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# The **TIMBERJAY**



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989

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## WINDOW INTO NATURE

### Loon cam sees growing following

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
 Managing Editor

Hatching could come as soon as this weekend

LAKE VERMILION— Interest is growing in the drama surrounding a pair of nesting loons here, who have faced rising water and a mink attack as they've attempted to bring the next generation to life.

While the loons are one of dozens of nesting pairs on Lake Vermilion, this particular duo are the current stars of their own reality show, care of a live nest cam set up nearby courtesy of the Vermilion Lake Association.

It's the fourth year of the nest cam, but it's the first time the camera has been trained on this particular loon pair and the live feed has served as a witness to the struggle that many species of wildlife experience in their efforts to raise their young.

As is common with loons, which have limited ability to walk on land, this pair's nest is right on the water's edge, hidden in a thicket of dense spirea. According to Noel Sederstrom, who has

**Right: A wooden structure holds a camera and microphone that provides a live stream of the loon nest located in the lower left quarter of the photo.**

photo courtesy Vermilion Lake Association

helped manage the video feed from the camera, the loons established their nest and laid their first egg on May 13 and the second on May 15. On May 20, as

See...**LOON CAM** pg. 10



## GRADUATION 2024

### A MILESTONE ACHIEVED

Last Friday was an eventful one for graduates around the area, who said goodbye to their high school careers and began their new lives as adults ready to take on the world. Pictured include, (above) the Ely graduating class, (right) Addy Hartway with her diploma from North Woods, and (below) Jace Olson and his mother Chessica after receiving his diploma at Vermilion Country School. photos by Timberjay staff



## EMS

### Regional ambulance study to be aired June 13

by CATIE CLARK  
 Ely Editor

ELY- The results of the long-anticipated study on ambulance service in the region are finally available. SafeTech Solutions, of Isanti, the consultants hired by Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital, will present the conclusion of their analysis to the general public at 4 p.m. next Thursday, June 13, at the Ely Senior Center, located at 27 S. First St. E.

Frustrations over financial problems with the Ely Area Ambulance Service prompted the hospital's board of directors to investigate better ways to fund local ambulance services. Last

See...**STUDY** pg. 9

## TRAGEDY

### Both bodies recovered at Curtain Falls

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
 Managing Editor

REGIONAL- A 16-day search for the bodies of two canoeists who went over Curtain Falls last month came to an end this week with the recovery of the second body on Monday. The St. Louis Sheriff's Office made the announcement that they had located the body of Reis Melvin Grams, age 40, of Lino Lakes, just downstream of Curtain Falls.

The sheriff's office announced the recovery of the body of Jesse Haugen, age 41, of Cambridge, on Friday, May 31 near the falls.

Both individuals have been missing since Friday, May 18, when four people in two separate canoes, were swept

See... **FALLS** pg. 9

## CITY OF TOWER

### City OKs bonds for public works purchase

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
 Managing Editor

TOWER— The city council here approved the funding package that will enable the city to acquire the St. Louis County public works facility on Marina Drive, for

\$260,000.

Dan Tienter, of Ehlers Financial, which is handling the \$283,000 general obligation bond issue offered a brief presentation on the process. He noted that Frandsen Bank and Trust had agreed to purchase the ten-year bonds at an interest

rate of 5.3 percent.

The bond is expected to close later this month, with the funds available to the city as of June 20. The bond amount is higher than the purchase price of the facility, which covers the cost of issuing the bond and the cost of capitalized interest.

As part of the bond, the city agrees to include the annual repayment amount, averaging about \$38,000, in its yearly levy. While that would tend to increase the city's levy, the city won't be levying in the

See...**BONDING** pg. 9



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**Community notices**

**Book sale set for June 20-22 at Senior Center**

ELY - The popular Friends of the Ely Public Library book sale will be held in June at the Ely Senior Center.

Donation times are June 14, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., and June 15 and 17 from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. at the Ely Senior Center. A FOL representative must be there to receive books, puzzles, games, DVDs and CDs. NO magazines, textbooks, encyclopedias or Readers Digest Condensed books will be accepted.

FOL Members will be able to shop noon – 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 20. You can renew or become a member at the door. New this year, purchase a \$10 FOL tote and fill it up with books for free.

The sale opens to the public on Friday, June 21, 8 a.m. – 7 p.m. Get a bag of books on Saturday, June 22, 9 a.m. – 3 pm. Bring your own bag.

**Make plans to participate in the 41st Annual Vermilion Run and walk this year**

TOWER- The 41st Annual Vermilion Run and Walk is set for Thursday, July 4 in Tower, rain or shine at 8 a.m. There is a 5K run/walk, a 10K run, and a free Kids 1-mile fun run.

The race starts on Main St. at the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center lawn (registration will be inside the building in case of rain). Registrations accepted race day between 6:30-7:45 a.m. sharp! 10K or 5K- \$15 per person in advance- \$20 on race day. Kids 12 and are under free with paid adult. 5K family rate is \$40. The kids fun run is free and is run on course around the football field. T-shirts can be pre-ordered (to be sure we have your size), or a limited number will be available on race day. Previous year's race shirts will be available starting at \$5 each.

The race routes are the same as last year. The 10K route runs east on North Second St. to Soudan, where runners turn onto the paved trail that goes to McKinley Park, then around the "horn", then onto the paved trail at Hoodoo Point and back to Tower. The finish line is on North Second by the old football field. The 5K is an out-and-back to Hoodoo Point. Prizes for the top three runners, male and female, for both races.

Preregister by emailing Jodi Summit at [jsummit@vermilioncountry.org](mailto:jsummit@vermilioncountry.org) or stop by the *Timberjay* office in Tower. For more information, contact Jodi Summit at 218-753-2950 (leave a message).

Volunteers are needed to help with registration, help with the fun run, and to help direct runners. Volunteers are needed between 7 – 9 a.m., so there will still be plenty of time to go get some pancakes at the civic center before the parade!

The race is a fundraiser for the Vermilion Country School, a grades 7-12 public charter school located in Tower. The race is sponsored by the Friends of Vermilion Country School and the Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Area Events Board.

**COOK**

**Timber Days festival offers fun for whole family June 7-9**

COOK- If you love traditions, you won't want to miss this year's Timber Days festival in Cook beginning Friday, June 7 and running through Sunday, June 9. All the favorites that folks have come to love about Timber Days are back again this year, from the fireworks of Elvis impersonator Sean Wallin to fireworks in the sky, and everything else.

However, people will find something new this year, too, as Cook's Country Connection will be bringing in some of their friendly animals for a petting zoo on Saturday in the B.I.C. Realty parking lot. It's part of a kiddie adventure trifecta when combined with pony rides and the nearby popular kids' games at TG's Creative Collections on 2nd Ave. SW.

If you want to get started on the fun early this year, the Cook Public Library is open at 9 a.m. Friday for the Friends of the Library Book Sale, with vendors opening to the public at noon. Organizers say they've recruited a star-studded list of business owners willing to take a plunge for the cause when the dunk tank opens at 1 p.m. The firefighter's challenge, bean bag tournament (Friday only this year), and a pair of musical options will round out the downtown festivities, but the fun's not over until you head out to the Cook Community Center to cheer on the participants in the Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners 5K Run and Walk at 7 p.m. Call 218-742-2369 for information on how to register for this fundraising event, and call early to guarantee getting a t-shirt and swag bag. Race day registration



Tractor races and famous faces have been highlights of past Timber Days celebrations. Come to Cook June 7 - 9 to see what's in store this year.



will be available.

Prep your engines for high-octane fun on Saturday, which includes the Classic Car Show from noon to 4 p.m. Anyone wishing to show off their wheels should show up on the north end of River St. at 10:30 a.m. for registration. There will be cash awards and prize drawings for registered drivers.

Get your body fueled up for the day with a hearty breakfast at the Firemen's Pancake Breakfast at the Cook Fire Department Hall from 8-11 a.m.

There will be magic in the air downtown and a magic show in the park at noon, following the pet show at 11 a.m. (registration at 10:30). In the afternoon get your BINGO on with the North Woods Travelers at the community center at 1 p.m., and get your groove on with the Beefeater Brothers at the Old Muni beginning at 2 p.m. Be back in the park for the Elvis extravaganza at 6 p.m., and party into the night with live music at the Old Muni and Cook VFW and another fireworks spectacular at the Doug Johnson Park at 10:15 p.m.

**LEARNING TO AGREE**

**Ely Braver Angels invites public to find common ground on June 11**

ELY - Has someone on your block set up a lawn sign that pissed you off? Did a family member make a comment about the recent Trump conviction that made you want to walk out of the room and slam the door? Are you concerned that if your side loses the next election, our country will be in real trouble? These are tense times and likely to get moreso as Election 2024 approaches no matter who wins.

The Ely Braver An-

gels Alliance is seeking ways to help us all get through the next six months and years to come without hate, fear, and labeling one another as "evil." Since December 2023, conservatives and liberals have come together every few weeks to get to know one another as neighbors, to understand our differences, and to listen to viewpoints that might differ from our own.

We'd like more people on each side, as well

as those not taking a side, to join us. The next gathering is June 11 at the Ely Senior Center at 6:30 p.m. We'll watch a 50-minute video that highlights the origins of the national Braver Angels organization following the 2016 election. So please come if you're curious about how some people are cultivating hope that we can develop a culture of civil discourse, respect, and solution-seeking. We Americans and Elyites have more in common

than the partisanship around hot topics lets us believe. Let's get better at listening and understanding one another even though we disagree.

Get updates, view recordings of past gatherings, sign up for our newsletter and meeting notices, and ask questions or make comments at our Facebook page or send an email to [ElyBraverAngels@gmail.com](mailto:ElyBraverAngels@gmail.com).

**Poetry reading in Ely on June 12**

ELY- On Wednesday, June 12, at 5:30 p.m., the American Association of University Women (AAUW) in partnership with Northern Lakes Arts Association (NLAA) and the Ely Folk School will sponsor a poetry reading by Elizabeth Gade, where she will introduce her new book titled "Shame Wrangler." Elizabeth Gade is a rural Minnesota-based poet, human trafficking survivor and advocate.

Writing is her radical way to connect with fellow survivors. This is Gade's second book of poetry focused on issues faced by victims of human trafficking. Gade is the creator and host of Survived to Write, a survivor led writing circle for human trafficking survivors. She also created LEO Literary Journal, an online journal dedicated to women writers affected by incarceration, addiction and/or domestic violence. [www.LeoLiteraryJournal.Weebly.com](http://www.LeoLiteraryJournal.Weebly.com)

Noted local poets Dy-Anne Korda, Becca Manlove and Vince O'Connor will also participate in the event with readings from their own work.

AAUW Ely Branch is sponsoring this event as part of a project to raise awareness of the human trafficking issue and its impact on our community.

Please join us for this important event at the Ely Folk School. Light refreshments will be served.

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AAUW Ely, Northern Lakes Arts Association, & Ely Folk School present:  
**Shame Wrangler by Elizabeth Gade Book Release and Signing**  
June 12, 5:30 pm Ely Folk School

Join Elizabeth on release day for a reading from the new book. "Shame Wrangler" will be available for sale at the event. After Elizabeth's reading, several local poets will share their work. Light refreshments provided.

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VERMILION COUNTRY SCHOOL

# Moving on and up to the world of adults

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- It was a full house at Vermilion Country School as 13 graduates received their diplomas in front of family and friends. There was a bit of last minute scrambling as school staff rounded up enough chairs for the overflow crowd.

School director Sam O'Brien thanked all the people who had supported these graduates on their journey through childhood and high school.

And two of the many adults who provided support for students during the school year took a turn talking to the graduates before they received their diplomas.

Matt Nelson, the school's Check and Connect advisor, talked about how fun it was to watch how much the students had grown over the school year.

"You've made it this far," he said, "but this is only the first step." He reminded the students that they will make mistakes along the road to adulthood and told them to remember to "learn as you go."

Lindsey Hagen, the school's ADAPT counselor, talked about the transition from student to adult.

"You will encounter setbacks," she said, "but also great success and adventures."

She urged students to allow themselves to recognize change and opportunities, and to practice the art of gratitude, stopping to recognize the joy and beauty in everyday moments.



"Gratitude allows you to change your attitude," she said. She also reminded them there are no handbooks to becoming an adult.

"We are all making it up as we go," she said. "Be brave, be excited, be kind, and be true to yourselves."

Senior Hannah Johnson, who was chosen as the recipient of the school's EMPOWER scholarship of \$1,000, thanked all the parents and teachers who had nurtured her and her classmates' dreams. She likened the path ahead to lessons she had learned from her horses. If you fall off, she said, you have to get right back on.

After the ceremony, graduates and their families visited over cake and refreshments, viewing photos of the seniors, and looking at projects they had completed over the school year.

Graduates this year are: Brody Anderson, Nathan Brunner, Samuel Favet, Ryan Fenske, Asher Folz, Hannah Johnson, Elliott Koschak, Jacob Lee, Ella Nappa, Jace Olson, Isaiah Pederson, Ailie Petrzilka, and Brandon (Jay) Strange.

**Above: VCS Class of 2024. Right: Elliot Koschak gets a hug from his younger sister Nora.** photos by J. Summit



NORTHERN LAKES ARTS ASSOCIATION

## Shakespeare play coming to Ely this winter

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- Shakespeare is coming to Ely this winter. The Northern Lakes Arts Association received a grant on Monday to stage its proposed Great Nordic Shakespeare Festival. The grant is part of the \$1.17 million initiative by Arts Midwest for its prestigious Shakespeare in American Communities Program.

NLAA is one of just 40 theater companies nationally to win one of this year's grants. It is only one of three in the Midwest and the only



**THE GREAT NORDIC SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL 2025**  
THE COOLEST SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL IN AMERICA

recipient from Minnesota.

"For those who've been wishing for more theater in the winter, this Shakespeare is for you," NLAA Executive Director Ian Lah told the *Timberjay*.

The Great Nordic Shakespeare Festival will feature "an innovative new production of 'Romeo and Ju-

liet'" plus a contemporary play which is yet to be announced. The productions will cast stage professionals, which is one of the terms of the grants. The grant program anticipates that recipients like

NLAA will take its Shakespeare productions into local schools.

Lah anticipates that NLAA will be able to incorporate local talent into the festival if it continues into a second year.

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Next class: Thurs. July 11, 12-1 at Ely Senior Center

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# OPINION

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“CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO  
LAW...ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM  
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The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

## Editorial

### Refusing responsibility

As always, Trump blames his legal troubles on everyone but himself

One might anticipate that sitting through weeks of a criminal trial, in which 20 witnesses and reams of documents pointed to your guilt on 34 felony counts, might encourage at least a few moments of self-reflection, perhaps even humility.

Instead, as has been his hallmark from his earliest days, Donald J. Trump walked from a Manhattan courtroom and did what he always does: accepted no responsibility for his actions.

In Donald Trump's world of make believe he was simply a victim, of a president and a prosecutor out to get him, of a judge determined to tip the scales of justice against him, and of 12 jurors hand-picked to find him guilty.

What Donald Trump faced, in reality, was a brief moment of accountability in a life during which he has repeatedly skirted the law and the ethical constraints that most of us learned in kindergarten. President Joe Biden had nothing to do with the case, despite Trump's lies to the contrary. Manhattan district attorney Alvin Bragg held Trump to the same standard as the more than 10,000 other business owners who had been prosecuted in New York over the past ten years after having been caught falsely reporting financial records. The judge administered the trial fairly, at least according to the throng of reporters who regularly attended the trial. And the 12 everyday Americans who made up the jury weighed the evidence and their jury instructions, came back with questions, and ultimately determined what was obvious to anyone who had followed the trial and the evidence presented at all closely— that Donald Trump had engaged in a conspiracy to cover up negative news stories about his interactions with women and caused his company to falsify business records to cover it up.

