



Inside:
Schools facing challenges... See /3
Skiers race in Ely... See /1B
Snowmobile Hot Spots... See /8B

the **TIMBERJAY**



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989

VOL. 36, ISSUE 4

January 31, 2025

\$1.50

FEDERAL FUNDING

Grant to test feasibility of green iron plant on the Range

Uncertainty over the funding in the wake of conflicting Trump messages on federal grants

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
 Managing Editor

REGIONAL— A \$1.3 million federal grant award to UMD's Natural Resources Research Institute in Duluth should be the final piece in a \$4-5 million funding package to support a feasibility study of a first-of-its-kind hydrogen-based green iron plant to be built somewhere on the Iron Range.

If all goes according to plan, the study should be completed within a

year and a plant could become a reality within five years, according to Rolf Weberg, executive director of the NRRI, who spoke with the *Timberjay* this week. If so, he said, it could put Minnesota in the forefront of a transformation in the steel industry now underway across the globe.



Rolf Weberg

The federal funds are expected to come from the Department of Energy's Office of Industrial Efficiency and Decarbonization and the award marks the first project under the Midwest Industrial Transformation Initiative. The ultimate goal of the initiative is to provide a national and global model of industrial transformation across four critical sectors, including iron/steel, cement/concrete, ammonia/fertilizers, and liquid fuels.

The planned feasibility study

is part of a collaboration between NRRI, the Great Plains Institute, West Central Research and Outreach Center, and a consortium of community-based organizations, government agencies, tribal entities, organized labor, and industry partners.

"This green iron project will be the first of its kind, putting the U.S. on a trajectory to maintain global competitiveness as the demand for green iron and other critical materials grows," said Weberg.

While the award was made ahead of the change of administrations, the funding is now on hold while the incoming Trump administration ostensibly conducts a 90-day review.

A federal judge has temporarily blocked the president's action, but uncertainty remains about the future of billions of dollars in federal grants.

While the new president has been seen as hostile to green energy, which would be at the heart of the proposed

See **IRON PLANT**, pg. 10

Right: Sculptors worked on their art last winter during the snow sculpture symposium. Conditions are expected to be ideal for snow sculpting next week with single-digit high temperatures forecasted. Sculptors from around the world are expected to take part in the competition.



file photo by C. Clark

CELEBRATING THE SEASON

Winter festival kicks off Thursday

by CATIE CLARK
 Ely Editor

Snow sculpture symposium attracting international interest

ELY- The 31st annual Ely Winter Festival gets underway next Thursday, Feb. 6, with a long list of festivities during the ten-day event.

Snow sculptors from three continents, including 17 professional snow sculpting teams and

10 amateur teams, will be on hand to mold their masterpieces in Whiteside Park.

"We will have snow sculptors from the U.K., Argentina, Canada, and Germany this year, and we're waiting to hear from the team from Ecuador to confirm

they can come," Ely Winter Festival Director Shauna Vega said on Tuesday. "This will be the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic that this many international snow sculptors have come

See...**FESTIVAL** pg. 9



NORTH WOODS SCHOOL

Bus crash leaves two students injured

by DAVID COLBURN
 Cook/Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- A school bus on the way to North Woods School on Wednesday morning slid off an icy road, injuring two students who were both sent by ambulance for non-life-threatening injuries.

The ISD 2142 school bus was on Olson Rd E. near the North Woods School,

which is about four miles northwest of Cook when it slid off of the roadway, struck two trees, and came to rest against a light pole that was not knocked down, according to a St. Louis County Sheriff's Office press release. There were 31 students on board with the driver, and only two needed additional medical attention.

See...**CRASH** pg. 9

CRIME

Peterson arraigned in Bois Forte hit-and-run

by DAVID COLBURN
 Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Eric Scott Peterson, 50, of Virginia, was formally arraigned in federal court on Tuesday on two charges of involuntary manslaughter after allegedly causing the death of Amanda Boshey in a hit-and-run accident on the Bois Forte Reservation on Dec. 17.

Peterson was present with his attorney in a Duluth federal courtroom where he pleaded not guilty to the charges, and Judge Leo Brisbois set a tentative trial date of March 31. Pretrial motions could cause the trial to be rescheduled for a later date.

The charges differ See...**PLEAD** pg. 9

POSSIBLE ARSON?

Second fire this month in Tower south side neighborhood

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
 Managing Editor

TOWER— Breitung police officials are hoping to talk to anyone with information about a late-night fire that destroyed a garage and contents, including two vehicles, on S. Second St., this past Friday night.

Homeowner Dave Wanless said he noticed the blaze shortly before 10:45 p.m. and called

911. He said the fire appeared to start on an exterior corner of the garage but quickly engulfed the two-car structure. Given the nature of the fire, arson is certainly considered a strong possibility.

According to Wanless, the fire marshal did collect soil and ash samples from the corner where the fire appears to have started, presumably to test for the presence of an accelerant. Electrical shorts are a common

cause of fires, but Wanless said the fire marshal noted that the corner of the garage where the fire appears to have started had no electrical lines in place, which would seem to rule out a short.

Wanless had recently had words with a neighbor on S. Second St. who is known to be highly volatile and threatening.

Friday's fire was the second this month affecting residences on either side of the

Right: Last Friday night's blaze destroyed a garage and two vehicles, but firefighters kept the blaze from spreading.

photo by M. HelMBERGER

alley between S. Third and S. Second streets. A Jan. 9 fire just three doors down destroyed a home owned by Jim Anderson. The cause of that fire, which

See...**FIRE** pg. 9



Home to the Piragis Bookstore

Where great books always find you!

**OPEN DAILY -- WINTER CAMPING GEAR RENTALS
 SKIS, SNOWSHOES, TENTS, WOODSTOVES, BAGS, PULKS**

piragis.com 218 - 365 - 6745 boundarywaterscatalog.com

Contact The Timberjay

218-753-2950
 editor@timberjay.com



8 0 4 8 7 9 3 5 1 4 0 5

Community notices



Fiber arts by Cathy Bell in last year's ArtWalk. file photo

28th annual Ely ArtWalk run Feb. 1 - 28

ELY- February is when Ely turns its downtown into one huge art gallery. The 28th annual Ely ArtWalk officially starts on Saturday, Feb. 1 and runs through the end of the month.

It will feature over 400 works by 58 artists, showcased in the windows of 39 Ely businesses. The ArtWalk will hold an opening event and reception at the Ely Folk School, 209 E. Sheridan St., on Friday, Feb. 7 from 4 to 6 p.m. The reception is free and open to all. Attendees can meet the artists whose works are on display at the event.

The opening event is just one of the activities planned during the Ely Winter Festival. The ArtWalk displays are spread throughout Ely's downtown business district, along Sheridan St., Chapman St., Central Ave., and First and Second Aves. A map of the where the artworks are displayed is available at the Ely Winter Festival headquarters at Northern Grounds. It is also online at elyartwalk.org

MN North- Vermilion hosting zoom presentation with artist/author Carl Gawboy on Feb. 10

ELY- Are you looking for a way to enjoy the Ely Winter Festival indoors this year? Join the Ely-Winton Historical Society for a Zoom meet-and-greet with Bois Forte Anishinaabe and Finnish artist Carl Gawboy and his editor, Rain Newcomb of the Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College on Monday, Feb. 10 from 5-6 p.m. The visual presentation will detail Carl's process in writing and illustrating his latest book, "Fur Trade Nation: An Ojibwe's Graphic History." This free presentation will be held at MN North-Vermilion Campus Theater, 1900 E Camp St.

Finnish Americans and Friends to meet on Tuesday, Feb. 4 in Hibbing

HIBBING- Finnish Honorary Consul Jim Johnson will be the speaker at the Finnish Americans and Friends meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 4, at 2 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, 4010 9th Avenue W, Hibbing. Everyone is invited to enjoy the program and coffee and social at this first meeting of the year.

P.E.O. Chapter meeting on Saturday, Feb. 8 at the Fire Brigade Hall

COOK- The next regular meeting of P.E.O. Chapter ER will be held on Saturday, Feb. 8 at 10:30 a.m. at the Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade Hall located at 8025 Oak Narrows Rd., Cook. All P.E.O. members in the area are welcome to attend.

Arrowhead Croatian Lodge 238 to hold annual meeting and dinner

GILBERT- The Arrowhead Croatian Lodge 238 Gilbert will hold their annual meeting and member appreciation dinner on Sunday, Feb. 9 at noon at the Rink Restaurant, 301 Hat Trick Ave., Eveleth.

There will be a short meeting and election of officers. All lodge and nest members are welcome. A buffet lunch will be served. Please call Elana at 218-744-2891 by Feb. 5 if you plan to attend.

WINTER FUN IN TOWER



Hot dogs!

The Lake Vermilion Weiner Cruiser set up shop outside of Your Boat Club in Tower during the Finlander Bocce Ball event. The vendor was selling "dogs," but not the live puppy variety, like Eddie, with his owners Amber and Colby Nye, who were visiting from Wichita, Kan., and stopped for some lunch.



Finlander bocce ball draws loyal following

TOWER- Seven teams participated in this year's Finlander Bocce Ball, held on Saturday, Jan. 25, at the Your Boat Club Marina in Tower. Teams played on iced-down lanes, pushing wooden "rocks" to score points.

First place \$240: Jason Carlson, Lisa Vidal, Nate Dostert, Michelle Moore.

Second place \$150: John and Jolene Mroszak, Jen Manick, Brent Peterson.

Third place \$90: Clayton Pratt, Shara Dostert, Scottie Marwick, Kassie Bjorgo.

Fourth place \$80: Johnny Eloranta, Britta and Ryan Potter, Wendy Reindeau.

The event also raised \$214 for the Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board, who sponsored the event.



Above: Players pose for a group photo between games. The game is played on smooth ice lanes with wooden "rocks" photos by T. Trucano

ELY WINTER FESTIVAL

Dorothy Molter Museum hosting special events during EWF

ELY- The Dorothy Molter Museum is holding multiple events during the Ely Winter Festival. In addition to the annual plaid tie dinner and silent auction, the museum is sponsoring the Ely History Happy Hour presentation on snow machines and a winter open house featuring demonstrations by Minnesota North College students on winter camping, dogsledding, and ice cutting.

Silent auction



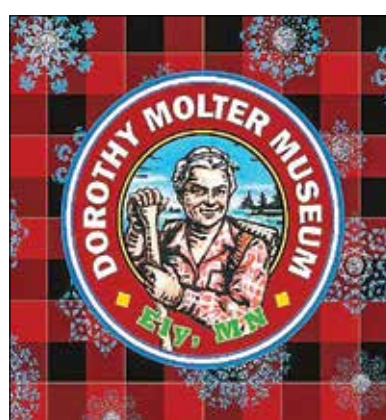
The annual silent auction begins on Thursday, Feb. 6. The auction items are online at 32auctions.com/DMM2025.

You do not need to create an account on the website to view the items. You will need to create an account if you wish to bid on them. The auction ends at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 13, which is during the museum's annual plaid tie dinner.

Bidders do not need to attend the dinner to win items in the silent auction. Those attending the dinner can pay for and take their auction items won at that event. Most items include shipping options for bidders outside the Ely area. Winner bidders can also pick up their items at the museum when it's open by arrangement. The shipping costs are listed on the webpage for each item.

Museum hours during the Ely Winter Festival

The museum will be open during the Ely Winter Festival on Friday, Feb. 7; Friday, Feb. 14, and Saturday, Feb. 15. The hours will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Discounted admission will be \$6



for adults, \$5.50 for seniors, and \$3.50 for youth.

Whirlwind open house

The Dorothy Molter Museum, 2002 E. Sheridan St., will be open with free admission on Saturday, Feb. 8, from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. From 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., the museum will hold its Whirlwind Open House event featuring demonstrations of winter activities that Dorothy herself was involved in while living on the Isle of Pines in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. The museum staff will have complimentary hot beverages for visitors since many of the open house activities will be outside.

Students in the Wilderness and Park Management program at Minnesota North College will be holding three demonstrations during the open house, which are class projects for a grade. The demonstration stations will be set up outside the cabins on the museum grounds. The three projects are winter camping and shelters, ice cutting and storing, and dog sledding.

"The students won't have a whole dog sled team on hand," said Jess Edberg, the museum's executive director, "but they will be working with a

musher to have some dogs on hand. The students who are working on the ice project will be cutting the ice on a lake on the morning of the event before the open house starts."

Edberg said that the students will be graded on the completeness of their demonstrations and their presentation to the public. "There will be secret graders mixed in with museum visitors, so the students won't know some of the people who will be evaluating their work."

History of snow machines

Edberg will host the monthly History Happy Hour at the Boathouse Brewpub, 47 E. Sheridan St., upstairs in the Lookout Lounge. The presentation on Wednesday, Feb. 12 will be on the history of snow machines. The event is free. The half-hour program will begin at 5 p.m. Food and beverage service in the lounge starts at 4:30 p.m. The February History Happy Hour is a change of schedule for the event, which is normally held on the third Wednesday of the month.

Plaid tie dinner

Break out the plaid ties and shirts for the museum's annual fundraising dinner at the Grand Ely Lodge, 400 N. Pioneer Road. The event starts at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 13. The event will feature a buffet dinner and dessert, a museum update, door prizes, bucket raffles, the Wenonah canoe raffle, and the conclusion of the silent auction. Tickets are \$25 for museum members and \$32.50 for non-members. Register for the event at rootbeerlady.org or call 208-365-4451.

ISD 2142

St. Louis County Schools looking to trim deficit

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

VIRGINIA- Facing a \$1.5 million budget shortfall for next year, the ISD 2142 School Board on Tuesday re-enlisted the help of an area lobbying firm to advocate for their special needs at the Legislature.

Costin Group advocated on behalf of the district last year, and board members approved a new contract for the 2025 calendar year on Tuesday. Priority areas in the contract include:

➤ Seeking funds to assist with the North Woods and South Ridge wastewater issues.

➤ Working to change Public Finance Authority eligibility to include school districts like ISD 2142 that have facilities that do not connect to municipal systems.

➤ Legislatively changing Long Term Facilities Management funds eligibility.

➤ Searching for other funding sources, including a federal ear-

mark.

An additional issue that Costin will likely weigh in on during this legislative session is Gov. Tim Walz's proposal to cut five percent of special education transportation reimbursement costs. District Finance Director Kim Johnson said that there are additional proposals that could further erode the district's financial status. The district receives additional generalized lobbying support through its membership in the Minnesota Rural Education Association.

Costin Group will be paid \$2,250 a month for its services. In 2023, Costin had lobbying contracts with nine municipalities, two school districts, and numerous other governmental entities. When contracting with Costin last year, the board asked to receive reports on activities specifically related to ISD 2142 to ensure that their issues were being adequately addressed.

Meanwhile, Superintendent Reggie Engebritson said that district officials have been hard at

work analyzing services and programs for possible cuts to address the budget shortfall, a result of decreased revenue from a reduced tax levy that is set not by the local school board, but by legislated formulas and the state Department of Education. At a prior meeting, the possibility of going to the district's taxpayers with a referendum to increase the levy this coming fall was floated, but Engebritson recommended that the board take that option off of the table. She said the district instead would closely analyze the effects of this year's cuts to determine if a referendum would be warranted in 2026, and she said the district needed the extra time to educate taxpayers and address concerns before advancing a proposal that would likely meet with opposition.

Engebritson also confirmed information presented at a prior meeting that staffing cuts will be needed to address the budget shortfall, falling most heavily on teaching staff. The board will dive into the budget

more fully at its next working session, where specific proposed cuts will be presented.

In other business, the board:

➤ Adopted changes to the district's Title IX Sex Nondiscrimination Policy, Procedure and Process. The district had to roll back its policy to an earlier version following a court decision that invalidated Title IX requirements implemented in 2024.

➤ Approved changes to the Indian Policies and Procedures, strengthening communication and engagement between the district, tribes, parents and children.

➤ Approved an agreement with St. Louis County pertaining to the transportation of children in foster care placements.

➤ Hired Tori Palkovich as a part-time paraprofessional at Northeast Range.

➤ Hired Kate Perkins as a part time van driver at NER and substitute bus driver at NER and Tower-Soudan.

➤ Hired Karel Winkelaar as a

part time bus driver at T-S.

➤ Hired Diane Thiel and Cindy Angell as substitute secretaries at NER.

➤ Hired Chris Gabrielson and Jolen Wilson as substitute secretaries at North Woods.

➤ Hired Melissa Schroeter as a substitute health assistant at NER.

➤ Hired Bert Morgan as a substitute van and bus driver at NER.

➤ Hired Jacob Panichi as a substitute van driver at NW.

➤ Hired Kelsey Borchert as a lifeguard at NER.

➤ Accepted retirements from T-S paraprofessional Laura Rosendahl, T-S bus driver Paul Roy, and North Woods paraprofessional Barb Novak.

➤ Accepted resignations from NER van driver Christa Seelen and NER ECFE teacher aide Jennifer Brownlee.

➤ Approved a request for a voluntary reduction in hours from NW paraprofessional Molly Kruger from 31.5 to 25 hours per week.

ISD 696

Ely School Board share concerns with local legislators

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

Ely- Both State Senator Grant Hauschild and Representative Roger Skraba virtually attended the ISD 696 school board study session on Monday to discuss issues the district wants the Legislature to address.

The district's concerns were presented by Superintendent Anne Oelke. The issues that stood out were the inclusion of seasonal recreational properties in school district operational levies, the need for local control and flexibility for both policies and funding, updating funding policies for post-secondary enrollment options, funding legislative mandates for schools, holding schools harmless for state-mandated compensatory funding, and fixing the inflationary shortfall in the state's funding formula for schools.

Seasonal properties

Hauschild has authored a bill to include seasonal properties in school district operational levies. His efforts are fully supported by Skraba. Seasonal properties were

excluded from operational levies beginning in 2001.

Skraba's view on this issue was succinct: "Governor Ventura took that away because (he believed it was) taxation without representation. I will argue against that. If you want a property to recreate, that's great, but if you weren't there, and someone lived there, then the school district would receive those dollars. Buying the property and saying, 'I don't live there; I shouldn't be taxed for this,' then you actually take that away (from school districts), and the money just goes to the state."

Inflationary shortfall

Since 2003, because of inflation, school districts have suffered a 16 percent loss of general educational revenue. Using the current educational funding formula, schools currently receive \$7,281 per student from the state. If that amount were adjusted for inflation, it would have been \$8,645, thus creating a \$1,364 shortfall.

"I don't want to beat a dead horse, but as you know, everybody's asking for the general education formula to make up for the

inflation shortfall," Oelke said.

Local control and flexibility

Oelke made a case that one-size-fits-all legislation doesn't work for small school districts. One of the examples she used was the state's directive to create a new position with "student support personnel aid." Ely is eligible for \$40,000 every year but the money can only be used to support certain positions like school psychologists, social workers, or chemical dependency counselors. The restrictions are so specific that districts like Ely can't use the earmarked money for support staff like Ely's K-12 student counselor or its part-time school nurse.

