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The **TIMBERJAY**



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989

VOL. 35, ISSUE 21

May 31, 2024

\$1⁵⁰

GOVERNOR'S VISIT

Walz inks EMS support bill on the Iron Range

Lawmakers praise local advocacy efforts

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

HOYT LAKES- Regional emergency medical services personnel came to Hoyt Lakes last Thursday, May 23, to join Gov. Tim Walz, Sen. Grant Hauschild and other legislators as Walz signed the bill that will bring significant additional EMS funding to ambulance services across the North Country and elsewhere in Minnesota.

The bill included \$24 million for EMS support through an amendment sponsored by Hauschild, who was pushing for additional funds even before the legislative session began.

Right: Sen. Grant Hauschild and Gov. Tim Walz take a moment to applaud the advocacy efforts of area EMS personnel in getting a \$30 million EMS aid package passed. photo by D. Colburn

"It was last year that we started hosting town halls all across the Iron Range, talking about the challenge that we face with EMS, and what I said from the beginning is that we're not facing a challenge or a problem, we're facing a true crisis in greater Minnesota, and especially here in northeastern Minnesota," Hauschild told the assembly.

See...GOVERNOR pg. 10



POLITICS

Lislegard won't seek re-election

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Rep. Dave Lislegard, DFL-Aurora, announced this week that he won't seek re-election to the Legislature this fall to devote more attention to his family.

Lislegard had represented District 7B since 2019 and had served as the mayor of Aurora prior to that.

Lislegard, in a statement, said it was a difficult decision. "Fighting for the Range is at the core of who I am and what I have done for the past 20 years of my life," he said. "But there is a cost to giving so much of your life to something that you are passionate about. When faced with decisions that impact the people you love the most, one's priorities must be directed to where needed most. At this point in my life my priority needs to be my family."



Dave Lislegard

Lislegard will continue to serve as a lawmaker until his replacement is elected in November.

In his three terms at the Legislature, Lislegard proved an able lawmaker who brought a number of major benefits to the district. Just this session, he helped shepherd a tax bill through the House that brought \$80 million in bonding projects to the Iron Range even as the Legislature failed to approve a state-wide bonding bill. He also pushed for

See...LISLEGARD pg. 9

IRRRB

Funding awards OK'd for Bois Forte, Breitung

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- On the heels of a legislatively directed award of \$50,000 in Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Department funds for their food shelf, the Bois Forte Band got more good news on Tuesday straight from the IRRR board itself.

Board members approved an application from the Band for \$356,579 to assist in rehabilitating three homes in the Vermilion sector of the Band's reservation.

"This is part of a larger project of seven homes to be rehabbed for Bois Forte," said Carol Burr, Bois Forte Planning and Community Development director. "This program will help provide additional housing to band members, and hopefully assist in housing employees for the Band."

See...FUNDING pg. 9



TRAGEDY IN THE BWCAW

Search continues at Curtain Falls

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

REGIONAL- The search for two canoeists who have been missing since their canoe plunged over Curtain Falls on May 18 is now getting additional resources from the Minnesota National Guard. At the request of St. Louis County Sheriff Gordon Ramsay, Gov. Tim Walz authorized the National Guard to aid the search by transporting additional equipment to the search site on the U.S.-Canadian border within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

of an experienced party of four who accidentally went over the turbulent Curtain Falls in two canoes while fishing. Two of the canoeists were rescued but the other two remain missing. They have been identified as Jesse Haugen, 41, of Cambridge, and Reis Grams, 40, of Lino Lakes.

"No one expects their vacation to turn to crisis. Yet, when four canoeists went over Curtain Falls in the BWCA, this became a reality," said Gov. Walz, whose brother Craig was

See...SEARCH pg. 9

Above: A St. Louis County Sheriff's Office Rescue Squad member inspecting a "drill hole" in the turbulent Curtain Falls, which forms part of the American-Canadian border in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

Below: The St. Louis County Sheriff's Office's new Swiftwater jet boat is being used as part of the rescue effort.

photos courtesy of St. Louis County Sheriff's Office Rescue Squad



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Community notices



Be sure to RSVP by Tuesday, June 4 for the LVCC Midsummer Benefit

TOWER - The RSVP date for the annual Midsummer Benefit for the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center (LVCC) is June 4. Tickets are still available for the annual event, to be held on June 15. The evening includes a silent auction, a dinner with speaker Senator Grant Hauschild, and a live auction led by auctioneer extraordinaire Steve Solkela. This part of the evening is held at the Tower Civic Center. Then guests will walk across the street for the musical program to be held at St. Mary's Hall in the LVCC building.

Janice Kimes wrote and produced this year's program which will be her finale after 12 years. The production is called "Midsummer Memories" and will have a selection from the programs of the last 11 years including music or dance from Finland, Norway, Italy, the Southern Slavic countries, Sweden, the United States and others. The popular Midsummer Singers will be back. The group includes local residents and those who come from the Twin Cities and Duluth to be part of the fun. To register online go to the LVCC website vermillionculturalcenter.org or call 218-753-4100 and leave a message. The cost is \$75 per person. This is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the LVCC.

Planning for the silent and live auctions is well underway. Besides the popular baskets, art, and activities; the silent auction will also have some "practical" items this year: gift certificates for window washing, extermination, dock removal and painting will be offered. The live auction will include another exciting week at a chalet in San Gervais located in the French Alps for eight people. Pull together a group to bid on this wonderful opportunity. The always popular Minnesota Wild tickets will also be in the live auction this year.

The LVCC's mission is dedicated to community enrichment through education and the arts by offering quality programming and providing opportunities to showcase the rich cultural heritage of our area.

Ladies of Kaleva to meet Monday, June 3

VIRGINIA - Lokka Tupa #1, Ladies of Kaleva, will meet Monday, June 3, at noon at Kaleva Hall in Virginia.

Dances of Universal Peace scheduled for June 8

ELY - Dances of Universal Peace will be offered Saturday, June 8 from 7 - 9 p.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal church, located at 715 S. Central Ave. These simple circle dances are based on sacred phrases from the world's major religions. All dances are taught by experienced leaders and musicians. A free will offering will be accepted.

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LOCAL FUN

Sauna Day celebration set for June 8

EMBARRASS- Join Sisu Heritage to celebrate the Finnish tradition of sauna on National Sauna Day, Saturday, June 8. The free, family-friendly event is outdoors, rain or shine, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Nelimark Homestead and Museum on Hwy. 21 in Embarrass.

Saunas from six different companies will be on display and for sale, along with locally-made Lamppa sauna stoves. A pulled pork meal will be available and the squeaky cheese lady is coming back.

The traditional boot-throwing contest and Wendy Sweney's adorable baby goats will be fun for all ages. Bill and Kate Isles of Duluth will provide music under the tent from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. There is a tour of four local saunas at 1 p.m. Sign up at the event.

The Farmstead Artisans gift shop will be open, offering free coffee and selling an array of handmade and homemade goodies and crafts. Tour the museum rooms and exhibits, the buildings on the grounds including the historic sauna, and the old farm implements.

National Sauna Day is sponsored by Sisu Heritage and these



Last year's Sauna Day celebration included tours of the big barrel sauna. There's sure to be lots to see at the upcoming event June 8.

generous local businesses: Embarrass-Vermillion Credit Union, Lamppa Mfg. of Tower, Mealey's Gift and Sauna Shop, Lakehead Constructors, C & C Winger, and

Trapline Liquor & Convenience Store.

LIVE THEATER

"The Last Five Years" on stage June 7-9

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- Returning to the stage in Ely after last year's blowout performances in the Northern Lakes Arts Association's 2023 summer theater season, Molly Hill Fuller pairs her professional acting and singing skills with Ely's own professional theater heavyweight, Ian Francis Lah, in the limited engagement production of "The Last Five Years."

Written by Jason Robert Brown, this two-person musical premiered in Chicago in 2001 before moving to Off-Broadway and London. The critically acclaimed musical was also adapted to the big screen in 2014. The show tells the story of the five-year marriage between the aspiring writer Jamie and the struggling actress Cathy. The plot is unusual because Cathy's story begins at the end of the marriage and goes backward in time, while Jamie's story starts at the beginning of their relationship when he has just met her. They only interact directly in



Left: Right: Molly Hill Fuller plays a struggling actress opposite Ian Francis Lah's aspiring writer in the two-man musical "The Last Five Years." The production has a limited run from June 7-9 at the Vermillion Fine Arts Theater at Minnesota North College. Right: Ian Francis Lah at rehearsal Tuesday evening in the pocket musical, "The Last Five Years." photos by C. Clark

the middle of their respective timelines when they get married.

The show's tunes cover a wide gambit of styles from jazz to classical, requiring skilled and versatile singing chops. The *Timberjay's* visit to rehearsal this week showed that Fuller's dynamic acting and singing

skills do not disappoint.

"The Last Five Years" will only play in Ely for three performances on June 7-9, at Minnesota North College's Vermillion Fine Arts Theater. Tickets are available online at northernlakesarts.org/tickets.

SUPPORTING SENIORS

Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners making exciting changes

COOK - Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners has been working to serve hospice patients and their families with last wishes, needs not covered by insurance, gas cards, as well as many other types of requests over the years. After a lot of discussion, the current board is excited to announce some new changes coming to this important organization. The focus

of Virgie Hegg Hospice will always be to assist hospice eligible patients and provide scholarships to high school and college students pursuing degrees in the medical field.

Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners are holding our annual meeting on June 3 at 6 p.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church and we invite you to attend as we roll out a new name:

Virgie Hegg Hospice Foundation, a new logo, a simplified patient request process, and will share a vision for the future. As we work to adjust our by-laws, set goals, and commit to putting nearly 100 percent of our fundraisers back into the community we invite you to follow us on Facebook, look for an updated website and further news releases as we

move through a time of transition.

Thank you for your years of support and confidence over the years. We look forward to a new face with the same commitment to hospice eligible patients and their families.

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FALL PREVENTION

MEMORIAL DAY 2024

Remembering those who died in service

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- The Herbert R. Lamma Civic Center was standing-room only for this year's Memorial Day tribute, sponsored by the Tower-Soudan Civic Club.

The Tower-Soudan Area Singers, under the able direction of Rolf Anderson with Ellie Larmouth on the piano, performed a selection of songs suitable for the occasion, which also included performances by youngsters Harper Cobbe, who opened the program with a medley of traditional patriotic songs on the piano, and Harley Banks, a member of the singers, who sang a solo.

Barb Peyla stepped up to lead the program, and she, along with some volunteers, handed out stars, cut from worn U.S. flags, to all the Veterans in the audience. The stars were a gift from the Major Stuart Adam Wolfer Institute, a nonprofit that was formed to honor the life of Wolfer, who was killed in the Green Zone, Baghdad, Iraq, in 2008.

The centerpiece of the program, as is the tradition, is the recitation of the names of all the area Veterans who died while in service, along with all the names of all area Veterans who have passed away. This list, which grows longer every year, takes over a half hour to read out loud, led by a dedicated group of area residents who take turns reading through the rolls of those who served in the Civil War through the more recent Gulf War. The names, printed in the program so audience members can read along, reflect a cross section of

the Tower-Soudan community and the Bois Forte Reservation. There are families in the audience whose relatives served as far back as the Spanish-American War and World War I, speaking to the long history of the area as well as the community's spirit of service.

Missing information about area Veterans

The Tower-Soudan Civic Club is hoping to get some more information on the following Veterans, specifically what war/era they served in and also if they are buried in Lakeview Cemetery. If anyone can help with collecting this data, please email Barb Peyla at bngpeyla@gmail.com.

- Jack Brandt
- Francis Connor
- David Durrant
- James A. Fidler
- James Frazee
- James W. Gawboy
- Alfred Golden
- Daniel E. Hackey
- Donald M. Halunen
- Charles D. Harmston
- Melvin Hintz, Jr.
- Walter Jarecki, Jr.
- Douglas Jeranson
- Dennis Johnson
- Raymond W. Johnson
- Russell Helmer Larson
- James Meehan
- Richard "Rick" Nelson
- Robert Ranisate
- William T. Rusch
- John Francis Stepan
- Steve Stepan
- Thomas Tomlinson
- John Urick
- David G. Wagner
- Earl J. Zimmerman

Tribute to D-Day and WWII heroes on June 6

VIRGINIA- In honor of the 80th anniversary of D-Day, all area Veterans and their families and friends are invited to a program at the Elks Club in Virginia on Thursday, June 6, from 5-7 p.m. The Elks Lodge is located on 200 N 5th Ave W. Food and beverages will be served, and there will be a short program at 6 p.m. Anyone planning on attending is asked to RSVP to

Larry Cuffe Jr. at 218-780-9941. The program will highlight the service of Eugene Trucano, from Tower, who was part of the D-Day battle, along with four other major battles during the war. He served along with four other Trucano brothers, Joe, Charlie, Albert, and Lawrence in World War II, and a younger brother, John served in the Korean War.



Joe Linneman plays "Flowers of the Forest" at the Memorial Day Program at the Ely Cemetery



Sammy Harasyn visited the graves of the many Burgess family veterans with his grandparents Barb and Steve Burgess.



Above: Tower-Soudan Area Singers performed a program of patriotic music.



Ethan Zaitz played taps to end the ceremony in Tower.

photos by C. Clark and J. Summit



Left: The color guard at the Memorial Day Program at the Ely Cemetery.

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OPINION

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e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial

Franking abuse

Stauber is sending campaign-like materials to constituents at the public's expense

A recent mailing from U.S. Rep. Pete Stauber's office caught our eye for what looks like another misuse of the congressman's franking privilege to disseminate material nearly indistinguishable from campaign literature.

The headline: "Congressman Pete Stauber: Standing with Minnesota's Law Enforcement Heroes Against Criminals," is the exact kind of mailing typically used by campaigns.

Much of the piece focuses on the Twin Cities, rather than Stauber's own Eighth District, harkening back to the now four-year-old riots in the wake of the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police. It also criticizes Gov. Tim Walz, the Minneapolis City Council, and the Hennepin County Attorney for actions that Stauber claims are making the Twin Cities less safe. It's consistent with the scare-mongering around crime that has become a hallmark of right-wing politicians, even as crime rates have fallen significantly in most urban areas over the past two years after spiking during the COVID pandemic.

Stauber claims that "the crime crisis in the Twin Cities continues to spiral out of control," and he blames liberal policies which have led to a sharp reduction in the ability of the Twin Cities to recruit and retain officers.

It's true that the number of active police officers in Minneapolis has declined by nearly 40 percent according to a recent public statement by the city's new police chief. Yet while some categories of crime have increased in Minneapolis (assaults are up ten percent while domestic assaults are up 13.7 percent) over the past three years, most types of crime have actually declined, in many cases significantly, according to the city's own crime data.

Gun violence has dropped sharply, with reported shots fired down 35.9 percent over the three-year average so far this year. Gunshot victims have dropped by nearly 25 percent, while weapons violations are down 6.6 percent.

Carjackings, which had been a scourge in the wake of the pandemic, have dropped by 48.6 percent over the three-year average. Other stolen property offenses are down by 22.8 percent over that same period, while larceny is down 3.7 percent and robberies are off 5.9 percent. Non-negligent homicides are down 24 percent.

That's hardly "spiraling out of control," as Stauber has

claimed. But the GOP had already determined that urban crime is going to be one of the top issues for their candidates this election season, so they've simply chosen to ignore the fact that their rhetoric doesn't match the current reality of declining overall crime rates in most major cities.

One could hope that when members of Congress send mailings to their constituents at public expense, that they might offer information rather than partisan attacks. One might also hope that such mailings would include accurate information, rather than false, exaggerated, or outdated claims designed to gain political advantage.

Unfortunately, abuse of the franking privilege is not that rare, but it's something that should still irritate taxpayers. For those who aren't familiar with the term, "franking" describes the right that members of Congress currently have to produce and send materials through mass mailings — including materials constituents never requested — at the public's expense. There are supposed to be rules that guide what members can send, but there are some easy ways to get around the rules, such as calling your mailing an "official survey." That's what Stauber did in his most recent law enforcement-focused mailing. Approximately a quarter of the mailing is comprised of a two-question "survey" that would more accurately be described as a push poll. It asks: "Are you concerned by the increased attacks on Minnesota's law enforcement officers? Followed by: "Do you believe liberal policies have made our state less safe?"

