

Inside: Embarrass volunteers... See /2 Life Saver Award... See /11 Winter sports... See /1B Feeling hen-pecked... See /4B



THE BUSINESS OF MEDIA

WELY sold again to another Wisconsin firm

Madison-based Civic Media inks deal for \$70,000, has Ely station back up on the air, with new programming to come



by CATIE CLARK Ely Editor

ELY-WELY Radio is once again changing hands, less than two years after Zoe Communications of Shell Lake, Wis. bought the radio station but never returned it to the air. Now, the company has sold the radio station to Civic Media Inc. of

Madison, Wis.

The new owner gave the Ely area a pleasant surprise when WELY-FM, located at 94.5, went back on the air this week. Local radio personality "Trader Craig" Loughery shared the news on Tuesday evening on the "What's Up,Ely"Facebook page. "The new owner brought in a crack engineering staff with the right 'help' that is up to the task."

WELY was broadcasting a mix of music programming on Wednesday morning.

Selling WELY

Civic signed a purchase agreement for the station back on Jan. 2, and Zoe applied to the Federal Communications Commission this

past week to transfer WELY's broadcast license. The sale represents an unadjusted loss for Zoe, which bought the station from the Bois Forte Band on Dec. 23, 2022, for \$130,000. According to the purchase agreement, Civic is paying \$70,000 for the station.

See...WELY pg. 9

COUNTY SCHOOLS

Parents weigh in on staff reductions

by JODI SUMMIT Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- Unhappy parents showed up in force at the ISD 2142 school board meeting held here on Tuesday, to weigh in on concerns about cuts to teaching staff and increasing class sizes at the North Woods school. Members of the American Indian Parent Advisory Committee also attended, to complain once again that the district is not in compliance with Minnesota statutes addressing needs of he district's more than 330



More details emerge in Maus firing

GREENWOOD

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

GREENWOOD- Now-former Greenwood Fire Chief Jeff Maus has been terminated as a township firefighter and emergency medical responder after an investigation into a laundry list of allegations of questionable conduct leveled against Maus last October by Tower EMT Steve Freshour. The Greenwood Town Board, on a 3-2 vote, made that call at a special meeting held Feb. 18.

Attorney PamelaWhitmore, who was hired by the town board last fall to investigate Freshour's complaint, issued her 41-page report plus lengthy



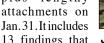
American Indian students.

As reported in the Feb. 21 Timberjay, North Woods parents are upset with the district's plan to cut five teaching positions at the school, half of the total teacher cuts planned in the district next year in order to address a projected \$1.5 million budget shortfall.

The board listened but did not respond to the four parents and grandparents who spoke during public comment.

Suzie Holter told the board about her deep concern for the future of North Woods students and the potential decline in the quality of education at the

See...SCHOOLS pg. 10



Jeff Maus 13 findings that Whitmore said she

could substantiate along with six that she determined were unsubstantiated or false. Those findings were based on interviews with 13 witnesses, including Maus, as well as reviews of recorded radio traffic from some of the incidents in question. A few potential witnesses declined to speak to Whitmore.

According to Maus, who obtained information from the city of Tower after a data request, Freshour, at the request of Greenwood Chair Lois Roskoski, supplied the witness list to Whitmore although Maus was never asked for witness suggestions himself.

In dismissing Maus, the town board

See FIRING..pg. 9

THE LEGISLATURE

DFLer Hauschild facing pushback from environmental groups

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

REGIONAL -Proponents of expanded protections for the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness from the effects of sulfide-based mining are

taking issue with the region's only remaining DFL lawmaker. Sen. Grant Hauschild, of Hermantown.

Hauschild is facing growing criticism from a series of actions over the past few months, starting with his decision to co-sign a letter to

then President-elect Donald Trump in the wake of the 2024 election urging him to reverse the 20-year mineral withdrawal put into effect by the Biden administration just over two years ago.

The administration also terminated mineral leases then under the control of Antofagasta subsidiary Twin Metals, arguing that the leases had been restored illegally by the first Trump administration.

But in a Nov. 14, 2024, letter to Trump, addressed to the White House then still in control of the Biden

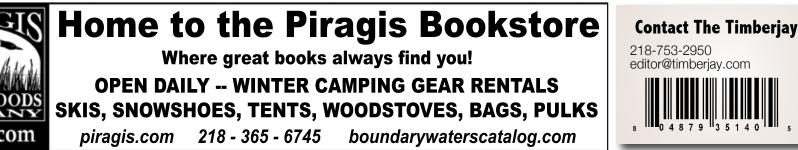
administration, Hauschild and Republican Rep. Roger Skraba, of Ely, urged Trump to rescind the withdrawal, seen as a major victory for environmentalists opposed to Twin Metals' proposed copper-nickel mine near Ely.

'We ask that your admin-

istration withdraw this order to allow relevant state and federal regulators the opportunity to consider critical mineral projects in our Districts," wrote Hauschild and Skraba. "This withdrawal has had a stifling

See...PUSHBACK pg. 9





EMBARRASS

Community notices



Babbitt Figure Skating Club announces annual skating show: "Rock the Ice" on Feb. 28 and March 1

BABBITT- The Babbitt Figure Skating Club is excited to announce its highly anticipated annual skating show, "Rock the Ice." Performances will be held on Friday, Feb. 28 at 6 p.m. and Saturday, March 1 at 1 p.m. at the Ron Castellano Arena in Babbitt. This family-friendly event will feature a dazzling array of performances from local skaters of all ages, skill levels, and backgrounds, showcasing their talents in a special celebration of rock music throughout the years. The show will include a variety of exciting routines, from beginner to advanced levels, set to a wide assortment of rock songs and will highlight the artistry, athleticism, and dedication of the club's skaters. Audiences can look forward to solo routines from the advanced level skaters and stunning group skates. "Rock the Ice" promises to entertain viewers of all ages. Bring your friends and family for an evening of entertainment, rock-themed fun, and the incredible talent of the Babbitt Figure Skating Club.

General admission tickets are \$7, children 4-17 are \$5, and children under 3 are free.

In addition to the skating performances, there will be Chance Tickets available for purchase at the door for \$1. Winnings are \$300 for first place, \$200 for second place, and \$100 for third place. Winners will be drawn during Saturday's performance and proceeds will go to support the Babbitt Figure Skating Club's program.

The Babbitt Figure Skating Club is dedicated to promoting figure skating for all ages and skill levels in the Babbitt area. With a focus on creating a supportive and fun environment, the club provides opportunities for both recreational and competitive skaters to develop their skills and share their love for the sport.

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!

P.E.O. Chapter ER meeting on Saturday, March 8 in Cook

COOK- The next meeting of P.E.O. Chapter ER will be held on Saturday, March 8 at 10:30 a.m. in the St. Mary's Catholic Church community room. St. Mary's is located at 124 Fifth St. SE in Cook. All P.E.O. members in the area are welcome to attend.

Embarrass Region Fair Board working to grow community

by JODI SUMMIT Tower-Soudan Editor

EMBARRASS- Managing a three-day indoor and outdoor event that draws thousands of visitors, is a logistical miracle for any small rural community, and for the Embarrass Region Fair, it is one that relies on scores of volunteers. About 30 "key volunteers," who oversee hundreds more, are able to make it all happen, but it takes dedication and planning and that starts many months before the big event.

At the fair association's annual meeting on Feb. 13, board members took turns reviewing past accomplishments, progress towards existing goals, and goals for the future.

Interim board chair Sarah Wallert Ramponi noted it was a "very busy year with a lot of ups and downs."

Board member Tana Johnson characterized the past year as a "whirlwind," but noted the group had gotten a lot accomplished.

"But with that said," she noted, "we are always looking for more community involvement."

Johnson said the board's goal is to make Embarrass the best place it can be, and to do that, they need to get everyone involved.

The board is planning to change its name to the Embarrass Region Community Association, to better describe the work they are doing.

"We are doing many more things than just the fair," Wallert Ramponi said. "But the fair will always be the most important thing we do."

The name change will not take effect right away, since the organization will need to update the nonprofit's paperwork and filings, which will take some time.

"Donations this year will still go to the Embarrass Region Fair Association," they said.

The association's board has been working to create goals, focus on these goals, and then track their progress and accomplishments, said Johnson.

"And if you wish to see some other goals, bring them to the board," she said. "We need as many brains as



Above: Board members (back row from left): Tracey Muhvich, treasurer Preston Trip, Tana Johnson, William Ramponi. Front: secretary Laura Stella, and interim chair Sarah Wahlert-Ramponi. Not pictured is Zane Beaton. Below: Kids take turns petting goats at the fair last summer.



board members attended the annual meeting, with several giving input and problem-solving ideas for both the fair and horse arena matters.

Besides planning and managing the fair, the board owns and oversees Timber Hall, which was renamed a few years ago as the Timber Hall Event Center. The board has started sponsoring more events, such as fundraiser pancake breakfasts, as well as activities for area children. The board's goal is to host at least one or two events each month, besides the fair.

The association served over 1,800 pancake breakfasts last year and collected 97 units of blood during blood drives held on pancake breakfast mornings.

The board's goal is also to create a more effective governing organization, creating up-to-date bylaws, defining board member job descriptions, and creating a manual for new board members.

Financially, the fair had

profit of about \$30,000, and other board events and fundraisers raised about \$14,000. This money can now be used for maintenance and improvements at Timber Hall.

Other plans underway include bringing wifi access to Timber Hall, setting up a credit card and online payment system for events like the pancake breakfasts, and creating a gambling coordinator position to oversee fundraising raffles.

Projects planned for 2025 include some major renovations funded in part by a state bonding bill grant, upgrading the outdoor electrical outlets for food vendors to 50 amps, and building a Gaga Ball court. The board is also planning to enlarge the demolition derby area and bleachers, create a dedicated area for music performances including a stage and dance floor, and make improvements to the horse arena and barn areas as well as the mud run arena.

The association received grants from the IRRR Culture & Tourism

Power, Blandin Foundation and St. Louis County Fair Board in 2024. Grant dollars were used alongside locally raised funds for purchasing new livestock panels for the horse arena, a new public address system, solar lighting funding children's activities. installing Starlink Internet and many other smaller projects both inside and outside the Timber Hall building The \$100,000 Blandin grant will be used as matching funds for the state bonding bill monies. These monies cannot be spent until the association raises all the funds needed for the renovations planned. The board hopes tc get the preliminary plans for these improvements completed this year.

The association's 2024 budget had \$117,106 in income and \$103,777 in expenses. The 2025 budget had similar spending and income projections.

New volunteers are also needed this year to help organize the mud run, coordinate security needs during the fair, help with set up and break down for the team penning events the weekend before the fair, help with marketing, and creating a newsletter.

Anyone looking for more information or interested in volunteering, can email info@embarrassrfa org or visit their website at www.embarrassrfa.org. The board meets monthly at Timber Hall.

we can get." About 14 non- a successful year, netting a program, Lake Country

Finnish Americans and Friends to celebrate National Sauna Week in Hibbing

HIBBING- To celebrate National Sauna Week, Betsey Norgard of Finlandia Foundation will share information on Finland's best-known activity at the meeting of Finnish Americans and Friends on Tuesday, March 4 at 2 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, 4010 Ninth Ave. W in Hibbing. Everyone is invited to this program that is bound to elicit personal stories of saunas. A social time with coffee an' is part of the meeting.

LCP announces candidates for 2025 director elections

REGIONAL- The slate of candidates is set for Lake Country Power's director elections this spring. Director ballots for Districts 2, 4 and 8 will be mailed to co-op members between April 5 and April 9.

Members running as candidates for the LCP Board this year include: * *Denotes Incumbent*

- District 2: Michael Forsman, Ely*
- District 4: Jeff Sheldon, Cohasset*
- District 8: Brian Napstad, McGregor*

Lake Country Power will use a hybrid election process for members, offering the opportunity to vote online or by mail. Voting instructions will be included with the mailed ballots. Districts 2, 4 and 8 will fill three-year terms.

The LCP annual meeting will be held on Thursday, April 24 at the Reif Center in Grand Rapids, located at 720 NW Conifer Drive. Registration and dinner will begin at 5 p.m. The business meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. Election results will be announced during the business meeting along with co-op business updates from Lake Country Power and Great River Energy. For more information, visit www.lakecountrypower.coop/annual-meeting.

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.

GET READY FOR SPRING

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.



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BREITUNG

Township looking at new fire gear, squad car, fire truck

by JODI SUMMIT Tower-Soudan Editor

Fire department to celebrate 75th anniversary with spaghetti feed in April

SOUDAN- Breitung Township is facing some major expenditures in the near future as township officials seek to keep their emergency services departments up to date. Officials from both the fire and police departments offered some eve-popping numbers during the town board's Feb. 20 meeting, particularly for a new fire department water tender, along with new turnout gear and a new squad for the police.

The town board took no immediate action on the purchase of 11 new sets of turnout gear for firefighters. Given their cost, of about \$7,000 per set, the board wanted to determine whether they'll need to put the order out on bid since the cost will likely exceed the \$50,000 threshold for public bidding.

Under OSHA regulations, the department needs to replace turnout gear, which is designed to protect firefighters from the heat and smoke they encounter, every ten years. Fire Chief Tim Officer told the board that two attempts to obtain grant funding through FEMA had been unsuccessful. He said the department has previously upgraded four sets of gear and added that members report the new gear is more comfortable to wear than the older sets.

Officer also told the board they'll need to replace the fire department's 27-year-old water tender within the next few years. The department has been gathering quotes on a new rig, and initial prices have ranged from \$370,000-\$465,000.

"We want to be able to purchase this truck locally," said Fire Chief Tim Officer. "This makes it easier to service the vehicle.'

The department's capital replacement plan has been setting aside money for this purchase, but was hoping to wait until 2030, when they would have set aside \$300,000.

"We can't find a used one that is less than 20 years old," said fire department member and supervisor Matt Tuchel. "And they aren't cheap.

Officer said used trucks the same model as theirs are going for \$200,000, which means the township might be able to count on a high trade-in amount for the old truck.

The department isn't looking to replace the tender this year, but



RAMS Executive Director Paul Peltier spoke to the Breitung Town Board at their Feb. 20 meeting. photo by J. Summit

wanted the board to know they are going to need to look at a new truck in the coming years.

Another potentially large expense for the department will be radio replacement. The department told the board that new rules are going into effect that will require them to replace their existing 800-megahertz radios.

The board also heard from Police Chief Dan Reing, who brought quotes to the board for replacing the township's squad vehicle. Both were priced from statewide bidding, so the township doesn't have to call for bids. One is for a 2025 Ford F-150 4x4 Crew Cab Police Responder, priced at \$48,922 plus license and fees. The other was for a 2025 Ford Police Interceptor Utility 4 door AWD at \$44,259 plus license and fees. The Interceptor is similar to the model the department is driving now. Neither bid price includes the installation of some required police equipment and decal work.