"This is a kicker for a small school district like ours," Oelke pointed out, especially when we're looking at making reductions to balance our budget. I haven't been able to use the money for the last two years. There's \$80,000 just sitting there that the state gave to us, but those restrictions are just too harsh on how we can use it."

Hauschild remarked, "This is

very frustrating for somebody like me who voted for (the student support personnel aid). I was hoping it would be used for (more support positions) exactly as you're describing."

He went on to say that both he and Senator Weber from Luverne currently have bills to broaden what the aid can be used for.

Post-secondary enrollment

Oelke argued for a revision of how the post-secondary enrollment program works. Under the current model, the state reduces the amount it gives the school district for high school students in this program.

"It causes a big loss of funding," she said. "We have about a hundred 11th and 12th graders. We have 28 that go to post-secondary (at Minnesota North College), so we only get a small amount of that funding but we can't control any of the requirements for the program. This impacts our funding immensely, even though we still need to do things like give them a laptop and support them here."

State mandates

Oelke also commented on the unfair practice of legislative mandates that are unfunded or partially funded. She also argued that when those mandates affect compensatory funding, which is used for students that need additional assistance to meet academic performance standards, school districts should be protected from having those funds decline.

"I'm sure you're hearing that compensatory funding is a hot topic, ensuring that the school districts are held harmless with any of the mandates. We understand that the mandates are to stay forever, like unemployment compensation and the READ act, but I would encourage you to continue to fund those mandates, instead of giving us a one-year pot of money that then trickles up. Then we're left with the mandates and no funding stream coming in."

"We hear you," Hauschild said. "Both Roger and I believe in no funding, no mandate."

REAL ESTATE

BIC REALTY WE NEED LISTINGS!
Contact us for a free property valuation

218-666-5352
info@bicrealty.com bicrealty.com

ELBOW LAKE Rustic cabin on 3 acres with 210 ft of shoreline, furnished seasonal 1 BR cabin + loft and multiple storage buildings. Water-access only. \$189,900 MLS# 145799

COOK Almost 1/2 acre w/Hwy. 53 frontage in Cook. Includes former car wash building, 1 BR home, older detached garage and large parking area. Building needs TLC. A great location for a business! \$139,500 MLS# 146653



VERMILION LAND OFFICE
Real Estate • Appraisals

Looking To Buy Or Sell? Give Us A Call!

vermilionland.com
info@vermilionland.com
1-866-753-8985
Cook • Tower • Virginia




BARB HEGG
Associate Broker, GRI

Office 218-666-6183
Mobile 218-742-2369

Vermilion Land Office • vermilionland.com
PO Box 518, 210 S. Highway 53, Cook, MN 55723

Wooded Acres & Lakeshore Lot

Escape to nature with this incredible opportunity to own 7.4 wooded acres, including 1/4 ownership in a stunning lakeshore lot. Here's your chance to build your dream pole building or barndominium amidst nature's serenity. Whether you envision a cozy cabin, a rustic retreat or year-round home, this property has it all! The lakeshore lot allows you to keep your boat and boat lift handy for spontaneous lakeside adventures. Located off a paved public maintained road. Approved septic sites. #146330 \$193,000



NEXT TIME COME HOME!

JANISCH REALTY 218-780-6644



OPINION

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

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial

School trust lands

There's no good argument to hold out for an exchange of BWCAW lands

Opponents of the sale of approximately 80,000 acres of school trust lands in the Boundary Waters should check their calculators. Those opponents include Rep. Roger Skraba and Eighth District U.S. Rep. Pete Stauber, both of whom apparently see \$33 million as a better deal for the state's school trust than \$528 million.

That's the yawning difference over the next 40 years between the planned sale of these state lands and the alternative – a land swap that would trade those state lands in the Boundary Waters for federal lands located outside the wilderness.

It's that enormous gap, among other factors, that has convinced Aaron Vande Linde, the director of the state's office of the school trust lands, that a sale is the only sensible way to solve this long-standing issue. According to Vande Linde, it's all about the value of money over time.

A sale of the lands, which could be completed as early as next year, is expected to generate about \$34 million to the school trust, which would invest those funds in the state's very successful investment fund, which has generated an annual return of about 7.5 percent. Through the wonders of compounding, the \$34 million the trust could receive next year would be worth about \$528 million in 40 years with equivalent growth over that period. In 50 years, we'd be looking at more than a billion dollars in additional revenue for the trust.

The state lands in question are required to produce revenue for the state's school trust fund, but without the ability to log or otherwise develop those lands located within the wilderness, the state has generated nothing from those lands since passage of the Boundary Waters Wilderness Act in 1978. That's 47 years with no income and no resolution to the problem, although it has offered local officials the opportunity to regularly take shots at the federal government, which is apparently valuable to them.

Opponents of the sale argue that an exchange is better because it would give the office of school trust lands more acres for logging. A *Timberjay* investigation last year found that over the next 40 years, logging on an additional 80,000 acres of school trust lands would generate about \$6.4 million in stumpage receipts, with another \$26 million coming from investment income off those receipts. Hence the choice: \$528 million or \$33 million over 40 years. Take a 50-year view and we're talking about a difference of \$1.05 billion versus \$66 mil-

lion. That shows the value of invested money over time.

Some opponents of a land sale correctly note that the school trust has, for years, generated most of its new revenue from taconite mining royalties. It's an interesting fact, but irrelevant to this issue. Opponents of a sale are fully aware that the existing state and federal mineral rights will be unaffected regardless of whether the lands are transferred via sale or exchange. Both state law and the constitution, as well as federal law, prohibits the transfer of mineral rights. For those of us living in the reality-based world, that amounts to zero dollars in additional trust revenue from mining royalties.

When pressed, Rep. Skraba argued that an exchange would allow for more logging, which would benefit communities in other ways. Yet while the Forest Service logs at a slightly slower pace than the DNR (which manages the school trust forest lands), our own investigation concluded that the difference would amount to an additional 4,000 cords of timber on a statewide basis, an increase of about 0.14 percent. Sorry Mr. Skraba, that's a rounding error, not a meaningful change that would add any appreciable employment to any community in the region.

And, of course, there is one other significant problem with the proposed exchange – both state and federal officials, and other stakeholders, have attempted in the past to come to agreement on an exchange, without success. Both the DNR and the U.S. Forest Service agreed to hammer out an exchange back in 2012 and worked for a decade without reaching a consensus. Land exchanges are complicated and one of this magnitude has rarely been attempted anywhere in the U.S.

Blocking a sale of the school trust lands doesn't get us any closer to an exchange. It simply leaves us with the status quo that has existed for nearly half a century already... school trust lands that generate no income whatsoever for the trust. Given the complexities of an exchange, we could easily be sitting here half a century from now in the exact same position. And we would have effectively forfeited a billion dollars that could otherwise be sitting in the school trust.

Sadly, opponents of the land sale currently in the works appear more interested in a political talking point than a resolution that serves the public interest. That says a lot.



Letters from Readers

Trumpian mayhem 2.0

And so, it begins – the second term of the man who would be king, the convicted felon, the mob boss, rising from the ashes like a Phoenix. He hit the ground running, already issuing multiple executive orders, one of which freed the Jan. 6 perpetrators, including the ones who attacked the Capitol police, even as he claims to be the most pro-law enforcement president ever.

He also claims, against overwhelming evidence to the contrary, to be a man of God, yet didn't even bother to place his hand on the Bible in front of him as he took the oath of office, an oath he destroyed the last time around.

Fifty-six years ago, for reasons still unclear, I dropped out of college in the middle of my senior year and volunteered for the draft, then refused to agree to a third year of service, almost guaranteeing I'd be infantry. In other words, foolish or not, I basically chose to go to war when I didn't have to, for a country I believed in, a country which was truly a shining light for much of the world, the 'arsenal of democracy,' as Churchill once described it.

And now, to see it all come down to this? To all who voted for this vile, pig of a man – shame on you. When the time of reckoning comes, and I have no doubt that it WILL come, I'm not going to say, "I told you so" – I'm saying it now.

Lynn Scott
Soudan

Harsh immigration policies affect all of us

No matter how you voted in the most recent election, I appeal to all of you to consider the impact on individuals, families, and society as a whole as a result of the immigration policies being en-

acted under the current administration. The wide net that is being thrown to capture "dangerous immigrants" is entangling countless individuals who are in our country legally, or if not here legally, are nonetheless leading productive, beneficial lives.

The humanitarian cost alone is onerous not to mention the paralyzing effect it will have on our economy. Our court systems will be overwhelmed and bankrupted by the deluge of litigation engendered by these new policies.

The climate of intolerance and hatred that surrounds the implementation of these harsh measures will lead to the continued suffering of marginalized individuals. I believe that it is our solemn duty to protect those who cannot protect themselves, not subject them to additional abuses.

The immigration policies of the current administration must be questioned, or we will experience further erosion of our civil liberties. That is a very frightening, and a very real, possibility. We all need to consider the humanitarian toll that these policies are inflicting on countless individuals who live amongst us in peace.

If you can't find room in your heart for empathy towards immigrants caught up in these harsh raids, maybe you will consider the economic fallout of these short-sighted measures.

Brent Spink
Ely

Beware the chaos now headed our way

My dad used to tell me America will always have more than our share of dingbats, because so many of our ancestors were forced to leave their home countries for reasons other than poverty.

They weren't forced to leave because they were wonderful people. They were made to leave because they were anti-social ding-

bats. This characteristic doesn't have to be genetic, but it can certainly be inherited. Plus, the effects of extreme poverty can be passed along in more ways than one. The people they left behind at the docks weren't necessarily weeping at their departures – they were throwing rocks.

MAGA anger and chaos is people who feel repressed, have felt that way for a long time, and feel this is their moment, regardless of the consequences. The billionaires on the stage with Trump fan the flames so they can make more money off a sinking ship.

Last time around with Trump and COVID, we saw 1.6 million extra deaths through Trump's aggressive and impetuous incompetence. Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, tried to corner the market on masks but gave up when it was found out. The Donald actually talked people into injecting themselves with horse tranquilizers and bleach.

The latest news is that the Centers for Disease Control has now been forbidden to let anyone know what's going on with infectious diseases or other causes of death. All their information has to go to the White House before it can be released. This means there can and will be infectious diseases all around us, and our public health system is now forbidden from telling us. Just to be sure the message gets across, Trump has just canceled the security protection Dr. Fauci has needed to protect himself and his family from the folks with the red ball caps.

What more can and could go wrong?

Dave Porter
Minneapolis

COMMENTARY

Who needs Trump for a heaping helping of political drama?

From time to time, folks suggest that I should watch whatever the latest gripping drama on Netflix is, but frankly, I find watching Minnesota's own version of the Hatfields and the McCoys, the Republican and DFL parties, to be far more entertaining than any fictional story.



DAVID COLBURN

quorum debacle, declaring that the magic number is 68, not 67. Cue the sound of Republican jaws hitting the floor. Every decision made during the GOP's brief reign over the House? Invalidated. Null and void. It's like a Monopoly

game where someone suddenly flipped the board and cried out, "Do over."

While the Court decided a quorum means one more than half the total seats, not just the ones your party likes

to count, I find the smug self-righteous DFL claims that a willful violation of the law by the Republicans had been soundly rebuked to go too far. With partisan ease, they glibly ignore what Supreme Court Chief Justice Natalie Hudson said to a DFL advocate during oral arguments: "Counsel, it seems to me your interpretation is a reasonable one. But it also seems to me that respondent's (Republican) interpretation is at least EQUALLY REASONABLE (emphasis added)." In other words, the Minnesota Constitution was about as clear on the matter as the Little Fork River after an eight-inch rainfall, and the court was the necessary

guide to chart the correct path through muddied waters.

Still, the ruling has left Republicans bluer than a naked man who's been ice fishing without a shelter. Every vote they took, every motion they passed, every bold proclamation of power – poof, gone. For two glorious weeks, Republicans acted as though they were in charge. They elected a Speaker, held committee meetings, and presumably enjoyed the perks of their self-declared quorum. Now, all of that is officially meaningless. It's the legislative equivalent of building a sandcastle only to have the tide roll in and wash it all away.

The DFL, on the other hand, is feeling quite vindicated. Their boycott strategy – staying out of the chamber to deny Republicans a quorum – has been retroactively justified. Not only did they prevent any legitimate business from being conducted, but they also got the Court to back them up. Staying at home instead of going to work certainly has its perks.

And all this on top of the prior drama, the special election scheduled to fill a House seat left vacant because the DFL winner cheated, an election that had to be delayed because another DFLer failed to follow the law. The Supreme Court struck down

Gov. Walz's attempt to fast-track the special election, citing that pesky little statute about waiting 22 days after the session starts. Until that seat is filled, the DFL appears to be content to let the House sit in legislative limbo unless they get the power-sharing agreement they want. Monday's House session was little more than a prayer, the pledge, and adjournment, a distasteful serving of boiled tripe instead of the desired apple pie of compromise and action constituents want.

The Senate isn't exactly a bastion of tranquility either. Over there, we've got Sen. Nicole Mitchell, who's fac-

See DRAMA...pg 5

COMMENTARY

Perpetrators of violence are not our heroes

Thanks to President Donald Trump, America now has a clearer understanding of the men who constitute the true heroes of the MAGA movement – those individuals who in Trump's version of America deserve his special consideration and thanks.

They include men like:

► David Nicholas Dempsey, whose court record states that during the Jan. 6 riot, "he began a prolonged attack, fighting with his hands, feet, flag poles, crutches, pepper spray, broken pieces of furniture, and anything else he could get his hands on, as weapons against the police. Dempsey's violence reached such extremes that, at one point, he attacked a fellow rioter who was trying to disarm him."

At another point, according to court records, Dempsey "unleashed a torrent of pepper spray directly at (a police officer), just as another rioter had compromised the officers gas mask. The searing spray burned the officer's lungs, throat, eyes, and face and left him gasping for breath, fearing he might lose consciousness and be overwhelmed by the mob."

According to the court, "Mo-



**MARSHALL
HELMBERGER**

ments later, Dempsey struck (another police officer's head with such ferocity using a metal crutch that it cracked the protective shield of his gas mask, prompting the officer to collapse in a daze." Dempsey was sentenced to 20 years for his multiple assaults on officers.

► Daniel Rodriguez, who pleaded guilty in 2023 to repeatedly plunging a stun gun into the neck of a police officer, leaving the officer writhing in pain. Rodriguez came to Washington specifically to engage in violence. According to a Justice Department statement announcing his guilty plea, "Rodriguez and others created a Telegram group chat, called the "Patriots 45 MAGA Gang," in the Fall of 2020, and used it as a platform to advocate violence against certain groups and individuals that either supported the 2020 presidential election results, supported what the group perceived as liberal or communist ideologies, or held positions of authority in government. The group's activities included collecting weapons and tactical gear to bring to Washington, D.C. on Jan. 6, storming past barricades to gain unlawful access to the Capitol, and coordi-

nating activities before, during, and after the riot."

► Ryan Nichols, who pleaded guilty to repeatedly pepper-spraying officers and for inciting rioters to violently storm the Capitol building through the use of a bullhorn. Video of the incident showed Nichols yelling through the bullhorn: "This is not a peaceful protest. If you have a weapon, you need to get your weapon!" Later that night, Nichols recorded himself in a video calling for armed revolution. He was sentenced to more than five years in prison.

This is simply a sampling of the dozens of President Trump's newly-minted American heroes, who Trump believes deserve presidential protection, all of whom engaged in violent attacks directed at law enforcement officers who were seeking to protect members of Congress and the Vice President from an unprecedented assault. President Trump gave all three of these men, and many more, full and unconditional pardons.

In the same week, President Trump issued full pardons for two District of Columbia police officers who their own investigators concluded contributed to the death of a young black man who they were pursuing for failing to wear a helmet on a moped. The officers were convicted by a jury on a variety of

charges, including conspiring to obstruct justice by tampering with the accident scene and lying to superiors about the incident.

Americans should take note of the president's message here. Police officers who seek to do their jobs honestly, to protect the public against violence by Trump supporters, are in no way deserving of any consideration for their injuries or deaths. Indeed, in Trump's America, the perpetrators of that violence are the real heroes who deserve special recognition.

By contrast, those officers whose reckless actions lead to the deaths of members of the public, particularly people of color, within federal jurisdictions, can expect to face no accountability, even in cases where they lie or mislead to cover up their wrongdoing.

In other words, there is one system of justice for those who please Trump, and an entirely different system of justice for everyone else.

There will be consequences to this. We can expect more aggressive actions by individuals, including law enforcement officers, motivated by right-wing politics, who will certainly feel emboldened to act with violence against those with whom they disagree. Some of the Jan. 6 convicts have already issued threats of violence against individuals they believe may have contrib-

uted to their convictions.

We can also expect that those who protest actions by the Trump administration will be at heightened risk. Groups like The Proud Boys or various neo-Nazis are now on notice that they can commit mayhem against peaceful protesters without consequence, as long as they're on federal property.

And it is almost certain that Trump will be using social media to egg them on. When, back in 2020, he called on the Proud Boys to "stand back and stand by," there was little doubt about the message he was telegraphing. These groups will, in effect, become on-call paramilitaries that Trump will deploy as he sees fit to intimidate his political opponents through violence, or escalate situations in hopes of sparking more violence, which could well become Trump's excuse for invoking emergency powers.

This is about much more than pardons for the Jan. 6 rioters. Trump is sending a message that those who align themselves with him can expect a free hand to attack or even kill those who don't. This is how authoritarian regimes work. Everyone is always free to speak their mind or protest, but voice the wrong opinion and you'll find yourself lying bloodied in the street. Our nation's founders would be aghast.

STUDENT COMMENTARY

America the oak tree; Voice of Democracy essay winner

Chosen to represent Cook VFW Post 1757, this essay by North Woods School senior Amber Sopoci won second place in the Minnesota VFW Voice of Democracy contest recently. The Timberjay is pleased to reprint it for our readers.

The oak tree is a wonder of nature. I am in awe, not only every time I see its beauty and majesty but also its strength and resilience. Through scars and harsh soil, the steady oak tree continues to grow. Through winds and storms, the steady oak tree continues to grow. Through nourishment and care, the steady oak tree thrives.

America is like an oak tree. It has wide roots, a

strong trunk, and many ideas that branch out. It is changing and growing to become a better country. America today is our Forefathers' vision of a country that can speak, think, and live freely.

America is all about the freedom to have different views. Our Founding Fathers' visions are important, and new ideas are, too. An oak tree's roots are like our Founding Fathers' visions. When a tree grows, the roots nestle deep into the earth, steadying the tree. The roots are the tree's foundation, and from this foundation, a tree begins to grow. Despite the harsh soil of creating a democracy, the Forefathers were able to deepen their roots and create America.

Storms ravage the oak, but its trunk is strong. In America, our Constitution is like the oak's trunk. The roots of the Founding Fathers came together to create the unified trunk that is the base of our own opinions. The oak tree's trunk is strong and provides a way for branches to grow. Because our forefathers had solid ideas and visions of America, we, the people, can grow our own visions of what America is meant to be.