Others involved in the scheme had already faced the consequences. Trump's former fixer, Michael Cohen, spent several months in prison in part for facilitating the scheme on behalf of the Trump campaign. American Media Inc., which then published the *National Enquirer*, had to acknowledge their involvement and guilt in the conspiracy in an agreement under which publisher David Pecker agreed to testify truthfully in exchange for not facing prosecution. That testimony proved devastating to Trump's case.

Trump, despite his repeated lies to the contrary, could have taken the stand and refuted Mr. Pecker, and Mr. Cohen, and Ms.

Hicks, and the many other witnesses who testified to his involvement in the scheme. But he couldn't do so without adding a possible perjury charge to the mix.

Trump is no victim. He is a perpetrator and an abuser, utterly incapable of introspection, who has never taken responsibility for a single self-inflicted wound in his entire life. Everyone else is to blame. “I'm a very innocent man,” Trump claimed, laughably, shortly after the jury unanimously found him guilty on all counts.

Unusually, Trump did say one true thing in the aftermath of the verdict. “We don't have the same country anymore,” he stated— and how right he is on that score.

In the country most of us grew up in, a hush money payoff to a porn star, or the denigration of military Veterans as “suckers,” or the incitement of a coup to maintain one's grip on the presidency, would have been game over for anyone's political career.

A convicted felon as the presidential nominee of a major party? Not in the America we once knew.

Trump, as always, lays the blame for the devolution of America on others. Yet, it is Trump, who campaigns on nothing but grievance and resentment fueled by falsehoods who has done more to undermine faith in America than anyone in this nation's history. He has poisoned the minds of countless people in this country through his relentless lies, which are regurgitated by his sycophantic supporters, and it has changed our communities and our collective sense of self to an astonishing degree. By constantly repeating false stories about the 2020 election and wallowing in disrespect toward the basic institutions created by the Constitution, including the courts, Trump has changed America in ways many of us never would have believed possible.

Trump accuses President Biden of seeking to divide the country, but it is he who has torn families and communities apart with his vitriol and his falsehoods. Yes, for many of us, the country we live in today is unrecognizable, and Trump bears significant responsibility for that fact. But, like everything, Trump portrays himself as blameless. He's just an innocent victim.

It's difficult to imagine a man more out of touch with reality.



## Letters from Readers

### It could happen to any of us

I found myself agreeing with Donald Trump as I listened to his opening statement at his post-conviction press conference last week.

He said, “If this can happen to me, it can happen to anyone.”

I agree. We have a process in this country to deal with accusations of wrongdoing. We are all considered innocent until proven guilty. The prosecution has the burden of proof to show beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant has committed the crime. That was applied in this case.

We all come before a jury of our peers. Both the defense attorney and the prosecution have the right to reject individual jurors, some for cause and some without having to give a reason. This happened in the Trump case.

All of us are subject to the same rules in our legal system. And we all have the right to appeal. Ditto in the Trump case.

So, yes, if it can happen to Trump, it can happen to us. This trial was pretty much what we learned in high school civics class.

I'm glad the U.S. system of justice worked as it was designed.

But beware if Trump should win in November, because the entrenched financial interests behind the current hard-right conservatives who support Trump and the sycophants who have sold their integrity and their souls to him have something in store for us that will make your hair stand on end: a plan to dismantle much of what we consider our fundamental American sys-

tem of government and our civil rights, including our basic justice system.

There's a reason that Trump's press conference was a self-pity party and had no specifics whatsoever on just what he'd do if he were elected. It's because we would never vote for him if we really knew. Please do your own research and know what are the consequences when you vote. (For a primer on the road map for a Trump presidency, go to: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Project\\_Rogne](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Project_Rogne)).

Leah Rogne  
Gheen

### Words that say it all about today's GOP

To understand how much the Republican Party has changed, just consider the following words, spoken by former Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, who is currently the GOP's candidate for the U.S. Senate from Maryland. Hogan, an old-school Republican, posted on X just before the verdict was announced in the trial of Donald J. Trump, urging respect for the verdict and the legal process.

“At this dangerously divided moment in our history, all leaders—regardless of party—must not pour fuel on the fire with more toxic partisanship. We must reaffirm what has made this nation great: the rule of law.”

In the America I used to know this was the kind of statesman-like comment we could expect from any serious politician. It was measured, sensible, and respectful.

So, how did Republican leaders respond to Hogan's

comments?

“You just ended your campaign,” wrote Chris LaCivita, a top Trump campaign advisor.

Lara Trump, now the co-chair of the Republican National Committee, called Hogan's call to respect the verdict determined by 12 average Americans “ridiculous” and said the GOP Senate candidate “doesn't deserve the respect of anyone in the Republican Party at this point, and quite frankly anybody in America.”

These comments tell us all we need to know about today's Republican Party and a possible second Trump administration.

Patricia Helmberger  
Tower



### Your letters

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

We ask that letters be limited to 300 words.

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

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

## COMMENTARY

### The life of a professional meeting watcher...

An alternative job title for a journalist is professional meeting watcher. We go to all those city council, school board, township, and zoning meetings and write them up. Those of you who prefer Monday



CATIE  
CLARK

Night Football to an Ely School Board meeting can stay home and watch the game. You can read about the school district's new hypothetical contract for Zamboni machine deicer fluid, for an exciting savings of \$4,567, in the pa-

per later. I can't say that professional meeting watching is a career path every ambitious youth is keen to pursue. The investment in toothpicks alone is substantial, lest the sleepy eyelids fall too far downward during a meeting. In addition, I can guarantee that your average city council member might move to ban CPAP machines if I brought one to a meeting and needed to

use it. Alternatively, local municipal governments could generate additional revenue by subletting the back half of their meeting spaces to sleep labs. Local meetings could take place in the front half of a meeting room. Medical professionals who specialize in sleep could use the back half of the meeting room to help their patients achieve a deep and profound sleep. One of the most striking observations that this professional meeting watcher has made over the years has to do with comprehensive plans. Just the words “comprehensive

plan” are enough to cure entire rooms of meeting attendees of insomnia.

Comprehensive plans are mostly the same in every state. I have sampled the comprehensive plans of at least nine cities in three different states and my survey confirms that there will never be a comprehensive plan on the *New York Times* bestseller list. The biggest variable is whether a state requires them. Idaho requires every incorporated municipality and county to have a comprehensive plan. Minnesota requires them only in the seven-county metropolitan area around the Twin Cities. Ohio doesn't

require them at all.

Ely and Babbitt both have comprehensive plans. Putting on my professional meeting watcher hat, I will now ask everyone in those two cities who has read their comprehensive plans to please raise their hands. And now that I have counted the hands, I will note it's a good thing that my ceiling does not depend on your raised hands to hold it up.

Comprehensive plans can have uses outside of city planning. For example, questions about Ely's comprehensive plan could insert some real brain stumbers at the next Ely Trivia Night over at the

Boathouse. I can see it now: the trivia MC pulls a question out of the “local government and history” category pile.

“In what year was Ely's comprehensive plan written?”

Of course, a silence more profound than a library would reign because no one other than Casey Velcheff, Ely's deputy clerk, would know the answer. For the record, Velcheff isn't allowed to play on trivia nights because she knows all the answers. But if you need to know about anything at

See MEETING...pg. 5

## Letters from Readers

### America needs a loyal opposition

In 1973, I lived in Winnipeg, Manitoba for a year. One of my friends was Lawrie Cherniak, who was on the city council and whose father was Saul Cherniak, finance minister in the provincial government, the second most important position after Premier Ed Schreyer. I asked Lawrie why it is the case in a parliamentary system that the governing majority listens to the minority, since they have the votes and party discipline to pass any legislation they want. He said, you absolutely have to. The opposition sees things from a different perspective, and if you don't listen to them, you end up making big mistakes. In a way, the role of the "loyal opposition," as it is called, is to be a reality check. It takes two to tango is true in government as well as dance.

But what happens if you have an opposition that is not interested in reality but invents its own "bespoke reality," an ephemeral, changeable phenomenon as in the story of the King's Clothes, where a king is tricked into wearing nothing but thinking he is dressed in the finest clothing, and everybody goes along for fear of being isolated as a troublemaker? In the story, it takes a child to break the spell and bring out the truth. But who can break the spell of a political party trapped in a cycle of obedience to an authoritarian leader and his sometimes-violent cadre of true believers?

It has been a long time that America has been functioning with one and a half political parties. Agree or disagree with them, love them or hate them, but Democrats still act like a traditional political party with policy agendas and internal debate. The Republican Party has become a cult whose main focus is to "own" their enemies, and who don't even have a party platform anymore. It's very difficult to have functional government when one partner is trying to dance and the other is off in the ozone.

This is not to say that I oppose conservative political parties. I don't. I think they are absolutely essential for a functioning

government. The problem is that the U.S. no longer has a conservative party, and that is America's greatest loss.

**Fred Schumacher  
Gheen**

### Another open letter to Pete Stauber

To Pete Stauber, MY Eighth District Representative: I contacted your office numerous times before and after Jan. 6, 2021, first asking you to step to the plate and publicly support the results of the 2020 election, then after Jan. 6, pleading with you to do the right thing and denounce the attack on our capitol and Trump's role in it. None of my emails were answered.

Instead, after initially refusing to join the 147 Republican members of Congress who immediately voted to overturn the election results, you caved and signed on with 125 other Republicans in a belated attempt to do exactly that (*Texas vs Penn.*), even after 90 other lawsuits filed on behalf of Trump had already failed miserably (most of them basically laughed out of court.)

And now, true to form, after three and a half years of mostly sucking up to Trump, you pull this shameful stunt and parrot Trump's lunacy about "rigged" trials? So, my question to you is this: do you have ANY original thoughts on any of this, or are you just going to continue to shamelessly channel Trump's delusional nonsense?

Pete, I voted for you twice because I foolishly thought you were a stand-up guy. Well, that ship has sailed – I wouldn't vote for you again if you were the last candidate on earth.

**Lynn Scott  
Soudan**

### Stauber's hypocrisy is astonishing

In a May 1 congressional hearing, Rep. Pete Stauber pointed his finger at Secretary Deb Haaland, the first Indigenous person to be a U.S. cabinet secretary, and accused her of ignoring Indigenous people. The subject was the decision of the Department of the Interior, which Haaland leads, to restrict

oil drilling on environmentally sensitive federal lands on Alaska's North Slope. Stauber, doing the bidding of his oil and gas industry patrons (as of March 31, \$99,450 in contributions in 2023-2024, according to Open Secrets), claimed that Haaland "neglected to speak" to some Native Americans from Alaska who supported drilling. "It's unacceptable," he preached.

Secretary Haaland may not have met personally with North Slope Native Americans who supported drilling every time they desired. But in November 2023 some met with Haaland's deputy secretary of the interior, with the director of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, and with a representative of the White House Office of Management and Budget. Subsequent to those meetings, a department of the interior spokesperson stated "In this administration, the secretary, deputy secretary, and senior interior officials have held more than a dozen engagements with North Slope elected officials, tribal and [Native] corporation leaders—including virtual meetings, in-person meetings in D.C. and Anchorage, and during multiple visits to the North Slope. In her first visit to Alaska as interior secretary in 2022, Secretary Haaland visited Utqiagvik, where she met with North Slope Borough leadership."

Rep. Stauber flaunts his supposed concern for Native American interests, so what is his record with the many Indigenous people in the Eighth District? According to the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, when in early 2021 Stauber expressed adamant opposition to the appointment of Haaland as interior secretary, the Band invited Stauber to meet with its leadership council to discuss the appointment. Stauber declined to meet. A few years ago, a Fond du Lac spokesperson told *Forum News Services* that "In Representative Stauber's years in office, he has failed to give the courtesy of notifying the band of any proposal directly impacting the tribes. His office has failed to set up tribal consultations on a quarterly basis. Ultimately, he has failed to consult with Minnesota tribes on various matters affecting

Indian Country."

That brings us to Stauber's bill in Congress known as HR 3195, which Stauber deceptively named the "Superior National Forest Restoration Act." Mining company Antofagasta, owned mostly by the billionaire Luksic family from Chile, has been proposing to mine copper along waterways in the Superior National Forest that drain into the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. The impacts of such mining, especially water pollution, would grievously harm the Boundary Waters.

In January 2023, Interior Secretary Haaland, acting on the recommendation of the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, banned mining on federal lands upstream from the Boundary Waters for 20 years—which is the maximum period for such a ban under current law. The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe publicly supported a different bill, sponsored by Rep. Betty McCollum and others, that would make the mining ban permanent, thus removing the toxic mining threat for the long term. Ignoring the position of the Tribe, Stauber pushed his bill through the House on April 30. If it were to become law—by passing the Senate and being signed by the President—it would overturn the mining ban, reissue mining leases to Antofagasta, and prohibit any court challenge to these dangerous and destructive actions.

So that's how much Stauber cares for the interests of Indigenous people.

**Becky Rom  
Ely**

### Democracy vs. Donald Trump and his allies on the Supreme Court

My husband and I are planning a trip to Europe this fall to visit Normandy, site of the landing of Allied troops fighting against the fascist powers, led by Germany, to maintain democracy in the free world.

We will also visit Malmedy, Belgium to find the place where my father was wounded in the Battle of the Bulge when a half million Allied soldiers successfully fought a half

million German soldiers in the last big effort to defeat the German war machine. My father and the men he served with were clear in their goal of saving democracy even at the cost of their lives.

On April 25, I listened to Michael Dreeben, lawyer from the U.S. Department of Justice, arguing in the Supreme Court AGAINST granting TOTAL immunity to former President Trump for his attempts to overthrow the results of the 2020 presidential election and stay in office against the will of the voters. Grand jury members who reviewed the evidence of Trump trying to steal the 2020 election indicted him in August 2023 and lower courts have ruled decisively that Trump does NOT have immunity against these acts. Still, the Supreme Court agreed to hear this case.

But rather than focusing on the specifics of the case in front of them, the right-wing justices, Alito and Gorsuch in particular, said they were more interested in the future than the present, staying far away from Trump and his actions. As Ruth Marcus of the *Washington Post* wrote: "The conservative justices' professed concerns over the implications of their rulings for imaginary future presidents, in imaginary future proceedings, seemed more important to them than bringing Trump to justice." Trump is the first president in nearly 250 years to be charged with crimes and no previous president has made any claim of immunity.

Justice Kagan asked why there is not a clause in the Constitution regarding presidential immunity. "They didn't provide immunity to the president. And, you know – it's not so surprising – they were reacting against a monarch who claimed to be above the law. Wasn't the whole point that the president was not a monarch and the president was not supposed to be above the

law."

Justice Jackson: "If someone with those kinds of powers, the most powerful person in the world with the greatest amount of authority, could go into office knowing there would be no penalty for committing crimes, I'm trying to understand what the disincentive is from turning the oval office into, you know, the seat of criminal activity in this country."

It appears now that the conservatives on the Supreme Court have put Donald Trump above the law. Thomas Paine wrote in "Common Sense," the 1776 pamphlet that convinced British colonists in North America to start a new nation. "In America the law is king. For as in absolute governments the king is law, so in free countries the law ought to be king; and there ought to be no other."

According to the U.S. Constitution, the president swears an oath to 'faithfully execute' the responsibilities as president and to 'preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.' No person is above the law, including the president of the United States.

IT NOW RESTS ON WE THE PEOPLE TO USE THE POWER OF THE VOTE TO RESTORE THE LAW TO ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE!

Please make it a priority to ensure our democracy is not lost in the presidential election on Nov. 5. It is essential that you are registered, well informed, and vote!