"The truck would have more storage space," said Reing, "and more room in the rear seat. Reing noted the truck would not be as fast

as the Interceptor but would have better traction. Reing noted they had gotten the Interceptor stuck a few times.

The board asked Reing to get quotes on the total cost for each vehicle, including equipment installation, and will review the quotes next month.

In related news, the fire department is celebrating its 75th anniversary and will celebrate the milestone with a community spaghetti feed at the town hall. The department was formed in 1950, and members want to thank the community and the township for their support.

RAMS director

Paul Peltier, executive director of the Range Association of Municipalities and Schools, or RAMS, spoke to the board about the work the organization does in the area, as well as asking the township to become a member, which the board voted to support.

"The biggest resource we have up here is our people," said Peltier. RAMS establishes legislative

REAL ESTATE

priorities and is funded by the mining production tax and membership dues. They do not have any taxing authority.

Peltier said current issues they are working on with the Legislature include township aid, local governmental aids, land use issues, Boundary Waters issues, and school trust lands.

He said they are currently working on legislation to address the issue of the seasonal/recreational taxpayers, who do not pay special levies that school districts have adopted, by using tax revenue from the Twin Cities. RAMS has also been working on funding for rural ambulance services, as well as broadband.

RAMS currently has 27 cities, 27 townships, and 15 school districts as members, all within the Iron Range Resources service area. Greenwood Township also voted at their last meeting to become a member.

Sewer ordinance

The board presented the final version of the updated sewer ordinance, which will now be reviewed with residents at the annual meeting on March 11 before final approval by the board. The ordinance is based on Tower's new sewer ordinance with a few modifications, they said. The ordinance does impose penalties for property owners who fail to fix a leaking or damaged lateral line, or those emptying a sump into the sewer line. Fines will be monthly and imposed if violations are not corrected within 12 months. The ordinance also clarifies how and when private lateral lines are inspected, when a home is to be sold, or when road construction is underway in the area.

The township is still having issues with inflow and infiltration into the wastewater system, which strains the capacity of the system as well as raises costs because the wastewater treatment system is having to treat rainwater.

FEMA

Clerk Amber Zak told the board that most of the township's FEMA reimbursement claims have been submitted, and they are anticipating receiving \$150,000 in claims, though the timeline is still uncertain. She is also working with FEMA staff, who said they might

be able to get additional reimbursement for about \$20,000 of work done on Church St. culverts, which FEMA had initially said they could not cover. There are still a few smaller claims to be submitted for work at McKinley Park, on Stuntz Bay Rd., and on the bike trail.

Supervisor Matt Tuchel said it was looking like the township will receive reimbursement for a good portion of the mitigation work done on Junction Rd., since that road was impassible after the June 2024 flooding event.

Other business

In other business, the board:

► Heard from maintenance supervisor Tom Gorsma that they saw their first water line freeze up, and that residents should check the temperature of water from their taps and start running water (pencil-width) if the temperature is near freezing. He said the water temperature at the town hall is still registering at 44F, but a few blocks away, it is close to freezing.

➤ Heard that work at the new water filtration plant is still ongoing, and the new plant should come online by late fall.

► Heard that they will be conducting an archeological survey at the site of the proposed expansion site for the Rapid Infiltration Basin System, which is expected to be completed in 2026. The site has never been developed, so the survey is required.

▶ Heard that MnDOT will be putting in a bypass lane on the east side of the new Thompson Rd. alignment. The west side already had a turn lane planned. This will add 800 ft. of bituminous to the project plans, engineer John Jamnick said, increasing the project cost. The township will see if they can apply for additional state road funding to cover the cost.

➤ Will look at getting the public computer and printer at the town hall repaired and updated.

➤ Will try to sell the old post office faceplates on a government auction site. The township raised \$3,200 selling them at \$25 each for a fundraiser for the community building renovations but have about 120 left.



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OPINION

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

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial **Firing federal workers**

DOGE actions and tactics reflect the inherent cruelty in the Trump administration

Even for an administration that revels in cruelty, it is striking to see the letter sent by Elon Musk's twenty-something minions at the so-called Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE, to the thousands of federal workers they've tossed into the unemployment line in recent weeks.

Here in the North Country, those fired workers include staff in the U.S. Forest Service offices in places like Cook and Ely, who received letters that included the following language: "The Agency finds that you are not fit for continued employment because your ability, knowledge and skills do not fit the current needs, and your performance has not been adequate to justify further employment with the Agency."

There is much that could be said about the individuals who crafted these lines, individuals who undoubtedly found fulfillment in belittling others. Musk's acolytes, who sent these letters to thousands of government workers, had never met any of the people they were discharging and had little or no idea what their jobs even entailed. They had never spoken to their supervisors nor asked to see job descriptions or performance reviews. The targets of these letters were simply names on a spreadsheet, whose only failing was being listed as a probationary employee.

The letter any decent human being would send in such circumstances would explain that their position was being discontinued for budgetary reasons and that their service to the government was appreciated. Instead, by falsely claiming these mass firings are performance-related, they are denying these federal workers - many of whom are veterans - unemployment compensation and harming their future job prospects.

Yet the young DOGE attack dogs have been let loose precisely to be cruel, which appears to be the only skill fitting the govcomical, and tragic all at the same time — in other words, a perfect metaphor for the Trump administration.

We recognize that many Trump supporters are relishing the cruelty being inflicted on federal workers, out of some misplaced sense that they are getting even with the imagined "Deep State." In fact, the people being laid off are mostly low-level, the folks who inspected their food at the processing plant, processed funding applications at the Small Business Administration, or swept the halls at VA hospitals. In other words, working-class folks just trying to make ends meet, who Musk and his henchmen have made out to be traitors deserving of nothing but disdain. It's sociopathic.

Musk routinely touts the money he's supposedly saving the taxpayers from the payroll cuts he's making. The savings, relatively speaking, are miniscule, if they exist at all.

Contrary to popular belief, most federal jobs don't pay much. A typical position as a GS-5 starts at about \$34,000 a year and tops out at \$44,000. Even a mid-level position, at a GS-9, starts at around \$51,000 and tops out at just under \$67,000. And since Musk is targeting probationary workers, the typical pay scales will be closer to the bottom of these ranges than the top. While federal workers receive benefits in addition to wages, those benefits are not what they used to be.

If Musk were to lay off a quarter of the roughly 1.87 million federal workers, it would save about \$35 billion annually, assuming you're robbing them of their unemployment benefits as well. While \$35 billion is a big number for most of us, it amounts to just 0.5 percent of the federal budget and is a drop in the bucket if the Republicans are hoping to actually pay the \$450 billion annual price tag of their planned extension and expansion of the Trump tax cuts for corporations and the wealthy.

Even worse, the government



Poor vetting embarrassed the President

Regent Elon Musk must be livid and the President is probably turning purple as shoddy vetting by the president's legal team and the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) led to embarrassment of the President. No, we are not talking about DOGE staff Marko Elez, who this past September posted on social media "Normalize Indian Hate," and last July posted "Just for the record, I was racist before it was cool." Nor do I mean Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth, accused of spousal abuse, being drunk on the job and financial mismanagement of veteran's associations. I mean Danielle Sassoon, a Republican serving as interim U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York who resigned after refusing Trump's Department of Justice Interim Deputy Director Emil Bove's order to drop charges of political corruption against the sitting mayor of New York City for purely political, not evidentiary, or legal reasons. How did the OPM vetting miss that Sassoon possessed two qualities absolutely anathema to Trump and loathed by Musk. Integrity and

the EMPOWER board, as well as a charter member of the board for The Sage Foundation (Student's Achieving Goals Equally), a nonprofit organization. I facilitated the Ely Racial Justice Group for two years. I've been in three recent productions at NLAA, "Fiddler on the Roof," "Into the Woods," and "Elf, The Musical." I co-founded a business in 2013 which now has three offices (Roseville, Burnsville, and Duluth) with 40 clinicians. My private practice is Alliance Family Counseling LLC. I am a certified emotionally focused therapist and supervisor.

Letters from Readers

I am for: the environment, wilderness, water (hey! Excuse me. I'm drinking that!), diversity, electric vehicles (more chargers available in the Iron Range), natural burial, standing with the oppressed, dogs, (cats are ok :-), coops and coops (Grow some eggs, would ya?), sustainability, fair prices, and positivity.

I am against: poisoning Birch Lake (to say the least), and the US/THEM mentality.

Let's work together on our differences and move forward as friends.

Those interested in asking questions directly may email me at VoteForCarolyn@gmail.com Let me know what is important to

four years ago. We have three awesome children and four wonderful grandchildren. I am a civil engineer, licensed building contractor, licensed realtor and small business owner.

I have already served the public for almost 16 years. First as mayor of Biwabik and city councilor for almost ten years and later as an employee of the United States Senate for almost six years.

So why am I running you ask? To provide you with someone who is honest, fair and wants the best for my new community of Greenwood Township. It's time to work together. I am willing to learn and to listen to you. We may disagree from time to time, but you will ALWAYS know where I stand, and I am always willing to listen to you.

And I have always said to people, "I have had to learn to compromise, because if I never compromised, I wouldn't still be married today."

I also support a fully functional fire and EMS department and I am supporting Option B on the ballot this year because this would allow the board to hire the most qualified clerk and treasurer.

I invite you to come meet me and ask questions at Tavern in the Bay on Saturday, March 1, from

ernment's current needs under the Trump administration.

Certainly, knowledge and ability are no longer criteria for government employment. Indeed, Musk's DOGE crew is so lacking in understanding of the functioning of the government that they have repeatedly fired large numbers of workers only to learn later that their jobs were so critical. such as protecting the safety of our nuclear weapons or fighting the spread of the bird flu, that they had to be asked to return. Imagine being told you're a worthless grifter taking advantage of the taxpayers one day only to learn you're desperately needed back in the office the following day. It's pathetic, likely won't save anything at all in the end. Since the government hires workers to do actual jobs, many of those jobs will simply be outsourced to the private sector, for substantially more money. That's the usual outcome from outsourcing the public sector workforce.

But then the bloodletting really isn't about savings. It's about optics and letting Trump supporters thrill to the vision of low-level federal workers losing jobs that their families depend on. It's governing as a never-ending Trump rally, full of senseless and misdirected anger, fueled by a man at the top who draws power from the suffering of good people.

to

the

as

for

Bruce and Sharyn Schelske Burnsville

Write-in Carolyn Dehnbostel for Morse **Township Supervisor**

Hello good neighbors in the Township of Morse, I am Carolyn Dehnbostel. I live on White Iron Lake with my husband Keith and dogs Casey and Gigi. I'm running for the open seat as one of three supervisors for our town. Write-in vote on your mail-in ballot or vote in person on March 11 from 12 to 8 p.m. at the Morse Town Hall.

I am an elder, worship leader, choir member, and volunteer at the Presbyterian Church. I am on

COMMENTARY

Carolyn Dehnbostel Morse Township

I would appreciate your vote for town supervisor

I am writing to ask for your support to elect me as one of your Greenwood Township supervisors on Tuesday, March 11.

A little about myself...I was born and raised in Biwabik and grew up coming to our family cabin on Birch Point in 1964 before becoming a Lake Vermilion property owner myself in 1991. My wife and I built in 2001 and became full-time residents almost

p.m.

Thank you and I would appreciate your vote on Tuesday, March 11.

> Steve Bradach **Greenwood Township**

We welcome vour letters

The *Timberjay* encourages letters to the editor. You can submit letters by mail at PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790, or email letters to marshall@ timberjay.com. We ask that letters be limited to 300 words. Letters are subject to editing, primarily for length and clarity.

Embracing the call of MAGA...or what does that abbreviation really stand for

I can hear subscribers' jaws hitting the floor right now, shattering copious amounts of investments in dental care, at seeing such a headline from a Timberjay columnist, but please, read on before picking up the phone in disgust and canceling your subscription. It's just the newspaper version of clickbait.

I have by no means sold out to Darth Trump and Darth Musk and an evil empire that makes Star Wars look like Luke and Leia's Disneyland vacation. I abhor the administration's completely



slashing budget, time and again they've had to reverse today what maniacal things they did yesterday. Who in their right mind would look at a job title like "doctor Indian Health

Service" or "specialist for the National Nuclear Security Administration" and glibly fire someone just because they're on probation without considering what critical function that person

provides? The mad scramble to rehire those people, some within hours of being terminated, is clear evidence that DOGE and Trump don't care one whit for the citizens government is trying to serve. It's nothing but a misguided, cynical attempt to cut dollars to fund further income tax cuts for the rich and collect blood money to send to Americans as bribes/rebates to believe in the path to ruination.

And I'm sure as heck mad as hell that last Tuesday Trump assured us all that "Social Security won't be touched – it's going to be strengthened but won't be touched - Medicare, Medicaid, none of that stuff is

going to be touched" and in less than 24 hours he blasts out his full endorsement for a House Republican budget plan that would savagely slash Medicare, likely leaving at least thousands of low-income Americans without vital health care.

If Joe Biden had done even half of what Trump and Musk have done, Republicans would be screaming at the top of their lungs that it was evidence that Biden was a total mental incompetent. But as for Trump, the president who hasn't spoken a coherent unscripted paragraph in all his years in office, well, he's hailed as a brilliant businessman and the savior of democracy as House lackeys

scramble to put his likeness on Mt. Rushmore or rename Reagan National Airport after him.

My form of embracing the mantra of "Make America Great Again" isn't at all a nod to Trump, but rather embracing all of that which makes us a great nation that he seeks to destroy. So let's call Trump's MAGA for what it's really become, starting with "Make Amnesia Great Again," a clear nod to how Trump and Musk have blindly ignored their promises from the campaign trail. Notably, Musk declared that DOGE would be "fully transparent," yet he disdainfully denies the access afforded by the rest of government to its

plans, actions, and budget, and allows Trump to place a shield of "presidential immunity" around their work to keep it from the public. "Democracy Dies in Darkness,' declares the Washington Post, and there's nowhere darker in America right now than inside the Beltway. As for Trump? "When I win, I will immediately bring prices down, starting on Day One," he said. Walk past the egg cooler in the market and judge for yourself how that's going. Take another shopping trip after Trump imposes his tariffs.

Or how about "Macho Arrogance Governing Amer-

See MAGA...pg. 5

Town board sets

clerk or treasurer

the citizens of Greenwood

Township to vote in favor

of Option B on March 11.

The duties of township trea-

surer and town clerk are far

too important to be a per-

sonality contest. We always

need competent, dedicated

I strongly encourage

policy, not the

Letters from Readers

got that way? Believing that Canada have long enjoyed these people are going to somehow make life better for anyone else is like believing fairy tales.

There are two reasons for firing so many federal employees:

another huge tax cut for billionaires. They need to make it look like they can do that while "balancing the budget.'

