       | 103 Trig ratio                            | 6 "M*A*S*H" actor Jamie       | 41 "Either you do it — will"              | 80 Military doc                          | 122 Stephen of "Roadkill"    |
| 47 Crafty                    | 104 Uses teeth                            | 7 Small streams               |   | 82 Match under the stars, maybe          | 123 Incensed                 |
| 48 Riddle, part 3            | 105 Australian state: Abbr.               |                               |   | 84 Hooting bird                          | 124 Angsty rock genre        |
| 51 Analyze, as an alloy      |   |                               |   | 85 Bonn's region                         |                              |

## 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.

NMMC QPDWSQ KA LMS

AMJPSQKLN EP BDL UGV.

QMEFFPO, KS BDL UP DL

PISOPJPWV FDWGDUWP

ADFKLNA DBBMGLS.

— DLLP EKWAML ABQDPY

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## Weekly SUDOKU

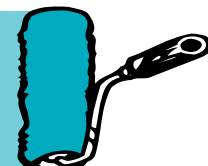
Answer

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19					20			21					22				
23				24									25				
26				27						28		29		30			
	31		32		33			34	35	36			37				
38	39		40		41			42				43					
44			45				46					47					
48							49				50		51	52	53	54	55
56						57				58		59		60			
				61	62	63		64		65	66		67		68		
69	70	71	72				73				74						
75							76					77					
78					79		80		81		82		83	84	85	86	87
88				89		90		91	92			93	94				
				95	96		97				98						
99	100	101	102				103				104					105	
106						107				108			109		110		
111					112					113			114		115	116	117
118					119		120	121	122	123				124			
125							126								127		
128							129					130				131	



# HOME IMPROVEMENT GUIDE



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## CryptoQuip

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

Clue: T equals C

RVL TLULDP OKHIKB XDB

UDEACPW LHTUNDTVAHI KENH

RVL WLDUPW TUNEB NO UWL

DHC XVLDR. LUIN, LUINR.

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