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RURAL HEALTH CARE

Federal fund freeze sends chill thru Scenic Rivers

by DAVID COLBURN

COOK- It would be easy to assume that last June 19, the day a flood swamped Scenic Rivers' dental clinic here, causing hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage, was Keith Harvey's worst experience. But you would be wrong.

Harvey, the executive director of Scenic Rivers Health Services, a community health center that serves several rural communi-

ties in northern Minnesota, said Tuesday, Jan. 30, was the worst day of his long tenure in medical administration. That was when the Trump administration shut down payments for all federal grants and contracts, cutting off the primary revenue stream for Scenic Rivers and its 11 clinics throughout northeast Minnesota.

"I got notice at a quarter to seven on Tuesday morning, and all of a sudden I can't access my funds," Harvey said. "I can tell you that was unnerving. I figured we would be okay for a period of time, but we don't have any reserves. If we were not able to access those federal funds, which are there to help us with our payroll and other expenses, but primarily payroll, we would have been in a pretty challenged situation. What I would have done I have no idea. My immediate reaction was I've got to figure out how to shrink the size of our organization so we can continue to make our payroll and keep operating." But with the bulk of the agency's

Right: The Scenic Rivers Medical Clinic in Cook is one of 11 clinics operated by the Scenic Rivers system in northern Minnesota.

funds devoted to payroll, Harvey

would have had some very hard choices to make, and not just for the short-term care of patients. "The reality is, should I

suspend operations in a clinic, there

See...CLINIC pg. 11



FED WORKFORCE

USFS tight lipped on agency's future

by Marshall Helmberger Managing Editor

REGIONAL - A near blackout of public information has descended on the U.S. Forest Service as a result of orders from the Trump administration along with the staff fears of potential job losses.

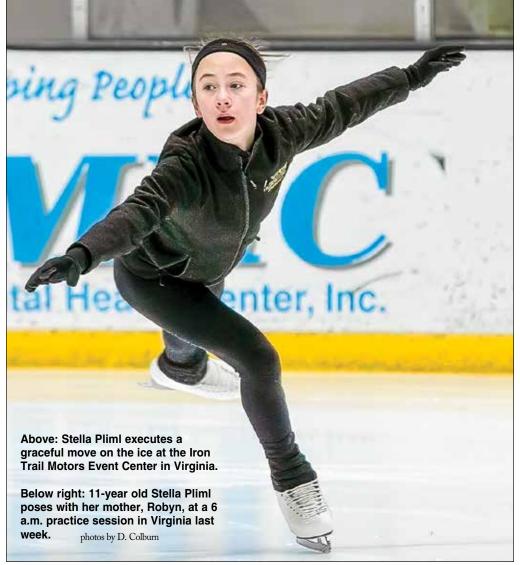
The change has already led to the cancellation of the Feb. 4 virtual open house and Feb. 5 in-person open house at the Kawishiwi District office in Ely to take public input on the Fernberg forest management project. Public input is apparently still being accepted online through Feb. 14, at the project page link at https://www. fs.usda.gov/project/superior/?project=65214.

Superior National Forest Service spokesperson Joy Vandrie denied that there was a blackout ordered and said that the Forest Service opted to upload a video about the Fernberg Project "in lieu of an open house." She said that option allows residents seeking more information about the project the ability to watch the video on their own time, outside of the set hours of an open house. She said that Forest Service offices remain open to the public and that staff "continues to respond to inquiries from area residents."

Yet, when asked by the Timberjay on Feb. 6 if the Forest Service was canceling all future public events for the time being, Vandrie was unable to respond as of the newspaper's Feb. 12 press time because her response needed to be cleared in Washington.

Forest Service officials are being tight-lipped about

See...USFS pg. 9



ENDEAVOR

on ice

North Woods sixth grader attains coveted national skills test award

by DAVID COLBURN

Cook/Orr Editor

COOK- If pure enthusiasm melted ice, then the skating rink at the Iron Trail Motors Event Center in Virginia would be nothing but a puddle after 11-year-old Stella Pliml is finished with a practice session.

The young skater, a North Woods School sixth grader from Cook, bubbles and gushes when she talks about her exploits on ice, and never more excitedly than when she's sharing about showcase productions she's done with her fellow Virgina Parks and Rec Figure Skating and Duluth Figure Skating Club members.

See...GOLDEN pg. 10



CITY OF TOWER

Fire response leads council discussion

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

TOWER - The status of the Tower Fire Department was the subject of considerable discussion here on Monday, as the city council heard from unhappy residents and a new council member in the wake of two recent fires on the city's south side.

In both cases, the Tower Fire Department relied heavily on Breitung Township firefighters for personnel, equipment, and incident command.

Sherry Anderson, whose elderly father was injured in a house explosion and fire last month, urged the council under public input to consider changes given the limited staffing and experience on the city department. "I just want to be sure no other family has to go through what we went through," she said.

Anderson talked about waiting for firefighters to apply water after Tower's

See COUNCIL..pg. 9

TRAGEDY

Orr man dies in house fire

by DAVID COLBURN Cook/Orr Editor

ORR- An early morning house fire southwest of Orr on Thursday, Feb. 6, claimed the life of 57-year-old Matthew

Bisbee, according to a St. Louis County Sheriff's Office press release.

Multiple fire departments along with the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office were dispatched to the blaze, Matt Bisbee



reported about 6:50 a.m. along Hwy. 119 in Leiding

Township, approximately six miles

See...FATALITY pg. 10



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Contact The Timberjay

2 February 14, 2025

Community notices

Kalevala Day Celebration on Sunday, March 2 in Virginia

VIRGINIA- A Kalevala Day Celebration will be held on Sunday, March 2 at 1 p.m. at the Historic Kaleva Hall, 125 3rd St N in Virginia. We will be honoring the culture of Finland with music, song and a presentation of the Ladies of Kaleva Grand Lodge's Historic Quilt and its unique design. You will see traditional Finnish costumes and will meet Ella, our area's Finnish exchange student. Enjoy our Finnish coffee an' while touring our 119- year-old Historic Kaleva Hall building. All are Welcome!

Cook Hospital Wellness Fair scheduled for June; vendors wanted

COOK- The Cook Hospital and Care Center will be hosting their annual Wellness Fair on Saturday, June 14 from 9 a.m. until noon. This will be the same weekend as Timber Days.

If you are interested in being a vendor, contact the Cook Hospital at info@cookhospital.org or submit form online at www.cookhospital.org\healthfair.

Our slogan this year is "Live Well, Be Well." We will have various vendors, food, and prizes. We hope you are able are able to join us for this well-attended event.

Annual Tree, Shrub, and Native Plant Sale now underway



REGIONAL- The
North St. Louis County
Soil and Water Conservation District's annual tree,
shrub and native plant sale
has returned and is now
underway. A variety of
trees and shrubs along with
native plant kits and seed
mixes are available for all
your spring planting needs.
Choose from nearly 20 varieties of trees and shrubs in

bundles of 20-25. Fruiting shrubs, deciduous trees, and conifers are currently available, but supply is limited. Native plant and seed kits are also available for rain gardens, pollinator habitat, songbirds, buckthorn replacement, shorelines, septic mounds, and woodland shade. E-gift cards for the sale are also now available, with unique designs for any occasion. Proceeds from this sale are used to promote conservation efforts in northern St. Louis County.

Order now for the best remaining selection, as quantities are limited. Native plant kit and seed mix orders are due by April 23. Tree and shrub orders are due by May 7. Pickup days will be held at the DNR office in Eveleth on May 8-9. Order online at www.nslswcd.org or by phone at 218-288-6146. The most up-to-date product availability can be found on our website. More information is available online at www.nslswcd.org, via email at info@nslswcd.org or by phone at 218-288-6146. Thank you for supporting local conservation by planting trees and native plants.

Cook Thrift Shop returns to regular shopping and hours schedule

COOK- The Cook Thrift Shop returned to their regular hours starting the first week of February. Shopping hours are every Thursday and Friday, and the second and fourth Saturdays of the month from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Donations are accepted during shopping hours and on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. when volunteer work staff are at the shop.

You can see updates and photos of our inventory on our Facebook page – Cook Area Healthcare Auxiliary Thrift Shop. Thank you for your continued support by shopping and donating goods. All our proceeds go to the Cook area health care facilities.

Snowmobile safety class will be held on Saturday, March 1 in Ely

ELY- A hybrid snowmobile safety course will be offered Saturday, March 1 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Minnesota North College-Vermilion in Ely.

Students must be 11 years old by March 1 to enroll in the class, which will take place in Room NS 111. Students will participate in small group activities, incident reviews, a review of laws, snowmobile operation and proper equipment. The class will include an online course review, followed by the hands-on riding portion of the course.

A parent or guardian is required to attend the first part of the class to complete paperwork. Preregistration is required by contacting instructor Dave Marshall at 218-343-1711 or by email at dave.marshall@ely.mn.us. Be prepared to provide the student's full name, age, and parent/guardian contact information when registering.

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MOVIES

Ely Film Festival passes and "Boundary Waters" movie tickets now on sale

ELY-The Ely Film Festival is coming up in just a few weeks. Ely's Historic State Theater announced last Thursday that movie lovers can now buy individual tickets to festival films online at elystatetheater.org. Among those movies is the feature length film "Boundary Waters," whose action was shot mostly in Ely in May of 2023.

"Boundary Waters" will



have four showings. Tickets are available for Wednesday,

March 12 at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. and Saturday, March 15 at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Individual tickets and festival passes are available for purchase at elystatetheater.org/ely-film-festival. All individual tickets are \$16 (\$15 ticket plus \$1 "service fee").

Festival passes are still available. A festival pass entitles the holder to all 25 events on the festival cal-

endar. Individual passes are \$100, and double passes for two people are \$190. All passes include the pass holder breakfast, party, panels, workshops, and other special events plus a 10 percent discount on festival merchandise before and during the festival.

DOG SLEDDING



WolfTrack Classic Sled Dog Race next weekend

ELY- The 17th WolfTrack Classic Sled Dog Race is only a week away. The race is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 23 but there's plenty to do before the race begins. On Friday evening, Feb. 21, the Grand Ely Lodge will be the host site for the Ely Chamber of Commerce's second annual WolfTrack Prance. The event will feature live music by Bernie Palcher, Ely's favorite Accordion King. A special "Musher Menu" will be available from 4-6 p.m. and a cash bar will be open from 4-7 p.m. Palcher will provide music from 5-7 p.m. There is no admission fee for this dinner event.

On Saturday, Feb. 22, the mushers and the teams will arrive in town and prepare for the race. At 3 p.m., the teams will assemble in the Minnesota North College – Vermilion campus parking lot. This is the first opportunity for the public to meet the sled dogs and their mushers. The college's Wilderness Club will provide an all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner in the school cafeteria from 4-6 p.m. The meal will be \$10 per adult and \$5 for youth. The dinner is a fundraiser for the Wilderness Club. The WolfTrack Classic staff

will have race gear available for purchase from 3-5 p.m., and Midco will be While wait

Events start Feb. 21, race is on Sunday, Feb. 23

will have race gear available for purchase from 3-5 p.m., and Midco will be offering free drawings and other treasures.

The race is Sunday, Feb. 23, featuring two mid-distance races: a 30-mile, six-dog race and a 50-mile, eight-dog race. The public is welcome to attend; however, please leave your pets at home. Spectator parking will open at 8 a.m. on the Old Airport Road parking lot. Parking will close at 8:45 a.m. or when the lot is full. If the lot is full, the

race staff will direct you to side street parking or the Ely Chamber of Commerce parking lot. The recycling center is closed on race day.

The race will begin at the Ely Softball Complex on Old Airport Road (Forest Concrete Plant) at 9 a.m. The eight-dog teams hit the race route first, followed by the six-dog teams at two-minute intervals until all the teams are on the trail. The race is along the

Taconite Trail. The Teams loop around

and return to Ely. The first teams are es-

timated to reach the finish line around

While waiting for the race to begin, Midco Communications will serve free hot coffee, hot chocolate, and a light breakfast while supplies last. Midco is also providing three warming fires near the dog trucks, the start-and-finish line, and the coffee area. Robinson Lake Trucking & Excavating is donating the firewood, and Dutchman Tree Service will keep the fires burning. The Ely Chamber of Commerce wishes to thank these businesses for their support.

The WolfTrack Classic is possible only with the generous support from area businesses, the community, and volunteers. The race will be live streamed through iFan Sports. The link for the iFan channel will be available at WolfTrackClassic.com and on Facebook @WolfTrackClassic. Please remember to support the sponsors who support the race.

ST. LOUIS COUNTY

County Board expands scholarship program to building and construction trades

REGIONAL- The St. Louis County Board unanimously approved expanding its Tom Rukavina Mineral Royalties Scholarship Program to offer scholarships to St. Louis County residents pursuing training in the building and construction trades. The vote came during a board meeting held in Hermantown that included speakers representing the Duluth and Iron Range Building and Construction Trades Councils.

Since 2018, the St. Louis County Board has

contributed \$150,000 each year, divided evenly among the four two-year colleges in the county: Minnesota North - Hibbing, Mesabi Range, and Vermilion; and Lake Superior College. The money, \$37,500 each, is given to these college's foundations to distribute to students based on their own criteria and guidelines. The county's only requirement is that the students graduated from a high school in St. Louis County. The foundations report that they typically award the scholarships in in. . .

crements of \$1,500-\$2,500.

Beginning in 2025, the County Board will increase the total annual scholarship amount to \$187,500 to include \$37,500 for the Duluth and Iron Range Building and Construction Trades Councils. The funding will provide scholarships for participants of recognized building and construction trades programs.

Commissioner Keith Musolf, who brought forward the idea to expand the scholarship program, thanked commissioners for their support. "We should celebrate things like this. We are all professionals in our own industry. We are using mining dollars to fund future professionals and create jobs, and I hope that Tom Rukavina would be proud to have this addition to the scholarship program he first championed.'

championed."

"We're really excited to be included for our apprentices and the opportunity for them to continue their training," said Dan Olson, Vice President of the Duluth Building and Construction

Trades Council.

"I know our apprentices will be very grateful. They have expenses - from books to tools," added Jason Quiggin, President of the Iron Range Building and Construction Trades Council.

Commissioner Keith Nelson spoke of the county's continuing support for the trades through project labor agreements. He also emphasized a reminder of the source of the scholarship funds. "This is mining money," said Nelson, "These are mining dollars coming from the mining industry."

Commissioners also expressed thanks to Senator Grant Hauschild and former Representative Dave Lislegard, who assisted in changing state legislation to allow the county to expand the Mineral Royalties Scholarship Program to include the trades.

Any students or prospective students interested in applying for one of these scholarships should contact their respective college's foundation office or the trades council.



PUBLIC HEALTH

Greenwood to repair arsenic water filtration system

Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP-Township officials here reversed an earlier decision on Tuesday and agreed to replace the filtration media on the town hall's drinking water treatment system to address high levels of arsenic.

This time, the town board voted unanimously to spend approximately \$2,000 to get the "Brassmaster" treatment system back up and running. How long the new filtration material will last is not certain.

'We received a lot of letters from residents," said chair Lois Roskoski. Many residents with lake water systems use the water from the town hall outdoor spigot for drinking and cooking water, some just seasonally but others year-round. Many of the letters to the town board noted this is the only "benefit" these taxpayers feel they receive from the town hall.

A few years ago, testing determined that the water had high levels of naturally-occurring arsenic in the well water that made it unsafe to use as a regular drinking water source. The township purchased a special water filtration system, which initially did work to bring the arsenic down to a safe level, but the regular testing being done last year had shown it was no longer working and the arsenic levels had again jumped to unsafe levels.

The solution to the problem was not immediately clear. Froe Brothers Drilling recommended the township first do maintenance on the well, which was drilled back in 1980 and is 312-feet deep. They noted the well refresh rate has dropped and they recommended the well be "ground out" and flushed to remove sediment sitting at the bottom of the well, which could be high in arsenic, although they could not guarantee this would address the issue. They also said the pressure switch and control box should be replaced. They noted the well casing appears to be in good condition with



Greenwood Town Board members (from left) John Bassing, Paul Skubic, clerk Debby Spicer, and chair Lois Roskoski review financial reports during the board of audit. The board did not complete the audit, which does need to be completed prior to the annual meeting in March. photo by J. Summit

no appearance of ground water contamination or leaking. The quote for these repairs, which dated back to June 2024, was \$9,295. The town board had not acted on this last year, citing the high cost. Supervisor Craig Gil-

bert had Culligan inspect the water system and they recommended a different type of filtration system, at a cost of \$7,000 - \$9,000. They also felt that replacing the filtration media in the Brassmaster could solve the issue. They also found that the controls on the Brassmaster system had been changed, and at one point the system was unplugged. Both of these issues could lead to contamination of the filtration media, Gilbert said.

"If we replace the media on the existing system for about \$2,000, we hopefully can get two to three years out of it," Gilbert said. "I don't see how putting another system in will make a differ-

Gilbert said they should test a month after the new media is installed, and then could wait six months to test again. Previously, the township had expressed concerns that the media would need to be replaced at least yearly.

2026 budget and levy

The board approved a tentative budget for 2026 at \$352,130, approximately the same as the 2025 budget.

Roskoski had prepared a tentative budget, but supervisor John Bassing recommended \$9,000 in additions, which the board adopted, for snowplowing, attorney fees, and electric use.

"I am recommending we ask for a \$300,000 levy, Roskoski said. The final township levy is set by voting residents at the annual meeting.

Roskoski noted that the township overspent its budget in 2024 by over \$145,000, mostly for the parking lot pavement overlay and the township contribution to the pickleball courts. The extra spending came from township reserves and the township's current budget projects restoring \$43,420 of that money this year, with another \$65,370 expected to be recouped on next year's

The township's total fund balance at the end of 2024 totaled \$539,913. The township is projecting revenues of \$407,500 in 2025, an increase of over \$11,000 over what was in the budget, mostly due to a projected increase in the taconite production tax monies allotted to Greenwood

Bassing disagreed with asking residents for \$300,000. "I would like to see less," he said.

Last year the board initially asked residents to set the levy at \$175,000, but residents voted to increase that to \$300,000, to cover the pickleball court donation, donations to the Tower Ambulance Service, maintenance costs for Birch Point Extension/Township Road 4136, and fire department equipment needs.

The township had previously built up over \$1 million in township reserves and had been slowly lowering the levy to reduce the reserves, though the amount the township should keep in reserve has been debated.