Do all the branches on the oak tree look the same? No, not all at. Some branches are like the trunk, straight and large. Others curl and bend like the roots. Some branches may be new and look like nothing anyone has seen,

reaching new lengths. These are much like the ideas of today's American people, who can think freely. They are all different and contribute to our country. The branches are allowed to grow and spread because of the trunk, but that doesn't mean they have to be the same.

There are scars on our democracy, like a scar on a tree from a lightning strike. Slavery, limited individual rights, and oppression are all scars bore into the trunk of the tree. However, scars can heal. Lightning doesn't kill the tree it struck, but the scar remains. America is still healing from the scars of its mistakes and working on creating a better country for everyone.

American citizens have the right to think, speak, and live how they want. We are allowed to have our own visions for America and let our ideas spread and grow. Oak trees produce seeds, and from their shaking branches, the seeds are spread. Young minds think of new ways to take on issues like climate change and poverty. American ideas are the seeds, and they can spread and fill the

country with new visions.

Yes, I think America today is our forefather's vision. We live in a country where we can speak, think, and live freely. Although the Founding Fathers' ideas about America may have been different from American ideas today, the vision of freedom stands firm like the steady oak tree and continues to grow.

Letters from Readers

A board is only as good as the supervisors we elect

Candidate Bassing was correct on one thing in her recent letter. She stated supervisors have recently had "plenty of chances to appoint" a clerk and treasurer. The last appointed clerk, treasurer, and fire chief are examples. Did the board consider multiple candidates? What were their qualifications? How well have those appointed served the township?

As it turns out, the appointed have proven marginally qualified, politically aligned, and hand selected to serve the power base, not you. Collectively, they have been responsible for much of our recent township disfunction. Those

appointing them must be held accountable. Last year's election results indicate two already have.

This year's election, and vote on Option B, will hopefully bring more accountability. The roles of clerk and treasurer should be to assist the board by performing defined duties. The current election of clerk and treasurer allows them to do (or not do) just about anything. They interpret their elected roles, do what they please, and fight about everything else.

Option B has nothing to do with filling township positions with non-residents. What motivation does a five-member resident board have in hiring from outside Greenwood, when there are local candidates waiting for civility to return so they might serve.

The success or failure of our township is ultimately determined by us, and our selection of supervisors.

A board, with or without Option B, is only as good as the supervisors we elect. When you gather your information to vote, do not be fooled by Bassing's claim you lose your vote. She implies the supervisors you elect are capable of making every township decision with the exception of interviewing and hiring qualified public employees. That makes no sense. Bassing is scratching the bottom of the barrel for reasons to oppose Option B. Ask her why?

**Paul Thompson
Greenwood Township**

ber if Mitchell had resigned when Walz and Martin called for her to. But as we've increasingly seen in the political realm in this country, the principled path is not the path to power.

The public, meanwhile, is left to wonder when their lawmakers will put their full focus on the business of governing. Education, health care, infrastructure, the budget – all the pressing issues of the day remain on hold while the House fights. It's a reminder that political theater might be entertaining, but it doesn't pave roads or fund schools.

The Minnesota Legislature's latest power struggles are a microcosm of

the broader dysfunction in American politics. It's a game where the goal isn't compromise but total victory, no matter the cost. The Supreme Court's ruling might have clarified the rules regarding a quorum, but it's unlikely to calm the waters.

For now, all we can do is watch, hope, and maybe send some strongly worded emails. And perhaps place a few bets on when the next scandal will erupt. Because if there's one thing it appears you can count on in Minnesota politics, it's that the drama never stops.

DRAMA...Cont. from page 4

ing felony burglary charges for allegedly breaking into her stepmother's home. Republicans attempted to oust her on Monday, calling for Mitchell's expulsion and painting her continued presence as a stain on the Senate.

The DFL stood firm, insisting that Mitchell, who has pleaded not guilty, deserves her day in court, with Mitchell herself casting a decisive vote. It would've been a particularly nice touch if Mitchell had worn to the session the same all-black outfit and black cap she was apprehended in down in her mother-in-law's basement. It's hard not to see the calculation here: Mitchell's vote is crucial for the DFL to

maintain Senate control after a likely DFL victory in Tuesday's special election on that side.

Of course, what the DFL has conveniently ignored this time around is that Gov. Walz and DFL Party Chair Ken Martin publicly called for Mitchell's resignation last year, citing the seriousness of the charges and the distraction it created for the Legislature. Democrats choose to argue instead that expelling a senator before a trial concludes sets a dangerous precedent, and they're not wrong. But politically, it's a tough sell, particularly since there was ample time to schedule a special election for this past Novem-



the
TIMBERJAY

Copyright © 2025 by *The Timberjay*.
The Timberjay (PN 16025) is published weekly on Fridays, 51 weeks per year, by *The Timberjay Inc.*, PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Business/Editorial Office at 414 Main St., PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Call (218) 753-2950 to subscribe. E-mail address is editor@timberjay.com. Periodicals postage paid at Tower, Minnesota.

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

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

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

Official Newspaper:

Townships of Bearville, Eagles Nest, Embarrass, Kugler, Vermilion Lake, Field, Morcom, Leiding, Kabetogama, Crane Lake, Owens, Greenwood, ISD 707, ISD 2142, city of Tower, city of Orr.

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

Subscriptions Available:

St. Louis County: \$54 year Elsewhere: \$68 year. We accept VISA/Mastercard/Discover/AmEx. NOTE: Changes of address must be sent or called in to the Tower office. Out-of-state delivery may take 2-3 weeks. For prompt out-of-state delivery try the First Class Subscription: \$155 year or \$15 per month.

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

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

Read us online at timberjay.com

Week of Feb. 3

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

Tuesday
Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5 p.m. New location in the old St. James Church building. Next food shelf day is Feb. 18
Greenwood Fire Dept.- Training meetings on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

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

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



TSHS weekly winners
TOWER- The winner of the Tower-Soudan Historical Society Week 20 Charlemagne's 52 Club \$100 cash prize is Randy Semo of Tower.

History Tidbit: Coach 81 had been victimized by vandals who broke windows and display cases. A core group of volunteers restored the ramshackle old coach by replacing all the windows, tattered shades removed, and old paint stripped until the lead content was discovered. The city hired professionals to address the problems, so the volunteers could continue to restore the interior. The Coach 81 is used for a variety of educational programs by the historical society, and can be rented for parties, gatherings, and other events from Memorial Day through Labor Day. To reserve your date, contact TSHS volunteer Linda Haugen at cruiser48@aol.com.

Chimpy's Skating Party set for Feb. 1 and 5

SOUDAN- The Soudan Skating Rink will host a skating party on Saturday, Feb. 1 from 12 noon – 3 p.m. and on Wednesday, Feb. 5 from 3 – 5 p.m. Everyone is welcome, skaters and non-skaters. There is a small children's rink also available for beginning skaters five and under. As always, there will be lots of free food and ice cream floats. Watch for the schedule for upcoming parties on the Breitung Township Facebook page.
These parties are being sponsored this week by TS Joint Powers Recreation Board, Zup's Store, Bellatoria & Brew Pub Pizza Company, and Country Hearth Bread Company.

TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY

Silas Snyder wins elementary school spelling bee



TOWER- Tower-Soudan Elementary fifth-grader Silas Snyder won the TS School Spelling Bee held on Jan. 22. Silas correctly spelled buzzard and inferno to secure the win.

Pictured are spelling bee participants (from left): Shenze Chavez, Nash Lenci, Silas Snyder, Harley Banks, Clementine O'Brien, and Kaleelah Chosa. Submitted photo

OUTDOOR FUN

Trails club hosting a community day on Feb. 16: snowshoeing, skiing, hiking, chili feed

TOWER- The Howard Wagoner Trails Club is organizing a community day on Sunday, Feb. 16 at 3 p.m. The community day headquarters will be at the civic center. The club will have some snowshoeing and skiing equipment available to borrow. The club will be offering snowshoeing, hiking, and cross-country skiing activities, and members will be available to help those trying out snowshoeing or skiing for the first time.
There will be a warming fire outside the civic center and a chili feed at 5 p.m. All ages are welcome to stop by and have some outdoor, and indoor, fun.
The city of Tower/Howard Wagoner Ski Trails provide 12km of beginner to intermediate trails that wind through quiet and beautiful pine, mixed woods, and bog forests. Trails are groomed for classical skiing. The system includes a lighted

loop for night skiing. Our trails are groomed and maintained by volunteers and with funding from the MN DNR Cross-Country Ski Grant-in-Aid Program. The Great Minnesota Ski Pass is required to ski and can be purchased online. Trails are not patrolled – use caution and enjoy!
The trails are just south of the city of Tower and can be accessed from two separate parking areas. North parking is 0.3 miles south of the junction of Hwy 169 and Hwy 135 on south side of road at the trail kiosk. The South (main) parking is 1.5 miles south of the same junction on Hwy 135 on the west side of road (trail sign and kiosk).
Support our trails! Join the Wagoner Trail Club for \$10 per year or \$25 for three years. You can also mail payments to: Howard Wagoner Trails Club, PO Box 293, Tower, MN 55790.



Take an afternoon hike, snowshoe, or cross-country ski in Tower on Sunday, Feb. 16. Loaner snowshoes and skis will be available, plus a free chili feed. file photo

ST. MARTIN'S

St. Martin's community Mardi Gras festival set for Friday, Feb. 28

TOWER- St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower is once again hosting a family-friendly Mardi Gras celebration on Friday, Feb. 28 from 5 – 8:30 p.m. It's an open house style event - come when you want and stay as long as you want.
We have planned an evening of fun for all ages.
Children's activities include games, art projects, kids-only bingo, and pinata breaking at 7:45 p.m. All children's events are no free.
For the adults, there will be a cribbage tournament beginning at 5:30 p.m., teams must sign up by Feb. 14. Cost is \$10 per participant and the winning team takes half of the money collected. Adult bingo begins at 6 p.m. Cost is \$5 for 10 games, and prizes will include gift certificates and gift cards for local



businesses.
A cash bar will be open from 5 – 7 p.m. There will be bucket raffles (with items for adults and kids), a silent auction, 50/50 cash drawing, and a meat raffle. Winners will be

announced at 8 p.m.
Of course, this Mardi Gras celebration includes food. There will be much to choose from: jambalaya, chili, a variety of appetizers, Mardi Gras meringues, moon pies, and éclairs. The cost is a free will offering.
The community is invited to stop by for this evening of fun and great food before the start of Lent.
A cribbage tournament is one of the events at this year's Mardi Gras celebration. Players are asked to register in advance by Feb. 14. Other events include children's games, adult bingo, silent auction and bucket raffles, and lots of delicious food. file photo

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Bookmobile stops
REGIONAL- The Arrowhead Bookmobile will be in the Tower-Soudan area on Wednesdays: Feb. 5 & 26; March 19; April 9 & 30; May 21; June 11;

July 2 & 23; Aug. 13; Sept. 3 & 24; Oct. 15, Nov. 5 & 26; and Dec. 17.
Stops include: Britt (Sand Lake Storage): 9 - 9:30 a.m.; Bois Forte (Boys & Girls Club): 11 - 11:30 a.m.; Greenwood (Town

Hall): 12 – 1 p.m.; Soudan (Post Office area): 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.; Tower (Civic Center): 3:45 - 4:30 p.m.; and Embarrass (Hwy 135 & Hwy 21): 5 – 6 p.m.
For more information on the Bookmobile or Mail-A-Book services, contact the Arrowhead Library System, 218-741-3840, email at als@alslib.info, or website at alslib.info.

New bookmobile stop at Vermilion Lake Town Hall
VERMILION LAKE TWP- The Arrowhead Bookmobile is now making a stop at the Vermilion Lake Town Hall as part of the bookmobile's Week A schedule, which also includes stops in Ely Lake, Cherry, Markham, and Biwabik. The bookmo-

bile is in Tower, Soudan, Greenwood, and Embarrass during their Week C schedule.
The Vermilion Lake stop is from 4 – 5 p.m. on Feb. 12, March 5 & 26; April 16; May 7 & 28; June 18; July 9 & 30; Aug. 20; Sept. 10; Oct. 1 & 22; Nov. 12; and Dec. 3.

Get Informed!
Get the Timberjay!

~ THANK YOU ~
Kugler Township would like to thank **Julie Suihkonen** for 26 years of service.

INJURED?
We've Helped Thousands Get Compensation
Contact Us Today For Free Advice

Steve Fields
Minnesota Attorney

Car Accidents
Personal Injury
Workers' Compensation

218-963-5393
www.FieldsInjury.com

Subscribe to the **TIMBERJAY!**
Call **218-753-2950**

AROUND TOWN

In Brief

Tuesday Group schedule

ELY – Hosted by Boundary Waters Connect, the Tuesday Group community educational luncheon gathering meets every Tuesday at noon at the Grand Ely Lodge. Participants have an opportunity to order lunch.

For those interested in being a host, or who have a speaker suggestion, contact Lacey Squier by email at ElyTuesdayGroup@gmail.com or call her at 218-216-9141.

Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

➤Feb. 4: Lucy Soderstrom, executive director of the Ely Folk School

➤Feb. 11: Anna Farro Henderson, author of "Core Samples: A Climate Scientist's Experiments in Politics and Motherhood"

➤Feb. 18: Jamie Alexander of Minnesota Industrial Transformation Initiative

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2025



way way up perched high
quick flight and easy landing

stunning bird's eye view

Libraries

Ely library

Hours: Monday — Friday, 9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.
Closed on Saturday, Sunday, and holidays
Phone: 218-365-5140

Babbitt library

Monday 10 am-6 pm
Tuesday 10 am-6 pm
Wednesday 10 am-6 pm
Thursday 10 am-6 pm
Friday 10 am-6 pm
Phone: 218-827-3345

Support groups

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous

OPEN AA - 7:30
p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, in-person, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St., Ely.
AA FRIDAYS - 7 p.m.
Fridays, First Presbyterian Church, 262 E. Harvey St., Ely.

ELY WOMEN'S OPEN AA - Monday at noon at Ledgerrock 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, hosted by Well Being Development, Ely. **This meeting is suspended temporarily.**

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.

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION GED
Study materials and pre-test available.
Call 218-365-3359, or 1-800-662-5711.



Above: This week was the Winter Frolic week at Ely Memorial High School. The school crowned a King and Queen for the frolic, which features a week of winter-themed activities and games. The Winter Frolic Court, from left-to-right: Chloy Ann Ridings, Rylee Larsen, Lilli Rechichi, Misha-Ben Goshlumi, Max Cochran, Milo McClelland, Dylan Durkin, and Tory Hughley. Center left: Max Cochran and Rylee Larsen were crowned King and Queen for the Ely Memorial High School Winter Frolic week. Center right: The surest sign that the Ely Winter Festival is almost here is when the boxes for the snow sculptures appear in Whiteside Park. photos by C. Clark



Bottom left: Todd Crego concentrates on solving the last puzzle to open the remaining locked box in the Ely Public Library Harry Potter "Break-out Box" event last Saturday. Bottom right: Participants in the Ely Public Library's Harry Potter "Break-out Box" event duel each other with bubbles. They scored points for the biggest and the longest lasting bubbles. photos by C. Clark



COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Book Sale

ELY- The Ely Friends of the Library will hold their annual book sale at the Ely Senior Center, 27 S. First Ave. E., on Friday, Feb. 7, and Saturday, Feb. 8. The hours of the sale will be from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. Patrons who buy a book bag for \$10 can then fill it with books for free.

St. Olaf Band

ELY- The St. Olaf Band will perform a two-hour concert at Washington Auditorium on the Ely Public School campus, 600 E. Harvey St., on Monday, Feb. 3, at 7 p.m. Admission prices are \$10 for adults. Students attend for free.

Call of the Wild Poetry Night

ELY- The Call of the Wild Poetry Night will be at the Ely Folk School, 209 E. Sheridan St., will be on Thursday, Feb. 6, from 5-6 p.m. The theme for February is "Between ice and embers." Come and read your own poems, read a poem by someone else you like, or just come and listen. Poems are not required to stick to the theme. This is a no-cost event and all are welcome.

Meat Raffle

ELY- Zaverl's Bar, 509 E. Sheridan St., is holding a meat raffle to fundraise for the Pioneer Mine Museum on Feb. 7, from 5-7 p.m.

Spaghetti Feed

ELY- It's that time of year again! The Annual Ely Community Resource Spaghetti Feed, one of the most popular events of the Ely Winter Festival, will be on Friday, Feb. 7, from 4-7 p.m. at St. Anthony's Church, 231 Camp St. Prices are \$12 for adults, \$8 for kids ages 5-12. Kids 4 and under are free.

Vermilion Campus Open House

ELY- Minnesota North College – Vermilion Campus, 1900 E. Camp St., will hold an open house for the community and prospective students on Saturday, Feb. 8, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Ely Public Library

ELY- The Curiosity Cohort for adults will meet on Monday, Feb. 3, at 1:30 p.m. to learn about ancient beauty tips, like what Caesar's wife Calpurnia may have used for skin care or what Elizabeth I may have had on hand for cosmetics. The library will have

some of these historic ingredients at the event as well as recipes to take home for those who might want to try some of these old-fashioned compounds on their own. Please register in advance so the library has enough supplies for everyone.

The library will hold an online Kahoot trivia game for all ages on the first three books in the Mr. Lemoncello's Library series by Chris Grabenstein. The Kahoot will start at 3 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 6, and end at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 12. Participants must preregister for the Kahoot so the library can email the link for the game.

The Friends of the Library book club for adults will meet on Monday, Feb 10, at 3 p.m.

The book for discussion will be "The Covenant of Water" by Abraham Verghese. You do not need to be a member of the Friends of the Library to attend.

The library will host an afternoon session of board games for all ages on Friday, Feb. 14 at 1 p.m. Bring your own favorite game or play one that the library has ready to use.

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.

Babbitt Public Library

BABBITT- There's still plenty of time to sign up for the library's "Snow better time to read" adult winter reading program which runs through March 3. Register for the program at the library. Then, read two books to earn an entry for prizes. The more books you read, the more entries you will receive for the prize drawing.

Join the library's adult coloring contest. Stop by the library to pick up your coloring sheet at the library now through Feb. 24. Submit your completed picture by Feb. 25 for a chance to win an exciting prize!

K-12 can pick up the free take-and-make monthly art kit for February while supplies last. Created by 321 Art Studio, the February kit is for aluminum foil sculpture.

The book club will meet on Monday, Feb. 3, at 2 p.m. The book for discussion will be "Happy Place" by Emily Henry.

The library will hold an arts and crafts supply swap on Friday, Feb. 14., when all are welcome to take home free supplies. Donate gently

used arts and crafts supplies at the library between Jan. 27 and Feb. 12 for early access to the supply swap on Feb. 13 from 1-3 p.m.

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.