The other reason is only to their own MAGA supporters - especially that private army of Proud Boys and insurrectionists they pardoned last month.

is the notion that we get the government we deserve.

Correcting the record

At the last Greenwood Township meeting, during public comment, supervisor candidate, Steven Bradach, introduced himself with his family and work history since many of us had never met him. He stated his public service, and I quote, "included six years in the U.S. Senate." This is self aggrandizement, since it led the public to believe he was a U.S. Senator. In actuality, he was a Northeast Regional Aide to Senator Mark Dayton and not based anywhere near Washington, D.C. as a senator. I'm not downplaying the value of his job but the purposeful misleading of voters.

Also, during public comment, Steve Bradach and Paul Thompson, with no evidence, falsely accused supervisor John Bassing of breaking into the clerk's locked drawers, which is false as supported by surveillance tapes of the clerk's area.

In reality, John Bassing was alerting the clerk of her error on all the Affidavit for Candidacy forms which is his job as a supervisor. Supervisor Bassing did not send the information to anyone but the clerk to alert the clerk of a problem.

Do you really want to vote for people that mislead about their history and make false accusations when proof exists against both? What happened to honesty and integrity?

this rare relationship with their lengthy 3000-mile open border. Canada is the second largest country geographically in the world, slightly larger than the U.S. We are each other's largest trading partners.

Canada's exports to the U.S. are crude oil, gasoline, cars, car parts, gold, rare minerals, medications, aircrafts and parts. Canada is the world's leader in the production of gold, nickel, and uranium. It has the world's second largest oil reserves. It imports agricultural products, machinery and equipment from the U.S..

Canada also supplies electricity directly to New York, Vermont, Minnesota, North Dakota, Michigan, and California. This market includes 1.5 million households and is generated primarily using hydroelectricity delivered by more than 31 cross border transmission lines.

Trump's threats have galvanized the Canadians to enlarge and increase their markets for their vast rare mineral resources. Moreover, they have set in motion plans for new infrastructure for developing transportation to meet larger foreign marketing needs. They are planning very large ports on their east and west coasts. Also, trains, pipelines, and highways going more east and west instead south.

Trump has opened the trade war's Pandora's Box this time. Other countries are also actively seeking new markets and establishing new trade routes. All this recent activity has been triggered by Trump's threats and actual imposition of new tariffs. Moreover, the U.S. dollar will no longer be the paramount trade currency.

Gerry Snyder Ely

Vote for Thompson and Option B

I had a letter all set to submit in support of candidates Paul Thompson, Steve Bradach and support of Option B, all of which I continue to support, however, I am compelled to respond to recent items published in the Feb. 21 edition of the Timberjay.

The article titled Board ires Jeff Maus, has the ba-

so I will just put it out there." Supervisor Skubic and I were against the termination of department leadership and the hiring of Maus. At the time, Maus had two outstanding claims against the township, neither of which have been settled to date. He also filed four prior claims which were all dismissed as invalid. These frivolous claims cost the taxpayers of Greenwood considerable dollars to defend and added to the overall ongoing insurance costs for the township.

The Timberjay article states that Maus has recruited more EMRs and firefighters. When asked in writing for a roster of department members and their certification levels, his response was that it is not the department policy to provide that information. How can that be? That question has remained unanswered for over a year and still is unknown. Is it because the department is lacking membership in both areas?

The article states Maus can refute most of the allegations against him. Really? How do you refute when there has been no MnDOT inspections on the trucks? How do you refute that the meds in the supply cabinet and on the trucks were expired and needed to be thrown out? The current board majority did everything correctly from acknowledging the allegations, hiring outside counsel to investigate and then terminating the chief. The township is better for it!

The other piece in the same edition is the letter from Mr. Bassing. Once again, Supervisor Bassing's ethics come into question. Yes, all information on the filing affidavit is public information. Township policy is to receive the information from the clerk, the official keeper of information. Supervisor Bassing did not receive this from the clerk, so how did he come into possession? Supervisors have no reason to access the clerk/treasurer office, so who provided this information to him? Why did

supervisor Bassing refuse to respond to the allegations when presented, but instead chose to laugh it off? Who is he covering for? This is not the first time supervisor Bassing's ethics have come to question! Claiming there is an open meeting violation and then sitting through it anyway or, also, falsely claiming an open meeting violation and walking out, taking supervisor Stoehr with him and convincing treasurer Maus (who had no reason) to leave as well.

It is time the township moves on from the petty personal agendas of recent supervisors. Supervisor Skubic has been a steady rock through the years. The election of chair Roskoski and supervisor Gilbert has brought common sense to the board majority. Candidate Bradach will add considerable governmental experience and common sense to the board. Candidate Thompson brings a vast area of both financial knowledge and leadership skills to the current dysfunctional treasurer's position.

With the passage of Option B, the board will be able to develop a job description, advertise and select a qualified candidate for the treasurer's position this year and end the popularity contest.

Greenwood Township taxpayers deserve this!

Please vote on March 11 and attend the Township annual meeting and vote Thompson, Bradach, and Option B.

> **Mike Ralston** Former board supervisor **Greenwood Township**





lished weekly on Fridays, 51 weeks per year, by The Timberjay Inc., PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Busi-

personnel in these positions who work in concert with the vision of the board and not in opposition to it. That has not always been the case. Voting in favor of Option B will prevent a rogue treasurer or town clerk from circumventing the will of the township board majority. The end result should be a more effective, less contentious admin-

Remember: It is the responsibility of the township board to set policies, not the treasurer or township clerk. **Steve Rodgers**

istration.

Greenwood Township

Preparing to deploy troops against Americans

Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth, on "Fox News Sunday," said firing of top military lawyers was about making sure "they don't exist to be roadblocks to anything that happens." Of course, because so much chaos and confusion exists in the Trump administration, this can, like almost everything Trump has said since becoming president, be interpreted in many ways.

However, based on the administration's actions todate, I am convinced the administration is already positioning the military leadership in preparation for use of the armed forces against American citizens when that becomes necessary in Musk's and Trump's judgment.

That may be tricky as members take an oath "I, , do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So, help me God." I have had many relatives in the military dating back to the Revolution that I am sure, given the current situation, would choose to defend the Constitution over the illegal orders of Trump and Musk. That certainly is the opinion of my father-inlaw who served in the army in the Philippines in World War II.

Time to re-examine our assumptions about each other

It's such an interesting (and confusing) time. The polarization of nearly every choice we make - from what grocery store we shop at to what vehicle we drive to what clothing we wear seems to have been building for years. Now, these choices feel loaded, with unspoken assumptions about what they imply. What concerns me most is when seemingly neutral words or actions that promote community, health, and positivity are framed as political statements.

Take the bumper sticker on my car that says "Peace." It's a simple word, an idea that should be universally embraced. And yet, I sometimes wonder if people see it and immediately make assumptions about my political beliefs. The only message my sticker is meant to convey is that I believe in peace - and peace, by its very nature, includes every single one of us.

This brings me to the recent Ely Echo editorial that criticized the city council's plan to post their mission and values statement in the newspaper twice a year, calling it "virtue signaling." I respectfully disagree. This act is not about posturing - it's about transparency, respect, and a sincere effort to build community and trust. A mission statement is a public reminder of what guides an organization's decisions. Sharing it is not performative; it's foundational.

It was only one month ago that the Braver Angels Alliance facilitated a community conversation about mining at the Ely Senior Center. There were, of course, differing views. But do you know where that conversation ended? In agreement. Agreement that Ely needs to prioritize housing. That getting kids outside is important. That we all want Ely to thrive.

Ely, I invite you to reflect on the ideas you hold about others in this community. Consider the assumptions you've made about someone based on the places they shop, the jacket they're wearing, or the bumper sticker on their car. When we stop buying into polarization, we start building community. And in that space of shared values and open dialogue, we find ourselves in the place we all cherish - Ely, Minnesota - our home.

One is to make way for

What scares me most

Dave Porter Minneapolis

they're going to re-open those positions and give them

Keith Steva Cook

Abby Dare Ely

Are we getting the government we deserve?

Billionaires don't get that way by being nice or looking out for other people. How do you think they

JoAnn Bassing **Greenwood Township**

Trump is threatening our access to Canadian resources

Trump's imperialistic and megalomaniacal threats to impose 25 percent tariffs on Canadian imports to the U.S. if Canada does not permit its annexation is disrupting our long-term relationship with our closest trading ally. The U.S. and sic factual information, however, it is presented in such a way to make Chief Maus as a victim.

Supervisor Drobac, with support from Supervisors Lofquist and Stoehr, destroyed the very successful Greenwood Fire Department and seated their compadre, Maus, into the leadership roll, and then terminated most of the remaining department under the guise of "voluntary quit." Additionally, the reason for the termination was, and I quote chair Drobac, "We don't need a reason ness/Editorial Office at 414 Main St., PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Call (218) 753-2950 to subscribe. E-mail address is editor@timberjay.com. Periodicals postage paid at Tower, Minnesota.

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falsehoods," one accounting calculated that he told over 30,000 lies in his first term, 21 lies PER DAY. This time around he appears hell bent on breaking that record, lying about everything from Ukraine to the Jan. 6 assault on the Capitol. He does it because it's been a successful control tactic for him, and he'll continue to lie to shape the narrative to drive whatever change he wants. How do you know when Trump is lying? When he's moving his mouth or posting to social media. And he's got Musk along for the ride with his clearly deceptive reporting about DOGE's claimed savings I'm quickly becoming

convinced that Trump has abandoned MAGA altogether and has secretly replaced it with RAFT: "Restructur-

ing America For Trump." What else are we to think about a man whose White House shares a picture of himself wearing a crown with the caption "Long Live the King," a man who muses openly about being president for life as a bill to eliminate term limits is introduced in the House? A white man who seeks to obliterate any mention of the very diversity that made America great? A "Christian" man who seeks to infuse government with only Christian nationalism in a country with constitutionally protected freedom of religion for all its citizens? A man with spiteful disdain for the constitutionally protected freedom of the press, who rails against the freedom of speech when it doesn't mirror his warped beliefs? I'm certain you can add to this

list, so suffice it to say that Trump's idea of greatness is what will make the former TV host and failed businessman great again. The America he wants to make great again is America in the image of Trump, not OUR America. Trump's MAGA has become the perfect acronym for "Manufacturing America's Grim Apocalypse." Believe me when I say that after just one month of Trump's second term, I fully embrace the phrase Make America Great Again. The problem is, I have zero faith that Donald Trump has the slightest shred of comprehension of what that phrase truly represents. And with nearly four years left in his term, that's a scary belief to hold.

MAGA...Cont. from page 4

ica?" This is an administration that claims to have all the answers, that will admit no wrongdoing even in the face of direct evidence to the contrary. Trump proclaims everything they do to be "perfect." Musk and Trump continually threaten government workers and longtime international partners in ways no CEO concerned about making his or her brand "great" would ever dream about. For Trump and Musk, there's only "my way or the highway," period. We abhor bullies in school - why should we as Americans be forced to accept bullies as leaders? Perhaps you'd like this one: "Morons Aggressively Gaslighting America." Trump is nothing if not a masterful manipulator of the truth to achieve his own ends. Once called a "firehose of

Week of March 3

Monday

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

Tuesday

Tower Area Food Shelf-Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5 p.m. New location in the old St. James Church bulding. Next food shelf day is March. 18.

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

Thursday

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

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



TSHS weekly winners

TOWER- The Charlemagne's 52 Club \$100 winner for week 24 is Lisa Ilminen of Madison, Wis.

History Tidbit: In 1923, 56 women met at the Tower-Soudan High School to organize a Women's Club. The first president was Mrs. William E. Fay. Mrs. L.E. Shafer designed the club emblem. Money was raised by the sale of aprons, lunches, and a bounty on rat tails at 5 cents each. Thirteen vapor lights for Main Street were purchased at a cost of \$3,500. Mrs. William Kitto holds the longest club membership.

Ash Wednesday Mass times on March 5

TOWER- Ash Wednesday Mass will be held on March 5 at 9 a.m. at St. Martin's in Tower, and at 5:30 p.m. at St. Mary's in Cook.

Little Church annual meeting set for Saturday, March 8

VERMILION LAKE TWP- The Little Church of

Bois Forte cannabis dispensary set to open on Feb. 28

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

FORTUNE BAY- After months of delays, the Ishkode cannabis dispensary of the Bois Forte band was scheduled to hold a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, Feb. 28 to open for business. The dispensary is located on the old frontage road just north of the Fortune Bay RV Park.

"I am very excited for Bois Forte," interim tribal council chair Shane Drift said in a social media post. "If the tribe does business the right way this will be a huge game changer for Bois Forte."

BOIS FORTE

The band plans to sell its cannabis products under the brand name "Ishkode," an Ojibwe word which means fire. Planned offerings in the dispensary include real cannabis flower, pre-rolls, gummies, drinks, legal mushroom options, and more. For the time being, the band will source its cannabis from other tribes, while continuing to explore development of its own growing operation in the future.

Ishkode will officially open on Friday at10 a.m. and will close at 9 p.m. Regular hours of operation will be 11 a.m.-9 p.m. seven days a week. All purchases must be made with cash, and an ATM is available on site. Customers must be 21 or older, and no consumption of products is allowed on the property.!

GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP ELECTIONS Two running for open supervisor seat

Incumbent Rick Stoehr did not file for reelection

by JODI SUMMIT Tower-Soudan Editor

G R E E N W O O D TWP— Voters in Greenwood will have a clear choice on March 11 between former clerk and supervisor Sue Drobac and Steve Bradach, who brings years of experience in city government before moving to the township full-time four years ago. The *Timberjay* spoke to both candidates and here is what they had to say.



Sue Drobac

Drobac served as town clerk until she resigned the position in 2020 after the town board reduced the position's hours and salary. She then ran for and won a seat on the town board in March of 2021, but lost in 2024 by a sizable margin to newcomer Lois Roskoski.

Drobac is adamant that giving away the right to vote for clerk and treasurer is a mistake.

"Please vote no on Option B," she said. "This option has failed twice previously. We should not have these positions controlled by the board. They should be controlled by the residents through a voting process."

She also said the Board of Audit process needs to be

corrected.

"When I was on the board, this was always done in a short meeting," she said. The current town board failed to approve the Board of Audit at their Feb. 11 meeting and must come to a conclusion prior to the annual meeting on March 11.

Drobac said her time on the board often meant making difficult decisions.

"We had to go through some very tough, but necessary, steps to make the fire department a better environment," she said. "We had only a few dedicated people on the department who were going on calls. Also, the fire department equipment was in disrepair, which we were able to rectify."

Drobac said she would like to keep the levy lower than the current board's levy request for \$300,000.

"I believe the levy is way above what it should be," she said. "This money is from the residents and should be spent with the voting residents in mind."