The vote to approve the budget and levy request was 4-1, with Bassing voting against.

In other tax-related issues, the board heard that St. Louis County had sent out incorrect information to township residents regarding their 2025 township tax amounts due. The county had based the amount on the projected levy amount of \$150,000, not the actual levy amount of \$300,000. Roskoski said that clerk Debby Spicer had worked with the county to get the levy amount corrected, and the township would be sending out letters to the over 700 residents with properties valued at over \$575,000 to give notice of the change.

Public comments accuse John Bassing of mishandling documents

Two residents who are running for township offices in March spoke during public comment. Paul Thompson, who is running for treasurer, called for the resignation of John Bassing, who he said had accessed his filing affidavit and then shared the information online. Spicer had contacted Thompson to let him know that she had made an omission on the affidavit (and the others also), but the omission had been corrected. Spicer had been notified of the issue by Bassing. "The affidavit was in the

clerk's locked filing cabinet," said Thompson. "He (Bassing) did not ask for permission to go into the cabinet." While Thompson noted the affidavits are public information, he said the information should have been accessed by contacting the clerk, and that Bassing should not have had access to the locked files. He noted that Bassing had been questioning his resident status in the township, which Thompson said has been updated to his Greenwood res-

"Bassing's behavior is wrong," Thompson said. "Imagine if that energy was put towards making our township what it should be. Antics like this have destroyed our township's reputation and made us a laughingstock of the entire state," Thompson said. "I am asking John Bassing to resign to-

Thompson's sentiments were echoed by Steve Bradach, who is running for the open supervisor seat.

"How did you get a copy?" he asked Bassing.

Bassing responded that he is a supervisor and had the

"I am not going to resign," Bassing said. "It is not going to happen."

Board of audit

The town board did not complete their required board of audit, and the board will need to hold another special meeting at least five days prior to the annual meeting on March 11.

The receipts and disbursement registers from the clerk and treasurer did not match, which was not a surprise since this has been an issue throughout the year.

Treasurer Jeff Maus was absent from the meeting, and deputy clerk JoAnn Bassing did not have access to his computer during the meeting. Issues were noted with different beginning balances used as of Jan. 1, 2024, and also a difference of about \$2,000 in the receipts recorded by the clerk and treasurer, according to John Bassing, who also said the clerk's general fund balance as of Jan. 1. 2024 did not match the bank statement. Roskoski told the Tim-

berjay that deputy treasurer JoAnn Bassing could not provide documentation of two of the three random disbursements that were called up during the audit process, and said she would not provide documentation that those checks were voided. "The board felt it was

pointless to continue, since there was no way to correct both sets of books last night,' said Roskoski. "No decision was made on next steps.'

Request for road vacation on Birch **Point Extension** The township is current-

ly in litigation with a property owner who wants to vacate part of a platted road in the Birch Point Extension area to use as personal property. The board had concerns that this would limit the township's ability to safely maintain the road. The board had a closed meeting prior to the regular meeting to discuss the issue with their attorney. Steve Lenertz spoke to the board at length, via telephone, stating it was his belief that the property owner had not followed the proper procedure in seeking the vacation, citing state statutes and other information. A motion to forward the information from Lenertz to

See GREENWOOD

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ORR Newer home on 17 acres and close to Pelican Lake. 2 BR, 1 BA home has single-floor living, covered porch off the kitchen/living room, newer flooring, T&G paneling. Newer (2007) garage, outhouse, and additional outbuilding. Public lands to the west. \$280,000 MLS# 147594





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February 14, 2025

THE TIMBERJAY

OPINION

OF SPEECH, OR OF THE PRESS;"

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

"CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW...ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial

Trump's chaos

An unpredictable administration is bad for business and the economy

The impact of the utter chaos that has descended on Washington, D.C. over the past three weeks is going to start impacting the economy, and not in the way that Donald Trump would like you to believe.

Donald Trump may enjoy the chaos he brings to virtually everything, but businesses and most individuals prefer some sense that their world isn't going to be overturned every ten minutes.

Just consider the tariffs that Trump had proposed last week against Canada and Mexico, a policy that even the conservative Wall Street Journal described as "The Dumbest Trade War in History." While Trump put the tariffs on hold until early March after markets plunged in reaction, that's slim comfort to those who are likely to be affected if and when he finally follows through on the threat.

If you're a prospective homeowner looking to build your dream house, or a contractor sending quotes to potential customers, the uncertainty over the price of Canadian lumber and wallboard in the months to come is simply maddening. Trump's proposal would add 25 percent to the cost of Canadian lumber, which totally dominates the market in the northern U.S. That's the kind of thing that can make or break a housing project, and it all depends on the whims of one man who seems to change his mind moment to moment depending on the latest thing he saw on Fox News.

While Trump supporters might argue that the tariffs will encourage more investment in lumber production here in the U.S., that's unlikely because Trump is so unpredictable. Building plant capacity takes time. Factories don't go up overnight. They require investigation and planning by companies, land acquisition, construction contracting, equipping, commissioning, and testing, not to mention the investment of millions of dollars before the first board comes off the line. Who is going to take that risk with a president who threatens tariffs one day, then delays them a month, then, who knows?

It's the same with tariffs on Canadian oil, which provides almost all of the fuel we use in the Upper Midwest. Canada produces a heavy crude and the refineries in the Great Lakes and Northeast regions are engineered specifically for it. In addition, all of our existing pipelines are designed to bring that Canadian crude where it's refined.

While the U.S. currently produces more oil that it uses, a development that occurred under

Biden, adjusting our transportation and refining infrastructure to make use of the type of oil produced in the U.S., such as sweet Texas crude, would take years and an investment of tens of billions of dollars. And by the time the companies involved even got around to calculating that price tag, Trump could have lifted the tariffs, tripled them, or, who knows, maybe nuked Canada.

In other words, if Trump imposes tariffs on Canadian crude, states in the Great Lakes and the Northeast will be stuck paying them. A ten percent tariff is expected to add another 20 cents at the pump. It's not live or die, but it's just one more tax that falls most heavily on those least able to afford it. Despite what Trump says, Canada won't be paying these tariffs. We will. And the proceeds will go to help fund yet more tax cuts for corporations and the super wealthy.

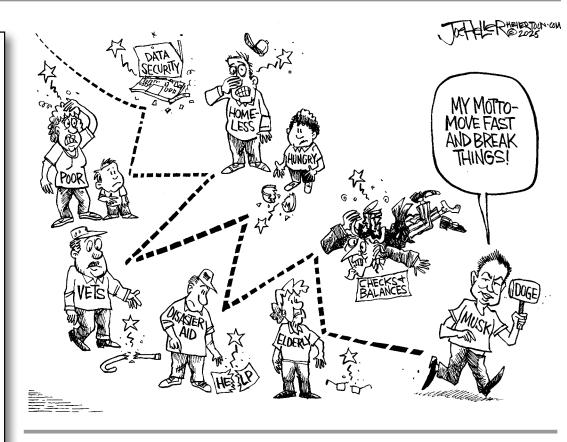
Let's be clear, tariffs have their place, particularly when they help to level the playing field for workers. It's not fair to pit American factory workers against those willing to work for a quarter of the pay in Mexico, or one-tenth the pay over in China. Tariffs on those goods shipped into the U.S. can help bridge that gap.

But goods shipped across the border from Canada don't have that advantage, since wage and benefit scales north of the border are fully in line with the U.S. Slapping tariffs on Canadian goods is simply imposing a tax on U.S. consumers.

There have been occasions when Canada has been accused of dumping some products at below-market prices, primarily its lumber exports. If that's the case, there is a process for adjudicating that through the trade agreement currently in place, a trade agreement that Trump negotiated in 2018 and now claims is a disaster. So much for "the art of the deal."

Rather than do the hard work of proving a legitimate claim, Trump simply declares an emergency over fentanyl, even though just 0.2 percent of the fentanyl coming into the U.S. flows through Canada according to U.S. Customs and Border Patrol. Far more fentanyl flows from the U.S. into Canada than vice versa. It's stupid.

And this is just one issue of many in which the Trump chaos threatens to harm the U.S. and its economy. This much is clear – misinformed voters have set the U.S. economy up for a very rough ride.



Letters from Readers

Support for Option B

I am writing to express support for Option B for Greenwood Township. I was the treasurer for three years and am familiar with the job. I am also a retired CPA, so I was qualified for the position. This past summer, I was brought in to help get the clerk's accounting records caught up. It is not complicated accounting if you understand computerized accounting systems, payroll processing, the bank reconciliation process and basic accounting. However, if you have not had experience in those areas, it is like trying to read and write a foreign language.

It is unrealistic to expect someone to walk in off the street and understand the clerk and treasurer duties. It is further complicated when the elected officials refuse to cooperate and help with training. As it stands now, the Greenwood books are not in balance as required by the state. The books have lost the details they used to have - laziness has created a lack of reliable information. Payroll is now one number - nothing in the financials will provide department information, PERA costs, tax costs, etc.

The current treasurer claims that he was not aware he needed to do the PERA reporting. The deputy treasurer refuses to run financial reports for the chairperson stating that there is no statute compelling her to do that. The chairperson needs them in order to prepare budgets. I provided monthly financials for the board, reconciled payroll, filed the payroll returns, did analysis to project future years financials and cash flows. I prepared the levy analysis and presented it at the meeting. I prepared a preliminary budget and worked with the board to finalize it. The current treasurer does NONE of this. The current board has never received a financial statement, has no idea of monthly

and year-to-date expenditures other than totals. If they want to know what a department's costs were for a given period, the only information provided is a monthly claims report or sometimes a disbursements register. They would have to create their own spreadsheets when the data is (or at least should be) in the computerized accounting system (CTAS). This is not acceptable. The current treasurer and his deputy have made it very clear that they have no intention of cooperating with the board or clerk. The lack of disclosure is deplorable. It should not be allowed to continue.

As a manager, I tried to hire the best candidate for the job. It wasn't based on who I liked the best. In my opinion, the township would be best served by finding qualified candidates. People who are there for a job and will do what is required. People who will work together. People who are assets to the township. What a shame that we are in this position. I would encourage everyone to get out and vote and to make sure to vote in favor of Option B!

Pam Rodgers Greenwood Township

Ask Stauber to oppose cuts to special ed

If there's one place where Pete Stauber should part ways with Trump, it's on special education.

HR 899 has been introduced in the House of Representatives to shut down the U.S. Department of Education, and Trump is said to be considering an Executive Order to do so.

Rep. Stauber has a child with disabilities, and no doubt his child benefited from support from special education when he was in school. I can't believe that he would be against similar support for other people's children.

If the federal government pulled its funding for education, the burden would fall on our local school districts and the state – or children would go unserved. Minnesota would lose over \$2,000 per child without the federal aid. We'd have to raise taxes to meet the shortfall – or drop services.

My granddaughter has been getting support from special education for severe dyslexia and autism. Help with reading and support for her when her environment overwhelms her has been vital to her survival in school. She will graduate this year and plans to go to college to be a special education teacher. She is kind and loving and is a champion for little kids who sometimes get left behind.

Stauber has not yet signed onto the bill to eliminate the Department of Education. Maybe that's a sign he knows what it would mean for the families in his district.

Please call him at 202-225-6211 as soon as possible and ask him to oppose any efforts to shut down the Department of Education and abandon support for special education for the children in his district

I had two conversations in the last two days with kind young staffers in Stauber's office—Griffin and Will. They listened, took notes, and said they would pass it on. Maybe you think it doesn't matter, but we have to believe that Stauber has a heart. Please take a few minutes to make a call.

Leah Rogne Gheen

Your letters...

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

We ask that letters be limited to 300 words.

Letters are subject to editing,

Letters are subject to editin primarily for length and clarity.

COMMENTARY

How about some Russell Stover heart-shaped chocolates?

I've been considering the feast day of Saint Valentine; the celebration of love and affection is moments away. And I gotta say, "the universe has not been showing my aging body much love."

I've experienced a string of unfortunate events. One afternoon just before Christmas, I was driving home from a friend's holiday

from a friend's holiday tea party on Lake Vermilion. It was an icy-cold, windy afternoon with the snow blowing off the lake polishing the ice under my tires, when all of a sudden I lost control of my Jeep. I was seemingly floating on black ice, then



NE | t

went slamming through the snowbank on the right side of the road. barely missing a rock cliff. I continued bouncing through startled cattails and thirty about yards of rough

yards of rough ditch before I came to an abrupt stop with the Jeep tipped at an angle. I was belted and had no airbags or apparent pain to deal with. I regained composure and quickly phoned our re-

liable nearby towing service.

The business owner prompt-

ly arrived, waded through

nearly a foot of snow down to my vehicle, hooked on a cable and winched me out. Surprisingly, I drove away with neither me nor the Jeep affected. Well, so I thought. Over the next couple days, I developed a sore lower back that lasted a few weeks. Some applications of ice and a chiropractic adjustment got me back in good order. (I am grateful, but Russell Stover chocolates would still be appreciated.) Right after Christmas,

I was leaving the Vermilion Park Inn in Soudan, headed to Ely to do some family pet-sitting, and I accidentally locked my keys in the car. Nobody was around so I called my trusty friend, The

Horse Whisperer, "H.W." out of Kugler Township 12 miles away. He performed wonders with a coat hanger and pry bar while I cheered him on to success. There we were, standing in the icy wind and him with a fresh hair cut I had recently administered when his own attempts with scissors left me no choice but to cut it quite short so it was even in length. He commented, "Been awhile since I sported white walls." I'd been considering trimming it for over two years, but you can't rush these backwoods types. When I saw the hackjob it was an open invitation, so I leaped at the opportunity....quickly pulling my scissors, barber cape, and

the yellow Remington from a nearby kitchen drawer. I quickly shoved him down onto a wood chair to get on with it before he changed his mind. After the sheering, he gingerly peered at himself in the bathroom mirror while adjusting pieces of his hair. "It looks nice," I said, leaning against the door. He replied, "It's different, and now my bald spot shows." He chuckled and I confirmed, "It looks much better, and it'll grow." (He was kind, then I was kind....and no doubt deserve *the chocolates.)* The following day an-

the chocolates.)

The following day another dreadful event occurred. Later in the day, I headed back to Ely to take care of pets again and de-

cided to stay overnight at my kid's apartment, parking behind the building. As I was hastily leaving the next morning, I lifted the back hatch to toss in a bag of trash. My right hand was holding the frame of the Jeep and I was leaning down to grab the bag with my other hand when the hatchback came down....slamming my right hand and leaving me helpless. With increasing pain and panic sweeping over me, I started feeling like I might pass out, and then my brain went into survival mode. I was able to twist my body to reach the latch with my other hand and free myself. Pain

See CANDY...pg. 5

February 14, 2025 **5** THE TIMBERJAY

COMMENTARY

Rep. Stauber should focus on the disaster in Washington

tional crisis in the making in Washington, D.C., but Rep. Pete Stauber is spending his staff resources playing politics back here in Minnesota. In a release sent to media in the district last week, Stauber takes aim at Gov. Tim Walz for the administration's efforts to investigate possible fraud in the county-run child care assistance program, or CCAP, which is

of Human Services, or DHS. This wasn't too surprising. There's been plenty of speculation that Stauber is eyeing a run for governor in the near future, given that his congressional seat is likely to

go away following the 2030

census. He denied that rumor

this week, for what that's

overseen by the Department

worth. Like many of Stauber's constituents, we've tried contacting his office in recent days, without success, to ask questions and express concern about all the clearly



MARSHALL HELMBERGER

constitution, is in a position to stand up for the separation of powers. Instead, he's making up scandals back in Minnesota. Stauber's Feb. 3 release, titled "Stauber Leads Minnesota Republican Delegation in Letter to Walz Demanding Answers on Massive Fraud Scandal," was designed to catch the attention of any reporter. Yet, like so much of what we receive from Stau-

er, who took

an oath to

protect the

The nutshell from his letter was his request for "documents and communi-

ber's press office, there was

little substance behind the

incendiary headline.

cations regarding the 62 active investigations into child care centers, including all violations cited and funding allocated to each center." Stauber continued: "This will allow us to provide critical oversight of your administration's questionable operation and failure of management."

The letter stems from a report that aired earlier this month on KSTP 5, the Twin Cities' version of Fox News, that raised, but failed, to answer questions about a couple larger child care facilities in Minneapolis that continued to receive payments from the CCAP program despite a history of repeated safety and records violations.

Having had some involvement with the regulations surrounding child care centers, I know that these violations could be serious and could also be largely technical in nature. Overregulation has certainly played a role in the chronic shortage of child care slots in Minnesota, but that's a different story.

At the very end of the

Letters from Readers

noted that the Department of Human Services has 62 open investigations into possible cases of overbilling the CCAP program, a fact which Stauber has opted to turn into an attack on the state agency and, by extension, Gov. Walz.

This turns the facts and logic on its head. I spoke with a representative at DHS, who stated that the department opened a fraud unit back in 2013, under Gov. Mark Dayton, in part to ensure that CCAP dollars weren't going for children who either didn't exist or weren't being

Keep in mind, there are 1,800 licensed child care centers in Minnesota and another 5,800 licensed family day cares. With a total of 7,600 providers, it's hardly a surprise that there are a few unscrupulous operators trying to take advantage of a CCAP funding stream designed to help working families afford child care. DHS has a fraud unit to investigate

providers that try to abuse the system.

On average, DHS opens 43 investigations into CCAP violations each year, and each investigation can take weeks or months to resolve. While it's easy for a blowhard congressman to allege a "massive fraud scandal," actual investigators trying to get the bottom of it need to support such allegations with facts, including evidence that discrepancies were intentional, not simply errors.

If KSTP had reported that there were no investigations into possible fraud, THAT would a scandal. That there are 62 current investigations suggests that DHS is doing what it can, under the laws promulgated by the Legislature, to root out and address those rare cases of

Since 2021, DHS reports that they have stopped payments to 79 providers and have made 18 referrals for criminal investigation based on their internal investigations of fraud.

Is it disappointing that a small percentage of humans will take advantage of just about anything to enrich themselves? Absolutely. But a state department undertaking investigations of the one percent of child care operators that try to take advantage of the system? That's hardly a scandal... it's called doing their job.

Rep. Stauber should, perhaps, focus on his job, such as addressing the disaster in Washington that he seems far too willing to ignore. To quote from Stauber's letter, "Minnesotans deserve better leadership, and they deserve transparency." And this from a guy who hasn't held a town hall in person in ages, has refused to take part in a real debate with a political opponent for years, and who responds to constituent contacts with obtuse talking points, when he responds at all. What's that they say about people who live in glass houses?