Stauber isn't the first politician who has pushed the limits of the rules on franking. Some of Rep. Jim Oberstar's mailings, produced in a far more genteel political period, included an occasional partisan poke, but never with the vitriol or outright dissembling that Stauber uses routinely in his franked mailings.

Franking privileges have varied over the years and there were times in U.S. history when the privilege was suspended because critics recognized it gave sitting members of Congress an unfair advantage because they could essentially campaign on the public's dime. That's exactly what Stauber is doing in this recent mailing and he deserves to be called out for it.



Letters from Readers

Child care needs the public's support to survive

On May 13, as part of the national Day Without Child Care, I closed my child care center, Iron Range Tykes Learning Center, in Mt. Iron. I was one of five child care centers on Minnesota's Iron Range that closed that day, leaving only two centers open in the region. Together, we serve over 700 children and 450 families. We each have waiting lists at least two years long.

We knew it was an inconvenience for our families, but it needed to be an inconvenience if we want people to understand the challenges we are facing and get things to change. We need our families to stand with us in making those changes happen, and they are. They supported us fully in our decision and are ready to support us moving forward in organizing for affordable, accessible and high-quality child care for every Minnesota family, and thriving wages and benefits for child care teachers.

The 50 directors and child care providers from the other centers in the region took part in an 8:15 a.m. press conference at Iron Range Tykes. We then filled a bus for the state Capitol to bring our stories directly to our legislators and Gov. Tim Walz and challenge them to use their power to invest in child care and early learning in Minnesota. At the Capitol, we met with the governor, held another press conference, held a rally in the Capitol rotunda, and marched outside of the House and Senate chambers—all to deliver the message loud and clear

that child care and early learning is a public good that needs and deserves public funding.

At least 74 percent of Minnesota children have all available parents working (it's the state with the sixth highest proportion of working families) yet 26 percent of Minnesota families live in areas where there is no available child care. Rural communities in our state struggle to attract people because of the lack of child care, leaving us without necessary services and employers without employees.

Minnesota families who can find child care, have to pay among the highest rates in the country. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as well as the state of Minnesota set the standard for affordable child care at no more than seven percent of a family's household income. Most Minnesota families are spending two, three, and sometimes even four times as much as that. I have a parent that just found out she is having twins. How can we expect her to afford \$700/week for three children in child care? It's not possible and it is a top reason people are leaving the workforce. We need to put Minnesota on a path towards affordability for all Minnesota families with the Great Start Affordability Scholarship proposal in which no family spends more than seven percent of their annual income on child care.

As much as families pay for child care, providers are struggling to remain open. The costs of providing child care far exceed what families can afford to pay. According to the 2023 Minnesota Child Care Cost Modeling Report, the true cost of child care ranges from almost \$25,000

for infants to \$10,000 for preschool children, which includes treating teachers as the educators they are, with thriving wages and benefits.

We need public funding to fill the gap between what families can afford and what it costs to run a high-quality child care and early learning program. The Minnesota government provides approximately \$14,000 in funding per student in the public school system. We need the Legislature to view early childhood education as a public good, similar to public education, and be supported with permanent and sustainable funding.

I've been in child care for 23 years. I want to work in this field for at least 23 more years and if we don't engage in radical action to push for radical change, that will be impossible. Child care is vitally important to ALL communities. We are the workforce behind the workforce. Without us, no one goes to work!

**Shawntel Gruba, CEO
Director, Iron Range
Tykes Learning Center**

We welcome your letters

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

We ask that letters be limited to 300 words.

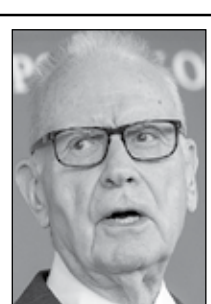
Letters are subject to editing, primarily for length and clarity.

COMMENTARY

The U.S. is no longer the dominant superpower

It was an article of faith, through most of my life, that the United States was the world's dominant power. We had the most powerful military, the biggest and most vibrant economy and the most influential culture. For better or worse, we were the envy of the world.

If we're honest, we have to admit that's no longer the case. It's not that America has grown weak. Rather, the world has changed in multiple ways. The rise of China, the unification of Europe, the changing global econ-



**LEE
HAMILTON**

omy and other factors have reshaped the dynamics of power.

This has implications for American foreign policy. To protect our national interests and to be a positive force in the world, we'll have to make wise decisions and make the most of alliances.

Historians often mark the rise of the U.S. as a world power to the Span-

ish-American War of 1898 and, later, to America's entry in World War I. We became dominant with World War II, which left much of Europe and Asia in ruins and left the United States stronger than ever. Publisher Henry Luce's claim that the war ushered in an American Century was widely accepted.

Those of us who are over 50 came of age in a bipolar world. On one side were the United States and its allies; on the other were the Soviet Union and China. Other nations aligned with one side or the other. The Cold War was contentious, but there was no doubt America

was the greatest power.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the world became unipolar, with one superpower. Madeleine Albright, secretary of state in the Clinton administration, referred to the United States as the indispensable nation, a characterization that few could dispute.

Today we live in "a 'G-Zero' world, a nonpolar world without global leaders," in the words of political scientist and author Ian Bremmer. How did this happen?

The rapid rise of China was certainly a factor. Starting in the late 1970s, China adopted economic

reforms and began prioritizing trade. The results were remarkable: hundreds of millions of Chinese were lifted out of extreme poverty. Under Xi Jinping, an aggressive China has promoted its model of state-controlled capitalism and expanded its influence in Asia and Africa.

The creation of the European Union in 1993 consolidated Europe's economic and political power. With 27 member states, the EU is aligned with the United States but provides an alternative to American power. India, Brazil, Saudi Arabia and other nations have grown

their influence. Russia is no superpower; but, under Vladimir Putin, it has threatened and bullied its neighbors. It has a vast nuclear arsenal, and its war in Ukraine looks like an attempt to regain some of the fearsome power that it lost with the breakup of the Soviet Union.

Finally, many Americans became uncomfortable with the superpower role, arguably starting with the failures of the Vietnam War. We grew weary of never-ending wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and skeptical of our

See **POWER**, pg. 5

Learn about the environmental impacts of copper mining

Copper mining is a crucial industry, but it comes with significant environmental and health risks. Deforestation, water pollution, and the release of toxic chemicals like mercury and arsenic threaten our ecosystems and public health. The BWCAW (Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness) is home to many potential mining locations. I believe it is our job to speak up and protect what is left of our beautiful world.

Let's take a look at some of the facts:

Toxic chemicals released during mining can cause serious health problems for both humans and animals.

Copper recycling uses up to 90 percent less energy than mining, reducing environmental harm and conserving resources.

Copper mining contributes to deforestation, water pollution, and harming wildlife and natural habitats.

Your voice matters, so join the movement to protect our environment. Advocate for sustainable alternatives like copper recycling and support policies that limit harmful mining practices.

Stay informed, speak up, and together we can ensure a healthier environment for future generations.

For more information and donations visit: <https://gofund.me/2b8c576e>.

All proceeds will go to Save the Boundary Waters.

**Owen Liester
Stillwater High School, Stillwater**

We will reap tomorrow what we are sowing today

As a citizen, dismay and concern reign, in heart and mind, with the country's state of upheaval. To find our valuable protection in the governing bodies - administrative, legis-

lative, and high court - the division of power - now apparently, undependable.

Neighbors, relatives, and friends divided. News we read, hear, and watch can't be trusted, with hate spewing lies and name calling. The mere nature of social media turning truth to untruth, we are being misled.

Watching the January 6 attack on the Capitol in Washington D.C., finding disbelief that fellow citizens would participate in such, determined to attack Congress, potentially seeking to kill targeted government officials there. More unbelievable, some, even among those the targeted, later to say such did not happen, while coverage that day was live.

One wonders, what has become of 'we the people.' What of leadership? What has become of morality and truth? Will we choose a return to the Dark Ages as ethics sink, greed leading - people deceived?

How to fathom elected leaders ignoring duty, while accepting their paychecks and benefits;

fighting each other, yet doing little for the people they represent.

Reality looms with ocean's warming, weather affected globally, PFA's, micro plastics in water and air, the great Minnesota waters, polluted by farm chemicals, washing down the center of the country. We may deny and ignore, we can follow false gods, but it will not change what is true.

The story by Hans Christian Andersen, "The Emperor's New Clothes," first published in 1837, is still apt, all these years later. Trials reveal a questionable former president - yet many choosing to follow - overlooking a vast list of proven misdeeds.

As a people, don't we deserve more from leadership? It is our duty to do the right thing for this country, for our fellow citizens, for our children, for the future. We must rise above selfishness and deceit, finding a way back for the sake of our republic. Should we choose not to, despite all indicators, elect, with our valuable

vote, a narcissistic charismatic and his cronies, we approve of the potential fascist state. Watch how quickly we descend, and reap, what we have sown.

**Cecilia Rolando
Ely**

The Boundary Waters is on the ballot this fall

An extraordinary story in the *Washington Post* on May 9 reported that at a dinner at Mar-a-Lago, Donald Trump told oil and gas industry executives that if they gave \$1 billion to his presidential campaign, he would reverse dozens of President Biden's regulations enacted to combat the climate and biodiversity extinction crisis.

Such crassness is entirely consistent with Trump's drive to help Chilean billionaires exploit our public lands by mining copper in the Superior National Forest near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. He callously disregards the welfare of the American people. All that matters to Trump is what's in it for Trump.

In June 2018, while attending a political rally for then-U.S. House candidate Pete Stauber, Trump called for the cancellation of the Forest Service's ongoing study of the risks of sulfide-ore copper mining in the headwaters of the Boundary Waters. Why? Because shortly before the rally, a Minnesota politician told Trump that if he opened the Superior National Forest to sulfide-ore copper mining, he would win Minnesota in the 2020 election. He didn't win Minnesota, because the people of Minnesota love the Boundary Waters. Nonetheless, his administration sought to enable destructive sulfide-ore copper mining for the benefit of Chilean billionaires and their mining company, Antofagasta.

Trump used his administration, including officials who were former industry lobbyists, to issue federal mineral leases along rivers and lakes that flow directly into the Boundary Waters. He at-

tempted to force approval of a defective mine plan of operation submitted by Antofagasta subsidiary Twin Metals. He halted and then buried the Forest Service study on the dangers of mining in this area. When forced to finally release the study, the Trump administration issued a 60-page document that, but for the cover page, was entirely redacted as if it were top-secret.

Trump's federal mineral leases to Antofagasta's Twin Metals were canceled after the Biden administration determined that they had been unlawfully issued. Twin Metals' lawsuit challenging that decision was dismissed because of legal inadequacy. The Biden administration re-instituted the study on the risks of harm to the Boundary Waters if sulfide-ore copper mining were allowed upstream, and on Jan. 26, 2023, Interior Secretary Haaland signed an order prohibiting sulfide-ore copper mining on 225,504 acres within the Superior National Forest for 20 years. The order thus protects the Boundary Waters, Quetico Park, and Voyageurs National Park from acid mine drainage and related pollution.

What's in it for Trump to reverse the strongest protection the Boundary Waters has received in 45 years? He obviously thinks he can benefit by shilling for extraction industry barons, as shown by the *Washington Post* article. Trump acolyte Pete Stauber recently rammed legislation through the U.S. House of Representatives that would force the reinstatement of canceled federal mineral leases for the benefit of one foreign corporation, Antofagasta, which is owned primarily by one of South America's richest families. Stauber's bill even blocks judicial review of reinstated illegal leases, because Stauber knows that a court would overturn them. The Stauber bill would also rescind the 20-year ban on sulfide-ore copper mining in the headwaters of the Boundary Waters and compel rapid approval of a dangerous mine plan.

Stauber's plan, pan-

dering to South American billionaires, is Trump's plan. The blatancy of the mutual pandering is chilling.

Make no mistake, Trump would sell out the Boundary Waters. On May 17, at the GOP convention in St. Paul, Trump stated that he would reverse Biden administration policies that restrict sulfide mining in parts of northeastern Minnesota to protect the Boundary Waters.

Trump's plans for America include quitting international climate treaties, doubling down on fossil fuels, and giving away the party's hand-picked candidate.

Did I mention this young man is Negro, or as many of us say a Black man. It did not matter that he is of African ancestry, from what I noticed, no one cared and it was an overwhelming sea of white faces. Minnesota has left the past behind and moved on.

This brilliant articulate charismatic young man has been campaigning on the internet and his site is titled; Royce White: Please Call Me Crazy; he also has a podcast available at <https://www.youtube.com/@pleasecallmecrazy>.

Do we allow Donald Trump, a corrupt politician and dishonest businessman who has no regard for the fate of the planet and its inhabitants, to be the most powerful man in the world?

**Becky Rom
Ely**

Take a look at the GOP-endorsed candidate for U.S. Senate

I met and spoke with a young man running for the U.S. Senate, while I attended the Republican GOP state convention held in downtown St. Paul last weekend.

This young man is truly gifted with tremendous intelligence and the ability to articulate complex ideas to people along with a powerful charisma, the man is like one in 10 million.

He ran not as the GOP

political party's favorite candidate but rather as a dark horse candidate, and note, the party leadership tried to suppress, cast doubt on this young man at the convention.

This gifted young man, 33-years-old, spoke to the people from the stage and one could tell he was speaking from the heart and addressed the problems of America. There was no political B.S., just honesty. It was refreshing.

He won the nomination on the very first vote, winning 68 percent of the votes cast - blowing away the party's hand-picked candidate.

Did I mention this young man is Negro, or as many of us say a Black man. It did not matter that he is of African ancestry, from what I noticed, no one cared and it was an overwhelming sea of white faces. Minnesota has left the past behind and moved on.

This brilliant articulate charismatic young man has been campaigning on the internet and his site is titled; Royce White: Please Call Me Crazy; he also has a podcast available at <https://www.youtube.com/@pleasecallmecrazy>.

Everyone take a look at his show number 195, recorded several hours after the election where he talks about the convention and the vote, you will understand that this young man is intelligent and no one owns him.

Young people, look at these sites, watch the past podcasts, for you will be watching and listening to Royce White all of your lives, unless "the press-the real power brokers" behind the closed doors assassinate him to shut him up.

Spread the word on social media.

**Robert Tisovich
Ely**

Clean up needed in the blue aisle

Democrat's never-ending political theater with the Russia collusion hoax, Ukraine hoax, two sham impeachments, codified men in women's sports, locker rooms, and bath rooms, Smollett hoax, pronoun insanity, claiming men can bear children, Biden SCOTUS judge can't define a woman, Antifa violent riots, BLM burning and looting during the Democrat 2020 Summer of Love, damaging Democrat COVID mandates, climate alarming political overreach, woke military using cross dresser trans for recruitment, years of Clinton and Abrams whining about election theft, 51 CIA operatives lied about Hunter's laptop from hell, and staggering record inflation caused by Democrat money printing.

Drug addict, prostitute impregnating, Hunter Biden being tried for gun charges and tax evasion with his made for TV shenanigans. Biden sanctimonious elitist family values shuns granddaughter. How incredulous the SS went clueless after finding cocaine in the White House after Hunter moved in to avoid subpoenas.

Autonomous zones and more encampments with Democrat liberal progressives chanting death to America and kill all Jews from the river to the sea.

Biden finger prints on two new proxy wars after disastrous Afghan withdrawal leaving \$85B in military hardware to the Taliban. North Korea and China ramping up military intimidation.

AG Fanni Willis (D) money scam assigning her unqualified lover to litigate Trump. Robert

Menéndez (D) being tried for bribery pay for play with gold bars stashed in his closet. Biden vote buying spends \$167B taxpayer money to pay off college loans the SCOTUS ruled unconstitutional.

The White House went into cleanup mode after Grandpa Bubbles mumbled through a gaffe-riddled speech to the NAACP in Detroit, making a whopping nine corrections to the formal transcript.

Dr. Morens of the NIAID was grilled for colluding with Democrat darling Fauci to use private emails to prevent COVID transparency and skirt FOIA requests!

AG Bragg (D) enlists a prostitute who talks to dead people and a six-time purgery criminal who lied to the IRS, DOJ, and FBI as star witnesses to litigate Trump in a Third World style kangaroo court.

Biden blocks release of interview tapes with Robert Hur that exposes dementia and senility truths. Hur did not charge Biden because he is a "sympathetic, well-meaning, elderly man with a poor memory," but still fit to be president according to Democrat media shills.