While serving previously on the board, Drobac worked on the township's broadband access issue, tried to improve the ambulance service to include ALS-level care, and worked to support the fire department after the majority of members quit after the department leadership was fired by the town board.

"I would also like to remind residents to go with your own mind in deciding who to vote for in March," she said. "Don't let others influence your thinking."



Steve Bradach

Steve Bradach is a relatively new full-time resident in Greenwood but spent most of his summers as a kid at his grandparents' cabin on Birch Point. He worked at the Vermilion Club while in college, and shortly after graduating from college used a small inheritance to buy a lot on Isle of Pines.

"My grandfather loved the fish," he said, "and that's where I got my addiction – fishing."

"I couldn't afford a cabin," he said. "But I knew I wanted to retire here."

Several of his siblings and other relatives also own property on the lake.

Bradach's background includes engineering, construction, realty, government, and retail.

"I've always been entrepreneurial," he said.

Currently Bradach is self-employed, working part-time at Vermilion Land Office as a licensed realtor, doing interior remodeling, and selling outdoor equipment like ice houses through his Vermilion Outdoor Products business.

His has a degree in civil engineering, and he has a master's in occupational health and safety. He served as the mayor in Biwabik, but after taking a job as a staffer for U.S. Senator Mark Dayton, he moved to a city council position there, which he then resigned when he moved to Lake Vermilion full-time.

Bradach's wife, who is from Kentucky, is an instructor at Minnesota North, teaching the certified nursing assistant classes in Eveleth and doing outreach throughout the area. She is set to retire this spring. The family has three grown children and four grandchildren.

Bradach said he never intended to become involved in local Greenwood politics, but when he saw the infighting on the board, he decided to run.

"I was a little unsatisfied with the inability of everyone to work together," he said. "I am hoping to have some unity for once, even if we disagree."

"We have to learn to compromise," he said. "If I couldn't compromise, I wouldn't have stayed married for over 30 years so far. You need to learn to pick your battles."

Bradach would like to see the board solve the arsenic water filtration issue.

"I know not many townships provide water," he said. "But we need to figure out how to make it safe, or else turn it off."

He also would like to see the town hall kitchen renovated and used again for community gatherings and fundraisers like the spaghetti feeds sponsored by the fire department auxiliary. He is happy to see the recreation improvements at the town hall, even though he has yet to try pickleball.

Bradach also wants to show continued support for the fire department, as well as for the Tower Ambulance Service.

"If we are utilizing Tower's ambulance, we need to contribute," he said, noting he had personally needed that service when he had an accident falling off a high ladder.

Bradach is hoping to see Option B passed by voters.

"I don't believe it takes away people's right to vote," he said. "It puts a burden on the board to hire qualified people... hopefully it won't become political again."

Bradach noted that the current system is not working for the betterment of the township.

"I don't like that these people (clerk and treasurer) feel like they don't have to comply with the board because they were elected," he said.

Bradach said he would like to see more details about township spending and reserves discussed at meetings.

"We need to show what services you are getting for your money," he said. "And we need to set aside money for future capital improvements. We can't just spend all of our reserves. We need that for cash flow."

"We need to let people know why we need these reserves," he said. "We need to decide what we really need."

Vermilion Lake Township will hold their annual meeting on Saturday, March 8 at 10 a.m. The meeting will include election of officers and discussion of work projects for 2025. This group always welcomes anyone and are looking for people interested in keeping The Little Church preserved and maintained in our community. The group hosts a men's group that meets every Thursday at 9 a.m. for coffee and conversation. All are welcome. The Little Church is located on Cty Rd. 26/Wahlsten Rd. Any questions, contact/leave message, Len Hujanen at 218-749-2014.

Mardi Gras at St. Martin's on Feb. 28

TOWER- St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower is once again hosting a family-friendly Mardi Gras celebration on Friday, Feb. 28 from 5 – 8:30 p.m. It's an open house style event - come when you want and stay as long as you want.

Children's activities include games, art projects, kids-only bingo, and pinata breaking at 7:45 p.m. All children's events are no free.

Adult bingo begins at 6 p.m. Cost is \$5 for 10 games.

Of course, this Mardi Gras celebration includes food. There will be much to choose from: jambalaya, chili, a variety of appetizers, Mardi Gras meringues, moon pies, and éclairs. The cost is a free will offering.

A cash bar will be open from 5-7 p.m.

Two running for treasurer seat but will not take office if Option B passes

GREENWOOD TWP-In a unique twist for a township election, two candidates are running for the treasurer seat in Greenwood Township, but depending on the voters' decision on the Option B ballot measure, the winner may not be assuming office.

Option B, as it is known in state statute, allows townships to hire their clerk and treasurer, rather than electing those officials.

The elected clerk, whose term expires in March 2026, would serve through the end of that term, and then the board would hire a clerk to fill that position.

If Option B does not pass, the winner of the treasurer's election will serve a two-year term. Option B was on the ballot twice, in 2020 and 2021, and failed both times by a two-to-one margin.

The candidates for the treasurer's position include:

JoAnn Bassing

Bassing has served as an elected township clerk as well as an appointed deputy treasurer. She was initially appointed to the clerk position after current clerk, Debby Spicer, quit midway during her term after a disagreement with the board over clerk office hours and wages. Bassing then ran for and won election as clerk in 2022, but lost to Spicer,



JoAnn Bassing

who decided to run again, in 2024.

Bassing opposes Option B, but said she is worried it will pass this time because of the current disagreements between the clerk and treasurer and the board. "If a person is hired by the board, then they are beholden to the board," said Bassing. "The board could have more control."

Bassing said hiring a clerk and treasurer will end up costing township taxpayers more money, and that if the board decides to combine the two positions, they will have to hire an outside auditing firm, which can cost tens of thousands of dollars.

Bassing explained that some of the board's issues with the current treasurer stem from not understanding how the township's finances are recorded.

"Schedule 1 is basical-



Paul Thompson

ly where your assets are," Bassing said. "It is only accurate at one point in the month, and you run it at the very end of the month."

"I am running to keep the position locally elected," she said.

Bassing blamed the board for not making sure the clerk and treasurer's financials matched starting almost a year ago.

"They just didn't approve the treasurer's report," she said. "If it didn't match every month, how is it going to match at the end of the year?"

JoAnn is married to John Bassing, who is currently serving as a supervisor. The couple are both retired dentists and ran their own firm. They have two grown daughters and one grandchild.

Paul Thompson

Paul Thompson said his primary goal in running is for Option B to pass.

"But I also believe I could do an excellent job in the treasurer position," he said. "In case Option B does not pass, we would have someone capable in the position."

Thompson is now retired from his position at Pillsbury, where he was an electron microscopist, managing analytical labs, and then managing research and development.

"I was a Mr. Fix-It," he said. "That's what I enjoyed. My interest is in making things work well." After 25 years at Pillsbury, he joined a consulting group, doing product development for food companies. He is now fully retired and living full time on Vermilion.

"We've had our place on Vermilion since 2002,' he said. "I took a year off after leaving Pillsbury and remodeled the house we had bought." He and his wife lived between their home in Golden Valley and their Vermilion home before moving full-time to the lake. His wife, Jere, worked for the Federal Reserve Bank doing market research, and is now retired. The couple has two sons, one grandson, and a second grandson coming soon.

Thompson said he and his wife love to travel, and that he is a backcountry motorcyclist, a hobby he took up in his 60s. "I've done the majority of the routes in the U.S.," he said. "Most are week-long trips in the woods. I am a big outdoors person. I downhill ski, hunt, and fish. I worked hard so I could retire early."

Thompson should be familiar to Greenwood pickleball enthusiasts, and is the president of the Lake Vermilion Pickleball Association, the group that raised funds to build the four new courts at the town hall. He only started playing pickleball at Greenwood Town Hall and likes the culture of the game with its open play philosophy. "It's not that way for tennis," he said.

Thompson has also taken on the president's role for the Greenwood Recreation Board.

Thompson said he would like to see the town board focus on the community, as well as strengthening the fire department. "We need to work together for the betterment of Greenwood," he said. He said the clerk and treasurer jobs are service functions, not political. "It was time to get involved and not just complain," he said.

ELY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

"Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory"



by CATIE CLARK Ely Editor

ELY- In Ely, the month of March is bracketed by two Roald Dahl-inspired musicals: Ely Memorial High School's "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" at the beginning of the month and the Northern Lakes Arts Association "Matilda the Musical" at the end of the month.

"Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" will be on stage this Friday and Saturday. The 2004 stage musical is an adaptation of the 1971 Oscar-winning musical film of the same name, starring Gene Wilder as Willy Wonka. The film was an adaptation of Dahl's 1964 children's book, "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory."

The musical makes minor changes in the plot to fit it on a stage. Mike Teevee is updated to be obsessed with computers, video games, and his computer. The magic flying elevator is absent from the ending. The golden egg-laying geese are replaced by the nut-shelling squirrels from the book. And the Slugworth character doesn't make an appearance.

Despite the tweaks that make the musical work on stage, all the other beloved scenes remain, including the famous "Candy Man" song, the bratty kids and their ultimate demise, and, of course, the Oompa-Loompas.

The Ely Memorial High School production of "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" is directed by Karin Schmidt. Tommy Kerntz is Willy Wonka. Payson Kundinger plays the Candy Man. Natalie Johnson is the geeky Mike Teevee. And Sailor Marzella's role as the spoiled Veruca Salt comes close to stealing the show.

Many of the faces from last year's production of "Frozen" are in the cast. Alison Poppler, who played Olaf in "Frozen," is Willy Wonka. Tracy Thibodeaux, who played Sven in "Frozen," is the chewing gum-obsessed Violet Beauregard. Olin Weise, who was the king in "Frozen," plays Grampa Joe. Nels Majerus, who was "Frozen's" Duke of Weselton, is the broadcast journalist Phineous Trout.

"Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" will have two performances: Friday, Feb. 28, and Saturday, March 1. The musical will be in Washington Auditorium on the Ely Public Schools campus, 600 E. Harvey St. Use the center door No. 1 to enter and turn right after the double doors. Both shows start at 7 p.m. Admission is \$5. Above: Veruca Salt, played by Sailor Marzella (far right), with the ensemble in the "I Want It Now" number from "Willy Wonka."

Below: The ensemble of the Ely Memorial High School production of "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory." photos by C. Clark



Gardner Trust Announces 2025 Spring Grant Round

In Brief

Tuesday Group schedule

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

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

Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

March 4: Arrowhead Regional Transit with Dominick Olivanti

► March 11: Meet New Elyites

Breathing Out by Cecilia Rolando ® 2025

Libraries

Ely library

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

Babbitt library

Monday	10 am-6 pm
Tuesday	10 am-6 pm
Wednesday	10 am-6 pm
Thursday	10 am-6 pm
Friday	10 am-6 pm

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

The Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust is happy to announce the opening of the 2025 spring grant round on March 5, with applications due by midnight Wednesday, March 26. Applications must be submitted through the online application process available at www.gardnertrust.org.

Artists and groups can apply for grants in the follow-

ing categories:

➤ Individual artist grants are for developing and established artists with funding of up to \$1,000 to take advantage of an impending, concrete opportunity.

➤ Organization project grants with funding up to \$2,000 to support activities in the fine arts and for the Ely Public Library. These grants are for organizations to present or produce a fine arts activity.

➤ Youth grants are awarded to Ely students in grades six through twelve who are interested and highly motivated to pursue the fine arts. Youth grants of up to \$750 can be used for workshops, classes, lessons or mentorships. The Trust has budgeted \$2,750 for individuals (youth grants, individual artist grants, and scholarships) and \$6,000 for organizations (project and operation grants) for this fall grant round.

Individuals and organizations that would like to have a draft application reviewed should contact Peter Schamber, executive director, by

March 21. Office hours for the grant period are Thursdays and Fridays from 3:30 – 5 p.m. in the Trust office at City Hall. Applicants can arrange an appointment for another time by emailing Peter at info@gardnertrust.org (preferred) or calling 218-365-2639.

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 Month: 10-11:30 a.m. at Ely-Bloomenson Hospital. Conference Room B.

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION GED Study materials and pre-test available.

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

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Figure Skating

BABBITT- The Babbitt Figure Skating Club will host a "Rock the Ice" skating show on Friday, Feb. 28, at 6 p.m., and on Saturday, March 1, at 1 p.m., at the Ron Castellano Ice Arena, 32 South Dr. Adult admission is \$7. Admission for ages 4-17 is \$5. Kids three and under are free.

Medicare 101

ELY- Ely Continuing Education will hold a Medicare 101 class on Wednesday, March 5, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the Ely Public Schools Media Center. Medicare Is Confusing! Local Medicare expert Joe Weise will explain what vour Medicare options are, as well as how and when to enroll in Medicare. The class is free. Ely Public School's Media Center is on the Ely Public Schools Campus, 600 E Harvey St. Enter the through the center door (door No. 1) and turn right after the double doors. The

Media Center is across from the new gym, on the right.

Call of the Wild

ELY- The Northern Lakes Arts Association will host its monthly Call of the Wild Poetry Night on Thursday, March 6, at the Ely Folk School, 209 E. Sheridan St. The theme for March is "The Thawing Truth." Come and read your own poems, read a poem by someone else, or just come and listen. Poems are not required to stick to the theme. This is a no-cost event; all are welcome.

New Resident Social

ELY- Boundary Waters Connect will host a free Ely-area new resident social on Friday, March 7, at 4:30 p.m. at the Ely Folk School, 209 E. Sheridan St. This is a casual gathering where both new and old residents can meet. A variety of beverages and light appetizers will be provided. The event will be open-house style conversation until 5:30 p.m., when new residents will be toast-

m ed, followed by a game of JeopardELY.

Retirement Planning

ELY- Ely Continuing Education will hold a "Five keys to retiring fearlessly" class on Wednesday, March 12, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the Ely Public Schools Media Center. The class is free. Ely Public School's Media Center is on the Ely Public Schools Campus, 600 E Harvey St. Enter the through the center door (door No. 1) and turn right after the double doors. The Media Center is across from the new gym, on the right.

Babbitt Public Library

BABBITT- The library will hold a 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 library to sign up. Participants are encouraged to attend all sessions but only sign up for the ones you can attend please. The session on March 4 will be watercolor flowers. The session on March 11 will be watercolor seascapes.

The library will hold a free art class with chalk pastels for kids on Tuesday, March 4 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Preregister at the library or by calling 218-827-3345.

Walk-ins are welcome at both art classes if there is room available Preschool story time is every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m.

All library events are at the Babbitt Public Library, 71 South Dr., unless otherwise noted.

Ely Public Library

ELY- The Curiosity Cohort for adults will make pet toys 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 discussion is "Hamnet" by Maggie O'Farrell. You do not need to be a member of the Friends of the Library to attend.