Come see for yourself who to believe in Greenwood

encourage Greenwood resident to attend the monthly Greenwood Township meetings to see firsthand how our local leaders are serving our township (or not) and how meeting attendees behave (or not). The meetings are the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Greenwood Township Hall at 3000 County Rd. 77. The public is welcome.

At these meetings, you will see who is a team player, who has the township's best interest in mind, and who is qualified for their position. Please don't rely on any one person's opinion or a brief recap you read somewhere. Come see for yourself!

On March 11, we have important votes to consider in the Greenwood election.

I support Option B the option to hire a treasurer and clerk versus electing them. We have smart leaders on the board who are more than qualified to hire the right people who are capable and willing to work together. If you were a business owner, would you like someone to walk in off the street and work for you – even if they're not qualified? And you can't get rid of them until the next election in two years when the next person is elected who may or may not be qualified? Or would you want to hire a qualified, capable worker who works with you and not against you?

We need qualified people as our treasurer, clerk and supervisors – not someone who merely throws their hat

in the ring and wins a popularity contest – but is utterly unqualified to do the job. Or worse, is intent on not getting along or doing the work.

That's why I support Paul Thompson for treasurer and Steve Bradach for supervisor. Both have extensive business and local government experience and, most importantly, want to work with the board to get positive things done for our township. When Option B passes, the newly elected treasurer will not take office. The Board will interview and hire someone for the position.

Your participation matters. Your vote matters. Vote on March 11.

Julie Horihan **Greenwood Township**

Elect decision makers and hire employees

We elect our township supervisors to make important decisions. With our vote ,we trust their skills to hire a fire chief, firefighters, EMRs, paving contractors, and even our snowplow drivers. They interview candidates, examine qualifications, check backgrounds and then hire. Opponents of Option B claim our supervisors "don't have the skills to hire and fire." They sure better, they make these important decisions routinely!

The clerk and treasurer are government jobs, service functions; they do not vote and only make decisions in performing their tasks. They don't influence your taxes and should not be participating in petty politics. They have important roles and jobs to perform. However, they have no more policy-making authority than

the person hired to plow the snow. Option B will treat these valuable roles as employees bringing us stability and continuity. We should be hiring township employees

not electing them.

Forcing a clerk and treasurer to run for election throws them into the "cronyism and politics" that Option B opponents claim needs to be avoided. They get pushed and drawn into it. They are forced to pick sides or resign out of frustration. Not every governmental job needs to be put to an election test.

Option B continues to be adopted by more townships. Seven more in Minnesota this past year. Option B leads to qualified people providing consistent services for years. One Minnesota Option B township has had three clerks in 35 years. That kind of stability and continuity would be greatly valued by our township.

When we do our research and elect supervisors of integrity, we will trust them in hiring a capable clerk and treasurer. If we find the board makes a poor hiring decision, we will hold them accountable with our feedback or votes. To be a strong township, we need to elect the best decision-making supervisors and hire the finest employees.

> **Paul Thompson Greenwood Township**

Why are we bullying our neighbor to the north?

Several weeks ago, President Trump surprised many Americans and Canadians by suggesting that Canada become the 51st state of the U.S. He also suggested that we need nothing Canada makes, including lumber and oil. Then he brought us to the brink of tariffs on all Canadian exports to the U.S.

Mr. Trump stated that he was leveling the tariffs on Canada and Mexico (which were to match those on Canada) to force them to reduce the flow of deadly fentanyl and undocumented immigrants into the United States. In fiscal 2024, the U.S. Border Patrol seized 43 pounds of incoming fentanyl on the Canadian border. During the same period, 21,100 pounds of fentanyl was seized at the Mexican border. During fiscal 2024, the number of undocumented immigrants caught coming in from Mexico exceeded 2.1 million, over 10 times the number caught arriving from Cana-

In response to the U.S. tariff threats, Canadians and Mexicans responded with threats of their own. Mr. Trump offered a thirty-day reprieve to both countries after which he would see how they have done with efforts to stem the flow of fentanyl and undocumented immigrants into the U.S.

How can we expect Canadians to respond to this series of events? Their status as a nation has been questioned. Their products have been devalued. Uncertainty regarding their future economic and political stability has dramatically increased on very short notice. None of this was their idea.

A cursory read of the Canadian press and anecdotal evidence from a few Canadians provides a bit of insight. Beyond retaliatory national tariffs, the Ontario Liquor Control Board threatened to stop purchases of American spirits, which would eliminate supplies to Ontario liquor stores, restaurants, and bars. The British Columbia Liquor Control Board threatened to stop purchases of spirits produced in red states. Presumably, these provincial measures are on hold like the national tariffs.

What is not on hold is the reactions of Canadian businesses and individual

Businesses are expanding relationships with potential customers and suppliers in Europe, Asia, and South and Central America. Customers and suppliers in the U.S. are less stable and reliable than in the past. Once relationships with U.S. suppliers and customers are replaced, American companies may find it difficult to regain the lost customers and suppliers.

Anecdotal evidence indicates that Canadian patriotism has risen. Canadians' anger has been demonstrated by booing our national anthem at sporting events. It is also being demonstrated by avoiding products from the U.S., including travel to the U.S. These changes could become habit.

Can the U.S. bully Canada? For a while, certainly. But a continuing relationship is practically unavoidable with a neighbor with a very long border. Do we really benefit from hostile relations with our closet neighbors?

I only hope that Canadians will continue to welcome us when we visit.

> Tom Legg **Palisade**



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CANDY...Cont. from page 4

rushed in and I felt like I was going to faint. I sat inside and took calming breaths. My hand was bruised with a diagonal purple crease across the knuckles and there was a small open wound, but nothing was dangling, broken or severely bleeding so I decided to drive home to Soudan. I held my rapidly swelling hand on the cold steering wheel until I got

home to apply an ice pack. This injury took a month to heal but now all is well, and I am able to use my hand with no lasting effects. I was strongly reminded that hydraulics fail in real cold temperatures. (With two good hands I can easily open a Russell Stover box and sample those lovely chocolates.)

Another mishap in my

string of unfortunate events happened at the end of January. I was rushing across a carpet with a bounce to my step and suddenly felt a twang in my right knee. I had twisted my right knee and injured the ligament. This knee has seen plenty of trauma, but I cursed it, rested it, and iced it for about a week. Once again, my efficient chiropractor friend

adjusted it, and I am doing well. I have decided I need to be more methodical in my movements, stay focused and above all, don't rush. Those are some good lessons to take away from a month or so of mishaps. After all of that....I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that I deserve a big heart shaped box of Russell Stover chocolates.

Happy Valentine's Day

ted by interim chief Brian

GREENWOOD...Cont. from page 3

the township attorney was approved. Other action

In other business, the board:

➤ Held a three-plus hour closed meeting on Feb. 7 to discuss allegations against fire chief Jeff Maus and the investigation completed by

action was taken, and another closed meeting is scheduled for Feb. 18 at 6 p.m. ➤ Approved a request

an outside attorney. No board

on a 3-2 vote with Gilbert and Skubic voting against, to give Fire Chief Jeff Maus a recording of the closed meet-

ing in January where his job

➤ Approved increasing the broadband speed at the

performance was reviewed.

town hall to 100 megabytes, which will allow livestreaming of township meetings. The cost is increasing to \$72/

> Heard a brief fire department report submit-

Trancheff, which noted that DOT inspections were done of fire trucks and the department's fire extinguishers were all services. One of the trucks is still out being repaired, waiting on parts. The board approved \$940 to get

the SCBA air tanks serviced.

Week of Feb. 17

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 bulding. Next food shelf day is Feb.

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.

Breitung Town Board-6 p.m. on Feb. 20

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



TSHS weekly winners

TOWER- The winner of the Tower-Soudan Historical Society Week 22 Charlemagne's 52 Club \$100 cash prize is John Hagemeyer of Eagles Nest Lake and Albuquerque, N.M.

History Tidbit: A 1906 vintage ore car, one of the first all-steel cars built for the Missabe, was donated to the Soudan Underground Mine State Park, where iron ore mining began in Minnesota. Car 163 is situated near the loading pocket where some 16 million tons of ore were dumped in ore cars in the mine's long history which began in 1884 and ended with the closing of the Soudan mine in 1962.

Free community meal on Feb. 19

TOWER- Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower is hosting a free community meal on Wednesday, Feb. 19 from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., or until the food is gone. The meal this month is hamburger gravy with mashed potatoes, green beans, bread, and dessert. Eat-in or carry-out available. All are welcome to

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

attend.

TOWER- The Wagoner Trails Club is hosting 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.



HELPING THEIR NEIGHBORS

TS Elementary collects over 780 items for Tower Food Shelf

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Elementary School student council sponsored a food drive last month, and this week, the fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-grade students carried over 780 items the half block from the school to the food shelf building, and then helped organize and stock the shelves with the items, getting ready for the next food shelf day on Feb. 18. While the students did complain a little bit about lugging all those cans over from the school, they worked well together with lots of smiles as they figured out where all the items needed to be sorted onto the shelves. There were some grimaces as the children read labels out loud for things like sardines and cream of celery soup, which both generated big yucks. Students learned to identify some food items they weren't familiar with, in one case dried lentils, and in another, pectin for canning.

The school's third-grade class won the competition for the most items collected and will be treated to a pizza party by the food shelf.

Food shelf director Kate Smith was impressed with how well the students worked together to get the food all stocked on the shelves, and she said she hopes the youngsters can continue to help out in the future.

In the afternoon, high school students from Vermilion Country School stopped over to help unload the seven large pallets of food received this month from the food Vermilion Country School students also volunteering at the food shelf



bank in Duluth, a task they plan on helping with each month.

"This community does so much," Smith said. "I love watching these kids help."

The food shelf moved from its basement location at the *Timberjay* to the old St. James Church building last summer, and in its new larger space has since been able to expand its offerings to include more fresh items, like milk and eggs, frozen foods and meats, and bakery breads

and pastries.

The food shelf orders staples in bulk each month from the food bank, but also receives an assortment of "free" items with their shipment.

The food shelf is open the third Tuesday of each month from 2:30 – 5 p.m., and by appointment by contacting Smith at 763-528-5396.



Top: Levi Rahkola helped sort the donated food onto wheeled carts and then onto shelves.

Above: Millie McGuire sees how many cans she can hold in two hands.

Left: Shelby Troop (left) and Cecilia Majerle pulled cans to place on the shelves.

Below left: Food shelf director Kate Smith explained how the food shelf works to the high school students who were unpacking boxes.

Below: Vermilion Country School students Lana Carlson, with Amelia Swanson (behind), helped unload the pallets of boxed food items that were ordered from the food bank in Duluth.

photos by J. Summit







ST. MARTIN'S





St. Martin's Catholic Church hosted their annual "Souper Bowl" booyah fundraiser on Sunday, with all proceeds donated to the Tower Food Shelf. Pictured at left is Nancy Tekautz, a member of the cooking crew. Above is Zoe Baumann, who was enjoying a treat. photos by J. Summit

ISD 696

From the Superintendent of the Ely Public Schools

Dear Ely Community,

I want to express our deepest gratitude to the Ely Educational Foundation for their unwavering support of our schools over the years. Their generous donations have played a vital role in enhancing the educational experiences for our students, supporting our teachers, and enriching our programs in ways that would not have been possible otherwise.

Thanks to the Ely Educational Foundation's con-

tributions, we have been able to provide students with valuable resources, fund innovative classroom projects, and create opportunities that inspire learning and growth. Whether through donations or direct support for educational initiatives, their impact has been remarkable. Over the years, the Ely

Educational Foundation has facilitated outstanding donations to the Ely Public School District, ranging from \$20,000 - \$100,000 a year for

many years. These donations have been used for a wide range of educational experiences for students, including but not limited to:

➤ Academic teams like Knowledge Bowl and Robot-

➤Weight room equip-

➤ Specialized textbooks ➤Many student clubs and groups, including the Bike Club, Science Club, and Archery.

➤ Enhancing

around the campus, including the media center, cafeteria, hallways, gym, classrooms,

➤ Enrichment materials for classrooms.

The Ely Educational Foundation exemplifies the power of a community coming together to benefit future generations. On behalf of our students, staff, and families, thank you for your dedication, generosity, and commitment to education. If you would like to partner with Ely Educational Foundation for donations, please check out the bottom of the school website at www.ely.k12.mn.us and click on the link Ely Educational Foundation for more information.

We look forward to continuing this incredible partnership and making even greater things happen togeth-

With great appreciation, Anne M. Oelke Superintendent, Ely **Public School District**

ELY WINTER FESTIVAL AROUND TOWN





There's more to the Ely Winter Festival than just the snow sculptures in Whiteside Park. The Ely Community Resource fundraiser spaghetti feed on Friday evening (above right) is one of the most popular winter festival events. The Dorothy Molter Museum also opened up on Saturday with free admission and demonstrations of winter activities by Minnesota North College students. Above left: College student Beth Heinze with retired sled dog Churri at the dog sled demo. Below: From left-to-right, students Emily Olson, Ryan Beecher, Will Newell and Ben Wermter with the ice harvesting demo.



Elyite novelist at Piragis bookstore on Saturday

woods, 105 N. Central Ave. on Saturday, Feb. 15, starting at noon. Vanderboom will be on hand to talk with bookstore visitors and to

sort on Burntside Lake.

Set in the late 1960s, North Star Resort tells a story of love, survival, redemption and perseverance

ELY- Local author Russ sign copies of his latest of family unity and love in el in the Joyce Family Saga series. The first novel in the series, "Good Guy List," was his first novel, published in 2016.

Vanderboom sin, after he was discharged from the Marines in 1970. He returned to school to earn a master's degree in dairy science and a doctor-

started ate in endocrinology. He Vanderboom will be at the book, "North Star Resort," the boreal forest surround- writing as a journalist, cov- finished his working career bookstore at Piragis North- whose plot unfolds at a re- ing Ely. It is a second nov- ering agriculture in Wiscon- as a science writer. His stories have appeared in the ElySummer Times. The "Good Guy List" was his first book.

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Willy Wonka Wants You

ELY- The cast and crew of the Ely Memorial High School Musical, "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory," invites volunteers to a set-building day on Saturday, Feb. 15, from 1 to 4 p.m. at Washington Auditorium, 600 E. Harvey St. No experience is necessary just enthusiasm. To reach the auditorium, use the center door (No. 1) on the school campus; and turn right after the double doors, walking past the new gym on your left and the media center on the right. **Ely Winter Festival**

ELY-The festival

started last week and runs through Feb. 16. The full event schedule is online at elywinterfestival.com. Ely ArtWalk ELY- The Ely ArtWalk

runs through the end of February. The ArtWalk map and brochure is available at Northern Grounds or online at elyartwalk.org. **Valentine Day Concert**

ELY- Ely's own Irene Hartfield will perform an evening of love songs on Friday, Feb. 14 at Ely's His-

While the tickets are free, this event is a fundraiser for the Ely Winter Festival and Ely's Historic State Theater.

Braver Angels ELY- The Ely chapter

of the Braver Angels Alliance will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 18, at 6 p.m. at Minnesota North College, 1900 E. Camp. St. The topic is "Expressions of patriotism." **Fundraiser Auction**

ELY- The Internation-

al Wolf Center will hold its 11th annual Wolf Care Auction online starting on Monday, Feb. 24 at 8 a.m. The auction will close on Sunday, March 9. To view the auction items and to make bids, go to wolf.org/support/ **Ely Public Library**

wolf-care-auction/.

ELY- The library will be closed on Monday, Feb. 17. The library will host an afternoon session of board games for all ages on Friday, to use.

Feb. 14 at 1 p.m. Bring your own favorite game or play one that the library has ready The library will celebrate National Engineers Week on Tuesday, Feb. 18,

afternoon of Teen Breakout

at 3 p.m. Participants will learn what engineers do at this all-ages activity. The library will hold an

Boxes on Friday, Feb. 21, from 6:45-9:30 p.m. This activity is for kids in grades five through eight. This event will give kids the excitement of solving puzzles and riddles to get inside the mystery box with prizes. The giant "ball of prizes" may also make an appearance. Please register in advance so the library can order enough supplies for participants. On Tuesday, Feb. 25, at

10:30 a.m., the library will hold a Move and Groove for Preschoolers event, for kids accompanied by an adult. This event features simple dances and stretches to a dance beat. The Get Crafty group for all ages will make sticker

art by number on Wednesday, Feb. 26, at 2 p.m. Please register in advance so the library can order enough supplies for participants. for adults will make pet toys

The Curiosity Cohort on Thursday, March 6, starting at 1:30 p.m. Please register in advance so the library can order enough supplies

for participants. The Friends of the Library Book Club will meet on Monday, March 10, at 3 p.m. The book for discus-

sion is "Hamnet" by Maggie

O'Farrell. You do not need to

be a member of the Friends

of the Library to attend.

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- The library will be closed on Monday,

The library's adult col-

oring contest still has a week to go. 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! The library has Val-

entine take-and-make kits. Pick one up while supplies K-12 can pick up the

ly art kit for February while supplies last. Created by 321 Art Studio, the February kit is for aluminum foil sculp-The library will hold a

free take-and-make month-

free adult watercolor painting class every Tuesday through March 25, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. No experience necessary. All skill

levels welcome. Call 218-

827-3345 or stop by the li-

brary to sign up. Participants

are encouraged to attend all

sessions but only sign up

for the ones you can attend. Walk-ins welcome if space is available. The session on Feb. 18 will be on watercolor still life; on Feb. 25, it will be watercolor landscapes. The library will hold an

arts and crafts supply swap on Friday, Feb. 14, when all are welcome to take home free supplies. 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. Academic honors

for Elyites ALEXANDRIA, Minn.-

Alexandria Technical & College an-Community nounced that Abigail Maki, of Ely, was named to the Dean's List for achieving a GPA of 3.5 or higher while enrolled in 12 or more credits Fall Semester 2024.

a minimum of 12 credit hours

of graded course work.