Which brings me back to the purpose of the trip my husband and I are taking to honor my father's part in WWII in which he valiantly fought so that future generations could live in democracy. That's why they are called The Greatest Generation!

**Barbara Lund  
Gabler  
Lutsen**



*the*  
**TIMBERJAY**

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## MEETING...Cont. from page 4

Ely City Hall, Velcheff is your gal.

Yes, I did call up Velcheff and ask her what year Ely's comprehensive plan was published. She knew the correct answer off the top of her head.

The biggest comprehensive plan trivia question is simple: what is the primary purpose of a comprehensive plan? As someone who talks to those who attend a lot of meetings, I can say with confidence that maybe twenty-seven people in Ely can answer that question correctly.

I know the answer to this question will keep all of you awake at night. The insomniacs and trivia game fans will be up at o'dark thirty, cruising the internet in search of an answer. Fear not. I will save you the arduous task of finding and reading the

American Planning Association website on planning documents.

The answer is land use as mandated by state law. As a professional meeting watcher, I am always flooded that other professional meeting goers don't know this. A comprehensive plan can include economic development, climate resiliency, and whatever else a bureaucrat may dream of adding, but if it lacks land use planning, it's a not a comprehensive plan.

You might wonder why the word comprehensive is used. So might we all, but the answer to this riddle is buried in the 1920s and the origins of American zoning practices. The term comprehensive plan was coined by Edward Murray Bassett, the father of American zoning. For the sake of the

attendees at the next Ely Trivia Night, Bassett also coined the word "free-way."

Bassett was instrumental in shaping the American zoning system we know today. When he cooked up the first comprehensive plan in New York City, he knew he was drafting a plan that was comprehensive for land use. Zoning was in its infancy and the land use laws of the time were anything but comprehensive.

Cities did little to plan for all possible future uses at the time. A comprehensive plan that guided future growth was a radical concept in the 1920s, but

planners and city governments adopted it because it was useful. The words "land use" were not used in the title because all the planning professionals knew it was implied.

Because it may come up at the next Ely Trivia Game, Ely's most recent comprehensive plan was approved in 2016. The city's planning and zoning commission is currently reviewing it for possible revision. It's not too late to become one of the 27 people in Ely who have read the 2016 edition. It will do wonders for your insomnia.



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**FIELDS  
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Week of June 10

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

Tower City Council- 5:30 p.m. on June 10

**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.

Greenwood Town Board- 6:30 p.m. on June 11.

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



**TSHS weekly winner**  
TOWER- The winner of the Charlemagne's 52 Club \$100 cash prize for week 45 is Vicky Carlson of Tower.

**History Tidbit:**  
Mother's Day fire...continued. As dusk neared, the winds died down and clouds of an approaching cold front moved in from the west. By 9 p.m. light rain had begun to fall over much of the area, and a wind switch to the northwest all but stopped the fire's advance. Still, the fire was far from contained and crews worked through the night.

By Monday morning, after a night of rain, conditions had improved substantially, however, the fire—dubbed as the "Vermilion Complex"—was still classified as uncontained. Thirty-one dozer crews, plus over 150 firefighters from as far away as Montana and Wisconsin, worked throughout the day, constructing fire lines, protecting homes and putting out what fire remained.

Their efforts were aided on Tuesday by a second day of frequent showers and low clouds and the fire was described as contained. By Wednesday evening the fires were confirmed as controlled and the mop-up operations and a 35-mile fire line had been established. To be continued.

**Roadside cleanup**  
EMBARRASS- Community members are invited to sign up to clean up a certain road or location. Garbage bags can be picked up at the town hall. Call 218-984-2084 when bags are ready to be picked up by the maintenance department. Community cleanup should be completed by June 17. Thank you in advance for your assistance in keeping Embarrass clean.

GOOD NEIGHBORS

Fortune Bay donates to Fourth of July

TOWER- Fortune Bay's "Ticket In, Ticket Out" program, along with a \$500 donation by Fortune Bay, have added almost \$2,400 to the Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board's fundraising efforts. Event board members are all volunteers and all the funds needed to put on the Fourth of July events are raised by contributions and fundraising.

"The board appreciates the generous contribution given by Fortune Bay Resort Casino," said Jarri Ankrum at a recent check presentation. "If you would like to help support these community-wide events, a contribution, in any amount, can be sent to the

TSLVEB, PO Box 461, Tower, MN 55790." All contributions are tax deductible.

"This is an event our guests really rallied around," said Fortune Bay's Director of Public Relations Brian K. Anderson of donations guests made, coupled with \$500 from Fortune Bay as part of its Ticket in Ticket Out promotion. "It was our pleasure to help them, and we hope other businesses throughout the region do the same."

**Pictured (from left) Jeff Mattson, Jarri Ankrum, Jolene Mroszak, and Tim Tomsich.** Submitted photo



YOUTH SPORTS



Over 30 students took part in the Tower-Soudan Community Education afterschool soccer program this spring. Volunteer coaches, led by Amy Banks, with help from Ed Williams, TS principal John Jirik, and VCS school director Sam O'Brien coached the younger players this spring. photo by J. Summit

LAKE VERMILION CULTURAL CENTER

Native American Episcopal priest Enmegahbowh focus of talk

TOWER- Author Stephen Schaitberger will be speaking about his book "Stands Before His People, Enmegahbowh and the Ojibwe" at the Midsummer Festival in Tower on June 15. The talk will be at 3 p.m. in St. Mary's Hall in the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center. His book will be on sale and all proceeds will be used for Native American Ministry.



Almost 15 years ago, the Reverend Stephen Schaitberger worked for the Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota. His passion was serving the small churches, which brought him to deal with the Episcopal church in Tower. After the congregation voted to close the historic church, Steve and a few leaders in the community sought approval of the Diocese of Minnesota to give the

were campfire inspirations that formed his ministry.

Enmegahbowh was the first person of Ojibwe heritage to be ordained in the Episcopal Church. His dates are approximately 1810 to 1902. He served in this area for several years after he married a woman from the Fond du Lac Band of Ojibwe. In 1852 he settled in the Brainerd area and founded Saint Columbia Mission which was moved to White Earth Reservation in 1868 and is still an active congregation.

As fortune would have it, Fr. Steve served as priest for the Episcopal Church in Brainerd for 18 years. (Enmegahbowh served that area for about 16 years.) Thus began a 40-year research quest for anything concerning Enmegahbowh. Finally, with the

help of his friend Vern Pickering, this book was published. Its focus is not religion but rather it is a historic biography of an Ojibwe priest who left an extensive written record of his ministry in Minnesota. It is not history from the dominant society's perspective.

**Left: Reverend Stephen Schaitberger stands in front of a portrait of Native American Episcopal priest Enmegahbowh. Steve co-authored a fascinating book on a remarkable man and will be visiting Tower in June. Steve is largely responsible for attaining St. Mary's church to become the LVCC.**

COMMUNITY NOTICES

**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.

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

**Tower Ambulance receives certificate of excellence for 2023**

TOWER- For the second year in a row, the Tower Area Ambulance Service staff have received a Certificate of Clinical Excellence for the year 2023.

"The award is a credit to your organization, leadership, involvement of your medical director, and most of all the exemplary care and documentation performed by your dedicated crew members," said Dylan Ferguson, Executive Director of the Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board. "You should be proud of the care that your organization provides to the community and everyone you serve."

The emergency medical board established multiple clinical advisory performance measures

that could be used to benchmark and highlight the wonderful prehospital care that Minnesotans receive every day from our dedicated EMTs and Paramedics. The measures evaluated look specifically at the quality of patient care in cases of strokes, chest pain, trauma, and pediatrics. To qualify, the Tower Ambulance had to achieve a performance rate of 80-percent or higher in five or more individual performance measures.

**TS Class of '74 Reunion July 4-5**

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Class of 1974 will celebrate their 50th class reunion on July 4 and 5. Classmates are invited to support our float in the July 4 parade by either riding or walking along the parade route. On July 5 there will be a social hour from 5 - 6

p.m. at Tavern in the Bay, 2077 Cty. Rd. 77, with dinner at 6 p.m. and a social hour following. For more information, please visit the Facebook group "Tower Soudan Class of '74." We welcome any TSHS alumni to join us for social hour before or after dinner.

**Embarrass barrel racing set for June 15**

EMBARRASS - There will be barrel racing held at the Embarrass horse arena at Timber Hall on June 15, starting at 1 p.m. after the SLC Summer Series. Peeewe, 1st Open and Youth are PEWC sanctioned. For more information contact Lisa Gibson at 218-290-9360.

**TOWER CEMETERY ASSOCIATION**

*Please Donate:*  
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PO Box 874, Tower, MN 55790

**THANK YOU!**

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WINDOWS INTO YESTERDAY

# Holy cow: dairy in Ely



The large red dairy barn off of Laine Rd. built by Elias Rajamaki in the 1920s. submitted photo

by DAVID KESS  
Ely-Winton Historical Society Editor

Not long ago, we who live near Ely sometimes saw cows in the fields outside of town — and an occasional one in town. Nearly all the small subsistence farmers around Ely had milk cows. Local people went out to the farms to get milk. It was not found in grocery stores, at least not for some time.

According to Judy Swenson, in the 1930 census there were at least fifteen farmers in the area. A number of them were located near the north shore of Shagawa Lake, perhaps because of flatter land. Out on Highway 21 — once called the Moose Lake Road — were a few others like the Maenpaas and the Rajamakis. The large dairy barn still visible from the highway off Laine Road was built by Elias Rajamaki in the 1920s. It is in great condition.

The Knuutti family on the Van Vac Road had many cows on their farm along the Burntside River. Their dairy farm was called the Pine Grove Dairy. Arvo and William Knuutti established the Pine Grove Dairy in the early 1900s. Seeing the future, they built a modern pasteurization plant in 1937. The 36 by 75-foot dairy barn was as modern as one could imagine: concrete floors, steel stanchions, and steel and wood construction. The large barn could house up to 38 cows. Milk was pasteurized at 142 – 145 degrees, bottled, and sold to customers at the dairy farm. It was also distributed by independent milkmen such as Bill Peterson.

In 1945, Pine Grove Dairy was sold by the Knuutti brothers to Roy and Reino Wahlberg but the Wahlbergs did not buy the cows or the plant. They built the Ely Dairy on West Conan St. in town and dairy farmers brought their milk

to be pasteurized, bottled, and distributed. The Ely Dairy stood where the clinic parking lots are now located. The large and once very modern barn of the Knuuttis burned to the ground in 1950.

It was then still possible to buy raw milk directly from a few dairy farms. Pasteurization laws were introduced between 1945 and 1950, but it appears they were somewhat vague. Milk sold in stores had to be pasteurized, but the laws about individual farmers selling milk themselves were unclear. One could, in a few places, still buy raw milk directly from dairy farmers. It could not be advertised. Customers brought their own containers.

Fifty years ago, few people locked the doors on their homes at night. If they had milk delivered, the milkman simply came in the back door in the morning, went into the kitchen, and opened the refrigerator. He decided what the family needed so all was taken care of effortlessly.

We Americans still drink a lot of milk — there are cultures, of course, that do not — but we don't go to a farm to buy it, nor do we have it delivered to our homes. It is all pasteurized, and it no longer comes in glass bottles. Now, many children have little idea where their milk comes from. Few, if any, cows are to be found in the area.

An exhibit of dairy farms in the Ely area is featured in the lobby of the Vermilion Fine Arts Theater at Minnesota North College, at the eastern end of campus, directly across from the entrance door. If you have any questions or information to offer, please call the historical society at 218-365-3226. The office is open on Tuesdays through Fridays, noon until 4 p.m.

ELY GRADUATION



The 100th class of seniors to attend classes in the 100-year-old Ely Memorial High School graduated on Friday, May 31. Above: The seniors processing into Washington Auditorium for their graduation ceremony. Left: Ely's industrial technology teacher Tim Hogan gave the commencement speech. photos by C. Clark

In Brief

Tuesday Group schedule

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

Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

- June 11: Meet New Elyites.
- June 18: Thomas Gable of the Voyageur's Wolf Project.
- June 25: Lee Frelich of the University of Minnesota Center for Forest Ecology.

COMMUNITY HEALTH



Lisa Porthan, Executive Director of Ely's Northwoods Partners (right), introduces Mayo Clinic Neurology Associate Angela Lunde at the nonprofit's Healthy Aging Expo at the Grand Ely Lodge last Thursday. The annual event offered its usual array of talks on topics specific to getting older, including dementia, Medicare, long term care, caregiver care and local health services. photo by C. Clark

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2024



rain and sandfly mix  
moisture erasing drought threat

sunshine and big bites

# Elyites earn honors

MENOMONIE, Wis.- Abigail Thompson of Ely has been named to the University of Wisconsin-Stout Dean's List for the spring 2024 semester. The award is presented to students who have a grade point average of 3.5 or above. UW-Stout, a member of the Universities of Wisconsin, is Wisconsin's Polytechnic University

BEMIDJI- Melissa Schroeter, a student at Northwest Technical College from Ely, has earned Dean's List honors at Northwest Technical College for the Spring 2024 semester. To be eligible for the Dean's List, students must enroll in at least 12 credits and earn a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher for the semester

MANCHESTER, N.H.- Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) has named Cole Kellogg and Lida Dodge of Ely to Winter 2024 President's List. The winter terms run from January to May. To be placed on the President's List, full-time undergraduate students must earn a minimum grade-point average of 3.7 and with a course load of 12 credits or more.

DULUTH- The University of Minnesota Duluth has placed the following Ely students on its Dean's List for Spring Semester 2024: seniors Brodie Belanger-Perry, Dylan Fenske, and Sidney Marshall; and freshmen Jakson Hegman and Gabriel Mann. Students on the Dean's List have achieved a grade point average of 3.50 or higher while earning a minimum of 12 letter-graded credits.

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 Closed  
Phone: 218-827-3345

Support groups

- AA - Alcoholics Anonymous  
OPEN AA - 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, in-person, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St., Ely.
- AA FRIDAYS - 7 p.m. Fridays, First Presbyterian Church, 262 E. Harvey St., Ely.
- ELY WOMEN'S OPEN AA - Monday at noon at Ledgerock Church, 1515 E. Camp St., Ely.
- BABBITT AA - 7 p.m. Thursdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church.
- AL-ANON - Sundays 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely.
- BABBITT AL-ANON - Thursdays, 7 p.m., at Woodland Presbyterian.
- CO-DEPENDENTS' 12-step support group, 4:00 p.m. Tuesdays, Wellbeing Development, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 712 S. Central Ave., Ely.
- ADULT BASIC EDUCATION GED Study materials and pre-test available. Call 218-365-3359, or 1-800-662-5711.
- CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS: Babbitt: 3rd Monday of Month: 6-7:30 p.m. at Carefree Living. Ely: 4th Monday of Month: 10-11:30 a.m. at Ely-Bloomenson Hospital. Conference Room B.

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Ely Public Library

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

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. 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 participants 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- Comic Stunt Juggler Tuey 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.

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-foot canoes. No experience is necessary. Personal flotation 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.

Kawishiwi Open House

The Kawishiwi Ranger District's Interagency Open House will be held at the Minnesota North College-Vermilion Campus in Ely, MN on Thursday, June 13, from 4-6 p.m. Invited partners and agencies include the Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota North College natural resources staff, North St. Louis and Lake County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, St. Louis and Lake counties, Firewise programs, and more.