Elyite collegiate honors

MOORHEAD- Minnesota State University Moorhead had named Elyite Emilie Wojcik to the Dean's List for the fall 2024 semester. To make the Dean's List, students must maintain a 3.25 or higher GPA while carrying 12 or more graded credits. Wojcik is majoring in early childhood education.

STEVENS POINT, Wis.- The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point has awarded Elyite Jon Hakala highest honors for the fall 2024 semester. Highest honors are the top tier of academic honors at the university, given to full-time undergraduates who earn GPAs of 3.90 or higher.

THE RIGHT TO WRITE

Sopoci essay takes second in VFW state contest

Many people had a hand in her success, North Woods senior says

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- Sometimes when a student is staring out of a window during class, it's a good thing, particularly when it leads to an award-winning entry in a state-level essay contest.

North Woods senior Amber Sopoci had already decided to enter the VFW Voice of Democracy essay contest – she enjoys writing and also getting feedback on her work, and this was a perfect opportunity for both.

But Sopoci found herself afflicted with a case of writer's block as she tried to come up with an angle for the context theme, "Is America Today Our Forefathers' Vision?" – thoughts came and went, but nothing jumped out at her. And then, boom – inspiration.

"If I'm going to be completely honest, I was sitting in my English teacher's classroom trying to think of an idea, and I was drawing a blank," Sopoci said. "Then I looked outside, out the window, and I saw a tree and I said 'Hey, I can compare America to a tree!' And I just started having all these ideas about the branches and the trunk and so that's what I decided to write about."

Her choice of using an oak tree as the framework

for the essay gave room for her creativity to flourish as she used elements of deep roots, strong trunk, diverse branches, and more to trace the Founders' ideals of freedom of speech, thought, and living across the ages to present day America. But while ideas flowed freely, she approached her writing more deliberately.

"I had several drafts, and my English teacher, Amanda Pascuzzi, and my mom were able to help me read it over and help me cut out parts I didn't need," Sopoci said. "They were amazing when it came to helping me edit out the parts because I had a longer essay and I needed to shorten it."

And Sopoci has another special helper with her essay, Dave Lamwers, who was a paraprofessional at the school when Sopoci was in first grade.

"He was a helper for someone in my class," Sopoci said. "I don't know how it happened, but I just started randomly talking to him and giving him hugs every day, and that's how we became friends, I guess. Now I'm really close with him and his wife, Pat."

The first level of the competition was at the Cook VFW post, and Sopoci was hopeful but not overconfident.



North Woods School senior Amber Sopoci poses with VFW representatives as she receives her second-place award for her Voice of Democracy essay entry, "America the Oak Tree," at the organizations Midwinter conference in Brooklyn Park earlier this month. You can find Sopoci's essay reprinted on page 5 of this issue. submitted

"I knew I was one of the only seniors, maybe the only senior who entered the competition," Sopoci said. "I wasn't expecting first place but I was expecting to do

well and I'm very honored that they chose me and so thankful for the support that they gave me."

Next it was on to the VFW District 8 competition, and once again, Sopoci's es-

say won top honors, much to her surprise.

"My jaw hit the floor when I got the email – I was not expecting that at all," Sopoci said.

That win earned Sopoci

a trip to the state VFW Midwinter Conference in Brooklyn Park, where she met the other district winners and waited with a curious mix of calm and nervousness as they began announcing awards in ascending order.

"I was sitting with my fellow competitors, and we were just amazed that we were all here," Sopoci said. "I was just really honored to be there, and then they started the award process. They started calling runners up, and I thought OK, it's going to be me and then it wasn't. It just kept going up and up, and I was like fourth place, OK, this is me. Nope, someone else. OK, third place, this is me. Nope. I was very nervous about getting first and I'm extremely happy that I got second. The first place person totally deserved it. She had an amazing essay, and I'm happy I didn't have to read mine out loud (like the winner did)."

Special guests for the occasion were Kris and Tom Sopoci, Amber's grandparents.

"I knew it would be important for them to be there because their parents served in the military and are actually buried at Ft. Snelling," Sopoci said. "It was really, really cool they were able to support me this way."

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Johnston, Brunner bow out as Manick, new members step in

Council seeks to improve responsiveness

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- It's a new year and a new day for the Cook City Council, as longtime Mayor Harold Johnston turned the gavel over to new Mayor Dan Manick last Thursday and tried to bid a quick farewell.

Tried, and was rather unsuccessful thanks to Manick, who called Johnston up to the podium to say a few words.

"I'd appreciate Mayor Johnston to go to the podium – if you might give us an exit speech," Manick said.

The first words out of the former mayor's mouth were classic Johnston.

"I don't have an exit speech," he quipped.

"I'd like to thank the community for the last 50 years," Johnston continued, referring back beyond his 22 years in office to the time when he first moved to Cook to take up medical practice here. "We very much appreciate coming here, and thank

you all for your support."

"Thank you for your service," Manick responded, as Johnston was given an extended standing ovation by the audience and council.

Manick took the oath of office flanked by council members Jesse Scofield and Ron Bushbaum, both elected to full four-year terms in November. Bushbaum had been serving since last summer as the appointed replacement for former counselor Elizabeth Storm, who resigned.

Not long after, the council accepted the resignation of long-time member Kim Brunner, and Manick wasted no time at all filling the position by recommending former member Liza Root, who narrowly lost re-election in November. Council members approved Root's appointment, and she was immediately sworn in and took her seat at the table with the council.

With the departures of Johnston and Brunner, council member Jody Bixby is the

final holdover from the prior council.

New directions

Manick set the tone early for themes that would repeat throughout the 2-1/2-hour meeting – communication, connections, and accountability.

"I'd like to discuss a few things about how we conduct our meetings," Manick said. "I would like to make sure we are clear on our motions and seconds. If we have a discussion on action items I'd like to make sure everybody has an opportunity to speak. This form of government is a strong council and weak mayor, so we need the council to have input."

Manick also asked members to informally agree to a change in the public comments section of the meeting designed to make it easier for community members to sign up and to track topics presented.

And when it came time to discuss membership for various city committees



Above: Outgoing Mayor Harold Johnston, right, share a lighthearted moment with incoming Mayor Dan Manick.



Above right: Former council member Liza Root is new council member Root after Manick appointed her to fill a council vacancy.



Right: Jesse Scofield, Dan Manick, and Ron Bushbaum recite their oaths of office.

and boards, Manick emphasized connections, both to experience and community members at large. Seeking to tap in on Johnston's long experience with city affairs, Manick recommended him for positions on several committees with which he's

had long-term engagement. And any time the council addressed membership for a committee or board that traditionally has had just city council members, Manick and his colleagues on the council repeatedly indicated how welcome community

members would be to participate on one or more of them.

A follow-up story in next week's Timberjay will provide more information on business items addressed in Thursday's council meeting.

Community notices

North Woods Empty Bowl will be Feb. 7

FIELD TWP- It will be the 12th edition of what's become an annual tradition of giving for the North Woods School Art Club when they host the Empty Bowl fundraiser on Friday, Feb. 7 from 4:30-7 p.m. in the commons area prior to the Grizzlies' boys basketball game against Littlefork-Big Falls.

Art teacher and reigning Mrs. Universal Petite pageant title holder Rachel Betterley has once again tapped her pageant community to bring in Miss Minnesota, Emily Schumacher, for the event. Free photos and autographs with Miss Minnesota have always been treasured highlights for kids at past Empty Bowl events, and Schumacher

will warmly welcome any and all to learn about her heart health initiative, "The Heart of the Matter."

Art Club members have been busily handcrafting the bowls and ceramic art that will be available for purchase for \$10 and have enlisted the help of North Woods Elementary students for their decorative glazing. A \$10 purchase entitles the buyer to a hearty bowl of soup, dessert and beverage. Basket raffle tickets may be purchased for \$1, and the Art Club will offer face painting as well.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the food shelves in Cook and Orr.



Miss Minnesota Emily Schumacher will be at the event. submitted photo

NWFA invites photos for February exhibit "People That I've Known"

COOK- Whether you're skilled with a single lens reflex camera, snap your photos with a cell phone, or simply collect photos of family and friends, Northwoods Friends of the Arts invites you to submit photos of people you know for their February exhibit, "People That I've Known."

Photos submitted, whether new or old, need not be taken by you, but should feature people you've known.

Photos of any size should be framed or mounted on material such as mat board, plywood, foam core board or other material suitable for display, and should

be accompanied by a one to two paragraph explanation of how the person or persons in the photo are important to you.

Photos ready for display should be delivered to the NWFA Gallery at 210 S River St. in Cook on Friday, Jan. 31 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. or on Saturday, Feb. 1 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

The exhibit will open on Feb. 6 and continue through Feb. 28.

**Read It
HERE**

WINTER FESTIVAL REVIVAL

Great Nordic Beardfest returns to Ely after two-year break

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- After a two-year hiatus, the Great Nordic Beardfest returns to Ely for two evenings of fuzzy fun on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 7-8 at Ely's Historic State Theater. Each evening will feature beard and other competitions plus live music and fundraising for this year's featured charity, the Contented Critters Animal Rescue. On both nights, doors will open at 6 p.m. and the competitions will start at 7 p.m.

"I retired the event after 2022," said Shawn Chosa, founder and organizer of the event. "I was having health issues at the time. Since then, people kept telling me how much they liked it and how much they missed it - so I brought it back."

The event was originally at the Boathouse Brewpub, but every year the event grew until it outgrew the Boathouse.

"We moved the second night to the theater in 2022, and even then, it was packed," Chosa said.

This year, because of the anticipated demand, both nights of the Beardfest will be at the theater. On Friday and Saturday, the Beardfest

will also run a corn board contest, with proceeds going to Contented Critters. The winner of the contest will receive a stay at Melgeorge's Elephant Lake Lodge in Orr valued at \$550.

Friday

The Beardfest will open with belt competitions on Friday night with beards, moustaches, and bearded ladies. Registration is not required. Contestants should show up ready to compete in single-elimination throw-down-style rounds until a winner is decided. The winner of each round will be determined by the audience.

"On Friday, the contestants compete for belts, like you see in boxing and professional wrestling matches," Chosa said. "It's a lot of fun and the audience gets to participate."

The Berserk Blawndz band and the Green Treat will provide live music on Friday. Tickets are \$20, and the registration fee to compete for a belt is \$10 at the door.

Saturday

"The main event is on Saturday," Chosa told the *Timberjay*. "We have people coming from multiple states



A reveler from a recent Great Nordic Beardfest. The event returns to Ely, Feb. 7-8

to compete. We have 25 trophies to give to contestants."

A panel of judges will decide the winners in six different categories: full beard longer than six inches, full beard less than six inches, freestyle beard, partial beard, mustache, and bearded lady. Those wishing to compete in Saturday's contests must preregister through the Beardfest's website at greatnordicbeardfest.com

and pay the \$35 registration fee.

Ian Alexy and Black River Revue will provide the live music on Saturday. Admission is again \$20. The evening will also include a four-song dance contest with over 25 prize bags of Ely merchandise to give out to winners.

Good for business

"This is the first year that I had businesses approaching me to

sponsor the Great Nordic Beardfest," Chosa remarked "It's a first. That's never happened before. We're not doing this to make money. The Beardfest is to have fun, help a local charity, and promote Ely area businesses. In addition to making money for this year's charity, the Beardfest also funds a \$500 scholarship. If there's any money left over, we put it toward the scholarship and we'll do something nice for the volunteers who make this event possible."

The promotion of Ely's businesses through Beardfest has been hard to avoid around town this year, due to the catchy and amusing Sasquatch-themed ad campaign, which Chosa designed. When Chosa isn't running the Beardfest, he works as a full-time graphic designer and artist.

Chosa created over 60 customized ads for the local businesses that sponsored this year's event. They've been showing up all over town in shop windows and on the "What's Up, Ely" Facebook page. "I did use AI to help with the graphics," Chosa said. "Orienting the Sasquatch character to fit each business was a lot of fun."

FESTIVAL...Continued from page 1

to Ely."

One of those international visitors will be Germany's award-winning Franziska "Franzi" Agrawal, who was a bronze medalist in the 2024 International Snow Sculpture Championships. Agrawal is a return visitor to the winter festival. She has been a part of the festival's snow sculpting symposium for several years and her distinctive creations of fantastic geometric shapes are easily recognizable.

The snow sculpting symposium gets underway on Thursday, Feb. 6 in Whiteside Park, and the sculptures will be completed by Sunday, Feb. 9.

The city of Ely provides the snow for the snow sculp-

tures. Unlike last year, when the city had to scrounge for snow, the Ely Public Works Department found a ready source of high-quality snow nearby.

"We got the snow from the Ely Municipal Airport," said Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski. "It's great snow. Because there's no vehicle or pedestrian traffic, the airport's snow is very white and clean."

Opening ceremony

The official opening of the festival is set for Friday evening, Feb. 7. "This year, we have some new additions," said Peta Barrett, the MC for the ceremony. "We will start

the evening at the bandshell in the park at 6 p.m., where the Bois Forte Singers, an Ojibwe drum circle, will play and sing one or more honor songs." The ceremonial honor songs will mark the official start of the event.

"This is a first for us," Barrett added, "and I hope it will become an ongoing part of the winter festival. We are fortunate to have this group come and open the festival for us."

After the drum circle, the attendees will walk the short distance to the snow sculpture row, where the Ely High School Nordic Ski Team will form a ceremonial arch with their ski poles as the torch

"glides into the park." The skiers will pass the torch off to this year's grand marshal, Lucy Soderstrom, the program director of the Ely Folk School.

"We have a brand-new torch this year that we commissioned," Barrett told the *Timberjay*. "Unlike the old torch, this one is not dangerous so it's a big step up." The torch was made by Warren Bettencourt of the Duluth Forging Community, a blacksmithing group. Bettencourt is no stranger to Ely and visits several times a year to teach blacksmithing at the Ely Folk School.

"Also, this year we will have a fun and creative drill

performed by the Northwoods Snowshoe Squad," Barrett added, "wearing traditional Ojibwe snowshoes. We'll have a really great blend for the opening this year."

So many events

The Ely Winter Festival is much more than just snow sculptures. The 10-day event hosts a variety of events and activities. This year marks the return of the Great Nordic Beardfest after a two-year hiatus (see inset this page). The Ely ArtWalk and activities at the Dorothy Molter Museum (see both on p. 2) are also part of the fun.

Many of the winter festival's signature events are once

again on the schedule, like the Ely Community Resource annual fundraiser spaghetti dinner, tours of Listening Point on Burntside Lake, and the annual Kuub tournament. Kuub is a Swedish game that resembles English bowles or Italian bocce but with thrown batons instead of balls.

The event schedule and the ArtWalk map are available at the Ely Winter Festival headquarters at Northern Grounds, at the corner of Sheridan and Central, or online at elywinterfestival.com under the "Events" tab.

PLEAD...Continued from page 1

slightly in their underlying rationale. The first charge of involuntary manslaughter zeroes in on the allegation that Peterson unlawfully killed Boshey while committing the unlawful act of driving under the influence of alcohol. The second charge does not mention alcohol, but focuses on Peterson driving without due caution, also noting that he failed to stop at the scene.

History

According to court documents, on Dec. 17, the St.

Louis County 911 Center received several calls regarding an apparently intoxicated woman walking on Tibbets Trail near the Fortune Bay Resort and Casino. Officers were dispatched to the scene and discovered Boshey lying motionless and cold in the snow. She was transported from the scene and pronounced dead.

Vehicle debris at the scene included pieces from a dark blue vehicle and pieces of plastic that appeared to be headlights or turn signals.

Given this information and the location of the accident, law enforcement worked with Fortune Bay employees to review surveillance footage that identified a dark blue Dodge Durango departing the casino. Footage from cameras at the Y-Store showed that the Durango had a damaged headlight that was not damaged on the casino footage.

Peterson was determined to be the registered owner of the vehicle. A search warrant was executed at his Virginia residence, where

a blue Dodge Durango was found in the driveway with damage consistent with the debris collected from the accident scene. A breath test conducted approximately seven-and-a-half hours after the incident showed Peterson's blood alcohol content to be 0.048 at that time.

A charge of involuntary manslaughter was originally filed on Dec. 20. Peterson was indicted on the dual charges on Jan. 8.

FIRE...Continued from page 1

appears to have started from an explosion, has not yet been determined.

Fire contained

While the Wanless's garage was a total loss, Wanless said a prompt and effective response by the Brietung fire department saved their house as well as a neighboring property. A neighbor's garage is located barely ten feet away but firefighters were

able to protect the structure. A tarp which covered stacked firewood under the eaves of the neighbors garage melted from the heat but the firewood behind it never ignited.

The intensity of the heat was apparent, however, as it melted vinyl siding from a garage located on the opposite side of the alley and cracked back windows in the Wanless's house.

Ritchie Automatic Livestock Waterers and Parts
HIBBING FEED and SEED
262-3049

Cook VFW
GREAT FOOD!
Snowmobiler Favorites
HAPPY HOUR: 3:30-6:30
THURS: 4:30-6:30 WEEKLY SPECIALS
BINGO: 6:30 Progressive Prizes
FRI: 4:30-7 1/3 lb. Burgers for \$7.50
Take-Out 666-0500
206 1st St SW, Cook, MN

Punxsutawney Puzzle Competition
Timber Hall Event Center
Sunday, February 2 • 1 PM
at the Timber Hall Event Center
4855 Hwy. 21, Embarrass
Come out of hibernation and join us for some fun, great conversation and a 500 piece puzzle! Bring your favorite beverage and snacks to share.
Happy Groundhog Day
Hope Phil Doesn't See His Shadow!
PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED
by January 24 so call or text Sue today!
218-750-2718
\$10 per person or \$40 for team of 4
Sponsored by the Embarrass Region Fair Association

CRASH...

Continued from page 1

School officials have been working with and notifying parents, and investigators remained at the scene at least two hours after the accident occurred. The accident is being investigated by the Sheriff's Office in conjunction with the Minnesota State Patrol. Preliminary indications are that icy conditions were a contributing factor in the crash.

Assisting the Sheriff's Office and MSP at the scene were responders from DNR, Cook Fire and EMS, Orr EMS, and Virginia Fire/EMS.

Scenic Rivers Clinics
Medical, Dental, and Behavioral Health
Quality and Compassion For Every Patient for Life
Cook • Bigfork • Tower • Eveleth • Northome
Floodwood • Big Falls
Same Day Appointments Available
24-Hour Emergency Care in Cook and Bigfork
(877) 541-2817
www.ScenicRiversHealth.org

Join us for the annual Fun Photo Contest
A SHOT IN THE DARK
(The photo turned out better than you thought.)
March 6 - March 28, 2025
Your entries must be submitted by March 1st.
Prizes:
Winner \$100, Runner-Up \$50
\$10 Per Entry
(Students, 18 and under may enter 3 FREE)
Entry forms available at the gallery or at: nwfamn.org
NORTHWOODS FRIENDS OF THE ARTS
Thursday & Friday 10-4, Saturday 9-1
210 River Street
P.O. Box 44
Cook, Minnesota 55723
nwfamn@gmail.com

READ the Timberjay!