AMES, Iowa- Elyite Month: 10-11:30 a.m. at Courtney Eilrich has been Ely-Bloomenson Hospital. named to the Dean's List at Iowa State University. Eilrich is a senior majoring in accounting. Students on the **EDUCATION GED** Dean's List must earn a grade Study materials and pre-test point average of at least 3.5 available. on a 4.0 scale while carrying

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-

Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

➤ Feb. 18: Jamie Alexander of Minnesota Industrial Transformation Initiative ➤ Feb. 25: Jacob White,

director of the Ely Film Fes-➤ March 4: Arrowhead

Regional Transit with Dominick Olivanti

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2025



cold snap moving in assures snow longevity

the park art garden

Libraries

Ely library

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

Phone: 218-827-3345

Babbitt library
10 am-6 pm Tuesday 10 am-6 pm 10 am-6 pm Wednesday Thursday 10 am-6 pm 10 am-6 pm Friday

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 WOMEN'S OPEN AA - Monday at noon at

Ledgerock Church, 1515 E. Camp St., Ely. **BABBITT AA -** 7 p.m.

Thursdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church. AL-ANON - Sundays 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony's

Catholic Church in Ely. **BABBITT AL-ANON -**Thursdays, 7 p.m., at Woodland Presbyterian **CO-DEPENDENTS'**

12-step support group, 4:00 p.m. Tuesdays, 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

Conference Room B. ADULT BASIC

Call 218-365-3359, or 1-800-662-5711.

toric State Theater. Doors will open at 4:30 p.m. Music will be from 5:05-6:30 p.m.

HELPING THE HELPERS

Miss Minnesota is all about heart, in more ways than one

Schumacher brings royal touch and heart healthy message to Empty Bowl event

FIELD TWP- While there are many important aspects to being Miss Minnesota, none are closer to the heart of current titleholder Emily Schumacher than her community service initiative, "The Heart of the Matter."

Like lots of youngsters, one of Schumacher's playthings was a toy stethoscope, one she received from her mother, an ER physician's assistant, and her early experiences set the stage for choosing a career in medicine down the road.

My love for medicine really began when I was five years old," Schumacher said. "We lived in a rural community outside of Omaha, Neb. I got to go to the clinic with my mom – I would go every once in awhile and see her interact with patients and everything."

But it was someone just as close to her heart, her grandmother, who helped to eventually turn her thoughts toward cardiovascular medicine. When Schumacher was about seven, her grandmother had a heart attack.

"I didn't really understand, being a child, but I knew that it could not be good," Schumacher said. "As I got older, I started pursuing medicine more, and

through my education I've learned that heart health is a big issue."

Schumacher became a certified nurse assistant, and like her mother, has been working in an emergency room, at the Mayo Clinic Health System in Mankato, her final stop before hopefully heading off to medical school in the fall to become a cardiothoracic surgeon.

"It's incredible - the learning opportunity is like no other," Schumacher said. "Especially with wanting to go to med school, it has really helped me to learn some of the medical terminology and why doctors think the way they do with patients, and it will really help me going forward in my medical career."

And so will "The Heart of the Matter." Being Miss Minnesota has given Schumacher the chance to take her health heart initiative statewide, and she's been making the most of it. "I'm actually partnered

with the American Heart Association here in Minnesota," she said. "I've traveled mainly in southern Minnesota doing their kids' Heart Challenge, teaching young elementary students about how to keep their heart healthy. And then we also raise funds for the American Heart Association so that they can continue their ef-



Miss Minnesota Emily Schumacher gets help displaying ceramic bowls at last Friday's Empty Bowl event from North Woods School students Audrey Bryson, Iley Murray, and Libby Glass. photo by D. Colburn

forts in cardiovascular medicine with research and edu-

She's also helped train over 4,000 individuals in CPF and the use of portable automated external defibrillators (AEDs), which are becoming more common at schools, public buildings, businesses and even homes. "Time is crucial when someone is suffering from cardiac arrest," Schumacher said. "We like to say 'pads to patient' in four minutes. If we

can get an AED hooked to someone within four minutes, their chance of survival is pretty good. If we can get you to start even doing CPR right away, you're buying more time for EMS to get there to hopefully restart your heart."

And in a first for Mankato, Schumacher is putting up an outdoor AED cabinet at the end of the month.

"It's in memory of Faith Larson, a 19-year-old who passed away from a sudden cardiac arrest," she said. "I'm working with an AED company called Avive Solutions - they're a brand new AED company out of California. It's a very compact AED with a GPS system built into it. They're trying to get people to put these AEDs in their homes so that they create these little 'towns,' called four-minute cities, so that we can get pads to patients within four minutes. A 911 dispatcher will hit a button and it will light up

all of the AEDs withing four minutes of that patient, so if you have that AED you can walk to that patient and hopefully save their life." Schumacher was glad to find herself in Cook on Friday as a way to reconnect with her small town roots.

"It really means a lot to get to travel the state and come to other small towns and just meet the people, get to mingle with them, hear their stories. Truly, that's been the biggest blessing.

Schumacher was there as people arrived at the school to buy pottery bowls and eat a homemade soup dinner surrounded by raffle baskets and art demonstrations. And of course, it was the kids who stole her heart. "The kids are the best," Schumacher said. "They're just so sweet and curious, too, about it all. I just love sharing my love for this experience with them, and you never know, it may spark their interest into competing one day, too."

As with past Miss Minnesotas who've attended Empty Bowl, Schumacher was a big part of the event's success. North Woods art teacher and former Miss Minnesota Rachel Betterley reported that the event raised \$2,400 for the food shelves in Cook and Orr.

Community news



Woods include, back row, from left, Andrew Hartway, Carson Johnson, Corra Brodeen, Ella Kruse, Kaycee Zupancich; front row, Emarie Gibson, Kate Cheney, and Sophia Mathys. photo by D. Colburn

Eight Grizzlies inducted into school's honor society

FIELD TWP- Scholarship and character took center stage at North Woods School last week when eight new members were inducted into the school's chapter of the National Honor Society.

Friends and family gath-

ered in front of the stage in the school commons area for the formal ceremony, conducted by senior NHS members. Each school sets its own specific criteria for membership within the guidelines set by the national organization. Students chosen for membership have to have more than high academic marks. They must also demonstrate lead-

ership in the school or community, have a record of good behavior and character, and have a history of volunteer

The club conducts a wide variety of service activities throughout the year,including hosting blood drives in conjunction with Memorial Blood Centers and helping with the Virgie Hegg Hearts for Hospice.

This year's class of inductees included CorraLyn Brodeen, Kate Cheney, Emarie Gibson, Andrew Hartway, Carson Johnson, Ella Kruse, Sophia Mathys, and Kaycee Zupancich.

Frozen ground complicates fix for water main break compromising services

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

ORR- The Orr City Council learned on Monday that there's nothing quite like a good deep freeze to raise havoc with water line repairs, and particularly the budget that supports them.

Veolia North America Project Manager Zach Meyers reported to the council on a water main breakout near the Orr Fire Station that's continuing to affect both the station and the nearby Calvary Lutheran Church.

"We had C&C Winger out there to check it out, and called in a locater," Meyers said. "The locater came in and there was a bunch of fiber lines and telephone lines running over the top of this thing. In order to dig, you have to be careful not to hit the lines, and then in the frost, it's literally like an inch by inch type of thing. They were thinking no one's going to give you a hard quote digging in frost and all that, but it's like a time and material basis. They thought around like \$40,000 basically to get it. I did meet with Zig's Mainline out of Virginia this morning and he said the same thing.

A far cheaper and faster fix for the time being would be to run temporary water to the two locations, Meyers said. One for the fire hall could run from a nearby hydrant, while the best hookup for a line to the chuch would be near the tennis courts.

"The temp lines for those two properties would be around \$5,000 to \$7,000 essentially," Meyers said. "They would just cover it with snow and keep the water running 24/7 and it should be all right."

To facilitate getting the work done, the council authorized a ceiling amount of \$10,000 for Veolia to evaluate bids from possible con-

Chlorine

Mevers noted that he's been hearing some comments about the taste and odor of chlorine in the city's drinking water.

"Essentially what that is is that the chlorine's been low historically, so when we start chlorinating it takes a little bit to stabilize," Meyers said. "That's what a lot of the residents are noticing."

are no safety issues associated with the chlorine levels in the system. 'We are monitoring it

and it is under the limit," Meyers said. "It should be stabilized soon, and if anyone has any questions, feel free to give us a call." In other business, the

➤ Heard a recommendation from Meyers regarding a city policy on city/property owner responsibilities for maintenance/repair of water and sewer lines leading off of mains. There has evidently been some confusion about what the city covers. Meyers provided sample policies for consideration. The council took no action, but seemed to have consensus around the idea that the city should be responsible for mains while property owners would be responsible for the lateral to their property.

➤ Approved a request from airport engineer Bollig Engineering to put the PAP/ REIL runway navigational lighting project out for bid. Orr has applied to Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation for funds to cover the city's five percent of the

Meyers indicated there cost. Ninety-five percent will be funded through Mn-DOT and the Federal Aviation Administration. Council member Bruce Black, as has become his habit, abstained from voting on the measure. Black has long voiced his objections to all of the required hoops the city has to jump through in order to get financing for the airport.

➤Black abstained again when the council approved making application to the IRRR for funds to construct a four-unit T-hangar at the airport.

➤Black was back on board with the rest of the council when it came time to approve making application to the IRRR for funds for fishing pier cribbing and Orr City Park enchancements. The motion passed unanimously. Another request to IRRR for funding assistance for a pickleball court also was approved. Matching funds for a pickleball court grant would come from do-

➤ Approved making application to Community and Eoconmic Development Associates for a business retention and expansion program.

NORTH WOODS SECOND QUARTER HONOR ROLL 2024-25

A Honor Roll

Seniors

Addison Burckhardt John Carlson Nia Gaskell Rvder Gibson Aidan Hartway Amber Sopoci Richard Swinson

Juniors

Lincoln Antikainen Lauren Burnett Josephine Carlson Marriah Glowaski-Kingbird Brittan Lappi Victoria Mathys Isabel Pascuzzi Sadie Spears

Sophomores Alethea Bangs

Corralyn Brodeen

Abigail Dargontina Emarie Gibson Andrew Hartway Khloe Holland Carson Johnson Ella Kruse Sophia Mathys Aiyeshia Mohamed

Kaycee Zupancich

Freshmen

Gage Aune Zoey Burckhardt Carsyn Burnett Sawyer Glass Cyrus Johnson Rebecca Koch Joshua Long Evangelina Mathys Aubrey Olson-Stoltenberg Vincent Pascuzzi Alice Sopoci

Eighth Grade:

Savannah Abts Olivia Baumgartner Anelise Brodeen Michaela Brunner Tessa Burnett William Flores-Leander Josie Gibson Laurin Glass Bella Hawkinson Lila Kajala **Buckley LeForte** Cooper Long

Seventh Grade

Brayden Amundson Rylie Gibson Katherine Hanson Jordan Herdman Jackson Long Aaron Mathys Sydney Olson-Stoltenberg Kaidence Scofield

Reece Whitney

Daniel Zupancich

B Honor Roll

Seniors:

Nicholas Abramson Chloe Anderson Trajen Barto Kalvyn Benner Rory Bundy Talen Jarshaw Cody Kirkman Ethan Ploof Lydia Trip Ronald White

Juniors:

Levi Chaulkin Brynn Chosa Rowan Christian Hayden Johnston Isabelle Koch Rogelio Noyes August Peltier Celine Reis Caje Alexander Schelde

Michael Sipola John Warren

Sophomores: Grace Bundy

Presley Chiabotti Kaelyn Ehrbright Jackson Hendricks Kiley Kopatz Victoria Phillips James Yernatich

Freshman: Sophia Bangs

Colt Chosa Jonathon Hampson Brittan Koskela Kalle Nelson Cassidy Pinski Evalyn Thiel Donelle Villebrun

Eighth Grade:

Mallory Bibeau River Deatherage Kayla Dougherty Beau Fabish Kaleb Gornick Dennis Isham Mason Johnston Elias Sheffer Brady Swanson Ashlyn Woitel

Seventh Grade: Macy Boshey

Clark Danielson Lanara Guenthner Lauren Hampson Jillian LaFave Brock Long Jackson Pliml Ogimaa Porter Weston Quam Savannah Villebrun

ELY SCHOOLS

ISD 696 nears completion of construction

by Catie Clari

Elv Editor

ELY-It was a good news, not-so-good news scenario at the Ely School Board's Monday night meeting, the completion of one thing and the ongoing struggles with another.

On the good side, the "Phase II Completion Project" for the major renovations to Ely's school buildings, which included all new windows and secure doors, is done.

"There are only a few things lefttodo," said Facilities Director Tim Leeson. "The punch list (of remaining work) will be done by Friday."

While the new windows are the most conspicuous upgrade to the Ely Memorial High School and Washington Elementary School buildings, the completion project also installed new doors, a new stage floor, and upgraded bathrooms.

The not-so-good news was the approval of a revised 2024-25 budget, an unwanted affirmation that the district's finances have not gone as planned this school year, due to decreases in state aid and increases in expenses.

The original budget

assumption for per student state aid was based on 506 Adjusted Daily Memberships, or ADMs, which are enrollments adjusted for post-secondary educational opportunities and part-time students. The revised budget uses 488.5 ADMs. This is a decrease of 9 ADMs from the 2023-24 school year and 17.5 ADMs from the original budget. The state funding formula uses ADMs, not straight enrollment numbers.

The district also has expenses beyond what was budgeted, including higher technological subscription

costs, insurance costs, sports expenses, and unanticipated long-term substitute teacher wages. The revised budget reflects these changing realities.

In other business, the school board:

- ➤ Approved January receipts of \$921,221, January disbursements of \$612,108, and the January financial report.
- ➤ Approved \$1,544 for 2025 membership dues to the Range Association of Municipalities and Schools.
- ➤ Approved the hire of Greg Rozier as a part-time bus

driver effective Jan. 2.

- ➤ Accepted the resignation of Michele Milton from her position as a cafeteria aide effective Feb. 9.
- ➤ Approved lane change requests from Andrea Thomas, Clara Roy, and Amanda Faulkner. Lane changes are advances in teacher career levels.
- ➤ Approved the adoption of a policy regarding development and maintenance of an inventory of fixed assets and a fixed asset accounting system. The school district's auditors recommended the policy.
 - ➤ Held the first reading

of a policy regarding personal electronic communication devices. This new policy adds further restrictions on the usage of cell phones and other smart devices during the school day.

➤ Approved the following donations: \$410 from Artsonia for the art department; \$400 for women athletes from the Ely Educational Foundation; \$400 from Frandsen Bank and Trust and \$200 from the Ely Kiwanis for the yearly trip to Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center in Finland; and \$1,000 from the Dunn family for band repairs.

FEDERAL SPENDING

Trump cuts threaten crucial Minnesota medical research

by DAVID COLBURN

Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL-Yet another federal judge has stepped in to halt the Trump administration's rush to slash the federal budget, this time blocking a change that would devastate medical research in Minnesota and across the country.

A federal judge in Massachusetts on Monday issued a temporary restraining order blocking the administration's move to immediately withhold millions of dollars in indirect cost reimbursements for medical research funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The decision comes after Minnesota and 21 other states filed a lawsuit arguing that the cuts would devastate critical research efforts nationwide, including those at the University of Minnesota and the Mayo Clinic.

The cuts, announced on Friday and to have been implemented Monday, would put a cap on the NIH's reimbursement for indirect costs – expenses such as laboratory maintenance, IT support, and administrative oversight – to

15 percent of direct research funding. Previously, institutions negotiated individual rates with NIH, with many receiving 27 percent to 60 percent in indirect cost support.

Should the cuts go through, the University of Minnesota is projected to lose around \$62 million annually, while the Mayo Clinic stands to lose \$54 million. Statewide, all institutions receiving money from NIH could see a loss of an estimated \$117 million per year under the new policy, causing many important research projects to grind to a halt.

U of M research teams have worked on a wide variety of research topics over the years, including cancer immunotherapy, stem cell therapies, and cardiovascular treatments. In 2023, the U of M Medical School received \$296 million in NIH awards for more than 600 projects, ranking 24th nationally. Of that funding, \$80 million, approximately 27 percent, was allocated for indirect costs.

"This decision would cut reimbursements for research facilities and administrative costs, which cover critical, lifesaving research activities ranging from patient safety to research security," University of Minnesota President Rebecca Cunningham wrote in a memo to faculty and students. "It would no doubt have serious consequences for patients across the state, as well as our students, faculty, and staff. (This) is a direct attack on our ability to advance the University's public service mission, and it has created fear and uncertainty across our community."

Court injunction

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court in Massachusetts, contends that the administration's decision violates federal law by skirting congressional authority. Attorneys general from Massachusetts, California, Maryland, and New York—states with major biomedical research hubs—are among those leading the challenge.

"These universities and research institutions are vital economic and social institutions in each state, employing thousands of their citizens, educating and training thousands more, and creating

investment and partnering opportunities with the private sector," the lawsuit states.

Minnesota attorney General Keith Ellison, who joined the lawsuit, said in a statement that NIH's work is essential to public health.

"The NIH funds critical research into fighting chronic and catastrophic disease in every corner of our country," Ellison said. "Abruptly and arbitrarily slashing funding for the NIH isn't only dangerous and cruel—it's against the law."

The NIH, which funds approximately 50,000 competitive grants annually, is the largest source of federal funding for medical research in the United States. In fiscal year 2023, it distributed \$45 billion, with \$9 billion allocated to indirect costs.

The system where institutions negotiate their indirect cost rates with NIH has been in place for decades, allowing recipients to address cost issues specific to their institutions. Critics say the one-size-fits-all approach of the Trump administration is insufficient to cover even generally accepted overhead

costs, inevitably leading to the termination of research, layoffs of research staff, and closure of facilities.

That compromised research system could negate the administration's argument that a uniform 15 percent cap would save taxpayers \$4 billion and allow more funding to be directed toward actual research rather than administrative overhead.

"The United States should have the best medical research in the world," the NIH stated in a memo defending the policy. "It is accordingly vital to ensure that as many funds as possible go toward direct scientific research costs rather than administrative overhead."

Academic and medical leaders argue that indirect costs are essential for research institutions to operate effectively. Without adequate funding for facilities, staffing, and equipment maintenance, they contend that scientific progress will slow, particularly in areas requiring long-term investment, such as cancer treatments, infectious disease research, and neurological disorders.

Opposition The NIH'

The NIH's decision has faced bipartisan criticism. Senate Appropriations Chair Susan Collins, R-Maine, called the move a "poorly conceived directive" and noted that Congress had explicitly prohibited the NIH from modifying its indirect cost reimbursements through appropriations legislation. "There is no investment that pays greater dividends to American families than our investment in biomedical research. Additionally, fiscal year 2024 appropriations legislation includes language that prohibits the use of funds to modify NIH indirect costs.'