Living With Fire

ELY- Minnesota North College will host an all-day session called "Tools for Living with Fire" on Saturday, June 15. The day will include talks and interactive sessions outside at the Kawishiwi Ranger District (weather permitting). The topics include best practices for homeowners in the woods or in town for protecting your property from wildfire, fuel reduction, rewilding your backyard, creating a land stewardship plan, woody debris disposal, and preparing for wildfire emergencies. The event will serve a box lunch and give out door prizes. Cost in \$10. Event proceeds will be donated to the Ely Community Resource. Register in advance at minnesotafac.org

Dorothy Day

ELY- The Dorothy Molter Museum will hold its annual Dorothy Day Open House on Sunday, June 23, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. The museum will be open for free to all comers.

## CELEBRATING SERVICE

# Cook fire chief is chief dignitary for Timber Days

## Grand marshal Johnson has spent decades providing for the public's safety

COOK- If there's one thing the organizing committee for Cook's Annual Timber Days celebration prides itself on more than anything else, it would likely be the care and consideration they put into choosing the grand marshal for Sunday's parade. Being active in the community is a given, and this year's pick, Cook Fire Department Chief Arnie "Pete" Johnson, even has credentials to prove he's a worthy choice.

As Johnson talked with the *Timberjay* on Tuesday, he reached into his wallet and pulled out a card showing the results of his most recent physical exam, one that deemed the 85-year-old fit to continue active duty as a firefighter. Johnson doesn't go out on all calls these days – rather, he responds when they might be shorthanded for a response or if they might need his expertise.

These days the chief mainly rides herd over the approximately 20 volunteer firefighters the department has and the things they need to be prepared both operationally and financially. It's a job he's taken pride in for over 20 years as chief, and it's not one he plans to give up any time soon.

"I believe in the fire department and I've got to have something to do," he said, noting that it will be time to hang it up, "when they put me in the ground."

Arnie has been "Pete" for as long as he can remember, a name that

came from his grandfather on his father's side of the family, he said.

The Cook native was born to Laurive and Aili Johnson, one of five sons and a daughter the couple had. His mother passed when he was only 18 months old, and with Laurive working as a mechanic for the county, Johnson's relatives stepped in to help care for the kids.

"My dad didn't remarry, but he kept the family together," Johnson said. "I used to be related to half of the town. They took care of me, everybody took their turn."

Together, they shepherded Johnson through his graduation from Cook High School in 1957, and at that point Cook might have lost its future fire chief. Not having any specific career direction in mind, his search for a job took him to Alaska. He drove up for the summer with a relative who worked in Anchorage and looked for a job.

"They didn't have any work in the place I stayed," Johnson said. "I probably could have stayed up there and worked on a dairy farm, but my brother wanted me to come home."

So Johnson came back and went to work cutting trees, until some friends suggest that he apply for a job with the Duluth, Winnipeg and Pacific Railway, a subsidiary of Canadian National. That job turned into a career that lasted for about four decades.

Johnson hadn't been on the job long, however, when he had to take a leave of absence because he was drafted into the Army. He did his basic training at Fort Carson in Colorado, and advanced training at Fort Ord in California before being shipped overseas to Baumholder, Germany. He spent the bulk of his 19-month hitch there, but he did manage to take a week's leave in 1963 to take care of a little matter at home, one that involved a girl.

Johnson said he knew he wanted Linda Mann, five years his junior, to be his wife before he left for military service.

"Before I went to Colorado for basic training I went to Tower and bought a set of rings," he said. He popped the question before he left, but he said Linda wasn't really surprised, as she had a good idea what Johnson was up to.

The couple was married on Jan. 3, 1963, and Johnson said that as a result Linda became eligible to receive spousal benefits for wives of service members.

Johnson's job at the railroad was waiting for him when he returned, and not long after the fire chief at the time asked him to volunteer for the department. He did, and he also became a charter member of rescue squad. Meanwhile, Linda began a career of 50-plus years working for Farmers and Merchants State Bank of Cook, currently the First



Timber Days Grand Marshal Pete Johnson

National Bank. She also became a faithful volunteer for the Cook Hospital Auxiliary, something she continued up until the time of her passing in 2015.

When he wasn't progressing up the ladder at the railroad, eventually becoming a track inspector, or putting out fires, Johnson took some time to help out L.D. Gustafson at the Comet Theater.

"They took care of me for a while when I was a youngster," he said. "I used to run projectors and stuff for him. Because they cared for me for a while I figured I'd take care of them for a while."

Johnson and his wife

also helped out with the youth at Trinity Lutheran Church.

"Anytime they had an overnight deal or something we'd get nominated," Johnson laughed. "We didn't really get nominated, we just volunteered our services."

Johnson's career at the railroad came to an end in the early 1990s when he suffered an aneurysm.

"Their doctors said I wasn't fit, but my doctor said there was nothing wrong," Johnson said.

But the saying that you can't keep a good man down was true in Johnson's case – he moved on to work as manager of the

Cook VFW for a couple of years. There was a certain bit of justice in that, as Johnson's military service hadn't qualified him to join the VFW as a member. While he'd served overseas, he hadn't been involved in a military conflict there.

There's much about the Cook of the "old days" that Johnson says he misses, but the community today still has much to offer in the way of good small-town life. It's a life he enjoys with his son Shane close at hand, as firefighting apparently runs in the family – his son's a longtime department volunteer, too. And he has a special pair of lights in his life, his granddaughters Chloe and Katie.

And it's clear that Johnson is ready for the next call he might be needed on. It's his commitment to the department and the people of Cook and surrounding communities.

"I'll go because if nobody shows up or maybe one person shows up, we should have three" he said. "I've had that in the rules for many years. So, I'll go on and do what I can do. And the reason I got that there," he said while pointing to his physical card, "is that if somebody is in the house or whatever, I'll go in."

Johnson will be leading the parade on River St. on Sunday, the final day of the three-day Timber Days festival that begins Friday with all of the favorite events in store for participants.

## Cook-Orr Calendar

### Farmers market to open on June 15

COOK- Get ready, the members of the Cook Area Farmers Market are ready to start another season of Saturdays beginning Saturday, June 15 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. So come and partake of opening day, and make the Cook Area Farmers Market a weekend habit all summer long.

### NWFA Spring Art Expo is underway

COOK- Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook began 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. The NWFA Gallery is at 210 S River St.

#### Expo Events

►Opening day, Wednesday, June 5 – 50/50 Raffle Tickets went 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."

#### Art Classes

Saturday, June 15 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Lyn Reed will present "Block Printing". Students will learn to carve a design in a soft but firm material to create a printable design when dipped in paint and applied to paper. Materials are provided for the class.

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

Friday, June 28 from

12-2 p.m., Dr. Ellie Lar-mouth will hold "A Writers' Gathering". This is a popular free class and no registration is required. The gathering will talk about writing with an opportunity to share one another's writing and do some writing using a prompt given by Dr. Ellie.

### Library begins summer reading

COOK- Welcome to Camp Storm!

The Cook Public Library has renamed its summer reading program Camp Storm after long-time library board member and supporter Jerry Storm.

We hope the summer library program inspires people of all ages to learn, grow and continue their adventure.

#### Preschool - Elementary Kids

Stop by in June to pick up your summer reading bag with a reading log/challenge, activity book, and other fun activities for summer. Complete your reading log/challenge and bring back in August for a prize.

Stop by for reading fun and activities during

Thursday story times at 10:30 a.m.

#### Teens

The Teen Advisory Board (TAB) members are planning events, drop-in activities and reading challenges. If you would like to join the TAB, please stop by the library for more information.

#### Adults

Stop by the library to pick up a Choose Your Own Adventure Reading Challenge. Complete the challenge and return in August for a prize.

#### Special Programs and Events

►June 7 – Friends of the Library Book Sale, 9:00 am – 5 p.m.

►June 11 – Friends of the Library Annual Meeting, 5:15 p.m.

►June 24 – Tuey! Comic Stunt Juggler at 3 p.m.

►July 22 – Will Hale and the Tadpole Parade at 10:30 a.m.

►July 31 – Peregrine Falcons at 10 a.m.

►August 8 – Summer Celebration and Cook Out at 4 p.m.

### Music In The Park kicks off on June 12

COOK- It's almost

time for another summer of musical delight with Cook's Music in the Park, with the inaugural concert of the series on Wednesday, June 12 from 6-8 p.m. at the City Park Gazebo

Food and refreshments will be served by St. Paul (Alango) Lutheran Church. Concerts will move to the VFW on rainy nights.

#### June

►June 12 – Beefeater Brothers, performing everyone's favorite classic country and rock and roll hits.

►June 19 – Morningbird, eclectic trio performing popular folk and Americana favorites

►June 26 – The Divas, Vegas style variety performed by this fun and entertaining trio.

## SAYING YES TO THE FUTURE

### North Woods fills gym for graduation

FIELD TWP- North Woods School held commencement ceremonies for the Class of 2024 on Friday, May 31.

The class motto, "We'll keep one foot in the past as we take our next step into the future," was fitting for a graduating class who took multiple opportu-

nities to remember one of their own, Trayvon Boshey, who died last fall in a tragic car accident. Boshey was awarded an honorary diploma received by his relatives, and his memory was repeatedly invoked throughout the ceremony. However, the memories did not detract from the cele-

bratory atmosphere of family and friends as they sent their graduates out into the world.

**Left: LeMar Drift experiences graduate tassel hassle as she walks in.**

**Right: Jonah Burnett reacts to friends calling out from the bleachers.**

photos by D. Colburn



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## FALLS...Continued from page 1

over the powerful falls, which forms the demarcation between Crooked and Iron lakes on the Minnesota-Canada border. The falls is deep inside the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

The four individuals were fishing next to the falls on Crooked Lake at the time of the accident. One canoe began to have trouble, the other went to help, and both went over the falls. One of the other paddlers, Kyle Sellers, 47, was later airlifted to Essentia Duluth for serious but non-life-threatening injuries. The fourth paddler, Erik Grams, 43, of Ham Lake, who was in the canoe with his brother Reis, suffered multiple fractures to his pelvis but was still able to walk.

Grams, who spoke

about the incident on KFAN radio in the Twin Cities last week, said he and his brother Reis were familiar with Curtain Falls. "We'd been going to Curtain Falls for ten years," he said during his interview. "It was a place that was very dear to us. I actually proposed to my wife at Curtain Falls, so it has incredible meaning to me."

Grams said the group had been having an outstanding trip up until that point, with fantastic fishing and great weather. "We were just enjoying ourselves and having the time of our lives," he said.

On the day of the accident, the four men were fishing just upstream of the falls, when the canoe that held Haugen and Sellers tipped, and the current start-

ing pulling both men toward the massive cataract. "They were too close the falls to escape the pull from the water and the falls," Grams recalled. "The canoe went over along with Kyle first, and my brother and I were in our canoe together. We didn't hesitate for a moment to attempt to rescue our friend Jesse. We knew we were likely to go over the falls as well, but we weren't going to leave our brother there. And, so we slowly proceeded to get as close as we could to make the rescue attempt. As soon as we made contact with Jesse, the current took myself and Reis over in our canoe as well and so the three of us went over the falls together."

He said he has little memory of going over the

falls, but went over upright in their canoe. The next thing he remembered, was being ten feet underwater and swimming upward to the light. He was able to reach the surface and grab a brief breath of air before the current sucked him under again. Each time the current sucked him under he was able to get back to the surface and he eventually was able to reach the Canadian side of the riverbank. There, he found his shoes had been sucked off by the current. "That's a testament to the incredible power of this waterfall," he said. "There are no pictures that do this waterfall any justice."

He said by the time he reached shore, there was no sign of either canoe or any member of his party.

He walked downstream searching for them, and eventually heard Sellers, who had climbed out onto a small island in the middle of the rapids some distance below the falls. He said he considered swimming through the rapids to reach him, but before he did that, a rescue appeared. A man named "Tony," from Lakeville, showed up with a canoe and picked up Grams and Sellers. He had an emergency GPS device and contacted 911 dispatch to get help. Tony and his canoe partner further helped warm the two men, building a fire, giving them their sleeping bags, and then starting to search themselves for the two missing men.

The message to emergency responders prompted

what turned out to be a 16-day effort by countless individuals to first transport the injured Sellers and eventually recover the bodies of the two deceased men. Grams said he was incredibly thankful for the "incredible effort" by volunteers and the National Guard to assist in their rescue and the search for the bodies.

Grams said one of the cadaver dogs caught a scent last Friday and the searchers were able to locate Haugen's body in an eddy just downstream of the falls. As of the interview, Grams' brother Reis's body had not yet been found.

## STUDY...Continued from page 1

August, the hospital hired SafeTech to offer recommendations on "how to set up an ambulance service for success." At the time, EBCH CEO Patti Banks told the members of the Ely Area Ambulance Joint Powers Board that the study

would "look beyond Ely for that answer, potentially encompassing other area services in northern St. Louis and Lake counties."

SafeTech specializes in business solutions for rural EMS and has a national clientele. The

goal of their study was to develop scenarios for sustainable EMS services in our region. The firm interviewed and gathered data from the ambulance service in Ely, as well as Tower and Babbitt. The study results encompass

several scenarios for both local and regional EMS. The event on Thursday will summarize those scenarios.

Banks said she does not see the study as the end of the conversation on regional EMS, but rather a starting point. "We want people to

see the study results at the presentation with the hope they will then discuss them afterward," Banks told the *Timberjay*.

"The presentation is not intended to be a time for discussion about the scenarios presented," stated

Jodi Martin, the hospital's marketing and communications team leader in an email to the *Timberjay*. "Understandably, each entity will need time to discuss and process the information independently."

## BONDING...Continued from page 1

future for repayment on a \$250,000 emergency loan the city took out in 2019 to address a critical cash flow crunch from years of questionable financial management at the city. "My understanding is that the city has about \$53,000 in its tax levy to apply to those payments," said Tienter. That loan is fully retired this year so it won't be part of the city's levy calculations in the future. "One of the pieces of information that we received from Michael [Schultz] is that the council really wanted to stay below that \$53,000 mark. So, what I would imagine happening given the instruction today is you would just reduce your levy by the difference between those two debt

service payments," Tienter added.

Over the course of the next ten years, the city will pay out just over \$372,000 to retire the principal and interest on the bond according to a sale summary prepared by Tienter. He said the bond agreement provides for flexibility allowing the city to pay off the bonds early or refinancing should interest rates improve enough to justify the time and expense of doing so.

### Background on the purchase

The decision to purchase the facility began with informal discussion three years ago and was ultimately made possi-

ble by the county's decision to consolidate its public works staff into a new facility built in Kugler Township last year. An ad hoc committee of city officials had investigated the issue earlier this year and recommended that the city purchase the 31-acre site, which includes a 3.6-acre parking lot, a 4,700-sq. ft. office and maintenance garage, a 3,500-sq. ft. cold storage building, and a 10,200-sq. ft. salt dome with thousands of yards of salted gravel. The maintenance

facility includes a built-in crane and a long list of other equipment which the county plans to leave.

The purchase will allow the city to consolidate its public works equipment and operations at a single location and will provide a significant amount of equipment that city staff will be able to use. City officials say they plan to lease out all or portions of two current cold storage garages and, possibly, one heated garage located at city hall, to help cover the

cost of the acquisition.

### Local housing trust fund

The council also gave the first reading of an ordinance establishing a local housing trust fund. The proposal, advanced by council member Joe Morin, would qualify the city to apply for state matching funds. He is proposing that TEDA make the initial contribution to the fund and determine uses for the money, which would be geared toward housing

related programs. "How we use the money does not have to be determined right away," Morin told the council. He noted that most cities that establish such trust funds are much larger than Tower, and often have millions of dollars in such funds, which they can use to match outside funding designated for housing programs or projects. Tower's program would likely be more limited in scope given the financial limitations of the small community.


### Briefly

## Area teen injured in crash

PIKE TWP- A two-car collision on Hwy. 169 near the intersection of Hill Rd. sent one area teen to the hospital. A 16-year old male, whose name was not available as of press time, was injured when he tried to turn back into the driving lane, striking an oncoming vehicle that was passing his 2003 Monte Carlo at the time.


