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# The **TIMBERJAY**



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989

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\$1<sup>50</sup>

**RECREATION**

## Ely named a “trail town”

Provides recognition as a destination for hikers on the North Country National Scenic Trail

by **CATIE CLARK**  
Ely Editor

ELY- The city at the end of the road is now an official “trail town” for the North Country National Scenic Trail. The Ely Northwoods Chapter of the North Country Trail Association received word on July 26 that Ely’s trail town application was approved.

The 4,800-mile long North Country National Scenic Trail

is the longest of the nation’s eleven long-distance hiking trails managed by the National Park Service. The trail runs from the Green Mountains in Vermont to Lake Sakakawea State Park in North Dakota.

Trail towns are common along the national hiking trails. A trail town designation means that a community is on the path of the trail, has the trail signage in and out of town, is ready to

provide hiker services, and has the active cooperation of the local community government. Other Minnesota communities which already have the trail town designation include Fergus Falls, Marshall, and Grand Marais.

The North Country Trail Association awards the trail town designations along the North Country National Scenic Trail. The application requires



the cooperation of the Ely City Council and the Ely Parks and Recreation Board.

“We’ve been working on this since we formed the chapter last year,” said Ozzie Reif, president of the

See...**TRAIL** pg. 11

**CITY OF COOK**

## Former HRA director faces embezzlement allegations

by **DAVID COLBURN**  
Cook/Orr Editor

COOK- Former Cook Housing and Redevelopment Authority Executive Director Reed Erickson, 68, of Side Lake, will be in St. Louis County District Court in Virginia next week for a hearing to determine if a case charging him with embezzling thousands of dollars from the agency will move forward to trial.

A complaint filed with the court in February alleges that Erickson paid himself for 515 hours of unused vacation and sick time to which he was not entitled on his final paycheck when he resigned in December 2022, totaling \$18,982.90.

According to the complaint, current CHRA Executive Director Mike Jugovich hired Edina accountants Cavanaugh and Company to audit the payments made to Erickson after finding discrepancies in the pay records. The audit, completed in October 2023, found that Erickson had only 99 hours of unused vacation time and had no accrued sick leave available, having taken 119 more hours of sick leave than what he

See...**CHARGES** pg. 11

**ASSAULT**

## Attack on gay man appears premeditated

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**  
Managing Editor

TOWER— The *Timberjay* has confirmed that at least two area teenagers face single counts of aiding and abetting second-degree assault with a deadly weapon stemming from a July 22 incident that appears to have targeted a gay man and was streamed live on the internet.

“I’ve seen the video,” said Breitung Police Chief Dan Reing. “It’s pretty horrific.”

According to a petition for delinquency provided by the St. Louis County court pertaining to two of the four young men who participated in the assault, 17-year-old K.K.J., of Biwabik, had been corresponding with an adult male on Grindr, a dating app used predominantly by gay and bisexual individuals.

Other sources have told the *Timberjay* that K.K.J. had been posing as a 24-year-old seeking to meet. According to the criminal complaint, K.K.J. arranged to meet the victim at the Cedar St. apartments in Tower, although the meet-up eventually occurred near the Tower train depot.

When the victim arrived, a total of four youths, initials K.O.M., H.E.L., and J.J.R., in addition to K.K.J.,

See...**ATTACK** pg. 9



**PRESIDENTIAL RACE**

## It’s a Harris/Walz ticket

Minnesota’s governor tapped for the Democrat’s vice presidential slot

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— The spotlight of the presidential campaign shone on Minnesota this week as Vice President Kamala Harris announced that Gov. Tim Walz would be her running mate. The selection came even as other top contenders for the vice presidential slot, such as Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro and Arizona Sen. Mark Kelly, were seen as providing bigger electoral advantages in key swing states.

But Harris, in making her announcement, cited Walz’s background and his commitment to helping middle class families do better. “He worked with Republicans to pass infrastructure investments,” said Harris in her Tuesday morning post on Instagram. “He cut taxes for working families. He

**Above: Gov. Tim Walz was in Hoyt Lake back in May to sign a bill providing funding assistance to area ambulance services.**

**Right: Gov. Tim Walz, a former school teacher, clearly relished the time he spent with Ely students during a visit to the area last year to highlight the need for better access to child care.**

file photos

passed a law to provide paid family and medical leave to Minnesota families. He made Minnesota the first state in the country to pass a law providing constitutional abortion protections after the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, and as an avid hunter, he passed a bill requiring universal background checks for gun purchases.”

See...**WALZ** pg. 9



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## Community notices



### Lake Vermilion Weiner Cruiser sets sail Aug. 17 for cancer fundraising

LAKE VERMILION- The Lake Vermilion Weiner Cruiser and Care Partners are teaming up on Saturday, Aug. 17, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. to raise funds for Iron Rangers facing cancer. Care Partners will be onboard the cruiser accepting free-will donations, stop by to support a good cause and enjoy some hot dogs.

For more information about this event, call Care Partners at 218-404-1411. To stay up to date on the Weiner Cruiser, follow the Lake Vermilion Weiner Cruiser page on Facebook.

### Motorcycle ride and raffles for ALS Aug. 17

EMBARRASS- The 9th annual Ride, Raffle 'n Roll for ALS will be held on Saturday, Aug. 17, at the Embarrass Town Hall. Stop by for a pancake breakfast, games, 50/50, and quilt and rider raffles. A motorcycle ride will also commence at the town hall at 10:30 a.m., in an approximately 110-mile loop that will take riders through Tower and Ely and end at the Britt Lounge. Registration is from 8:30-10 a.m. Proceeds benefit Never Surrender Inc., an organization dedicated to fundraising for those living with ALS.

Registration costs \$20 per person and a breakfast for purchase will be available from 8-10 a.m. To learn more about Never Surrender Inc., visit [www.NeverSurrenderInc.org](http://www.NeverSurrenderInc.org). For more information about the Ride, Raffle 'n Roll, contact Travis Erickson at 218-780-8944 or Aaron Wright at 218-780-4286.

### Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital to host Kids' Wellness Carnival on Aug. 13

ELY- Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital is excited to invite families to a free event celebrating health and wellness on Tuesday, Aug. 13, from 5-7 p.m. at the Ely Memorial playground lawn. All rising Kindergarten through 4th graders and their families are encouraged to join EBCH and various local resources for an evening of engaging games, free pizza, and fun giveaways. The event may be accessed via the playground gate near the entrance to Washington Elementary or through the Ely Ice Arena parking lot.

Once inside participants will receive a "ticket to wellness" at the entrance booth. Kids and families may begin to explore their dimensions of wellness by participating in activity stations held by community resources. The event will feature an obstacle course, hands-on crafts, sensory toys, face-painting, and more. Free Domino's pizza will be provided by EBCH. Get your ticket stamped at each station to be entered into a raffle to win one of four fabulous prizes that will be drawn at the close of the event.

EBCH is pleased to partner with Washington Elementary ISD 696, Pathways to Wellness, Ely Community Resource, Range Mental Health Center, and Northwoods Partners to bring you this event. Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital looks forward to joining all at the Kids' Wellness Carnival.

Email Madison Rohr at [mrohr@ebch.org](mailto:mrohr@ebch.org) by noon on Aug. 12 for assistive services or other accommodations to participate in this event if needed.



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## HORSEPLAY

# Cattle rustling, sorting competitions Aug. 16-18

EMBARRASS- The Danny Theel Memorial Team Penning and Ranch Sorting event is set for Friday, Aug. 16, through Sunday, Aug. 18 at the Timber Hall Event Center Arena. On Friday, team penning kicks off at 3 p.m. and goes until dusk. Saturday's team penning is from 9 a.m. to dusk. Sunday's ranch sorting competition starts at 9 a.m. and lasts until the event is complete.

Registration begins one hour before each event. Team penning registration costs \$15 per rider for each run and ranch sorting costs \$25 per rider for two runs. Buckles will be awarded to the top team in each event and payouts will be awarded to the top three teams. Onsite primitive camping and concessions will be available. Admission is free for spectators. For more information, contact Doug Mattson at 218-750-2277 or Jeff Anderson at 218-780-3449.



A scene from the team penning event during last year's competition. file photo

## CONSERVATION

# Let's Plant Trees offers free native tree seedlings for spring 2025

REGIONAL- Let's Plant Trees, a Minnesota nonprofit founded by Lutsen residents Carrie and Mike Nicklow, is excited to announce the availability of free native tree seedlings for spring 2025. Inspired by their commitment to environmental stewardship, Carrie and Mike began this initiative in 2023 by sharing free tree seedlings with residents in Cook and Lake Counties along the North Shore. The positive response led to the creation of Let's Plant Trees, aimed at making a broader range of tree seedlings accessible to homeowners and property owners for their planting projects and spreading the importance of reforestation.

"We are incredibly thankful for the community support we have received thus far. The response from everyone we have met on this journey has been overwhelming-



ly positive, and working side by side with our friends and neighbors to enhance our reforestation efforts has been incredibly rewarding," said Mike Nicklow.

Let's Plant Trees recognizes the pivotal role of tree planting in addressing pest issues such as the emerald ash borer and the spruce budworm, as well as the impacts of wildfires and climate change. Trees offer a natural climate solution by absorbing and storing carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen. With a mature tree capable of absorbing about 48 pounds of carbon dioxide annually, the impact is significant. In their mission

to promote tree planting, Let's Plant Trees also provides guidance on species selection and comprehensive planting instructions.


For the 2025 planting season, Let's Plant Trees plans to offer a dozen different species and expects to distribute 15,000 seedlings. They are expanding to four distribution points: Grand Marais, Lutsen, Two Harbors, and Virginia.

"One of the things that we're most excited about is the ability to give away a variety of tree species and to communicate the need for forest diversity to the property owners," said Carrie Nicklow, who has a background in environmental education and is a master woodland steward. "With the emerald ash borer heading north, it's important for people to plant a mix of species on their property. A diverse forest is better equipped to handle a variety of distur-

bances."


Let's Plant Trees carefully selects tree species using data from the University of Minnesota, the Department of Natural Resources, and other reputable sources. These selections are made with the expectation that the chosen species will thrive in a changing climate, characterized by warmer temperatures and less predictable precipitation.

Interested parties can learn more and pre-order their free seedlings for next year at [www.LetsPlantTrees.org](http://www.LetsPlantTrees.org). During checkout, recipients can select their preferred distribution point for picking up their seedlings. Let's Plant Trees also invites local businesses and organizations interested in tree-planting initiatives to contact them for assistance.



## Hospital Connection

### EBCH Kids' Wellness Fair



**Q: What is the EBCH Kids' Wellness Fair?**  
**A:** EBCH invites families and their child(ren) to our Kids' Wellness Fair. Madison Rohr, our EBCH Summer Healthcare Intern, has coordinated this FREE, family-friendly activity as part of her internship project at EBCH.

The Kids' Wellness Fair is geared towards Kindergarten through 4th grade children, but families and people of all ages are welcome to attend. Our evening event will feature engaging games, free pizza, and fun giveaways! Once inside, participants will receive a gift bag and a "Ticket to Wellness." Kids and families can explore various aspects of wellness by participating in activity stations championed by local community resources including Pathways to Wellness, Ely Community Resource, Range Mental Health Center, Northwoods Partners, and much more. The event will feature an obstacle course, hands-on crafts, sensory toys, face painting, and more! EBCH will provide free Domino's pizza. Get your ticket stamped at each station to be entered into a raffle to win one of our fabulous prizes drawn at the event's close.

**Q: When does this event take place?**  
**A:** The Kids' Wellness Carnival will be held on Tuesday, August 13, 2024, from 5 to 7 pm at the Ely Memorial playground lawn. This fenced-in field faces the corner of Harvey and 4th Street at 600 E Harvey Street in Ely. The Wellness Fair can be accessed via the playground gate near the entrance to Washington Elementary or through the Ely Ice Arena parking lot.

**Q: What if my family needs additional support to participate?**  
**A:** If you or your child(ren) require an assistive device, service, or other accommodation to participate in this event, please contact Madison at [mrohr@ebch.org](mailto:mrohr@ebch.org) or 218-365-8739 by Noon on August 12, 2024.

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Hospital Connection is an ongoing feature of Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital (EBCH). We are excited to share our most recent updates and information in a question-and-answer format featuring a new topic each week. We will share important information about healthcare at local, state, and national levels, along with exciting information about EBCH, our services, and how we are a partner in the communities we serve. You can also find more information about EBCH by visiting our website at [www.ebch.org](http://www.ebch.org). Like our Facebook page to keep up with current events and announcements.

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



BOIS FORTE

# Bear killing prompts protest, conversations at Nett Lake

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

NETT LAKE- The killing of a bear on the Nett Lake Reservation by a Bois Forte Department of Natural Resources officer sparked a protest and petition that has caused Bois Forte Band officials to consider how such incidents should be handled in the future.

The incident that sparked the protest happened in late June in the Palmquist neighborhood, with a brief video of the carcass of a dead bear lying in the woods that was posted to social media drawing comments of shock, sorrow, and anger, highlighting the sacredness of bears in Ojibwe culture.

Bois Forte DNR Natural Resource Programs Director Chris Holm confirmed the shooting in an interview with the *Timberjay*.

“That was an unfortunate incident – the bear had to be taken down,” Holm said. “The bear was a repeat offender in the area, I guess I’ll call it for lack of a better term. Officers had responded, multiple times and couldn’t catch the bear or chase the bear away, and the bear was getting aggressive.”

“Immediately after that happened, another bear call came in that that needed to be addressed, so the officer on duty went to deal with that other situation, and then came back and took care of the bear,” Holm said. “You have to get help when you do that to lift the animal up and remove it, so it took a little time. But it wasn’t left there purposefully.”

Activists took their concern to the internet in a Change.org petition on June 28 which has surpassed the original goal of 200 signatures with a current count of 239.

“To us, bears are not just animals. They hold deep cultural significance - they are Spiritual Guides, Protectors, and extended family in our cultural context,” the pe-



These protesters gathered on Nett Lake Rd. on July 2 to bring attention to the killing of a nuisance bear by a Bois Forte conservation officer. photo by D. Colburn

tion says. “It is unjustifiable to allow this senseless killing to continue without regards to the traditions of the tribal members who have lived in harmony with these bears for generations. It’s time for our voices, the voices of those that respect and live by the old ways, to be heard.”

The pressure on Bois Forte leaders to do something amped up on July 2 when a group of protesters gathered in the early morning hours along Nett Lake Rd. armed with signs waved at passing motorists with slogans such as “End the Murder of Our Bears” and “Save Our Bears.” The timing of the protest was designed to catch the attention of workers headed to the tribal government center in Nett Lake, as well as tribal council members who were meeting there that day.

“We’re standing out here to help our relative Makwa (the Ojibwe word for bear),” said protester William Peters. “We understand that there may be a problem up here with some of the relatives, and my understanding at this point is that they okayed the tribal DNR to kill some of these bears. They’re not

allowed to harvest these bears, they’re not allowed to go near these bears. They’re leaving the bears to rot in the community. These bears should not be left out to be rotting – there are a lot of great medicines that we’re protecting with our bear relatives, he has that bear fat and hide on him and he has other items that we use in our ceremonies.”

“These bears have been protecting us for many, many years, and so we’re here to be that voice for Makwa,” Peters continued. “We’re here to stand up and stand in solidarity and unity with each other. We would like to see the bear harvested by our relatives here on the reservation.”

### Bear incursions

Holm said reported bear incursions into residential areas around Nett Lake have increased greatly over the past decade.

“I looked back in records when we first started to see bump ups in calls, and about ten years ago in 2014, I think we had 13 or 14, and it’s climbed steadily to this year,” he said. “We’ve had 75 calls already this year. That’s the highest so far.”