SILVER RAPIDS

Cabins parked at resort only temporarily

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

FALL LAKE- When six cabins on trailers appeared at the Silver Rapids Resort earlier this month, it prompted concerns from a few neighbors who asked the *Timberjay* to investigate.

It turns out the cabins on the trailers are extra-wide “park homes” belonging

to the Timber Trail Lodge, another resort located on the Kawishiwi Trail. The caretaker at Silver Rapids told the *Timberjay* that the resort is allowing temporary storage of the units “as a neighborly favor for another area resort.”

George Pond, the owner of the Timber Trail Lodge, is selling the six units. According to documents from

the Lake County Planning Commission, Pond had 10 empty RV-campsite spaces at his resort so he bought 10 of the cabin-like units to place in those spaces to rent to resort guests.

Pond went through multiple public meetings with the planning commission in 2024 over updating his permits for the resort. The capacity of his

septic system was a sticking point for the new park home units.

The county planning commission determined back in September that ten park home units exceeded the capacity of the septic system, noting, “(The) septic was designed for RV flow — 2 people per RV — and 10 new park models ... were advertised for 6-8

people.” In November, the commission’s staff reported, “This is a shallow property (so) the four park models could be equivalent to 10 campsites.”

According to Christine McCarthy, the Environmental Services Director for Lake County, Pond was informed that to comply with the county’s septic rules, he needed to

remove six of the ten new park homes on the property. Pond is now selling the units.

McCarthy told the *Timberjay* that the county was aware that Silver Rapids was storing the units for Timber Trail Lodge. “If they’re there more than 30 days, they will require just a land use permit for temporary storage,” she said.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Ely Fire Department responds to high CO levels in Ely home



by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- An Ely resident on the 600 block of E. James Street did exactly the right thing when the CO alarm went off in her house — she exited the building

Left: Ely firefighters setting up ventilation equipment after a CO alarm went off at an Ely residence on Monday. photo by C. Clark

and called 911. The Ely Fire Department responded with its Hummer unit and a fire engine just before 9 a.m. Firefighters detected the smell of fuel oil and measured high levels of carbon monoxide, or CO, inside the home. After shutting off the furnace, the fire department ventilated the residence.

“During this time of year when everyone is running their furnace, the fire department gets

a lot more of these CO calls than people realize,” said Ely police sergeant Brad Roy, who was among the responders at the scene.

Carbon monoxide is known as the “invisible killer” because it is colorless, odorless, and toxic. CO poisoning can occur when a fuel-burning appliance, such as a furnace, heater, or generator, is not working or is vented improperly. Since CO is lighter

than air, it will spread upward through a home undetected if a CO alarm is absent.

“It’s important to have a CO detector in your home,” said Fire Chief David Marshal. “And make sure the batteries are still good and that it’s working. CO detectors save lives.”

Both hardware stores in Ely sell CO detectors.

IRON PLANT...Continued from page 1

new facility, Weberg said he remains optimistic that the funding will eventually come through.

Weberg notes that the project has strong bipartisan backing from the state’s political leaders as well as from industry partners, including U.S. Steel, which will be an active participant in the feasibility study. The study is expected to take about a year, said Weberg.

While the effort could potentially attract other funding should the federal funds be canceled, Weberg said a federal role in the effort is important given the potential impact to the national economy. He said industry players will also be looking for federal cooperation to advance what could be the largest new investment on the

Iron Range in years, assuming the study confirms its feasibility. “We’re talking about an investment of \$800 million to \$1.5 billion,” said Weberg. “No industry will commit to that kind of investment without a very, very detailed feasibility study,” he added.

The Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation is another major funder of the study, contributing \$2 million toward the effort. IRRR Commissioner Ida Rukavina said the Iron Range is eager to make its contribution to the ongoing energy transition. “As the nation’s primary source of iron ore, the Mesabi Iron Range is poised for green iron innovations,” she said. “Our region’s abundant natural resources have long been a driver of national prosperity, and we’re ready to

lead in these critical industry transformations.”

A green iron facility on the Iron Range would use hydrogen as a substitute for the natural gas currently used in most processing facilities and the hydrogen would need to be produced from green sources of electrical energy, most likely wind or solar, which would power the electrolysis that would separate water molecules, or H2O, for their two atoms of hydrogen. The switch to hydrogen as a primary fuel source would substantially reduce the carbon footprint of iron production. Weberg said he expects the facility would be able to produce a variety of iron products to serve both traditional blast furnaces, which utilize taconite pellets, as well as electric arc furnaces, which require direct reduced

iron products.

While a clean energy transition may not be a high priority with the current cast of federal policymakers, Weberg said the U.S. will need to make the transition if it is going to remain competitive in a global environment. Regardless of attitudes in the U.S., Weberg said U.S. steel products will have to come “with a pedigree of how they are sourced,” if they are to compete on the world market.

With other countries moving forward with their own transitions, Weberg said time is of the essence. “The industry needs to make decisions in the near future,” said Weberg. “That makes the timeliness of this study very important. Once it’s done, we will have a much better idea of how to move forward.”



Please JOIN US!
Your support is needed

FEB 6 ONLINE FUNDRAISER STARTS
32AUCTIONS.COM/DMM2025

FEB 8 WHIRLWIND! EVENT & FREE OPEN HOUSE

FEB 13 ANNUAL PLAID TIE EVENT (FUNDRAISING DINNER)

- Limited general admission hours -

Learn more at www.rootbeerlady.com

READ THE TIMBERJAY!



10 days of winter fun

Snow Sculpting Symposium

Great Nordic Beard Fest

Ely ArtWalk

Activities In The Park

and so much more

2025

NOBODY celebrates WINTER BETTER

FEB 6 Thru 16 2025

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board and the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.






SPORTS

Serving northern St. Louis County since 1989

BOYS BASKETBALL

Grizzlies split a pair in week's action

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- On a Friday night when the Grizzlies' boys handily defeated 7AA Duluth Marshall 76-52, the spotlight was on senior guard Louie Panichi, who dazzled the crowd with 19 points including three rainbow treys, eight rebounds, five assists and seven steals as he crossed the 1,000-point scoring mark for his

Panichi notches 1,000th point

North Woods career.

Both teams got off to a ragged early start, with Andrew Hartway answering a Marshall deuce with a three-ball at the 15:41 mark for a 3-2 Grizzlies' lead. North Woods held the Hilltoppers to that solitary score for the next four minutes as they built a 9-2 advantage. The Grizzlies went up by ten at 21-11 on a chipper by Peltier, and a

bucket by Hartway and two by Panichi vaulted North Woods to a 35-20 lead. Kalvyn Benner broke a short Grizzlies scoring drought on a mid-range jumper with just over a minute left in the half, and Aidan Hartway drained a buzzer-beating baseline jumper to send the teams into the locker rooms with North Woods leading 41-27.

Panichi's magic moment

Right: North Woods senior guard Louie Panichi celebrates his scoring milestone with Coach Andrew Jugovich after Friday's win against Duluth Marshall.

submitted photo

came at the 17:07 mark of the second half when he took a pass from Benner beyond the arc in the corner and launched a trey

See GRIZZLIES..pg. 2B



GIRLS BASKETBALL

Grizzlies drop two

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- The North Woods girls continue to make good progress in a rebuilding season, although one had to look beyond the win-loss column this week to see it. The Grizzlies dropped hard-fought matchups at home against Moose Lake-Willow River, 68-55, and McGregor, 60-43.

Against ML-WR on Monday, the Grizzlies stood toe-to-toe with the Rebels for most of the game, with a mid-game drought spanning the halftime break leading to the loss. North Woods took the early lead on a triple by Brynn

See NW GIRLS..pg. 2B

Ely blows past ML/WR 63-46

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

MOOSELAKE— Four Ely players hit double digits here this past Saturday as the Timberwolves rebounded from a Thursday night heartbreaker to top Moose Lake/Willow River 63-46. The win improves Ely's record to 12-5.

Amelia Penke drained four three-pointers as she led the Wolves with 16 points on the night. Senior Clare Thomas was a beast on the boards as she tallied 15 rebounds along with 12 points, including a trey, to notch a double-double. Audrey Kallberg just missed a double-double, posting 13 points and nine boards. Zoe Mackenzie connected on two from beyond the arc as she added 13 to Ely's cause. Lydia Schultz had a strong overall performance with nine points, seven steals, four rebounds and four assists.

The Wolves connected on eight of nine free throws to further help their cause.

In a makeup game Thursday night in Bigfork, the Huskies' defense kept the Wolves under wraps as they edged Ely 41-39 in a game that was tight all night.

The Wolves were ice cold from the field, connecting on just ten of 36 shots from two-point range. They also missed three-of-four free throws, which could have made the difference.

Schultz was the only Ely player in double digits, as she connected on three treys on her way to 11 points and six assists. Mackenzie added nine points and Kallberg posted seven along with ten rebounds. Thomas and Penke each added five points.

The Wolves were set to visit Carlton on Friday night. They'll host Deer River on Tuesday.



Left: Ely's Dylan Durkin, who finished first overall at Saturday's ski meet at Hidden Valley, rolls into the finish line during a portion of the pursuit competition.

Below: Izzy Macho peers through heavy blowing snow during the girls' relay competition in Ely last Saturday.

photos by D. Colburn

NORDIC SKIING

Ely boys dominate home meet

Take all four top spots in pursuit

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

ELY – The Ely boys Nordic skiers thoroughly dominated the competition on their home slopes at Hidden Valley on a windy, snowy Saturday, claiming the overall team title over Duluth East with the top four finishers in pursuit, the top three in freestyle, and second in the relay.

Consistency was the name of the game for pursuit winner Dylan Durkin, who placed second in both heats for the fastest combined runs around the circuit, clocking

15:49 and 15:14 for an overall time of 31:03. Aksel Skustad took second with a combined time of 31:25. Eli Olson led at the end of the first heat, but slipped to third and was edged by Skustad in the final standings, also clocking a time of 31:25. Rounding out the Wolves quartet at the top of the leaderboard was Wyatt Devine, who vaulted from sixth after the first run to third in the second run and fourth overall in 31:33. The Wolves' Otto Devine cracked the top 10, placing seventh with an

See ELY BOYS..pg. 2B



BOYS BASKETBALL

Mixed week for Timberwolves

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

ELY— An impenetrable Ely defense here on Tuesday helped the Timberwolves outpace Greenway 62-46 as the Wolves improved to 12-5

Left: Caid Chittum works around a Greenway defender.

photo by J. Greeney

on the season. "I thought we did a great job of containing their six-foot, nine [inch] player and we were just great on the defensive end all night," said Ely Head Coach Tom McDonald. "We still didn't shoot the ball well but managed to get the win anyway."

Point guard Jack Davies had one of his best nights offensively in weeks, pouring in 30 points to lead

all scorers. Caid Chittum added 18 points while Drew Johnson posted eight rebounds and five assists.

Tuesday's strong defensive performance proved a nice recovery after a disappointing trip to Littlefork. "We ran into a team that we just couldn't guard," said McDonald, as the Wolves fell 94-69.

See WOLVES..pg. 2B



DREAM HOMES NEED DREAM KITCHENS & APPLIANCES.

pohaki
SERVICE. QUALITY. GOOD PEOPLE.

804 N. 6th Avenue | Virginia | 218.741.3014

HOCKEY

First period scoring frenzy lifts Ely over Park Rapids

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

PARK RAPIDS— The Timberwolves' recent scoring drought came to a dramatic end here on Saturday as Ely exploded for five goals in the first quarter as they routed the Panthers 6-1 in Ely's best offensive performance of the season so far.

Jace Huntbatch heralded an impressive start for the Wolves with a goal just 1:26 into the contest. Jayden Zemke lit the lamp just over three minutes later, with an assist from Owen Marolt, to put the Wolves up 2-0.

Less than six minutes later, the Wolves put three shots past Panthers' goalie Logan Felton in a 72-second

scoring frenzy that left the Wolves in the driver's seat. Huntbatch hit the net again, at the 10:11 mark, to put the Wolves up 3-0. Rhett Johnson made it 4-0 just seven seconds later while Hunter Halbakken capped the outburst at 11:23.

A new Panther's goaltender helped limit the damage the rest of the way but it was already too late for Park

Rapids. The Panthers scored late in the second period, while Rhett Johnson added an insurance goal for Ely early in the third.

Ely goalie Ben Leeson, who notched a .973 save percentage, kept the Wolves out front even as Park Rapids outshot them 37-22.

The game was marred by 15 penalties as virtually

every Ely player spent time in the box. Zemke was called for the only major, for head contact early in the third period. Despite the penalties, all of the goals for both teams came at full strength.

Playing at Bagley last Friday, the Wolves put 34 shots on goal but lost 5-0 despite benefitting from seven power plays. Alex Merriman was the

only Ely player penalized on the night, on a two-minute charge of kneeling late in the second period. The Flyers put 29 shots on goal but made them count for the win.

The Wolves were set to host Proctor Friday night in a makeup game after last week's postponement due to weather. They stay at home to host Burnett, Wis. on Saturday.

ELY BOYS...Continued from page 1B

overall time of 31:47. Milo McClelland, 17th, 34:23, and Brooks Brenny, 18th, 34:29, capped the Ely crew that finished in the top third of the 58-skier field.

The Ely boys claimed the team title in pursuit over runner-up Duluth East, 237-224, with CEC taking third with 199 points. Grand Rapids, Proctor-Hermantown, Two Harbors, and Cook County completed the field.

The Wolves scored a tri-fecta in the freestyle race, with Eli Olson claiming the top prize with a time of 15:32.8. Durkin nailed down second in 15:38.2, and Skustad came in third at 16:02.5. Close behind was Wyatt Devine in sixth in 16:15.8 and Otto Devine

in seventh in 16:24. Milo McClelland, 14th, 17:16.3, and Brooks Brenny, 16th, 17:25.3, were additional Wolves who finished in the top third of the field.

In the relay, Tyde Brecke and Caleb Larson teamed up to place second with a time of 11:31. Adding the relay results to the pursuit results gave Ely a second overall team win on the day.

"Saturday was a high point in our season," Ely Head Coach Todd Hohenstein said. "We have been competing with Duluth East all season to answer the question, 'Who is the best team in Section 7?' In December, they were outskiing us. Well, the last couple meets it seems that

things have shifted in Ely's favor. We were very surprised watching the guys come into the stadium and take first through fourth. They all skied great, but our top two seniors lead the effort. Dylan and Eli are pulling everyone else up to their level of skiing and it's making us very hard to beat. There is definitely a home course advantage with skiing a trail that you know where every bump and dip are found, so it will be interesting to see how things fall when we ski at Duluth East's home course on Thursday in our last regular season meet."

Girls

The Ely girls finished third as a team in the pursuit

competition, with a trio of Wolves finishing in the top third of the 47-skier field. Anna Dunn cracked the top ten by making a huge jump in her second run from 15th to fifth, slashing two minutes and 27 seconds off her initial run for a combined time of 38:07, placing tenth. Mattie Lindsay placed 12th with a time of 38:41, and Molly Brophy finished 16th with a time of 39:59.

Izzy Macho and Lucy Dunn paired up for a sixth-place finish in the relay with a time of 14:01, good enough for the Wolves to hold off Cook County and claim third in the combined pursuit/relay scores as well.

Mattie Lindsay skied to an

11th-place finish in freestyle, coming in with a time of 19:23.4. Anna Larson crossed the line in 14th with a time of 20:06.3, and Anna Dunn was the last of the Wolves to place in the top third of the field, claiming 15th in 20:16.8.

"Our girls team has made steady improvements over the season," Hohenstein said. "We are excited about the growth that some of our younger skiers have made in the last couple weeks. It will be tough to compete for a team qualification to the state meet this year, but that doesn't define success for us. The girls have set their own goals this season and have worked hard to reach those goals."

Hohenstein expressed

gratitude for all the help the team received in hosting the event.

"Putting together a home meet like ours is a huge undertaking," he said. "We are very lucky community members step up to volunteer their time and energy to make our meet a reality. Over 50 volunteers took on different tasks to make sure the ski venue at Hidden Valley was ready to accommodate approximately 250 racers. We had a great day all around for our program."

GRIZZLIES...Continued from page 1B

that found the bottom of the net, causing the crowd to leap to their feet and roar their approval. The Grizzlies were up 44-29 at that point and were never seriously challenged the rest of the game.

Panichi had plenty of help in the scoring department, as Aidan Hartway had 16, Andrew Hartway had 15, and Benner scored 12. The Grizzlies won almost every statistical category that mattered—shooting, points in the paint, rebounds, turnovers, and more.

Grizzlies Head Coach Andrew Jugovich was happy to see Panichi cross the 1,000-

point mark and praised his work ethic that led him to reach this milestone.

"He very much deserved it," Jugovich said. He's been playing with me since tenth grade, being a starter, and he's put in the work. He comes to the open gyms, he comes to the summer league, he puts in the extra time, and I'm just proud that he was able to get it."

South Ridge

In a stunning meltdown against South Ridge on Tuesday, the Grizzlies choked away an 11-point lead in the final three minutes and lost to the Panthers 70-63.

The Grizzlies were riding

high in the second half on the hot hand of Kalvyn Benner. After an erratic first half, Benner suddenly caught fire and found the range from all over the court, scoring down low, on midrange driving jumpers, and arching three-balls. In a span of about five minutes, Benner hit 15 points to vault the Grizzlies from a 31-27 deficit to a 44-36 lead. A triple by TaySean Boshey-Wilkerson, a deuce by August Peltier on a drive and dish by Panichi, and a bucket by Panichi put the Grizzlies up 54-43 with 2:57 remaining.

But having blistered the Grizzlies with a 15-0 run in

the first half, the Panthers knew they weren't out of it, and they came roaring back as the Grizzlies missed shots and fumbled the ball away. Panichi had the chance to seal the win from the free throw line with five seconds remaining and the Grizzlies up 57-55, but he missed the front end of a one-and-one and Benner was called for a foul battling for the rebound. South Ridge's Isaac Coon calmly dropped in two charities to send the game to overtime.

Holding all the momentum, the Panthers struck first and struck hard in the extra period, but a pair of free throws

by Panichi and a deuce by Benner tied the score again at 63-63 with 2:19 remaining. It was the last score the Grizzlies would get, as the Panthers closed out the win on a dominating 7-0 run.

Benner led the Grizzlies with 17 points, followed by Panichi with 14 and Aidan Hartway with 12.

Jugovich didn't mince words when he emerged from the locker room after a lengthy postgame talk with his team.

"At the end of the game, we still don't have that leader who's willing to put the weight of the world on his shoulders and say, 'Let me close out this

game, let me have the ball, let me take the shots, let me get fouled," Jugovich lamented. "When we were up eight to six to four, turnover after turnover, defensive lapse after defensive lapse, bad foul after bad foul, we didn't have that one person, and until we find them, games like this are going to be hard to win."

The Grizzlies were scheduled for a road game on Friday at Greenway, then have a short break before hosting Littlefork-Big Falls on Friday, Feb. 7.