The young man had turned into the right turn lane at Hill Rd., before

apparently deciding against a turn and veered back into the driving lane, side-swiping a Ford Focus, driven by 17-year-old Aolani Strong, of Tower. Strong was wearing a seatbelt at the time of the collision and was uninjured in the accident. The 16-year-old male, who was reportedly not wearing a seatbelt, was transported to the Virginia hospital. Road conditions were wet at the time of the accident.



<b>AURORA TRANSFER STATION</b> 5910 Hwy 135 N, Aurora	<b>HOURS</b> Mon, Thu, Fri: 8 a.m.–4 p.m. Tue, Wed: 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Sat: 8 a.m.–Noon
<b>EMBARRASS CANISTER SITE</b> 7530 Koski Rd, Embarrass	<b>HOURS</b> Thu: 10 a.m.– 5 p.m. Sat: 12:30 p.m.– 4:30 p.m.
<b>NORTHWOODS TRANSFER STATION</b> 9384 Hwy 21 N, Ely/Babbitt	<b>SUMMER HOURS</b> Mon, Thu-Sat: 8 a.m.–3 p.m. Tue: 9:30 a.m.–3 p.m. Wed: Noon–6 p.m.
<b>SOUDAN CANISTER SITE</b> 5160 Hwy 169, Soudan	<b>HOURS</b> Mon, Wed, Sat, Sun: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
<b>REGIONAL LANDFILL</b> 5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia	<b>HOURS</b> Mon-Fri: 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Sat: 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
<b>HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITY</b> 5345 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia	<b>HOURS</b> Tues and Sat: 8 a.m.–1 p.m.

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## NOTICE

### Range Cooperatives, Inc. Annual Shareholders Meeting

Notice is hereby given of the Annual Shareholders Membership Meeting of Range Cooperatives, Inc.

The meeting will be called to order at:

**6 p.m. on Monday, June 19**  
**at Range Funeral Home Fellowship Hall,**  
**911 16th St North, Virginia**

- Registration and the meal will be served from 4:30 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. in the Range Funeral Home Fellowship Hall.
- The regular business meeting will begin at 6 p.m. in the Range Funeral Home Chapel.

Regular business will be transacted at this meeting, which will include presentation of reports, election of directors, and any other business that may come up.

**Grand Prize:**  
**Napoleon Travel Q 285 Grill**  
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David Stanaway, President  
 Michael Boyd, Secretary

## BUSINESS EXPANSION

# Tower Café now offering Airbnb rooms for rent

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

**TOWER-** The McDonough family recently reached another milestone in their ongoing adventure to bring the former small “hotel,” that once operated on the second floor of the Tower Café, back to life. After months of renovations, owners Jen and Bob McDonough posted their first completed rooms on Airbnb earlier this month. Within days they had their first booking and couldn’t have been more excited.

The couple, who purchased the Tower Café about six months ago, opened up the café earlier this year, while continuing to renovate the upstairs, which includes an apartment currently used by one of their adult sons, along with several smaller rooms that will eventually be for rent.

For the McDonoughs, guests aren’t just a source of revenue—they’re an opportunity to show off all the area has to offer. The family

is busy collecting contacts and resources for guests to promote local tourism and local businesses. “When people are looking for experiences, we are so excited to be able to be a conduit,” said Jen.

Their first guest, named Tim, was from Los Angeles. “He was in the Twin Cities for a conference,” said Jen, then decided to head north before heading back to California.

Jen said the Boundary Waters had always been on Tim’s bucket list, and they sent him to an Ely outfitter, where he got equipment for a day hike, as well as some time kayaking.

“He spent time on one of our beautiful lakes and met some amazing folks,” said Jen. “Coming from a city of 10 million, he was overwhelmed by the beauty of our open spaces and parks. Tim said it was a dream



**Bob and Jen McDonough (left and middle) with Tim from Los Angeles, who was their first Airbnb customer recently. Tim came to experience the Boundary Waters and said he found the area to be amazing.** submitted photo

come true and was amazed by how wonderful our area is.”

Jen said she had warned Tim that it wasn’t a “five-star” Los Angeles type hotel room, but that

Tim said the stay exceeded his expectations. He truly enjoyed spending the weekend in such a rural area, Jen said, and couldn’t believe how little traffic there

was up here.

The upstairs of the café includes an apartment, where one of their adult sons is now living, along with three rooms, with one more room still waiting to be renovated. The family had the floors refinished, walls sheetrocked, new plumbing, and a security system installed. A professional cleaner was hired to do a deep-cleaning and will be doing the ongoing cleaning after guest stays. The rooms retain the folksy and comfortable feel they had previously.

“We are catering to outdoor enthusiasts looking for a comfortable place to stay,” Jen said. “This is not a place for partying.”

Reservations are starting to come in, Jen said, and the café rooms are already booked for Blueberry/Art Festival weekend. For info on available room dates and booking, please visit [www.towercaferooms.com](http://www.towercaferooms.com).

## LOON CAM...Continued from page 1

documented by the camera, a mink under the cover of darkness attacked the adult loon on the nest at the time, dragging it underwater. The loon escaped but before it could get back to its nest, the mink attempted to grab one of the two eggs. The mink was unsuccessful at the time and eventually abandoned the effort when the loon surfaced again near the edge of the nest. The encounter can be viewed on the lake association’s Facebook page in a short video excerpt posted there. If the mink attack wasn’t enough, the area received two to four inches of rain a few days later, which pushed water levels significantly higher on rivers and lakes around the region. As the lake level rose, the loons added material to their nest and repositioned their eggs in an effort to avoid the rising water, which could flood the nest.

At some point, one of the loon eggs was lost, although it’s unclear how that happened. The camera lost its internet connection when its ethernet cable was



severed by something (they suspect a beaver chewed through it), which had the live feed out of commission for a week. By the time the camera crew had the feed re-established, the egg had gone missing.

Now, the focus remains on the successful hatching of the one remaining egg, which could come as early as this weekend, based on the average incubation period for loons of 25-29 days.

Sederstrom is hopeful the camera will be working again by the time the egg hatches. Thunderstorms Tuesday night knocked the

camera out of commission again, but volunteers were back on the scene making repairs as the *Timberjay* went to press. The inch of rain that fell overnight posed additional challenges as the water level was on the rise again, forcing the loons to adjust their nest to save their egg.

Unlike many other birds, which are hatched featherless and blind, the hoped-for hatching of the loon’s egg will quickly bring a halt to the action at the nest. Young loons are precocious from the start and will typically remain in the nest only a day or two

after hatching. They can dive and swim underwater at just 2-3 days of age and are able to fly in 10-11 weeks on average. That assumes they can avoid a wide range of other predators out there in the wild.

### Upgrades this year

This year’s set-up is not only at a new location, it also includes a new camera and a parabolic dish around the microphone that gathers the sound around the nest much better and helps to filter out some of the extraneous noise, such as supposedly private conversations on boats or nearby docks that used to be picked up by the sensitive instrument. “The sound is really amazing now,” according to Sederstrom.

Sederstrom said the new camera has remote focusing and zoom which allows him to change the image scale right from his home computer. The new camera, which went from a five megapixel resolution to two megapixel offers somewhat lower resolution but has cleared up some of the problems they used to

have with freeze-ups due to insufficient internet capacity. He said most cameras serving a live feed require a minimum of a ten-meg upload speed. “We’ve been limping along at four or five,” he said.

But that hasn’t seemed to dampen enthusiasm for the feed. While they don’t know how many people are viewing the live feed at any one time, Sederstrom notes that some of the video segments they’ve recently posted have already had over 3,500 views. “We all dreamed that it would be really cool and important for a lot of people,” said Sederstrom. “There’s only a handful of these loon cams around the country.”

### A coordinated effort

The nest cam is the culmination of work by a number of individuals working on behalf of the Vermilion Lake Association and it can be viewed on the organization’s website at [www.vermillionlakeassociation.org](http://www.vermillionlakeassociation.org). That includes Sederstrom, now retired, who has an extensive background in

broadcast news, first as a reporter and later as a producer, working for stations all over the Midwest. His son Chris, who has a background in online video production, has helped with the website and posting segments of video to YouTube.

“But I think Bill Michaelson has put in the most effort,” said Sederstrom. That includes actually constructing the device that sits in the water and holds the camera in place as well as making adjustments and hooking up cables that connect the camera to a nearby router at an undisclosed location.

Michaelson’s wife Pat serves on the lake association’s board and has advocated on behalf of establishing the nest cam for the past few years.

Sederstrom also gives credit to Access Broadband, in Virginia, which has supplied the internet and other technical help with the project. “All of us are volunteering our efforts,” said Sederstrom. “It’s definitely a labor of love.”



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CHILD CARE CHALLENGES

# Center closing accentuates child care gap

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- Last week's closure of Little Beginnings Preschool in Cook leaves a big hole in the community when it comes to child care options for families with children, at a time when the childcare industry in Minnesota is in crisis.

According to state licensing records, Little Beginnings had 24 total slots available, divided among toddlers, preschoolers, and school-aged children.

The closure cut the number of licensed child care slots in Cook nearly in half as the remaining two licensed group family day care providers, Jill Vito and Lora Klancher, are allowed a total of 26 children between them, from infants through school-aged children.

And while child care availability is definitely on the radar for working families with young children, it hasn't been a major focus until now for city leaders looking into ways to make Cook a more attractive destination for young families. The *Timberjay* talked briefly with Cook City Council members Liz Storm and Liza Root after last week's council meeting for reactions to the closure of Little Beginnings and the child care situation.

"For one thing, we don't know how many children are affected or how many families by her closing, and is there somebody else who's going to open up?" Storm said. "That's a big question. This has been very, very important to people who live in the city. This is not a subject that we have currently thought about. That is something we will consider."

"Little Beginnings was very influential and we're so thankful they were there for so long," Root said. "It's a really good question, could we continue to support a business like that - we would love to. I think we'll find more information out when we receive our needs assessment in terms of housing and families, but I'd be curious to learn how many families are affected by her closing, families in Cook in particular."

Root indicated she would be open to looking into grant opportunities to support additional child care opportunities in the city.

Limited preschool and after-school care opportunities are also available at North Woods School, although exact numbers of slots were not available through the Parent Aware childcare locator service as school-based programs are not licensed by the state.

**Barriers to overcome**

For Cook and other small communities to increase the availability of childcare options, they will have to confront a child care landscape that according to 81 percent of providers in a recent survey is in crisis. From 2011 to 2023, the number of family child care providers, the most prevalent type of care in Greater Minnesota, dropped from 10,778 to 6,291. Meanwhile, the number of child care centers increased during that time period from 961 to 1,817, but that was not enough to offset the loss of licensed child care slots in family day cares. Programs are closing at twice the rate new ones are opening as tuition and expense costs continue to rise, according to state data analyzed by the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis.

Recognizing the severe shortage of licensed care and the costs associated with it, the Minnesota Legislature in 2023 took advantage of the state's \$17 billion surplus to designate around \$300 million in new spending to support early childhood programs and families through a variety of mechanisms, including wage supports and scholarships. DFL legislators sought to add \$500 million more to the pot in 2024 but did not gain enough support

to pass the measure.

Family and group family day cares have traditionally offered the lowest barriers to entry for potential new providers, with minimal training requirements and less regulation, but that appears to be a growing challenge in Minnesota, as the Department of Human Services in April issued a 94-page document detailing revisions to family day care licensing requirements. Cyndi Cunningham, a longtime provider in St. Paul, told FOX 9 news in April that the revisions could cost thousands of dollars to implement, a cost that would have to be passed on to parents.

"They cut and pasted (child care) center law and put it in for us," Cunningham said. "We are not centers." The proposed regulations include everything from the type of cleaning products providers can use, to the number toys each child must have, to requiring covering or soil testing if kids play outside near dirt.

The new regulations

are part of a modernization project begun in 2021 that is intended to improve the overall quality of care while making the licensing and regulatory process less burdensome and time-consuming for providers. Some Minnesota family child care providers have reported that it took over two years for them to get licensed under the current system.

Limited financial compensation has been cited as a key reason for the decline in family child care providers. In 2011, a third of providers reported incomes below the state median income, while in 2023 that rose to half of all providers.

And according to numerous sources, the costs for making necessary modifications to one's home and equipping a family child care can run between \$10,000 and \$50,000. That's still well below the investment needed for a child care center, which is estimated to cost at least \$95,000 for a renovated building up to \$3 million or more for a

newly-constructed facility.

Low profit margins coupled with long hours, typically 50 hours a week caring for children and additional hours doing planning, paperwork, and shopping, create stressful working conditions. Additionally, since the COVID pandemic, providers have reported an increase in the stress levels and inappropriate behavior exhibited by the children they care for, without adequate community supports to cope.

Still, as Little Beginnings owner Nancy Reing pointed out, for most who go into the field of child care, their primary motivation is a love of young children.

But with the increasing challenges, it has become more difficult to find providers like Reing, more difficult to recruit new providers to the field, and more difficult for parents in Greater Minnesota to find the care they need, let alone the kind of care they would prefer.

CITY OF ELY

## Ore car to be added at Pioneer Mine

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- The Pioneer Mine at the Ely Arts and Heritage Center is getting an ore car. Canadian Pacific is donating an ore jennie to the city-owned museum, which museum volunteer Seraphine Rolando promises to fill with iron ore.

The Ely City Council approved the donation at their regular meeting on Tuesday and gave the green light as well for work needed to prep a spot for the ore car next to the Pioneer Mine shaft house. North Shore Track Services, a local "maintenance of way railway contractor," will build a short portion of railroad track at the shaft house that can support the weight of the car.

"We want to get the car here before July," Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski told the city council, in the hope that it will be installed prior to the beginning of the Ely Memorial High School All-Class Reunion and 100-year anniversary of the building of the high school.

**Depot zoning**

The city council approved an ordinance to change the zoning of the old railroad depot property from industrial (M) to commercial (C1). This is another small step in the complicated process to redevelop the property,

last used for an outfitting business.

The vote to change the zoning was preceded by a public hearing before the regular city council meeting. The four-minute hearing elicited one public comment by Ely resident Joe Pioreschi, who remarked, "I think it's a great idea."

In other matters, the city council:

► Voted to make a presentation on the future of EMS a special meeting of the city council. The presentation will be held at the Ely Senior Center on Thursday, June 13, at 4 p.m., and is open to the public.

► Heard the report from the Ely Board of Adjustment that it has approved a variance for the Frisky Otter restaurant at 302 E. Sheridan St. The Frisky Otter requested to install an additional free-standing sign.

The board of adjustment also approved a variance requested by Daniel Krings at 718 Lakeview Ave. N., to use a 20-foot front yard setback for a proposed residence remodel, instead of the required 35 for the Shagawa Lake Shoreland Overlay District.

► Heard that the Planning and Zoning Commission will meet on June 12 at 5:30 p.m., because June 19 is a holiday.

► Approved the atten-

dance of any interested Ely Utilities Commission members at the annual Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association meeting in Fargo in August.

► Accepted the resignation of Aspen Eck from the Ely Tree Board and Park and Recreation Board, and to advertise the open positions.

## ELY TRACK CLUB'S

### 4 on the 4TH

#### Thursday, July 4, 2024

**Miners Lake / Trezona Trailhead**  
**4-Mile Run or Walk**

- Online registration is available at [RunSignUp.com](https://RunSignUp.com)
- Registration forms are available at the [Ely Public Library](#)
- Cost is \$30 through 6/30 and \$40 on race day

Questions, please email: [jkdunn355@gmail.com](mailto:jkdunn355@gmail.com)

Parking & registration in the corner parking lot at Central Ave. & Miners Dr.