Holm said that trapping nuisance bears is the tribal DNR’s preferred method of dealing with a situation. “The majority of the calls are handled by live trapping the animal and moving it off the boundary and letting it loose,” he said. “Or there’s no resolution because when they get there, they can’t find the animal, it’s gone somewhere else. It’s only in the instances where the animal is returning multiple times and acting aggressive where the officers euthanize the animal, and this has been going on a long time. This isn’t the first instance where animals or bears were euthanized. But 99 percent of the time we’re hauling bears away alive.”

Holm said that the tribal DNR did not receive any special directive from tribal leaders to euthanize nuisance bears, and added that the Band’s Conservation Committee had not authorized the practice, countering a claim by activists. Dealing with nuisance bears has always just been a part of the job for DNR officers, he said.

“In hindsight, it makes sense to me that some provisions might want to be put in place

whereby the Conservation Committee authorizes that, but it’s never been done in the past,” he said. “It’s been a job duty of conservation officers here for public safety concerns to deal with nuisance animals. Unfortunately, we have to do it all the time with violent or dangerous domestic animals like dogs. I don’t want the DNR painted as animal killers. We do what we have to do, but we don’t want to do that, and we take as many steps as possible to avoid doing that.”

Holm declined to speculate on why this particular killing generated such a strong response, but comments by activists on social media and in the petition hinted at one possible motivation.

“The deeply heartbreaking part of this unfair treatment is the fact that the Bois Forte DNR Director and Lead Conservation Officer tasked with this responsibility are non-tribal, possessing little understanding of the cultural importance these bears hold in our community,” the petition said.

Holm suggested that the problem with bears in Nett Lake is associated at least in part to the activities at the nearby Vince Shute Wildlife Sanctuary, noted for feeding bears.

“We’ve got a huge population of black bears down the road from us, and they’ve been habituated, and those are the ones that are coming into the village,” he said. “We know they’re habituated because they don’t act like a wild bear would if you were to approach it and you hollered at it or banged a pot or something – it should run away, but these don’t run away. They’re looking, like any bear would, for food and they’re here a lot. It’s become an increasingly concerning issue.”

Holm was empathetic to the protesters’ concerns that bears that are killed should be harvested for their medicinal, nutritional, and ceremonial values.

“We’ve talked about

that,” he said. “What’s going to have to happen is some plan or provisions are going to have to be made for meat or whatever to be collected, either on the government side or the community side. A bear that’s taken in July has to be processed immediately. It should be in our mind, it should be completely used, but there’s a lot of work involved that we don’t have the time to do, and there’s the cost involved. But it’s a relevant concern and there should be some kind of plan made in that regard.”

One possible solution, Holm suggested, would be to have a Band-sanctioned bear hunt to thin out the population.

“It happens on other reservations,” Holm said. “We haven’t taken that step because that’s an internal discussion that this community has to resolve, but it is a management tool and one way we could do something on the side of public safety.”

Another possible solution is more time and labor intensive.

“The other way to do it is to get a lot more conservation officers and a lot more live traps and just spend all our time chasing bears around and hauling them off reservation to be somebody else’s problem,” Holm said. “And a lot of them just come back anyway.”

“What we don’t have at this point is a long-term solution for this,” Holm concluded. “Outside of continued community awareness and notifications, we’re responding the best we can. We’ll have more meetings here and we’ll have more discussions, probably more arguments, about how to treat bears, but ultimately the community will come to its conclusion. All we can do here is provide for public safety at the moment. The community is going to have to figure it out as a group if they want a different direction taken.”

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# OPINION

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

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

## Editorial

### We have enough hate

Shocking assault in Tower appears to target victim for his sexual orientation

This week, we report in more detail on a troubling incident in Tower that has shocked many in the community, and rightfully so. On July 22, four young men, all teenagers, lured an adult male to town who was expecting to meet another adult male with whom he had been corresponding on Grindr, a dating app used primarily by gay and bisexual individuals.

Instead of finding another adult male, the victim quickly discovered he had been entrapped, lured to an area near Tower's train depot after dark, where the area teenagers lay in wait, intending to beat him while streaming the assault live on the internet. Video of the attack makes it clear that the assault was targeted and premeditated.

According to the juvenile delinquency petition submitted to the court by law enforcement, the assailants used metal and wooden rods and poles to beat the man. The video shows the young assailants threatening to kill the man and ordering him to get down on his knees. They also used the n-word although the adult male involved was not Black.

This is the kind of incident that we've occasionally heard or read about happening in some other community. We certainly never expected to have to report on such an incident—which has all the hallmarks of a hate crime—in our community.

We're not experts on the darker side of social media and would prefer to keep it that way. But from what we understand, these kinds of assaults are sometimes undertaken to generate attention and views on some types of social media. And they're consistent with the recent trend of rising violence and threats of violence against members of the LGBTQ community. According to FBI statistics, anti-LGBTQ hate crimes increased 19 percent in 2022, the most recent year for which data is available. Hate crimes based on gender identity, which was not apparent in this instance, jumped by a third in that same year.

While extremists operating on the web, particularly the dark web, play a major role in spreading anti-LGBTQ hate and fueling assaults, the increasing willingness of our political leaders to sanction or even encourage such hateful impulses, is contributing as well. As the old saying goes, “If you're not part of the solution you're part of the problem.”

When political leaders vilify LGBTQ individuals, it gives a kind of permission in the minds of some that physical or verbal

attacks or harassment are justified.

Given this recent incident, it also should prompt consideration by all parents, teachers, and others who interact with young people in our region to consider their own use of language. Young people often reflect the views and opinions they hear at home, at school, or from others in positions of authority. If they regularly hear hateful things, it increases the chances they'll react to their world in ways that reflect that.

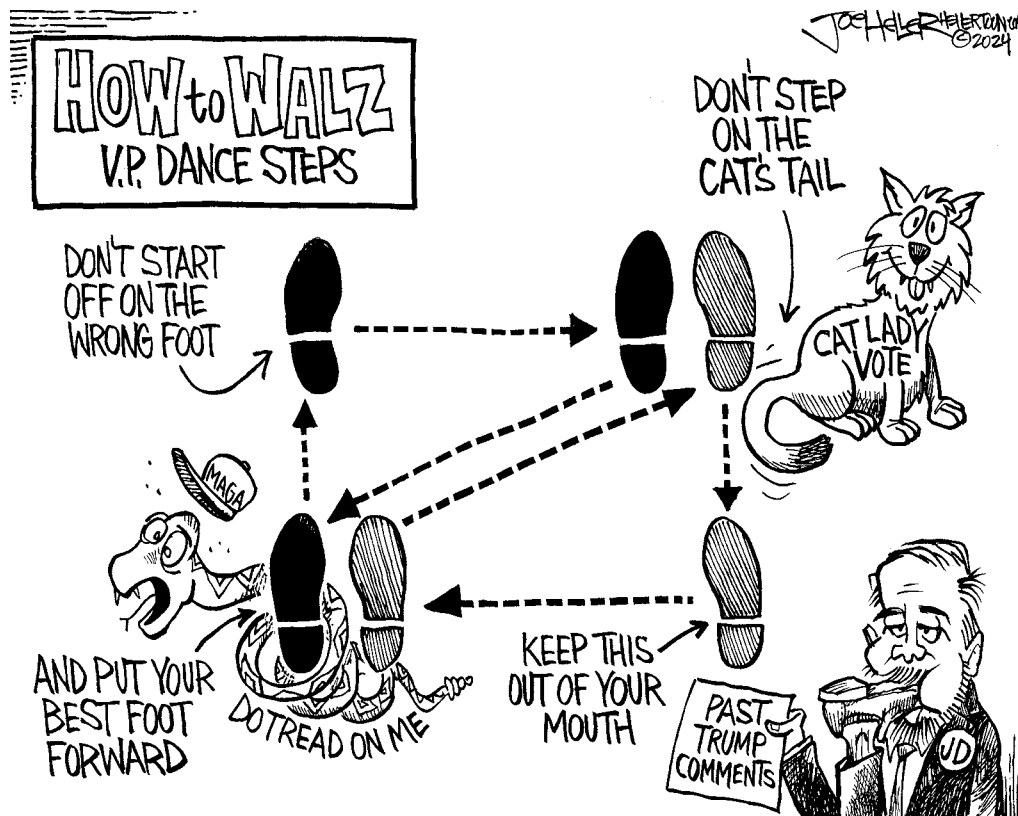
Unfortunately, young people these days have ready access to many unsavory influences on social media, a place inhabited by some of the most extreme elements in our society. The young men involved in this incident didn't arrive at their plans on their own... they're finding this stuff on the web and had undoubtedly hoped that their video would draw lots of views, likes, and possibly copycat attacks. The extremists who fill such sites with hate are vile human beings, the last kind of people to whom we should wish to expose impressionable young minds.

That's why parents should take steps to monitor or restrict their children's access to social media and why government has an obligation to hold companies accountable when they fail to adequately police their own sites to guard against such incidents of hate.

Fortunately, in this case, the video they made should help to make the case for their prosecution. They face serious charges, and rightfully so.

As we note in our story, the outcome in this case could have been much worse. The community owes thanks to Tower EMT Steve Freshour, who not only reported the assault as it was happening, he intervened and chased off the assailants, undoubtedly saving the victim from further injury or even death. Freshour's actions were heroic in every sense of the word.

The prompt response of Breitung Police Chief Dan Reing was also key, making it possible to quickly identify the perpetrators, place them in custody, and begin the process to ensure they face serious consequences for their actions. We recognize that the individuals involved in this attack are young and we can only hope that real accountability in this instance, along with counseling, will put them on a better path in life. We don't need more hate in America. There's already more than enough to go around.



## Letters from Readers

### Project 2025 would worsen climate change

I love my grandchildren, all ten of them. And I want them to have a future where they can prosper and raise their families. So, it alarms me when I read many of the policy actions described in Project 2025 (described as the Heritage Foundation policy blueprint for the next Republican president).

For instance, on page 408 it states: the Administration “Should not use environmental issues like climate change as a reason to stop LNG projects.” Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) primarily consists of methane which is 30 times worse than carbon dioxide in increasing global temperatures. While burning LNG is somewhat better than burning coal, burning any carbon or methane-based fuel is extremely harmful.

Candidate Trump disavows knowledge of the document. However, contributors include six of his cabinet members, four ambassadors, his deputy chief of staff, and about 140 other people who worked in his administration including Stephen Miller, his longtime advisor. Additionally, the list of authors includes about 240 people connected to Donald Trump either through his administration or business.

It seems implausible that Mr. Trump is not fully aware of Project 2025. Since many of his acquaintances are likely to be part of any future administration, continued burning of LNG would likely be a long-term reality.

Climate change is real

to me and will be a life and death reality for my grandchildren.

Keith and Amy Steva  
Cook

### Tall Timber Days was founded on free enterprise not socialism

I'm convinced the candidates you vote for this November could determine the future of the timber industry, mining, and multiple use of forest land in northeastern Minnesota. This past weekend, I visited the Grand Rapids' annual Tall Timber Days celebration. There I met old and new acquaintances and made a point to visit UPM Blandin's tent. I introduced myself as having worked with the Blandin legal staff on matters associated with the Blandin Dam, and the Blandin Forestry staff on matters associated with getting permits and temporary easements for trout stream habitat projects on Blandin land. On Sunday, I watched the Tall Timber Days parade and saw that both political parties were represented. But I was most impressed by the logging truck from Bigfork, filled with pulpwood and blowing its airhorn, and proudly displaying its GOP banners. The pulp truck was probably heading to UPM Blandin's scaling shack for weighing and payment. I'm a retired DNR employee who considered myself a public servant, not a DNR pawn, nor a supporter of a big government, like we have in Minnesota with its current DFL trifecta.

In my career, I was expected to meet with DNR Area Forestry staff in north-eastern Minnesota for forest management planning. The planning was required to ensure that the DNR followed the 1991 Wetland Conservation Act, 1972 Clean Water Act, protection of rare features, etc. Because of our consensus building, DNR foresters were legally allowed to sell state stumpage to loggers, who would sell the wood to UPM Blandin or other pulp mills. In November, I'm voting for the party that is pro-strong military, pro-law enforcement, pro-life, pro-mining, pro-USA, pro-capitalism, and unequivocally pro-Israel.

David G. Holmbeck  
Grand Rapids

### We welcome your letters

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

We ask that letters be limited to 300 words.

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

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

## COMMENTARY

# We certainly have a clear choice now

Our national politics are certainly providing entertainment recently. No sooner does Trump name a vice president than President Biden steps down and endorses Kamala Harris, who steps right in and names our excellent governor as her choice for V.P. While I think a Harris/Walz ticket is outstanding, my head is still spinning from the information about J.D. Vance and Project 2025. His bizarre



BETTY FIRTH

quotes have claimed a lot of headlines recently. In a series of emails, he called Democratic leaders “childless sociopaths” who “don't have a direct stake in this country.” He condemned Harris and other Democrats as “childless cat ladies who want to make the rest of the country miserable, too.”

In November 2020, Vance said on a conservative podcast that childless Americans, especial-

ly those in the country's “leadership class,” were “more sociopathic” than those with children and made the country “less mentally stable.” Vance added that the “most deranged” and “most psychotic” commentators on Twitter – now known as X – were typically childless.

In May of 2019, he said, “We should be concerned about declining fertility, not just because it's bad for the economy, but because babies are good because we're not sociopaths.” You figure that one out. His comments about declining fertility seem to indicate he is

unaware of the challenges to our planet from overpopulation and the demand on limited resources.

As usual, the rhetoric is inspired by and promotes fear and lies. The right-wing Republicans, generally white men and the women who support them and are supported by them, are terrified by strong women and the prospect of being in the minority as the ethnicity and color of American changes forever. Vance is the poster child advocate for this viewpoint, in spite of the fact that his children are mixed eth-

nicity. His opinions have been labeled “weird” by those who find these attitudes just that. Many are found scratching their heads as he advocates for rewarding people for having more children—even giving them more voting power—and warning against the dangers of those who don't.

As a card-carrying cat lover who has chosen childlessness, I take offense, but only to the extent that anyone would give credibility to one more ridiculous, embarrassing Republican spewing their anti-democratic views. Eight years ago,

Vance called Trump an idiot, saying he was a reprehensible, moral disaster. He said, “His promises are the needle in America's collective arm. He is cultural heroin. He makes something better for a bit, but he cannot fix what ails them.” Privately, he compared him to Adolf Hitler. How does anyone come back from statements like that with even the tiniest bit of credibility? He claims that everyone has a right to change their mind, and that he was impressed by what Trump accomplished as president.

See CHOICE...pg. 5

## More Letters from Readers

### Sustainable ALS ambulance service for our region

It's my belief that the Ely Hospital/SafeTech regional ambulance service plan needs to be fleshed out and pursued because it's a logical opportunity to modernize the service into Advanced Life Support (something you really appreciate if you're having a stroke) and to make it sustainable. At the TAAS Commission meeting in Tower last week, Ely Hospital's Patti Banks laid out an exciting possible future, including having telemedicine communication in our area's ambulances. The consultant has identified a way, through consolidation of the Ely, Babbitt and Tower services, to recover much more of the actual cost of ambulance runs. That's good, but it won't cover the full cost of the modern ambulance service. I believe that Ely, Babbitt, Tower and the many townships in the consolidated area can and should afford to create an Emergency Medical Services Special Taxing District (Minn. §144F.01) to guarantee sustainability. It's worth it and it can be designed fairly.

It's also my belief that the Ely Hospital needs to own and operate the consolidated service because it's a serious, important, costly business that needs professional full-time administration. I prefer that instead of any form of local "joint powers" boards, and I say that after having attended plenty of these types of meetings in the area. Joint powers members often show up unprepared and things often devolve into smart remarks, not smart thinking. This is a serious business and I believe we need to put our trust in the Ely Hospital. It isn't something new, the reality is that hospitals run very successful Advanced Life Support ambulance services throughout Minnesota. It actually isn't very complicated—the

path forward mostly needs cooperation and serious planning. We have a bit of time to do this, keeping in mind that the one-time stopgap rural ambulance funding from the Legislature this year will run out. I sure encourage the three cities and all of the townships to pitch in with the Ely Hospital and the consultant to keep the patient and ambulance staff first in our thoughts.