The Library Scientists group for all ages will meet on Thursday, March 13, to investigate magnets. Please register in advance so the library can order enough supplies for participants.

The library is holding another of its fabulously fun murder mystery events on Saturday, March 22, from 1:30-4 p.m. This event is for adults and students in grades 9-12. The theme of the event will "Death at the circus." Participants must sign up and choose a character for this event in advance. Participants must register by noon on Tuesday, March 18.

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.

GRIZZLIES TECH

Bear Bots take the plunge in robotics competition

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP – How well can grizzlies adapt to survive and thrive in the aquatic world of algae and coral reefs?

The North Woods School Robotics team, known as the Bear Bots, will discover the high-tech answer to that question this Friday and Saturday when they compete in the 54-team FIRST Robotics Lake Superior Regional at the DECC in Duluth. The event is referred to as the "Double DECCer" because the Northern Lights Regional, with the same number of teams, takes place simultaneously in the arena. Teams will be coming from as far as Colorado and Florida for the event.

Every year, the competition involves a new game, and this year's game, REEFSCAPE, has teams of robots working to restore an imaginary coral reef by removing algae and seeding new coral onto the reef. At the end of the match, robots attempt to climb back onto a barge.

In reality, the "algae" is a large rubber playground ball, and the "new coral" is segments of plastic pipe. Remote-controlled robots have been designed, built, and programmed by the students to accomplish specified tasks with these objects to earn points. A short period in which the robots must function autonomously is followed by a longer period in which team drivers are in control.

A unique aspect of the competition is that teams must seek out other teams to form alliances for their matches. Bear Bots members and their robot will have to collaborate with other teams

CHILI CHAMPS

against other alliances to be successful.

The 11-member Bear Bots squad is led by senior captain Alex Burckhardt, and the drive team is comprised of Lincoln Antikainen, Amber Sopoci, John Danielson, and Tysen Lenzen along with Burckhardt. Addison Burckhardt and Alice Sopoci will take photos of the event and share stories afterwards. New and younger team members will scout in the stands and be ready to make alliances when called.

The Bear Bots will be in familiar company in Duluth, with the Iron Mosquitoes of Northeast Range and teams from Ely, Chisholm, Antikainen, center, are and Mesabi East also competing. Qualification matchbegin Friday morning es and run through Saturday robot at a recent training noon. Playoffs are Saturday event. afternoon.



Above: Bear Bots team mentor and coding expert Walter Harrier looks over the shoulder of team member Lincoln Antikainen as he enters code.

Right: Harrier, left, and joined by captain Alex Burckhardt as they inspect the Bear Bots

submitted photos



UMD HONOR BAND











These North Woods School instrumental music students were selected to perform with the Univesity of Minnesota-Duluth Junior High Honor Band on Tuesday, which was composed of over 200 outstanding seventh, eighth and ninth grade students from the region. North Woods band participants included, from left, Jackson Long, Aaron Mathys, River Deatherage, Michaela Brunner, Savannah Abts, Lexi Hanson, Katie Hanson. submitted photo

Community items

NWFA photo contest entries due March 1

COOK- Don't miss your chance to grab that photo you took on the spur of the moment and loved and enter it in the photo contest at Northwoods Friends of the Arts, "A Shot In The Dark!" Photos you planned, practiced and love are equally relcomed for this March photography showcase. on March 1. There are two prizes in this photo contest. Viewers of the photo exhibit at the NWFA Gallery will vote for their favorite photos beginning Thursday, March 6 and continuing through March 28. The winner will receive \$100, with \$50 going to the runner-up. The entry fee is \$10

per photo, and you may enter more than one. The fee includes a display mat and sleeve to make the exhibit look uniform for voters. Students (18 or younger) may enter three photos free of charge. Photos must be in two sizes, either 5X7 or 8X10.

All entries need to be at the NWFA Gallery at 210 S. River St. in Cook by 1 p.m. The contest ends at noon Friday, March 28 with a reception at the gallery that day from 5-7 p.m. where the winners will be announced. Registration materials are available at the gallery during gallery hours on Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m and Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. or online at

www.nwfamn.org. Contestants may mail their photos with registration forms to NWFA, PO Box 44, Cook MN 55723 or you may drop them off at the gallery during gallery hours.

Panichi graduates from St. Cloud

COOK- Cook native Jab Panichi was among over

Award-winning teams at the fourth annual Tony Cornelius Chili Cookoff on Saturday in Orr included, clockwise from top left: Britt Lounge, A Round of Applause; Grease Stains and Glitter, Fire in the Hole; Chili Chicas, People's Choice; and Broken Tractor Ranch, Not Your Mother's Chili. Sixteen teams were entered in the competition, and organizer Kay Cornelius described the number of 140 attendees as "amazing." The cookoff raises funds for multiple scholarhips in honor of Tony Cornelius that are awarded to deserving North Woods School seniors who will be atttending a two-year college. submitted photos

YOUNG THESPIANS



Primary cast members for "Alice in Wonderland" include, from left, Charlotte Anderson as the White Rabbit, Charlie Holter as the Cheshire Cat, Vera Bryson as Alice, and Cora Goodbird as the Joker. submitted

North Woods students to perform "Alice in Wonderland" play on March 7

FIELD TWP- Local theater lovers won't want to miss a delightful re-telling of the Lewis Carroll classic "Alice in Wonderland" at North Woods School on Friday, March 7 at 6 p.m. The Wonderland adventures of Alice, the Cheshire Cat, the White Rabbit, the Joker and more will be brought to life by North Woods' third to ninth grade students under the direction of North Woods senior Amber Sopoci and Assistant Principal Crystal

Poppler.

So take a leap and come tumble down the rabbit hole with the young thespians of North Woods School - adventure awaits!

500 graduates of St. Cloud State University during the fall 2024 semester.

Panichi receive a bachelor of science degree in marketing and earned summa cum laude honors for his exemplary academic performance.

HUSTLING HOOPSTERS



North Woods fourth grader Jase Kuhlmann grabs the ball as he races down the court with fellow fourth grader Kamron Rose, left, in hot pursuit. The youngsters demonstrated their skills on Friday during halftime of the North Woods-Chisholm game. D. Colburn

Call 753-2950 to subscribe to the Timberjay!



Read It HERE

Briefly

Tanker operator injured after truck hit by loose UTV

PIKETWP-Christopher Schlosser, age 45, of Winton, was injured Friday afternoon, Feb. 21, when the fuel tanker truck he was driving struck a UTV that fell off a trailer being pulled by the pickup in front of him.

Schlosser was southbound on Hwy. 169, near the intersection of Door Rd., when his vehicle struck the UTV and ended up on its side in the ditch on the east side of the highway. The tanker may have leaked some fuel as there was

a strong gasoline odor at the scene. Responders reported that OSI, of Eveleth, which does environmental cleanup, was called to the scene.

Schlosser was transported to Essentia Health in Virginia with non-life threatening injuries. Dawson Sample, 24, of Mahtowa, was the driver of the vehicle and trailer that lost the UTV, causing the accident. Sample was driving a Ford F550 southbound with the trailer and the utility task vehicle when the UTV came loose and fell onto the highway. Neither Sample nor his passenger at the time were injured.

Armory Shell was called to bring in two of their heavy

wreckers, one which had a crane, to remove the tanker truck. The highway was reduced to one lane while the accident scene was being cleared. Road conditions were dry at the time

Vermilion Lake Fire Department, Pike-Sandy-Britt Fire Department, Tower Ambulance, Breitung Police, and the St. Louis County Sheriff's Department all assisted on the scene.

72-year-old dies in Crane Lake snowmobile crash

CRANE LAKE- A 72-year-old Glenville man died on Thursday, Feb. 20 in a snowmobile accident in Crane Lake Township, according to the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office.

Authorities responded to the crash at approximately 9:15 p.m. after receiving a report of a male rider who had struck a tree and was unresponsive.

The man had been trail riding with friends when he veered off course and collided with a tree, with speed a possible contributing factor. Friends of the victim attempted to render aid until emergency responders arrived, but he was pronounced dead at the scene. The sheriff's office had not released the victim's name

as of press time.

Several local fire departments, first responders, and the Medical Examiner's Office assisted the sheriff's office at the scene.

61-year-old man injured in Orr area snowmobile crash

ORR-A 61-year-old man from Albert Lea suffered a serious leg injury in a snowmobile crash Friday afternoon, Feb. 21, on the Arrowhead Trail north of Orr.

Emergency personnel responded to the crash at approximately 3:50 p.m. and found the man, the sole rider

of the snowmobile, with what was believed to be a broken leg. He was transported to Cook Hospital by ambulance for further treatment.

The St. Louis County Sheriff's Office is continuing to investigate both accidents. Riders are encouraged to exercise caution, adhere to speed limits, and remain vigilant on the trails to ensure their safety and that of others.



PUSHBACK...Continued from page 1 -

impact on our communities and the region. The 20-year moratorium on the development of these critical minerals runs counter to recent efforts in shoring up our domestic supply chains, investing in the green economy of the future, and supporting the men and women of labor throughout our country."

That position has come under fire, however, from the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters, which is circulating a letter to Hauschild expressing "serious objection" to his letter to Trump and asking him to rescind a bill he's backing that would ease permitting rules for many projects.

The mineral withdrawal, known as Public Land Order 7917, "provides the most important protections for the Boundary Waters in 45 years," notes the draft letter sent to supporters of the campaign."After rigorous scientific study, the U.S. Forest Service and the Department of Interior determined that sulfide-ore copper mining in this special place would be highly risky and would permanently damage the headwaters and the wilderness in a way that could never be fixed or mitigated," notes the letter.

The group is also asking Hauschild to withdraw his support for Senate File 577, a measure Hauschild claims would allow some projects to begin construction even before

WELY...Continued from page 1 -

they were fully permitted. It would achieve that by separating construction permits from operating permits, allowing construction to get underway before operating permits have been issued or during legal challenges.

"The separation of construction and operation permits risks a situation where an applicant receives a construction permit but cannot secure an operation permit from an agency, or where a fully constructed facility has its operation permit reversed by a court. Allowing projects to be built while environmental or permit review is underway on the "operation" of the project, is a disservice to project proposers and Minnesotans," notes the letter.

Critics further take issue with the bill's efforts to limit who can seek environmental review of a project. "S.F. 577 prohibits members of the public who don't live in the county or adjoining county of a project to request environmental review. Your constituents will be barred from providing input on projects likely to negatively impact the environment - even if they have nearby second homes or businesses or public lands- or if they are members of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe with Treaty rights in the area," notes the letter.

Members of the campaign argue that Hauschild is ignoring the views of his northeastern Minnesota constituents most affected by the mining debate. They note that Biden Vice President Kamala Harris won majorities of the vote in St. Louis, Lake, and Cook counties, where the Boundary Waters is located.

Hauschild acknowledges that his district is split. "There are so many divergent cultures and opinions," he said. "I'm trying to reflect that while sticking with my convictions."

Hauschild said he has always opposed using mineral withdrawals as a means of stopping a proposed mining project."I don't think it should be based on presidential politics," he said, arguing that it creates a toxic political environment. "It should be based on an objective analysis," he said. "We're going to determine through the regulatory process whether a mine can meet our standards."

At the same time, Hauschild said he had not read the analysis produced by the U.S. Forest Service when it made the request for the mineral withdrawal. initially in 2016 and again in 2022. That analysis concluded that the inherent risks of sulfide-based mining in a water-rich environment just upstream from the Boundary Waters wilderness, contradicted the agency's mandate to protect the wilderness from pollution.

Hauschild said he's been working with the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce on the permitting reform and he said the mining industry doesn't appear particularly interested in the measure."They've even said they would never start construction without all their permits in place because of the high cost," he said.

School trust lands another bone of contention

Local environmental groups were taken aback yet again when Hauschild co-introduced a bill (SF 1702) in the state Senate last Thursday that would prohibit completion of the planned sale of approximately 80,000 acres of school trust lands located within the Boundary Waters. The state acreage, which consists mostly of school trust land, has been effectively landlocked within the federal wilderness since 1978. Under the state's constitution, school trust lands are required to generate revenue for the school trust, either through sale of the land or from the sale of commodities, such as timber or minerals. But since logging and mining are prohibited in the wilderness, state officials have proposed a sale of the land to the federal government at several points over the past 47 years. That proposal has continuously met opposition from some lawmakers from the region, who have advocated for a land exchange as an alternative.

State and federal officials recently spent nearly a decade trying to reach a deal on what would be one of the largest and most complex land exchanges in U.S. history, without reaching agreement. Last year, state and federal officials announced a plan to facilitate a sale of the state land to the federal government, but that proposal is once again facing pushback from some local

lawmakers, like Hauschild. Critics of the measure say Hauschild's opposition to a sale will likely continue to leave the issue unresolved. "This bill goes against the sound decision made last summer by the Department of Natural Resources, the Office of School Trust Lands, and Forest Service, as well as the financial analysis that makes clear that a purchase, not a land exchange, of the school trust lands is in the greater financial interest of public education," said Ingrid Lyons, Executive Director of Save the Boundary Waters. "It's difficult to understand why anyone who purports to support education in our state would be against a proposal that would infuse millions of dollars into supporting K-12 Minnesota school children and solve a longstanding lands management issue. The question then becomes, who benefits from this bill? Because it certainly isn't the schoolchildren of Minnesota, as the Permanent School Fund

intends."

Hauschild offered no comment other than to say he's not focused on the measure.

This is an effort that is being led by Senator Farnsworth and many of the Iron Range Republican delegation members," he said.

Rep. Skraba, who also opposes a sale, argues that an exchange would provide the DNR with additional acres outside the wilderness that it could manage for timber production. A Timberjay analysis of that claim found that revenue from the sale of timber from an additional 80,000 acres of state land would amount to about \$160,000 a year. A sale of the 80,000 acres would be expected to generate about \$34 million, which would generate far more in investment income than the school trust would ever receive from timber receipts. With an average return of seven percent from the state's well-managed investment fund, the school trust could be expected to generate about \$2.38 million annually, or about 15 times more than timber receipts. While backers of an

exchange have suggested that the state would benefit from mining royalties from exchanged property, any exchange would not include mineral rights, since such a transfer of rights is prohibited both at the state and federal level.

Zoe had also invested the airwaves between Dec. 1, broadcast, Zoe applied to some funds in an effort to 2022 - when the Bois Forte increase the size of WELY's

Deaths a possible factor we are unable to keep the Progress towards

stations on the air and will be WELY's return appeared filing an application for transfer of control to another entity forthcoming. The stations will resume broadcasting after transfer of control has been granted."

the growing consolidation of media in the hands of wealthv. right-leaning individuals and businesses across the country Talk shows advertised on the station's website appear to be left-leaning and critical of the early moves by the Trump administration.

get the station back on air. Band made the decision to FM transmitter to 35 kilowatts shutter what had proved to be and after it obtained ECC

In the two years since the business bought WELY, Zoe repaired the station's antenna on Beacon Hill on the south side of Ely. Because the repair required both an available repair crew and favorable weather, fixing the antenna took eight months

After the repair was complete, WELY went live for a few hours on Nov. 17, 2023, with "Trader Craig" Loughery behind the microphone. Other than Loughery's brief on-air appearance, the station was off

a money-losing venture - and this Tuesday morning.