Minnesota Senator Nicole Mitchell committed felony first-degree burglary after police found her burglarizing, "dressed in all black clothing and a black hat" but still remains in the senate. Democrat power over morality.

Cleanup is needed in the blue aisle!!

**Mike Banovetz
Ely**

POWER...Cont. from page 4

ability to shape world events. Donald Trump's "America First" slogan echoes the isolationists who opposed U.S. entry in World War II.

It's true that, by most measures, the United States remains the most

powerful nation. We still have the largest economy, the most effective military and the greatest cultural influence. But we may never again have the kind of dominance we once had. We ought not assume that we will.

Regardless, we should do what we can - as citizens and as voters - to keep America strong. We should encourage our leaders to engage with the world, to support and lead military and economic alliances, and to contribute

to the world's peace and prosperity. We may not be quite the dominant superpower we once were, but we can and should be a formidable force for good.



**the
TIMBERJAY**

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The Timberjay (PN 16025) is published weekly on Fridays, 51 weeks per year, by *The Timberjay Inc.*, PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Business/Editorial Office at 414 Main St., PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Call (218) 753-2950 to subscribe. E-mail address is editor@timberjay.com. Periodicals postage paid at Tower, Minnesota.

**POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
The Timberjay, PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790.**

This award-winning community newspaper published each week serves the communities of Tower/Soudan, Cook/Orr, and Ely.

Publisher	Marshall Helmberger
General Manager	Jodi Summit
Cook/Orr Editor	David Colburn
Ely Editor	Catie Clark
Office Manager	Michelle Toutloff
Staff Writer	Rachel Brophy
Graphics/Ad Sales	Scarlet Lynn Stone
Ad Sales/Sports	Jay Greeney

Official Newspaper:
Townships of Bearville, Eagles Nest, Embarrass, Kugler, Vermilion Lake, Field, Morcom, Leiding, Kabetogama, Crane Lake, Greenwood, ISD 707, city of Tower.

Member: Minnesota Newspaper Association, Lake Vermilion Resort Association, Lake Vermilion Area Chamber of Commerce, Ely Chamber of Commerce.

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

Week of June 3

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

Tuesday
Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5 p.m. Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is June 18.
Greenwood Fire Dept.- Training meetings on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

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

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



TSHS weekly winner
TOWER- The winner of the Charlemagne's 52 Club \$100 cash prize for week 44 is Joan Broten of Tower.

History Tidbit:
Mother's Day Fire (continued from last week). Hwy. 169 was closed in both directions to all but emergency vehicles. Hwy. 1, which was the only other route out of the area at the time, was also closed as the fire neared and eventually spread over the road. Travel on Cty. Rd. 77 was discouraged. Residents along Pike Bay Dr. were warned to prepare for possible evacuation, as were residents on the Koski Road, Hwy. 1 and the Holter Road.

Homes were also evacuated along Hwy. 169 just west of Tower, as the flames from the second fire approached from the south and eventually crossed over the highway less than half a mile from the city. Plans were also underway to evacuate Tower itself, until weather conditions improved later in the evening.

The scale of the deployment was massive, with over 30 fire departments responding to the blaze, some from over 100 miles away. Heavy equipment brought many area mining companies, area loggers, and equipment operators on the scene by late afternoon to construct the fire lines. Three water bombers, along with spotter planes, and a 7,000 gallon tanker from Cook were deployed. The complexity of the blaze was made even worse by the fact that seven fires were burning in the Tower area by late afternoon. Trying to coordinate control efforts on a moving target was the most challenging part of the job. To be continued...

LAKE VERMILION CULTURAL CENTER

Hartfield Birthday Concert in Tower on Friday, June 7

TOWER- Well-known Ely keyboard player and vocalist Irene Hartfield will perform a benefit concert for the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center on Friday, June 7 at 7 p.m. at the center. Admission is a free will donation. The event also coincides with a celebration of her 75th birthday.

Hartfield states, "This concert will be special - with favorites and songs you may not have heard from me before." As a child of the 1960s and 1970s, Hartfield describes her musical repertoire as "last century pop." But she loves beautiful music of all eras and has a few recent additions from this century.

Her latest CD, "Play Me," documents some of the love songs she has enjoyed performing over the years. For a taste of her style, enter "Irene Hartfield" in the search box of any music service: YouTube, Amazon Mu-



sic (just ask Alexa!), Spotify, or most other music services.

After attending a concert in the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center last fall, Hartfield arranged to use the space for a concert this spring. "The atmosphere, the acoustics, everything is so conducive to a great concert venue. I just had to sing there," she exclaimed.

Growing up in Ely with an abundance of musical opportunities and then studying music at Gustavus Adolphus College, Hartfield ended up in New York City in the musical heyday of the 1970s where the Irene Hartfield Trio enjoyed steady employment in night clubs throughout the City and around the tri-state area, as well as Florida, Las Vegas, and Venezuela. She also worked in recording studios in New York and Portland, Oregon, singing jingles and producing various musical projects.

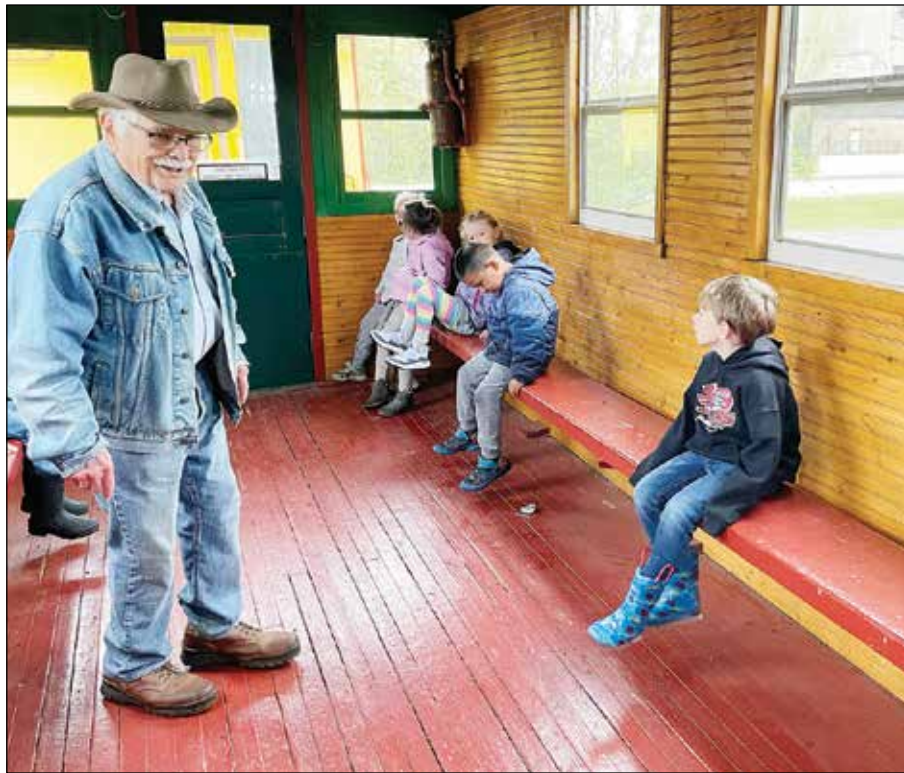
Hartfield also had the opportunity to perform as a solo artist in Sweden for a month each in three cities. She also had engagements in Bermuda and was an entertainer on Holland America Lines for several years.

Since returning to her hometown, Hartfield has been playing in the area as accompanist

for musical theater and choirs, in concerts, and in local venues, such as The Loft, Mealey's Tiki Deck, and the Winton Roadhouse. She has played solo and with fellow musicians Jef Cierniak, Joey Kenig, Robin Anders, and (her favorite) in the Roadhouse Jam Band founded by the late Earl Bulinski. For five years, Hartfield was the Musical Director for the Reflections Dance Company. She is also the musician in two local churches and whenever possible, plays and sings with the Mesabi Symphony Orchestra.

The Lake Vermilion Cultural Center concert will have a reception following Hartfield's performance in the Cultural Center's Halunen Lobby.

EARLY CHILDHOOD FUN



Tower-Soudan Historical Society volunteer Richard Hanson gave Tower-Soudan Early Childhood students a tour of the trains earlier this month. Students learned the use and history of each of the cars, and got to go inside most of them! photos by J. Summit



Above: Parker led her classmates into the coach car. Below: A wide-eyed, one-year-old Ace, with his mother Joey Lakoskey.



COMMUNITY NOTICES

Get your memberships now for Old Settlers Reunion and Picnic

BREITUNG TWP- The annual Vermilion Range Old Settlers Reunion and Picnic will be held on Saturday, July 20, at McKinley Park Campground. Booyah served at 12 noon sharp!

Memberships are \$10 paid in advance.

Please make checks payable to: Vermilion Range Old Settlers, PO Box 56, Soudan, MN 55782 (note new address).

Bring your own pot, bowls, dinnerware, and picnic fixings. Booyah, bread and butter, and coffee served. Cold drinks

can be purchased at the campground store. Memberships are also available the day of the picnic, but prepayment is preferred. Membership in Old Settlers is open to anyone born or living on the Vermilion Iron Range. Guests are also welcome at \$10 per person. Takeouts are available if you are unable to stay for the picnic, live music, and raffles.

Service at the Little Church on June 2

VERMILION LAKE TWP- The Little Church of Vermilion Lake Township will host a service and potluck on Sunday, June 2 at 4 p.m. Everyone

is welcome to attend, and the group is always looking for people interested in keeping this historic church building maintained and a part of the community.

There is 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 on Cty. Rd. 26/ Wahlsten Rd. Questions, call Len Hujanen at 218-749-2014

New Tower Car Show set for June 1

TOWER- The Tower Café had a great turnout for their car show on May 18, and they are planning the next event for Saturday, June 1 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Entry fee is a donation of non-perishable food or cash for the Tower Area Food Shelf. Some lucky car show participants won door prizes including gift certificates to the Tower Café and Ubetcha (a big thank you to Ubetcha for the card donation). If any other shops in Tower would like to donate prizes for the next car show, please drop them off at the café.

Fourth of July updates



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 tsventsboard@gmail.com for information or to sign up.

It's time to start planning your floats and Fourth of July outfits!

TOWER CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

Please Donate:

Tower Cemetery Assn.

PO Box 874, Tower, MN 55790

THANK YOU!

Send your community notices to editor@timberjay.com

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

In Brief

Tuesday Group schedule

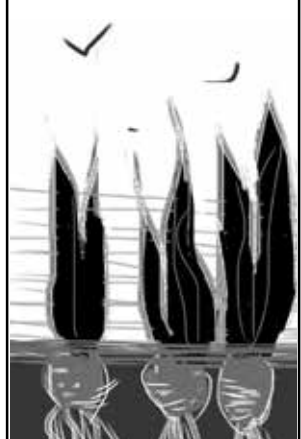
ELY – The Tuesday Group community educational lunch gathering meets every Tuesday at noon at the Grand Ely Lodge. Participants have an opportunity to order lunch. For those interested in being a host, or who have a speaker suggestion, contact Lacey Squier by email at ElyTuesdayGroup@gmail.com or call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

Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

- ▶ June 4: Special 90-minute program featuring Ernest Scheyder, Author of "The War Below" (including book sales by Piragis Northwoods Company).
- ▶ June 11: Meet New Elyites.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2024



streets filling up soon
five months passed like overnight

june brings greens and warmth

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.

100+ Ely Women Who Care gifts ECR

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- The nonprofit Ely Community Resource was overjoyed last week to receive \$6,944 from the 100+ Ely Women Who Care. The group, represented by Cindy Gardner, presented the donation check to ECR on Wednesday, May 22, at the new gym on the Ely Public Schools campus.

100+ Ely Women Who Care is a giving circle dedicated to supporting local nonprofit organizations. The group meets twice a year to pick a local nonprofit to receive the members' collective donations.

The ECR learned at the end of April that they had lost close to \$150,000 in state funding that had been traditionally renewed in the past. "We were so thrilled and really gratified to receive the vote from 100+ Ely Women Who Care this year," ECR executive director Julie Hignell told the *Timberjay*, "because of our shortfall



The Ely Community Resource staff and some of the students it serves received a \$6,944 donation from the 100+ Ely Women Who Care organization last week. Shown standing, from left-to-right: Amberlin Blomberg, Gus Lund, Henrik Lund, Madison Rohr, Cindy Gardner, Kiersten Schoonover, Julie Hignell, Kaija Swanson, Lauren Porthan, Mila Swanson, Jane Holtz, Haley Hopkins, Jill Swanson. Sitting: Kaitlyn Schoonover and Claire Schoonover. submitted photo

in state funding which we were hoping to get to continue and expand our programs for kids in Ely."

The shortfall put ECR in a tight spot for funding their summer and fall programs. The nearly 50-year-

old nonprofit offers twelve different programs for Ely youth, including four programs with after-school activities, two in-school homework help programs, family outreach services, reading programs, and

summer activities.

Hignell explained that the ECR has stepped up its fundraising and grant writing. The organization had a reserve built up which has helped to tide it over while they secure more funding

and prevented laying off staff members. Hignell is hopeful that the current situation is temporary.

Donations to ECR can be sent to the group at its home address of 111 S. 4th Ave E.

THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR



The end of the school year at ISD 696 includes several traditional activities including the Senior Walk through Washington Elementary school and carnival held by the fifth grade for grades K through four. Upper left: Senior Sarah Visser followed by Seniors Ty Walker and Kadein Zupancich on their walk last Friday. Upper right: Fourth grader Keller Strom at the frisbee toss at Tuesday's carnival. Lower left: Teacher Molly Olson gets dumped in the water in the always popular dunk tank. Lower right: Fifth grader Aspen MacCoy paints the face of her brother Ace, who is in first grade. photos by C. Clark



COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Ely Public Library

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

The Get Crafty group will meet on Wednesday, June 5, from 11 a.m. until noon. The group will decorate kindness rocks for the library's new kindness garden. Register in advance so the library can order enough materials for participants.

The library board will meet on Wednesday, June 5, from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

The Friends of the Library Book Club will meet on Monday, June 10, from 3-4 p.m. The book for discussion will be "The Four Winds" by Kristin Hannah.

The Friends of the Library annual meeting will be on June 11, from 1-2 p.m.

The library will hold an open craft session with Tricia. The library will open up the supply cupboard and pull-out old projects to use or to put together new and different creations. The open crafting will be on Wednesday, June 12, 1-2 p.m.

The Library Scientists group will meet on Thursday, June 13, from 11 a.m. until noon. The partici-

pants will learn their way around a microscope using one of the library's. Preregister for this program so there are enough supplies for all participants. Children attending will need adult help.

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.

Book Sale Donations

ELY- The Friends of the Library will accept donations for the annual fundraiser book sale at the Ely Senior Center, 27 S. First Ave. E., on Friday, June 14, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; on Saturday, June 15, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; and on Monday, June 17, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. The Friends of the Library will accept books, CDs, DVDs, board games, and puzzles for the annual sale. Do not donate magazines, textbooks, encyclopedias, or "Readers Digest Condensed Books." None of these will be accepted.

Babbitt Public Library

BABBITT- The book club will meet on Monday, June 3, at 3 p.m.

The library will host live entertainment with Gerry Mealey on Thurs-

day, June 6, a 2 p.m. Refreshments will follow the program.

Comic Stunt Juggler Tvey will perform at the library on Wednesday, June 12, at 5 p.m. This free program is appropriate for all ages, and will last approximately 45 minutes.

The library will host Magic Bob and Lynn Marie's "Happy Birthday" magic show at 2 p.m., on Thursday, June 13.

Preschool story time is every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. All library events are at the Babbitt Public Library, 71 South Dr., unless otherwise noted.

Babbitt Rummage and Craft Sales

BABBITT- This Saturday, June 1, is the Babbitt citywide rummage. It is also the day of the Up North Craft and Vendor Extravaganza, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Babbitt Municipal Gym, 71 South Dr.

Art & Soul Galley

ELY- The Art & Soul Gallery, 427 E. Sheridan St., will host artist Nancy Scheibe on Saturday, June 1, from 1-3 p.m., who will demonstrate how to do scratchboard art. The gallery will hold a book signing with local Ely author and former *Timberjay* edi-

tor Scott Stowell on June 7 from 1-3 p.m. It will also host a bead embroidery demo with Ellen Cashman on Sunday, June 8, from 1-3 p.m.