**Lee Peterson  
Greenwood Twp.**

### Hello from NYC!

Between your beautiful overview of the arc of your dad's life in your column, and the sharply written editorial column about the President George W. Bush years, I am now a very enthusiastic fan of the *Timberjay*. The importance of bringing empathy and sharp, incisive critical thinking to our families, and to our politics should never be underestimated. But what first grabbed my attention was the story "The old-fashioned way" about the tintype photographer. I have been involved in photography, video, film, and image-making since I was fifteen and made a career of it, an involved witness during the transition from analog-chemical to electronic-digital, until I retired during the pandemic.

I am sitting in my 550 square-foot studio apartment in NYC's Greenwich Village, reading the *Timberjay* because my girlfriend and her sister flew off to Minnesota this morning for a visit with their cousins from Proctor, who run the *Proctor Journal* up there.

I was curious about where they're staying, in Tower's Marjo Motel, and happened to see a story from last year about a redevelopment plan in what looks like to me about as pristine and natural a wooded haven as can be left in our country. "Re-development" occurs every day here in Manhattan with concrete and glass towers in way too many architectural styles! Even

my beloved Central Park can't compare to images I saw from the story in last year's *Timberjay* story about the developers buying up the land. Mind you, just outside my window there are non-stop tourists, traffic, and noise, air pollution, and some homeless lost souls sleeping on the sidewalks. Quite a difference!

Then I read your editorial about the Bush (The Younger) years and the reminder of just how damaging his eight years in office really were, and how it predated Trump and how Trump and his cronies have sent our budgets off the rails, and you reminded us of how Bill Clinton actually left office with a BALANCED budget!!

I was surprised to read how strongly worded and forthright your piece is. And I thought I was the only person who thought about how, back in the day, Bush screwed up our beautiful (sorry to use a Trump modifier here) balanced budget after Clinton cleaned up 12 years of Republican hooliganism. Now that's a word I'd never have used in the past, when I was a young man.

My dad, who was born in 1918 and died in 2004, used "hooligan." I look and think back a lot about him now that he's been gone for 20 years. I felt your pride in your columns, and the focused earnestness of reaching people in your "swing" state, each of them having a vote, and I certainly hope you can reach enough of them in your world to make a difference in our outcome in November.

Your opinion column is a paean, a beautiful tribute to your dad's life. My dad wasn't a farmer, he worked hard as a second generation American doing his best to attain the American dream and raise a family to be educated and well fed, after starting work from the age of 15 to help his parents earn enough for a family of five, then he married my mom at 21, then he fought

in WWII, then came Truman and Eisenhower, the 50's dreams, the status quo, three young kids. I think it's all a miracle.

Thanks for your writing and the *Timberjay*! It was completely unexpected!

**Mickey Faeder  
New York City**

### An open letter to the Lake County Planning and Zoning Commission

I am writing to add a bit more context to your upcoming decision on the development of Silver Rapids Lodge. I am a life-long property owner and resident on White Iron Lake. My father bought our family cabin property before I was born in 1943. My late wife and I bought the adjacent property in 1975 and created our own home out of an existing cabin. I continue to live in that house with my current partner, Nonni Nelson, who previously owned property on White Iron Lake. There are reasons we all chose to stay here that need to be fully understood and included in your decision making.

It is stated on your website that "...Lake County Planning and Zoning has been promoting and protecting the health, safety, and general welfare of the public and environment by coordinating and establishing standards and requirements for economic, social and environmental factors in public and private investments." The proposal, as it exists, appears to weigh the potential economic factors much more heavily than the social and environmental.

Development does not have to be detrimental if all of the stakeholders are part of the process. This is a community that has a long history that has been created around a unique environment. A sense of place comes over time with experiences, history and caring. It

stays because of its depth. The past and the present need to be part of creating the future. The people who live here were not included in the process of creating this development. We could have helped create a vision that is positive and sustains long held values. It is difficult to think that those who created this development gave equal weight to the community, history, and the environment. It feels extractive of what we love and respect. It wants to use this beautiful place.

Business models come and go. Decisions for ways of making money can be well thought through with all stakeholders considered, or short sighted and extractive.

Please give equal and long-term weight to all factors in your mission statement. I have been here for generations. I would like to leave it for generations to come.

**Larry Lozar  
Nonni Nelson  
Ely**

### We won't let Trump turn back history

We are not going back:

► To a time when only white men ran our country.

► To a time when women had no control over what happened to our own bodies, as it has already become again in several states.

► To billionaires getting huge tax breaks while lower- and middle-class taxes go up.

► To a time when there was no Social Security or Medicare for the elderly or those with disabilities. These are not "entitlements," since everyone pays into it while they are working.

► To a time when the only career for women was to stay home, keep their mouths shut, and produce one baby after another, even if they did not want to. (If you don't believe me, listen to JD Vance some time.)

► To no protection for the environment or climate change. (Has anyone noticed the weird weather all over the country and the world in the last several years?)

► To a president whose children can make \$650 million while they are "working" in the White House, not to mention the \$2 billion coming in from Saudi Arabia when they're done.

► To a president who sells ugly sneakers, t-shirts, weird hats, and Bibles to make money for himself.

► To a time before Jimmy Carter when there was no Department of Education, when there was no protection and advantage for all children.

► To when we had a president who admired strongmen autocrats like Vladimir Putin, Kim Jong Un, Viktor Orban, and Xi Jinping.

► To a time when a president (who swore an oath to protect and defend the Constitution) would send a violent mob to the U.S. Capitol to prevent the counting of ballots and threaten the life of his vice president.

And we are not going forward to a time when "Christians" will only have to vote this time, because when this candidate wins they will never have to vote again, either.

**Kate Furness  
Ely**

### CHOICE...Cont. from page 4

Really? What, exactly?

However, in one of those chameleon-like transformations that some politicians are so good at, from a self-described "never Trumper," he started defending Trump's actions and was then rewarded during his run for Senate in 2022 with Trump's endorsement, moving on to become a stalwart loyalist. One of his most nauseating defenses was saying that January 6 was definitely not a constitutional crisis, but the opposite, that of trying to challenge an election through constitutional means. Hearing these meaningless words spewed out always makes me wonder who in the world is believing any of this? Are any of these supporters even listening? And then he and Trump have the temerity to accuse Harris of chameleon-like behavior.

If any of you readers should think for a minute that this is just one more deluded dude who belongs in the funny papers, you need to familiarize yourself with "Project 2025 - A Mandate for Leadership: The Conservative Promise" to which Vance was closely connected.

The introduction to this 920-page document,

claims that the "late 1970s were a historic low point for America, but proved to be the moment when the political Right unified itself and the country and led the United States to historic political, economic, and global victories. In 1979, the Heritage Foundation launched the Mandate for Leadership project and brought together a team of hundreds of conservative scholars and academics, which created a 20-volume, 3,000-page governing handbook to reform the federal government and rescue the American people from Washington dysfunction." *Mandate for Leadership* was published in January 1981, and they claimed that more than 60 percent of its recommendations had become policy in Reagan's first year, reviving American confidence and prosperity

The introduction also claims that our political establishment and cultural elite have once again driven America toward decline, but that conservatives should have confidence that they "can rescue our kids, reclaim our culture, revive our economy, rescue our kids, and defeat the anti-American Left—at home and abroad. We did it before

and we can do it again."

Ronald Reagan warned, "Freedom is a fragile thing and it's never more than one generation away from extinction. It is not ours by way of inheritance; it must be fought for and defended constantly by each generation." I would say that those of us on the Left should take those words very seriously.

The Project 2025 document aims to eliminate any progressive improvements made over the last few decades. DEI – diversity, equity, and inclusion – are treated as dangerous concepts that must be stamped out. The tax system would be simplified to a two-tier system, which would put more of the tax burden on middle income earners and benefit higher earners, once again. Here are some direct quotes from the plan about specific changes:

► p. 582: The President should direct agencies to rescind regulations interpreting sex discrimination provisions as prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, transgender status, sex characteristics, etc.

► p. 482: Eliminate the Head Start Program, claiming there has been

rampant abuse and no positive outcomes.

► p. 481: Protect faith-based grant recipients from religious liberty violations and maintain a biblically-based, social science-reinforced definition of marriage and family.

If you find those hard to believe, you do need to dig into this document. Trump has attempted to distance himself from it, claiming he knows nothing, and that Agenda 47 is the plan for his administration, which also aims to deconstruct education, immigration reforms, and social programs. However, his April 2022 speech at the Heritage Foundation, thanking them for their work, shows the truth: Trump acknowledged exactly the kind of work they're doing and applauded them: "They're going to lay the groundwork and pave the way for Trump's next administration "with detailed plans for exactly what our movement will do."

Go to this site for the complete Project 2025 document: [https://archive.org/details/project-2025-mandate-for-leadership-full\\_202309-manifesto/2025\\_MandateForLeadership\\_FULL/](https://archive.org/details/project-2025-mandate-for-leadership-full_202309-manifesto/2025_MandateForLeadership_FULL/).



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**TIMBERJAY**

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Week of August 12

LEARNING AND FUN

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

Tower City Council- 5:30 p.m. on Aug. 12

**Tuesday**  
Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5 p.m. New location in the old St. James Church building. Next food shelf day is Aug. 20.

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

Primary Election- Polls open 7 a.m. - 8 p.m., but township hours may vary. Check with your town clerk.

**Wednesday**  
Greenwood Town Board- 6:30 p.m. on Aug. 14. Date changed due to primary election on Tuesday.

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

Breitung Town Board- 6 p.m. regular meeting on Aug. 15 with continuation of Annual Meeting at 7 p.m.

**MarJo development construction open house on Tuesday, Aug. 13 at 10 a.m.**

TOWER- The public is invited to a brief program to celebrate the formal start of construction for the housing development at the MarJo Motel site on Tuesday, Aug. 13 at 10 a.m. Two of the project's developers from Norway, Lars Hanstad and Audun Skattebo, will be on site to discuss the project and answer questions. Construction is just beginning on the first three homes. This development will include 18 lots for single-family and twin homes. More information, including home specs and photos of the three available models, is available on the website at tinde-usa.com. All three models include a loft and fireplace, and use energy-efficient passive solar heating and cooling.



**Summer fun at Vacation Bible School at St. Paul's**



Staff from Camp Onomia, in Onamia, Minn., spent the week in Soudan to work with area children at the VBS sponsored by St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Soudan. Clockwise (from top left) Ella and Millie Trancheff, and Owen Zak, played an outdoor game. Tanner Mickle played tag with counselor Nyaa Gach. Counselor Erin Lamotte with Eva Redetzke and Cecilia Majerle. Parker Wellander tags Harper Olson in a rowdy game of tag. Campers worked on a craft project. Church members Joan Dostert and Susan Trucano-Precht also volunteered, feeding the 16 campers delicious lunches and snacks throughout the four-day camp. photos by J. Summit



COMMUNITY NOTICES

**Area students named to University of Minnesota Twin Cities Spring Dean's List**

MPLS/ST. PAUL - The following area students have been named to the 2024 spring semester Dean's List at the University of Minnesota

Twin Cities. To qualify for the Dean's List, a student must complete 12 or more letter-graded credits while attaining a 3.66 grade point average.

Azalea Ray, Embarrass, Junior, College of Liberal Arts;

Audrey Anderson, Soudan, Junior, Col of Educ/Human Development;

Allison Maus, Tower, Sophomore, Col of Educ/

**Lunch Bunch to meet Aug. 22 at Giants Ridge**

BIWABIK- The Lunch Bunch will be meeting on Thursday, Aug. 22 at 12:30 p.m. at the Wacootah Grille at Giants Ridge in Biwabik. Everyone is welcome to join the group for lunch that day. Please RSVP to Kathy at 218-753-2530.

Saturday, Aug. 17, at the Vermilion Club at 2 p.m. The VC does not take reservations so it will be first come first served, that's why we are looking at 2 p.m. We will order off the menu. Please call Barb (George) Peyla at 218-410-7883 if you plan to attend so that we can reserve a table for the group. Hope to see you there.

aturday, Aug. 10 at noon at McKinley Park Campground. There will be burgers, brats, hotdogs, and fixings available. Attendees are asked to bring a side dish to share.

Before the picnic, the group will meet at 10 a.m. at the south trailhead of the Wagoner Ski Trails (south of Tower on Hwy. 135) for a 5K hike on the trails. At 2 p.m., after the picnic, everyone is invited to a group bike ride around the McKinley, Hoodoo, Tower loop trail, an approximately six mile route. Classic bikes and e-bikes are welcome.

The Wagoner Trail Club maintains the Tower ski trails, along with other hiking trails in the area.

**Golden Eagles Class of 1959 holding 65th Reunion, Aug. 17**

GREENWOOD TWP- Classmates and friends are invited to join the Tower-Soudan High School Class of 1959 on

**Wagoner Trail Club to hold hike, bike ride, picnic on Aug. 10 at McKinley Park**

BREITUNG TWP- The Howard Wagoner Trails Club is hosting a community picnic on Sat-

LAKE VERMILION CULTURAL CENTER

**"Songs of the Anishinaabeg," a Night Sky Drum Program on Aug. 21**



TOWER- Boozhoo akinaa wiiyaa! The public is invited to the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center on Wednesday, Aug. 21 at 6 p.m. for a special evening of Anishinaabe Nagamon, as the Night Sky Drum group will share songs and drum teachings. The concert is being sponsored by Waawaate Programs, a local 501c3 nonprofit organization (waawaateprograms.org). A freewill donation will be accepted and refreshments will be served.

**Dale Kinnunen**

CELEBRATION OF LIFE  
January 1967-October 2023

Saturday, August 17 • 3-6 PM  
The Greenwood Town Hall



I hope you can join the celebration!

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## ELECTIONS

# Testing Ely's voting machine



**Above:** During voter machine testing on Monday, election judge Mike Pope (left) gets ready to feed the county-provided test ballots into Ely's voting machine as Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski (right) loads the paper for the vote count printout and election judge Andy McKibben (center) looks on. **Below:** Election judge Jeanette Palcher and Ely Deputy Clerk Casey Velcheff check the election results of the test stack of ballots provided by St. Louis County. photos by C. Clark

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- Monday afternoons are usually sleepy at Ely City Hall, but that wasn't the case this last Monday when Ely's election judges rolled up their sleeves for the testing of Ely's voting machines. With early primary voting already underway, the *Timberjay* stopped by city hall to observe the test.

Before every local, state, and national election, every voting machine in Minnesota must be tested "at least three days before voting equipment is used" (Minn. §206.83). The test

must be public with notice posted at the offices of all election officials involved and published two days in advance in a jurisdiction's official newspaper.

"We have to do this before every single election," said Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski. "The county sends us test ballots and the voting machine must tabulate them correctly four times." The test stack for the primary election had 57 ballots.

The city must also test its Omniballot machine, which fills out ballots for those with accessibility issues with keyboards. The test measures whether the

machine is accurately filling the circles on the ballots for the correct candidates. The test fills out 15 ballots.

Monday's voter machine test involved all three of Ely's clerk staff and five election judges. The judges did most of the work in testing the machines.

Ely owns one ES&S-model DS200 voting machine. The voting machine stands around four feet tall with the footprint of a large washing machine. It is a standalone machine which does not connect to the internet. It has one function — to count paper

ballots. After the ballots are fed into the machine, the machine tabulates the results and prints them out. During the test, the printout from the machine must match the results for the 57 test ballots from the county.

"When we're not using it," Langowski explained, "the voting machine and the Omniballot are locked up in our elections supplies closet." Only three people have access to the key. St. Louis County provides the maintenance on the voting machine. "The most recent maintenance was this spring," said Langowski.



## COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

### Babbitt Public Library

BABBITT- The library has take-home Bell Museum science and nature activities kits to take home. Each kit contains step-by-step instructions and materials for four different activities. These are free while supplies last. Kits are limited to one per family.

The Friends of the Library have a raffle currently going for \$1/tickets for hand-appliqued dish towels by Jenny Kelley. The drawing will be on Sept. 3.

The library will host the Celtic music duo "Willow Brae," on Wednesday, Aug. 14, from 3-4 p.m. This free "Magic of Celtic Music" program is one-hour long and is geared towards audiences ages seven and older.

The library will host a free art class for kids in grades Kindergarten through 12 on Wednesday, Aug. 21, from 1-2 p.m., using water-miscible oil pastel painting. Call 218-827-3345 or stop by the library to register for this class.

The library will host Chad Lewis on Wednesday, Aug. 21, at 4 p.m., for a presentation on Minnesota's most haunted locations.

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 Public Library

ELY- The spice for August is cumin seed. Pick up a sample and recipes at the front desk while supplies last.

The Friends of the Library Book Club will meet on Monday, Aug. 12, from 3-4 p.m. The title for August is "The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store," by James McBride.

The Friends of the Library monthly board meeting will be on Tuesday, Aug. 13, from 1-2 p.m.

The Curiosity Cohort for teens and adults will meet on Tuesday, Aug. 13, from 2-3 p.m. The August session will delve into plant propagation and will be part demonstration and part hands-on. Participants will go home with at least one new divided plant. Register in advance so the library can order enough supplies for the attendees.

The library will host the Celtic music duo "Willow Brae," on Wednesday, Aug. 14, from 10-11 a.m. This free program is 1 hour long and is geared towards audiences ages seven and older.

The Get Crafty group will meet on Thursday, Aug. 15, starting at 11 a.m. to make tie-dyed pillowcases. This activity is for all ages but young children should be accompanied by an adult to help. The library will supply everything for participants to tie dye their own pillowcases. The activity will be outside, so it is weather

dependent. Register in advance so the library can order enough supplies for everyone.

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.

### Ely Community Choir

ELY- The Ely Community Choir will perform the cantata "The Song Everlasting" by Joseph M. Martin on Saturday, Aug. 10, at 7 p.m., at the First Presbyterian Church, 226 E. Harvey St. Martin is a contemporary American choral composer specializing in sacred music. The cantata "The Song Everlasting" recounts the life of Jesus based on early American songs.

### Chevron Doctrine Talk

ELY- On Tuesday, Aug. 13, at 4 p.m., the Ely Climate Group will host David Doniger, who will speak on the recent Supreme Court decision overturning the Chevron Doctrine in a presentation titled, "Agencies and Judges: After Chevron, What's Next?" Doniger argued the original 1984 *Chevron v. Natural Resources Defense Council* case before the U.S. Supreme Court. The talk will be at the Ely Field Naturalists Resource Center, 41 E. Chapman St. (upstairs from the NAPA store).

### Braver Angels

ELY- The Ely chapter of the Braver Angels Alliance will meet at the Ely Senior Center, 27 S. First Ave. E., on Thursday, Aug. 15, at 6:00 p.m. The topic will be gun control.

### Rotary Casino Night

ELY- The Ely Rotary will hold its casino night on Friday, Aug. 16, from 5:30-9:30 p.m., at the Miners Dry Building. Tickets are \$35 advanced sales or \$40 at the door. Tickets are available from the Grand Ely Lodge or any Rotarian.

### Pub Crawl

WINTON- The Contented Critters Animal Rescue pub crawl will be from noon-4 p.m. on Sept. 7 followed by raffles and a dunk tank at SamZ — but the deadline to sign up for it is Saturday, Aug. 17. Sign up at SamZ, 1225 Winton Rd. The pub crawl is \$50 and includes a tee shirt, food, and transportation.

### Reflections Dance Company

ELY- The Northern Lakes Arts Association's Reflections Dance Company will present their summer dance production, "Constant Changes," at Ely's Historic State Theater on Aug. 16 and 17 at 7:30 p.m., and on Aug. 18 at 2 p.m. General admission is \$25. This full-length dance concert features live music led by the Chicka-dee-dee-dees.

## Elyite on Dean's List

MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL- The University of Minnesota Twin Cities announced on Aug. 1 that Nathan Nettifee was named to the Dean's List for the spring 2024 semester. To qualify for the Dean's List, a student must complete 12 or more letter-graded credits while attaining a 3.66 grade point average.

## Blueberry/Art Festival awards

ELY- The Ely Chamber of Commerce announced the results last week of the people's choice awards from the Blueberry/Art Festival.

The first-place winner for people's choice best of show category was Pharr Thrown Pottery. Second place was Wild Fern Soap and third place was Fresh Dry Snacks. In the people's choice food truck category, the first-place winner was Now That's Waffles. Second place was Frozen Tundra and third place was Beyond Nuts.

## Photo contest

ELY- Do you have fun, amazing, or inspiring Ely area photos? The Capture Ely Photo contest is looking for your contributions.

The contest has four categories: outdoor recreation, family fun, nature, and shopping. Each category has four places: first place wins \$200, second place \$100, third place \$50, and an honorable mention winning \$25.

The contest ends on Thursday, Aug. 15 at 5 p.m. Entry form and additional details are available at [ely.org/capture-ely](http://ely.org/capture-ely). All entry forms and digital copies of images will need to be received by the deadline for consideration.

## In Brief

### Tuesday Group schedule

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

Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

➤ Aug. 13: Listening Point Foundation with Freja Alioth

➤ Aug. 20: Perpich Arts High School with Anne Johnson

➤ Aug. 27: Get to Know Harley Droba

## Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2024



daily visitors  
abundant luncheon yard guests

no menu needed

## 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

## 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.



## COOK CITY COUNCIL

# Cook council formalizes IRRR flood relief deal

Additional information on \$25,000 Quick Start Economic Recovery grant program provided

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- The Cook City Council convened in a special session last Thursday to pass a necessary resolution to accept funds from the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation for flood relief for local businesses.

The action was the exclamation point to the IRRR's decision three days prior to extend a \$2.5 million package of short- and long-term assistance to help business owners get back on their feet following the devastating June flood.

IRRR staffer Chris Ismil was at the meeting to explain the program in greater detail and answer

questions.

\$300,000 will be made available immediately for Quick Start Economic Recovery grants of up to \$25,000. According to the timeline Ismil provided, eligible business owners should have already received the application from IRRR by email.

"We've already done outreach to most of the businesses that have been impacted," he said. "We did public outreach to businesses to come (to a meeting) if you've been impacted. We met with them, we interviewed them, and we have talked to a few who weren't able to be there that day that have said we've been impacted. We expect there to be a few that weren't

at that first business IRRR city business meeting, but that door is open, and we'll do the best we can to communicate through the city and the community that this opportunity is here."

The due date for applications is Tuesday, Aug. 13, but in response to a question by council member Liza Root, Ismil said there would be some flexibility to take applications after the deadline.

"There's some concern that there are businesses that haven't moved through a process enough to even know how much they need," Ismil said. "We can't make an award to somebody if they don't even know what they need. We think there might be one or two. We

can extend that to help any business, but it's not a six month deal."

Ismil said the turnaround time would be relatively short.

"It should be for some of these, within a week to two weeks they will have money in hand," he said.

While the city of Cook will cut the checks for the grants, the IRRR will actually hold onto the funds until they have sufficient documentation to support a claim, Ismil said, and then transmit those funds to the city to reimburse the claimant.

In addition to covering expenses for replacing lost inventory, machinery, equipment, furniture, supplies, and building rehabilitation, grant funds can also be used for architec-

tural and engineering services related to building repair, new construction, demolition, utility bills, and operational expenses. Lost revenues may also be covered, Ismil said, but they will need to be thoroughly documented.

In response to a question, Ismil noted that the IRRR funds may not be used for employees of a business who lost work due to the flood.

"This program won't address that at all," he said. "We don't have any type of workers compensation or workers funding plan. We're not the workforce center. This is specific to getting businesses going so they can get their employees back."

As for the \$2.2 million designated for eco-

nomics redevelopment loans, City Administrator Theresa Martinson said that the city is still hammering out the details.

"We're working out the rest of those details and we will have that information available coming soon," she said.

The council also reviewed information regarding the individual assistance being made available to eligible homeowners. It's anticipated that a FEMA flood relief center will be set up in Virginia to help people with the application process. People can also apply for FEMA aid online at [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov).

## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT IN COOK AND CRANE LAKE

REGIONAL- National Night Out, an event that promotes camaraderie between community members and emergency responders, was celebrated all across the country on Tuesday, including in Cook and Crane Lake.

The Cook observance, sponsored by Cook Fire Department, called out the big rigs for kids and adults to marvel at, and offered games and food.

The Crane Lake event, sponsored by Crane Lake Chapel, benefits the fire departments in Crane Lake and Buyck, and seems to get bigger and better every year. A special attraction this year was an open house at the new Crane Lake Visitor Center, which will be leased in part by Voyageurs National Park. The always popular silent auction was bolstered by free and for-donation food, live music, and more.

Timberjay photographer David Colburn was at both events to capture pictures of the festivities.

**Clockwise, from top right: Bidders ponder their options in Crane Lake's silent auction; donut maker extraordinaire Connie Cowden had to work fast to keep up with the demand for her tasty treats; Cook Ambulance Service rolled out an emergency ATV and patient cart to give kids rides at the Cook Community Center; eager kids wait patiently for cotton candy in front of Cabins on Crane in Crane Lake; Armory Shell Towing and Auto Body of Virginia brought its truck with a towering boom capable of dealing with 18-wheelers in an emergency, to the Cook event, complementing the flag-flying Cook Fire Department ladder truck in the background.**



## Cook-Orr Calendar

### Smokey Bear's 80th birthday party is Friday

COOK- Parents and kids of all ages are invited to help America's favorite forest fire prevention expert, Smokey Bear, celebrate his 80th birthday with a party at the LaCroix Ranger District office in Cook on Friday, Aug. 9.

From 2-3 p.m., enjoy kids' activities, cupcakes, and a grand appearance by the bear of the day, Smokey himself.

Smokey Bear first came to life as a character in an advertising campaign in 1944, but in 1950 an injured and orphaned bear cub was rescued from a New Mexico wildfire and became the live version of the mascot. He lived at the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. until his death in 1976, but he continues to live on through his artful counterpart and his signature catchphrase "Only You Can Prevent Wildfires."

The LaCroix Ranger District office is located at

320 Hwy. 53 in Cook.

### NWFA to open ceramic exhibit with reception

COOK- Outstanding local artist Lyn Reed's ceramic work will be featured in the August exhibit at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook.

"Out of Mud" features Reed's new "totem sculpture" indoor/outdoor art, and will run from Wednesday, Aug. 7 to Friday, Aug. 30.

NWFA will hold a public reception at the gallery on Friday, Aug. 9 from 6-8 p.m. to honor the retired North Woods School art teacher. Reed and her husband Mark have been long active with NWFA and have previously displayed ceramics such as fish serving plates, mugs and bowls. Accomplished in many art forms and never done teaching, Reed often teaches art classes at NWFA as well.

In addition to the Friday reception, the exhibit is available for viewing during regular gallery hours on Wednesdays,

Thursdays, and Fridays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. The gallery is located at 210 S River St.

NWFA is a nonprofit membership arts organization. The website is at [www.nwfamn.org](http://www.nwfamn.org) and the email address is [nwfamn.org@gmail.com](mailto:nwfamn.org@gmail.com).

### NWFA concert and dance coming up on Aug. 18

COOK- It's not too early to dust off your dancing shoes and practice your steps for the annual Northwoods Friends of the Arts fundraising concert on Sunday, Aug. 18 at the Cook Community Center.

This year's headliner is "The 4 Blue Teardrops," playing authentic oldies' rock and roll vocals and instrumental from the '50s and early '60s.

The evening begins at 5 p.m. and Eric Pederson and the Beefeater Brothers will take the spotlight at 5:30 p.m. to warm revelers up for the main event. The evening will also feature silent auc-

tions, bag raffles, food and beverages.

Tickets are on sale by NWFA members and at the NWFA Gallery, 210 S. River St. on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Advance tickets and raffle tickets are also available by calling Shawna Kishel at 218-780-6510 or Lauren Nelson at 218-750-1989.

### Lions flood victim survey due Aug. 31 for possible aid

COOK- The Cook Lions Club is asking Cook and Angora residents whose home or business was damaged in the June flood to complete a questionnaire to determine how the club might be able to help by using some of the funds donated to the club's account for flood relief.

The short survey asks for contact information, the nature and extent of flood damage, a choice of option to indicate where you are in the recovery process, when you expect

to be completed, and a list of items to indicate your needs.

The Google Docs survey can be accessed through a link on the Cook MN Lions Facebook page titled "Flood Relief Survey." Surveys must be completed by Saturday, Aug. 31 in order to be eligible for assistance.

### Cowboy Angel Blue to perform in park on Wednesday

COOK- The public is invited to enjoy the ongoing Cook Music in the Park series with a concert by Cowboy Angel Blue, a trio performing decades of musical variety and crowd favorites on Wednesday, Aug. 14 beginning at 6 p.m.

As always, the concert will be at the gazebo in Cook City Park on River St., and will move to the Cook VFW in case of rain. St. Paul's (Alango) Lutheran Church will have concessions available.

Cook's Music In The Park is made possible by the Cook Lions Club,

Cook VFW Post 1757, the Cook Chamber of Commerce, the Cook Timberwolves Snowmobile Club, Northwoods Friends of the Arts, and free will community donations.

### Craft a needle felt pumpkin for fall at NWFA class

COOK- Learn needle felting, a creative craft that involves sculpting shapes and figures using wool and special felting needles, in a workshop on Wednesday, Aug. 14 at the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery, 210 S River St. in Cook.

Sue Archbold is the instructor for this simple yet versatile technique that allows you to create amazing creations with just a few supplies.

Registration is required for the 10 a.m.-4 p.m. class by calling Alberta at 218-666-2153 or contact NWFA by email, [nwfamn.org@gmail.com](mailto:nwfamn.org@gmail.com).



## ELECTIONS

# Primary elections set for Tuesday, Aug. 13

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

## New voters can register on Election Day with the right information

REGIONAL- Minnesotans will have some political decisions to make on Tuesday that will impact their choices on the ballot before the general election this November. While Minnesotans voted in the presidential primary in March, there are still statewide primary races to be decided on the Democratic, Republican, and the nonpartisan ballot during the Aug. 13 primary.

All statewide ballots will include the U.S. Senate race, with options to vote for either a Republican (eight candidates looking to run against incumbent Sen. Amy Klobuchar) or Democratic (four candidates hoping to replace Klobuchar on the ballot) candidate. Area ballots will also all include choices for the Eighth District congressional seat, with Republican Harry Welty going up against incumbent Pete Stauber. On the Democratic side, Jen Schultz and John Munter are seeking the party's nod in their

bids to replace Stauber.

Other local contests will decide the final candidates in state House District 7B, the seat now held by Rep. Dave Lislegard who is not seeking reelection. On the Republican side, Cal Warwas is running against Matt Mattasich, and on the Democratic side, Lorrie Janatopoulos is running unopposed. Other area House seats do not have contested primaries in either party.

There are five candidates vying for the open nonpartisan judge seat in District 6 (see the candidate profiles in last week's *Timberjay*).

Polling places are open from 7 a.m. – 8 p.m., except for some townships, which can elect to have shortened hours, but all must be open until 8 p.m.

To find your polling place, go online to <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/> and click on elections and voting. Then you enter your address to get your voting infor-

mation. You can also check to see if you are registered to vote, and if not, there is information on how to register at your polling place on election day, and information on early voting.

### How to register on primary election day

When someone registers to vote in Minnesota, they must prove that they are who they say they are and that they live where they say they live. All voter registrations are verified with records from the Department of Public Safety (driver's licenses and state IDs), the Social Security Administration, and other data.