NW GIRLS...Continued from page 1B

Chosa, and after falling behind regained the lead on a corner trey by Tatum Barto, 14-13. The Grizzlies trailed 25-23 with just over two minutes left in the half after a basket by Corra Brodeen when the Rebels began to create some distance. Finishing the half on an 11-2 run, the Rebels led 36-25 at the break.

ML-WR built the lead to 40-25 in the first two-and-

a-half minutes of the second half before Sierra Shuster got the Grizzlies on the board with a deuce, and the Rebels were still up by 15 at 57-42 with six minutes remaining. But the Grizzlies rallied to within eight at 58-50 with three minutes left on an 8-1 run sparked by a pair of Brodeen free throws and two long three balls by Barto. There wasn't enough gas left

in the Grizzlies' tank to fuel a comeback, though, as the Rebels pulled away in the final minutes to win by 13.

Barto was a scoring machine for the Grizzlies, putting up 26 points to lead all scorers, while Chosa cashed in for 11.

McGregor

North Woods was looking to avenge an early season

71-63 tournament loss to McGregor, and at the outset it looked as though they might be up to the task.

The Mercuries got out to a quick 4-0 lead, but a bucket by Brodeen and a backcourt steal and score by Barto gave Chosa the chance to put North Woods in the lead at the free throw line, which she did by making one of two for a 5-4 lead. Shuster hit a double to

return North Woods to a 9-8 lead, the last time they would have the upper hand in the game. Taking advantage of North Woods misses and miscues, the Mercuries pulled out to a 25-11 advantage and held a 15-point edge at the break, 33-18.

North Woods has been challenged to mount big runs to come back from double-digit deficits, and that was the case again in the second half. As in the early going, the Grizzlies hit their stride and played the

Mercuries tough and even until the final seconds when McGregor went up by the winning margin of 17.

Chosa led the Grizzlies in scoring with a dozen, followed by Barto with 11.

The Grizzlies were scheduled to be on the road against Deer River on Thursday, then back at home on Friday to take on Hill City-Northland. A tilt at Cherry is on tap for Tuesday.

WOLVES...Continued from page 1B

"They shot the ball really well and we had no answer for them defensively. We didn't shoot the ball well, either."

Davies led with 27 points, while Johnson notched a double-double with ten points and

11 rebounds. Chittum added 15 points and nine assists.

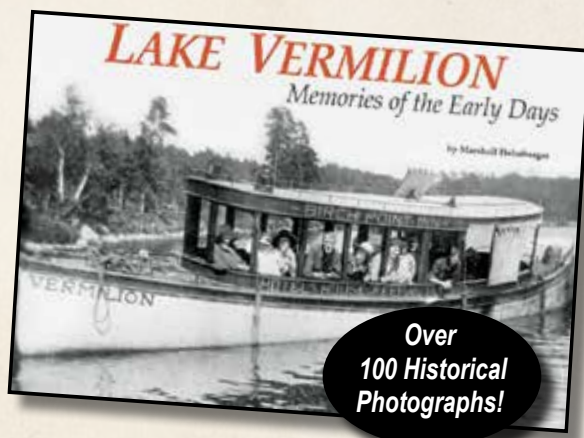
The Wolves hit the road on Friday to take on Carlton/Wrenshall. They're back home on Tuesday to host Deer River.



Memories of the Early Days

A fascinating look back at the early history of the Lake Vermilion area

Written by Marshall HelMBERGER • Published by the TimberjAY



Over 100 Historical Photographs!

A Regional Favorite

STOP IN TODAY OR CALL...

Just \$29.95 + Tax

Don't miss your chance to own Lake Vermilion's most definitive history!

Pick up book(s) at TimberjAY office in Tower or have book(s) mailed, for \$39.95 each.

BOOK ORDER FORM

The TimberjAY
P.O. Box 636, 414 Main St
Tower, MN 55790 • 218-753-2950

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP Code _____ Tel.# _____
Credit Card Information VISA MC DISCOVER
Billing address if different from above _____

Quantity of Books _____

Book Total - Pick Up \$29.95 + tax (\$32.16) Book Total - Mail \$39.95
Total charged to credit card \$ _____ Paid by check \$ _____ Check # _____
Pick Up Mail

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

at Timber Hall Event Center
4855 Hwy 21, Embarrass

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1
SERVING 8 TO 11 AM

Join us for all-you-can-eat pancakes, your choice of ham or sausage links, juice, and a bottomless cup of coffee

- Adults \$7,
- Children 6-10 years old \$4
- Kids 5 and under FREE



For a full list of events at Timber Hall, check out our Events Calendar

FEDERAL FUNDING

Trump's federal funding freeze sends shockwaves through state

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Minnesota officials and organizations are scrambling after a surprise move by President Donald Trump to temporarily freeze federal funding for a wide array of programs, from road construction to conservation initiatives and law enforcement grants to tribal government services. While a federal judge has put a temporary hold on the order, uncertainty remains over how long the freeze could last and what it might mean for communities that depend on these funds.

Walz reacts

Gov. Tim Walz didn't hold back when addressing Trump's directive, which he said could create a nearly \$2 billion hole in the state budget each month.

"Minnesota will do what we can to keep the lights on, but we cannot fill the nearly \$2 billion hole this will put in the state's budget each month," Walz said. "This isn't conservatism. This is amateur-hour cruelty."

At a Tuesday afternoon press conference at a St. Paul YMCA, Walz made clear his disdain for the move.

"This is not bold. It's not leadership," Walz said. "It's stupid, buffoonish, childish."

Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison joined a coalition of 23 attorneys general suing the Trump administration over the freeze, calling it an unconstitutional power grab. It was that suit that led to the stay of Trump's order.

"I do not sit around looking for ways to sue Donald Trump, but in the eight days he's been in office, he's forced me to figure out ways to sue him almost every day," Ellison said. "We're never going to stop. We're always going to stand up for the people of the state."

State budget officials are deeply concerned about the freeze's effect on essential services.

"Our ability to fill the gap left by this freeze is very limited," said Minnesota Management and Budget Commissioner Erin Campbell. "Medicaid takes up the largest portion of the \$1.8 billion we receive monthly, but this also impacts food

assistance, state highways, local airports, school meals, and more. This is not something we can easily absorb."

The Trump administration later confirmed that Medicaid is excluded from the freeze, which significantly reduces the hit Minnesota would take.

Confusion abounds

Trump's two-page directive was issued without any accompanying guidance, leaving it to officials and programs to try to determine what programs would be affected. Confounding the problem, federal portals for processing Medicaid reimbursement requests from states and Head Start payments to grantees went dark on Tuesday, raising fears that those programs were being impaired by the freeze. Campbell noted that Minnesota could not access the Medicaid portal in the morning but was able to successfully submit a reimbursement request later in the day. Some news outlets circulated a spreadsheet from the federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) that allegedly listed the programs subject to the freeze and up for review. The extensive list further fueled the chaos surrounding Trump's order, until finally late in the day on Tuesday the White House posted a question-and-answer page to its website to try to clarify what kinds of programs are and are not impacted.

"Any program that provides direct benefits to Americans is explicitly excluded from the pause and exempted from this review process," the webpage says. "In addition to Social Security and Medicare, already explicitly excluded in the guidance, mandatory programs like Medicaid and SNAP (food assistance) will continue without pause. Funds for small businesses, farmers, Pell grants, Head Start, rental assistance, and other similar programs will not be paused. If agencies are concerned that these programs may implicate the President's Executive Orders, they should consult OMB to begin to unwind these objectionable policies without a pause in the payments." The page notes that only programs related in some way to Trump's executive orders regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), the green new deal, and funding nongovernmental

organizations that undermine the national interest are affected by the freeze, a statement that still leaves cloudy the question of what agencies are ultimately impacted. The White House has defended the freeze, with Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt calling it a "temporary pause" to ensure federal dollars align with Trump's policies. A memo from the Office of Management and Budget specifically said that the freeze included, but was not limited to, "financial assistance for foreign aid, nongovernmental organizations, DEI, woke gender ideology, and the green new deal." The OMB memo further stated that, "The use of Federal resources to advance Marxist equity, transgenderism, and green new deal social engineering policies is a waste of taxpayer dollars that does not improve the day-to-day lives of those we serve."

Late Tuesday, just as the freeze was set to take effect, U.S. District Judge Loren L. AliKhan temporarily blocked it, issuing a stay until at least Monday evening while lawsuits proceed.

Possible impacts

Even with the clarifications, the confusing and abrupt rollout of the freeze has left local agencies in limbo, with organizations that rely on federal funding unsure of what comes next.

The *Timberjay* spoke with Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency Executive Director Scott Zahorik on Wednesday, after he'd had barely a day to try to figure out how the freeze will impact his programs.

"Our agency budgets probably in the ballpark of \$55 million a year, and one-third of that is federal funds, so this is concerning, because it could have a pretty significant impact on a lot of the programming that we do," Zahorik said. "This is 24 hours old, so there's still a lot of questions to be answered, and then we have the pause by that federal judge on it, too. I guess we really need to let it shake out and see exactly what they're talking about."

It was clear that Zahorik had heard of some clarifications, but that many questions remained.

"They talked about programs like Head Start, rental assistance, SNAP, student loans, Medicaid, Social Security, a lot of things that will be exempt from this order," Zahorik said. "Where we sit

right now is waiting to see exactly what they're talking about, because we've got other things that come from the federal level. Some of our employment training programs, Youth Build, energy assistance, weatherization, things like that that are still in a very gray area at this point. And we'll have to see about the legalities of things there, too. There's a lot of folks out there that feel a significant pushback is a justified response here."

Harold Langowski, Ely Clerk-Treasurer, also took a guarded approach in assessing the potential freeze impact.

"I guess we'll wait and see," he said. "We've got a congressionally directed spending request in for the Burnside water line project right now. So that's a \$4.5 million project, and U. S. Representative Pete Stauber has included our project for \$2 million of congressionally directed spending. If we don't get that for our water supply project, it will be extremely disappointing."

The *Timberjay* contacted the Bois Forte band on Tuesday to find out how the freeze might affect them, but officials were still trying to understand and assess the situation and were unable to provide a comment before press time.

Another service that could be impacted is Minnesota's county emergency management departments, which prepare for disasters like the Rapidan Dam failure and extreme flooding. They rely heavily on federal grants.

"As government funding gets less and less, you're going to start to see programs go away," said Kristen Tschida, president of the Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers.

Also, officials from some Minnesota cities have reported that their Department of Justice grants for hiring police officers were suddenly put on hold.

Elected reps divided

Members of Minnesota's congressional delegation had starkly different reactions to the freeze.

Sen. Tina Smith expressed outrage, saying she had already heard from Minnesota health centers bracing for layoffs.

"I've heard from community health centers in Minnesota who are already looking at layoffs by the end of the day. May not be able to make payroll at the end of the week," Smith said. "Republicans

need to grow a spine here. This isn't a game, it's people's lives."

Rep. Betty McCollum echoed those concerns, saying her offices were being flooded with calls from panicked Minnesotans.

"The phones in my Capitol Hill and St. Paul offices are ringing off the hook with calls from hospital administrators, community health centers, nonprofits, and Minnesotans who are scared that they will not have the federal assistance they rely on," McCollum said.

On the other side of the aisle, Rep. Pete Stauber defended the move, saying it was necessary to rein in government spending.

"We are \$36 trillion in debt, largely because of wasteful spending in Washington on things we don't want and can't afford," Stauber said. "Rest assured, this pause on federal funding will be lifted on worthy projects, many of which I fought for in the Northland. This is good governance and what the American people voted for!"

Rep. Tom Emmer also stood by the president, calling the freeze a fulfillment of Trump's campaign promise to shake up Washington.

"You're going to see things like this, and your first reaction is going to be, 'Well, this isn't the way it's been done,'" Emmer told *Politico*. "You need to understand, he was elected to shake up the status quo."

While the court's temporary stay has bought some time, the fight over the funding freeze is far from over. Lawsuits from multiple states and affected groups are moving forward, and organizations across Minnesota remain in the dark about their financial futures.

Trump is on the record with his belief that the Impoundment Control Act that limits presidential authority to withhold funds is unconstitutional, a view shared by his nominee for director of OMB, Russell Vought, who also told senators in his confirmation hearing questionnaire that the 2020 election "was rigged."

OMB has no set timeline for the review process, saying that funding for some programs could be turned back on in as little as a day.

MinnPost and MPR News contributed to this article.

Obituaries and Death Notices



John Ratzloff

It is with heavy hearts that the family of John Ratzloff announces his peaceful passing on Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2025. Born in Austin, Minn., on Jan. 30, 1947, John is survived by his son, Peter; daughter, Gratia; granddaughters, Olive and Lily; son-in-law, Ed; daughter-in-law, Emma; and beloved cat, Oberholzer. The Wahlstrom family of St. Joseph, Minn., has been an invaluable source of love and support to John and his family. He also leaves behind a wide circle of close friends in Ely, the Twin Cities, and beyond. To know John was to love him. In his honor, the family wishes to share the below letter that he wrote to his loved ones. Celebrations of life will be held at a later date; details will be shared via John's Facebook page.

"The following information is what I wish my loved ones to know about me after death has scattered my days:

I wish you to know I was a survivor. When I was young, I survived polio, diphtheria, pneumonia, yellow fever, five broken arms, knuckles, and wrists. I survived a suicide attempt when I was nine.

I wish my loved ones to know, after a sickly start, I became strong, paddling in the

BWCA and Quetico with my blood brother Peter Wahlstrom 25 straight years.

I wish you to know the most important thing I learned in college was NOT what I learned. Rather, it is what I unlearned. I unlearned racism... a poison which I had been taught.

I wish you to know I had long-term close relationships with people of all races. Particularly American Indians from whom I learned so much about living gently on the land.

I wish you to know I found love and relished in it until the very day I died.

I wish you to know I have loved with all my heart and understand that love is what you do. That I understand Love is a verb.

I wish you to know I believe my children, Peter and Gratia, are the greatest gifts I have given to this world.

I wish you to know that, with my camera, I have strived to wage peace, justice, environmental protection, and reveal beauty in people and in Nature.

I wish you to know that I knew I was not simply lucky, I was blessed.

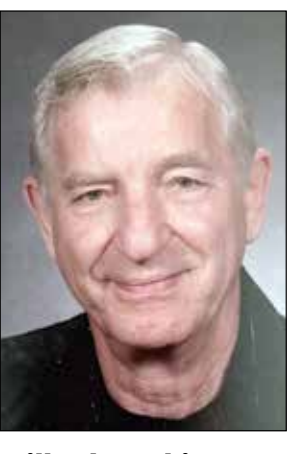
I wish you to know, despite my mistakes and failures, I made amends with those who I had wronged.

I wish you to know I passed in the spirit world gratefully, out of pain, at peace.

I wish you to know I died loving you."

Marcella V. Moe

Marcella Viola Moe, 87, of Lake Vermilion, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2025, at home. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.



Willard Hawkinson

Willard "Bill" Hawkinson, 84, passed away peacefully at his son and daughter-in-law's home in Warba on Sunday, Jan. 26, 2025, to be eternally with his Lord. A celebration of life service will be held on Saturday, Feb. 8 at the Chisholm Assembly of God Church, with visitation from 11-12 a.m., the service at 12 noon and a luncheon following. Pastor Steve Tomberlin will officiate.

Bill was born in Hibbing on Nov. 10, 1940, during the Armistice Day storm. He grew up in Togo and attended school there. He married his school sweetheart, Joan Ros-tvit, on Oct. 19, 1957, at the Togo Chapel; they enjoyed 48 years together. Bill and Joan lived most of their married life in Bear River where they raised their four children. Then in 1980 they added three children to their family through adoption. During their years together they also provided a loving home to many foster children. Their home was always open to their many friends and family who could stop at any hour and would be welcomed in for a delicious meal or fresh baked pie. They enjoyed taking family camping trips and took many vacations out west to visit federal parks and visit his family in

Montana.

Bill drove school bus for the Cook District and worked as a mechanic for the Chevrolet Dealer in Cook for 30-plus years; in his earlier years, he worked in the woods. Bill was also a talented musician who shared his love of gospel music, not only singing but playing dobro and bass guitar in many country music shows and nursing home ministries throughout his life. Bill, when still a young man, accepted Jesus Christ as his savior, and his strong faith was an inspiration to all who knew him. Bill was always active in church ministry and also taught Sunday School for many years. Bill also enjoyed deer hunting season and earned the title "Sure-shot Bill" for all the whitetails he took.

After his first wife Joan passed in 2005, Bill met his future wife Beverly, a loving Christian companion, at the AJ Assembly Church, while visiting in Apache Junction, Ariz. He would share the next 18 years of his life with her in Apache Junction.

Bill is survived by his loving wife, Beverly Hawkinson; three sons, Leonard Hawkinson of Kelly Lake, Vernard (Cindy) Hawkinson of Warba and Randy Drift Hawkinson of Virginia; two daughters, Cheryl Hawkinson of Mesa, Ariz., and Charlene Lokken of Hibbing; sisters, Vivian Vanleishout of Eureka, Mont., Sandy Roose of Eureka, Mont., Norma Leib of Columbia Falls, Mont., and Vicki Jam of Kalispell, Mont.; brother, Brain Newman of Portland Ore.; 15 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his father, Wilfred Hawkinson; mother, Berna (Adams) Newman; first wife, Joan Hawkinson; son, Dennis Drift

Hawkinson; daughter, Sherry Drift Hawkinson; brothers, Gary Hawkinson and Edward Hawkinson; and sister, Karen Siefke.

Paul M. Aysta

Paul Melvin Aysta, 71, a lifelong resident of Pike Township, died on Sunday, Jan. 26, 2025, surrounded by his family. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 1 at Bauman's Vermilion Funeral Home in Tower. A gathering time for family and friends will begin one hour prior to the service. Honorary pallbearers will be Dale Burgess, Gary Aysta, Mike Lang, Todd Nelson, Scott Kregness and Harold Langowski. Spring inurnment will take place in the East Pike Cemetery. Memorials are preferred and may be directed to the Pike-Sandy Volunteer Fire Dept. or the Essentia East Range Hospice Team.

He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Rebecca "Becky" Burgess Aysta; daughters, Shelley (Derek) Aho of Britt and Lindsey (Brian) Baldwin of Byfield, Mass.; grandchildren, Joseph and Audrey Aho and Owen and Ivy Baldwin; brothers, Gary Aysta of Virginia and Jon Aysta of Pike Township; brothers-in-law; sisters-in-law; nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Darwin J. Hagedorn Sr.