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**Run starts at 8 AM**

**Walk starts at 8:05 AM**

**Kid's 1-Mile Race (12 and under) 8 AM**

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## June 12, 2024


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- Recognize how **unconscious B.A.P.S.** influences communication, decision-making, management styles, and leadership approaches in life and the workplace.
- Manage diversity-related disagreements and conflicts utilizing the **N.E.W. Method**
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- Improve workplace civility, inclusion & respect utilizing the **S.T.O.P. Model**
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- Rebuild broken trust due to diversity conflicts using the **4 S's Trust Solution**
- Communicate across cultural differences using the **Golden & Platinum Rule**





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Dr. Jermaine holds a BA and an MA in Speech Communications, and a Doctorate in Organizational Leadership. As a Hall of Fame Speaker, Dr. Jermaine helps leaders and teams increase employee engagement, morale, and motivation utilizing his popular 3 C's Framework: Communication, Cooperation & Collaboration. Dr. Jermaine is an international speaker, leadership coach, and communication strategist that engages audiences with his unique style of speaking and facilitating known as - EDUTAINMENT - a fun combination of education and entertainment.

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“THE WAR BELOW”

# Book on green energy features mining issues in Ely

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- Reuters correspondent Ernest Scheyder spoke at Ely’s Tuesday Group about his recent book, “The War Below,” which features several of Ely’s more prominent personalities and organizations, including Becky Rom, Seraphine Rolando, Bill Erzar, and the company Twin Metals.

The book confronts the ongoing disparity between our need for minerals to advance the green energy transition, as Scheyder terms it, and our disjointed efforts to develop those resources in the U.S.

“The book really is an exploration of this idea of choice,” Scheyder explained. “What are the choices that we’re willing to make if we want a (green) energy transition? Are there some places we can mine? If we do mine, what are the standards under which we would allow mining?”

The choices Scheyder outlines are familiar to the residents on the Iron Range. We need a lot more nickel and copper than the world is currently mining to build all the wind turbines, solar farms, and electric vehicles to transition away from fossil fuels. They problem is that many of the mineral deposits that can supply those metals are in sen-



sitive locations, like next to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and its pristine, water-rich ecosystem. Scheyder’s account of an Arizona mayor wanting a mine for the economic boost it would give her town and the Indigenous activists trying to preserve a mountain top is a disturbingly close parallel to Ely.

Scheyder said the conflict, which he presents in a balanced manner, was a major impetus for his book. “We’re not really having those discussions right now. I did not see them here today, so I really want the book to be part of this broader discussion, to help people understand the complexities of these spaces and how it’s not as simple as we might just assume.” He

told the crowd in Ely that his aim in writing the book was to outline the framework of a complex policy problem that the country needs to tackle better than the piecemeal approach taken for the last half century.

Scheyder emphasized how poorly the U.S. is positioned in terms of its own supply of the mineral resources needed for the energy transition. He used face masks during the COVID-19 pandemic as an analogy for the metals we don’t produce despite the demands of the domestic market.

“We all discovered that masks weren’t made in the United States,” Scheyder explained. “People were shocked to learn that this most basic and essential piece of medical equipment was not made in our own country, even though it had been for a long time. This is just one example that globalization has affected our everyday lives. So, when we think about green energy transition, we think you sort of extrapolate that on a much broader scale.”

## “The War Below”

Scheyder took care to capture and convey the perspectives of the people he interviewed. He asked insightful questions that didn’t allow them to avoid confronting the difficulties presented by different political stances, and he presented their views in ways easily recognizable to those familiar with the ongoing debate in the area. Scheyder captured the enthusiasm of the two most frequent volunteers at Ely’s Pioneer Mine, Seraphine Rolando and Bill Erzar so well that reading about them felt like taking the mine tour itself.

Scheyder frontloaded “The War Below” with the numbers first, so the reader has a grasp of the depth and complexity of the green energy transition and the dilemmas it presents. His presentation covers the global picture while concentrating on how that affects multiple communities in the U.S. like Ely. He is relentless with his message: we can’t achieve a green energy, carbon-neutral future without a huge supply of copper, lithium, and rare earth metals, and that we can’t provide that supply without a lot of mining. At the same time, he acknowledges that mining is the poster child for the worst excesses of greed-driven and environmentally destructive business.

After equipping the reader

with the basics of the problem hiding behind green energy, Scheyder takes the reader to mining sites across the globe. In touring the multiple variations of mining vs. environment, Scheyder shines a light behind the people on both sides, the miners, manufacturers, Indigenous cultural defenders, and environmental activists, leaving the book with an undeniable human dimension that would have been missing had he written the book as a business analysis or cultural screed.

“The War Below” was published under the One Signal Publishers/Atria imprint of Simon and Schuster. The book is sold by most retail book sellers in hardcover for \$30. Signed copies are currently available at Piragis Northwoods in Ely.

## Ernest Scheyder

Ernest Scheyder is a senior correspondent with the international Reuters News, where he primarily covers the green energy transition and the minerals that are needed to achieve it.

Scheyder is originally from Maine. He is a graduate of the University of Maine and the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.

# Renegade Trail Run moved to June 29 at Redhead in Chisholm

CHISHOLM – United Way of Northeastern Minnesota’s fourth annual Renegade Trail Run will be held Saturday, June 29 at Redhead Mountain Bike Park in Chisholm. Registration is currently \$35 for adults and \$30 for students (18 and under). Registration includes a chip-timer, race shirt, snacks and refreshments – including a free beer (for those 21+) or root beer once off-course. June 13 is the last day to register at these prices and guarantee

a race shirt the day of the event. On June 14 prices increase to \$45 for adults and \$40 for students, and those who register starting June 14 may receive their race shirt in the days following the event.

“We’ve moved Renegade to a new season this year – from fall to summer – at the same great location with the same exciting options for participation all for the same worthy cause,” said UWNEMN Resource Development and Events Di-

rector Elizabeth Kelly.


The event, presented by Fairview Range, has been organized by United Way as a fundraiser for its United for Veterans program which fills gaps in local Veterans’ services. Initiatives provided through the program, which is steered by a committee of local Veterans, include crisis funding, holiday meal kit deliveries, retreats, a transitional home, Military Connections Guide, free Veterans Connections activities,

and the newly announced oral history project, Operation: Soldier Story.

Renegade is a family friendly event with wave starts for competitive

running, non-competitive running, and walking/hiking. Distance runners can elect for a “looping” race – running the 5K course as many times as they can

from 9 to 11 a.m. To register to participate in or volunteer at the United Way’s Renegade Trail Run, visit [www.unitedwaynemn.org/renegade](http://www.unitedwaynemn.org/renegade).



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**Thursday, July 4 • Tower**  
Main Street / Lake Vermilion Cultural Center

- 10K Run - 8 a.m. • 5K Run/Walk - 8:05 a.m.
- 1-Mile Kids Fun Run - 8:15 a.m.

**Pre-register Email: [jsummit@vermilioncountry.org](mailto:jsummit@vermilioncountry.org) for registration form or stop at Timberjay office.**

**Registrations accepted race day 6:30-7:45 a.m. sharp!**

**10K or 5K-\$15 per person in advance, \$20 on race day.**

**Kids 12 & under FREE with paid adult. Kids Fun-Run is FREE.**

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Race course is the same as 2023, start/end a block off Main St. by old football field.

**For more info. contact Jodi Summit at 218-753-2950 (Lv. message)**

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This event was made possible with grant funding from: Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Law Community Wildfire Defense Grant, MN DNR Firewise Community Grant Program, US Forest Service, and the SFI Community Grant. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



# SPORTS

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## SECTION 7A SECTIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

### Ely-NER golfers claim title

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

MCGREGOR- The Northeast Range-Ely girls golf team, driven by the strength of three tournament medalists, won the two-day 7A sectional tournament at the Minnesota National Golf Club in McGregor on Wednesday, May 29, cashing a ticket to the Class A state tourney.

The squad had a strong opening round on Tuesday, holding a 29-stroke lead over the only other school eligible to compete for the team championship, Pine River-Backus. Between them, NER-Ely and Pine River-Backus had 12 of the 20 players competing.

Abby Koivisto was in second

**Right: The Northeast Range-Ely girls golf team proudly displays the championship plaque they received for winning the 7A sectional tournament. Pictured are, from left, Ezra Chamberlin, Cylvia DeBeltz, Abby Koivisto, Maizy Sundblad, Carena DeBeltz, and Danica Sundblad.**

submitted photo



See GOLF..pg. 2B



## SECTION 7A BASEBALL TOURNAMENT

### Wolves lose heartbreaker in seventh

Impressive playoff run ends in 5-4 loss to Deer River

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

AURORA- The Ely Timberwolves ran out of playoff magic at the worst possible time on Tuesday, as Deer River scored three runs in their last at-bat to upend the Wolves 5-4 and bounce them out of the sectional baseball tournament.

After a pair of first-inning Ely errors allowed Deer River to go on top 1-0 in the first, the Wolves buckled down, bending but not breaking over the next three innings. Ely starter Drew Marolt chalked up a pair of strikeouts in the bottom of the second to retire the side.

The Warriors threatened in the third after leadoff hitter Drew Mann walked and then reached third when a pickoff attempt to first went awry. Marolt fielded a dribbler toward third and threw for first for an out, freezing the runner at third. The Warriors worked Marolt for another walk, but Ely catcher Ben Leeson gunned that runner down trying to steal second for the second out of the inning. Marolt caught the next batter looking on a

called third strike to get the Wolves out of the jam.

Deer River's leadoff hitter in the fourth, Kayden Gotchie, reached on a sharp infield single and then beat the throw to second on a bunt by Colton Hemphill. Marolt got the next batter to ground out, moving the

“We’ve kind of run a roller coaster all year long.

Ely Head Coach Frank Ivancich

runners to second and third with one out. The Warriors' Preston Reed went down on strikes, then Marolt got Jaxon Lind to chase a high pitch out of the strike zone for the third out of the inning as Deer Riversquandered a golden opportunity.

Deer River finally cashed in again in the fifth, with Zach Mann rapping an infiled single and advancing to second on the sacrifice bunt from Ben Storlie. Mann moved to third on a wild pitch and then scored

See WOLVES..pg. 2B

**Above: After a three-week layoff, Drew Marolt got the start for Ely and lasted into the sixth inning, giving up two runs, just one earned.**

**Below: The Wolves' Caid Chittum races past second on his way to third against Deer River on Tuesday.** photos by D. Colburn



Ely's 4x400 relay runners pose under the marquee at the State Theater in Ely before heading off to the state track meet.

photo by R. Brophy

## TRACK

### Area tracksters qualify for state

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Ely and North Woods both sent runners to the Class A state championship track and field meet after they turned in qualifying performances last week at the 7A sectional meet at UMD.

The Ely girls track team will send five runners to the state— Violet Udovich placed second in the 400 meters on last Thursday and the 4x400 meter relay of Lydia Shultz, Sarah Visser, Grace LaTourell and Udovich also placed second.

North Woods' long distance spe-

See TRACK...pg. 2B

## GIRLS GOLF

### Olson nabs fifth trip to state tourney

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook/Orr Editor

MCGREGOR- North Woods golfer Tori Olson nailed down her fifth trip to the state Class A championship tournament on Wednesday, May 29 by finishing second in the two-day 7A sectional tournament at the Minnesota National Golf Course in McGregor.

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

See TOURNEY..pg. 2B

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COMMITMENT

# Ely dedicates softball fields to Jerome Debeltz

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- The impossible happened this week in Ely. The softball league, elected officials, and city employees of Ely kept a

**Left: Jerome Debeltz and his wife Mary at the newly dedicated Jerome Debeltz Fields in Ely.**  
submitted photo

secret, some of them for almost a year. The secret was Ely's plan to dedicate its softball field complex to Jerome Debeltz, a man who has supported softball in the community for more than forty years. Part of that surprise was installing the new large sign at the softball complex that says, "Jerome Debeltz Fields," behind the back of Debeltz, who is at the fields on a daily basis

in the summer.

On Monday evening at 6 p.m., Ely dedicated its softball fields to Debeltz, just before the first softball game of the summer.

"Due to Jerome's hard work and dedication, softball has survived in Ely when it has been dwindling in many other communities across the Range," said Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold

Langowski. "He's kept softball alive in Ely."

Commenting about keeping the dedication a secret from Debeltz, Langowski added, with a grin, "Jerome didn't have an inkling."

The Jerome Debeltz Softball Fields are used for the Ely softball league, Little League and youth softball.

## WOLVES...Continued from page 1B

on a Gotchie single to right, putting the Warriors up 2-0.

Ely had baserunners in each of the first five innings and hadn't scored, but that dry streak came to an end in the top of the sixth. Deegan Richards drew a lead-off walk and moved to second when Huter Halbakken reached on an error by the Warriors' shortstop. Jack Davies stepped in as a pinch hitter and laid down a perfectly placed soft sacrifice bunt to move the runners over. Tyde Brecke came in as a pinch runner for Halbakken with two outs, and Sam Leeson drew a walk to load the bases. That set the stage for Caid Chittum, who scorched a single up the middle to plate two runs and tie the game 2-2. The Wolves took their first and only lead of the game, 4-2, when Ben Leeson stepped up and stroked a two-RBI single to left-center field.

After giving up a single to start the bottom of the sixth, pitcher Marolt handed the ball over to reliever Chittum. After a



**The Wolves brought in Caid Chittum as a reliever in the sixth inning, but the junior hurler was unable to fend off a Deer River rally for the win.**

strange double play in which the Deer River batter never left the batter's box after hitting the ball, Chittum got a strikeout to end the inning.

The Wolves had a chance to add to their lead in the top of the seventh when Elliot Levens scorched a grounder under the glove of the shortstop to put the leadoff batter aboard. Levens was erased

at second on a force, with Richards reaching base on the fielder's choice. But Richards got picked off by reliever Storlie at first for the second out of the inning, Ely got their third baserunner of the inning when Owen Marolt stroked a single to right field, and he moved to second on a passed ball. Halbakken hit a grounder to third that should have been an easy

third out at first, but the third baseman inexplicably threw to second instead, which gave Ely two on with two out. Zander Lislegard loaded the bases for the Wolves with a grounder that was bobbled by the shortstop. But Sam Leeson grounded out to end the Wolves' threat, and their inability to score would come back to haunt them in the bottom of the inning.

The Warriors quickly loaded the bases with a leadoff single and a pair of walks. Chittum retired the next batter on an automatic infield fly out, then got a huge strikeout on Gotchie. A wild pitch hit Deer River's Hemphill in the head, bringing in a run and leaving the bases loaded for Noah Lien. With two outs and needing a hit to extend the season, Lien delivered, ripping a shot to centerfield that scored the winning runs in the 5-4 Deer River win.

While Ely Head Coach Frank Ivancich praised his team's tenacious play, he also acknowledged that they'd given Deer River one too many chances.

"The first few innings we were in and out of jams, and I don't know how the heck they got out of some of those situations," Ivancich said. "But when you play enough baseball you just know that there's going to come a time when someone's just going to get a clutch base hit, and they did. We just put a couple too many guys on with

free passes and you can't do that."

Ivancich gave kudos to Marolt for his work on the mound, noting that he was returning for the first time in three weeks after having some elbow issues.

"For him to come out and compete like that, yeah, he threw really well," Ivancich said. "It was great for him to come back and he looked really good today."

And while Ivancich said the team reached its goal of making the final four in the tournament, it was clear that he'd have liked to have had at least one more game to play.

"Overall we had a good season, although obviously this wasn't the outcome we wanted," he said. "It would have been nice to play another game. We've kind of run a roller coaster all year long, and this was kind of indicative of that a little bit. You just can't give a team like that chances at this stage of the game, and we did, just one too many, and that was it for us."