Ely Folk School Birthday

ELY- The Ely Folk School has a weekend of programs to celebrate their birthday over the second weekend in June. On Friday, June 7, the folk school will hold its third annual birch bark canoe community paddle, from 5:30-7 p.m. at Semer's Beach. The event is free. Come to the beach and paddle one of the folk school's traditional hand-built 20-canoes. No experience is necessary. Personal floatation devices and paddles will be provided at no cost by the Ely Outfitting Company.

On Saturday, June 8, the folk school will host an old-time strings jam session from 4-5 p.m. at the folk school, 209 E. Sheridan St. Bring your fiddle, banjo, guitar, mandolin, dulcimer, or bass, or just sit back and listen. Everyone is welcome to play along, listen, or even dance, regardless of skill or comfort level. Sheet music will not be provided; instead, chords will be called out.

The folk school will hold another one of its fun community dances on Saturday evening, June 8, starting at 7 p.m., at the Ely Senior Center, 27 S. First Ave. E. All dances are taught live, so people of all ages and skill levels can participate. The cost is \$10 at the door, youths dance for free.

On Sunday, June 9, from 4-6 p.m., the folk school will hold a birthday party potluck at its home at 209 E. Sheridan in honor of its ninth birthday. Register at elyfolkschool.org.

Braver Angels

ELY- The Ely Chapter of the Braver Angels will meet on Tuesday, June 11, at 6:30 p.m. at the Ely Senior Center. Braver Angels members are people from both sides of the political divide who are seeking to restore civility to political discourse. Meetings are open to anyone who wishes to attend.

Correction

In the May 17 article on the Beldo murder verdict, we reported the address of the Johnson residence as 14 Fir Circle in Babbitt. The actual address was 38 Fir Circle. The *Timberjay* regrets the error.

CELEBRATING SERVICE

Cook, Orr Lions Clubs hold district governor's dinner

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

ORR- Northland Lodge on Pelican Lake was the place on Saturday where the Cook and Orr Lions Clubs held their annual district governor's dinner this year, enjoying a fabulous meal, remarks by Jessica Minske, District Governor for 5M10, and new member inductions and awards for the Cook club.

The dining room of the lodge was filled to capacity for the event as the Lions and guests had ample time to enjoy each other's company and eat dinner before the formal program began.

Minske proved adept at adapting on the fly when a technology issue prevented use of her prepared PowerPoint presentation.

Minske began with the theme of change and adaptation.

"My whole last year (as governor) has been that our model doesn't always open new doors," she said. "We need to adapt to families and bringing in families and younger members and change the way we run our clubs. We need to listen to our members, they need to feel appreciated and they need to feel valued if we want to keep them and bring more of their family and friends in."

Keeping current members in the fold is as important as bringing new members in, she said.

"If you want numbers, I have them on the slide show," Minske said. "This was as of last week - Cook has 67, in Orr we have 13, and in our whole 5M10 (district) we're at 1,068."

Minske encouraged members to create a "fun and meaningful environment" so that people want to spend their extra time engaged with the Lions Club.

"We don't want to overload new Lions with tasks and leadership roles," Minske said. "We don't want to overload

people and overwhelm them because we want to keep them. So accept change and adapt and grow together."

Minske encouraged members to recall the encouraging individuals that were there for them when they first joined, and to be one of those types of members for new recruits.

And Minske reminded the group that there are incentives for clubs who sign up new members, incentives that will benefit kids in their communities.

Minske also displayed a new Lions Club license plate for the state, noting that the price includes a \$5 donation that goes to Lions Club International.

She also talked about unique service projects clubs can do to raise money for their charitable work.

New members

It got a bit crowded up by the fireplace when it came time for the induction of new members, as member sponsors were asked to join the new inductees up front. Cook Lions Club President Steve Kajala noted that not all of the club's new members were present, as some had been formally inducted earlier in the year.

Minske had the honor of leading one of the bigger groups in recent years in the oath of membership. The group included Sharon Carlsen, Bruce Carlsen, Rita Cheney, Nicole Hed, Linda Flack, Vicky Gilley, Sheila Bartley, Parker Kajala, Evan Kajala, and Kari Hultman.

Awards

As president, Kajala had the honor of presenting club awards to several members, and he did so by introducing them with a description of their activities without revealing their names, leaving the crowd to guess.

The Lions Club Member of the Year award went to Colette Huisenga.

"This is someone who personifies the positive aspects of life, someone who

isn't afraid to roll up their sleeves and put the shoulder to whatever project we're working on. They not only lead by example but have become an irreplaceable part of our club over the past four years," Kajala said.

Roxanne Brinker received a Lions Service Award.

"We wanted to recognize Roxanne for both her commitment inside the club and outside," Kajala said. "With her work she has donated thousands of hours of volunteer time over the past several years and we wanted to congratulate and thank you for everything that you do."

Club member Danny Brinker received a Hearing Research Fellow on behalf of the Cook VFW.

"Not only is Danny a big part of our show, but he's also an officer within the VFW Post 1757," Kajala said. "We'd like to present this Hearing Research Fellow award to the VFW today on their behalf to recognize them and all the wonderful support and partnership they've provided to our club for the past five decades."

Kajala presented the club's first-ever Progressive Helen Keller Sight Award to Val Annen.

"People think that I'm busy and I'm standing still compared to this person," Kajala said, "for their unwavering efforts in our eyeglass collections as well as the other great things they do in the community."

There was one award, however, that Kajala wasn't allowed to present because he was the recipient. Kajala was awarded the Melvin Jones Fellow Award for dedicated humanitarian services consistent with the purpose of Lionism, the highest award a Lions Club member can receive.

"Something wrapped in a blanket came in and I kind of wondered what was going on with that," Kajala said. "Thank you very much."



Cook Lions Club award recipients included, from left, Lions Member of the Year Colette Huisenga; Roxanne Brinker, Service Award; Val Annen, Progressive Helen Keller Sight Award; Danny Brinker, Hearing Research Fellow Award; and Steve Kajala, Melvin Jones Fellow Award.



New members inducted into the Cook Lions Club on Saturday are, from left, Sharon Carlsen, Bruce Carlsen, Rita Cheney, Nicole Hed, Linda Flack, Vicky Gilley, Sheila Bartley, Parker Kajala, Evan Kajala, and Kari Hultman.



The dining room was full at Northland Resort. photos by D. Colburn

Cook-Orr Calendar

Farmers market to open on June 19

COOK- Get ready - the Cook Area Farmers Market opens on Saturday, June 19.

Growers have been tilling the soil, planting seeds, feeding their chickens, tending the bees and extracting the honey. They have been in their kitchens with their canners and getting ready to bake. Others have been making soaps and roasting coffee. Artists have been busy working on creative crafts, jewelry and art, sawing wood in their workshops and sewing beautiful items in their homes. The members of the Cook Area Farmers Market are ready to start another season of Saturdays until October from 8 a.m.-noon in the Cook City Park on River St.

The Market offers a wide variety of fresh locally grown produce, baked goods, arts and crafts. You can even take a buggy ride. Like years past, the Market is sure to create a festive atmosphere in downtown Cook for folks who live in our area as well as summer visitors. As more people have become conscious of sustainable agricultural practices, farmers markets have become a popular place to shop for

fresh produce. The Cook Area Farmers Market is no different as it grows every year.

NWFA Spring Art Expo begins June 5

COOK- Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook begins its annual Spring Art Expo on Wednesday, June 5 at the gallery. The Expo runs through Saturday, June 29 and the gallery open hours, (staffed by volunteers) are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. On Saturdays the gallery is open generally from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. except for Timber Days Saturday, June 8, when it will be open from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. NWFA Gallery is at 210 S. River St. next to DreamWeaver Day Spa and Salon.

Expo Events

►Opening day, Wednesday, June 5 - 50/50 Raffle Tickets will go on sale for the summer and will be available through Aug. 18. The winners need not be present to win 50 percent of the ticket sales or a work of art by a local artist.

►Celebratory reception, Friday, June 7 - A reception will be held from 5-7 p.m. at the gallery. Meet many of the 40 participating artists who exhibit at NWFA and

enjoy a sumptuous table of appetizers while viewing new, original, thought provoking works of art.

►Saturday, June 8 - NWFA will sponsor a Cook Timber Days booth in the City Park where you may complete a simple art project on the spot from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The gallery will also be open those hours.

►Wednesday, June 12 - Cook's Music in the Park kicks off its summer run from 6-8 p.m. at the City Park gazebo with "The Beefeater Brothers." A refreshment stand is sponsored by St. Paul's (Alango) Lutheran Church. The concert series is sponsored with the help of the Cook Lions Club, Cook VFW #1757 and Auxiliary, the Timberwolves Snowmobile Club, and other community donations.

►Tuesday, June 18 - NWFA will hold its annual meeting at 5 p.m. at the gallery with a potluck supper at 5:30 p.m. and guest speaker, writer Katharine Johnson, from 6 to 7 p.m. Johnson, of Cloquet, has authored several books and many poems. Examples are "Sylvie's Silence" and "Wind and Drum."

Acrylic painting class coming to NWFA Gallery

COOK- Sign up now for this limited-space Acrylic Painting class on Saturday, July 20 in Cook at Northwoods Friends of the Arts.

This is an introductory class developed by Dafne Caruso to help a new painter get comfortable with the creative process in a stress-free environment. Students will play with brush strokes and color while learning new techniques.

Caruso, a self-taught artist, has a style of teaching that encourages students' confidence and freedom of expression while maintaining an essence of fun in the process.

The class will be at the NWFA Gallery, 210 S River St. from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Registration is required. Drop in at the gallery Wednesdays through Fridays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. or 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturdays. On Saturday, June 8, hours will be 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Alternatively, contact NWFA through email, nwfamn.org@gmail.com or call Alberta at 218-666-2153 to register for classes.

Friends of the Cook Public Library to hold annual meeting

COOK- The Friends of the Cook Public Library will celebrate its volunteers and contributions to the Cook Public Library at its annual meeting on June 11 at 5:15 p.m.

The Friends of the Cook Public Library was established in 2007 and organized into a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in 2017. In the last year the Friends have raised enough money to pay for library events, author visits, winter activities and the summer reading program. Over 60 community members and businesses contribute annually to the Friends, and several of these contributors actively volunteer their time to assist the group with fundraising efforts.

"The library has always played such an important role in my life and in my family's life," said Friends president Kristi Sopoci. "I truly enjoy being able to give something back - and being an active member of this group is fun!"

Other officers of the organization are Mo Fontana, Linda Kronholm and

Kathy Sachetti. New officers are elected during the annual meeting.

The June 11 celebration is open to everyone. It includes a special book talk from Library Director Crystal Whitney highlighting the new releases on the library's shelves, plus food and fellowship.

"Our library relies heavily on the Friends of the Library," said Whitney. "The funds they raise enable the library to have special programs, prizes, and treats. I think most patrons would be surprised to learn how many of the services and programs they enjoy are supported by the Friends."

Please stop by the Cook Library to learn more about summer reading activities, and to find out how to become a member of the Friends. For more information call 218-666-2210 or visit cookpubliclibrary.org.

ELY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Housing continues to top EEDA agenda

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

While the Iron Range's legislators brought home funding for several area projects, including help for the Ely Area Ambulance Service and a baseball field make-over for ISD 696, the Legislature did not pass the bill which would have given Ely's prospective workforce housing project an estimated \$240,000 sales tax exemption, and that was a key point of discussion at Tuesday's meeting of the Ely Economic Development Authority.

Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski remarked that the

sales tax exemption for local government housing projects could get support next year, but if Ely's housing grant comes through in August as expected, "it might be too late by then." Without the sales tax exemption for construction materials, Ely will need to finance that amount.

Segueing off Langowski's remarks, consultant John Fedo reported that the Northland Foundation "is looking at continuing at some level of participation on housing," and that the EEDA has spoken with that organization about Ely's housing needs. He pointed out that Northland had

\$1 million left over from last year's legislative session which was not yet allocated, and that organization had become "an advocate for our efforts." As an example of Northland's support for Ely housing, Fedo added that Northland CEO Tony Sertich provided a strong letter of recommendation for Ely's workforce housing grant application to the Minnesota Housing and Finance Agency. He cautioned that Northland had not yet decided how it would allocate its \$1 million for housing or what Ely's chances would be to see any of that money.

EEDA President Paul Kess noted the changeover of the staff running Ely's Housing and Redevelopment Authority at the beginning of May, with both a new executive director and accounts manager. He suggested that given all the recent activity for the HRA, the EEDA could profit from a presentation by the new executive director "to give us an overview on the housing stock here in Ely, the projects they are involved in, and all things that they manage."

The EEDA was in favor of Kess' suggestion; however, Langowski pointed out that such

a presentation would be better in a few months, once the new staff had "a chance to get their feet under them."

Ely's HRA owns and manages four subsidized apartment complexes and the market rate Northwoods Townhomes for seniors. The HRA's Pioneer Apartments are currently getting all new windows. The HRA is also waiting for a grant decision on building new apartments on the site of the old city garage next to Ely Carefree Living and HRA's Sibley Apartments.

TOO MUCH WATER

Rising lake levels exceed Rainy River basin management targets

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL-Abnormally high levels of precipitation have had eyes in Crane Lake and Kabetogama focused on rising lake levels this past week as dams in the Rainy River Basin opened their gates to try to stabilize the situation. The rising water comes just two years after record flooding in the basin.

According to a summary report issued by the Duluth National Weather Service office on Sunday, 5.44 inches of rain fell in International Falls

between April 25 and May 25, the fourth-highest amount for that period and almost three inches above normal. On the eastern end of the basin, rain in Ely from May 1 to May 26 was 4.10 inches, or 166 percent above normal.

The higher than projected inflows were already having an impact on Namakan and Rainy lakes even before the latest rains. Back in March, the water levels committee set lake level management targets based on an analysis of drier than normal conditions, and historically low snowpack, and seasonal forecasts indicating

equal chances of above or below normal precipitation. A review in late April noted that early spring precipitation had been below normal and that drought conditions were between abnormally dry and moderate drought. The above average precipitation in May threw a wrench into that analysis as lake levels began trending toward the top of their management rule curves by early May.

Last Tuesday, May 21, the water levels committee indicated they were "taking action to manage anticipated high inflows while considering impacts across

the basin."

According to a release from the committee, logs were pulled from the Squirrel Falls dam on May 21 and more logs were pulled from the Kettle Falls dam on May 22, but Namakan Lake still rose above its rule curve on May 23 due to the increasing inflows. Daily outflow increases began at Rainy Lake on May 18, with two larger increases occurring on May 21, the same day Rainy exceeded its rule curve. The committee reported that all hydropower turbines were running and gate openings began on May 23.

The weather service noted in

its Sunday briefing that inflows still slightly exceeded outflows on Rainy Lake, with both on the rise, while for Namakan and Kabetogama inflow was meeting outflow, helping to stabilize lake levels. Because water moves slowly through the basin, the weather service advised that levels will be slow to come back down.

The committee is managing outflows to bring both lakes back to the middle of their rule curves by mid-June, assuming the weather cooperates.

LISLEGARD...Continued from page 1

an increase in the taconite homestead credit, which will save Iron Range taxpayers about \$250 a year on their property taxes.

"This is the first time in 26 years that the taconite tax property tax credit was increased," Lislegard noted. "You live here, mine the ore here, and you deserve part of the benefit from taconite taxes. That's why I advocated for this money to reduce your property taxes."

Capital spending authorized in the tax bill this year includes \$3.3 million to renovate emergency room facilities in Virginia and to create the region's first behavioral mental health emergency

center. "My reform of the 340B drug program will mean over \$25 million each year invested in our health care hospitals and clinics in northeast Minnesota," Lislegard added.

A major loss

With the significant political turnover experienced in the region in the past few years, Lislegard had become the senior lawmaker from the East Range and his experience is going to be missed. "The Iron Range is losing another legislative giant," said freshman state Sen. Grant Hauschild, DFL-Hermantown. "But this time he's the last remaining true titan of the Range. It

will be difficult not having him by my side at the capital because we could tag team our efforts together. Dave showed me how to not take no for an answer and simply to get the job done."

Freshman Rep. Roger Skraba said he was shocked to hear of Lislegard's decision, but added: "I respect his decision and wish him and his family all the good will possible."