Loughery, acting as a spokesperson for Zoe, said that the November 2023 broadcast revealed problems with the station's transmitter. The old transmitter, originally rated between 20-25 kilowatts, was producing less than six kilowatts and was no longer reliable. "It was breaking down like crazy," Loughery told the Timberjay in February 2024. After the November 2023 approval, the company began shopping for a larger transmitter according to Loughery. Loughery posted an update on the "What's Up Ely" Facebook group last September, noting that he was still waiting to hear from the owner on the last few details."He has hands full with seven stations, so we have to wait. Once he does get back, we can be up and running almost overnight. But for now, we wait," he posted.

to be back on track late last year. On Nov. 20, 2024, the company filed an FCC application to resume broadcasting on WELY. The FCC approved the request three days later, but less than two weeks after that, the company filed another request, this one to put WELY on "silent station" status, listing staffing as the reason. An attachment to the

status change request added, "Due to two unexpected managerial deaths at our company,

About Civic Media

Civic Media Inc., created just three years ago, currently owns 20 radio stations in 17 Wisconsin communities and, in addition to music, emphasizes state and local news and building democracy as part of its mission. In that sense, Civic Media may be a response to

WELY is Civic's first station outside of Wisconsin.

The Timberjay reached out to Craig Loughery and to Civic Media but did not receive a response from either before the Timberjay went to press.

FIRING...Continued from page 1 –

cited a lack of leadership skills rather than any particular action documented in Whitmore's report, although a subsequent letter from township attorney Mike Couri cited more than a dozen reasons for his dismissal, many of them related to maintenance issues that have been chronic problems on the department for years. Several of the items listed were never considered as part of Whitmore's investigation. The letter also cites a failure to update the department's standard operating guidelines, or SOGs, although Maus has provided updates to the current town board, which has not acted to approve them.

None of the allegations that Whitmore says were substantiated could be categorized as "wrongdoing," but reflected judgment calls, miscommunication, poor people skills, or possible mistakes that can occur on any emergency scene.

The substantiated findings cited by Whitmore included: ▶ Maus made com-

ments to an EMT, on more than one occasion, which made the EMT feel he was trying to rush patient assessments. Whitmore concluded, however, that none of the assessments were rushed as a result.

> On more than one occasion, Maus's actions or words upset either Greenwood employees or those of other agencies, triggering them emotionally to the point of crying in some cases.

► Maus handed an oral adjunct to members on his team that was too small, causing it to disappear into the patient's mouth, forcing an EMT to remove it.

> Maus did not adequately supervise personnel during the adjunct incident.

► Maus used an open radio channel during a call to share health information of a patient rather than sharing them in writing as requested. Whitmore concluded, however, that sharing patient information over the radio appears to be common practice in the area and she did not determine whether doing so was a violation of any law or rule.

► Prompted Tower Fire Chief Paige Olson to state over the radio that she was incident command on a fire due to confusion over directions provided by Maus during a fire in Greenwood.

▶ Heard from some fellow medical responders that they believe Maus does not handle stressful situations well and lacks calming leadership skills.

 That Maus had created an "us versus them" work environment.

► That Maus shared the complaint against him with some of the staff he supervises.

> Other emergency responders confirmed that on at least one EMS call, members of the patient's family complained that Maus had been disrespectful toward them

► Maus once opened the door to a Tower ambulance while EMTs were working on a patient.

Maus once stepped in front of a departing ambulance, prompting the driver to stop

► Greenwood responders, including Maus, sometimes respond to calls in their personal vehicles, which is common for emergency medical responders. Greenwoodhas no ambulance, so response typically requires use of personal vehicles.

At the same time, the investigation could not corroborate or disproved some of the allegations against Maus, including that he had refused to pick up EMTs at a scene after being asked to do so by the incident commander. A review of the recorded radio traffic confirmed that Maus had agreed to do so. The recording contradicts the testimony of three of the witnesses against Maus, who all stated they heard him refuse the command.

Other findings include:

 Testimony did not support the contention that

patient assessments were rushed.

► Recorded radio traffic shows that it was incident command that decided against having EMTs respond to a medical call on an island, not Maus as alleged.

 Allegations that Maus yelled on some scenes was not confirmed in all cases.

► Allegations that Maus did not wear proper PPE were not confirmed.

Moving forward

The town board decision could come with some fallout. While the board had already installed Brian Trancheff as interim chief following Maus's surgery in December, the board's action removes the township's most consistent emergency medical responder, who began service as a firefighter in 2006 after Greenwood responders had helped him after a severe leg injury that year. "I was wearing a cast and was on crutches when I started training," he said. He completed

his EMR training a couple of years later. According to records provided by Maus, he responded to 92 calls in 2023 and more than 100 in 2024, although he did not have final numbers for the year.

Maus already has an open case against the township stemming from a retaliatory dismissal as fire captain after Maus made complaints of safety violations by the fire department several years ago. Maus did remain an active member of the department. The town board later elevated Maus to interim chief after the board dismissed former fire chief David Fazio, who then opted to leave the department. Maus was later formally hired as fire chief.

Maus had no comment on any discussions with attorneys on a possible legal challenge of the board's decision.

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

U.S. Attorney says Tower woman sentenced for embezzlement

by DAVID COLBURN Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- A woman the Minnesota U.S. Attorney's office identifies as currently living in Tower has been sentenced to 28 months in prison, three years of supervised release, and was ordered to pay nearly \$430,000 in restitution for crimes committed against more than two dozen former payroll clients and the IRS while she was living in the Twin Cities.

Despite the claims of the U.S. Attorney, the Timberjay has found no evidence that the woman, who has lived in Edina for years, ever lived in the Tower area, although she formerly owned a residence on Pike Bay. County tax records show that the woman involved, Jeana Lautigar, a.k.a. Jeana Lautigar-McGowan, was the owner of a property at 1236 Lautigar Rd., although it listed her mailing residence as Edina. The property claimed a relative homestead exemption, which allows for a

tax benefit if a relative of the owner resides permanently at the property. Lautigar's Facebook page, which was last updated in October 2024, shows she was born in Virginia and lives in Edina. The property in question was sold last December.

When asked about the discrepancy, the U.S. Attorney's Office insisted that Lautigar resides in Tower but was unwilling to provide her address.

According to court documents, Lautigar, 58, owned and operated an accounting and payroll service headquartered in St. Louis Park, where she managed payroll for various small businesses.

To facilitate the payroll service, Lautigar was granted access to client bank accounts. On multiple occasions between 2016 and 2020, Lautigar embezzled funds from her clients' bank accounts and used the money to cover personal expenses, or to pay back money she had previously embezzled from other clients. In total, she embezzled \$344,813 from

achievement gap is a statewide

new school board members

and fresh eyes will start the

board in a new direction,"

said Porter. "We really have

a strong parent committee,

and we are not ready to give

improve education for all the

students. She said the district

has hired full-time Indigenous

Support Advocates in each

building, and some build-

ings also have aides. But the

number of American Indian

students is large enough that

more staff is needed to work

with the students and their

my kids," she said. "But then

who will fight for our kids."

Other business

"I was tempted to transfer

In other business, the

➤ Hired support staff

including Kristine Dundas as

a para at North Woods, Tori

Palkovich as a para at NE

Range, Elizabeth Beenken as

an ECFE teacher aide at NE

Range, and Lisa Wilson as a

substitute nutrition employee

at North Woods. The board

adjusted hours for Amy

Boutto, Indigenous Support

Advocate II at North Woods.

Sandberg as head softball

coach and Rebecca Bundy

as assistant coach at North

Woods. Other North Woods'

▶ Re-hired DeeAnn

Porter said their goal is to

up the fight."

families.

board:

"We are hoping that the

issue, not just in ISD 2142.

her clients over a period of five years.

Lautigar was a resident of Edina in 2018 when she filed false income tax returns in which she failed to report the embezzled income, resulting in a \$84,746 tax loss to the United States.

Lautigar pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court to one count of engaging in a monetary transaction in criminally derived property and one count of filing a false income tax return. She was sentenced last week.

SCHOOLS...Continued from page 1–

school

"The cuts to our teaching staff and essential programs are too much," she said. "I am particularly concerned about how these reductions are being made while buildings, maintenance, and administrative positions seem to remain unaffected."

Holter wondered how the district could justify the continued operation of the Tower-Soudan school and the district office.

'Why can't we relocate that office to an existing school?" she asked. "Where there is space available, and a more efficient use of resources can be made."

Holter also wondered why the Tower and Babbitt schools, which have smaller student enrollments, could not be combined.

Holter expressed the frustration she and other parents feel about the lack of response from the district to their concerns.

"We are receiving no responses at all," she said. 'We deserve answers."

Jennifer Herdman told the board that discipline issues were already a major concern for many parents at North Woods.

"When classes are consistently interrupted, less learning takes place," she said. "Bad behavior needs to have serious consequences."

She spoke about her son's experience in a class with over 30 students two years ago.

"It was a nightmare for him," she said. "He hated school."

She noted the classrooms were physically too small to fit that many students.

"It's too noisy and there is no room to move around," she said.

The district plan to cut

The board chair cut off Herdman, saying she had gone past her allotted three minutes speaking time, but another parent offered up her time so Herdman could continue.

Herdman wondered if it was too late for the district to reconsider moving to a four-day week, which could potentially save the equivalent of five teacher salaries.

The district did survey parents and community members about a four-day week, but the survey found that the savings would be erased by the number of parents stating they would send their kids to another district if the four-day week was implemented.

"You will see more students leaving because of the large class sizes," Herdman said."You need to start listening to parents and teachers."

Herdman said if the district survey had discussed the possibility of these large staffing cuts if the four-day week was not approved, the survey results might have been vastly different.

'It's time to start listening to us," she said, "the taxpayers who are paying your salaries. Our children, teachers, and community deserve better."

Tammy Palmer, who has five grandchildren at North Woods, asked what other schools are looking at having combined classes with more than 30 students.

'One of my grandkids is in a sixth-grade room with over 30 students," she said. "I've been in that classroom. You are putting too much pressure on these teachers."

Palmer emphasized that the staff at North Woods is wonderful, caring, and professional. She said some of her grandkids live in Soudan but choose to attend North Woods.

The board did not discuss the plans for teacher cuts or respond to any of the concerns expressed during the meeting.

The board, after starting their regular agenda, adopted the formal resolution to have the administrator make recommendations regarding reduction in staff and programming. This is the first step required for any teacher layoffs and is done annually.

The board also accepted the report from the American Indian Parent Advisory Committee that stated the district is not in compliance with state and federal rules regarding the spending of Title VI dollars, and heard a brief report from committee parent member Monica Porter.

"We based our decision on non-concurrence on the self-assessment rubric which we reviewed and updated this year. The ratings have not changed in the last three years," she told the board. "Please go over this document carefully."

The district receives federal Title VI funding to specifically address the needs of American Indian students. This funding is only supposed to be spent on eligible Title VI students, not part of the district's general educational programming.

"We would like to collaborate with the school board to ensure that working towards excellence in this rubric is a

RESULTS...Continued from page 1-

priority of ISD 2142," they wrote.

The rubric, which is supplied by the Minnesota Department of Education, is supposed to insure that the district is following state statutes regarding the education of American Indian students and to reduce achievement gaps. The rubric lets committee members grade the district on a four-point scale, from no implementation to full implementation. The district received very few scores of four on the rubric.

The committee sent a detailed list of over 30 items of concern, and they are asking for more formal, scheduled collaboration with the school board, and to give the committee more insight into how the district is using its Title

After the meeting, comreading.

"Our funding is supposed to close the achievement gaps," said Porter, who said they feel the funding is being misspent.

Alberta Warwas noted

The parents added that the

Left: Volunteers block traffic for mushers at a crossing on Hwy. 21.

spectators had no reason to complain.

A total of 12 eight-dog teams started and finished the race, while the six-dog competition fielded 26 teams, only one of which dropped before the finish. Because of trail conditions, the eightdog race route was modified to avoid the Cub Lake Trail and Bear Head Lake. The

as golf coach, and Jennifer Burnett for assistant track coach. The board also hired Aaron Donais as assistant baseball coach at NE Range (which co-ops with host Ely) and accepted the resignation of Tate Olson as boys golf coach at North Woods.

hires include Kandi Olson

▶ Heard from newly-hired Tower-Soudan bus driver Karel Winkelaar, who talked about positive interactions he had with students on his bus which have caused him to start volunteering at the school, reading to children.

▶ Heard that Tower-Soudan and NE Range will be collaborating with staff from Minnesota North-Vermilion to bring in educators to work with students out in the new school forest behind the Tower-Soudan School.

▶ Heard updates from board members on activities and achievements at their schools, including the upcoming robotics competition with teams from NE Range and North Woods participating, and the upcoming band and choir competitions that will be held at NE Range.

 School board member Jarrett Bundy told the parents who attended the meeting that "I hear you. Your voices are being heard."

miles instead of the original 50-mile loop.

Racers competed for a 2025 purse totaling \$9,000. In the eight-dog competition, Lauren Stukenborg won \$1,100 for her ond-place finish, while Kendra Anderson claimed \$650 for third. In the six-dog race, Eric Nyren took second, winning \$900, while third-place finisher Mickey Knettel took home \$550.

revised race route was 44

VI funds.

mittee parents said the academic achievement of the American Indian students in the district is their main concern. Many of those students are testing below the district average in math and

that her mother was fighting the exact same fight when she was a student.

teaching staff means that more classes at North Woods would be combined, creating larger classes for many more students.

This isn't fair for the students or the teachers, she said.

"Is it fair for a teacher to teach 30 kids at North Woods when a teacher in Tower has much less?" she asked.

She also asked the board to reconsider the four-day week option.

"You can make Fridays work," she said. "Work with Cook to offer programming at the recreation center. You need to be creative.'

She also asked if any administrative cuts were being considered.



ATTENTION GREENWOOD VOTERS



Come out and meet two of your election candidates! The Township election will be Tuesday, March 11, 2025. On the ballot are candidates for Supervisor and Treasurer.

MEET & GREET SATURDAY, MARCH 1 • 5-7 PM

Tavern In The Bay, 2007 Cty Rd 77, Tower

Steve Bradach **Candidate for Greenwood Supervisor**

Paul Thompson **Candidate for Greenwood Treasurer**

Candidates will share their qualifications and answer your questions. Appetizers will be provided. Both candidates support Option B.

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GREENWOOD VOTERS ONCE AGAIN....