## TOURNEY...Continued from page 1B

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.

But the senior North Woods ace upped her game on Wednesday, shaving six strokes off her first-day score as Koivisto faltered to a 99 and fell to fourth. Olson picked up four strokes on Johnson, but it wasn't enough to wrest the top spot away from her.

Olson's first trip to state

came as a seventh grader, and except for 2020 when the tourney was canceled due to COVID, she's been back every year since. This year's Class A state tournament will take place at Pebble Creek Golf Club in Becker on June 11-12.

### ERC Championship

For the second tournament in a row, Olson and Kelby Anderson of International Falls finished tied on top of the leader-

board 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 May 23 event.

## GOLF...Continued from page 1B

after the first day, just five strokes behind leader Kianna Johnson of Walker-Hackensack-Akeley, coming in with an 87. Maizy Sunblad was sixth with a 102, Cylvia DeBeltz was tied for seventh with a 108, and Danica Sunblad was in ninth position with a 115.

On Wednesday, the course got the best of Koivisto, who faded to a 99 but still ended in a tie for third. Maizy Sunblad shaved a stroke off her first-day score and climbed to fifth. Cylvia DeBeltz slipped to eighth with a 110, and Danica Sunblad's 116 left her in tenth place.

The state championship tourney will take place at the Pebble Creek Golf Club in Becker on June 11-12.

## TRACK...Continued from page 1B

cialist Alex Burckhardt, running for the South Ridge Panthers, also earned a trip to state with a second-place finish in the 3200 meters.

The state meet was scheduled to be held this

### ERC Championship

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

week at St. Michael-Albertville High School in St. Michael, with Class A preliminary heats held on Thursday and finals on Friday.

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## Community Presentation

# The Future of EMS

Presentation by SafeTech Solutions

**June 13, 2024**

**4:00 pm**

## The Ely Senior Center

27 South First Avenue East  
Ely, MN 55731

This presentation will:

- Identify key **observations**
- Identifying keys to ongoing **sustainability**
- Recommendations** for potential system designs
- Financial Considerations**
- Pros and Cons** of various models

*Guiding Leaders, Organizations & Communities*

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."

[ebch.org](http://ebch.org) | 328 W Conan St.  
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Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital is committed to caring for and enhancing the health and well being of the community it serves.

## Opening...

**Friday, June 14**

**4-6 PM**

at the Train Depot in Tower

Obituaries and Death Notices



**Pat M. Tammen**  
Pat Montana Tammen, 87, passed away on Monday, May 27, 2024, after years of coping with congestive heart failure. No public service is planned. Please send any memorials to your favorite environmental organization.  
Pat was born on March 22, 1937, in Missoula, Mont., to Victor Anderson and Margaret (Quirk) Anderson. The family returned to High Landing, Minn., shortly after she was born. Pat's mother died when Pat was ten and her dysfunctional father was usually absent. Her grandmother raised Pat and her sister but died when Pat was twelve. Another relative who turned out to be abusive stepped into Pat's life and Pat ended up in Gillette Children's Hospital for ten months at the age of fifteen with severely damaged hips in the days before hip transplants. The doctors repaired her to the point where she made many trips into the Boundary Waters in her adult years.  
Pat worked herself through Mayville State Teachers College and then went to Bemidji State University for her master's degree. She taught for a couple of years in Minnesota and then accepted a teaching position in Nenana, Alaska, where she married Dean Larson who was killed in a car ac-

cident five weeks after the wedding.  
Pat then accepted a teaching position in Ely, and in 1974 married Bob Tammen. During the 1980's, the Iron Range economy was in bad shape so Pat took a leave of absence and went along wherever Bob found work and taught in the local schools. She taught the children of the Mormons in Utah, miners in upper Michigan, loggers in Wisconsin, and farmers in South Dakota. Pat tried to help students understand, as we all should, that failed families do not have to produce failed children. We can all make a difference.  
Pat returned to the Ely school system and retired in 1997. In retirement, Pat enjoyed lakeshore on the South Kawishiwi River and worked tirelessly to defend her lakeshore and all of Minnesota's natural resources.  
Pat is survived by her husband, Bob; sister, Therese; nephews, Paul and Joe; great-nieces, Vanessa and Rachel; and great-nephew, Dalton.



**Raymond M. Syrjanen**  
Raymond Mathew Syrjanen, 97, of Embarrass, died on Dec. 20, 2023. A memorial service be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, June 12, 2024, at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Virginia,

preceded by visitation at 10 a.m. A luncheon will be served in the church fellowship hall immediately upon completion of the service. Pastor Zachary Klumpp will officiate the service. A private burial for family will follow at the Vermilion Lake Township Cemetery. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

**Jeanne A. Burgess**  
Jeanne Anita Burgess, 95, longtime resident of Tower, passed away peacefully at Pine View Care Center in Black River Falls, Wis., on Jan. 19, 2024. A celebration of life memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 15 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to any animal cause of your choice, or a tree can be planted in Jeanne's memory anywhere of your choice. Buswell Funeral Home of Black River Falls, Wis., is assisting the family with arrangements.



**Dwight F. McConnell**  
Dwight Franklin McConnell, 93, of Ely, passed away peacefully at the Boundary Waters Care Center on Saturday, April 22, 2024. Dwight and his family are deeply grateful for the steadfast care and endearing friendship the staff and residents of Boundary Waters Care Center gave him the past

two years. They are also grateful for the tender and immediate attention given by the hospice staff who provided comfort to Dwight and his family during his final week. A private graveside memorial service was held on Memorial Day weekend. A celebration of life for his community, friends and extended family is planned for 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 14 at Grand Ely Lodge. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.  
He is survived by his two daughters and six grandchildren, Cindy (Tom) Noble, Benjamin, Alex (Cami) and Debbie (Neil aka Rudy) Okerlund, Jesse, Phoebe (Bryan), Rachael (Ken) and Jacob; cousins, Carol (Ron), Emily, Mark, Joann and Trish; great-grandchildren, Skylar, Braylen and Sadie; and a vast community of friends.

**Mary E. Pryatel**  
Mary Elaine "Bubsy" Leustek Pryatel, 82, a lifelong resident of Ely, died at Ely Carefree Living Memory Care on Friday, May 31, 2024. A special acknowledgment and thank you goes out to the nurses and staff at Carefree Living of Ely. The staff took great care of Bubsy. She loved them and appreciated the kindness and compassion they bestowed upon her. At her request, there will be no funeral services. Arrangements are with Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.  
She is survived by her son, Joseph Pryatel of Hibbing; sisters, Geraldine Corsiatto of Bethesda, Md., and Patricia Marty of Babbitt; sister-in-law, Cissy Leustek of Ely; two grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews; cousins and friends.

**Deborah L. Minier**  
Deborah L. Minier, 64, of Ely, passed away on Tuesday, May 28, 2024, in the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital. Funeral arrangements are pending with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

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A household is defined as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Services are not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in these programs. Consumers who willfully make false statements to obtain these discounts can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from these programs.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, visit <https://www.centurylink.com/aboutus/community/community-development/lifeline.html> for additional information about applying for these programs or call 1-800-201-4099 with questions.



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<b>COOK TRANSFER STATION</b> 2134 S. Beatty Rd. Cook	<b>HOURS</b> Mon: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tues thru Sat: 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
<b>COUNTY 77 CANISTER SITE</b> 2038 County Rd. 77 Greenwood Twp	<b>SUMMER HOURS</b> Tue: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m. Thu: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Sat: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sun: Noon-6 p.m.
<b>KABETOGAMA LAKE CANISTER SITE</b> 10150 Gamma Rd	<b>SUMMER HOURS</b> Mon, Wed: 9 a.m. - Noon Sat: 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
<b>ORR CANISTER SITE</b> 4038 Hwy 53	<b>SUMMER HOURS</b> Tue: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Thu: 2 p.m.- 7 p.m. Sat: 8 a.m.-noon Sun: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
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# Outdoors

Our lives in the  
Northwoods

## RESEARCH

### Three-year deer study set in region

REGIONAL — The Department of Natural Resources is beginning a new three-year research project in northeastern Minnesota to gather additional data on deer populations.

The DNR will place cameras on public and private lands to gather additional deer density data in deer permit areas 169, 176, 177, 178, 197 and 679 in portions of Cass, Beltrami, Itasca, Hubbard and St. Louis counties.

Traditional deer population modeling relies heavily on hunter harvest data. This project will provide additional data to increase confidence in making harvest decisions in the study area. The data will also help managers better understand if deer densities differ between private and public lands, which could potentially be the basis for changing the way antlerless tags are allocated in the future.

“Working with private landowners is an important part of this project,” said lead researcher Eric Michel. “Hunting pressure and land management practices can vary greatly across land ownerships, and we hope to quantify that difference and use this new information to improve our understanding of deer populations in the forested region of the state.”

In June, DNR researchers will contact private landowners by mail in pre-selected locations to request access to their property to install an unbaited trail camera. Trail cameras will collect time-lapsed data from July to September and be removed before the start of fall hunting seasons. Cameras will be placed in different locations each year to capture data in varying locations. Camera location information derived from private properties will be considered private data.

To assist in processing the massive amounts of data collected with time-lapsed photography, the project will use machine learning and artificial intelligence programs. This technology and methodology were successfully used in prior feasibility studies conducted in 2021 and 2023. Results and final analysis of the data are expected in 2027.

## Outdoors briefly

### Take a Kid Fishing set for June 7-9

REGIONAL — During Take a Kid Fishing Weekend Friday, June 7 to Sunday, June 9, Minnesota residents can fish without licenses if they take children 15 or younger fishing.

Youth 15 and younger do not require fishing licenses at any time of the year, though they must observe all fishing seasons and other regulations. Take a Kid Fishing Weekend allows adult Minnesotans to fish without a license as long as they take a child fishing with them. For more, see the take a kid fishing webpage at [mndnr.gov/takeakidfishing](http://mndnr.gov/takeakidfishing).



## LEISURE AND RECREATION

### New resort to provide outdoor access for all

ELY — A young family is bringing a closely held dream to life on the shores of Birch Lake, where they're about to open a brand-new resort to give people of all abilities opportunities to enjoy the wilderness that they love so much.

For Sean and Jill Leary, it's the newest and biggest adventure in a wonderful life together.

Happily married for 14 years, the St. Cloud natives now live in Minneapolis, where Sean is an accomplished environmental consultant and Jill is a Spanish teacher in the public school system who will be mentoring other teachers this coming year.

The couple has two cute and vivacious young daughters, Annika and Britta, and a spunky Tamaskan dog named Freya. And in a very active family life, there's nothing better for the Learys than spending time in the great outdoors.

As a boy, Sean spent summers at a camp on the Gunflint Trail, with ready access to the wonders of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Canoeing in remote areas, even into Canada, became an immersive passion.

After high school, Sean attended St. John's University in Collegeville, and after graduating he returned home to St. Cloud for the summer, and Jill was there working as a canoe guide for Les Voyageurs, Inc., a program that provides young people with an extensive outdoor leadership program.

“My mom and her former



With his family in the background, Sean Leary pops a wheelie on the 400-foot boardwalk that leads to the island-like peninsula and the resort's accessible boat dock.

Jill and Sean Leary display the view of Birch Lake from one of their three resort cabins.

photos by D. Colburn

“You know, people with disabilities are oftentimes not out in the community because they're more isolated.”

Sean Leary

husband ran this program, and Jill was there at the property doing prep and all that stuff,” Sean said.

And when asked if his mom had any hand in getting the two together, he laughed. “She would say she had all the

hand in it. There was a little point where she was fishing around saying what do you think, Jill's pretty cute, and then she was going to Jill saying, ‘You know, I think Sean is kind of interested.’ Yes, she would love to take credit.”

Jill took the hint and asked Sean to go out with her, and the relationship quickly grew from there. But eventually, it was Sean who proposed.

“It's a funny story, because I already had bought the ring,” Sean said. “Jill was like ‘I don't think you're ever going to ask me,’ and I've got the ring right there.”

I didn't take long after that for Sean to follow through.

Kids came soon after that and life unfolded as it so

See RESORT...pg. 5B

## Wildflower Watch



This week's featured flower

### STARFLOWER

The **Starflower**, *Lysimachia borealis*, is a distinctive early June bloomer here in the North Country that can be easy to overlook. It's a small forb, growing only about six inches tall. Its small, star-shaped blooms grow singly atop a slender stem that rises from a whorl of lance shaped leaves.

The starflower grows in upland locations in moist mixed or coniferous forests, usually under at least partial shade.

They're members of the Primrose family.

## THE UNEXPECTED



A red-headed woodpecker takes a sunflower seed from a local feeder recently. These uncommon woodpeckers have been showing up in the area in recent weeks.

### A recent avian visitor brought back memories

A flashback from my youth appeared at our bird feeder the other day.

It was a red-headed woodpecker and it took me a second to register what I was seeing, since this is a bird I'd only glimpsed here in the North Country once before in 40 years.

I say it was a flashback because they were common in Bloomington, along the north bank of the Minnesota River where I grew up back in the 1970s. It was the height of the spread of Dutch elm disease and the abundance of large dead trees created a boon for most woodpeckers, but most notably red-headed woodpeckers. They used the trees for nesting and for storing their favorite foods. Few woodpeckers cache food, but the red-headed and the somewhat similar acorn woodpecker, are two that do.

Acorns make up a significant part of the red-headed woodpecker's diet as well, and the combination of dead elm and huge spreading bur oaks that dominated our suburban neighborhood back then was the ideal habitat for these spectacular birds.

Northeastern Minnesota is supposed to be outside their range, but I've noticed that we're seeing other birds moving further north this year, or arriving earlier, likely due to our unusually warm winter.

There have been multiple reports of red-headed woodpeckers showing

See WOODPECKER...pg. 5B



MARSHALL HELMBERGER



**WOODPECKER...**Continued from page 2B

up this month in our area, including both in Cook and Ely, so it certainly appears that they are moving into our region. I suspect it may not represent a permanent range adjustment. Birds are very mobile and they don't always stay within the boundaries we recognize.

The bird that showed up at our feeder fed actively all day, taking a single sunflower seed each time and flying to a nearby tree,

where it would wedge it in a crevice before pecking out the meat. He must have done this at least 50 times during the day (that I saw), which led me to think he'd be back for more the following day. But I haven't seen it since, suggesting it has moved on... so keep an eye out. It might show up at your bird feeder next!

**LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST**

from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
65 47					67 46					68 46					69 47					69 48				
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.
05/27	69	41	0.00		05/27	69	37	0.00		05/27	70	44	0.00		05/27	66	37	0.00		05/27	69	37	0.00	
05/28	69	na	0.00		05/28	70	45	0.00		05/28	67	45	0.00		05/28	63	45	0.00		05/28	68	44	0.00	
05/29	63	na	0.09		05/29	64	35	0.02		05/29	63	43	0.03		05/29	70	36	0.35		05/29	64	34	0.10	
05/30	69	na	0.00		05/30	70	36	0.00		05/30	72	44	0.00		05/30	75	45	0.00		05/30	72	36	0.00	
05/31	74	na	0.03		05/31	75	43	0.03		05/31	76	43	0.15		05/31	72	55	0.25		05/31	74	44	0.18	
06/01	72	na	0.00		06/01	72	47	0.00		06/01	72	48	0.00		06/01	72	46	0.00		06/01	71	44	0.00	
06/02	72	47	0.00		06/02	73	35	0.00		06/02	74	45	0.00		06/02	72	43	0.00		06/02	73	36	0.00	
YTD Total			10.21		YTD Total			10.50		YTD Total			9.97		YTD Total			NA		YTD Total			11.75	

**RESORT...**Continued from page 2B

often does for families. The couple's interest in the outdoors continued, however, and it was years later, after the COVID pandemic that they realized it had been a while since they'd visited near the Boundary Waters. They took another vacation to Ely, fell in love with the town and the area all over again, and after that they began working on making their dream of a resort a reality.