During his first two terms, Lislegard learned the job under the tutelage of the late Sen. David Tomassoni and former Sen. Tom Bakk, who both represented the Iron Range

for more than 20 years and knew the ins and outs of the Legislature like few others. With other northeastern Minnesota lawmakers all in their first terms, Lislegard's experience was especially critical. Hauschild said the remaining lawmakers, along with Lislegard's eventual replacement, will need to redouble their efforts. "That's my biggest takeaway from his announcement, we have to keep fighting to ensure the Iron Range is strong," he added.

Possible GOP pickup?

Lislegard had continued a long tradition of

DFL electoral dominance on the East Range, but the changing political calculus in the region has put that long record in doubt and makes the district a prime pick-up possibility for the GOP. Even with his experience and connections, Lislegard faced a tough re-election battle in 2022 against Republican Matt Norri, winning by a narrow 51-49 percent.

Lislegard's surprise announcement that he would not seek re-election came surprisingly late, which could further complicate the DFL's chances to lay the groundwork for a strong contender. Filings

for state House and Senate seats opened May 21 and close June 4, meaning potential DFL candidates will have had less than ten days to decide to enter the contest.

Meanwhile, the endorsed GOP candidate, Cal Warwas announced his candidacy for the 7B seat last October. Warwas is a miner and a 27-year member of the United Steelworkers union. He's serving his second term as a supervisor in Clinton Township and serves on the board of the Range Association of Municipalities and Schools.

SEARCH...Continued from page 1

killed while camping in the BWCAW in 2016.

"My family is intimately familiar with the fear and heartbreak these canoeists are feeling. We are praying for those involved and immensely grateful to everyone from the sheriff's office to the National Guard who are supporting this mission."

The National Guard provided a CH-47 "Chinook" helicopter and four crew members to airlift the sheriff's office's new Swiftwater jet boat and other heavy equipment to the rescue squad's base camp.

According to St. Louis County Sheriff's Office Commander Nate Skelton, the round-the-clock search effort currently has had between eight to 12 personnel at the search site.

The personnel on site are currently sheriff's deputies or members of the sheriff's office rescue squad. The search effort continues to be supported by the Superior National Forest's Beaver aircraft and pilots from the Ely seaplane base.

Skelton said the search team has boats, canoes, and remotely operated vehicles, which are mini-submarines equipped with underwater cameras. The searchers are also using drones and sonar.

The search has been hampered by high water levels at Curtain Falls, which separates Crooked and Iron lakes. The search personnel also were impacted last week by multiple days of intermittent rain and swarms of black flies.

FUNDING...Continued from page 1

Bois Forte Planning and Community Development Department has been assisting the Housing Department with the program, and put an application into the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Department. We want to thank the IRRRB for their generous support of our Bois Forte Housing Program and look forward to working with IRRRB in the future."

The IRRRB will supplement \$497,929 the Band has committed to the project, bringing the total amount of investment in housing to \$854,508.

Another North Country project, the improvement of the sanitary and storm sewer system on First Ave. and Church St. in Soudan in Breitung Township, got a boost of \$33,652 to their initial IRRR award of \$75,000 due to construction bids coming in \$90,000 higher than originally anticipated by the township. The IRRR will be footing \$108,652 of the project's \$344,000 price tag. A new sewer line, storm sewer, and road reconstruction will reduce road surface runoff and infiltration issues.

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VERN'S GREENHOUSE & NURSERY

GOVERNOR...Continued from page 1

“We have further distances, we have an aging population, we have workforce challenges, we can’t get the volunteers that we used to be able to get because of rising costs for folks and families,” Hauschild continued. “We have to make sure that we’re investing in life saving care. When somebody calls 911 for a loved one or for themselves, regardless of where they live, they expect an ambulance and lifesaving care to show up.”

Hauschild talked about the additional challenges small rural communities face in having to operate EMS services themselves and pledged to keep working to bring more financial aid to the EMS system.

“We’re going to keep addressing this, we’re going to keep looking at the long term and how we can make sure we’re addressing the EMS crisis,” Hauschild said. “But for now, we’ve stopped the bleeding, and



Gov. Tim Walz shows off the signed copy of the bill providing \$30 million of supplemental aid to the state’s EMS system. Pictured with Walz are, from left, Rep. Dave Lislegard, Rep. Roger Skraba, Tower Ambulance Director Dena Suihkonen, Rep. Natalie Zeleznikar, Rep. John Huot, Sen. Grant Hauschild, and Sen. Judy Seeberger. photo by D. Colburn

we’re going to keep going.” improvements. Walz praised the EMS personnel for their input into shaping a bill that sets the stage for future

it clear that a priority for people across Minnesota was reliable EMS service in every corner of the state,” Walz said. “The system as it works right now simply doesn’t reimburse your work accordingly, and it was time for all of us collectively to step up and make that investment. I think it starts putting us on a course with more sustainable ability to recruit, retain and equip EMS across the state.”

Sen. Judy Seeberger, co-chair of the legislature’s Emergency Medical Services Task Force and co-author of the bill signed by Walz, noted her personal connection to the EMS issue.

“I’m not just a senator, I’m a paramedic,” Seeberger said. “I work for an ambulance service, and I’m also on a paid on-call fire department. I see what it’s like out there, boots on the ground everyday doing what we do. And I can honestly say, and all of my colleagues in EMS will agree, that we do it because we love it. It’s an honor to be there. I think that’s why everybody does it. But we can’t ignore the realities of the financial difficulties that our ambulance services are in, particularly here in greater Minnesota. So, I’m

so pleased at the work that we’ve done on the task force. It’s been something that has been needed to be addressed and has needed attention for so long.”

Task force co-chair and bill co-author Rep. John Huot followed up on Seeberger’s remarks by reiterating how important the work of North Country EMS personnel was in creating the bill and getting it passed.

“What you did up here, the whistle you blew, is going to make a big change throughout the state,” Huot said. “And what the governor kind of told me earlier was that this may make a big change throughout the country, because what we’re doing here, no one else is doing.”

Rep. Dave Lislegard said he was proud of the contributions that came from East Range EMS service and reiterated his commitment to continue the fight for more EMS support.

“This isn’t just a one and done, get the money out and move on, right?” he said. “This is about fundamental and structural change, because what worked 20 or 30 years ago doesn’t work anymore, so we have to look at it differently and we have to respond to the needs of the people.”

Rep. Roger Skraba, delayed by an accident that required an EMS response, arrived midway through the event and got the most enthusiastic laugh of the day when he said, “It’s hard to drive 55 when you know you’re going to be late for the governor.”

Skraba highlighted the bipartisan nature of getting something done.

“With Grant and Dave, we all were like we have to do something, so let’s have this conversation. What is essential, what isn’t? Obviously, I think you all got the ears of all of us, so where we go from here is going to be collectively between you and us.”

After Walz signed the bill, he also talked about the bipartisan process for the *Timberjay*.

“I think people should recognize that the work got done, the proof is in the pudding,” Walz said. “These folks worked together and most every piece of the bill that came out at the end of the session was bipartisan, voted on by both sides. I think it’s much more the process and things that irritates people, but the product is a good one.”

Tower Ambulance Director Dena Suihkonen offered her thoughts following the signing.

“Having the governor up here is pretty darn exciting,” she said. “We’ve been very lucky that Grant’s been working with us quite a bit. He’s been very easy to talk to, as has Rep. Huot. So, as you could probably see when he was talking, he was looking right at me because I was a pain in the butt, but I think that’s how we have to get them involved, telling them about our weaknesses, our strengths, and what we need their help on. We have parents who are older, we have children, we have all of these people that need these services. Minnesota can make changes and come up with ideas that can help the whole country. I am just accepting that this is the first step of hopefully a lot of steps in order to make sure that we have sustainable EMS, especially on the Range.”

In addition to the \$24 million of supplemental aid, the bill also provides \$6 million to fund a “sprint medic” pilot program in St. Louis County as well as two west-central Minnesota counties. The pilot program is designed to test the effectiveness of using roving paramedics who would operate across the boundaries of up to several ambulance coverage areas and would respond in personal vehicles to medical calls, in hopes of improving response time and the level of care that can be provided to patients at the outset of that response.

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CHILD CARE

Cook's Little Beginnings closes after 34 years

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK— When the last parent picked up the last child at Little Beginnings Preschool in Cook on Friday, it was the last time Nancy Reing would say goodbye as a caregiver and educator of other people's children. For Friday was the day the well-loved early childhood program closed its doors for good.

"It's been wonderful," Reing said Friday morning. "It's been quite a ride — amazing. It's bittersweet."

Reing can't even begin to count the many hours she's put in since opening Little Beginnings in 1990, nor can she count the hundreds of children who generations of parents entrusted to her care. Yet she remembers them all, and she's proud of who each and every one has become.

"We've got dentists and doctors — it's crazy,"



Nancy Reing stands in a hallway of memories of children she's cared for at Little Beginnings.

photo by D. Colburn

she said. "And as far as I'm concerned, they've all been successful. Everyone that's come through these doors has touched us in way that you can't buy."

And if you happened to miss it, note the "us" in that statement. That word is essential to understanding the positive impact Little Beginnings has had over the decades.

"Little Beginnings is not just me," Reing said. "It's so many helpers, so many teachers, so many aides, so many people have passed through these walls that have helped me, the special ed teachers, the occupational therapists, speech pathologists, all those helped make this what it is."

As Reing spoke, she stood in a hallway with walls covered in pictures of former students from floor to ceiling. She pointed out one in particular, a picture of a boy and a girl pretending to get married, with another girl at their side as a bridesmaid. Recently, that young couple, now grown, made it official, getting married with the same girl as a bridesmaid. Reing said she sent them a copy of the picture. She scanned the wall reflectively.

"Most of the kids I have now are kids of kids who came here," she said. "Some of the kids on these

walls have already passed, and we're glad we got to have them for as short a time as we did. It's a legacy I can't even thank God for enough for all the joy it has given. It's been amazing."

Unlike the many providers who've left the field because of its long hours and minimal income, Reing isn't walking away from New Beginnings so much as she's walking toward an equally important task.

"You don't go into early childhood child care centers to make a fortune, you go in because you love the children and you have a heart for it," she said. "Your reward is the kids coming back or their successes or them saying thank you, that's your pay, that's what you get. There's nothing better."

Reing's new adventure might not be better, but it's different and at least equally as good.

"My daughter, who was not supposed to be able to have children, is now pregnant with twins," Reing said smiling broadly. "In March she said they were looking into child care and it was over \$4,000 a month, plus a nanny, and I said no, that's my job. I told Dan, my husband, we're done. I'm giving the parents three months notice, and he couldn't believe it because we had planned to be here

till I was 70."

The Reings will still be here in Cook, and when the twins are born in July, Reing will commute to her daughter Mackenzie's house in the Twin Cities to be the caregiving grandma.

"She's a PA at Methodist Hospital, so her hours are kind of busy kooky, so we'll just go back and forth as needed. And then we're going to homeschool my granddaughter who's ten next year, and I have my other grandson and we're going to keep him up with preschool and homeschool him."

And Little Beginnings will still physically be there for former kids to pass by and reminisce about good times.

"My son and daughter-in-law are going to move in and turn it back into a home," Reing said. "This home was built by my husband's grandfather."

But with all that activity, Reing said she'll be making time for one other favorite pastime.

"I'm excited to fish," she said. "That's one of my big things. I can't wait to get in the boat and go out on the lake with the kids and just have that free time, because it's been 10 hours a day for 34 years."



GHEEN— A flaming pickup truck caused minor delays along Hwy. 53 here on Tuesday. The GMC pickup caught fire around 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, causing a dramatic scene but no injuries. The Cook Fire Department responded to the scene to extinguish the fire. The State Patrol was in charge of the scene but had no more details as of press time. photo by F. Schumacher

STEEL INDUSTRY RIFT

U.S. Steel, Cliffs in war of words

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— The war of words between U.S. Steel and Cleveland-Cliffs escalated recently over the future of the proposed sale of U.S. Steel to Japan-based Nippon Steel Corporation. Nippon's tender offer of just over \$14 billion, announced earlier this year, has run into a series of hurdles, including opposition from the United Steelworkers as well as President Biden.

U.S. Steel, last August, rejected a \$7.3 billion offer from Cleveland-Cliffs, which had the backing of the steelworkers union.

Cleveland-Cliffs CEO Lourenco Goncalves has been critical of the potential sale of U.S. Steel to a rival, one that could inject new investment into a company that currently competes with Goncalves' company. Goncalves has questioned the ability of U.S. Steel to close its deal with Nippon, in part due to union opposition.

Goncalves' comments prompted the U.S. Steel board of directors to issue a May 21 statement that lauds the potential value of the sale to workers and the competitiveness of the U.S. steel industry, and responds to what it called "a misinformation campaign," being waged by Cliffs.

"The investment by NSC has been under attack since day one by one of our competitors and unsuccessful bidder — Cleveland-Cliffs — who have been sowing misinformation to our stakeholders in a relentless and unbridled effort to derail the transaction," wrote the board in the statement. "While Cleveland-Cliffs is pushing

false rumors to influence the market into believing we are working to unwind the transaction, nothing could be further from the truth."

A sale of U.S. Steel to Cleveland-Cliffs would leave the Ohio-based company effectively in control of 100 percent of the nation's iron ore production, about 80 percent of automotive steel, and about 50 percent of the domestic flat steel market, a potential concentration that would potentially raise anti-trust concerns.

U.S. Steel argues that an acquisition by an outside company, like Nippon, would maintain the current competitiveness of the domestic steel industry.

U.S. Steel's board letter prompted immediate return fire from Goncalves, who dismissed the suggestion that he had engaged in misinformation. "At Cleveland-Cliffs, we only deal with transparency," said Goncalves. "It is unfortunate that the U.S. Steel Board of Directors is just now realizing that it announced an un-closeable deal and is trying to blame Cliffs for its terrible decision-making."

Goncalves accused U.S. Steel of peddling its own misinformation, by insisting that the steelworkers union lacks veto authority over the deal. "With a USW-represented facility, you are not entitled to sell to whomever you please," said Goncalves. "We knew this, and you apparently did not. We tried to explain to you, but you did not listen to us. The Board of Directors of U.S. Steel failed its stockholders in this 'strategic review process,' and is attempting to blame Cliffs for its own

self-inflicted disaster. My opinion remains the same: You cannot and will not close your announced deal with Nippon Steel."

U.S. Steel disagrees. "We look forward to closing in the second half of this year," wrote the board.

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Presentation by SafeTech Solutions

June 13, 2024

4:00 pm

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SafeTech Solutions was hired by Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital (EBCH) to complete a comprehensive examination of various ways to help regional Emergency Medical Services (EMS) improve stability in a complex and ever-changing industry. SafeTech Solutions' mission is "To facilitate improvement and change through listening, evaluating, educating, and guiding."

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Alex Niles
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Tiauna Peltier

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Covington Rintala
Dayton Rintala
Ella Smith
Isaac Spears
Autumn Swanson
Madison Taylor
Trinity Vidal
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SECTION 7A SOFTBALL

Ely bows out in 11-2 loss to Silver Bay

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

CLOQUET — Ely's high school softball season came to an end Tuesday afternoon in the quarter-final round of the Section 7A double elimination tournament. Top-seeded Silver Bay outpaced the Timberwolves 11-2 in a game that had remained tight until the final innings.

Ely had advanced to the quarterfinals in the elimination bracket after holding on for a 10-7 win over South Ridge earlier in the day. "We jumped out to an early lead against South Ridge," said Ely Head Coach Cory Lassi. "I thought we had some big hits against them with runners on. The girls did a great job playing small ball moving runners over. We were able to weather the storm when South Ridge put pressure on us in the fifth."

Senior Hannah Penke led the way offensively for Ely, driving in five runs and scoring twice on three hits. Freshman Amelia Penke added two RBIs on a hit as well.

Sophomore pitcher Zoe MacKenzie pitched seven full for the Wolves, allowing 13 hits and six earned runs, while fanning two.

In the afternoon contest, the Wolves spotted Silver Bay eight unearned runs and couldn't keep pace. "Zoe did

See **SOFTBALL**
...pg. 5B

GIRLS GOLF

Olson vying for fifth trip to state

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

MCGREGOR- Play began Tuesday in the two-day 7A sectional tournament at the Minnesota National Golf Course in McGregor, with North Woods senior golfer Tori Olson vying for another trip to the state tournament.