Before any ballot goes to a voter—whether by mail or in person—they must swear an oath that they are eligible to vote and acknowledge that it is a felony to falsify information on their absentee ballot application or registration.

To register at your polling place on Election Day, bring at

least one proof of residence listed below. While these are the most common ways to prove residency, there are others detailed at <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/>.

➤ A current state ID with your current address.

➤ Valid Minnesota driver's license, learner's permit or ID; or a receipt for any of these.

➤ Tribal ID with name, address, photo and signature.

➤ Photo ID and a document with current name and address. That includes any of the following:

➤ Driver's license, state ID or learner's permit issued by any state.

➤ U.S. passport.

➤ U.S. military or veteran ID.

➤ Tribal ID with name, signature and photo.

➤ Minnesota university, college or technical college ID.

➤ Minnesota high school ID. The ID can be expired.

### Approved documents

➤ Bill, account or start-of-service statement due or dated within 30 days of the election for phone, TV or internet service.

➤ Solid waste, sewer, electric, gas or water bill.

➤ Banking or credit card with current address.

➤ A current rental agreement or mortgage valid through Election Day.

➤ A current student fee statement.

➤ A registered voter who can confirm your address. A registered voter from your precinct can go with you to the polling place to sign an oath confirming your address. This is known as 'vouching.' A registered voter can vouch for up to eight voters. You cannot vouch for others if someone vouched for you.

Any of the above-cited documents can be shown on an electronic device if you do not receive paper copies.

## WALZ...Continued from page 1

Walz had seemingly come from nowhere as a vice-presidential contender, but his stock rose sharply in recent weeks as his frequent appearances on national news programs in support of Harris that highlighted his ability to frame political issues in ways that caught the attention of many political commentators. He attacked GOP policies as "weird," a word that caught with many Democrats to describe ideas and policies being proposed by Donald Trump and his own running mate, JD Vance. While Republicans often tout their desire for freedom, Walz argues it's a distorted view of the word. "They mean freedom to be in your bedroom, freedom to be in your exam room, freedom to tell your kids what to read."

Walz had also attracted a higher profile beginning last year when he took over as chair of the Democratic Governors Association. And Walz benefitted from a bit of national buzz around the historic 2023 legislative session, when Walz and a DFL majority in both the House and Senate pushed through major political initiatives,

including expanded education funding, aggressive action on climate change, tax credits for low-income parents with kids, and new investments in affordable housing, including for rental assistance. He also signed bills restoring voting rights for people released from prison, protections for transgender individuals, expanding gun safety measures, and legalizing the adult recreational use of marijuana.

Harris's selection of Walz came as little surprise to many of Walz's supporters back in Minnesota, who have grown increasingly impressed with Walz's ability to connect with average people with his straightforward style.

"The entire country is about to see why their friends from Minnesota can't stop bragging about Gov. Walz," said DFL chair Ken Martin in response to the selection. "Under Gov. Walz's leadership, Minnesota has built a model for how Democrats across the nation can both win elections and improve people's lives."

Minnesota AFL-CIO President Bernie Burnham agreed. "As a parent, edu-

cator, coach, soldier, congressman, and governor, Tim Walz will be a vice president who knows firsthand the challenges that working Americans and our families face and what we need to improve our lives," he said. "Over the last two years, Gov. Walz and the DFL majorities in the Legislature partnered with Minnesota's labor movement to enact one of the most pro-labor legislative agendas in state history."

In selecting Walz, Harris is making it clear that she hopes to attract support from some traditionally Republican sectors, including rural voters. Walz was elected to Congress five times, representing Minnesota's First District, which encompassed a broad swath of traditionally GOP farm country in far southern Minnesota. He's seen as solid, not flashy, with a background that includes years as a popular history teacher in Mankato, a winning high school football coach, and decades of service in the Minnesota National Guard, rising to the rank of command sergeant major before retiring in 2005 to enter politics.

Walz grew up in a

small town in Nebraska and joined the Nebraska Army National Guard at 17, reports *Stars and Stripes*. Walz, who was 19 when his father died, attended college on the GI Bill, earning a teaching degree, which set his initial career path before entering politics.

While Minnesota, which has never voted for Trump, was unlikely to do so this November, the selection of Walz may yet yield electoral benefits to the Harris-Walz ticket. As a plain-spoken, midwestern governor, Walz is likely to spend considerable time on the stump in places like Wisconsin and Michigan over the next three months as Democrats seek to shore up two of the three so-called "blue wall" states that have generally gone Democratic in recent elections.

While Democratic prospects in those states had appeared increasingly troubled with President Biden at the top of the ticket, Harris's elevation to the top spot has energized Democrats, boosted fundraising, and prompted a significant turnaround in public polling. With greater support from young people

and people of color, Harris has closed the polling gap and has taken a modest polling lead nationally over former president Donald Trump in recent days.

The nation's voters will get a much better look at both Harris and Walz during the Democratic National Convention, set to be held in Chicago, Aug. 19-22.

If elected vice president, Tim Walz would be the third Minnesota to serve in that office, following in the footsteps of Hubert Humphrey and

Walter Mondale, both of whom later ran unsuccessfully for president.

A Harris/Walz victory would set a number of firsts, including the first female and first female of color to serve as President of the United States as well as Minnesota's governor. Were Walz to assume the vice-presidency next January it would elevate current Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan, a Native American, to the state's top job.

## ATTACK...Continued from page 1

began assaulting him with metal and wooden rods and poles. A live stream of the incident, obtained by the *Timberjay*, suggested that the individuals were waiting for him, and accused him of seeking a hook-up with a 14-year-old. They repeatedly said they were going to kill him and demanded that he get down on his knees. The victim repeatedly protested the claim, saying that the individual he thought he was meeting had indicated they were 24 years old. The police report indicates that K.K.J., who is age 17, had been the one who corresponded with the victim. The *Timberjay* was unable to confirm how K.K.J. might have represented himself during his correspondence with the victim.

As the assault, both physical and verbal, continued, the victim attempted to get back to his car, but the four youths blocked his path so the victim tried entering Benchwarmer's Bar and Grill, but it had already closed for the night.

According to a

witness interviewed by the *Timberjay*, the victim apparently then tried hiding in an unlit location between Benchwarmers and the train depot.

The extent of the assault could have been much worse, but it was broken up by Steve Freshour, an off-duty Tower EMT who saw the attack, alerted law enforcement, and then intervened, prompting the four youths to run off. After a search of the vicinity, Freshour said he saw the victim and approached him, eventually convincing him that he was there to assist and was not part of the assault.

"He was pretty shook up," Freshour said. While the extent of the beating was difficult to assess from the video, Freshour estimated that the victim was struck at least 14 times by the metal and wooden rods used by the attackers. Freshour remained with the victim and assisted with his injuries until law enforcement arrived on the scene.

All four of the youths involved are considered

juveniles, but under state law, probable cause statements are available to the public and the media when the suspects are at least 16 years of age. K.K.J. and K.O.M., who lives in Tower, are at least 16 years old, while the other two are 15 years-old.

The *Timberjay* has confirmed the identity of three of the suspects but per newspaper policy we are identifying them only by initials. The name of the victim has not been released.

During an interview with the *Timberjay* last week, Chief Reing indicated that two of the youths involved were still in custody, although it's possible they have since been released. Juveniles in detention in northeastern Minnesota are typically housed at the Arrowhead Juvenile Center, in Duluth. Unlike the St. Louis County Jail, the AJC does not make its current inmate roster public.

Chief Reing said he was pleased that the incident could be resolved

without more serious injuries. "I'm just thankful we could help the victim and catch the people who did it," said Reing. "I do believe it was a random event, a one-time deal, hopefully," he added.



**Fridays**  
**4-6 PM**  
at the Train Depot





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16th Annual Danny Theel Memorial  
**TEAM PENNING & RANCH SORTING**

**AUGUST 16-18**  
**TIMBER HALL**  
**EVENT CENTER ARENA**  
4855 HWY. 21, EMBARRASS, MN

**TEAM PENNING:** Friday 3 PM to Dusk; Saturday 9 AM to Dusk  
**RANCH SORTING:** Sunday 9 AM to Completion

**ENTRY FEES: \$15 Per Rider Per Run-Team Penning**  
**\$25 Per Rider For 2 Runs-Ranch Sorting**

**LITTLE MISS EMBARRASS FAIR**  
contestants will have their essays posted during the event, and attendees can vote for their favorite.

**PANCAKE FUNDRAISER**  
Saturday 8-10 AM  
Embarrass Town Hall is part of the ALS Ride, Raffle 'n Roll, riders will be leaving from the Town Hall on Saturday morning at 10:30 a.m.

**FOOD TRUCKS and CONCESSIONS**  
available during Team Penning and Ranch Sorting.

Contact:  
**Doug Mattson 218-750-2277 or**  
**Jeff Anderson 218-780-3449**



READ THE TIMBERJAY!

For rules and other information: [www.embarrassfa.org/fair/team-penning](http://www.embarrassfa.org/fair/team-penning)



CRIME

# Beldo sentenced in Babbitt double murder

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

**BABBITT-** Roger Allen Beldo will spend the next 46 years behind bars for a brutal double murder in Babbitt last October. Sixth District Judge Michelle Anderson handed down that sentence on Monday in response to Beldo's May 8 guilty plea in the case.

Beldo, age 55, bludgeoned Clifford and Christine Johnson to death at their Babbitt residence on Oct. 28, 2023, with a hammer

and crowbar.

According to the terms of the plea bargain agreement, Beldo will serve 295 months for the first count of intentional second-degree murder, and 261 for the second count. The two sentences are to be served consecutively. Beldo will receive credit for 281 days already served on the first sentence.



Roger Beldo

In his plea petition to the court, Beldo stated that he killed Clifford Johnson, age 79, as Johnson was removing him from his home. "Clifford Johnson was in his garage about to take me away from the house after I loaded my belongings into his vehicle. I struck him multiple times in the back and in the head... intending to kill him."

Having killed Clifford with a crowbar, Beldo went back into the house to kill Christine Johnson, age 78, with a hammer. After he

killed the Johnsons, Beldo then drove to Duluth in the Johnsons' car, where he turned himself in to the Duluth Police Department.

"Our thoughts go out to the family of Clifford and Christine Johnson, whose lives were stolen by the defendant's heinous acts," said St. Louis County Attorney Kim Maki.

"This type of brutality can deeply shake a community, even one as strong as Babbitt. Hopefully this resolution brings not only accountability but

closure for their family, the community, and for the rest of the county."

In a statement on the sentencing, the St. Louis County Attorney's Office thanked the Babbitt Police Department, the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office, and the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension for their assistance in the investigation. The case was prosecuted by Assistant County Attorney Amber Pederson and Aaron Welch.

CITY OF ELY

# Council sets study session on ambulance study

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

**ELY-** The Ely City Council scheduled a study session for Aug. 27 to discuss the SafeTech Solutions ambulance study and its proposal for a regionalized ambulance service.

"Since the presentation came out, (the issue) has just kind of stalled," said city council member Al Forsman. "It would be nice to get together and get some people on record as to where they stand on this, and I'd really like the council to have an opportunity to voice their opinions on the matter, too," he said.

The study, commissioned by the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital, was designed to assess the financial and organizational viability of the area's ambulance services. SafeTech presented its findings at a public meeting on June 13, recommending a three-way merger of the Babbitt, Ely, and Tower services to achieve long-term financial and organizational stability. Local reactions to the proposal have been mixed and it has generated little official discussion in Ely to date — a fact that Forsman is hoping to change.

"We'll send out an invitation to all parties involved (on the ambulance issue) so we can get their take," he said. Forsman is Ely's representative on the Ely Area Ambulance Joint Powers Board.

**Railroad depot**

In other matters, the city council approved a \$186,870 sealed bid from

Low Impact Excavators for the excavation and disposal of the contaminated soil at the railroad depot site. The site is being cleaned up in preparation for redevelopment.

Soliciting bids for this work was approved at the July 16 city council meeting. Though the cost of the work is the responsibility of the site owner, the cleanup work may be eligible for a reimbursement grant from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development and for additional funding from the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation. To be eligible for these moneys, the city must be the applicant and fiscal agent for work paid for by these potential grants.

Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski reported that the commissioners of both DEED and IRRR will be in Ely next Wednesday to tour the newly opened Community Hub, followed by a site visit to the depot site. "The hope is to garner some support for additional DEED assistance and cleaning up the contaminated material," Langowski said about the visit. "If you've been by the site lately, you'll see there's a lot of activity. They are actually raising the building in preparation of coming in and excavating the (contaminated) material and putting in a new footing."

**Other business**

In other business, the city council:

- Heard from Ely Library Director Rachel Heinrich that a new stained-

glass window, depicting a wolf, was installed on Tuesday morning at the library. It was crafted by stained-glass artist John Weidemann who donated it to the library. The new window in is the meeting area in the southwest corner of the library building.

- Approved new language regarding the 355 and 357 W. Harvey St. subdivisions. The new language will read: "The existing lots need to remain as they are, moving forward, no additional structures. If the primary structures are removed, they must be rebuilt to current zoning code standards." According to Langowski, the change is the last piece in a long and complicated process that gave the city an easement while allowing the owner to subdivide the current property into two lots.

- Approved a study session on Oct. 29 "to discuss civil citation fees."

- Approved the reclassification of a police officer position to a police sergeant position into the 2025 Budget.

- Approved a 10 percent increase to Ely Community Resource funding in the 2025 Budget.

- Approved a \$7,500 contribution for the Ely Senior Center in the 2025 Budget.

- Approved maintaining the ambulance service donation in 2025 at the \$15.15 per capita level plus building expenses.

- Approved making the Planning and Zoning Administrator position 32 hours a week.

- Approved the purchase of a 2010 Ford F-150

**Right: The Ely Public Library reported the donation of a new stained-glass window of a wolf at Tuesday's Ely City Council meeting. The new window was installed in the meeting area in the southwest corner of the library.**

photo by C. Clark



from St. Louis County for \$3,600 and the disposal of the City's 2003 Ford F-150 by posting bids.

- Approved the installation of fixed-base wireless in Whiteside Park by Treehouse Broadband for \$2,320 and for a service fee of \$160 per month.

- Approved a fee of \$400 for this summer's festivals that utilize wifi and a \$7 fee per vendor per event for events planned in 2025.

- Approved the purchase of Wi-Fi equipment not to exceed \$1,000. The equipment is to complete the conversion of the city's broadcast capability to high definition.

- Approved \$250 to pay Ely Area Television for additional filming in May.

- Approved the hire of Troy Oelke as public works foreman and to step up Neil Lepisto and Eric Mattila to Equipment Operator Two.

- Approved the commercial electric rate classification policy. The recent electricity rate study done for the city noted that some inconsistencies exist in how commercial customers are charged. Langowski noted that the classification policy aims to remove those inconsistencies with an annual review of each customer's electricity use. "This does not affect

our existing rates," Langowski noted. "It's just a matter of how commercial customers are classified for demand billing or a general commercial rate."

- Approved the attendance of the city's wastewater operators at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Operators School on Oct. 8-10 in Minneapolis.

- Approved the internal posting for a police sergeant position.

- Heard the report that Barbara Jones wrote on behalf of the Ely Climate Group about getting the city to be active as a Minnesota Green Step City again. Omerza remarked that it took a lot of paperwork to achieve new steps. Langowski commented, "That's my point for putting on the agenda. If there is somebody interested in participating or assisting in this endeavor, let me know."

- Approved four claims for payment: \$78,567 for the city of Ely and the Ely Utilities Commission; \$44,137 to Mesabi Bituminous for the Trailhead Site Re-bid project; \$23,760 to S.E.H

for work on the Prospector ATV Project; and \$94,330 to Max Gray Construction for the Ely Regional Trailhead Building.

- Approved a motion by council member Adam Bisbee to interview the two applicants for the open position on the parks and recreation board. The two applicants are non-resident Steven Toddle and resident Kristen Anthony. The current vacant seat on the board is open to either residents or non-residents.