Minnesota Democratic Sen. Amy Klobuchar also backed the lawsuit, warning that the cuts would "set back medical innovation and lead to unnecessary suffering."

Meanwhile, researchers at the U of M Medical School and Mayo Clinic are bracing for potential disruptions to ongoing studies.

For now, the temporary restraining order has halted the policy's implementation, but another hearing on Feb. 21 leaves the fate of billions in federal research funding uncertain.

COUNCIL...Continued from page 1-

primary pumper failed to start due to a bad battery. Then, when Breitung arrived, they tried connecting to the closest hydrant, only to discover it was not operable. She estimated it took close to 45 minutes to get water on the fire. "It seemed like an eternity," she said. "Thank god for Breitung and Rolando (a neighbor) for informing them what was going on."

She said there were live wires lying on the ground and her father's truck was never moved away from the blaze. "The Tower Fire Department assessed nothing," she said.

Anderson urged that the city department merge with Breitung. "I just have full respect for Breitung," she said.

Anderson's concerns were echoed by Matt Lenci, whose garage and a vehicle were damaged from the heat of the fire that destroyed the garage of Dave Wanless and Laura Garafolo just days after the fire at the Anderson residence. Lenci also credited Breitung with getting the intense garage fire under control and he warned council members that the city could well be liable in the event of a severe injury. "If somebody dies there's going to be a major investigation," he said.

During later council discussion on the issue, council member Joe Morin said he wanted more information before agreeing to changes on the department and he urged hiring an outside consultant or retired fire chief to assess the current status of the department and make recommendations for changes. "I think there's some local folks that would be qualified to peel that onion back and really look close at things...so, then we can make an informed decision," he said.

But new council member Dave Wanless, whose garage was destroyed last month, wanted a quicker response from the council. "I can tell you from experience, and I don't mean to be derogatory, but thank god for Breitung because I'm telling you right now, our Tower Fire Department is non-existent.

"Is an independent consultant really needed for something that I think everyone knows right here," he said.

Mayor Dave Setterberg sought to defend the city's department, claiming that the city's response to Wanless's garage fire was better than at the earlier house fire, and that the city's pumper started that time.

Setterberg said he didn't want the city's department to be defined by one poor response to a house fire and he said Tower had responded to a recent fire in Soudan where Breitung had a limited response from its volunteers.

He said he's heard from those involved in other recent fires that gave the city's department generally good marks.

"I think you have to look at the big picture," said Setterberg.

Council member Kevin Norby said he would support an outside consultant, calling it a "wellness check" for the department. But he said there may be some immediate action needed to ensure that vehicles will start when needed and that hydrants are working when

Setterberg said two hydrants that are known to be non-functioning are already set for replacement once the weather warms.

Morin said the department could be doing daily checks to make sure batteries are charged and plugged in and suggested the department should have a regular maintenance log to document the steps taken to maintain vehicles and equipment. "We could do that tomorrow," he said.

Wanless said he wanted to make sure the council didn't take the issue lightly.

"We're certainly not," responded Setterberg. "It's on the calendar for tonight to talk about." Morin agreed. "We're

not kicking it down the road,

we're not masking anything,

not to be inactive, right?" said

Morin. "We're taking action."

In other business, the council voted to retain the services of the Stillwater-based Schutz CPA firm to serve as the city's auditor for this year. The closure of longtime and Hahne has left many Iron Range cities without an auditing firm. At last month's meeting, clerk-treasurer Michael Schultz said that it was proving difficult to find a replacement firm. At the time, Wanless had offered to help make calls and Schultz reported that his calling had found two firms willing to do

The city received a full proposal from Stillwaterbased Schutz CPA, including a detailed scope of work and a peer reference from another auditing firm. Schutz CPA is a husband-and-wife firm, and proposed to do the job for \$11,000-\$13,000 plus out-of-pocket expenses. That was roughly a third of what the city had been paying with Walker, Giroux, and Hahne, and well under half the cost of the only other offer, from Duluth-based Esterbrooks CPA, which estimated the cost at \$28,800-\$30,200.

Schultz said he initially had some reservations about the proposal from Schutz, but after reviewing their documentation and talking with them by phone, he is com-

fortable that they understand the job and what it will entail. "Based on everything I see they are fine," said Schultz, noting that as a small company they keep their overhead low.

Schultz said the company provides its auditing services remotely and will rely on city staff to provide them with the needed reports and other documents. While Walker, Giroux used to send staff to work out of city hall for weeks at a time during audit season, Schultz said they had begun to work mostly remotely as well in recent years.

In other business, the

council:

Approved a request from the Wagoner Trails Club to serve as fiscal agent for a \$200,000 regional trails grant that would accomplish several projects, including rerouting a portion of the Prospectors ATV trail and clear the way for the Mesabi Trail to come directly through Tower. The Prospectors will be providing a \$66,000 local match for the grant, if approved.

The grant would also encompass improvements to the Ancient Cedars Trail and create a new boardwalk trail connecting Hoodoo Point to the Pine Ridges Trail system.

➤ Gave the green light for bidding of a culvert and manhole replacement project on N. Second St. St. Louis County is handling the project, but the city will need to pay a portion of the cost. That estimate recently jumped about \$10,000, to just over \$43,000. But city officials are eager to fix the many culverts and one manhole in particular that have heaved significantly, creating rough conditions along the roadway, part of which is a designated county road.

➤ Approved the hiring of Tony Yeley as an EMR with the Tower Area Ambulance Service

➤ Approved a request to pay the electric bills for the Tower-Soudan Historical Society for their operation of the train depot museum. The annual cost ranged from \$815 in 2024 to \$1,016 the year before.

Took an initial look at an application form for the new Gundersen Endowment Fund Committee, which will be responsible for handing out funding from the Gundersen endowment now managed by the Duluth-Superior Community Foundation. A revised draft should be available for consideration at the council's March meeting.

➤ Also took an initial look at a new rental policy for the Herbert Lamppa Civic Center.

Approved the low bid from the *Timberjay* to serve as the city's official newspaper for 2025.

USFS...Continued from page 1—the status of the agency and to speak to the

employee morale in the wake of efforts by Elon Musk to prompt resignations across the federal workforce. Retired forest service officials have spoken to the *Timberjay* in recent days but acknowledge that even former colleagues in the service are reluctant

to speak to them about the situation and their fears of imminent staff reductions.

"It's disconcerting" said

"It's disconcerting," said one not for attribution. "I've contacted several current forest service employees and they've said they are afraid to make any comments even though I've contacted them on their personal emails or messages. They are all afraid and have been muzzled." Some retirees who have

some retirees who have spoken to the *Timberjay* say they're worried that Musk and his unofficial Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE, could also seek to reduce or eliminate federal

worker pensions. "Everything people have worked for is being threatened," said one local forest service retiree, who asked to remain anonymous for fear of retaliation. "Elon Musk and his DOGE team want access to personal information on Medicare, Social Security, pensions.

There is no reason to be in our personal data," said the retiree.

He further noted that the large acreage of federal land in northeastern Minnesota makes the forest service important to the local economy. In addition to employing hundreds of workers around the region, federal lands provide hundreds

of thousands of cords of timber and provide for a wide range of recreational uses that are used heavily by area residents as well as bringing large numbers of visitors to the region.

School board focused on pending budget shortfall

Cook/Orr Editor

VIRGINIA- With notifications of contract nonrenewals for teaching staff in ISD 2142 going out last week, Tuesday night's school board meeting focused on getting board members up to speed on the \$1.5 million budget shortfall for next year and provide information that will help them when talking with district patrons.

"There's going to be a lot of information," Superintendent Reggie Engebritson told board members. "We're certainly going to talk about this more than once. My goal is at the end of the night that you have a couple bullet points or takeaways so when people are asking you questions, you have some ability to respond."

And people are asking questions. The response from many North Woods parents was immediate and angry. A campaign was launched on social media to recruit parents to voice their concerns over staffing cuts at the school at the Feb. 25 board meeting at Tower-Soudan School. Some said they were considering sending their children to other districts over concerns about what the cut might do to the quality of education at North

The challenge for the district, as always, is that the budget shortfall is the unassigned fund balance. Seventyfive percent of that money pays for teachers, paraprofessionals, aides, and other staff. and money from other district fund accounts can't be used to make up the shortfall. Given that scenario, staffing cuts are the only way the district can make a significant dent in the projected deficit.

District Finance Director Kim Johnson reviewed the district's enrollment, which has dropped in four of the last five years and is projected to continue dropping through 2026-27. State aid is based on a calculation called average daily membership (ADM), which factors the number of students enrolled with the amount of time they were enrolled. The district collects the full amount of state aid for a student who was enrolled the entire year, and reduced amounts for those who are only enrolled part of the school

Compared to the district's peak ADM of 2,016 in the 2019-20 school year, the current year's ADM of 1,823 represents a loss of 193 students and the state aid that goes with them. Among the district's five schools. North Woods School has had the greatest drop, from 549 to 453, a loss just short of 20 percent and more than double that of any other school.

So why is the district losing so many students? Several reasons were given:

➤ 177 units of ADM have come from families moving out of the district.

➤Incoming kindergarten classes have been smaller than classes of graduating seniors, resulting in net losses of students. And schools get more state aid for high school students than for elementary.

➤ An increase in parents choosing homeschooling - up by 47 students since the onset of the COVID pandemic.

The one bright spot in the analysis is that the district has gained students in the open enrollment process. More outof-district parents have been sending their children to ISD 2142 than students who have left to attend other districts. The district has had a net gain of 18 ADM.

Making adjustments

The district is cutting the equivalent of ten teaching positions, which represents a greater mix of full-time staff and ones with differing levels of part-time assignments. Cuts to teaching positions have to be locked in now to comply with the union contract. From this point forward, the district may add teaching positions but cannot cut any more.

For elementary grades, the district will continue to monitor class sizes and enrollment and strategically combine elementary classroom positions with specialist roles to optimize teacher-to-student ratios during math and reading instructional time.

Engebritson provided the Timberjay with an additional statement about how cuts are being managed.

"As we finalize schedules for the upcoming year, it is essential that we carefully consider all numbers to ensure accuracy and compliance with licensing and contractual requirements. Only fully licensed teachers with tenured status are placed on the schedule at this time. Additionally, we have the flexibility to schedule elementary teachers for up to 0.3 FTE (full-time equivalent) in a specialist role.

The schedules that have been shared with the union reflect only those teachers who meet full licensure requirements. Given the language in our contracts, we are only able to add FTE as needed; we cannot reduce existing FTE. Therefore, all numbers on the schedule must reflect the minimum possible FTE to align with our transfer protocol."

High school adjustments will include:

➤ Restructuring scheduling to maintain diverse selections and improve efficiencies.

➤ Continuing to use grade levels in courses where standards allow.

➤ Merging certain elec-

➤ Incorporating study halls to provide additional student support and interventions. Cuts are also being made to administrative operations, such as:

 District office staff reductions.

·Paraprofessional assignment reallocations.

•Building and grounds efficiencies.

•Transferring 80 percent of assistant principal salaries to compensatory aid funding.

Engebritson and Johnson also talked about how to address suggestions that a better way to cut expense would be to close one of the district's schools.

"If you would do that, there's no guarantee those kids would stay in the district, so that could just be more money

lost," Engebritson said.

"The funding we lose by closing any additional schools would far outweigh savings," Johnson added. "Tower and Babbitt also have a lot of taconite money associated with them. Compensatory revenue would be gone at those schools (if either were to be closed). And it would be guaranteed 100 percent of those students would no longer go to our 2142 schools. I guarantee it."

Engebritson again emphasized that dealing with the cuts will be an ongoing process informed by data and constant monitoring of relevant indicators. If enrollment projections go up, it would be possible to look at adding back some positions.

"We're always continually looking at the numbers," she said. "This isn't drop dead done tonight, but we have to make some decisions. We have to balance the budget."

GOLDEN...Continued from page 1

"The last skate show in the old rink, I think it was Memories – it had the crowd's favorite numbers from each skate show all inside that one show," Stella said. "And one of them was Space Jam and I was in that one. Another one was one of them from Colors, and we skated to that True Colors song from Trolls. And we all had these little ribbon stick things while we were wearing white dresses. And we were just everywhere, just doing little pumps."

There were even more shows and more memories Stella gleefully rattled off, but suffice it to say that ensemble performances have been her favorite thing about skating.

But while she skates toe to toe with her friends in performances, she's head and shoulders above most after recently passing the U.S. Figure Skating Gold Skating Skills test – one of only four in the Virginia program and the youngest member to do so. It's estimated that only three percent of those who begin skating ever reach this certified skill level.

It's a lofty achievement for a girl whose first trip onto the ice was far, far from spectacular.

"I put her in Learn to Skate because my son was in hockey, and he was actually in Learn to Skate," said Stella's mom, Robyn. And I thought, we'll bring her along, too. He loved it."

And Stella?

"She laid on the ice," Robyn laughed as Stella chimed in.

"I'd just lay on the ice and all the coaches would



Stella Pliml demonstrates a sit spin during a 6 a.m. practice session last week at the Iron Trail Motors Event Center in Virginia. photo by D. Colburn

say, 'Stella, do you need help getting up?' And I'd be like, 'No, I'm fine.' So that's all I did my first year of skating." But the next year she was up and skating about, and it wasn't long before skating director and Stella's current coach Kristi Westerbur took

"Kristi had noticed her during Learn to Skate and came up to me after practice one day and was like, 'She's a natural," Robyn said. "She was in kindergarten at that time. And so, Kristi's youngest daughter, Jayda, started working with her and kind of coaching her individually. it was probably when she was about in second grade that you could tell she was really, really starting to enjoy her lesson time and being on the ice. And since then, it's just grown – she loves it more and more every day."

the eventual jump to competition, which came for Stella in the 2021-22 season. It was probably a more challenging transition for Robyn than it was for her daughter.

"As a mom, it was overelming to me," Robyn said. "I didn't know anything about skating, so it was completely new to me. For her first competition, we didn't know we were supposed to be there an hour before her event, and her coaches were texting me about 15 minutes before she was supposed to skate. 'Where are you? You need to get here.' And we're like, 'We're still on our way!' We got there about ten minutes before her first event. She put those skates on, and she went out there and got first place."

The past two years Stella has been competing in what's known as the Excel Series.

"It's a branch of competi-But with talent comes tions U.S. Figure Skating has

for more like grassroots clubs, people who don't skate six hours a day and aren't on the track to go to the Olympics," Robyn said. "It's for more like your everyday kid who goes to school who skates. They have a whole series of competitions that lead up to their big national festival. So, Stella and a couple other kids from here in Virginia, went down to Austin, Texas, for the national festival and competed down there. Stella got first place in all three of the events she competed in."

Taking the test

While Stella had been wowing the judges in competition, the Gold Skating Skills test is evaluated with special scrutiny. Skaters must pass a series of eight tests, assessed by U.S. Figure Skating judges, who measure accuracy, strength, edge quality, extension, continuous flow, quickness, power, and turn execution. The specific maneuvers required can vary depending on the testing period, making all-around preparation essential.

"They have books that describe what you need to do and when you look at the drawing of the pattern, it's like looking at a foreign language if you're not a skater," Robyn said.

While talking at one of her 6 a.m. practices last Thursday, Stella admitted that while she loves skating, there have been times during practice when it hasn't been so fun. While she's benefitted from the expert tutelage of coaches Jayda Westerbur, Jill McClean, and now Kristi Westerbur, there's probably no one tougher on Stella than Stella.

"I'm very hard on myself," Stella admitted. "I was learning my first big, big jump, the axel, which has one and a half rotations in the air, and it took me like a year and maybe a half to learn. I was getting these little mental blocks, and I was getting very frustrated, like 'Why can't I do it?' I was just panicking like 'What if I'm never able to do it?"

So how did she finally work through it? Well, that's what friends are for.

'Probably my best friend, she skates here, her name's Alex," Stella said. And note, if you will, that Alex and axel happen to have the same letters in them. "We used to skate in Chisholm, after the spring show, since we didn't have ice. I was working on my axel one morning, and she was watching me do it, and all of a sudden I just landed it. We both looked at each other and we were freaking out, all so happy. My coach was not there that morning, it was just me and her."

Finding a testing site used to be a challenge, Robyn said, as tests were location-based, usually far way, and infrequent. But U.S. Figure Skating introduced an option during COVID of submitting a video to be reviewed by a panel of judges, and last fall she did the test in Chisholm, because the rink is smaller and there were fewer people.

"It was early, early morning," Stella said. "It was really cold on that rink their rink is colder than both of the rinks here – and I was in a dress and my hands were

WOLFTRACK CLASSIC SLED DOG RACE

it was a good idea to put them under hot water, but nope, I made it worse." But she managed to make

frozen like forever. I thought

it through the test, and in November she found out that she had passed. It typically takes about six years to develop the skills to pass the test, so in that regard Stella was pretty much on schedule. Even though something

like the Olympics is not a goal for Stella (she wants to be a coach someday) attaining the skill level she wants requires lots of practice, which means that her life consists mostly of skating, school, and family. But within that framework she's managed to cultivate a few other interests, including reading, writing, and art.

"I like to read Percy Jackson and the Olympians (a seven-volume fantasy novel series) and The Girl Who Drank the Moon," Stella said. Her creative writing leans toward the genres of fantasy and true crime, although she also penned an essay that took third in the VFW's Patriot Pen contest. And she duplicated her first-place finishes on ice by taking top honors for her grade in the *Timberjay's* annual Christmas card contest.

Robyn noted that life balance is something that she's always working on with Stella and her family and her work, but while things can get hectic at times, it's all worth it when seeing how much Stella loves skating.

Although there is one thing about skating Stella readily admits to hating.
"I still hate the cold," she

smiled. "I have no clue how

science is working in my brain for that.'

FATALITY...Continued from page 1

southwest of Orr.

The caller reported that the house was on fire and she was unable to locate her husband.

Responders arrived on scene to find the house fully engulfed. Paige Bisbee, 57, was able to get out of the house and reported she had last seen her husband awake inside the house. Late Thursday afternoon, investigators located Matthew Bisbee's remains.

The cause of the fire is

under investigation by the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office with assistance from the state Fire Marshal.

Assisting agencies included the Orr Fire Department, Cook Fire Department, Bois Forte Fire Department, Orr Ambulance, Buyck Fire Department, Kabetogama Fire Department, Bearville Fire Department, and French Fire Department.