The 18-hole, par-72 championship course, designed by former PGA pro and Minnesota golf legend Joel Goldstrand, presented the field with a stiff challenge on the first day of the tourney. Olson shot a 45 on the front and a 44 on the back for a round of 89. She ranked third, seven strokes behind leader Kianna Johnson of Walker-Hackensack-Akeley and two behind NER-Ely's Abby Koivisto.

Olson's first trip to state

See **NW GOLF**...pg. 5B



SECTION 7A TRACK

Sub-sections wrap-up

Several Ely athletes qualify for sections

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

AURORA- A host of Ely Timberwolves athletes were set to participate in the 7A sectional meet at UMD on Thursday by turning in qualifying performances at the 7A north subsectional in Aurora last week.

Individuals who finished in the top seven in their events and relay teams that placed fourth or better earned the right to compete for a spot in the state track meet, and the Timberwolves had strong performances on both the girls and boys sides.

The girls laid claim to first place finishes in three events. Violet Udovich continued her mastery of the 400 meters by taking first with a time of 1:01.93. Kaylin Visser outdueled Sydney Goss of Greenway/Nashwauk-Keewatin by two inches to win the discus with

See **WOLVES**...pg. 5B

Top: Ely's Molly Brophy looks focused as she takes the handoff from Lydia Schultz in the 4x400 relay event.

Above right: North Woods' Alex Burckhardt leads the way in the 3200 meters, with fellow Grizzlies runner Kahlil Lightfeather-Spears, right, close behind.

photos by D. Colburn



Grizzlies runners, jumper move on to sectionals

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

AURORA- A number of North Woods track athletes cleared the first hurdle for getting to the state track and field meet last Thursday at the 7A subsectional meet in Aurora by turning in

qualifying performances for Thursday's sectional meet in Duluth.

The top seven places in individual events and top four teams in relays qualified to move on, and North Woods boys and

See **TRACK**...pg. 4B

SECTION 7A BASEBALL

Ely wins two to advance in tournament

Shut out North Woods, top
third-seeded Silver Bay 7-4

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

SILVER BAY — Ely returned from its trip to the North Shore on Tuesday with two key post-season wins under its belt and the prospect of home field advantage in the next contest in the Section 7A baseball tournament.

In the play-in game Tuesday afternoon, the Wolves made short work of a North Woods team that has struggled all season. Ely pitcher Hunter Halbakken proved indomitable on the mound, allowing just one hit while striking out six as the Wolves cruised to a 10-0 five-inning victory.

Ely junior Cade Chittum paced Ely's nine-hit offensive attack with three hits and two RBIs. Junior Ben Leeson added two hits and two RBIs, while freshman Stig Majerus notched two RBIs on a hit.

North Woods stats were unavailable as of press time. The loss in the one-and-done round of the double elimination tournament dropped the Grizzlies final season record to a disappointing 3-12.

In the nightcap, the sixth-seeded Wolves faced a much tougher opponent in the third-seeded Mariners. But Ely, fresh off its big win over North Woods, wasted no time in claiming the momentum in their second game as they took advantage of three hits and four Silver Bay walks to put seven

See **BASEBALL**...pg. 5B

GIRLS GOLF

NER-Ely takes lead in bid for state golf berth

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

MCGREGOR- The Northeast Range-Ely girls golf team had a strong opening round on Tuesday to the two-day 7A sectional tournament at the Minnesota National Golf Club in McGregor, holding a 29-stroke lead in a bid to qualify for state as a team.

NER-Ely and Pine River-Backus were the only schools to field enough golfers for the team competition, and at the end of day one four of NER-Ely's six golfers were in the top-ten on the leaderboard.

Abby Koivisto was in second, just five strokes behind leader Kianna Johnson of Walker-Hackensack-Akeley, coming in with an 87. Maizy Sunblad was sixth with a 102, Cynthia DeBeltz was tied for seventh with a 108, and Danica Sunblad was in ninth position with a 115.

Wednesday's second round was not completed prior to the *Timberjay's* press time, but the final results will be posted online at www.timberjay.com and the *Timberjay* Facebook page.

ERC Championship

Of the six schools entered in the ERC Championship tournament at Eagle Ridge Golf Course in Coleraine

See **GIRLS GOLF**...pg. 4B

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Outdoors

Our lives in the Northwoods

WEATHER WHIPLASH

From drought to deluge

Several area rivers remain in flood stage in wake of last week's rains

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Several area rivers remained in flood stage this week even as water levels were gradually receding from heavy rains that fell last week. The heavy rains, as much as four inches in parts of the region, put an end to the drought conditions experienced earlier in the year.

The impact of the recent rain was dramatic on area streams, which had begun the season at near-record low levels due to the lack of a snowpack, which sharply limited spring runoff.

The Little Fork River, which is highly influenced by rainfall, remained in flood stage as of Monday, with a flow of 8,340 cubic feet per second, or cfs. That was well up over the previous

Right: Water was well outside the banks of the West Two River following recent rains.

photo by M. HelMBERGER

week's flow of 3,070 cfs, which was already above average for this time of year due to prior rainfall.

The Vermilion River, which had experienced below average

See FLOODING...pg. 5B



TECHNOLOGY

Merlin: it's like magic

With its recent Sound ID upgrade, this app can help even the novice recognize bird song

When it comes to technology, I'm definitely the late adopter in the family. So, it was just last week that my wife Jodi showed me the latest and greatest version of the Merlin bird ID app, created by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. She's had it on her phone for years, unbeknownst to me.

But we were walking on our gravel road one mild morning last week and were marveling at the bird song that was suddenly pouring forth from the woods around us from all the returning warblers that were back on their territories and making their presence known. I was pointing out the black-throated green warbler and the parula warblers, both singing up high in the big aspens, as well as the Tennessee warbler in the alder thicket down the way. There were Nashville warblers, chestnut-sided warblers, black-and-white warblers, and magnolia warblers as well.

That's when Jodi pulled out her Merlin app, and turned on the sound ID feature, which was added to the app as a major update in 2021. And suddenly she was calling out the bird song as fast I could keep up, thanks to the remarkable bird song feature, which incorporates artificial intelligence to analyze and match the bird songs it picks up to the species



The Merlin bird ID app with its 2021 upgrade is remarkably accurate in identifying bird songs, such as these warblers all of which are now back in the area on their breeding territories. Pictured are (top to bottom) a singing black-throated green warbler, a black-and white-warbler, a chestnut-sided warbler, and a Connecticut warbler.

photos by M. HelMBERGER

that sang them.

And here all these years I had to rely on standard intelligence plus a somewhat unique experience to identify birds here in the North Country.

I learned most of the southern boreal forest bird songs back in 1981 during the summer I spent at Bowdoin College's scientific station on Kent Island in the Bay of Fundy. I was

there as a research assistant to an ornithologist from the University of Minnesota who was studying blackpoll warblers and the work entailed spending all day, every day, in the woods observing and listening to birds. I was young, just 20 years old, and the songs of all those birds, most of which

See MERLIN...pg. 3B



MARSHALL HELMBERGER



Wildflower Watch



This week's featured flower
NODDING TRILLIUM

The **Nodding Trillium**, *Trillium cernuum*, is a spectacular wildflower with a shy nature that makes it easy to overlook. As its name suggests, the showy, three-petaled creamy white flowers can be difficult to spot as they hang underneath the large three-lobed leaves so characteristic of the trillium family.

This species can be easily confused with the closely related drooping trillium, but the flower on the drooping trillium tends to sit above the leaves, rather than underneath. If you can easily see the flower without bending down to look under the leaves, you're almost certainly looking at a drooping trillium.

Here in the North Country, the nodding trillium is much more common, so you'll probably need to get down on your knees to get a good look, or a good photo.

Outdoors briefly



A buck after its spring molt.

Deer now molting to their reddish summer coat

REGIONAL— Throughout the year, the fur coats on white-tailed deer change to match the seasonal weather and temperature. Every spring deer shed their thicker winter coat and replace it with a much thinner summer coat. As deer shed their hair in the spring, also called molting, they can look ragged or tattered as clumps of their darker winter coat fall off and the reddish summer coat begins to show through. This somewhat unattractive look can cause people to think deer are sick or injured, but don't fret, deer are simply going through the molting process. Molting is relatively quick, typically taking 2-3 weeks to complete. In the fall, usually in August or September, deer will begin molting their summer coat and transitioning to their winter coat and the yearly cycle begins again.

MERLIN...Continued from page 2B

are found here in the North Country as well, were permanently imprinted. It's a skill that served me well over the years, given my ongoing interest in birds.

But now, here was an app that could rival months of intensive bird study and give the complete novice the ability to identify bird song like an experienced birder. After feeling briefly put out, I opted to see the bright side and recognize that anything that helped introduce more people to the amazing world of birds was a good thing. After all, it's only through awareness that we build appreciation and, eventually, and recognition of the importance of protecting habitat.

That's been the idea behind the Cornell lab for decades, so it was no surprise that they were the driving force behind the creation of this remarkable app. Its sound ID feature, which can record and identify bird song in real time, has been described as revolutionary.

We were able to give it a good test on our recent walk and I can confirm that it was spot on about 90 percent of the time. It had a couple mistakes, including claiming to have heard an indigo bunting. There are a few in our area this time of year, but none were calling that morning.

The app will not only correctly identify a bird song in most cases, it will also tell you whether the

species is common or rare in your area. It identified one of the birds we heard that morning, a wood thrush, as rare. That would have been true in past years, since the range of the wood thrush used to be south of here, but this year we have at least four wood thrushes singing on territories along the two miles of road we typically walk in the mornings. Sadly, they seem to have replaced our hermit thrushes this season.

The Merlin app has created one issue that has frustrated organizations that take bird records seriously — and that's a relative flood of reports of birds based solely on sound identification through the app. Most organizations won't accept that as a positive ID, particularly of an uncommon or rare bird, without further documentation, such as a clear sighting, a photograph, or some other form of evidence.

The app is designed as a starting point, to help give a less experienced birder a good idea of what they're hearing. That way, they can search out the bird, preferably with binoculars, and rely on the images in a good bird identification book or the Merlin app to further confirm the identification.

The best part is, by providing the opportunity for success, even for new birders, the app is sure to help birding, already America's most popular sport, continue to attract

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
72 51					69 49					74 54					73 52					73 51				
Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
05/20	66	na	0.04		05/20	68	44	0.08		05/20	68	47	0.02		05/20	66	na	0.04		05/20	65	49	0.12	
05/21	62	na	0.23		05/21	68	48	0.87		05/21	67	50	0.80		0					05/21	67	49	0.76	
05/22	55	49	1.78		05/22	57	52	2.02		05/22	56	51	2.52		0					05/22	56	52	2.20	
05/23	49	na	0.18		05/23	53	37	0.31		05/23	51	38	0.25		0					05/23	51	37	0.37	
05/24	61	40	0.00		05/24	64	37	0.12		05/24	62	37	0.00		0					05/24	63	38	0.00	
05/25	51	na	0.41		05/25	52	41	0.41		05/25	52	40	0.25		0					05/25	52	41	0.23	
05/26	66	38	0.00		05/26	68	37	0.00		05/26	68	42	0.00		0					05/26	67	37	0.00	
YTD Total			10.09		YTD Total			10.48		YTD Total			9.79		YTD Total			NA		YTD Total			11.47	



The Big Fork River at Big Falls raged over the weekend in the wake of heavy rainfall last week. Parts of the area received as much as four inches of rain over two or three days, sending some area rivers into flood stage.

photo courtesy F. Schumacher

FLOODING...Continued from page 2B

flow so far this spring, saw levels jump dramatically this week, from 1,170 cfs to 3,030 cfs, pushing the river into flood stage. The water levels on the Vermilion River are heavily impacted by the discharge from Lake Vermilion over the Vermilion Dam and that discharge rose quickly in the wake of last week's rains.

John Niemeste, of Aronson Boat Works, estimates that Lake Vermilion rose close to 12 inches in the wake of

the rain and appeared to still be rising as of this week. While lake levels have been rebounding over the past several weeks, Niemeste said the pace of the rise this week was unusual. Despite the recent rebound, Niemeste said the lake levels are now about where they should be this time of year. "It was pretty scary when the ice went out," recalled Niemeste, noting that he had never seen such low levels that time of year. "I felt we weren't going to

make it through the summer. Now, I think we will," he said.

Meanwhile, up at the border, the Rainy River saw its flow more than triple during the week, from 13,800 cfs as of May 20, to 41,200 cfs as of Monday. That left the Rainy River with the second-highest flow of any river in Minnesota this week, second only to the Mississippi River at Winona.



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MOVING ON UP

Cheney signs with Augsburg for softball

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- While North Woods senior River Cheney has been a stand-out three-sport athlete for the Grizzlies, there was never any question that softball was the sport she wanted to keep playing, and she will as a member of the Augsburg University Auggies next year.

The Auggies are a team on the rise, having just tied the school record for most wins in a season with 26 and putting together back-to-back seasons with 20 or more wins. Head Coach Melissa Lee is glad to have Cheney joining the mix as the private Lutheran university squad homes in on making a run for the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Association title next year.

“We think River will be a great fit at Augsburg both academically and athletically,” Lee said. “We believe River is a hard-working student athlete who will do what it takes to earn a spot. We love multi-sport athletes – they have been some of our highest achieving kids in the past.”

Hard work and high aspirations have been hallmarks of Cheney’s softball career at North Woods.

“It’s been an honor and a privilege to coach

River over the years,” said Grizzlies Head Coach Dee Ann Sandberg at Cheney’s recent signing. “She’s an athlete who does whatever you ask her to do, and it’s nice to have an athlete who will go above and beyond. She’s grown tremendously throughout the years. She helped me with summer coaching with Becca (Bundy) with the little kids, showing them what softball is all about.”

Cheney knows all about the importance of a good early start, having embarked on her playing career as a youngster by playing tee ball with her brother Zach, and coached by her father Neil. A sports-loving family, the Cheneys invested in a pitching machine for Zach, but River was right in there hitting with him.

“I looked out the kitchen window one day and they were taking turns batting,” Neil said. “One of them would hit it and the dog would go retrieve it and bring it back, and they’d wipe it off and put it back into the pitching machine.”

“We’ve invested in sports camps and equipment and all that,” said River’s mom, Liz Cheney. “We’ve spent many, many miles in the car for both our kids. We wanted to make sure our kids had the best opportunity. It’s hard to get noticed up here



Neil and Liz Cheney applaud their daughter River after she signed a letter of intent to play softball for Augsburg University in Minneapolis. photo by D. Colburn

in northern Minnesota. We were willing to do whatever we could for them until they were done chasing their dreams.”

The investment has certainly paid off. Zach continued playing after high school at Minnesota North College – Vermilion, and now River will build on the family’s collegiate ball-playing legacy.

“Seeing him being able to go on further to a higher level than high school gave me the confidence to go do that, too,” Cheney said.

Cheney was a steady rock for the Grizzlies’ volleyball team and a 1,000-point career scorer for the basketball team, coached by her mom, but neither sport captured her the way softball did.

“I loved basketball, and I loved volleyball, but softball has always been my love,” Cheney said.

Like everything else these days, college recruiting has gone high tech, an advantage for small-school players like Cheney to get noticed and make connections. She used NCSA, the world’s largest online recruiting service, filling out her player profile and uploading game films.

“They (Augsburg) popped up on my list and I filled out a recruitment form for them. The next day I got a text and we started texting back and forth.”

And it quickly became apparent to Cheney that Augsburg was just what she was looking for.

“They were really concerned about me and how they would develop me as a player, and I was really looking for coaches that would help me build my skills,” Cheney said. “It just happened to be the perfect school and the perfect

program for me.”

And according to her dad, the Auggies are getting more than just a gifted first baseman and a power hitter – they’re getting a serious student of the game.

“She loves the sport, and she knows the sport,” he said. “She isn’t just a player, she sees a picture of the game going on, not just her position. She sees what the whole team needs to do, and she can adapt to that. That’s very important.”

Cheney is approaching her role with her new team with a good measure of patience.

“I’m hoping I can fit in as soon as I can, but if it takes a few years I’m totally OK with that,” she said. “I’m going to be working as hard as I can to move up in the program and be one of their key players, but if I’m not I’ll just keep working and keep moving

forward.”