- Approved three temporary liquor licenses: for the Ely Rotary on Aug. 16 and the Ely Winton Rod and Gun Club on Aug. 31, both at the Miner's Dry Building, and for the Dorothy Molter Museum on Sept. 20-21 at Whiteside Park.

- Approved the Ely Homecoming Parade for Oct. 4 at 1 p.m. Police Chief Chad Houde said he would consult with the parade organizers to see if the event would need a formal permit or some other arrangement.

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LAKESHORE DEVELOPMENT

# Black Bay campground appeal dismissed

## Rough-N-It owner was contesting environmental assessment requirement

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

**LAKE VERMILION-** In the ongoing dispute over zoning regulations between Rough-N-It campground operator Christine Wyrobek and St. Louis County, the two sides voluntarily agreed on July 31 to dismiss an action in the Minnesota Court of Appeals regarding a requirement for an environmental assessment worksheet, or EAW, for the Black Bay property.

Wyrobek has continued to rent out campsites this summer, as evidenced by ads on the Rough-N-It Facebook page and numerous positive reviews on Airbnb. Wyrobek has continually maintained that the campsites

are allowed under her interpretation of the zoning regulations, while the county begs to differ. County officials sent letters to Wyrobek in March and April “identifying that these uses are occurring without the benefit of a permit,” according to Planning and Zoning Director Ryan Logan. “The county does not have permits on record allowing for short term rental or commercial uses at the site,” Logan said.

Wyrobek’s appeal of the Planning Commission’s decision to require the EAW was based on what she termed “multiple errors and oversights” in the commission’s approval process for her initial rezoning and conditional use permit applications for the proposed campground, as

detailed in the initial filing registered with the Court of Appeals in December 2023. Wyrobek and fellow petitioners Lance and Kari Kuhn, who own one of five parcels that make up the property in question, argued in the filing that because the Planning Commission denied a rezoning application in May and canceled the CUP application in June, the commission had no basis to approve the petition for the EAW in November as there was no plan pending for the property.

The original petition for the EAW was received by the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board on March 20, 2023, was signed by about 170 people, and asserted that the campground project had potential negative

consequences for water quality and wildlife habitat, as well as generating noise and light pollution, garbage and ecological “vandalism.”

The next day in an email to the county Planning Department, Wyrobek volunteered to do the EAW, but was told “that this was not how an EAW works,” according to the court filing. The Planning Commission did not act on the EAW request before denying the rezoning application and canceling the CUP application.

In September 2023, Wyrobek filed a lawsuit contesting the denial of the rezoning and CUP applications, a suit that was later voluntarily dismissed in January.

The suit was ongoing in

November when the Planning Commission decided to reset the process for the property and require an EAW, though no plan was pending before the commission at that time due to the earlier denials.

Court documents available online do not disclose any rationale for the voluntary dismissal of the EAW appeal, nor do they indicate if an EAW will still be required. The *Timberjay* was unable to obtain an answer to that question prior to press time.

Logan said the county is continuing to review compliance issues at the site, and the Planning and Zoning Department typically does not comment on ongoing investigations.

### CHARGES...Continued from page 1

had actually earned.

Erickson was given an opportunity by Jugovich to respond to the audit report, which he did in writing on Nov. 9, 2023. According to the complaint, Erickson responded that he had been paid for 456 hours of accrued vacation time – 300 hours carried over from 2021 and 156 hours from 2022 – for a payout of \$16,808.16. Erickson denied being paid any sick time on his last check.

However, by admitting to being paid for 456 hours of vacation time, Erickson established that he was in violation of the CHRA policy limiting payouts to only 240 hours of accrued

time.

“Therefore, by his own admission, at a minimum Erickson paid himself for 216 hours of vacation time to which he was not entitled, for a total of \$7,856.08,” the complaint states.

#### Past history

The allegations against Erickson aren’t the first time he’s been accused of using public funds for personal financial gain.

In 2012, Erickson was dismissed from his position as the director of the Minnesota Small Cities Development Program in the Department of Employment and Economic Development after an investigation into

expense-report discrepancies. When appealing the denial of unemployment benefits, an unemployment law judge concluded that Erickson made “inappropriate expenditures and requests for reimbursement.” An investigative report compiled by an independent law firm identified 11 events in which Erickson was said to have:

- Falsified expense reports to show that he was working when in fact he was not.
- Falsified reports and claimed expenses that were not legitimately due him.
- Rented cars for state business and used them for personal use.

➤ Caused the state to pay green fees at golf courses while he was attending conferences on state business.

➤ Obtained reimbursement for per diem meal expenses that were included in lodging packages purchased at state expense.

The Minnesota Court of Appeals upheld the unemployment law judge’s finding and stated in its opinion that “Erickson’s conduct was egregious; conduct far less egregious than Erickson’s has been held sufficient to constitute misconduct for unemployment eligibility purposes.”

#### Hearing

Erickson’s hearing on

Monday, Aug. 12 will be conducted remotely, and is what’s termed an omnibus hearing, held to review the case for probable cause for the charge to be brought and determine if the case should move forward to trial. Both sides have indicated in pre-hearing communications with the court that they will not be calling witnesses to testify at the hearing, and the most recent letter from Erickson’s attorney indicated he would waive his right to the hearing, clearing the way for the case to move forward.

If convicted on the felony embezzlement charge, Erickson could face maximum penalties

of ten years in prison and a \$20,000 fine.

### TRAIL...Continued from page 1

Ely Northwoods Chapter of the North Country Trail Association. “I am super excited that we have reached this milestone.

This is the culmination of 10 months of work by the chapter, volunteers, and city officials.”

The chapter formed

last September after the trail was rerouted through the Arrowhead region, including through downtown Ely. The local chapter

is responsible for building and maintaining the trail between Bear Head Lake State Park and Kawishiwi Falls.

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TOWER

# Council approves logging city land for wastewater system expansion

TOWER— The city council here unanimously approved a timber agreement with the Department of Natural Resources and a local logger that will fast track the clearing of land that is expected to be developed for a rapid infiltration basin, or RIB, to expand wastewater treatment capacity for Tower and Soudan.

The land is being cleared initially to make it possible to conduct soil borings needed to determine if the site is acceptable for the construction of a

RIB, which could expand the Tower-Breitung Waste Water Board's wastewater treatment capacity by about 50 percent, at substantially less cost than the addition of a fourth pond or other mechanical treatments. The RIB would also potentially reduce the existing discharge from the wastewater ponds to surface water, which could reduce the amount of phosphorus from the ponds entering Lake Vermilion.

The timber sale, set up by DNR forester Victoria Jari, is

expected to generate a considerable amount of revenue. According to the estimates developed by Jari, the city would generate almost \$37,000 in timber stumpage off of about 55 acres. About \$31,000 of that would come from aspen stumpage, with balsam fir and mixed pine thinning making up most of the rest.

The logging was set to be completed by the end of August and Mayor Dave Setterberg said the loggers would begin their work on that portion slated for

construction of the RIB.

### Change order authorization

In other action, the council voted to authorize the clerk-treasurer and the mayor to authorize change orders up to \$75,000 related to the drinking water treatment facility. The council also noted that waste water board vice-chair Tim Tomsich and wastewater operations manager could also authorize the changes as a back-up. In either case,

the council indicated that the change orders could not exceed the project's total contingency funding. All change orders would eventually come to the council for final approval.

In other business, the council authorized spending up to \$6,000 for the purchase and installation of a new commercial dishwasher for the kitchen in the civic center.

SUMMER BASEBALL

# Vermilion Jr. Leaguers take consolation title during playoffs

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— The Vermilion Range Panthers won the consolation championship as part of the regional Junior League baseball playoffs held this past weekend at Rock Ridge.

Despite entering at ninth seed heading into the tournament, the Panthers showed real prowess behind the stellar pitching of Cedar Holman, of Cook.

After winning a play-in game, the young Panthers squad took on second-seeded Hibbing in the first round, grabbing an early 6-1 lead. But after pulling Holman late in the game, due to a league restriction on the number of innings pitched, Hibbing exploded for nine runs in the seventh inning to win 14-8 and send the Panthers to the consolation round.

It was a similar story throughout the weekend as the Panthers grabbed

early leads only to see them whittled down in the later innings. Against Ely, and against numerous rain delays, they went up 6-1 early before Ely rallied to close the gap to 6-5. The Panthers added two more late in the game to pull away to an 8-5 final.

The Panthers topped Cherry in the consolation championship game, again taking an early lead only to watch Cherry whittle it down to a one-point game. Late runs by the Panthers boosted their winning margin to 8-5, again.

With the successful weekend, the Panthers end their season with a 7-8 record, thanks to a 3-1 record over the final three days of the season. Five team members also played Little League this season, so manager Greg Dostert said these young players really stepped up in this competition.



In front: Kason Dosert. First row: Kayson (Cookie) Cooke, Zaxton Wellander, Caleb Gornick, Ayden Mickle. Back: Head Coach Zach Poderzay, Landon Wellander, Isaac Tuchel, Cedar Holman, Arturo Cameron, Koooper Dostert, assistant coach Andy Salmela, and manager Greg Dostert. Not pictured is Keyson Davis, and statistician Matt Tuchel. submitted photo



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Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital presents...

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If you or your child(ren) are a person with a disability and require an assistive device, service, or other accommodation to participate in this event, please contact Madison Rohr (mrohr@ebch.org) by August 12th at noon.







# North Country

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LOCAL FICTION

## New mystery sets murder on Lake Vermilion

Walleye take center stage in Minnesota author's latest work

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

LAKE VERMILION-Cary Griffith's first trip to Lake Vermilion was in 1969, when his friend's family bought a cabin on Pine Island and brought Griffith along on a visit.

"I'm from eastern Iowa, and I've always been interested in the outdoors," he said. "But I had never seen country like that. I was blown away."



Cary Griffith  
photo by A. McCourt

Griffith ended up settling in the Twin Cities after doing graduate school at the University of Minnesota,

and almost every year since then he has traveled back to that friend's cabin on Pine Island each spring to fish walleye.

"I write about stuff that I love," he said. "It was only a matter of time before I set a book there."

After 34 years working in the corporate world, Griffith retired to take up writing full-time about six years ago.

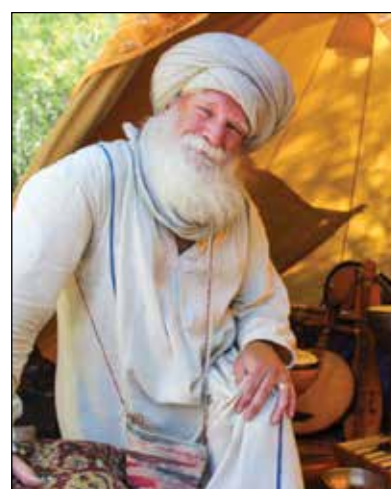
Griffith is a well-known Minnesota natural history writer,

the author of "Lost in the Wild," about a hiker and canoeist lost in the Boundary Waters and Quetico wilderness areas and their subsequent rescues. He also authored "Gunflint Burning: Fire in the Boundary Waters," about the Ham Lake Fire and "Gunflint Falling: Blowdown in the Boundary Waters," about the 1999 blowdown and subsequent rescue of the campers trapped in

See MYSTERY...pg. 2B



EVENTS



## Festival of Skalds set for this weekend

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

ANGORA- As the fifth-annual Festival of Skalds approaches this coming Saturday and Sunday, the homegrown event is now an established part of the North Country festival scene — but that doesn't mean folks won't find new and exciting wrinkles to this ever-evolving event.

The family-oriented festival is a weekend of Old Norse-themed merriment, complete with primitive archery, axe throwing, Viking food and games mixed with fantasy elements like mermaids and fairies. The festival celebrates the skalds who were the keepers of Viking history and great story tellers of their people. And while the festival is steeped in Norse history, it's also found a niche with those accustomed to more traditional Renaissance fairs as well, with a Norse spin on familiar activities.

Revelers surely won't lack for things to see and do at the festival, with a long list of vendors and performers detailed in the event's official program.

Nearly 30 vendors have been confirmed for the event, with wares both whimsical and practical. Revelers will find handcrafted items such as soaps, baskets, pottery, jewelry, and wood-working pieces. If you're enamored with history or fantasy, there will be items inspired by Norse, Viking, and Anglo-Saxon themes, and mystical creatures such as dragons, mermaids, frogs, butterflies and more.

You can't have a festival without food, and Festival of Skalds will feature at least five unique and creative vendors offering their takes on everything from candy to kettle corn

See FESTIVAL...pg. 2B



Left: Members of the public turned out by the hundreds last Wednesday to check out the new Community Hub, which held a ribbon cutting, party, and shakedown cruise for the new multi-service center located in the former Revenue Department building in Ely.

photos by C. Clark

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

## Celebrating "The Hub"

The Ely Area Community Foundation hosts opening event for its new center

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

EELY- The Ely Area Community Foundation celebrated the opening of its 16,000-square-foot Community Hub last week, with free food and live music. Hundreds came to tour the new facility at 760 Miners Dr. on Wednesday, July 31, during the three-hour open house and ribbon-cutting event.

The Community Hub is the result of over a decade

of effort by the EACF. The nonprofit originally aimed to build a community center or recreational facility for Ely, first looking near the Ely Public Schools campus and then near the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital. Despite those initial failures, EACF members persevered and they were able to show off the fruits of their persistence to the community during last week's event.

See THE HUB...pg. 2B



Above: EACF Board Chair Jeff Sundell and board secretary Kurt Soderberg use a giant scissors to officially cut the ribbon signaling the official opening of the new "Community Hub."

Below: Members of the public tour the toddler room at the new 40-student Happy Days Learning Center. The childcare provider is one of the four tenants at the new hub.



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**HUB..Continued from page 1B**

With the help of the city of Ely, the EACF was able to purchase the former Minnesota Department of Revenue Building. Funding and support from the USDA and the United Way of Northeast Minnesota enabled EACF to complete needed renovations. The renamed and remodeled Community Hub is now home to a 40-student day care center, a gym, and two other Ely-based nonprofits, Northwoods Partners and Well Being Development.

**Ribbon cutting**

Jeff Sundell, the chair of the EACF Board of Directors, was the emcee for the opening of the Community Hub. Although the hub has four tenants, the opening of the Happy Days child care attracted most of the attention. Minnesota's two senators and representatives from USDA Rural Development, and the United Way all highlighted the center's role in relieving the area's child care needs.

"Ely rose to the challenge," said U.S. Sen. Tina Smith in a video message, congratulating EACF on the opening of the day care facility.

Rachel Loeffler-Kemp, a member of U.S. Sen. Amy



Members of the public check out the new fitness center at the Hub.

Klobuchar's staff, read a short letter from the senator, who congratulated the organizers for their "hard work and determination to ensure members of your community have access to quality programs and services."

Both Senators helped to secure U.S. Department of Agriculture funds for the renovation of the facility.

Angela Bokovoy, regional director of USDA Rural Development, also spoke about federal funding and childcare. "We are pleased to be a partner with the Community Hub development project by

providing a \$1.2 million congressionally directed spending grant. With the inclusion of the highly anticipated Happy Days Learning Center, the Community Hub development project marks a significant milestone in addressing the area's childcare shortage."

Erin Shay, from the United Way of Northeastern Minnesota noted that her organization had played a funding role as well, as addressing the childcare shortage is a major initiative of the nonprofit. "Never before have we been able to secure this level of funding

at one time for one specific project. We are grateful to Sens. Smith and Klobuchar, for the support of local state and federal leaders, as well as our partners at the USDA for the opportunity to play a role in expanding childcare access across our region."

In addition to introducing comments from dignitaries, Sundell thanked the other board officers of the EACF for their hard work in bringing the Community Hub project to fruition. He specifically mentioned vice chair Dave Marshall's expertise with buildings and contractors, Kurt Soderberg's "commu-

nication and organization skills beyond compare," and Todd Heiman's "problem-solving skills and financial knowledge."