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2025

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February 23

Race Day Ely Softball Complex 9:00 start





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CLINIC...Continued from page 1-

are people there that can find other jobs, especially on the dental side. I'm fairly certain we'd lose them and not get them back, and so it would become more of a long-term situation.'

But fortunately, for now, the financial spigot was turned back on by the end of that week thanks to a temporary restraining order reversing Trump's order, at least for Scenic Rivers. A second ruling this Monday castigated the administration for failing to fully comply with the order, with numerous programs reporting that administration officials have yet to restore their funding.

The judge's ruling is only temporary, pending an upcoming hearing for a permanent injunction against the Trump action. Meanwhile, Scenic Rivers is also taking steps to protect its funding.

Harvey told the Timberjay on Tuesday that the agency is

an unnamed partner in a federal lawsuit in Mississippi filed on behalf of multiple organizations, including the National Council of Nonprofits and the American Public Health Association. The judge in that case also ordered a temporary stay of Trump's order, with a hearing for a permanent in junction scheduled next week. "I worked with an organization called Democracy Forward," Harvey said. "My name is not specifically identified in it, but if you were to look at the information that I put in there, a lot of people are going to identify that as us."

Harvey said a permanent junction would leave current funding in place until the final outcome of the lawsuit is decided, hopefully in the plaintiffs' favor.

"If that temporary restraining order was lifted and they could freeze those funds, we'd be right back where we started," Harvey

said. "I've never been in a more uncertain environment in my life."

Flood recovery

Harvey certainly didn't need another financial struggle on his hands, as Scenic Rivers is still struggling to find enough money to restore the dental clinic in Cook.

Flood insurance covered about 90 percent of the cost to repair the damaged floors and walls, but it didn't cover anything else.

'The biggest things that have hit us hard is the cabinetry and the equipment that was damaged - we had to discard almost all of that, and there's no funding for that. We probably had \$250,000 worth of cabinetry that we had to dispose of. That's what we're working on."

With a \$25,000 grant from IRRR and a \$120,000 grant from the Delta Dental Foundation, Harvey was able

to make enough headway to reopen limited operations.

"That got us up and running with four operatories, that's chairs, running so we could continue to see patients," he said. "But we have not been able to replace the other stuff at this point in time. I've applied for two Small Business Administration loans, one was to replace equipment, the other to replace the working capital we lost from being closed for two months and having to pay salaries. Both of those were denied because they said we were too large an organization. We do have 11 clinics all over northeastern Minnesota, but we're also not wealthy. We don't make a lot of money. So, it was very disappointing." Harvey is investigating working through a local entrepreneur fund with the IRRR that would be a loan of up to \$250,000, and he's working other possibilities for lesser amounts, and he's hopeful

that some of the statewide and national publicity Scenic Rivers has gotten from the funding and dental clinic problems might help to leverage additional funds.

But right now, Harvey unfortunately has more chairs than he can staff anyway.

"At this point, I have one dentist in Cook," Harvey said, noting that longtime dentist Tim Sprouls recently retired, an issue that will only continue to grown in greater Minnesota in future years as health care providers age out of the system with fewer people to replace

"We're constantly, aggressively recruiting for more dentists," Harvey said. "We've signed three, but they're not coming for a while - they're still finishing up school. But we have at least two or three others that we're in the process of making offers to. If that happens we'll have to move quicker (on rehab-

bing the clinic). But I think you can go from here to the North Dakota border and find that everybody's looking for

a dentist." Harvey noted that staffing on the medical side of the operation is in good shape, with two more physicians coming this summer and fall after they finish their residencies.

But overall, it's going to be a delicate balancing act to get through the next several months, Harvey said. "When there's so much uncertainty at the federal level with our funding, it's hard to make any long term plans," he said. "I need to take care of the patients we have right now and I can't be thinking about long term stuff. I've got to think about what's happening today."

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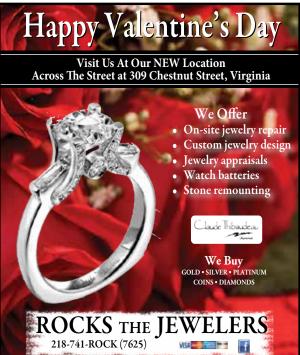
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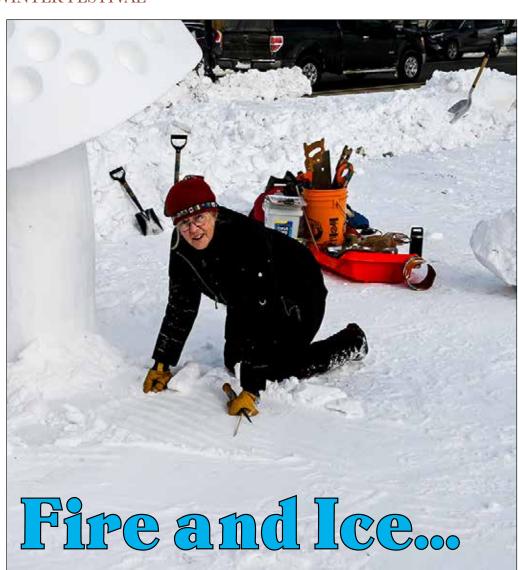
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ELY WINTER FESTIVAL







The 2025 Ely Winter Festival opened with Lucy Soderstrom (at left) lighting the bonfire in Whiteside Park. Over the weekend, visitors to the park enjoyed watching the snow sculpture carvers in action, playing in the snow, and enjoy the finished snow sculptures.

Above right: Claudia McBride, a member of team Frosty Crones, worked on sculpture titled "On Mushrooms."

Below: Hans Peterson, of Babbitt, had a blast trying out a kick sled.

Below left: Members of a snow carving team from Argentina worked on their entry.

Sculptures are still on display in the park, weather-permitting. photos by C. Clark and D. Colburn







February 14, 2025 1B THE TIMBERJAY



SPORTS

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GIRLS BASKETBALL

North Woods notches two more wins

by DAVID COLBURN

Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP-It's been a busy week for the North Woods girls basketball team, with games on Thursday, Friday, Monday, and Tuesday, but the grind was worth it as the Grizzlies added two games to their win total for the season.

Tuesday night's contest against Class AA Greenway was the most competitive and entertaining of the four. Often at a disadvantage against larger schools, North Woods caught the Raiders in a rebuilding year, just like they are, and the two teams were evenly matched.

Greenway took the early lead at 11-9 in the contest, and used a hot streak to push the lead out to 26-13 with nine minutes left in the first half. But the never-say-die Grizzlies responded with a late run of their own, closing the gap to 34-32 at intermission.

A pair of buckets by Sierra Schuster early in the second half vaulted the Grizzlies to a 36-24 lead, setting up a hotly contested final stanza with multiple lead changes. The Raiders took a 62-61 lead with 3:40 left on the clock, then Tatum Barto hit a bucket to get the lead back, but Greenway came right back down the floor to go ahead again 63-62. Emarie Gibson tied the game for the Grizzlies, 65-65, with a pair of free throws at the 2:06 mark, and Zoey Burckhardt put North Woods on top for good with a score down low on a slick dish from Brynn Chosa. Addison Burckhardt increased the lead to 69-65 on a pair of charities, but the drama wasn't over yet. Greenway got back to within two at 71-69 with 27 seconds left, and had the opportunity to tie on what looked to be a wide open fast break with under 10 seconds remaining, but Chosa intercepted a long pass and was fouled, sealing a 72-69 win with a final free throw.

Chosa hit four treys in the game and led North Woods in scoring with 23 points. Barto had another strong performance with 18 points, and for one of the few times this season the Grizzlies had a third player in double digits as Schuster connected for ten.

North Woods picked up its other win in the four-game marathon on the front end of the string with a 63-39 road win against the Fond du Lac Ojibwe. With only one win this season, Fond du Lac was a team ripe for the

See NW GIRLS...pg. 2B



BOYS BASKETBALL

Ely takes two in a row

BAUDETTE- The Wolves got back on the winning track against two weaker opponents this week, capped by a huge 108-36 blowout here against the 2-15 Bears. The win improved the Wolves' record to 15-6.

"We jumped on them early with our full-court defense, which led to many easy layups for us," said Ely Head Coach Tom McDonald. "They're a very young team and struggled with our defense."

See ELY BOYS...pg. 2B



gets some serious air as he goes in for a layup against Mesabi East.

Left: Ely's Drew Johnson looks ahead as he moves the ball downcourt.

photos by F. Zobitz

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Wolves dump Chisholm by Marshall Helmberger Managing Editor

ELY - Audrey Kallberg had a huge night for the Timberwolves here on Monday as she poured in

Left: Ely's Amelia Penke eyes the bucket through the arms of a Mesabi East defender.

photo by F. Zobitz

18 points and grabbed 19 rebounds to lead Ely to a 70-54 win over Chisholm.

It was only the sixth loss of the season for the high-flying Bluestreaks and the victory lifted the Wolves' record to 13-8 as they head into the final ten days of the regular season.

While Kallberg deserved the headline from Monday night, she had plenty of help as three other Ely players reached double digits. Lydia Shultz added 13 points, while Amelia Penke and Clare Thomas added 12 points apiece. Thomas, who also notched seven steals, did most of her damage at the charity stripe, where she con-

See ELY GIRLS...pg. 2B

NORDIC SKIING

Ely boys tops in Section 7, head to state

Ely's Durkin remains the skier to beat

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

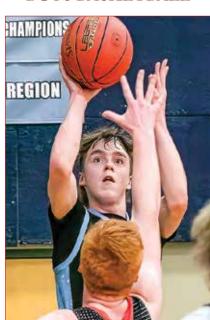
GIANTS RIDGE- The Ely boys Nordic ski team laid claim to being the best in the Arrowhead on Wednesday, winning the Section 7 regional meet at Giants Ridge and qualifying for next week's state meet.

Dylan Durkin remains a skier on fire as he won the pursuit title over August Capps of Duluth East. Durkin had the fastest run in the first race with a time of 15:23 and placed second in the second race with a time of 15:19 to take the overall title with a combined time of 30:42.

The Wolves took four of the top seven spots, with Aksel Skustad placing third, Wyatt Devine coming in sixth, and Otto Devine finishing seventh. Skustad was the winner of the second heat with a time of 15:16.9 and had an overall time of 31:11.9. The combined time for Wyatt Devine was 31:56, and Otto Devine finished in 32:30. Ely's fifth skier, Milo McClelland, placed 13th with a time of 33:50.

See SKIERS...pg. 2B

BOYS BASKETBALL



North Wood's Aiden Hartway eyes the bucket intently on a jumper last Friday. photo by D. Colburn

Grizzlies split in week's action

by DAVID COLBURN

Cook-Orr Editor

INTERNATIONAL FALLS- The North Woods boys got back on the winning track Tuesday by rocking International Falls 69-33 on the Broncos' home court, bouncing back from an 89-70 home loss to Littlefork-Big Falls on Friday.

Head Coach Andrew Jugovich described the tilt against the Broncos as "a tale of two halves, first half filled with turnovers and poor effort, while the second half was tight defense, better ball movement, and getting down the court fast."

Louie Panichi led the team in scoring with 17, and Talen Jarshaw scored 14.

The Vikings of L-BF proved to be a tough matchup for the Grizzlies on Friday, although the home team kept pace in the early going. North Woods trailed 4-0 before

See GRIZZLIES...pg. 2B



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HOCKEY

Wolves end regular season with back-to-back losses

by Marshall Helmberger Managing Editor

ELY — The lack of offense has plagued the Timberwolves for the past several weeks and fans saw more of the same here on Saturday as Ely wrapped up its regular season with a 3-0 loss to North Shore in a game marred by ten Ely penalties, including eight in the second period alone.

It was as if the frustrations of a disappointing season

came to a head on Saturday for the Timberwolves after North Shore grabbed a 2-0 lead in the first period.

The refs sent Evan Leeson to the box just half a minute into the second period and the Storm took advantage, making it 3-0 just 30 seconds later.

Two penalties later, at the nine minute mark, the dam burst. Refs sent North Shore's Cam Peterson to the box at the 9:02 mark, and thirty seconds later, Ely's Brady Eaton was

called on a five-minute major for checking from behind. Ben Leeson, at goalie, was slapped with an unsportsmanlike conduct charge less than a minute later, followed by three more penalties over the next minute. That culminated in a brawl that sent five players, two from North Shore and three from Ely, to time-out at the 15:45 mark.

It was a quieter third period, with just two penalties and no scoring, but that did

nothing to help Ely's cause. The loss dropped the Wolves regular season record to 5-17, a disappointment after the Wolves won three of their first seven games. But it's been a dry spell ever since as the Wolves managed just two wins in the final 15 games of the season.

Playing in Moose Lake last Friday, Ely's Rhett Johnson lit the lamp twice but it wasn't enough as the Rebels took it 3-2.

Johnson hit the mark, with an assist from Jace Huntbatch, just over three and a half minutes into the first period to give Ely a temporary lead. Moose Lake came back at the 10:47 mark to tie the score. Halfway through the second, Johnson (assist from Owen Marolt) drilled the net once again, to put Ely back on top. But the Rebels put the final two points on the board late in the second and third periods to notch the win.

Brady Eaton was nabbed for three penalties in the contest, including twice for unsportsmanlike conduct and once for roughing. Jayden Zemke spent two minutes in the box for cross-checking.

the box for cross-checking.

The Wolves are expected to take part in the first round of the Section 7A playoffs on Saturday. Their opponent and game location were not available as of the *Timberjay's* Wednesday press time.

ELY GIRLS...Continued from page 1B



Left: Ely's Clare Thomas works the ball past a Mesabi East defender.

photo by F. Zobitz

nected on eight of 12 free throws. Penke added ten rebounds to her point total, joining Kallberg with a double-double.

Maija Mattson added eight points for Ely, while Zoe Mackenzie added seven. The Wolves notched 46 rebounds in the game along with 17 steals.

Monday's contest was a nice turnaround for the Wolves after last

Thursday's disappointing 58-40 loss to Mesabi East in Aurora. Shultz was the only Ely player to reach double digits, with 11 points. Zoe Mackenzie and Amelia Penke added eight points apiece, while Kallberg added five.

Ely was set to take on North Woods on Thursday, after the *Timberjay's* weekly press time. They'll be back home to host Deer River next Tuesday. They'll finish out their regular season at home on Feb. 20 and 21, against Littlefork-Big Falls and South Ridge respectively.

SKIERS...Continued from page 1B

The Wolves edged Duluth East by a single point, 233-232, in pursuit. Other teams in the competition in order of finish included CEC, Grand Rapids, Two Harbors, Mora, Cook County, Proctor-Hermantown, and Mesabi East.

The Wolves' Oliver Hohenstein and Eli Olson teamed up to win the relay race with a time of 14:01, 26 seconds ahead of runner-up Duluth East.

Adding the pursuit and relay scores, Ely extended its winning margin to 392-388 over Duluth East.

Dunn qualifies

While the Ely girls finished

fifth in the team standings, the Wolves' Anna Dunn cashed a ticket to the state meet with a tenth-place finish in pursuit, the third individual qualifier in the competition.

Dunn was again a steady performer, placing ninth on the first run and tenth on the second with an overall time of 38.46.

The state meet was set to be held at Giants Ridge Wednesday and Thursday of this week, after the *Timberjay's* weekly press time. Watch for updates on results at timberjay.com.

GRIZZLIES...

Continued from page 1B

Louie Panichi got the Grizzlies on the board with a deuce four minutes into the game. Three balls by Panichi and Kalvyn Benner kept the Grizzlies close at 11-10. But the Vikings opened up some distance from there, going up by ten at 24-14 as the Grizzlies ran into problems attacking the L-BF defense. The Vikings kept the pressure on and were up by 18 at the break, 40-22.

In the second half, the best the Grizzlies could do was keep pace. North Woods was down by as many as 25 points. Each time it looked as though the Grizzlies would get a boost from a three-ball or a big play under the bucket, the Vikings snuffed out any hope of a rally with big scores of their own. North Woods did cut the final margin to under 20, something of little consolation in the 89-70 loss.

Statistics for the L-BF contest were not available by press time. North Woods had a home game scheduled for Friday against Mesabi East, followed by a Tuesday road trip to Hill City.

ELY BOYS...Continued from page 1B

The Wolves had no trouble on offense either, as they racked up a 74-19 lead by the break, allowing many younger players to see considerable action in the second half

Caid Chittum notched a game high 38 points, while

Jack Davies added 24 points, ten assists, and eight boards to just miss a triple-double. Drew Johsnon added 17 points and 12 assists for his own double-double, while Wyatt Tedrick added 14 points and six steals.

Playing at home last

Friday, the Wolves fell behind in the early going against 6-12 Mesabi East, but an astonishing 36-3 run quickly turned that around and sent the Wolves into the break sitting comfortably atop a 41-11 lead. They played the Giants to a draw in the second half,

but it was still enough for a 70-40 victory. "We turned them over numerous times with our pressure and capitalized on their turnovers," said McDonald of the first-half scoring extravaganza.

The Wolves were icecold from beyond the arc as they connected on just two of 28 shots from outside. "But we shot well in the paint, which helped us win," said McDonald. "And our defense was solid all game long."

Chittum led in points scored, with 25, along with 11 boards. Davies notched 22

points, eight rebounds, and six assists, while Johnson added ten boards to help the cause.

The Wolves host 7-13 Chisholm on Friday and head to Mt. Iron next Tuesday to take on the 16-4 Rangers.

Back By Popular Demand!

Memories of the Early Days

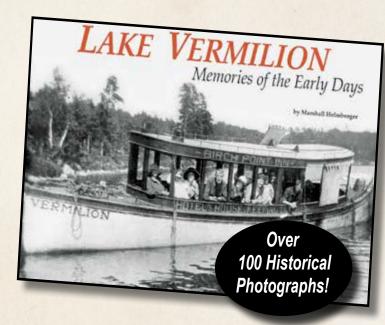
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NW GIRLS...

Continued from page 1B

picking, and to their credit, the Grizzlies played their game in the blowout win. "There was a couple times

we were a little bit slow, but we executed the press and I was able to get lots of different groups playing, which was kind of nice," Head Coach Liz Cheney said. "Everyone played, so that was a good game. A little confidence booster."

The Grizzlies took a big hit on the road at Chisholm on Friday, losing 77-40, and suffered another setback at home on Monday, losing to Mesabi East 75-44. On a positive note, the Grizzlies lit it up from long distances against the Giants, getting nine treys from four different players. Barto led the scoring against Mesabi East

with 13 and Chosa hit for 12.
The Grizzlies were scheduled to renew their cross-county rivalry with Ely in the North Woods gym on Thursday, and will finish the regular season at home by hosting Littlefork-Big Falls on Tuesday and Hermantown on Thursday.