Like many of her fellow Class of 2024 graduates, Cheney plans to pursue a career in a helping profession, specifically music therapy, although as a veteran performer in North Woods productions, she hasn’t entirely ruled out the possibility of looking into musical theater. But whatever direction she chooses, Cheney’s likely to find the same success she’s found on the softball field.

Meanwhile, Sandberg had a surprise to reveal at the signing. She said she had just learned that Cheney had made the Class A all-star team and will have one more high school game to play in before she becomes an Auggie.

“That’s exciting,” Sandberg said. “She’s the first athlete in softball who’s done that.”

BASEBALL

Grizzlies end regular season with losses

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

AURORA- The North Woods baseball team closed out its regular season schedule last week with a pair of Thursday losses in games relocated to synthetic turf fields due to weather-related field conditions.

When the Grizzlies faced Greenway/Nashwauk-Keewatin on the artificial field at Mesabi East in Aurora, it was the second game of the day for the Grizzlies.

North Woods sent hurler John Warren to the mound, and the Titans rocked the sophomore early by batting around the order and scoring five runs in the top of the first.

But Warren and the Grizzlies gamely fought back, holding the Titans scoreless over the next four innings as they tried to work their way back into the game.

Levi Chaulklin got things rolling for the Grizzlies in the bottom of the first with a single, followed by a walk for Talen Jarshaw and a single by Cedar Holman to load the bases. Patience at the plate paid off for Warren, who drew a walk to bring

Chaulklin home for the Grizzlies’ first run.

Trailing 5-1 going into the bottom of the fourth, North Woods struck again. Louie Panichi smashed an RBI double, bringing home Carson Johnson all the way around from first. Chaulklin found himself in the mix again, lacing a sharp single to center field that scored Panichi to pull the Grizzlies within two at 5-3.

The first two Titans batters reached base in the sixth, one after being hit by a pitch and the other on a bunt, and Warren handed the ball off to Jarshaw. GNK would put more runners on base and scored four in the frame for a 9-3 cushion.

Dawson Stavenger responded for the Grizzlies with a leadoff single in the bottom of the sixth. A walk by Johnson gave the Grizzlies runners at first and second with Panichi coming up. The Titans switched pitchers, but that didn’t faze Panichi, who hammered the ball to center field for a double, scoring two runs. Chaulklin hit a grounder to third that should have been an easy out, but the throw was wide and got past the

Right: North Woods’ Levi Chaulklin takes a big turn rounding third base against Greenway/Nashwauk-Keewatin.

photo by D. Colburn

first baseman, allowing Chaulklin to move to second as Panichi scored. The three-run burst by North Woods closed the gap to 9-6.

Confident after their four-run sixth, the Titans kept on rolling in the seventh, demoralizing the Grizzlies with five runs. With the game now well out of reach, the Grizzlies went down quietly in the bottom of the seventh for the 14-6 loss.

Deer River

The Grizzlies’ first game of the day was against Deer River, played on the turf at Rock Ridge High School.

Chaulklin went all the way on the mound for the Grizzlies in this one, with the Warriors jumping out on top with two runs in the first. Deer River added a run in the third, and starter Ben Storlie was a puzzle the Grizzlies couldn’t solve as they failed to score in the 3-0 loss.



TRACK...Continued from page 1B

girls, competing with the South Ridge Panthers, were scheduled to take their shot at state at UMD.

Alex Burckhardt led the best collective effort by Grizzlies tracksters by taking first place in the 3200 meters with a time of 10:33.60. The Grizzlies had two more top-seven finishers in the race, with Khalil Lightfeather-Spears keeping pace with Burckhardt early before slipping back to sixth with a time of 11:25.86. Lincoln Antikainen was only a few steps behind in seventh with a time of 11:34.54.

Other North Woods boys with qualifying performances included:

100m – Aidan Hartway, seventh, 12.07.



North Woods sprinter Izzy Pascuzzi races down the final stretch of the 200 meters, placing fifth in the race.

photo by D. Colburn

4x400 relay – Jonah Burnett, Aidan Hartway, Quinn FierkeLepp, Sawyer FierkeLepp, fourth, 3:53.21.

4x800 relay – Jonah Burnett, Alex Burckhardt, Tyler Morse, Quinn FierkeLepp, second, 8:58.55.

High jump – Jonah Burnett, sixth, 5’4”.

Girls qualifiers

Izzy Pascuzzi had a big day for the North Woods girls contingent, with three individual top-sevens.

Pascuzzi took fifth place in the 200 with a time of 28.75, finished third in long jump with a distance of 15’1.5”, and took sixth in high jump with a leap of 4’6”.

While numerous Panthers turned in qualifying marks, the only other Grizzlies athlete to qualify for sectionals was Addison Burckhardt, who ran on the second-place 4x800 relay team that clocked a time of 10:58.40.

Competition in Duluth was expected to be fierce, as typically only the top two finishers in an event qualify for the state tournament. However, additional athletes can advance if their performances exceed the high bar of state meeting qualifying standards.

GIRLS GOLF...Continued from page 1B

on Thursday, May 23, only three had enough golfers playing to compete for the team title. NER-Ely took

second, their 405 total being 27 strokes behind winner Rock Ridge and 61 strokes better than

third-place Greenway/Nashwauk-Keewatin.

Koivisto led the team with a fourth-place finish

and a score of 91. Maizy Sunblad shot a 99 to finish eighth, Cylvia DeBeltz carded a 102 for tenth, and

Carena DeBeltz shot a 113 for 15th.

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the Timberjay!

Obituaries and Death Notices



June L. Swieringa
June Lee Hannula Swieringa, 70, of Vermilion Lake Township, beloved wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, passed away on Monday, May 27, 2024, surrounded by family at Essentia Health in Virginia. A celebration of life service will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 8 at The Little Church on Hwy. 26 (Wahlsten Rd.) at

the intersection of Wiseman Rd., Vermilion Lake Township. It will be a potluck, so bring a favorite dish to share. Cards and flowers can be sent to 8435 Swieringa Rd., Tower, MN 55790. Arrangements are with Range Funeral Home of Virginia.
June was born in the Biwabik Hospital in 1944 to Leo and Laila Hannula of Embarrass. She went to Embarrass High School and attended the University of Minnesota where she met her husband of 61 years, Bruce Swieringa. June and Bruce were married in Embarrass in 1963. They lived for one year in Minneapolis, but then moved to Bruce's family homestead in Vermilion Lake Township and lived in a log cabin for nine years, while Bruce built their current home on the

land. It was there that they raised their family and had lived for over 50 years.
Few people know that June was a certified mechanic or that she jumped into the primary breadwinner role of her young family when the mines went on strike. She worked at Queen City Federal Credit Union in Virginia until the strike ended. Afterward, she got her accounting degree at Eveleth VoTech and took a job at Bonner and Mall-said in Virginia. Later she moved to the Embarrass-Vermillion Federal Credit Union (Tower and Embarrass offices) where she spent the rest of her career and was seemingly known by everyone.
June was known for her caring and loving nature and treating others equally. She was always

eager to spend time with friends and family. She especially enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was so loved and will be greatly missed.
June was a devoted mother to Erick (Jenny), Erin (deceased) (Kirk) and Daniel (Bobbi); grandmother to Josh (Ami), Shaun, Kelsey (Anthony) and Tyler; and great-grandmother to Owen, Theodore and Gwendolyn.
June is survived by her husband, Bruce Swieringa; sister, Joyce (Boyd) Halstead; and sons, Erick and Daniel and their families.

May 23, 2024, on hospice at Waterview Woods in Eveleth. She was a member of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa. A celebration of life was held on Thursday, May 30 at the Vermilion Wellness Center in Tower. The spiritual advisor was Vern Adams. Arrangements were with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.
She is survived by her son, Jesse (Sheila); brothers, Daniel and Roger King; sister, Trudy King; grandson, Landon; numerous nieces, nephews and cousins; and special friend, John.

be posted soon. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.
Philip J. Hway
Philip J. Hway, 77, passed away on Monday, May 20, 2024, in West Bend, Wis. A service will be held on Saturday, June 1 at Ely Gospel Church, with visitation at 10 a.m. before the 11 a.m. service. Pastor Tim Cook will officiate. Burial will be at the Ely Cemetery. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home in Ely.
He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Prudence Pick Hway; sister, Carole (Jim) Carter; brother, Jeff (Donna) Hway; sons, Derek and Ben Pieper; and numerous nieces and nephews.

WOLVES...Continued from page 1B

a throw of 101'3". Lydia Shultz, Molly Brophy, Grace LaTourell, and Violet Udovich teamed up to win the 4x400 relay with a time of 4:15.
Other qualifying performances by the girls included:
200m - Miriam Messerschmidt, seventh, 28.89.
1600 - Molly Bro-

phy, third, 5:46.52; Mattie Lindsay, fifth, 5:54.65.
300 hurdles - Mattie Lindsay, fourth, 54.49.
4x200 relay - Grace LaTourell, Anna Larson, Lydia Shultz, Violet Udovich, third, 1:52.93.
Shot put - Rachel Carter, seventh, 26'6.5".
Discus - Rachel Carter, fourth, 84'2".

High jump - Lydia Shultz, second, 4'10".
Long jump - Addison Forsman, sixth, 14'3.25".
Triple jump - Sarah Visser, sixth, 30'0.5".
Boys qualifiers
The best finish for the Wolves on the boys side was turned in by Silas Solum, who placed second in the 800 meters with

a time of 2:13.05. Other qualifiers for the boys included:
200 - Dylan Durkin, fifth, 24.26.
1600 - Oliver Hohenstein, sixth, 5:12.94.
110 hurdles - Leo Stalmer, third, 17.81.
300 hurdles - Leo Stalmer, fourth, 44.51.
4x100 relay - Dylan

Durkin, Tory Hughley, Wyatt Mattson, Milo McClelland, fourth, 48.13.
4x200 relay - Dylan Durkin, Tory Hughley, Wyatt Mattson, Milo McClelland, fourth, 1:40.6.
4x400 relay - Eli Olson, Caleb Larson, Silas Solum, Leo Stalmer, third, 3:47.4.
4x800 relay - Brooks

Brenny, Oliver Hohenstein, Wyatt Devine, Milo McClelland, third, 9:14.43.
High jump - Dylan Durkin, sixth, 5'4".
Long jump - Eli Olson, fifth, 18'3".
Triple jump - Eli Olson, fifth, 37'4".

BASEBALL...Continued from page 1B

runs on the board in the top of the first.
Chittum, along with seniors Elliott Levens and Deegan Richards, each had RBI singles in the first inning to fuel the scoring parade.

Meanwhile, Brecken Sandberg scattered five hits and struck out four from the mound during four and two-thirds innings for the win. He allowed just one run in the first four innings, but a

three-run shot by Silver Bay's Mac Williams cut the Wolves lead to 7-4 in the bottom of the fifth, which proved to be the final.
Halbakken came on in relief and shut down the

Mariners in over the next two and a third innings for the save.
"We got two good pitching performances today from Hunter who picked up a win and a save, as he threw seven

and a third innings, giving up only 2 hits," said Ely Head Coach Frank Ivancich. "Brecken also pitched well despite struggling throughout."
Chittum again led Ely's offense, with two

hits and two RBIs. Levens also added two hits for Ely.
While it was a good day for the Wolves, the competition just gets stiffer. With their wins on Tuesday, they're set to

SOFTBALL...Continued from page 1B

a great job keeping us in the game," said Lassi. "It was 4-2 into the fifth and

as a team we just seemed like we ran out of gas. We only gave up three earned

runs. We gave a good team too many extra outs." MacKenzie allowed

nine hits in five and two-thirds innings, while striking out two. Sophomore

Ella Perish drove in Ely's two runs on a hit. Ely ends its season at

13-7, finishing among the top four teams in the section.

NW GOLF...Continued from page 1B

came as a seventh grader, and except for 2020 when the tourney was canceled due to COVID, she's been back every year since.
The tournament was not completed as of press time on Wednesday, but the final results will be posted at www.timberjay.com or the Timberjay Facebook page.
ERC Championship
For the second tournament in a row, Olson and Anderson finished tied

on top of the leaderboard with identical scores, but this time the championship went to Anderson on a tiebreaker.
Olson scored a critical birdie on the par-five 16th hole to draw even with Anderson, and both tallied 18-hole scores of 86 for the meet at Eagle Ridge Golf Course in Coleraine.
Olson was the only North Woods golfer entered in the event.



FUN-FILLED DAYS FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!

JUNE 7, 8, 9, 2024

<p>FRIDAY JUNE 7 Friends of the Library BOOK SALE Arts/Crafts/Food/Beverage Vendors Face Painting Dunk Tank Firefighters Challenge Bean Bag Tournament 5K Run & Walk, sponsored by VHHP Live: Uncle Eric's Musical History Tour Live Music: Vitamin Brown</p>	<p>inside the Cook Public Library Downtown on River Street Downtown City Park Downtown on River Street Downtown on River Street the Old Muni patio Doug Johnson Park Rec Center Cook VFW Post 1757 the Old Muni</p>	<p>9:00 am - 5:00 pm Noon - 6:00 pm Noon - 6:00 pm 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm 5:00 pm 6:00 pm 6pm/Start 7pm 6:00 pm - 9:00pm 8pm - midnight</p>
<p>SATURDAY JUNE 8 Pancake Breakfast Arts/Crafts/Food/Beverage Vendors Face Painting Dunk Tank Kids Games Timber Industry History on Display CLASSIC CAR SHOW REGISTRATION CLASSIC CAR SHOW Pet Show REGISTRATION Pet Show Barrel Train Cook's Country Connection Petting Zoo Magic Show Pony Rides BINGO by North Woods Travelers Live Music: Beefeater Bros. "Bear Bots" Robotics Team Demo ELVIS SHOW - free admission Live Music: Honkytonks & Hangovers Sloppy Joes & Porketta Sandwiches Live Music: The Northwoods Band ***FIREWORKS***</p>	<p>Cook Fire Department Hall Downtown on River Street Downtown City Park Downtown on River Street TG Creative Collections, 2nd Ave SE Big Tent in City Park enter North River Street Downtown on River Street Gazebo in City Park Gazebo in City Park Downtown on River Street B.I.C. parking lot @ 2nd Ave. SW Gazebo in City Park B.I.C. parking lot @ 2nd Ave. SW Cook Community Center the Old Muni Downtown on River Street Gazebo in City Park the Old Muni Cook VFW Post 1757 outdoor grill Cook VFW Post 1757 Doug Johnson Park</p>	<p>8:00 am - 11:00 am 10:00 am - 6:00 pm 10:00 am - 6:00 pm 10:00 am - 6:00 pm 10:00 am - 3:00 pm 10:00 am - 6:00 pm 10:30 am Noon - 4:00 pm 10:30 am 11:00 am 11:00 am - 3:00 pm 11:00 am - 3:00 pm Noon Noon - 6:00 pm 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm starting at 4:00 pm 8:00 pm - midnight 10:15 pm</p>
<p>SUNDAY JUNE 9 Arts/Crafts/Food/Beverage Vendors Church Service, officiant Brian Burton Face Painting Lawnmower Races REGISTRATION Lawnmower Races Lineup for Parade Drum & Bugle Corps performance Cook Lions Club Timber Days PARADE Grand Marshal: Arnie "Pete Johnson"</p>	<p>Downtown on River Street Gazebo in City Park Downtown in City Park Downtown on River Street Downtown on River Street North River Street Gazebo in City Park Downtown on River Street the old Muni Gazebo in City Park VFW Post #1757, 206 1st St SW</p>	<p>10:00 am - 4:00 pm 11:30 am Noon - 4:00 pm 11:30 am 12:30 pm 1:45pm 2:00 pm - 2:30 pm 3:00 pm 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm after Parade after Parade</p>

>>>Don't Miss **MUSIC IN THE PARK**, by Robert Walker and Friends, ALL THREE DAYS<<<

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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

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 lwestrack@ely.k12.mn.us. Contact Memorial MS/HS Principal Jeff Carey at (218) 365-6166 ext. 1726 or jcarey@ely.k12.mn.us with any questions.

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

Published in the Timberjay, May 24 & 31, 2024

ELY PUBLIC SCHOOLS POSITION OPENING 1.0 FTE 6th Grade Teacher

Ely Public School District is looking for a 1.0 FTE 6th Grade 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: K-6 Elementary Education with 5-8 Mathematics preferred
> Preferred teaching experience with middle 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 lessons.
> Demonstrate effective classroom and equipment management.