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Most of All... **KEEP YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE**

Paid by John and JoAnn Bassing

RECOGNITION

Tower youth gets county Life Saver award

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

VIRGINIA- Seventeenyear-old Rogelio Noyes, of Tower, was honored at the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners meeting on Tuesday in Virginia for his efforts in rescuing a neighbor from a devastating house fire in January.

Noyes was among nine individuals or groups who received 911 Life Saver Awards from Sheriff Gordon Ramsay for their heroic deeds.

According to a report in the Jan. 17 edition of the Timberjay, Rogelio and his father, former Tower Fire Chief Rolando Noyes, heard a loud noise outside their house around 9 p.m. on Jan. 9.

"We heard a boom,

looked out the window, and was big flames." saw nothing but flames," the elder Noyes said.

"It was a big explosion, and the house was fully engulfed."

The two could see that their 86-year-old neighbor, Jim Anderson, was still inside, struggling to open a back door where a cement slab under the door had frost-heaved just a week or so before the fire.

Rogelio, a junior lineman on the North Woods School football team last fall, called 911 then rushed to force open the door and get Anderson to safety.

"The door was really hard to push," Rolando said. "It was a pretty close call. All I saw

Anderson's daughter, Sherry, expressed her deep gratitude.

Rogelio Noyes rescued elderly man from burning house

"If it wasn't for Rogelio," she said, "he might not have gotten out."

The house was a total loss. Ramsay noted in his remarks that, "Ro' humbly downplays his courageous actions. It was, in fact, his friends who encouraged him to share his story. Ro, thank you for your help in saving a life - it is something you should be proud of." Noyes did not attend the ceremony.

Three emergency responders were also honored for their work during a response to a cardiac arrest

Right: Rogelio Noyes, #30. attends and plays football at North Woods School. He rescued his next door neighbor during an intense house fire. file photo

in Embarrass in Dec. 2023. **Emergency Communications** Specialist Don Walters provided critical medical direction and CPR instructions to an unnamed individual on scene for 18 minutes until Deputy Josh Etter and paramedic Cody Hanson arrived on scene. Given the need to initiate CPR immediately and maintain it until emergency responders could take over, the extended guidance and support from Walters almost



certainly made a difference, according to Ramsay.

"Without the actions of these individuals, the outcome for the female involved in this incident would likely have

been far more dire," Ramsay said.

IRRRB FUNDING

North Country projects receive major support

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Several North Country communities, including Ely, Tower, Cook, and Orr, will see major improvements thanks to funding awarded through the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation. At the state agency's board meeting on Feb. 25, officials reviewed nearly \$9 million in grants aimed at business

growth, infrastructure modernization, and housing development across the region.

Tower secured \$482,000 to construct water, sewer, and electrical utility infrastructure for six newly built sustainable single-family homes along the East Two River. That project, which is being financed by the owners of Your Boat Club, is expected to eventually entail dozens of homes.

Ely will receive \$200,000 to upgrade utilities and recon-

CITY OF ELY

struct roadways as part of a joint urban renewal project with St. Louis County.

In Orr, \$260,000 will go toward infrastructure improvements, including sewer line replacement at the wastewater treatment plant, waterline upgrades on Second Avenue East, and new airport lighting at the Orr Regional Airport. Orr will also receive an additional \$130,000 to construct a four-unit T-hangar at the airport, replacing an

outdated structure.

Meanwhile, Cook will use \$180,000 to develop nine new single-family lots. The project is especially significant for Cook, which was hit hard by flooding in June 2024. The new lots are located above the floodplain, ensuring greater protection for future homeowners.

Beyond these local projects, North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity received \$750,000 to support infra-

structure and construction for nine new home sites across the Iron Range. The grant will help build three new homes, rehabilitate two existing ones,

complete two unfinished homes, and lay foundations for two more that are set for early 2026.

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down, state officials informed the city their application was denied because the city did not provide a full appraisal of the

> property. At Tuesday's Ely Economic Development Authority meeting, the city's development consultant John Fedo gave the news.

"We were told that we were disqualified because we didn't utilize the format of a full appraisal on the \$75,000 for the property donated by the city to the project. We were not asked for that ... if we had been told that (a full

appraisal) was required of us, we wouldn't have put a qualified number (based on the county's appraised value)."

The Ely Housing and Redevelopment Authority submitted the \$4.5 million grant application for gap financing on the \$9.2 million project. The city was aiming at receiving a portion of the \$39 million pot of grant fudning which state Rep. Roger Skraba and state Sen. Grant Hauschild helped push through the Legislature in 2023. The money was supposed to be used to support housing projects outside of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. When the money was awarded, most of the funding went to projects within a 60-mile radius of Minneapolis.

Ely was originally told by the Minnesota Housing and Financing Authority that the grant had excellent prospects of being funded. City officials are currently trying to set up a meeting with the agency to gain a fuller understanding of the grant denial and the city's chances to obtain future funding.

Unstated requirement sank housing grant by CATIE CLARK

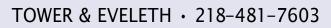
ELY- The city of Ely's grant application for gap financing for its proposed 37-unit workforce housing project was flunked due to a requirement about which city officials were never informed.

Ely Editor

Ely donated a \$75,000 property — the site of the old city garage - to its housing authority as part of its own contribution to the project. After waiting six months to find out why the grant was turned



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Briefly

Ely Chamber of Commerce to hold three job fairs in March

ELY- The Ely Chamber of Commerce will sponsor three job fairs during March. The first fair is scheduled for Wednesday, March 5, from 4-6 p.m. at the U.S. Forest Service Kawishiwi Ranger Station, 1393 Hwy 169, Ely. All are welcome.

The second job fair will be in Tower, at the Herb Lamppa Civic Center, 402 Pine St., on Wednesday, March 26 from 4-6 p.m. This event is also open to the public.

The third job fair is for high school students only from the Ely, Winton, Tower, Soudan, and Babbitt areas. The event will be held at the Ely Public Schools campus in the cafeteria on Thursday, March 20 from 8-10 a.m.

These job fairs offer an opportunity to connect with local employers, explore career options, and learn about current job openings. Some businesses will conduct onthe-spot interviews and provide information about their companies. The Chamber will also have job resources available at each location.

Businesses that would like to participate at the job fairs, please contact Eva at 218-365-6123 or email her at director@ely.org.

Ely grants permit for proposed dog park

PLAYTIME

by CATIE CLARK Ely Editor

ELY- After years of talking about it, Ely dog owners are on their way to creating an enclosed dog park in Ely. The project took a big leap forward last week when the Ely Board of Adjustment issued a conditional use permit, or CUP, to a group of Ely dog owners who have organized to set up and maintain a dog park in the city.

The dog park will use the underutilized southeast softball diamond at the Jerome Debeltz Fields, which has been designated as a "dog-friendly field" since late summer. It will be converted into a fully enclosed field with segregated spaces for small and large canines.

The land belongs to the city of Ely, which will lease the field to the dog park organization, which was incorporated in December as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. The land for the dog park is zoned as "P2" public land, which allows for dog parks with a CUP, which allows the city to impose conditions on the operation. On Jan. 8, Ely dog owner Bruce Wheelright submitted the required application on behalf of the nonprofit to convert the dog-friendly field into an



enclosed dog park. **Public hearing**

The Ely Board of Adjustment held a public hearing on Wednesday, Feb. 18 on the CUP application. The details of the CUP application and the plans for the dog park were presented by Ely dog owner Craig Rice on behalf of the nonprofit.

Public testimony in favor of the CUP application was given by Angela Campbell, Francis Douglas, Frederica Musgrave, Betsy Cullen, and Adam Bisbee. While Musgrave and Bisbee favored the park, they both suggested that only vaccinated dogs should be Ely dog owner and dog park organizer Craig Rice presented the details of the proposed Ely Dog Park to the Ely Board of Adjustment on Feb. 19. Photo by C. Clark

allowed and that dangerous and aggressive dogs should be banned.

"There should also be an expectation for instant reporting (of aggressive dog behavior)," Bisbee suggested, "as well as warnings

for any owners whose dogs are involved in an incident, whether it's a three-strike policy or something to that effect."

"I think the dog park is a great idea," said Cullen, who works part-time as a pet sitter. "I got into a little back and forth with somebody who is opposed to it because they have experienced naughty dogs that attacked each other. To those folks, I'd say that if you're afraid that your dog's going to get attacked, or get a disease, or whatever, then just don't go."

CUP

The Board of Adjustment first voted on a motion to grant the CUP with no conditions, but that motion failed, with board members Joe Prioreschi and Scott Anderson voting in favor and David Hernesmaa, Emily Roose, and Jeanette Palcher voting against. Members Alan White and Jim Burke were absent.

After the first vote, the board members discussed what sort of conditions would be appropriate for the dog park, eventually threshing out a list of nine, which are as follows:

► Follow all rules and regulations of the lease agreement established by the city of Ely

➤ Require a minimum four-foot-high fence around the outer perimeter of the dog park.

Mow and perform general maintenance of the field, including the removal of trash and dog waste, and providing a restroom.

► Hours of operation are dawn to dusk.

➤ Alcohol, cannabis, cannabinoid, and tobacco use are prohibited.

➤ Must seek permission from the city for any modifications to the land other than what has already been approved.

► Carry sufficient liability insurance.

► Require that all dogs using the dog park must be up to date on vaccines.

➤ No one under eight can use the dog park and children between eight and sixteen must be accompanied by an adult.

Palcher made the motion to approve a CUP with the above conditions, which passed unanimously. Prioreschi then made a new motion to recommend that the city council waive the \$250 CUP application fee for the nonprofit. This also passed unanimously. The recommendation to waive the fee will be on the agenda for the next city council meeting on March 4.

What's next

Having received its CUP, the organizers of the dog park are preparing to jump their next hurdle, which is raising the money to fix the fence and completely enclose the field. The fence work is estimated at \$35,000, based on quotes that Wheelright and Rice have solicited from fencing companies who do business in Ely.

The day after the CUP was approved, Wheelright was working on setting up a GoFundMe campaign to collect donations for the fence.



It may not seem like spring right now, but at the Cook Thrift Shop it is!

The floors in the shop need some TLC. To help clear inventory we will be having a half-off everything in the shop sale (except jewelry)

Starting February 20 through March 8 Shopping hours are 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. on February 27 – 28; March 6 – 8

The shop will then be closed until March 20 after which regular hours will resume. Come find some bargains at half the price!

Donations will be accepted during the posted shopping dates.

Follow us on Facebook at Cook Area Health Care Auxiliary for updates.

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Six file for Bois Forte tribal chairperson

VERMILION RESER-VATION- The Bois Forte Tribal Council met Tuesday at the Vermilion Social Center to certify candidates for an upcoming special election for tribal chairperson.

Longtime chair Cathy Chavers announced her retirement in early January, and District 1 Tribal Council Representative Shane Drift is serving as the interim tribal chair until a successor is elected.

With six candidates having filed to run for the permanent position, a primary election will be held on April 15 to narrow the field to two. The special general election will be held on June 17.

Those who filed include Peter "Chief" Boney, Marty J. Connor, Carlos A. Hernandez, Rhonda Hoaglund, Mildred R. Holmes, and Travis Morrison.





Your voice matters!

Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital is conducting a Community Health Needs Assessment and wants YOU to share your healthcare experiences. Join a Focus Group and help shape the future of local healthcare. Your input can make a real difference!

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United Way of Northeastern Minnesota's Buddy Backpacks program sends 900+ local children atrisk of hunger home with meal kits each weekend and holiday break of the school year PLUS an annual hygiene kit. Summer Buddy Backpacks are available to all children 18 and under every Thursday at Meet Up and Chow Down free summer lunch sites across the region.

SPORTS

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BOYS BASKETBALL

Grizzlies beat Chisholm in comeback thriller



by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- Defense wins games. Free throws win games. Taking care of the ball wins games. Live by the three,

Left: North Woods' Louie Panichi bulls his way through a crowd of Chisholm defenders to put up a shot in the lane during Friday's game.

photo by D. Colburn

die by the three.

the Grizzlies' favor.

After a robust rally from

15 points down early in the

second half, North Woods

was clinging to a tenuous

two-point advantage, 68-66,

with 12 seconds to go. Free All of those standard throws win games, and the basketball maxims flashed Grizzlies' Talen Jarshaw was through the minds of Grizzlies' at the line with a chance to fans in a scant three seconds of seal the deal for North Woods. North Woods' thrilling 70-66 Making one would ensure a come-from-behind home win tie, making both would make a last-second Chisholm threeagainst Chisholm on Friday, with the mix playing out in ball irrelevant.

But both of Jarshaw's charities missed the mark, and as the second miss fell into the hands of the Bluestreaks' Ethan Lauzen, the panic of death by a winning Chisholm

three seized the crowd, and the threat was real-Chisholm had already hit 11 three-pointers, including one on their previous possession, and 12 seconds was more than enough time to get a good look.

But defense wins games and taking care of the ball wins games. In only a second, North Woods went on defense, and Chisholm didn't take care

See GRIZZLIES...pg. 2B

BOYS BASKETBALL Ely holds off **South Ridge**

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

ELY- The Timberwolves survived a second half South Ridge rally to improve to 16-8 on the season with a 76-66 win on their home hardwood here last Friday. Point guard Jack Davies sparked Ely's offense as he poured in 34 points and added seven assists.

"It was a big seeding game for us," noted Ely Head Coach Tom McDonald. The Panthers came into the game at 15-8identical to Ely- but had the advantage in the section seeding, so the victory should put the Timberwolves ahead moving into the post-season.

The regular season is set to wrap up this Friday for the Timberwolves, with the Section 7A playoffs set to start on Monday, March 3.

The Wolves dominated much of Friday's contest and continued to pull away until early in the second half."We got up on them 52-29 in the second half but they rallied and cut it to eight at one point," said McDonald." They started to hit some shots and we turned the ball over too many times in that stretch but played well enough at the end to get the win."

While Davies led the way offensively, he had plenty of help from Caid Chittum, who racked up 25 points and seven rebounds along with Drew Johnson who tallied 12 points and seven boards.

The Wolves head to Fond du Lac on Friday to wrap up their regular season.



BOYS BASKETBALL

Grizzlies rally shocks Wolves North Woods exact revenge in 51-45 comeback win

GIRLS BASKETBALL Wolves finish regular season strong at 17-8

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

ELY - The Timberwolves used a balanced offensive attack and strong defense to keep South Ridge under wraps as they finished their regular season with a 48-38 win.

The victory cemented Ely's regular season record at 17-8, good for sixth seed in the Section 7A playoffs, guaranteeing them a home berth in the first round, which was set for Thursday evening, after the Timberjay's Wednesday press time.