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READ the Timberjay!

THE TIMBERJAY February 14, 2025 3B

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate scientist, author speaks to two groups in Ely

by CATIE CLARK Ely Editor

ELY- Anna Farro Henderson, a book author, climate scientist, and environmental policy advisor to former Sen. Al Franken and former Gov. Mark Dayton, was in Ely on Tuesday to speak about her new book, "Core Samples: A Climate Scientist's Experiments in Politics and Motherhood."

Speaking to the Tuesday Group and the Ely Climate Group, Henderson described the messy joys of scientific fieldwork, why she decided to move into policy, and her experiences as a mother in a field that still presents significant barriers for women.

Like most earth scientists, Henderson has traveled to some exotic places, including glaciers outside of Juneau and the crater of the Trinity nuclear bomb test site at White Sands in New Mexico. She finds plenty of humor along the way, like doing field work with a bunch of guys in a canoe with no bathroom or designing a boat that she had to portage seven miles up a mountain to collect lake sediment samples. She describes the lactation diary she kept while working at the U.S. Senate and her experiences

with working for Dayton.

"Core Samples," released last October by the University of Minnesota Press, also shines an insider's views on the slow progress of government, the limitations of scientific research institutions, and the role that science policy plays in society

Henderson has been traveling in both Minnesota and other states, speaking and holding book signing events. Henderson's trip to Ely was possible through a Minnesota State Art Board grant funded through Minnesota's Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment. "The grant supports me in bringing art access to rural communities in Minnesota," Henderson explained. Both of Henderson's Ely presentations included art outreach activities.

During both of her presentations, Henderson talked about the rollout of the new buffer zone law under Dayton, a measure designed to improve water quality, particularly in agricultural portions of the state.

Henderson said hardly anyone in the state was happy with either the buffer zones or the way the 2015 law was created and implemented.

"It's not that people in rural



areas are against clean water or the environment. Farmers are deeply into the stewardship of their land. What they were against was the feeling they and their way of life were being attacked."

In contrast, she noted that metro area lawmakers often had little knowledge about rural issues. "For a legislator from around the (Twin Cities) Metro, they may not know anything about what's important in rural areas like farming. It's easy for them to vote on more regulations when they don't have any skin in the game."

Henderson described her mo-

Anna Farro
Henderson
speaking at the Ely
Tuesday Group on
Feb. 11.
photo by C. Clark

tivations to shift from science to policy work, noting that even as she studied climate, she didn't see anyone making the connections between what scientists were seeing and the policy shifts needed to address the rapid climate changes that were happening now.

"As a climate scientist, I was trying to make a difference, but shouting in a room with other scientists wasn't getting anywhere. No one else was listening. I didn't know how to be heard or who to talk to, but here I was in the middle of it all ... I felt an urgency to participate, so I left my research and I went to work for Al Franken in the U.S. Senate."

Henderson also touched on the barriers women still experience in the science and engineering fields.

"I had my first child four months before I defended my

Ph.D., which was fine, I'm an organized person. But it really changed how people saw me, and I could perceive that. Now that I was a mom, people were like, 'What are you doing here?'"

About Anna Farro Henderson

Henderson received a B.A. in geology and biology from Brown University and a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota in geology. She had a post-doctoral appointment at Pennsylvania State University.

She received a one-year American Association for the Advancement of Science Fellowship to work as an advisor to someone elected to Congress. She went to work for Franken and stayed with his office for a year and a half. After that, she became Gov. Dayton's water advisor.

Henderson lives in St. Paul.
She writes full-time and consults
on climate advocacy.
Signed copies of "Core Sam-

ples" are available to purchase at the Piragis Northwoods bookstore while supplies last.

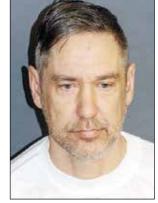
LAW AND ORDER

Ely arsonist arrested on several new charges

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- Just one month after he was sentenced for setting his own house on fire, convicted arsonist Jason Keith Gillson is back in county lockup, without bail.

The Ely Police Department arrested Gillson on Saturday evening, Feb. 8, on a felony parole violation and a gross misdemeanor charge of interfering with a 911 call, along with a misdemeanor



Jason Keith Gillson

for domestic assault.

The Ely police responded to an assault call from Gillson's Boundary St. residence, where Gillson's girlfriend alleged he had thrown her on the floor and ripped her jacket during an argument and tried to prevent her from calling 911. She also claimed he had "a handgun in his waistband."

Gillson confirmed they had argued but denied that he prevented her from calling 911. He also denied touching

her. The Ely PD did not locate any firearms at Gillson's home but did confirm the jacket was ripped.

If the court determines that Gillson violated his parole, then his current plea bargain agreement could well be revoked. Under the plea arrangement, he would serve a split sentence of five years supervised probation, 270 days incarceration, and mandatory substance abuse treatment. He must report to serve his jail time on April 1.

If the plea bargain is voided, Gillson may be sent to the St. Cloud Correctional Facility to serve up to three years on three felony charges: arson, assault of a peace officer, and discharging a firearm within city limits.

Gillson's plea bargain stems from two altercations with his girlfriend at his Boundary St. residence on Aug. 20 and Sept. 13, 2023. On Aug. 20, while trying to stop her from leaving his

house, he shot his garage door and the tires of his girl-friend's car. On Sept. 13, he shot both her wallet and cell phone, set his own house on fire, and fled from the scene in a panel truck, resulting in a police chase from Ely to Embarrass.

Gillson does not yet have any hearings scheduled for the Saturday evening incident.

Obituaries and Death Notices





Matthew E. Bisbee

Matthew Eric Bisbee, 57, of Orr, was suddenly and unexpectedly called home to the Lord in a tragic house fire on Thursday, Feb. 6, 2025. A celebration of life will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 16 at the First Baptist Church in Cook. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you please bring any printed pictures of Matthew you may have to share with them. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Matthew was adopted at birth by Bertin and Carol Bisbee on April 29, 1967. He was raised at 6 Webster Place in Hopkins, attending Hopkins High where he would meet his high school sweetheart Paige Frostad. Together they graduated in 1985. United in marriage on May 31, 1986, together they attended University of Wisconsin-River Falls, graduating with bachelor degrees

in 1995. They spent the early years of marriage moving around North Carolina, Minnesota and Wisconsin before settling on their 160-acre plot of land outside of Orr in 1998. There they raised up a home, a farm, their seven children and two foster children, hosted several families in need of a home, and developed a kennel known across the country, Black Beaver Creek Farm and Kennel.

Matthew joined the U.S. Army in 1985, enlisting in the 82nd Airborne Division with a short deployment to Honduras in 1987, before serving in the National Guard. He was deployed to Afghanistan in 2006-2007, where he earned a Bronze Star for Heroism. Matthew concluded his military service in 2007, when he was honorably discharged.

Always seeking to learn and grow, Matthew attended college several times. He graduated with his associate's degree from St. Paul College in 1991, his bachelor's degree in Social Studies Education from University of Wisconsin-River Falls in 1995, and in 2003-2005 was compiling his master's degree in Special Needs Education from Bemidji State before being deployed to serve overseas. In 2014, along with four of his seven children, Matthew attended Lake Superior College, graduating with an associate's degree in Auto Body Mechanics.

Matthew worked in many professions, as a teacher's aide, school teacher, special education teacher, holding several positions within Mesabi Academy, and as District Executive with the Boy Scouts of America on two separate occasions, among others. Whatever he did he always found himself in positions where he could

connect with, guide, coun-

sel, and teach young men. In all walks of life, be it work, military, scouting, church, school, the kennel, friends of his children, or neighbors, he always sought to mentor and share wisdom with whomever he met. It was his life's true calling and the very core of who he was; his legacy left in the number of young men who have benefited from his care and council cannot be understated. His passing has and will continue to deeply affect all whom his life has

Matthew is survived by his wife, Paige Bisbee; sons, Anthony Bisbee, Nicholas (Dottie) Bisbee, Benjamin (Alicia) Bisbee, Courtney (Alicia) Bisbee and Wesley Bisbee; daughters, Caroline Bisbee and Ariel Bisbee; brother, Alex Bisbee; sisters, Kate Wright-Sims, Sarah Mallberg and Marti Hall; and many beloved and cherished grandchildren, nieces, nephews, in-laws, cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents.



Jennifer L. Kauppinen

Jennifer Lee Kauppinen, 51, died on Monday, Jan. 27, 2025. A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 15 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Virginia. Pastor Liz Cheney will officiate. A gathering time for family and friends

will begin one hour prior to the service at the church. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in her memory to Shop with a Cop c/o the Virginia Police Department. Family services are provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Vir-

Jennifer was born in Virginia on Oct. 22, 1973, to John and Marlene Kauppinen, joining big sister Shari. Jennifer was a 1992 graduate of the Virginia Secondary School. She sang in the a capella choir, was captain of the flags and participated in many other activities, taking on a leadership role. Jennifer graduated with honors from Augsburg College with a double major. Jennifer was baptized and confirmed at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Virginia. She was active in various church ac-

Jennifer worked in different management roles after high school. Most recently she was working at United Behavioral Health. Jennifer was known as a dedicated, hardworking employee and earned many commendations and awards for her work. She was respected by her co-workers and teammates. She will be greatly missed by her work family throughout the local company, as well as her special team abroad in India.

Jennifer became ordained to officiate her best friend's wedding. She was so happy to have been able to share in her friend's special day. Jennifer was proud to be the daughter of a retired police lieutenant and law enforcement instructor and carried this pride into her personal life by volunteering her time with the Shop with a Cop program. Her passion

for supporting law enforce-

ment was a big part of her

11.0

Jennifer loved music. She enjoyed attending concerts and was once the lead singer in a band. She had a beautiful voice and even competed in a karaoke contest held in Las Vegas. Music brought her joy and happiness

Jennifer's family remembers her as a very loving and beautiful person. She was very creative and enjoyed making crafts, especially with her goddaughters, Michaela and Mackenzie. She had a caring soul and was a ray of sunshine. She will be missed so much by her family and all of her friends, especially her "sisters of the heart", Nikki and Tammy. Jennifer was a very spiritual person and felt a deep connection to the divine and had a love of nature which gave her support and comfort.

Jennifer is survived by mother, Marlene Kauppinen; sister, Shari Brazil; aunts, Debbie Esselstrom, Judith Renmoe and Elaine Kauppinen; uncles, Bill Kauppinen and Roger Nelmark; cousins, Steve Nelmark, Billy, Tom and Julie Kauppinen, Alayna Esselstrom, Peter Pomaville, Jody Nelmark and Michael Nelmark; goddaughters, Michaela and Mackenzie; best friends, Nikki and Tammy; numerous other friends; and precious cat, Spirit Rose. She is joined in heaven

with her loving father, John; and her grandparents.

Leonard Cersine
Leonard Cersine, 77,
of Ely, passed away on
Thursday, Jan. 30, 2025, at
the Boundary Waters Care
Center in Ely. Family services have been entrusted to
Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

Gary L. Bundy

Gary Lee Bundy, 71, of Greaney, passed away on Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025. Per his wishes, there will be no services. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook.

Cedric D. Roivanen

Roivanen, 82, of Cook, passed away peacefully of natural causes on Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2025, surrounded by his loving family. A memorial visitation will be held on Saturday, Feb. 15 from 1-3 p.m. at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. In lieu of flowers, please donate to local Veterans or the Cook VFW.

He is survived by his son, Darren (Julie Strom) Roivanen; daughter, Laura Roivanen; granddaughters, Jillian Warzonek and Hailey (Tom) Becker; and great-grandchildren, Evelyn and Jack Becker.

Norman E. Dale Jr. Norman "Norm"

gene Dale Jr., 82, of Aurora, died on Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2025, at his home. A celebration of life will be held from 12-4 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 15 at the Embarrass Town Hall. Inurnment will be in the Waasa Cemetery at a later date. Arrangements are by Ziemer-Moeglein-Shatava Funeral Home in Aurora.

He is survived by his

wife, Wanda Berry Dale; children, Donald (Anne) Dale of Chisago, David (Heide) Dale of Tower, Duane (Michelle) Dale of Hibbing, Gina Barry of Virginia and Barry Tornow of Hibbing; eleven grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.





OWL IRRUPTION

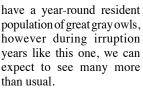
A nocturnal visitor during the day

Low mouse numbers to our north bring hungry boreal owls to our region

A likely collapse of the small mammal population north of the border has sent large numbers of owls to northern Minnesota. That includes great gray owls, the largest owls in North America, as well as large numbers of boreal owls, which are among several

species of small owls found in the

Great gray owls are seen much more frequently, both because of their size as well as the fact that they tend to be much more active during daylight than most owls. Northern Minnesota does



Boreal owls, as with most small owls, are generally highly nocturnal, which means they're not often seen by humans even if they're around. While a small population is known to live in the Arrowhead, they're considered rare outside of an irruption year.

Right now, the boreal owls are not only present in significant numbers, they're showing up and hunting around rural residences during daylight hours given the extreme hunger they're experiencing. We've had a boreal owl hanging around our house for more than a week—it's the one pictured with this story. It's remarkably unafraid of humans, you could probably pluck it right off its perch if you made the effort. It's likely a combination of its lethargy from starvation and the fact that most of these little owls probably never see a human so have little natural fear.

I don't know about the prospects of our recent visitor. I've yet to see it catch a mouse. Unfortunately,

> we've seen the same decline in the small mammal population here as they're experiencing to our north. I suspect last winter's lack of snow cover, which extended far to our north, was tough on the mice and voles and they don't seem to have recovered quite yet. I know

we haven't trapped a mouse in our house in months which is unusual

MARSHALL

HELMBERGER

While it's fun to see these normally secretive owls. many of them likely won't survive. Local ornithologist Steve Wilson, who has studied boreal owls for years, has documented the deaths of between 165 and 208 of them during four previous irruption years. Many, hopefully most, will find enough food to survive the winter. Of those that do, a few will likely stay in the area to breed this spring, as has happened in the wake of past irruptions, although most will likely return back to our north.

According to Wilson, in an irruption year like this one, we could see thousands. or even tens of thousands of boreal owls, head south in search of a food source. How many of them survive to return isn't really known. If you find a dead owl, which will frequently show up near the foundation of rural

Above: A normally nocturnal boreal owl, most likely a female, perches in a maple tree near bird feeders, in an apparently desperate effort to capture prey.

Right: Jodi Summit checks on the owl, which is sitting about ten feet up in the maple and is visible in the upper left corner of the photo. The bird shows little or no fear of humans.

photos by M. Helmberger

residences, you can contact Wilson at 218-323-7633 and he'll arrange to pick it up. It would be best to bag the carcass and record when and where it was found.

As their name suggests, these owls are residents of the northern forests. They are circumpolar, which means they are found in northern climes throughout the world, with Russia, especially Siberia, likely hosting the largest population. In Europe and Eurasia, they're known as Tengmalm's owl, named after a Swedish naturalist of the same name.

The female owls are substantially larger than the males, sometime twice as heavy as the male. This is



common among raptors, but the difference in size between the male and female boreal owl is the most pronounced of any North American owl. Like most small owls, these are cavity nesters and those that survive will start thinking about breeding very soon. While normally silent, boreal owls start to vocalize about

this time, a kind of monotonous twill, at night. They'll continue to vocalize into April before getting down to the business of raising the next generation. The good news is, their

habitat is reasonably secure and their population across their wide range is believed to be stable.

Outdoors briefly

New DNR fishing rule proposals open for comment

REGIONAL - TheMinnesota Department of Natural Resources is asking for the public to comment on proposed rules about fishing methods that, if adopted, would go into effect in March

The rules propose increasing the maximum allowed distance between hooks in tackle configurations with multiple hooks from 9 to 18 inches. The rulemaking also allows for the use of certain automatic hook-setting devices for ice fishing that currently are not allowed and includes clarification of the definition of "hook." These changes would allow anglers to use a wider range of commercially available products and be more practical for bait commonly used. The changes are anticipated to reduce the number of swallowed hooks and deep hook sets, thereby decreasing hooking mortality without posing a threat to conservation.

Comments can be submitted through Thursday, March 20, by email to bethany. bethke@state.mn.us or mail to Bethany Bethke, Fisheries Rules and Regulations Coordinator, Fish and Wildlife Division, Minnesota DNR, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155.

More information is available on the fisheries rulemaking page of the DNR website (mndnr.gov/input/ rules/fisheries/index.html).

Don't forget the "chickadee check-off"

REGIONAL -Minnesotans can support a wide range of nongame wildlife when they check the box on their tax forms to make a donation to the DNR's Nongame Wildlife Program, commonly known as the chickadee check-off.

The program relies almost exclusively on these donations for its critical wildlife conservation work.

Donations support wildlife field research, habitat enhancement projects and educational programs, including popular wildlife cameras like the DNR EagleCam and FalconCam. All donations are tripled with matching funds from the Reinvest in Minnesota critical habitat license plates.

The Nongame Wildlife Fund tax checkoff can be found on Form M1 Individual Income Tax and on Form M1PR Homestead Credit Refund. If filing on paper, simply look for the loon to invest in the future of Minnesota's at-risk wildlife.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather



7 -12

13 -8

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4.2"



Saturday

02/03 0.00

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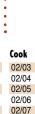
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Sunday



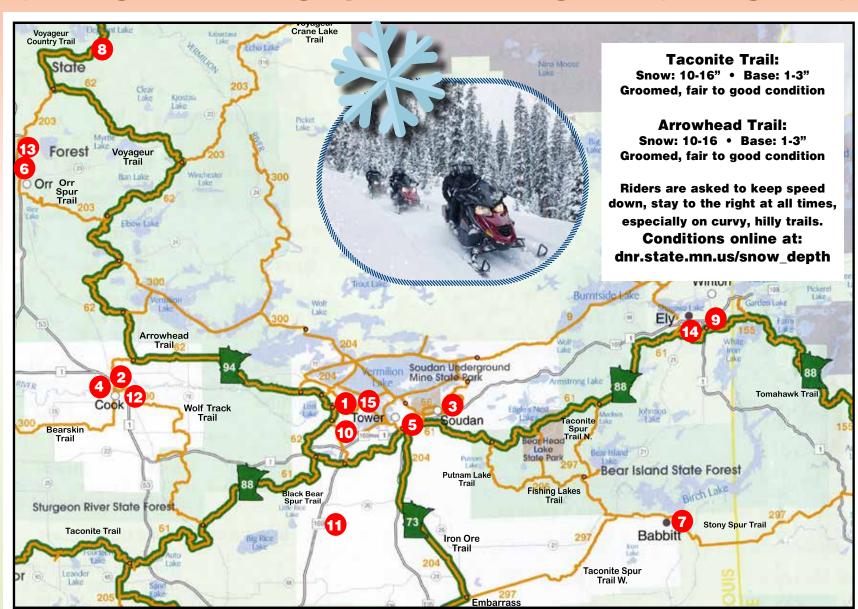


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6B February 14, 2025

Native American high school students win award for coding project

by JODI SUMMIT

Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER-Five Northeast Range high school students from the Vermilion Reservation were awarded top honors for their efforts to teach younger students about computer coding. The five students, Makenzie Little, Raeanna Medicine-Strand, Damien Medicine-Strand, Jada Medicine, and Makana Bodas, were participants in the 2024 Congressional App Challenge and were one of four teams in Minnesota recognized in this nationwide contest.