Darwin James Hagedorn Sr., 81, of Ely, passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2025, at Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital. A Funeral Mass was held on Thursday, Jan. 30 at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely with Rev. Fr. Charles Friebohle as celebrant. Burial was in the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery in Saginaw. Arrangements were with

Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Jane Stupnik Hagedorn; children, Dar (Jodi) of Waconia and Jane (Michaela) of Grand Rapids; grandchildren, Ryan and Shelby of Waconia; sisters, Janice of Jackson and Sandy of Utah; brother, Wally of Florida; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Lyle D. Thoreson

Lyle D. Thoreson, 55, of Virginia, originally of Embarrass, passed into peaceful slumber at his home on Sunday, Dec. 29, 2024. A celebration of life was held on his birthday, Thursday, Jan. 30, 2025, at Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by his wife, Vicki Cochran Thoreson; daughters, Savannah and Holly Thoreson; father, Leonard Thoreson; sister, Lynne (Jeff) Judnik; grandchildren, nephews, lifelong friends, aunts, uncles and cousins.

Thora E. Monson

Thora Elaine Inglebret Monson, 87, longtime resident of Pike Township, died on Sunday, Jan. 19, 2025, at the Virginia Care Center in Virginia. A celebration of life will begin at 1 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 31 at Range Funeral Home in Virginia, with visitation one hour prior to the service at 12 noon.

She is survived by her son, Kerry Monson of Duluth; daughter, Holly (Craig) Johnson of Virginia; daughter-in-law, Sherrin Johnson of Embarrass; grandchildren, Clinton Monson of Hibbing, Mallory White of Virginia and Dylan Johnson of Bloomington; great-grandson, Derek White; and brother-in-law, Wally Monson of California.



Outdoors

Our lives in the
Northwoods

THINK SNOW

Change in the weather boosting trail conditions

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— “Things are looking okay.” That’s the word from the Tower area trails supervisor Joe Majerus on the state of the snowmobile trail network in the area after a series of modest snowfalls that have added up over the past ten days.

The mild and relatively snowless first half of the winter had left most area hospitality businesses feeling gloomy over

the possibility of a repeat of last year’s record warm conditions that kept snowmobiles in the garage all season long.

But a mid-January cold snap iced the swamps up good and tight and more regular snowfalls since the middle of the month have built up enough of a base to support trail grooming. That’s brought the whine of snowmobiles back to the area as sledders eager to hit the trails are testing the waters.

So far, so good, notes Majerus. “The trails were fairly busy this past weekend and I didn’t have

any complaints on my answering machine on Monday, so that’s always good,” he said.

“It could be that after last year, people are just happy to be able to ride groomed trails even if they aren’t perfect.”

Majerus was speaking on Monday before the area picked up another one-to-three-inch snowfall on Tuesday. When added to the couple inches that fell this past weekend, the area has seen anywhere from three-to-five inches since the last DNR trail report, posted Jan. 24, which showed the

Right: Recent snow has allowed for the start of snowmobile trail grooming, although more snow is needed to continue that effort. file photo

Taconite and Arrowhead trails to be in poor condition.

Majerus said the state reports tend to be conservative in terms of conditions. “We don’t want to overpromise,” he said.

But after the additional snow-

See **TRAILS**, pg. 5B



HUNTING

Deer harvest up nine percent in Northeast MN

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— A bit better than expected. That’s the word from the Department of Natural Resources after the agency reported a nine percent jump in the northeastern Minnesota deer harvest compared to 2023.

The region’s harvest was still below the five-year average, but it reflected an improvement over the previous two years, when deer numbers were impacted by back-to-back deep snow winters in the region. Last winter’s record mild conditions likely reduced winter mortality considerably and many hunters this past fall reported seeing more deer activity than in the prior two seasons.

Wildlife managers caution it will take more than one mild winter to help deer recover to levels set in current population goals. Bag limits are likely to remain conservative as a result, at least for the next year or two. Meanwhile, the current winter appears to be on track as another mild one, although not as mild as last year. The DNR measures each winter based on the winter severity index, which adds a point for each day with at least 15 inches of snow on the ground and each day with a below-zero temperature reading. To date, the North Country has seen no points for snow depth this winter.

Hunters in northwestern Minnesota also registered more deer— eight percent more to be exact.

Statewide, hunters harvested more than 170,000 deer during the 2024 hunting season, up seven percent from the 2023 season. The statewide harvest, however, was three percent lower than the five-year average.

Outdoors briefly

Finch expert to speak Friday at Sax-Zim center

MEADOWLANDS—The Friends of Sax-Zim Bog Welcome Center will host Matthew Young, the energetic and engaging co-author of “The Stokes Guide to Finches of the U.S. and Canada,” for a program and book signing this Friday, Jan. 31 from noon-1:30 p.m. in the Lois King Education Center. The center is located at 8793 Owl Ave. in Meadowlands and the event is free and open to the public. This event is a part of our ongoing Friday speaker series.

Correction

Last week’s story on trip planning in the Boundary Waters misidentified Jason Zabokrtsky’s outfitter business. It should have been identified as the Ely Outfitting Co. The *Timberjay* regrets the error.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Toward a fire resistant forest

Arrowhead Forest Partnership offers financial help to landowners

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Spruce budworms continue to make their methodical march through the North Country, and that’s creating a lot of concern for property owners in those areas hard hit by the native forest pests.

Despite their name, spruce budworms in our region feed most heavily on balsam fir, leaving behind a landscape of dead trees primed for wildfire. In 2023 alone, spruce budworm killed balsam fir across nearly 665,000 acres of forest in northern St. Louis, Lake, and Cook counties, according to the Department of Natural Resources.

Fortunately, there is money available to help landowners affected by this damage create a more fire-resistant landscape.

Bob and Colleen Christianson were among those who recently turned to a new funding partnership to help address a large swath of dead balsam on their property near Brimson, which was one of several spruce budworm hotspots in 2024.

“The biggest problem I was worried about was the fire danger,” said Bob Christianson. “And if any fire got going in here, it would burn everything. Not only that, I wanted to improve the land for wildlife.”

That’s where the Arrowhead Forest Partnership, or AFP, created in 2018 through an agreement between the USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service and five northeastern Minnesota soil and water conservation districts, jumped in to help. Since its creation, the Natural Resources

Above: Bob Christianson, center, talks to Zach Evans, a forester with the North St. Louis County Soil and Water Conservation District, on a visit to his property after completion of management activities to eliminate dead balsam fir.

Right: A young spruce seedling provides the first sign of forest regeneration.

submitted photos

Conservation Service has contributed \$1.14 million through two three-year agreements and

“If any fire got going in here, it would burn everything.”

Bob Christianson

two one-year extensions that fund regional Farm Bill foresters.

For the Christiansons, the partnership helped cover the cost of hiring a logger to remove and chip all of the dead balsam on about a six-acre parcel near their home. “I couldn’t afford to do it without that [assistance]— at least not in a larger scale. Every part of it was great, except for the paperwork,” Christianson said.

Hull Forest Products completed the work last August, turning a dense stand of mature balsam into wood chips that will help to feed the pine, maple — and possibly oak — seedlings that Christianson expects to naturally regenerate along with



aspen and other understory plants. The crew left a few dead pines as wildlife habitat. Downed logs remain for insects, reptiles and small mammals.

“Diversity in the stand is the biggest thing,” said Tristan Nelson, a forester with the North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District. “On a larger scale, we’re reducing that fire risk. If there were a fire to start here, (before) pre-treatment there’d be a real good chance of a crown fire — which could spread who knows how far. It could be really devastating for the area. But reducing that fire risk hopefully will help protect against that.”

Christianson said the balsam fir formerly fed red squirrels and provided thermal cover for deer,

but little else.

“It’s going to be great for wildlife, bring in a different variety of animals and plants,” Christianson said.

The North St. Louis SWCD is using a separate federal reimbursement program (not tied to the AFP) to make SWCD forester-written woodland stewardship plans available for free to landowners, for parcels up to 250 acres. Landowners’ priorities shape the stewardship plans, which provide in-depth management recommendations tailored to each type of forest cover. The plans and implementation are optional.

“The goal, bigger picture, is to get a more fire-adaptive com-

See **FOREST**, pg. 5B

MORNING LIGHT



A cold early morning sun shines through a stand of young paper birches on a recent minus-35 degree morning. photo by M. Helmberger

FOREST...Continued from page 4B

munity in the Arrowhead. It's also to try and (help private landowners) tackle multiple resource concerns," said Zach Evans, a North St. Louis SWCD-based regional Farm Bill forester, who worked with Nelson on the Christianson's project.

While many of the plans in the region are focused on the removal of dead or dying balsam fir, projects funded through the AFP can include the removal of invasive species to planting of native trees on sites ranging from half an acre to 300 acres. The partnership has already helped dozens of landowners in the region.

Seeing the forest through the trees

Although he is familiar with every inch of the woods, Christianson said seeing it every day made it harder to recognize what had gradually changed over the years and

might benefit from management. He bought the 40-acre property 15 years ago and moved there 10 years ago after retiring from his job as a Twin Cities-based large-appliance service technician.

"All the large balsams are dead and gone. I didn't realize that it would kill everything," Christianson said of the outbreak. "It's incredible what it's done, and now it's time to start fresh."

For Christianson, that means focusing on forest health and wildlife on the newly cleared site, and in the black spruce-tamarack and jack pine stands elsewhere on the property.

To learn more or reach out for assistance, you can contact Tristan Nelson at the North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District at 218-288-6146 or Zach Evans at 218-750-8506.

TRAILS...Continued from page 4B

fall since that report, Majerus said he expects improved conditions by this coming weekend. "We'll be out grooming everything ahead of the weekend," he said.

Best part of winter still ahead

For most winter recreation in the North Country, February is typically considered the peak time. The days are longer and brighter, and the temperatures tend to moderate, at least a smidge, from the depths of January. The President's Day weekend, which falls Feb. 15-17 this year, is typically the busiest of the winter season, and the current extended forecast offers hope for good trails all around.

With the more frequent snow, the phones have been ringing again at the Ely Chamber of Commerce. "Over the last week or so, we've really seen an increase," said Eva Sebesta, chamber executive director. She said

she expects to see a big push of snowmobile activity this weekend and likely continuing as long as trail conditions hold.

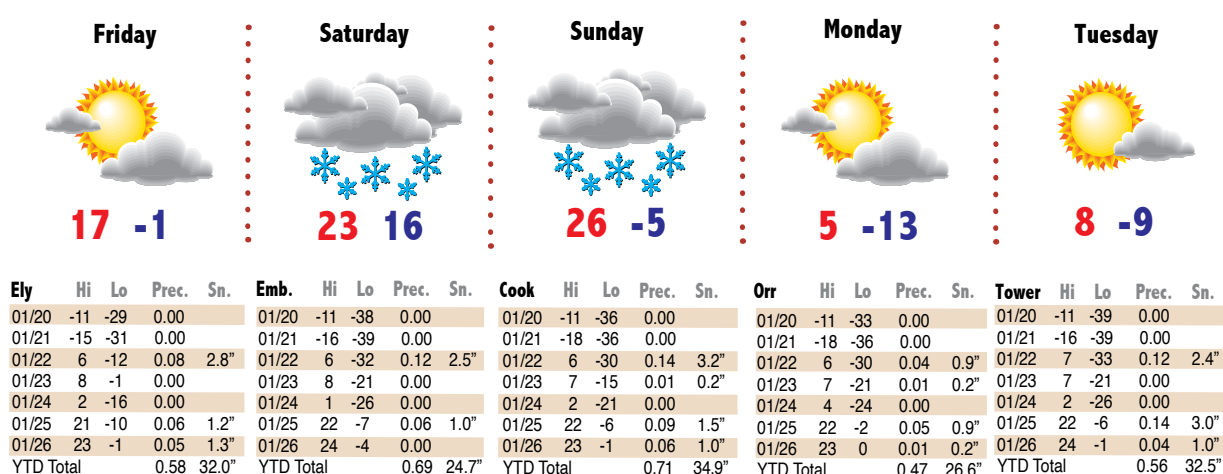
Sebesta said it's a nice turnaround from back in December, when the post-Christmas meltdown had everyone nervous. "Back then we were crying in our beers thinking we couldn't possibly have two bad winters in a row."

Now, after colder weather and more frequent snowfalls, the outlook is much improved. Sebesta said area ski trails are generally in very good condition and there is plenty of snow for dogsledders and snowshoers as well. "We do have a lot of the silent sports up here," Sebesta noted.

Ely will also be hosting the WolfTrack Classic sled dog race, set for Feb. 23. That race, which had to be cancelled last year due to lack of snow, is looking like a much better bet this year.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather



Location	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	YTD Total
Ely	-11	-29	0.00	0.00	0.58 32.0"
Emb.	-11	-38	0.00	0.00	0.69 24.7"
Cook	-11	-36	0.00	0.00	0.71 34.9"
Orr	-11	-33	0.00	0.00	0.47 26.6"
Tower	-11	-39	0.00	0.00	0.56 32.5"



EBCH
Ely Community Pharmacy



RxLocal mobile app now available! Scan QR code to download, or search RxLocal in your smartphone's app store.

The service you deserve. The neighbors you trust.

At Ely Community Pharmacy, your health is our priority. Our on-site, pharmacist-led team is here to answer questions, help manage your medications and provide the expert care you need—with the personal touch you deserve.

Trust Ely Community Pharmacy for:

- Over-the-counter medications
- Diabetic testing supplies
- Immunizations

FEBRUARY • ELEVATE YOUR WELLNESS ROUTINE

<p>Retail \$12.89 \$8.99 Sale</p> <p>Coricidin HBP Chest Congestion and Cold 20 Liquid Gels</p>	<p>Retail \$12.89 \$8.99 Sale</p> <p>Coricidin HBP Cough and Cold 16 Tablets</p>	<p>Retail \$14.49 \$10.99 Sale</p> <p>Foster and Thrive Sambucus Elderberry 100 mg 60 gummies</p>
<p>Retail \$14.99 \$9.99 Sale</p> <p>Foster and Thrive Co Q-10 100mg 30 softgels</p>	<p>Retail \$32.99 \$22.99 Sale</p> <p>Foster and Thrive Co Q-10 200mg 30 softgels</p>	<p>Retail \$10.49 \$7.99 Sale</p> <p>Foster and Thrive Vitamin C 1000 mg 100 tablets</p>

328 West Conan Street, Ely, Minnesota 55731 | 218-365-8788

SNOWMOBILE RENTALS

LOSSING'S POWER SPORTS

Updated, Expanded Fleet of 2025 Models!

- Half / Full / Multi-Day Rentals Available
- Connected to Thousands of Miles of Groomed Trails
- Guided Excursions Available
- Perfect for Your Next Company Event

CALL (218)827-2635
www.lossings.com • sales@lossings.com
30 North Drive, Babbitt, MN 55706



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
Full Service
Auto Repair & Garage
Hours: 8 AM-5 PM M-F
2 Miles South of Tower
218-749-0751

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.

King Crossword - Answers

Solution time: 26 mins.

FDR	DRAT	GRUB
LOU	EINE	RENE
ATTI	CAN	OVIO
ACRE	RUSTS	
ABBEY	ORES	
COAT	CREPE	PAN
COG	SOCIO	LOO
TRASH	CAN	TAUT
TAOS	CACTI	
DATED	SORE	
IHOP	WACHO	MAN
LOOP	CHOO	AMO
LYLE	SLAWS	TAG

Find It Here

Get Results!

Advertise in the Timberjay!

HAIR CARE

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

PET CREMATION

Go online to VermillionPetCremation.com or call 218-780-8069 for pet cremation details and rates.

WANTED

SELIGA CANOES WANTED: We'll buy old Seligas in Good Shape. Turn your classic canoe into cash. Call Steve at 365-6745. tfn

WANTED: MULTI-COLORED HERITAGE MIXED BREED ROOSTER
One year old or less, no Bantams.
218-666-2750

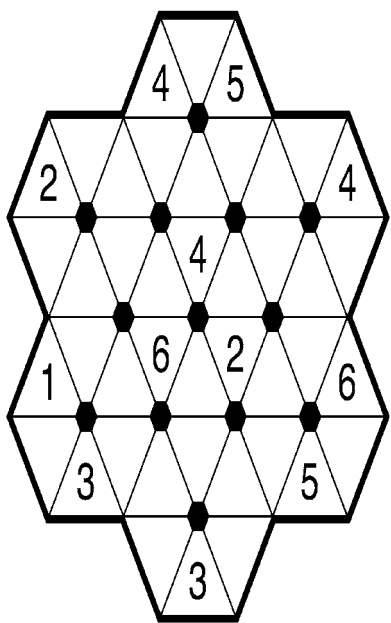
PLEASE NOTE:

The ad in last week's paper for free puppies was not a legitimate offer. Please always do your own due diligence when responding to ads from someone you are not familiar with. 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.

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

© 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR
is **LONGFELLOW**

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

EGRFKJNII XNI EJTRKXW
 BTJF YFTYGF WTKFWXFJ
 NHU BNUF BTJF OJPFHUI
 WXNH NHV BRIPD PH WXF
 QTJGU. - EPGG BTHJTF

© 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

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

MARINE

MOCCASIN POINT MARINE
 4655 Moccasin Point Rd
 Lake Vermilion
 218-753-3319
 Storage, Boat Rentals,
 Service/Repairs/Sales
 Mechanic on Duty
 moccasinpointmarine.com

MERCURY OUTBOARDS
Frank's Marine Sales & Service
 Mercury, Oressliner, Lund
 www.franksmarinesales.com
 franksmarine@centurytel.net
 Hwy 53, Orr • Call 218-757-3150

ARONSON BOAT WORKS
 LAKE VERMILION, TOWER
 Located two miles southwest of Tower on Hwy. 169
 Winter Hours Start Nov. 1:
 Mon-Fri: 9 AM-5 PM
 Sat & Sun: Closed

Handberg's MARINA
 & GENERAL STORE
 Boat Sales, Service & Storage
 YAMAHA MERCURY
 218-993-2214 • handbergs.com
 Crane Lake, MN

Centrally Located On Lake Vermilion
 Covered Wet & Dry Boat Storage
 Lease or Purchase Options
 Marina • Mechanic on Duty
 Convenience Store
 24-Hour Fuel • Live Bait
 4551 Bradley Road, Tower • 753-5457
 www.shamrocklanding.com

Subscribe Today
 Call us at 218-753-2950
 or go online at www.timberjay.com

Your local source for news, music and entertainment!