**Open house**

EACF pulled out all the stops for their open house. The nonprofit brought in Andy Messerschmidt and his band to provide live music for the event. The foundation also provided free food from three of Ely's most popular food vendors: Paan's Thai Cuisine food truck, the Wood Fired Pizza food truck, and baked goods from Brainstorm Bakery. The smoothie bar for EACF's gym tenant, Functional Fitness, served up fruit and veggie smoothie samples.

Guests at the open house were able to tour the spaces for the four occupants at the Hub. Along with the smoothie bar, Functional Fitness had its exercise, yoga, and therapy equipment set up in the northeast corner of the building. Both Well Being Development and Northwoods Partners have new office space in the Community Hub.

Of course, the star of the Hub's tenants is the Happy Days Learning

Center. Moving into the Hub allowed Happy Days to expand the number of kids they can accommodate to 40. The childcare nonprofit has three large classrooms, each dedicated to a different age group from infants to pre-K.

Happy Days will share the Community Hub's kitchen with other tenants. The childcare provider also has office space, storage space, a crib room for infants, and a fenced playground.

**Ely Area Community Foundation**

EACF is a 501(c)(3), nonprofit foundation committed to serving the citizens and visitors in the cities of Ely, Tower, Winton, and Babbitt and the townships of Morse, Eagles Nest, Embarrass, Breitung, Fall Lake, and surrounding communities. The EACF fosters the health and wellness of the area's communities by providing space for important community services and helping to fund vital nonprofit organizations.

**FESTIVAL...Continued from page 1B**

and pulled pork sandwiches to specialty baked goods.

Entertainment has been a hallmark of past festivals, and this year will be no different. Embrace your inner warrior with a display of primitive archery with Iron Ranger Arts and the North Woods Grizzlies Archery Team and the sharply-honed skills of the Axe Throwing Men. Immerse yourself in an ancient culture as you learn to speak Gaelic, the language of the Scots.



Left: Festival goes in costume at a prior Festival of Skalds.

Adventurers can embark on a magical journey with dragon hunter training and experience a touch of the exotic with the Dans Askina Turkish Dance Ensemble. And enjoy the poetry and music of the mystic Mustafa Ali.

To heighten the fun, patrons are highly encouraged to wear family-friend-

ly costumes reflecting Old Norse, medieval, fantasy, or Renaissance themes.

No firearms are permitted on festival grounds, and bladed weapons must be tied, strapped, or otherwise secured so that they cannot be drawn or wielded.

If you choose to bring a dog, you must provide proof of current shots and fill out a dog registration form prior to entry. No other pets are allowed.

The festival runs Saturday and Sunday from

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is \$5 for those age 13 and up, and \$1 for kids 12 and under. Alternatively, admission is free with a canned good donation for the Cook Area Food Pantry.

The festival entrance is located at 8182 Carpenter Rd. in Angora. For the official list of vendors and events, go to the festival webpage at <https://ironrangerarts.com/festival-of-skalds>.

**MYSTERY...Continued from page 1B**

the wilderness.

But he has also written a series of fiction mysteries, featuring Sam Rivers, a special agent with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, who investigates wildlife-related crimes in Minnesota.

"Dead Catch" is the fourth and newest novel in the Sam Rivers series, following "Wolf Kill,"

set on the Iron Range, "Cougar Claw" and "Killing Monarchs," all set in Minnesota.

"Minnesota has such an abundance and variety of settings to explore," he said.

His Sam Rivers novels allow Griffith to explore natural science issues. "First and foremost, I want people to be entertained," he said. "I write about

stuff that I love, such as conservation and ecology. My hope is that if you are interested in those things, you'll be interested in my books. Then I layer in the facts."

"Dead Catch" brings Sam Rivers up to Lake Vermilion to investigate the death of a conservation officer, found drowned in an underwater net meant

to illegally trap walleye. The main suspect is a childhood friend of Rivers, who is found at the scene of the crime, passed out and hypothermic in his boat, in freezing fall weather. The friend, who served time previously for poaching, claims he is innocent, but the evidence points straight at him.

Rivers follows the evi-

dence, which puts himself, along with his trusty wolf-dog hybrid companion, in danger as he works with local sheriffs and DNR officials to solve the crime, not knowing who they can and cannot trust.

Rivers hasn't been in contact with his friend since they were both 12, after a tragic canoeing accident in the Boundary Waters

when he and his friend, Holden Riggins, witnessed Riggins' father drowning during a fast-moving storm that swamped their canoe.

Griffith's knowledge of Vermilion, and walleye fishing, will quickly gain the attention of area readers. While he has changed some names of towns and islands, the general geography of Vermilion will be clear to readers, even though some names have been changed.

"I did play a little loose and fast with some of the geography of the lake," he admitted. "I took some poetic license." But the thrill of a night-time boat chase around the back of Pine (called Temple in the book) Island will be worth it for readers, as Rivers and his local law enforcement partner try to catch up with the real killers. And the crime, it turns out, is more complicated than just poaching.

Griffith said the book is all fiction, and the plot is not based on any actual poaching ring on the lake, but it gave him a chance to highlight the wildlife and beauty of the area.

His next book in the Sam Rivers series is set to come out next year, "Rattlesnake Bluff," which is set in the driftless area of southeastern Minnesota.

Griffith is looking forward to bringing his four young grandchildren up to Vermilion, once they are a little older. His three grown sons all got to spend time on the lake when they were growing up. He spent time on Pine Island in June, for his annual trip up north.

Griffith has won a Minnesota Book Award, and a Midwest Book Award. His books are sold locally at Piragis in Ely, or through online retailers. He is hoping to do a book signing at Piragis sometime in the future.



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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. # \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card Information VISA MC DISCOVER  
Billing address if different from above \_\_\_\_\_

**Book Total - Pick Up \$29.95 + tax (\$32.16)**

Total charged to credit card \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Paid by check \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Pick Up  Mail

**Book Total - Mail \$39.95**

Check # \_\_\_\_\_



Obituaries and Death Notices



**James A. Hill Jr.**

James Allan Hill Jr., 67, of Soudan, died on Saturday, Aug. 3, 2024, after a long battle with cancer. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 9 at St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower. Reverend Father Beau Braun will officiate. A gathering time for family and friends will begin one hour prior to the service at the church. Inurnment in the Lakeview Cemetery will take place at a later date. Memorials are preferred and may be directed to Essentia East Range Hospice. Jim's family would like to give a heartfelt thanks to them for their excellent care and compassion. Family services are provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.

Jim was born on Sept. 9, 1956, in Soudan, the son of James Allan Sr. and Donna Kay Branwall Hill, and was a graduate of Tower-Soudan High School. He graduated from the University of Minnesota-Duluth and received his law enforcement skills training at Hibbing Community College. Jim mar-

ried Pamela Roy on Sept. 4, 1982, in Tower and had been a lifelong resident of Tower-Soudan.

Jim was employed as the Chief of Police for Breitung Township for 32-plus years. On days off, he worked with Paul Wellander Construction. After retiring from law enforcement, he worked as an insurance inspector for Palo Mutual Insurance of Aurora, and the Tower Soudan Insurance Agency in Tower. Jim was a member of the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association, served on the Breitung Township Water Commission Board, the Tower Housing Authority, and served on the Soudan Fire Department from 1981 until 2012. He enjoyed the outdoors, including snowmobiling, four-wheeling, time at the cabin on Lake Vermilion, traveling, and of course his saunas.

Jim is survived by his wife of 42 years, Pam; brother, Danny (Corrine) Hill of Soudan; brothers-in-law, Paul (Toody) Roy of Soudan and Mark (Susan) Roy of Griffin, Ga.; nieces and nephew, Patricia Roy, Ashley (Scott) Clausen, Bradley (Clara) Roy, Samantha (Andrew Leung) Roy and Jodi (Nick) Levens; great-nephew, Easton Clausen; and extended family and friends.

**Miriam H. Gornick**

Miriam Hazel Sipola Gornick, 94, of Soudan, died on Friday, Aug. 2, 2024, at the Cook Hospital. A Mass of Chris-

tian Burial was held on Wednesday, Aug. 7 at St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower with Father Beau Braun as celebrant. Interment followed in Lakeview Cemetery. Family services were provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.

She is survived by her children, Martin A. Gornick of Bradenton, Fla., Bernadette Hendrickson of Duluth, Carmen (Robert J.) Dale of Soudan and Domonique Schumacker of Mt. Iron; siblings, James Sipola, Margaret Skube and Doris Sipola; grandchildren, Denise (Kai) Bunge, Carrie Grose, Kimirenee (Usher) Belgacem, Nichole (Bryan) Chiabotti, Aaron Gornick, Jillian (Mike) Anderson, Gerald (Gracia) Hendrickson, Troy Hendrickson, Tara Schumacker and Brianna Schumacker; 15 great-grandchildren; six great-great-grandchildren; and numerous extended relatives and friends.

**Dorothy H. Hall**

Dorothy Helen Laverne Lakso Hall, 95, of Eveleth, originally of Embarrass, died on Sunday, July 28, 2024. A memorial service was held on Thursday, Aug. 1 at United in Christ Lutheran Church in Eveleth. Burial will be at a later date in the Eveleth Cemetery. Arrangements are entrusted to Cron-Sheehy Funeral Home of Eveleth.

She is survived by her daughter, Donna (Chuck) Dennis; son, Tom Hall (Frieda Ahrens);

many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren; son-in-law, Denver Young; daughter-in-law, Cathy Tyge; niece, Violet Moravitz of Ely; and other extended family members.



**Thomas A. Kitto**

Thomas Arthur "Tom" Kitto, 90, of Tower, Bloomington and Savage, Minn., Lady Lake, Fla., and Apex, N.C., passed away peacefully on Sunday, July 21, 2024. In lieu of a memorial, please donate to support a teacher's classroom, either locally or through a website such as donorschoose.org. Or, for his love of woodworking, please plant a hardwood tree or trees in his honor.

Tom grew up in Tower. He and his brothers, William Jr. "Bill" and Richard "Dick", loved small town life, helped run the family Kitto Hardware store, and every chance they got they were in a boat on Lake Vermilion. He worked underground at the Tower-Soudan Underground Mine as

a young man, dangerous work that helped him earn enough to put himself through college.

He had an equally strong drive for academics, hard work, and craftsmanship. Tom worked as a draftsman, a shop teacher, and a special education teacher and administrator. Tom and his family were very proud of the fact he was awarded the Minnesota Special Educator of the Year award in 1980. He was a lifelong educator, including in recent years having taught "the old guys" how to safely use shop equipment in their retirement community in Florida. His proudest and favorite educational accomplishment was running the Bryant YES Center in Minneapolis in the 1970s, providing opportunities for at-risk youth to experience success and to earn their high school diploma.

Tom's passions included academics, woodworking, especially with his grandchildren, walking in the woods, and spending time at his family's cabin on Lake Vermilion. Due to his teaching schedule, family trips were limited to summertime, and his family enjoyed many amazing vacations each summer.

Tom is survived by his wife of almost 69 years, Edith; sons, Earl (Pam) Kitto, Bruce (Patricia) Kitto and Glen (Michelle) Kitto; daughter, Renee (Paul) Gallup; grandchildren, Zack Kitto, Alison Fontenot, Laura Kitto, John Kitto, William Kitto,

Abby Kitto, Ben Gallup, Elise Gallup and Brianna Gallup; great-grandchildren, Asher, Silas, Margaret, Elodie, Jonah and Lydia; brother, Richard (Sandy) Kitto; and many other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Marion L. Prince Kitto and William J. Kitto; and brother, William "Bill" Kitto Jr.

**Shirley M. Przybylski**

Shirley Marie Jerich Przybylski, 88, of Babbitt, passed away on Sunday, July 28, 2024, at Virginia Essentia Health Hospital. A Mass of Christian Burial was held at 11 a.m. with visitation one hour prior on Saturday, Aug. 3 at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Babbitt. Burial followed at the Argo Cemetery. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

She is survived by her sons, Michael (Julie) Przybylski and Mark Przybylski; daughter, Jody (Timothy) Wind; grandchildren, Ryan (Meghan) Przybylski, Jordan (Danielle) Przybylski, Kaitlyn (Caleb) Wind and Taylor (Hunter) Wind; great-grandchildren, Paisley, Bennett and Brooks; sister, Janet Olson; and many nieces and nephews.

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**Lisa M. Muggli**

Lisa Marie Muggli, a woman whose heart brimmed with love for family, faith, and the great outdoors, passed away unexpectedly on July 15, 2024, at the age of 58. Lisa was born in Portland, Ore., on April 1, 1966. Her parents were Lois and Melvin Chapman.

She lived in the Orr area for the last 25 years.

Lisa's life was a tapestry woven with vibrant threads. Her family was her masterpiece. She cherished her husband, Edward Jr., and their four children, Sherrie, Aurora, Edward Thomas III, and Vern. Laughter echoed in their home, a testament to the joy she brought to everyday moments.

Lisa wasn't just a nurturer of human con-

nections; she possessed a deep love for all living things. Her soul found solace by the water, casting a line and reeling in not just fish, but serenity. She captured the world's beauty through the lens of her camera, forever etching memories in photographs. Her love for nature extended to the kitchen, where she whipped up delicious meals, a feast for both the body and soul.

Lisa's faith was a cornerstone of her life. She was an active member of her church, her spirit finding solace in worship, and her hands ever willing to help others. For 15 years she served her community at the Angora and Cook post offices, and for seven years she was a steward of the environment with the DNR Forestry Office in Orr.

Lisa's absence leaves a gaping hole in the hearts of those who knew her. She was, quite simply, a good person - a people person who volunteered her time and energy to countless causes. Her legacy will live on in the memories she leaves behind, a testament to a life well-lived and a love that will forever endure.

# Keep it Clean, ST. LOUIS COUNTY

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

**ST. LOUIS COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT**  
218-749-9703 | OFFICE HOURS MON - FRI 8 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Summer hours effective April 15 - September 30

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# Outdoors

Our lives in the  
Northwoods

RECREATION

## Final miles proving the toughest for Mesabi Trail

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— The Mesabi Trail, now just a handful of miles from completion, is a testament to the power of persistence, and a whole lot of patience.

When Bob Manzoline assumed the role of project manager back in the late 1990s, he couldn't have imagined it would consume the next quarter century of his life. "I really thought this thing would be done by now," he said during a recent interview with the *Timberjay*.

To date, they've completed over 155 miles of paved trail between Grand Rapids and Ely, but it's the final handful of miles that have proven to be the most challenging. Take the roughly two-and-a-half-mile stretch from Wahlsten Rd. to Wiseman Rd. For years, Manzoline tried to line up easements along the stretch but found steady resistance from local residents in fiercely independent Kugler Township. While there's considerable public land to the east of Hwy. 135, the terrain proved too difficult. "The hills and swamps back in there are so

**Right: The intersection of Hwy. 135 and Wiseman Rd. has proven to be a challenge for engineers with the Mesabi Trail and MnDOT.**

photo by M. HelMBERGER

rugged we couldn't find a way," said Manzoline.

Eventually, Manzoline came to the conclusion that they would need to pursue a route within the existing right-of-way of Hwy. 135. That reduces the scenic qualities of the trail, but is still better than the existing break in the trail, which

See **TRAIL...**pg. 5B



Top left: A freshly-hatched monarch rests on a flower.  
Above: A white admiral works over a thistle flower.  
Below: An Atlantis fritillary sits on a log.  
Bottom: A Harris' checkerspot sits on a leaf.  
Bottom left: A northern pearly eye, identifiable by the many eyespots on the outer wing.

photos by M. HelMBERGER

### Wildflower Watch



This week's featured flower  
**COMMON MILKWEED**

The **Common Milkweed**, *Asclepias syriaca*, has become increasingly common in our region in part due to help from humans. This plant is an essential part of the life cycle of the monarch butterfly and humans have been propagating it to help the butterflies increase their reproductive success.