Application available at: www.ely.k12.mn.us

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Application review to begin: June 4, 2024; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, May 24 & 31, 2024



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! Now 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@vermillioncountry.org for more information:

Positions and job descriptions for licensed teachers, school social workers (2 openings) and support staff listed online. Most positions are benefits-eligible.

https://vermillioncountry.org/employment

For inquiries, contact info@vermillioncountry.org and/or 218-248-2485

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Annoyed state
6 Suitable
9 TV schedule abbr.
12 Road reversal
13 Cornfield noise
14 " - the Walrus"
15 Idaho's capital
16 Minor complaint
18 Vehicle's capacity
20 Intends
21 German pronoun
23 "... - quit!"
24 Unravels
25 Second in command
27 Fighting
29 "Already?"
31 Unparalleled
35 Track horse
37 Continental currency
38 Nepal's neighbor
41 D-Day vessel
43 - -de-France
44 Sole
45 Litter container
47 Without a sound
49 Aromas
52 Ornate vase
53 Bit of physics

11x11 crossword grid with numbers 1-57 indicating starting points for clues.

- 54 Illuminated
55 "A spider!"
56 Summer on the Seine
57 Very small

- 9 Leg bone
10 Pleasantly warm
11 Make - of (bungle)

- 17 "Peter Pan" author
19 Swiss money
21 Hosp. hook-ups
22 Corp. boss
24 Summer cooler
26 Spinach-eating sailor
28 German sausage
30 Granola grain
32 Man of La Mancha
33 Web address
34 Fair hirer, in ads
36 Boosler of comedy
38 Chef's hat
39 Accustom
40 Lose a starting contest
42 Letter-shaped hardware
45 Coagulate
46 "Garfield" dog
48 Cravat
50 Ske-daddle
51 CIA operative

DOWN

- 1 Tavern
2 Jurist Lance
3 Savory brunch pies
4 Celestial bear
5 January, to Juana
6 Find not guilty
7 Painter Cezanne
8 Prefix with night or light

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PUBLIC NOTICE

GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS FIRE NUMBER NOTICE

Help us help you when you need it most. Replace those old, damaged or broken Fire/911 signs.

Make sure your signs are placed in a highly visible location - no trees or brush covering them.

Applications can be found on our website under Administration - Forms and Information. Questions? Call Supervisor Rick Stoehr at 218-780-1741 or email rick.stoehr@greenwoodtownshipmn.com

Published in the Timberjay, May 31, 2024

FIELD TOWNSHIP MEETING LOCATION CHANGE

The June board meeting of Field Township will be held June 11, 2024, 7 pm, at the clerk's home, 9998 East Lind, Angora.

Pat Chapman/Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, May 31, 2024

KUGLER TOWNSHIP MEETING NOTICE

The Kugler Town Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on June 18, 2024 at 5 p.m. at the Kugler Town Hall.

Christopher Suihkonen, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, May 31, 2024

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

FUNERAL SERVICES

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Super Crossword

Answers

15x15 crossword grid with words filled in: SILICA, ALEAP, DWI, WANG, OVISAC, ROUSH, EIN, ODOR, RABBLET, TOURNAMENT, EASE, ENSNARED, ANODE, TIGHT, BBC, RAPTHEM, MISSION, DMITRI, SAM, ORE, RAMONA, OOPS, ICECREAM, HERE, OSAKA, GOING, BAUM, DOE, MEDS, DAWN, AVENGER, HUNT, BID, FREAK, MOUSER, ALP, MASSAGE, ARAB, BEETLE, BIOLAB, PANEL, LEG, RAMBLE, DEEGGS, WHIR, RIDE, ARP, LOSS, ASHEN, PEROT, CAIN, OUTING, REPORT, SESAME, AAA, INS, ITONYA, ALESOF, JUSTICE, HMS, HILTS, ELIMS, AESTHETE, AXEL, REAMED, ANDS, SHOUTED, RICE, ARI, AUDIO, ORMOND, ARTS, EST, LEAKS, TEENSY

GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS GET INVOLVED IN THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS BY BECOMING AN ELECTION JUDGE!

Election Judges are needed for the Primary Election (Tuesday, August 13, 2024) and General Election, (Tuesday, November 5, 2024). Training will be provided. Current rate of pay is \$15 per hour.

Applications are available at the Greenwood Town Hall or on the township website - greenwoodtownshipmn.com -under Administration - Election Information. Office is open from 9 AM until 1 PM on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Deadline to submit an application is Thursday, June 13, 2024.

Questions? Call Clerk Spicer at 218-753-2231 or email clerk@greenwoodtownshipmn.com.

Published in the Timberjay, May 31 & June 7, 2024

CryptoQuip

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

Clue: R equals S

RXHFYTD FVIXBQHP IHIVPA
BEYQR ITCH QV SH BRHC SA
TFQPHRR PHYC TEC RZTQHP
DYXYERZY: QTPT SAQHR.

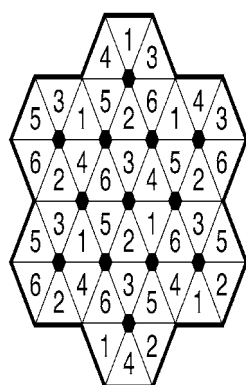
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Get Informed!

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SNOWFLAKES solution



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

9x9 Sudoku grid with numbers 2, 3, 6, 3, 2, 5, 6, 9, 4, 8, 8, 4, 9, 4, 7, 2, 6, 1, 1, 4, 3, 4, 5, 9, 8, 3, 7, 2

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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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

Langevin Auto & Truck Repair
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Hours: 8 AM-5 PM M-F
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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.

LAND FOR LEASE

FOR LEASE: Nice country parcels, 4-10 acres. Long-term only. Text 218-290-5370. 6/7

WANTED: BELSAW SAWMILL RIGHT HAND, also wanted ROCK TUMBLER with about 3-gallon capacity. Call 1-218-666-2750 6/7p

Try out the Timberjay classifieds

Line classifieds cost 30¢/word, \$6.00 minimum. Classified ads can be run a second time at half price (private parties only). We now accept payment by Visa, Mastercard, AmEx, and Discover. Call your ad in to 218-753-2950. Display (boxed) classifieds are billed by the "inch"- please call for prices and information on discounts. Call Today - 218-753-2950

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SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

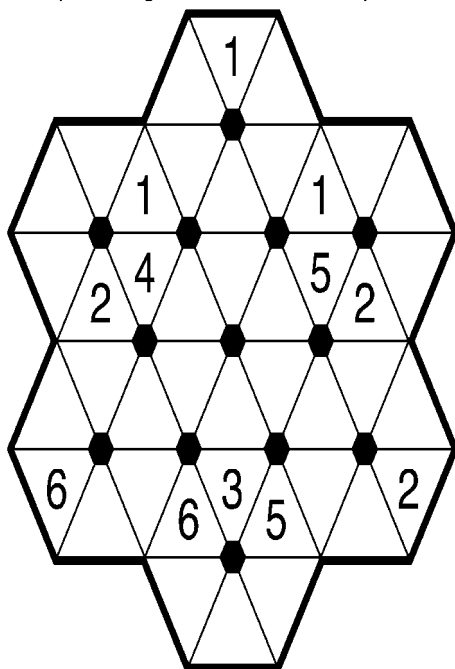
AA FRIDAYS- 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 262 E Harvey St., Ely. Meets in the basement.

AA MEN'S PRIMARY PURPOSE meeting, Tuesdays at 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 226 E Harvey St., Ely, 218-235-3819

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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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Super Crossword

MISS SOUTH CAROLINA

- ACROSS**
- 1 Quartz, e.g.
 - 7 Take — of faith
 - 12 Imbiber's hwy. crime
 - 15 Gown designer Vera
 - 19 Brood pouch
 - 20 Baseball Hall of Famer Edd
 - 21 German "a"
 - 22 Smell
 - 23 Sports contest between two disorderly crowds?
 - 26 Give relief
 - 27 Trapped
 - 28 Negative battery pole
 - 29 Fitting snugly
 - 30 Telly network
 - 31 Perform a hip-hop song about a military operation?
 - 34 Periodic table creator Mendeleev
 - 38 Singer Cooke
 - 39 Mined matter
 - 40 Kid-lit "pest"
 - 41 Cry from a toddler who's dropped a Dairy Queen cone?
 - 44 Present
 - 45 Port in Japan
 - 46 Leaving
 - 47 Oz creator L. Frank —
 - 49 Female rat
 - 52 Things docs prescribe
 - 53 Daybreak
 - 54 Search for a Marvel superhero?
 - 58 eBay action
 - 59 Flip (out)
 - 60 Rodent-catching cat
 - 61 Rubdown given in a mountain chalet?
 - 67 Winged insect native to Iraq or Oman?
 - 69 Setting for petri dishes
 - 70 List of jurors
 - 72 Lower limb
 - 73 Talked on and on about chicken products?
 - 75 Fan noise
 - 77 Use Lyft, e.g.
 - 81 Dadaist Jean
 - 82 Defeat
 - 83 Pale-looking
 - 85 H. Ross —
 - 86 Genesis brother
 - 88 Official account of an excursion?
 - 90 Bagel seed
 - 93 Towing org.
 - 95 Entry points
 - 96 2017 film about skater Harding
 - 97 Supreme Court members' favorite beers?
 - 100 Royal Navy letters
 - 101 Sword parts
 - 102 Some sports rounds, for short
 - 103 Lover of beauty
 - 108 Skating jump
 - 109 Yelled while using a juicer?
 - 112 Pilaf base
 - 113 Singer Grande, to her fans
 - 114 The "A" of A/V
 - 115 Actress Julia
 - 116 The "A" of A&E
 - 117 Vermont hrs.
 - 118 Tire problems
 - 119 Itty-bitty
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Very annoyed
 - 2 "Terrible" Russian
 - 3 Ad- — (wings it)
 - 4 13-digit ID in publishing
 - 5 Region of Italy's "toe"
 - 6 Sour in taste
 - 7 Longtime Yankee nickname
 - 8 Singer Rawls
 - 9 Ger.'s continent
 - 10 Very simple
 - 11 Ghostly figure
 - 12 Myers once of CNBC
 - 13 "You can't — all!"
 - 14 Savings acct. buildup
 - 15 "Alas!"
 - 16 Slowly, on music scores
 - 17 Have as a snack
 - 18 — Green (old eloping mecca)
 - 24 Sleuth, slangly
 - 25 Jay of "Gary Unmarried"
 - 29 Despot of old
 - 31 — to go (eager)
 - 32 Church cry
 - 33 "It just came back to me"
 - 34 Tragic destiny
 - 35 Allison of jazz
 - 36 Apple debut of 2010
 - 37 Clucks of shame
 - 38 Clumsy boat
 - 42 "Zounds!"
 - 43 Gelatin in a petri dish
 - 44 See 47-Down
 - 47 With 44-Down, big embrace
 - 48 "Diana" singer Paul
 - 49 Attic buildup
 - 50 Like Ogden Nash's "lama"
 - 51 To be, to Gigi
 - 53 More than mere doubt
 - 55 Osso buco meat
 - 56 Film director Nicolas
 - 57 Color shade
 - 58 Jezebel's god
 - 59 — shui
 - 61 "— -Ca-Dabra" (1974 hit)
 - 62 Untruth teller
 - 63 Pageantry
 - 64 Mets' gp.
 - 65 Big simians
 - 66 Comics' bits
 - 68 Glittery jewelry, informally
 - 71 Brother in Genesis
 - 74 Put on
 - 75 Cry feebly
 - 76 Mother chickens
 - 77 Seized auto, say
 - 78 De-wrinkle
 - 79 "Finding —" (2016 film)
 - 80 "Tell Mama" singer James
 - 84 Clic — (Bic pen brand)
 - 85 Place to buy a leash
 - 86 Queens' homes
 - 87 Novelist Oz
 - 88 Hot cereal, often
 - 89 Punchline drum hit
 - 90 Big desert
 - 91 Miracle drink
 - 92 Choose
 - 93 With milk, in French
 - 94 "— sure you know ..."
 - 98 Heckles
 - 99 Give credit where credit —
 - 100 "— So Shy"
 - 103 Uproars
 - 104 Newsman Brit
 - 105 Boys' school in Britain
 - 106 Some till bills
 - 107 Jacuzzi effect
 - 109 Actress Issa
 - 110 Org. for cavity repairers
 - 111 Suffix with beat or neat

SELL It HERE

King Crossword Answers

Solution time: 26 mins.

PIQUE	APT	TBA
TURN	CAW	TAM
BOISE	QUITBLE	
CAREFUL	AIMS	
ICH	ORI	FRAYS
VEEP	ATWAR	
SOSOON	UNIQUE	
PACER	EURO	
TIBET	LST	ILE
ONLY	CATBOX	
QUIETLY	ODORS	
URN	ION	LITUP
EK	ETE	TEENY

VERMILION COUNTRY SCHOOL

Environmental expo gives students chance to explore in depth

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- How can a students' actions impact their environment? Students at Vermilion Country School in Tower had the chance recently to explore a topic of their choice, and then create a project to share with their classmates and wider school community that illustrated an environmental issue, its history, and how their actions can in-

fluence the future. Students worked individually and in small groups, mostly focusing on topics that included water ecology, animal ecology, and lands and forestry. Students not only did research, but also went on field trips that touched on these wider topics, including trips to the Soudan Mine, the Minnesota Discovery Center and Minnesota Mining Museum, a behind the scenes tour of the Duluth

Aquarium and the Duluth Zoo, the Lake Vermilion fish hatchery, Ely's water treatment plant, Cook's Country Connection, the Orr Bog Walk, along with in-school presentations on plastic recycling and the 1854 Treaty Authority.

Students were tasked with exploring topics in depth, and worked from a rubric which included comparing what they knew about a topic before starting their research, and what they had learned af-



Ryan Fenski, Ella Nappa, Jay Strange did a project about animal ecology and extinction. Below: School director Sam O'Brien discussed the project with Ella as part of the grading process. photos by J. Summit



and some parents and school board members helped judge each presentation, using a detailed rubric form. Research included creating timelines, developing pros and cons of approaches to specific problems over time, current understandings of the issue, presentation of sources for their research, and a reflection statement. Students received extra credit for creative work, such as a logo, poem, or song that would help engage the audience or help understand the issue.

Topics ranged from feral cats, invasive species and insects, extinction, fossil fuel use, acid rain, giardia, fishing, mining, forestry, global warming, and more.

Vermilion Country School has a focus on environmental learning. Students also complete community service projects such as roadside cleanups. Students recently assisted the city of Tower during its spring clean-up days.

terwards, and then deciding if they had changed their mind about their topic.

Oliver Beise was one of a few students who created a web-based project, so they could include video footage of paddlefish. By the end of the afternoon, Oliver had convinced many reluctant classmates and school staff of the paddlefish's virtues and importance to its ecosystem, and also how "cute" they are. James Grant kept a large group of adults engaged as he explained issues related to invasive species,

such as zebra mussels and Asian carp. Elspeth O'Brien had a more optimistic project, showing gains made in reversing problems from acid rain, as well as explaining the chemistry involved. Jay Strange, Ella Nappa, and Ryan Fenski showed off a pair of projects, one about endangered species that are expected to become extinct in the next 25 years, and one about problems from gasoline-fueled vehicle emissions.

On May 20, students displayed their projects, filling up most of the common spaces in the school with presentation boards. Students, school staff,



Oliver Beise discussing his project about paddlefish with teacher Amy Hendrickson.

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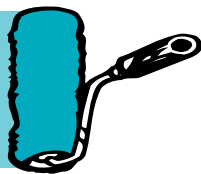
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| Kiarstin Eaton | Andrew Marolt | *+ Sarah Visser |
| Bryce Ferdig | *+ Gavin Marshall | Ty Walker |
| *+ Aubree Gerlovich | Braydin Mosher | Gabriel White |
| Thomas Homer | Hannah Penke | Kadein Zupancich |

* Honor Student Cumulative GPA 3.50 or above
+ National Honor Society

Class Song: "It was a good day" by Ice Cube

Class Flower: "Bleeding Heart"

Class Motto: "We served our sentence"

Class Color: Pink



President: Ava Skustad
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