91.7 KAXE
 Northern Community Radio
90.5 KBXE

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

Super Crossword

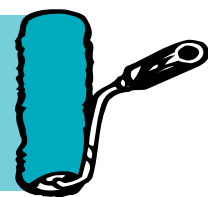
- | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| ACROSS | 44 Riddle, part 2 | 92 End of the riddle | 2 Constellation between Cassiopeia and Draco | 40 Football Hall of Famer Ozzie | 87 Competitors who didn't win |
| 1 Diving equipment | 49 Source of a scratch from a tabby | 98 Luau paste | 3 Dredge up | 41 Part of FBI | 88 Pinkie-side arm bones |
| 6 Theater actor's place | 50 Russian empress | 99 That lady | 4 Ernie's buddy | 42 Mimic | 90 "But Not for Me" actress |
| 11 Ray of light | 51 Ark builder in Genesis | 100 Full of curves | 5 "Wait just —" | 45 Mo. in fall | 91 Home to Boise: Abbr. |
| 15 Agts. like Eliot Ness | 54 Oklahoma city | 101 Calf catcher | 6 "Dang it!" | 46 Big feather | 92 Fitting |
| 19 Babies, in Barcelona | 56 Saturated | 103 "It's just one of — things" | 7 Converses | 47 Logging tool | 93 A total lack of compassion |
| 20 Like meat that's OK to eat per Muslim law | 57 Splits | 105 Saturate | 8 "For — know ..." | 48 Pothole filler | 94 Carbon — (exhaled gas) |
| 21 Hamburg's river | 61 Appraise | 106 — Aviv | 9 Increase | 51 Christened | 95 Have a gabfest |
| 22 Humorist Bombeck | 64 Cash, slangily | 108 First year of the 10th century | 10 Like a song of lament | 52 Japanese metropolis | 96 Actor Cage |
| 23 — citato (in the work already mentioned) | 67 Motorists' org. | 109 Riddle's answer | 11 Lairs for grizzlies, e.g. | 53 Crooked | 97 — Trail (Everglades highway) |
| 24 Colonel North, in brief | 69 Meadowland | 116 Hair removal brand | 12 "St. — Fire" | 55 Together (with) | 99 — Trail (Everglades highway) |
| 25 "So right!" | 70 Riddle, part 3 | 117 Falafel | 13 Lying on a king or queen | 58 Homeric epic | 102 Jousting knight |
| 26 Notice | 74 Just get (by) | 118 Falafel bread | 14 Eatery list | 59 Pasta tubes | 104 Play a guitar |
| 27 Start of a riddle | 75 Be a suitor of | 119 Dazzling success | 15 Comb parts | 60 "Cosmos" host Carl | 105 Determined to achieve |
| 31 Suffix with cash | 76 Nissan model | 120 Pakistani's language | 16 Brand of food seasoning | 62 Akron-to-Atlanta dir. | 106 Specifically |
| 32 Dollar divs. | 77 Seville's land, to its natives | 121 Ever and — | 17 Large markets | 63 Belly | 107 "That's someone — problem" |
| 33 Mil. roadside hazards | 78 Hip-hop bro | 122 Loosen, as laces | 18 Vetoer's vote | 65 Genre for Yes and Genesis | 110 White gem |
| 34 Busy Chicago airport | 80 Himalayas, e.g.: Abbr. | 123 Dishonor | 28 Piece for eight | 66 "Come, Fido" | 111 Climbing plant |
| 36 Small seed | 82 Garbo of the silver screen | 124 Apple discard | 29 Reform Party founder Ross | 68 DOJ heads | 112 "Don't say it!" |
| 39 Web, for a fly | 84 Garden in Genesis | 125 Camera eye | 30 Assembly of witches | 71 Babe or fox | 113 Statistician Silver |
| 41 ROY G. — | 85 Raised, flat land | 126 Verse writers | 35 Rhinoplasty doc | 72 Like Cheerios | 114 Waistcoat |
| 43 Moral wrong | 89 Ohio college that was the first in the U.S. to admit women | 127 "— With Love" (1967 #1 hit song) | 37 Red-shelled Chinese fruit | 73 Key or corkscrew | 115 Reverberate |
| | | | 38 Green gp. | 79 Family MDs | 116 Letters before xis |
| | | | 39 Skiing races | 81 Deep blue | |
| | | | | 83 Fido's sound | |
| | | | | 86 One of the 87-Down | |

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

© 2025 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.



HOME IMPROVEMENT GUIDE



Tekautz Mechanical

Heating, Air Conditioning, Refrigeration
Repair & Install

Steve Tekautz
612-845-1625
P.O. Box 264
Soudan, MN 55782
(We accept credit cards)



New Cabinets

Stop in today and speak with one of our sales professionals about CUSTOM CABINET DESIGN



Phone/Fax: 218.666.5344
Hours: Mon. Fri: 7-5, Sat: 8-12
info@cookbuildingcenter.com

Winter Projects? We Can Help!

- ✓ Power Tools
- ✓ Hand Tools
- ✓ Electrical Supplies
- ✓ Nails & Screws
- ✓ Paint & Paint Supplies



We are a UPS Drop/Pickup Site

VERMILION LUMBER



HOME OF THE PROFESSIONALS

218-753-2230
302 Main St., Tower, MN
Winter Hrs: M-F: 8 AM-5 PM; CLOSED Sat & Sun

Call today and receive a
FREE SHOWER PACKAGE
PLUS \$1600 OFF



1-833-966-3882

With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445



FINANCING AVAILABLE WITH APPROVED CREDIT

Licensed Septic Design & Installation

- ◆ Complete Site & Building Preparation
- ◆ Road Building, Land Clearing, Basement, Demolition
- ◆ Digging, Dozing, Hauling
- ◆ Sand, Gravel, Crushed Rock, Black Dirt

Call for an estimate • 218-365-4220
2408 Hwy. 169, PO Box 608, Ely, MN 55731
jschulze.excavating2@gmail.com

Let these experts help with your next project

EMPLOYMENT

ELY PUBLIC SCHOOLS POSITION OPENING Cafeteria Aide

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

Required Qualifications:

- > Must be able to lift 30 lbs. on a regular basis
- > Must be able to work in a fast pace setting
- > Preferred experience working with school age children
- > Evidence of ability to work cooperatively and communicate effectively in a collaborative setting

Benefits include:

- > Paid sick leave and personal days
- > PERA retirement benefits

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

A complete application must include the following:

- > District Non-Licensed Application
- > Resume
- > 2 letters of recommendation

Return materials to: Ely Public Schools, Attn: Superintendent, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731 or email lwestrack@ely.12.mn.us

Starting Rate of Pay: \$18.35/hour
Hours: 2.75 hours/day; 5 days/week; student contact days
Deadline to apply: February 11, 2025; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, Jan. 31 & Feb. 7, 2025

PART-TIME GRAPHIC DESIGN/ LAYOUT



The Timberjay Newspaper, in Tower, is looking for a part-time graphic artist or page designer to assist with newspaper pagination on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Must be proficient with InDesign and Photoshop and able to work under deadline. Hourly rate based on experience. Call Jodi or Marshall at 218-753-2950.

PUBLIC NOTICE

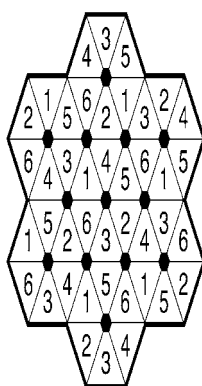
KUGLER TOWNSHIP REGULAR MEETING BOARD OF AUDIT

The Kugler Town Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 5 p.m.

The Board of Audit will follow the regular meeting.

Brianna Broten, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Jan. 31, 2025



Call 753-2950 to subscribe to the Timberjay!



Legal notices are online each week timberjay.com
www.mnpublicnotice.com/

EMPLOYMENT

DEPARTMENT OF IRON RANGE RESOURCES & REHABILITATION LOAN OFFICER Permanent, Full-Time

The Loan Officer will help develop, implement and promote the financing investment programs of the Business Development Division. The incumbent in this position will review and evaluate applications for financing, service the existing loan portfolios and make recommendations to the Executive Director of Business Development, Technical Advisory Committee, Commissioner and Board for approval. This position will monitor agency programs for compliance with agency policies and practices as well as state and federal laws, and will assist communities and businesses region-wide in determining financial needs and strategies.

This position is located in Eveleth, MN with the eligibility for a mixture of in office and telework.

Learn more and apply online at mn.gov/careers
Job ID: 83392

Application deadline: February 3, 2025 GREAT BENEFITS PACKAGE
AA/EOE, Veteran Friendly. 1/31

Super Crossword

Answers

SCUBA	STAGE	BEAM	T MEN
NENES	HALAL	ELBE	ERMA
OPERE	OLLIE	AMEN	ESPY
WHATCOOKING	PRODUCT	DO	
IER	CTS	IEDS	OHARE
NUTLET	SNARE	BIV	SIN
SHYPEOPLE	CONSUMETHAT		
CAT	CRAW	T	SARINA
NOAH	TULSA	WET	RIPS
ASSESS	MOOLAH	AAA	LEA
MAKESTHE	MMORE	OUT	GOING
EKE	WOO	SENTRA	ESPANA
DAWG	M	T	S
PLATEAU	OBERLIN		
ANDSOCIAL	L	CONFIDENT	
POI	SHE	SNAKY	LARIAT
THOSE	SOAK	TEL	CMI
EXTROVER	S	ION	LIVEOIL
NAIR	PITA	THAWS	ECLAT
URDU	ANON	UN	TIE
STEM	LENS	POETS	TOSIR



- PUMPS
- WELLS
- HYDRO-FRACKING

1-800-662-5700
Spring Park Rd.
Mt. Iron, MN 55768

CryptoQuote answer

Bluegrass has brought more people together and made more friends than any music in the world. — Bill Monroe

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

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

© 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Dime portrait
- 4 "Phooey!"
- 8 Chow
- 12 Singer Reed
- 13 Aachen article
- 14 Russo of "The Intern"
- 15 Top floor cooler
- 17 Roman poet
- 18 Farm fraction
- 19 Corrodes
- 20 Monk's home
- 22 Raw minerals
- 24 Paint layer
- 25 Skillet with low sides
- 29 Gearwheel tooth
- 30 Prefix with "logical"

- 31 Bathroom, to a Londoner
- 32 Refuse holder
- 34 Lacking slack
- 35 New Mexico resort
- 36 Desert flora
- 37 Passe
- 40 Achy
- 41 Breakfast chain
- 42 Village People classic
- 46 Air-show stunt
- 47 Sneeze syllable
- 48 Latin 101 word

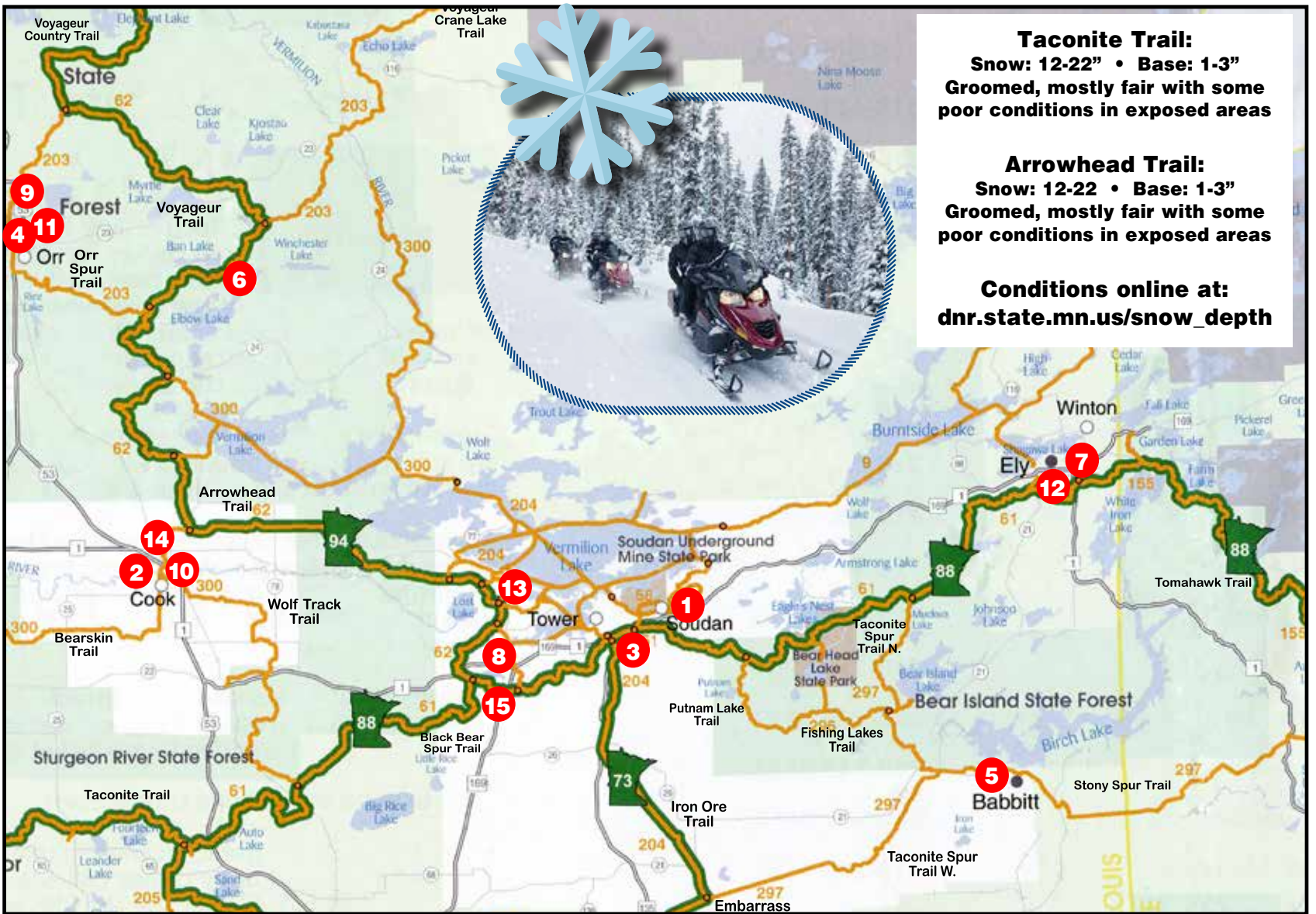
1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15			16						17			
		18						19				
20	21					22	23					
24					25					26	27	28
29				30						31		
32			33						34			
			35					36				
37	38	39					40					
41					42	43					44	45
46					47					48		
49					50					51		

- 49 Singer Lovett
- 50 Tools with teeth
- 51 Label
- 10 One
- 11 Hotel furniture
- 16 "Cold As Ever" rapper
- 19 Seized vehicle
- 20 Bank state-ment no.
- 21 Rude dude
- 22 Killer whales
- 23 Check
- 25 Designer Chanel
- 26 Table protector
- 27 Summer month in Paris
- 28 Terse denial
- 30 Roe provider
- 33 Treeless tract
- 34 Poi base
- 36 Some Pacific salmon
- 37 Pickling herb
- 38 "Hi, sailor!"
- 39 Implement
- 40 Garbage barge
- 42 Roast VIPs
- 43 "Caught ya!"
- 44 "I - Rock"
- 45 Eggy quaff

© 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

Visit These...

SNOWMOBILE HOT SPOTS



Taconite Trail:
Snow: 12-22" • Base: 1-3"
Groomed, mostly fair with some poor conditions in exposed areas

Arrowhead Trail:
Snow: 12-22" • Base: 1-3"
Groomed, mostly fair with some poor conditions in exposed areas

Conditions online at:
dnr.state.mn.us/snow_depth

1 **Vermilion Park Inn**
 OPEN Year-Round! B&B
 Right off the Taconite Trail between Tower & Ely... next to Soudan's Only Store!
 • Comfy, cozy rooms
 • Great rates • Wifi
 • Continental breakfast
 PROJECT/CLASSROOM PARTY ROOM
BOOK THE ENTIRE INN!
218-753-2333
 30 Center Street, Soudan

2 **ZUP'S FOOD MARKETS**
COOK, MN
 Take the trail right to our door on Highway 53
GROCERIES & GAS!
Great DELI!
 Open Daily
 M-Sat: 7-7, Sun: 7-4
218-666-0205

3 **GOOD OL' DAYS**
OPEN DAILY 8 AM
 Pool, Darts, E-tabs, Pull-tabs
GREAT FOOD!
 • Homemade Chili
 • Fresh Pattied Burgers
See us on Facebook
316 Main St, Tower
218-753-6097

4 **ORR MUNICIPAL Liquor Store**
 Welcome Snowmobilers!
APPETIZERS • PIZZA WING BASKETS
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
218-757-3935
 Hwy. 53 • Downtown Orr, MN

5 **LOSSING'S POWER SPORTS**
Ski-doo Rentals, Sales & Service
 • Brand NEW Fleet of Ski-doo Rentals
ski-doo
(218)827-2635
www.lossings.com
©, TM and the BRP logo are trademarks of Bombardier Recreational Products Inc. or its affiliates. 30 North Drive Babbitt MN 55706

6 **MELGEORGE'S ELEPHANT LAKE LODGE AND RESORT**
 Centrally located on Arrowhead Trail
RESTAURANT & BAR
 Cabins & Lodge Rooms
 Satellite TV
 Plenty of trailer parking!
FOOD • LIQUOR • GAS • OIL
www.melgeorges.com
 Box 185, Orr, MN 55771
 800-205-9001 • 218-374-3621

7 **WELCOME TO THE PACK!**
WOLF P.O.R.G.
 WINTER HOURS through May 22:
 Fridays & Saturdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.,
 Sundays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.,
 SUMMER HOURS start May 23:
 Open daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 1396 HWY 169 • ELY, MN 55731
218-365-HOWL

8 **SLED RENTALS**
vermilionhouseboats.com
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
Lake Vermilion HOUSEBOATS
 9482 Angus Rd., Tower
 info@vermilionhouseboats.com
218-753-3548

9 **Oveson's**
Snowmobiles Welcome!
 Fireside Lobby Bar & Restaurant
FREE Wi-Fi
 Swimming Pool & Hot Tub
 4675 Hwy. 53, Orr MN
www.ovesonpelican.com
 1-800-860-3613 • 218-757-3613

10 **VERMILION LAND OFFICE**
FREE Market Analysis
Barb Hegg
 Associate Broker, GRI
barb@vermilionland.com
 Office: 218-666-6183
 Home Office: 218-666-0144
 Mobile: 218-742-2369
 PO Box 518, 210 S. Highway 53, Cook **MLS**

11 **PELICAN BAY FOODS**
 • Full line of groceries, fresh meat & produce
 • Convenience store
 • Gas with 24 hour card readers
 • Diesel also available
 • Laundromat & self-serve car wash
 • Deli: chicken, sandwiches, pizza
 • EBT & WIC accepted
 follow the road to Orr!
 Hwy. 53, Orr, MN
 218.757.3900

12 **INSULA**
 Serving Lunch, Dinner Beer & Wine (sled parking out back)
HOURS:
 Tuesday thru Saturday:
 11 AM to 8 PM
 Closed Sun/Mon
 145 E Sheridan St, Ely, MN
www.insularestaurant.com
 218-365-4855

13 **VERMILION CLUB & POORGARY'S PIZZA**
 • LARGE BAR • SNOWMOBILES WELCOME!
 Full Menu/Daily Specials
THE VERMILION CLUB
 3191 Hwy 77, Tower (Daisy Bay, Lake Vermilion)
 753-6277 Bar/Restaurant
 753-5707 Pizza

14 **COOK VFW**
HAPPY HOUR 4:30-6:30 PM
 • DAILY • - CLOSED TUESDAYS -
 • FRIDAY • BURGER NIGHT 4:30-7 PM
 1/3 LB \$7.50
Call For Take-Out 666-0500

15 **JANISCH REALTY**
 See Virtual Tours & Every Property On The Market On Our Easy Map Search!
(218) 780-6644
JanischRealty.com