**The real dream**

The resort, North of North, is about to open the first of its three modern cabins in mid-June, with the other two expected to be ready by early July.

But the resort is really just a means to achieve the Learys' real dream, one that's very personal, especially for Sean.

That's because North of North has been constructed as a fully accessible, ADA-compliant facility designed for able-bodied people and those with mobility challenges like Sean, who has used a wheelchair since a truck accident after high school left him paralyzed below the waist. Getting back to the outdoors was integral to Sean's recovery process.

"I was at St. John's University in my first year and I was trying to figure out how am I going to get into it again, because I was an avid snowboarder in Montana and Colorado, really into getting out into

the backcountry," he said.

It wasn't on a snowboard, but on the world's first all-terrain hand-powered cycle, designed by Mike Augspurger, founder of One-Off Titanium, which opened a path back to the outdoors.

"That's how it started for me," Sean said. "It was off-road hand cycling, and at that time getting out with a One-Off was pretty insane. People have climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro with that bike and do amazing things with it. We got a kayak early, and we're always just getting out there, so I just didn't stop."

The real dream is to provide the differently abled with the same outdoor opportunities as everyone else, opportunities that will give them confidence at a time when they need it.

"That's what I learned when I got my bike," Sean said. "Challenging yourself makes everything easier later - you're stronger, you're more mentally prepared. People with disabilities haven't had equal access to recreational opportunities in the wilderness of the Superior National Forest and BWCA. We want to do our part to change that."

The cabins have been constructed with all the necessary clearances to accommodate a wheelchair or walker, including an ADA-compliant kitchen with lower counters, an

accessible bathroom with easily operated fixtures, reachable, easy to use light switches, and more. A sauna outside each cabin can be operated by wi-fi, allowing remote assistance if needed. And the cabins are also equipped with high-speed broadband, although guests would do well to spend their time inside looking out the large lake-facing windows to take in the gorgeous views. There's a bedroom on the ground floor, and more sleeping accommodations in the living room and a loft, accommodating eight in each cabin.

The Learys selected a relatively level plot, near the far northeastern end of the lake, that will make traveling the wide, smooth paths easy. A signature feature of the resort is a 400-foot long, eight-foot-wide boardwalk that leads to an island-like peninsula in the lake. The boardwalk will lead to a boat dock equipped with a special kayak lift, courtesy in part from a \$16,000 grant from the IRRRB to the Leary's Adaptive Wilderness Within Reach (AWWR) nonprofit. "If you can't get on the water and into a kayak, you will never know the freedom of being on water," Jill said. "We're trying to remove barriers and create an inclusive outdoor recreation environment at the edge of the BWCA,

from putting in an ADA kayak launch to working with guides who can teach people to paddle, fish, or enjoy the magic of a dogsled excursion through the BWCA."

And the key word there is "inclusive." North of North is not a resort for people with disabilities - it's a resort that is accessible for them and that is inclusive of all people who want to use it.

"This will be a quiet, restful place," Jill said. "It's a place for people to gather - 24 people could come; a whole family reunion could happen here, and everyone would be included and get to do all the things that everyone else is doing. That's exciting for us."

"We can build a community around that," Sean said. "You bring your kids here, maybe you'll see someone who's disabled out there, and that's maybe a good thing for kids to see. It's that inclusive experience. There's not enough of that in our communities. You know, people with disabilities are oftentimes not out in the community because they're more isolated."

There will be times when the resort is blocked off for use by their non-profit, consistent with its purpose to provide people with disabilities the financial means to get out and enjoy adaptive recreation, but outside of those times

anyone can book a cabin.

**Local connections**

The Learys said they've been extremely gratified with the interest and support of the Ely community as North of North. It was important to them to invest in the community, and they've hired local contractors, a local resort manager, and they've sourced their materials locally. In turn, it feels like the community is becoming invested in them.

"Our local plumbing contractor donated their shop space for us to work in, and R&R Transfer was supportive by allowing us to store our trailer on their property before we had space at the resort. Many in Ely seem to recognize that the area needs better accommodations for people with disabilities and are excited by our project" Sean said. "And we just learned, hot off the press, that we got a \$3,000 grant from Save the Boundary Waters to get kayaks for the launch. That's huge support."

To connect more fully with the area's history and culture, each cabin will have a particular name and decorative theme tied to important aspects of local life.

"The first cabin is called Kawishiwi - this is what the Native Americans would have called this land right here," Sean said. "This lake would have been more

of a river, the land of many beaver dams. It's their word for this place."

"Then you've got the Pioneer, which represents the settlement era, with European immigrants, with respect to the Pioneer Mine and significant change," he continued. The third is Steward, as in steward of the wilderness. It represents the wealth of 60 years now from the Wilderness Act, as well as the set aside for the Boundary Waters and for protection. I love that these represent the different phases of what we've gone through and how we manage it."

And in an area where there is an abundance of year-round outdoor activities, North of North will be a year-round resort.

"We have another pretty sizable grant pending for really good programming for kayaking and fishing and dogsledding and cross-country skiing and all kinds of fun stuff coming," Sean said. "We're really trying to maximize the benefit to the local community and, of course, folks with disabilities who haven't had access to those experiences."

For more information or to reserve a cabin, go to the North of North website at [www.northofnorthresort.com](http://www.northofnorthresort.com).

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  - Boats, PWCs, trailers, and gear
  - Remove all weeds, mud, and hitchhiking contaminants from axles, wheels, undercarriage, motor, prop, skis, wakeboards, ropes, and life jackets before leaving
- DRAIN**
  - Water from boat, bilge, motor, ballast tanks, and bladders. PWCs - run motor for 10 seconds to blow water out of jet drive
  - Remove drain plug and open all water draining devices
  - Trash unused bait
- DRY**
  - Everything at least five days before going to other waters
  - (Or) Decontaminate with high pressure water (120°F or warmer)

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**CLEAN DRAIN DRY INITIATIVE**

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### KABETOGAMA TOWNSHIP NOTICE

**PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER THE ADDITION OF PROPERTIES TO THE SOUTH SHORE SUBORDINATE SANITARY SEWER DISTRICT IN A PORTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF KABETOGAMA**

**NOTICE IS HEARBY GIVEN**, That the Board of Supervisors of Kabetogama Township, St. Louis County, Minnesota, will conduct a Public Hearing on the 27th day of June 2024 at the Kabetogama Township Town Hall at 7:00 P.M. to consider the addition of petitioned properties to the South Shore Subordinate Service District pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 365A, Towns; Subordinate Service Districts.

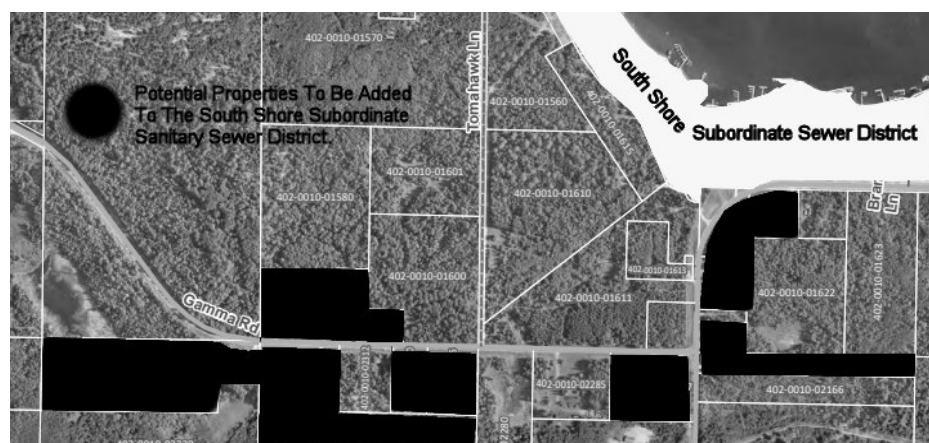
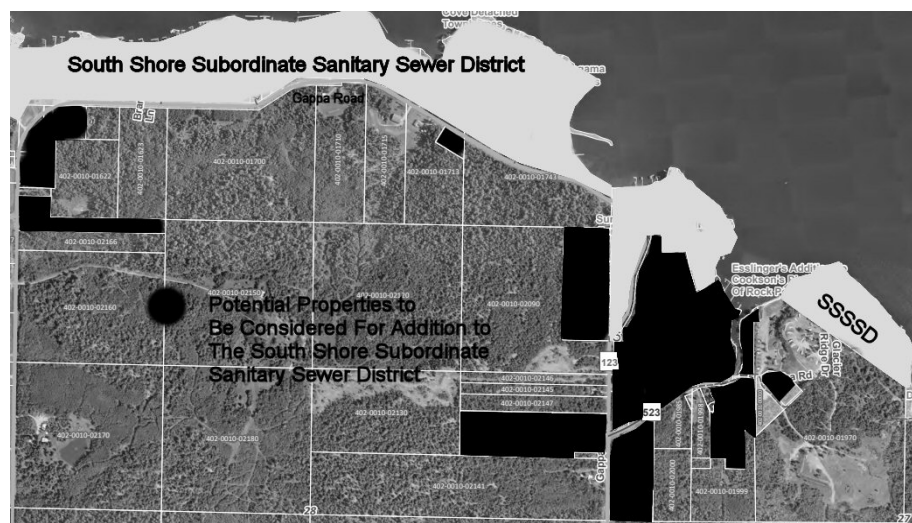
**THE ST. LOUIS COUNTY PARCELS IN KABETOGAMA TOWNSHIP** being considered for addition to the service district are herein described below: *map attached*

402-0010-00040	402-0075-00210	402-0010-02095	402-0010-01590
402-0010-00060	402-0010-01992	402-0010-01740	402-0010-01585
402-0010-01993	402-0010-01990	402-0010-01680	402-0010-01605
402-0010-01996	402-0010-01994	402-0010-01621	402-0010-01989
402-0010-01991	402-0010-01995	402-0010-01640	402-0010-01960
402-0010-01988	402-0010-02140	402-0010-01630	402-0010-01961
402-0010-01980	402-0010-02144	402-0010-01660	402-0010-01962
402-0010-01986	402-0010-02110	402-0010-01665	402-0010-01975
402-0010-01983	402-0010-02114	402-0010-02287	
402-0010-01997	402-0010-02111	402-0010-02315	
402-0010-01982	402-0010-02115	402-0010-02310	
402-0010-01999	402-0010-02116	402-0010-02290	
402-0010-02000	402-0010-02097	402-0010-02337	
402-0010-02001	402-0010-02096	402-0010-01592	

**THE SERVICE** being considered in the Subordinate Service District is herein described: Identify wastewater infrastructure needs, provide for the planning, construction, financing, and maintenance of wastewater collection and treatment systems. And to provide the accountability, and continuity for such systems for the benefit of all the property owners in the Subordinate Service District parcels described above.

Notice has been sent to all property owners who petitioned to be added to the South Shore Subordinate Service District. Such persons as desire to be heard with reference to the proposed additions to the Subordinate Service District will be heard at this hearing.

DATE: June 4, 2024: By order of the Kabetogama Township Board of Supervisors  
Mary Manninen, Clerk



Published in the Timberjay, June 7 & 14, 2024

## EMPLOYMENT

### OPENINGS



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

Vermilion Country is a project-based learning school seeking to expand our staffing. We are adding new positions! 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@vermilioncountry.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.

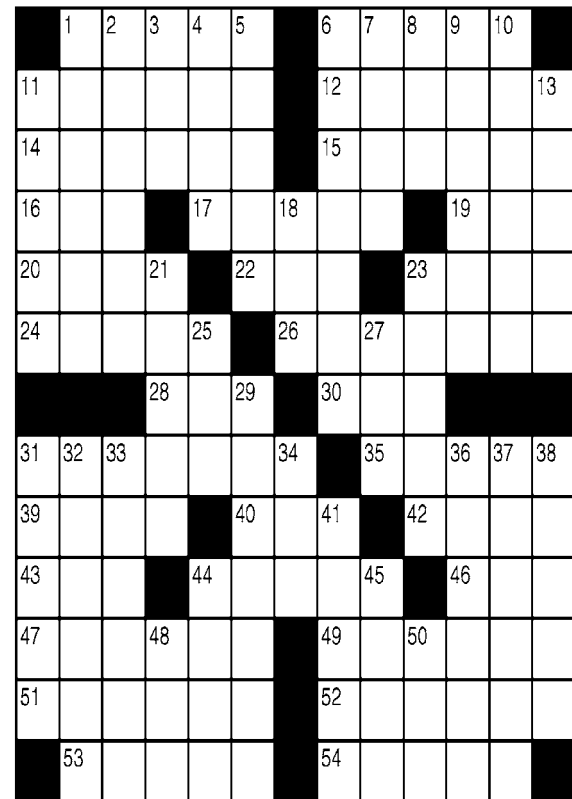
<https://vermilioncountry.org/employment>

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

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Haunting
- 6 Seizes
- 11 Cancels
- 12 More apt to seep
- 14 April 1 gags
- 15 Consult
- 16 Scrooge por-trayer Alastair
- 17 Feudal work-ers
- 19 Oahu, for one (Abbr.)
- 20 Nobel Prize subj.
- 22 San Francis-co's – Hill
- 23 Sufficient, informally
- 24 Philosopher Kierkegaard
- 26 Droning reed
- 28 Tease
- 30 USO patrons
- 31 Flood protec-tion
- 35 "Cabaret" director Bob
- 39 Tactic
- 40 Pantheon member
- 42 Future doc's exam
- 43 Gore and Green
- 44 Bamboozles
- 46 Med. plan option



- 47 " – shabby!"
- 49 Take it slow
- 51 Saunter
- 52 Andean pack animals
- 53 Rescued
- 54 Austin native
- 6 Course load?
- 7 Aussie hop-pers
- 8 Dye type
- 9 Two-piece suit
- 10 Establishes
- 11 Basilica areas
- 13 Husband of Pocahontas
- 18 Filch
- 21 Hardly hip
- 23 – salts
- 25 Pen tip
- 27 Computer image, briefly
- 29 Novelist Enid
- 31 Bridges
- 32 Doles out
- 33 Cosa –
- 34 Sticky stuff
- 36 Blueprint, e.g.
- 37 Pacific islander
- 38 Short jackets
- 41 Resided
- 44 Only
- 45 Auction
- 48 "Mazel –!"
- 50 Jazz band instrument

### DOWN

- 1 Physician Fermi
- 2 Captivate
- 3 Skedaddle
- 4 Sorts
- 5 Ruhr Valley city

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

**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

## CryptoQuote

**AXYDLBAXR**  
is **LONGFELLOW**

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

Z HFT'U RFW FR IGIN Z  
KFR QDRU, MEU Z KFR  
MIKZQJINIJ DTHI BDN UONII  
JFWR. – JFTZIQ MDDTI

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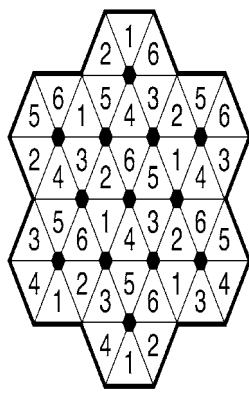
### Super Crossword

#### Answers

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

### SNOWFLAKES

solution



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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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: ♦♦**

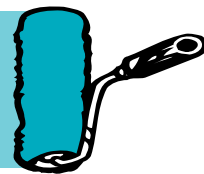
♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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