The Congressional App Challenge is an official initiative of the U.S. House of Representatives, where members of Congress host contests in their districts for middle school and high school students, encouraging them to learn to code and inspiring them to pursue careers in computer science. The program demonstrates the bipartisan support for STEM education in today's rapidly evolving world. Each participating member of Congress selects a winning app from their district, and each winning team is invited to showcase their winning app to Congress during the annual #HouseOfCode festival in April.

The project was an offshoot of the students' efforts to plan and run two different two-day summer camps for students at the Boys and Girls Clubs at Nett Lake and Vermilion. The camps were a joint effort, with help from the 1854 Treaty Organization, a local drum group, and local dancers.

The five honored students are members of Biiwabik Zagime (Iron Mosquitos), the Northeast Range

robotics club, coached by Ryan

Will travel to Washington, D.C. in April for two-day awards festival





Lindsay, Indigenous support advocate Amanda Koivisto, and tra-

ditional culture support staff Adrienne Whiteman. The team worked

Team members (from left): Makana Bodas, Raeanna Medicine-Strand, Damien Medicine-Strand, Jada Medicine, Makenzie Little. Left: Completed dancing dolls.

together to teach kids how to do simple computer coding. As part of the project, the team created dolls using 3-D printers and the younger students created regalia for the dolls. Then, using computer coding and a programmable motor, they were able to make the dolls 'dance" to music.

The camps introduced almost 50 children to basic coding and other STEM concepts. "We started planning the proj-

ect last January," said Koivisto.

The camps included other ro-

botics-related fun, including learning to drive the robotics team's robot, playing with the robotic t-shirt launcher, and other Native crafts and athletic activities like archery.

The camps and projects were funded with help from grants from FIRST Robotics Upper Midwest, St. Louis County Family Services Collaborative, and the DNR No Child Left Inside program.

The students also created a video that they submitted to the coding competition, with help from their school's television and film teacher Jennifer Kaufenberg. (see video at https://www.congressionalappchallenge.us/24-MN08/).

The students learned they had won the competition in mid-Janu-

"In preparation for this event, the students are planning to make their own jewelry, ribbon skirts, and ribbon shirts to wear," said team member Makenzie Little. "Everyone is extremely excited about this wonderful opportunity and is looking forward to sharing what they have worked on.'

Events as part of the celebration April 8-9 include a special awards dinner, as well as time for the students to demonstrate and discuss their project.

While the activities, once they are in Washington, D.C., will be funded, team members need to raise the approximately \$9,000 it will cost to fly and house the five students and three advisors. Koivisto said they hope to do some sightseeing, visit museums, as well as visit some colleges, while in D.C.

Donations can be sent to Northeast Range School, c/o Robotics Washington Trip, 30 South St., Babbitt, MN 55706.

BUSINESS NETWORKING

Ely for Ely hosts workshop on financing for businesses

by CATIE CLARK

Ely Editor

ELY- The second "Ely for Ely" networking and professional development meeting met early Tuesday morning for a session on how to finance a business. Emily Roose, a full-time business consultant with the Entrepreneur Fund, explained the five "C's" that financial institutions look at before underwriting a business loan and the need to develop a business plan before applying for funds.

The five C's - capacity, collateral, conditions, character, and capital - are familiar to most small business owners and lenders. Capacity is the evaluation of a business owner to pay off a business debt. Collateral is the security on a loan. Conditions are external factors that affect loan terms, like timing a loan to maximize favorable interest rates and looser credit. Character refers to the impression a lender has of a business owner. And capital is what the business owner can invest in their own business, which is usually 10 to 30 percent of

a business loan.

Roose also covered items that lenders want to see in a loan applicant like a good credit record, a well-thought-out business plan, knowledge of the proposed business, and responsiveness to lender questions during the loan process.

The next Ely for Ely workshop will be on Tuesday, March 11 at the Community Hub, located at 760 Miners Drive. The program will begin at 7:30 a.m. with a continental breakfast, networking, and announcements. The educational part of the program will start at 8 a.m.

with Nick Dunnom, a business broker with Sunbelt Business Advisors of Minnesota, who will speak on debunking myths for entrepreneurs. The event is free and does not require registration in advance.

The January workshop, on Ely-specific marketing tactics, is available on the Boundary Waters Connect YouTube channel. Tuesday's workshop on financing will also be on YouTube before the end of the week.

The Ely for Ely programming is sponsored by Boundary Waters Connect and the Entrepreneur Fund. Boundary Waters Connect is an economic and community development program focused on building intracommunity ties in the greater Ely area. The nonprofit Entrepreneur Fund is a federal community development financial institution and Small Business Administration lender. The organization supports entrepreneurs and small business owners with no-cost business advising and business financing solutions.

CANCER HEART DISEASE EMOTIONAL TRAUMA

The greatest dangers firefighters face are often invisible. MnFIRE's no-cost health and wellness resources are protecting firefighters across the state.



Sheriff's office warns of new twist on old phone scam

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Several people in Britt, Ely, and Hibbing have been swindled out



of large sums of money in recent days by people using a familiar phone scam with a new and unsettling twist.

The scam, which has been around for years, typically involves a caller claiming a relative – usually a grandson - is in jail and urgently needs bail money. However, rather than asking the target of the scam to wire the funds, scammers are sending someone directly to their homes to collect the money.

The St. Louis County Sheriff's Office reported that in the most recent incident in Hibbing, the suspect was seen driving a white Chevrolet compact or small SUV,

likely five to six years old, with black license plates. The man is described as Black, in his early 20s, around 5'10" or 5'11", with short black hair, a slim face, and weighing about 130 pounds.

"These scams prey on people's emotions and generosity," the sheriff's office said in a statement. "This is not how bail works, and no legitimate agency will ever send someone to pick up money at your home."

Authorities urge residents to be cautious and to report any suspicious calls or unexpected visitors immediately by calling 911.

If you receive one of these calls, hang up. If someone shows up at your door asking for money, do not open the door-try to get a description of the person and their vehicle from a safe distance and call law enforcement. Residents are also encouraged to stay vigilant, look out for their neighbors, and spread the word, especially to older family members who may be more likely to fall victim to this scheme.

If you have any information about the suspect or vehicle involved in these incidents, contact law enforcement immediately.



The Ely City Council story in the Feb. 7 should have read "The amendments



206 1st St SW, Cook, MN

to approve changes of land use permit and platting fees by resolution instead of the lengthier readings-and-public hearing process." The word "fees" was accidentally omitted. The only thing being amended in these two ordinances is having the fee set by resolution. This allows for the fees to be adjusted as necessary by resolution, typically annually, rather than having to amend ordinances in the future. The changes have nothing to do with how the process for changes to land use or platting is completed. The Timberjay regrets the error.



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Here

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SUPPORT GROUPS

AA OPEN GROUP MEETINGS- in person meetings, Wednesdays & Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. 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

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

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

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP-Are you troubled by some-one's drinking? Al-Anon Family Group is a community-based mutual support program for the friends and famdential and open to anyone affected by someone else's drinking. Hope Lutheran Church in Embarrass hosts

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.

an Al-Anon group on Monday evenings at 6 p.m. 218-984-

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 alco-

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 (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).

A L C O H O L I C S 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: 22 mins.



- WORD LADDER -CHILL, CHILE, WHILE,

WHITE, WRITE, WROTE

Word Spiral Answer

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TYKES IN THE

SADDLE

82 Keaton and

Sawver

in law

83 Not yet final,

84 Folk stories

86 Gets on it

87 Investigate

the fit of

93 One of the

Muses

95 1984 comedy

Martin and

Lily Tomlin

with a quick

99 React to

breath

100 Inflict upon

Spinks

109 Apollo's

110 Variety

94-Across

instrument

105 Tally up

107 Boxer

108 See

101 Meal division

starring Steve

88 Checking

85 Bank offering

right away

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

4 Blasting stuff

5 Kept in check

6 1950s Ford

7 "I smell —!"

8 Yanks

9 — -cone

10 Astrological

diagrams

11 Writer Sarah

Jewett

12 Scan or skim

13 Aries animal

14 Ukraine port

about it!"

15 "Tell me

rivalry

situation

(cosmetics

ingredient)

tortilla chips

Korbut

39 Makes the

decision

40 Sheriff Andy

41 PC shortcut

44 Consumer

Ralph

49 Signaled,

51 Pre-euro

54 Bank of

55 Power

advocate

as an actor

Italian money

China Tower

architect

connectors

56 One of the

Muses

61 He played

62 Recoiled

in fear

63 Blackboard

clearers

66 Baltic Sea

feeder

67 Tile designs

Santa in "Elf"

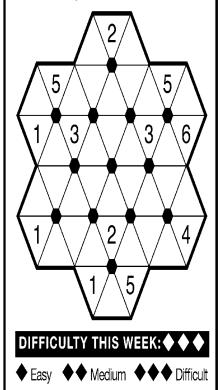
code

42 Barter

Taylor's boy

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.



Super Crossword **ACROSS** 38 Lot in life

94 With 108-3 Protein unit 45 Joust

Down, "Piece

of cake!"

96 Memorable

periods

98 End of the

cheese bits

102 Hit the slopes

to coffees

104 Part of LAPD

105 Perp catcher

without

than- -

110 Holier-

116 Riddle's

122 Vacant

answer

103 Alternatives

riddle

101 Cottage

97 Squint

verbally 46 Words before

Allison

50 In a very

uncordial way

52 City in Iowa

57 Not docile

58 Serpentine

in poetry

60 Gabrielle of

volleyball

64 Vietnamese

New Year

65 Grad's gala

70 Indian roval

(Cannes

73 Wear down

DeLuise

award)

75 Actor

77 Space

79 Big city in

72 Caméra -

68 Flop

fish

59 Above,

53 Riddle, part 3

48 Loft

products 10 Legend-"dream" or ary masked "be different" swordsman 47 Jazz pianist

15 "Getting out of it is not possible for me"

1 Milk-Bone

20 Stat for a baseball pitcher 21 Mountain

nymph of Greek myth 22 Can't get out of it

23 Start of a riddle

25 Santa's little helpers

26 "Delicious!" 27 Insect

snares 28 Told fibs 29 Attempts to

hit, as a fly 31 Hair fixative

32 Ryder Cup org.

33 Manipulator **34** Prefix with

35 Felt concern

38 Riddle, part 2 **43** Supreme

Norse deity 44 California

valley

92

98

102

106

115

120

123

Ontario angle 81 Riddle, part 4 125 Analyzed to **86** Utah winter vacation spot 89 From Tehran

91 Concerning vineyard

or Tabriz 90 Ladle, e.g.

92 Iris coverer

93

103

107

94

116 117

121

124

99

detect the presence of

DOWN 1 Like a wet lawn at dawn

2 Waikiki locale

106 Like fishes 16 Ale grain appendages 17 Generalized 108 Casino fixture 18 Zinc — 112 Rock's Reed 115 Make irate 19 Brand of **120** Crouch down 24 Gymnast **121** Fill with panic 30 Competitor of

McDonald's elected positions and Burger 123 1,000-kilo King metric unit 124 Conical tent

31 Big Swiss city 32 Extol

33 Toward a stream's

35 Calculate **36** Ornament

hanger, e.g.

37 Italian rice

dish

source

74 Clog-clearing

brand **76** Year division **78** Writing assignments

80 Cause to

stumble

69 Blocks up tools 71 — Hopkins University

112 Bread unit 113 Film director Preminger

111 Gardening

114 Khrushchev's fed.

117 Corrida cheer 118 Decay

119 Actor Danson

King

97

119

112 113 114

101

105

110 111

18 11 12 20 21 22 23 25 24 26 27 28 29 30 33 34 41 36 37 38 40 35 42 43 44 46 47 48 52 50 53 56 54 55 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 72 73 79 78 76 182 84 85 83 88 90 87 89 91

95

104

108 | 109

96

122

125

100

CryptoQuote

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is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, \boldsymbol{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.

AT TAG OKA XT LQ KHTAG, AT BKQQGI CTF VIGKQ QCG

> BKOCLAGW KIG. KBM STGCHGI

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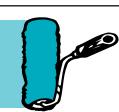
Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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



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ing season to assist with any equipment

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For more information call 218-300-7842 or To apply visit: https://mn.gov/careers/ Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 7 & 14, 2025

www.stlouiscountymn.gov

or call 218-726-2422

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each week timberjay.com

www.mnpublicnotice.com/

WORD LADDERS

Can you go from CHILL to WROTE in 6 words?

Change one letter for each rung in the ladder.

CHILL

WROTE

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PUBLIC NOTICE

GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP ABSENTEE BALLOT VOTING

The Greenwood Township annual election of officers will be Tuesday, March 11, 2025.

Absentee voting is available February 7 thru March 10

business hours, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 9 am - 1 pm

Return a completed and signed application to:

Attach to an email to: clerk@greenwoodtownshipmn.com

Debby Spicer-Clerk 218-753-2231

Published in the Timberjay, Jan. 24, Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28 & March 7, 2025

Applications are available at the Greenwood Town Hall office during

or on our website: www.greenwoodtownshipmn.com

Greenwood Township, 3000 County Rd. 77, Tower MN 55790

Voting absentee may be done in person at the office during regular business hours and on Saturday March 8, 2025, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm and Monday, March 10, 2025, from 1pm to 5pm.

(Seasonal) \$16.89 - \$17.62 Hourly **BEARVILLE TOWNSHIP** Apply Today! **BOARD OF AUDIT**

The Bearville Town Board of Audit will be held on Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 6:30 pm at the Bearville Town Hall. This meeting will consist of auditing the books for the year ending December 31, 2024 and preparing proposed levies to submit to the Annual Town Meeting.

All meetings are open to the public.

Kathy Cressy, Bearville Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 14, 2025

REQUEST FOR SEALED BIDS

Sealed bids are invited for the building of one cabin at eterans on the Lake Resort, 161 Fernberg Rd, Ely, Mn 55731. Veterans on the Lake Resort is a 501(c) (3) non-profit. The cabin is generally described as 4,163 sq.ft. building with wheelchair ramps attached to the building. The cabin needs to be turnkey com-pleted inclusive with all utilities hooked up by May 1 2026. Construction on site can begin September 15, 2025. Blueprints can be emailed upon request. Please contact Andy Berkenpas at 218-365-6900 or email vetlakeoffice@gmail.com. Sealed bids will be received at Veterans on the Lake Resort at 161 Fernberg, Ely, Mn 55731 until 11:00 a.m., February 20, 2025. The bids will be opened publicly and read aloud at 11:30

Notice Special Meeting: BOARD OF AUDIT

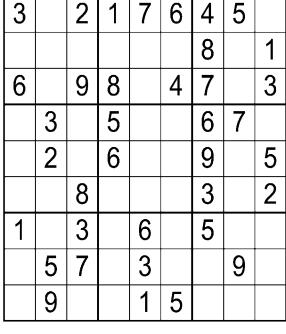
The Board of Supervisors of Breitung Township will hold the annual Board of Audit on Thursday, February 20, 2025 at the Breitung Community Center, 33 First Avenue, Soudan, MN, following the regular board meeting.

Annual Meeting and review of Clerk and

Amber Zak, Township Clerk

Read us online at timberjay.com

Weekly **SUDOKU**



that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆

♦ Moderate ♦ ♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Super Crossword –

Answers

No one can do it alone no matter how great the machines are

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Water, in
- Mexico
- Sprite Pedestal
- 12 Like holiday decorations
- Ogled
- 15 D.C. veteran
- Ms. Moore 17 Pentagon gp.
- 18 Mild cheese
- 20 Singer Mann
- 23 Las Vegas"
- 24 Not that
- 25 Verbal attack
- 28 Yr. parts 29 Some latte
- sizes
- 30 Cut the lawn 32 Italian corn-
- meal recipe
- 34 Race finish 35 Rapscallions
- 36 Word list, for short
- Goldberg on "The View"
- 40 Lingus

- 42 Refines
- Duel tool

41 Honker

- 48 Investigates
- 49 Holler
- "Mayday!"
- 51 Taxpayer IDs

DOWN

- 1 Venomous viper
- Earth (Pref.)
- "Friendly
- skies" co.
- Stage comments
- Oklahoma city
- Fond du -Fleet of ships
- Pandemon-
- ium 9 Pro votes
- 10 Big rig
- Tend texts Oklahoma tribe 44 13
- Currier's partner
- 20 \$ dispenser 21 Denny's rival
- - 39 Hurler
 - Tic-tac-toe
 - abbr.

 - 46 Hot wok sound

12 13 14 15 16 17 18 26 32 33 34 36 38 39 40 41 42 43 45 47 48

28 37

49 50

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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way

solution

CryptoQuote

Amv Poehler

- 22 Japanese soup 23 Battery measures
- 25 Primitive flutes 26 Apple desktop
- 27 Club in a Manilow song
- 29 Office part-tim-31 Charlotte's
- creation Toy train maker 34 Sculpted
- trunks Bridal cover Curds' partner 37
- 38 Great expectation
- Hershiser 40 Swiss peaks
- loser Storefront sign

Poetic dusk

8 10

31 46

Fill in the missing letters to reveal the ©2025 King Features Syndicate

nine-letter word that starts at one of the four corners and moves clockwise around the perimeter before ending in the center.

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 7 & 14, 2025

BREITUNG TOWNSHIP St. Louis County, MN

Budget and levy recommendations for the Treasurer books will be discussed.

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 14, 2025