It's a native wildflower that's currently still in bloom. It commonly grows in sunny areas and ditches and normally grows four-to-five feet tall, although our abundant June rainfall pushed some of the milkweed in my flower bed to well over six feet in height.

This plant is easily identified in bloom by its pinkish, orb-shaped flower clusters and the plant's large oval, light green leaves that exude a milky substance when ripped or torn.

### Outdoors briefly

#### DNR sets auctions of hunting, fishing, trapping equipment

REGIONAL— The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has scheduled two public auctions of confiscated fishing, hunting, and trapping equipment. The auctions, which will be held online Aug. 26 and Oct. 7, include equipment that was confiscated following serious game

See **AUCTIONS...**pg. 5B

COLORS OF SUMMER

## Butterfly season



LIFE ON THE ISLAND

## I can't imagine my life without my three dogs

They say behind every successful woman is a dog. Well, I don't know how successful I am, but behind me there's three of them. And I can't imagine my life without them.

Many people that have fished around my point know the dogs. One family came back many times to check up on them. They called it Dog Point.



**APRIL WAMHOFF**

It used to be when I worked in town they would all scamper into the boat twice daily to spend the day with my parents. Very little fuss about that once they learned the routine. Now that I work from home they don't get as many boat rides, but I think they are as happy about that as I am. Oh, they still

get boat rides and once a week we



Nibs



Luna



Echo

all try to visit the senior center, but we spend most of our time on the island.

I have had Nibs the longest.

He's a six-year-old black lab that I have had since he was a puppy and he loves the water. He'd play frisbee for as long as you would

throw it. We play every night off of one shore or the other and it's good exercise for him as he has had surgery on both knees. Unfortunately, I also end up with a wet, sandy dog in the bed at night. Oh, well.

When we first moved out here, he would chase boats. Many times a friendly boater would haul him back home. He'd be a happy dog because he always got lots of attention and usually a sandwich

See **DOG POINT...**pg. 5B



**TRAIL...**Continued from page 4B

remains the longest gap along the route from Grand Rapids to Ely.

But even operating within the highway right-of-way didn't end the challenges. "We've had a heck of a time getting permitting from MnDOT," said Manzoline. Most of the route has been relatively manageable. It will run along the east side of the highway from Wahlsten Rd. north about a mile and a half before crossing over to the west side near the Lakes Gas propane storage tank. The biggest engineering challenge has been at the intersection with Wiseman Rd., since the large white house located on the south side of Wiseman Rd. is very close to the right-of-way, which would put bikers very close to the house. "We've been trying to solve that problem with our engineers for quite a while," said Manzoline. "We submitted the plan to MnDOT six months ago, and have been going back and forth on it. I think we're to the end of the back and forth, but that's been the big holdup."

While Manzoline has mostly given up trying to predict forward progress on the trail, he's hopeful that the St. Louis and Lake County Regional Railroad Authority that operates the

trail will soon have permits in hand that will allow the trail to extend as far north as the West Two River crossing, found about a quarter mile north of Wiseman Rd. The funding is already in place so once the permits are issued, Manzoline said bidding could go out pretty quickly, possibly this fall with a possible start of construction yet this year and completion expected in 2025.

As for the stretch from the river crossing to Tower, Manzoline can only shrug his shoulders. "We have no timeline for the final stretch and I would fear to even give you one," he said.

**Maintaining existing trail**

Even as the rail authority works to bridge a couple of the remaining gaps in the trail, Mother Nature seems insistent on creating new ones. That's particularly true of a location near Biwabik, where an old drainage channel from the mining days has repeatedly damaged the trail as a result of heavy runoff. "It has been a problem for years," said Manzoline, who is looking at a possible reroute of the trail in the area. "Rebuilding it without a long-term solution doesn't make sense to me. It's the third time we've had a major incident there."

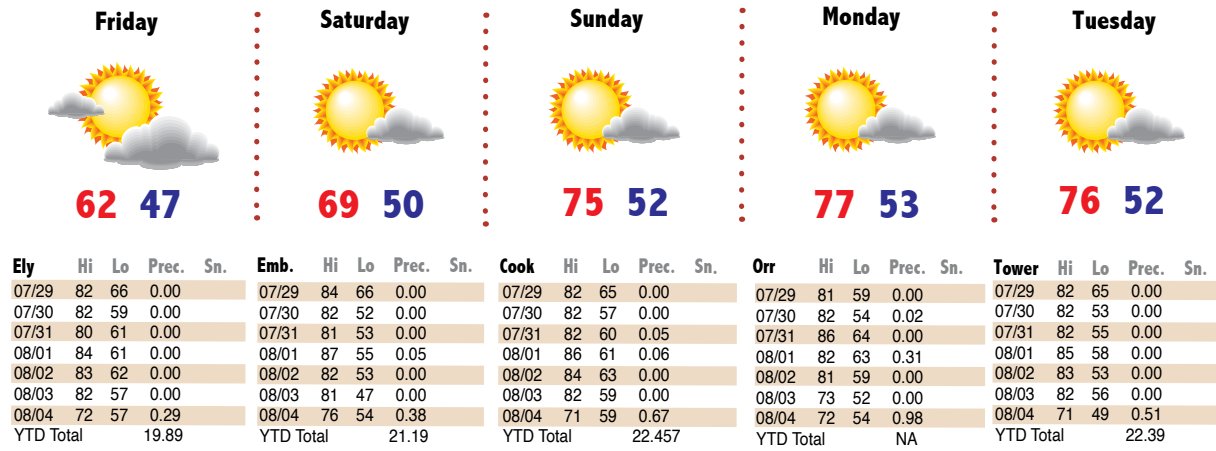
**THE AUGUST GARDEN**



The blooming of the bee balm in our flower garden has attracted a huge array of pollinators, including this bumblebee. photo by M. Helmberger

**LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST**

from NOAA weather



**AUCTIONS...**Continued from page 4B

and fish violations.

Following are additional key dates:

►A list of equipment to be auctioned will be available about a month before each auction at the Hiller Auction Service website(hillerauction.com).

►The bidding catalog for each auction will be available at the Hiller Auction Service website on Aug. 22 and Oct. 3. The catalog will include a written description and photos of each item.

►Online bidding for the auctions begins Aug. 23 (first auction) and Oct. 4 (second auction). Onsite inspection is available at Hiller Auction Service in Zimmerman on Aug. 23 and Oct. 4 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

►The auctions will

begin closing at 5 p.m. on Aug. 26 and Oct. 7.

All equipment will be sold as-is, including all defects or faults, known or unknown. Once they've been purchased, items cannot be returned. Background checks are required of anyone who successfully bids for a firearm.

Revenue from confiscated equipment auctions will go into the Game and Fish Fund, which is the DNR's primary fund for delivering fish and wildlife management and law enforcement.

For more information, see DNR Enforcement's auction page(mndnr.gov/enforcement/auctions).

**DOG POINT...**Continued from page 4B

was involved. He doesn't do that very much any more and I am mostly glad. I always worried that a boater would not see his black head in time and hit him. Still, we met the nicest people that way.

Echo, my 10 year old husky, moved in with us when we moved to the island. At the age of 5, his family decided they couldn't keep him. He'd been in foster care for two years when Nibs decided he needed a friend. Echo is not so much the soft water dog, but make it snow and he's a happy camper. Wintertime is his favorite. He'll find a snowdrift along the shoreline and burrow right in until only his nose is sticking out. Mind you, this is not a survival sit-

uation for him because he's always in sight of the house. He's a big fan of snowshoe walks when there's no slush on the lake. Echo is a beautiful dog, complete with a hair coat like a rug and blue eyes. He's a favorite at the senior center.

Luna has been with us on the island for only about 15 months so she's just finally feeling at home. She's a two-and-a-half-year-old Australian Shepard who came to us when her owners didn't want her. She'd just healed from a car accident that left her with a permanent limp. Luna's a smart girl with the energy of an atomic bomb.

We all sleep in the loft and because of the limp she can't manage

the stairs on her own. So, she walks up on the front feet and I carry the back. It's a system that works well for us. The stairs are about her only barrier, and frankly, I think someday she may even figure that out. We have balls and dog toys all over the point now for her. She lets us know whenever someone is on the dock, or even if she thinks they are too close to what she thinks is her territory. I was worried when she first got here that she would try to herd all the wildlife on the island but, so far, she hasn't harassed the locals too much.

There you have it, the dogs of Dog Point. Successful or not, they're behind me all the way.

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# TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

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

## AUTOMOTIVE

**Langevin Auto & Truck Repair**  
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## HAIR CARE

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

## PET CREMATION

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

## Try out the Timberjay classifieds

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

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## SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## GARAGE SALE

1815 Everett Bay Rd., Lake Vermilion, Tower. Friday, Aug. 9 from 8-6, and Saturday, Aug. 10 from 8-12.

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## SEWING

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## SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ◆◆◆◆

◆ Easy ◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆ Difficult

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## FUNERAL SERVICES

**Range Funeral Home**

Virginia 741-1481  
Hibbing 263-3276  
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## Weekly SUDOKU Answer

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

## Super Crossword

## NOVEL INTRODUCTIONS

- |   |   |  |  |   |  |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                             | <b>55</b> President before Sadat          | <b>93</b> "Hip Hop Is Dead" rapper   | <b>DOWN</b>                            | <b>41</b> "As is" transaction                   | <b>78</b> Hailed vehicle               |
| <b>1</b> Downgrade                        | <b>56</b> Not duped by                    | <b>94</b> Annual game at Aloha Stadium   | <b>2</b> Domain                        | <b>42</b> Beseeched                             | <b>83</b> Brand of root beer           |
| <b>7</b> Morals                           | <b>57</b> Jungle beast                    | <b>101</b> Did perfectly   | <b>3</b> Butcher's tool                | <b>43</b> Acronym for four entertainment prizes | <b>84</b> Stranded cell stuff          |
| <b>13</b> Rich fabric with a silky finish | <b>58</b> Said "There, there" to, e.g.    | <b>104</b> Fliers' military branch   | <b>4</b> Whale variety                 | <b>46</b> Scott Turow memoir                    | <b>86</b> Nintendo game console        |
| <b>20</b> "Bam!" chef Lagasse             | <b>60</b> Raised fortification            | <b>105</b> He wrote "The Raven"  | <b>5</b> Dead heats                    | <b>47</b> Actress Laura                         | <b>87</b> Fall away                    |
| <b>21</b> Result in                       | <b>62</b> Song closing a Catholic service | <b>106</b> Annual honor given by Sports Illustrated  | <b>6</b> Lilly of drugs                | <b>48</b> Sp. woman                             | <b>89</b> Lighthouse lights            |
| <b>22</b> Went to the polls again         | <b>67</b> Kauai, e.g.                     | <b>113</b> Twin sister of He-Man   | <b>7</b> TV's "Mistress of the Dark"   | <b>49</b> Dress of India                        | <b>90</b> Sushi tuna                   |
| <b>23</b> 1978 arcade classic             | <b>68</b> Patch affixed with heat         | <b>115</b> Actress on the sitcom "American Housewife"                                      | <b>8</b> Tantalizes                    | <b>50</b> Opulent, floor-length cloak           | <b>91</b> Border                       |
| <b>25</b> Immemorial                      | <b>69</b> Many a hospital delivery        | <b>116</b> Author of the novels whose titles are the starts of nine answers in this puzzle | <b>9</b> Contained                     | <b>51</b> Of lesser importance                  | <b>95</b> Noble sort                   |
| <b>26</b> Gyro breads                     | <b>70</b> Abbr. before an alias           | <b>119</b> 1990s talk show host Watts  | <b>10</b> Brain gains                  | <b>52</b> Parisian pronoun                      | <b>96</b> Thawed                       |
| <b>27</b> Sue Grafton's "— for Alibi"     | <b>71</b> "To quote myself ..."           | <b>120</b> Fly planes  | <b>11</b> Key near Alt                 | <b>53</b> "You win"                             | <b>97</b> Beginning painting class     |
| <b>28</b> Its highest mountain is Denali  | <b>73</b> Opposed to bad witch?"          | <b>121</b> Singer Dolly  | <b>12</b> Sammy of the diamond         | <b>54</b> Religious law                         | <b>98</b> Accepting of                 |
| <b>30</b> "... good witch — bad witch?"   | <b>74</b> Colorado's nickname             | <b>122</b> Calls a talk show, e.g.   | <b>13</b> Car stopper                  | <b>58</b> 1040 ID partly with                   | <b>99</b> Became tiresome to           |
| <b>31</b> Emphasize                       | <b>77</b> Big name in car parts           | <b>123</b> Went back over, as one's steps  | <b>14</b> Of monarchs                  | <b>59</b> Must-see                              | <b>100</b> Gets wiser                  |
| <b>33</b> Healthy                         | <b>79</b> "Evita" star                    | <b>124</b> Peripherals   | <b>15</b> Coincide                     | <b>61</b> It's south of Tenn.                   | <b>102</b> Pop singer Lauper           |
| <b>34</b> Bread sliced doubly thick       | <b>80</b> Meadowland                      |  | <b>16</b> Coke, e.g.                   | <b>63</b> Become a participant                  | <b>103</b> City in southeast Minnesota |
| <b>37</b> College transcript no.          | <b>81</b> Copy a lion                     |  | <b>17</b> Truckloads                   | <b>64</b> Pollute                               | <b>104</b> Fess up to                  |
| <b>39</b> Charge to pitch a product       | <b>82</b> Old video game consoles         |  | <b>18</b> China's — Xiaoping           | <b>65</b> "Get what I'm talkin' about?"         | <b>106</b> Frying fat                  |
| <b>44</b> Many a hospital delivery        | <b>85</b> Not just moist                  |  | <b>19</b> Border                       | <b>66</b> Home to Augusta                       | <b>107</b> "The Time Machine" race     |
| <b>45</b> Bottled water brand             | <b>86</b> Yard uglifiers                  |  | <b>24</b> Mil. alliance since 1949     | <b>71</b> It's south of Tenn.                   | <b>108</b> — monster                   |
| <b>49</b> "Tis a pity!"                   | <b>88</b> Aruba is in it                  |  | <b>29</b> White birds                  | <b>72</b> Senate affirmatives                   | <b>109</b> No-show GI                  |
| <b>52</b> What a DJ talks into            | <b>91</b> Barbecue serving                |  | <b>31</b> Pig's digs                   | <b>74</b> Pigeon shed                           | <b>110</b> Not fully shut              |
|   | <b>92</b> "Gypsy" composer                |  | <b>32</b> Auto garage brand            | <b>75</b> Allay                                 | <b>111</b> Super review                |
|   |   |  | <b>35</b> Lawyers' gp.                 | <b>76</b> Home pest                             | <b>113</b> Food herring                |
|   |   |  | <b>36</b> Lay turf on                  | <b>77</b> Curved paths                          | <b>114</b> Cattle group                |
|   |   |  | <b>37</b> Enthusiastic greeting        |   | <b>117</b> Cochlea site                |
|   |   |  | <b>38</b> Mas' mates                   |   | <b>118</b> W-2 pro                     |
|   |   |  | <b>40</b> Stops harping on the subject |   |  |

## CryptoQuote answer

If you wish to heal your sadness or anger, seek to heal the sadness or anger of others.  
— Ana Castillo

## Even Exchange answers

- |                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Shout, Scout   | 6. Flight, Fright  |
| 2. Gallon, Gallop | 7. Prose, Probe    |
| 3. Hunch, Hunch   | 8. Tarry, Terry    |
| 4. Empire, Umpire | 9. Spell, Spill    |
| 5. Clark, Clerk   | 10. Export, Expert |

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## King Crossword Answers

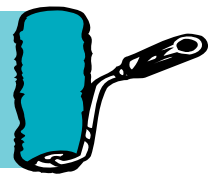
Solution time: 24 mins.

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





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