 $During Friday's \, contest, Zoe \, Mackenzie$ led the way offensively with 12 points, including two three-balls, while Lydia Shultz added nine. Maija Mattson, Clare Thomas, and Audrey Kallberg notched eight points apiece, while Mattson led the team in rebounds with eight. Thomas added five boards for Ely.

See ELY GIRLS...pg. 2B

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD T W P -Revenge is a dish best served cold, and the North Woods boys served up a frigid helping of vengeance to Ely on Tuesday, coming from behind to beat the Wolves 51-45 on the Grizzlies' home court.

With only one win in nine tries, January was a dismal month for the Grizzlies, and no loss stung more than the 80-53 shellacking the Wolves laid on them to start the slide. Almost two months later, the Grizzlies were more than ready to atone for their lackluster play.

Tuesday's game was far from pretty, starting out with only three buckets in the first 16 possessions. The Grizzlies had trouble penetrating Ely's zone defense, but a trey and a driving bucket by Aidan Hartway gave North Woods an early

"I think we were 1-for-16 on threes on the night"

Tom McDonald Ely Head Coach

7-2 lead. But with Wyatt Tedrick draining a three and Caid Chittum collecting three doubles, the Wolves took their first lead of the game at 11-10 at the 10:40 mark. Louie Panichi scored for North Woods at the 8:12 mark, keeping the Grizzlies close at 15-14, but it would be five long minutes before the Grizzlies scored again. The Wolves, however, weren't able to gain much of an advantage from the cold streak, going up 22-14 on a Drew Johnson turnaround jumper seconds

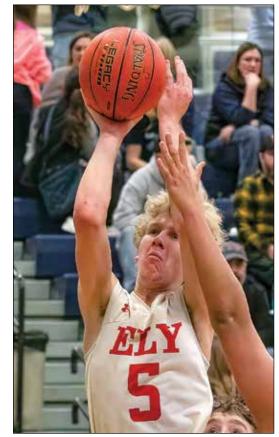
Above: The Grizzlies' Talen Jarshaw puts up a shot in the lane against Ely on Tuesday. **Right: The Wolves'** Drew Johnson evades a North Woods defender as he shoots a jumper.

photos by D. Colburn

before Trajen Barto broke the ice for the Grizzlies with a drive down the lane. The low-scoring first half ended with a Grizzlies' hoop by Talen Jarshaw to cut the Ely lead to 26-20.

Fresh off a win against Chisholm where they came back from 15 down in the second half, the Grizzlies were confident going into the final stanza but failed to make a dent in the Ely lead, trailing 37-29 after ten minutes

See NW/ELY...pg. 2B





DREAM HOMES NEED DREAM KITCHENS & APPLIANCES.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Grizzlies hang tough against Class AAA Hawks

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- When the 6-19 North Woods girls basketball team took to the home court last Thursday for their regular season finale against the Class AAA Hermantown Hawks and their 15-8 record, the outcome was a foregone conclusion. The Grizzlies didn't have the height or skills the Hawks possessed, and Hermantown had built its record with wins over AAAA. AAA, and AA schools. The only question was how the Grizzlies would handle themselves against overwhelming odds.

And the answer was with a whole lot of grit, drive, and pride. The Grizzlies held the powerful Hermantown offense in check in the opening minutes, as a Tatum Barto interception and fast break bucket at the 14:39 mark had the Grizzlies trailing 4-2. A double by Sierra Schuster and a triple by Barto kept North Woods close at 11-7.



Above: The Grizzlies' Tatum Barto fights through an attempted block as she puts up a shot against Hermantown last Thursday. photo by D. Colburn

But the Grizzlies went cold Addison Burckhardt broke as the Hawks found their the Grizzlies' drought with rhythm and built a 29-7 lead a deuce, but down by 20, over the next four minutes. the handwriting was already

on the wall. At halftime the Grizzlies trailed 53-19.

In the second half, the Grizzlies never let up on their

hustle, and as the Hermantown reserves saw more and more time on the floor, North Woods had better success defensively, holding the Hawks to less than half of their first-half output. The Grizzlies continued to struggle with finding the basket, shooting just 18 percent for the game. The Hawks presented a challenge to the Grizzlies' passing game, as North Woods turned the ball over 32 times. Still, North Woods kept up the fight until the final buzzer in the 77-37 loss.

Barto led the Grizzlies with 14 points, and Brynn Chosa dropped in three three-pointers on the way to a 12-point night.

Grizzlies Head Coach Liz Cheney was upbeat about her team's performance.

"I was proud," she said. We talked about coming out and playing hard and just seeing what happens, and we'll make adjustments. When you're playing against girls that are two and three heads taller than you, we have to change the way we

pass, we have to rethink the way we shoot. I thought we came out pretty good, and I thought, 'Wow, we're going to have a little bit of a game here.' I thought we did some really nice things on offense. Then we had a timeout when we were down 13, and then all of a sudden we were down 20 and it just escalated from there."

The Grizzlies drew a road contest against Chisholm for their opening round game of the Section 7A tournament on Thursday, but Cheney didn't know who they would be playing when she talked optimistically about the Grizzlies' chances.

"Whoever it is, we can be competitive with them," Cheney said. "If we can lock in and set our minds to it, do some very specific practicing for that game, who knows? We like to talk about the NCAA, where a 12 seed knocks off a five sometimes. Maybe this will be our year. We're peaking at the right time, we're coming together, so we'll see."

GRIZZLIES...Continued from page 1B-

of the ball. Aidan Hartway streaked across the lane and took the ball away from Lauzen, and while falling out of bounds flipped the ball underneath the basket to Jarshaw, who banked in the win-sealing two-pointer with nine seconds remaining.

It was a fitting end for a Grizzlies team that leaned on its defense to get back into the game after trailing 36-23 at the half. Trailing 40-25 with 14:39 to play, Louie Panichi poked the ball away from a Chisholm player and

Hartway corralled the loose ball, passing it back to Panichi for a fast break layup. Panichi was fouled and made the charity, and the Grizzlies' rally was on. North Woods held the Bluestreaks scoreless for the next four minutes as they mounted a huge 17-0 run on scores by Panichi, Andrew Hartway, August Peltier, and eight points including a pair of triples from Trajen Barto to take a 42-40 lead. It was a dogfight from there to the finish, with the lead changing hands multiple times until the

Grizzlies went up for good with 2:53 remaining on a fast break bucket by Andrew Hartway.

The Grizzlies' defense neutralized the Bluestreaks' inside game, as Chisholm put up over half its shots from beyond the arc. Meanwhile, the Grizzlies took threefourths of their shots in close, collecting 38 points in the paint and 25 points off of 14 steals and a total of 25 Chisholm turnovers.

Jarshaw led the Grizzlies in scoring with 18, followed

by Panichi with 16 and Aidan Hartway with 10. North Woods Head Coach

Andrew Jugovich gushed about the Grizzlies' comeback after the game. "That was one hell of a

half," Jugovich said. "Most of the year we've been a second half team, whether we're up or down. The last few seconds were nerve wracking, but we came alive and the boys finally had that comeback that we've needed this year. I'm proud of them."

Jugovich also had high

praise for Barto, not only for his key scores during the Grizzlies big run, but for stepping up his play overall.

"I'm going to give a lot of props to Trajen Barto tonight," he said. "He's really led us in the past few games with his passing, he's cut down on his turnovers and he's really been coming alive, which is what we need come playoff time."

The Grizzlies had one more home game on Tuesday against Ely before closing out the regular season on Friday with a road trip to Deer River,

but North Woods honored its seniors last Friday, with Louie Panichi, Talen Jarshaw, Trajen Barto, Aidan Hartway, Kalvyn Benner, and John Carlson winding down their North Woods careers in the upcoming Section 7A tournament. The Grizzlies are in the hunt for an opening game at home, with a win in either of their two remaining games likely giving them the edge over Northland which has a tough final road game against South Ridge.

ELY GIRLS...Continued from page 1B -

The win bodes well for Ely's first round in the playoffs as they'll host the Panthers, now 12th-seeded, once again, this time with a 6 p.m. start. who racked up 25 points, including

Friday's win came on the heels of a dominating 75-49 Ely victory over Littlefork-Big Falls led by Thomas

two treys, on the night. It was one of the best scoring performances of her high school career and she was red hot from two-point range, connecting

on nine of 14 shots, and capped the night with 7 rebounds. Mackenzie added 13 points for the Wolves, along with six boards, while Kallberg tallied 12 points and 10 rebounds for a double-double. Shultz and Mattson added 8 points apiece, while Amelia Penke pitched in with 6 points.

NW/ELY...Continued from page 1B

of play. But a trey by Jarshaw and a deuce and one by Panichi suddenly had the Grizzlies back to within two, and Jarshaw followed an Elv bucket by Johnson with another triple to get within one at 39-38. North Woods

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regained the lead 42-41 on a reverse layup by Kalvyn Benner at the 5:47 Barto followed that with a clutch shot from behind the arc to give the lead back to the Grizzlies, and a jumper in the lane by Panichi extended the lead to 49-45 as the Wolves began to misfire badly from the field. Jarshaw came up with a steal and a score with

45 seconds remaining, and Ely had no answer, falling 51-45.

Jarshaw led the Grizzlies in scoring with 15, and Panichi added 11. Johnson topped the Ely effort with 19, with Chittum scoring 18. It

was an off night for Ely sharpshooter Jack Davies, who scored 29 in the Wolves' win in January. Davies failed to connect from three-point range and tallied just three points.

North Woods Head Coach Andrew Jugovich reflected on the Grizzlies' gritty win.

ere for 1. "Give

mark, but the Wolves went back on top 45-44 on a bucket by Johnson with just under five minutes to play.

Memories of the Early Days	"It was ugly out there for both teams," Jugovich said. "Give
Back By A fascinating look back at the early history	credit to Tom (Ely Head Coach Tom McDonald). His team works hard. They're probably the hardest
Popular Demand!of the Lake Vermilion areaWritten by Marshall Helmberger • Published by the Timberjay	working team that we've played all year. Our boys were tired. Their
LAKE VERMILION	outside game was ice cold tonight, which is really what saved us." Jugovich noted that the Grizzlies' threes were big. "We always want better per-
A Regional Favorite	centage shots, and no matter what the boys think, we're not that good
STOP IN TODAY OR CALL Just \$2995 + Tax Don't miss your chance to own Lake Vermilion's most definitive history!	of a free-throw shooting team and we're not that good of a three-point shooting team," Jugovich said. "So when our threes do hit, especially with Talen on the left side of the court, it helps." McDonald echoed Jugovich's comment. "I thought Jarshaw hitting the threes really turned it around for them and we couldn't hit a shot in the second half," McDonald said. "I think we were one-for-16 on threes
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The Timberjay BOOK ORDER FORM P.O. Box 636, 414 Main St Tower, MN 55790 • 218-753-2950 Name	If we'd have thought we'd have held them to 51 we'd probably think we're going to win because our defense was good, but we just couldn't score. And (that was) compounded by 21 turnovers on the night. I thought they played well defensively, and we just couldn't handle it."

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VISA

With their fifth win in six games, the Grizzlies popped back above the .500 mark at 13-12 with a tough Friday road contest at Deer River to end the regular season. The 16-9 Wolves will finish on the road as well, at Fond du Lac. The Section 7Atourney gets underway next week.

VOYAGEURS

National Park Service employment turmoil sparks outcry

Impact on Voyageurs National Park staffing levels is still uncertain

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- The whirlwind of public outcry over job offers rescinded, terminations, and resignations at the National Park Service has caused the Trump administration to reverse recent decisions in an attempt to adequately staff for the upcoming tourist season.

When a hiring freeze was announced in January, the park service rescinded job offers to 40 potential seasonal employees and the recruitment process was halted for thousands of seasonal positions that are the lifeblood of park operations during the peaks of visitation in the spring and summer months.

Two weeks ago, Department of the Interior Secretary Doug Burgum dismissed approximately 1,000 full-time park service employees who were on probationary status. The staffing crisis has been heightened by 700 park service employees who have accepted the administration's deferred resignation plan, which offered workers pay through the summer in exchange for their immediate departure. Those who accepted the offer are prohibited from working beyond March 7.

The sudden shift has left many national parks scrambling to main-

tain services with reduced personnel, and Burgum has responded by lifting the freeze on seasonal hirings and authorizing up to 7,700 new hires, slightly higher than the most recent three-year average.

But park advocates remain unconvinced that the additional seasonal hires can adequately compensate for the experience and knowledge of the departing fulltime staff.

"The National Park Service is in crisis, and things are only getting worse," said Kristen Brengel, senior vice president of government affairs for the National Parks Conservation Association. "In a matter of weeks, nine percent of Park Service staff have been lost to mass firings and resignations. These staffing cuts will put a major strain on an already understaffed and overwhelmed park service. With hundreds of park staff taking the administration's buyout offer, the park service will lose a wealth of expertise, experience and knowledge they will never get back."

With more than 325 million visitors annually, national parks were already understaffed according to park advocates. Over the past decade, park visitation has in-

creased by ten percent, while staffing levels have declined by 13 percent, leaving the agency with 2,600 fewer staff members than in 2011.

While the reinstatement of seasonal workers provides temporary relief, the long-term impact of the cuts remains uncertain. With visitor numbers continuing to rise and fulltime staff dwindling, many park supporters worry that the nation's treasured landscapes could suffer from neglect and mismanagement.

"We need strong leadership to ensure these parks remain open, safe and well-maintained," said Tim Whitehouse, executive director of Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility. "Secretary Burgum needs to step up and make sure these parks are operating at full capacity this spring and summer.'

Voyageurs uncertainty

Beyond the firing of Voyageurs National Park Manager of Interpretation and Public Affairs Kate Severson, who was a probationary employee, the specific impact of the administration's various actions on Minnesota's only national park is unknown.

VNP Superintendent Bob De-Gross was directed in January to

PUBLIC SAFETY

Proposed grant program would target additional financial aid to Greater Minnesota

send all media requests to the park service's national office, thwarting the Timberjay's attempt to determine the effects of the hiring freeze, as multiple email requests to the park service for information remain unanswered.

The Timberjay attempted to contact DeGross again last week, and he referred the inquiry to the park service's regional communications office. When the Timberjay finally made contact with that office this week, a representative said that park service could not comment on personnel matters. Such a response is typically reserved for privileged information about current personnel, and not for inquiries about positions that may or may not be available for hire.

Applications for park service positions are submitted through the USAJobs.com website and, as of Tuesday, the only seasonal position offered in Minnesota was for a summer maintenance worker position at Pipestone National Monument.

Among the many park-specific seasonal position announcements were several for jobs such as law enforcement rangers, park guides, and others that had no locations

listed, but instead indicated "location negotiable after selected." It is unknown if Voyageurs will have to rely on these non-specific postings or if they will have park-specific announcements in the days ahead.

Whatever the process, the need is urgent, and time is pressing, according to a Feb. 20 email from Voyageurs Conservancy Executive Director Christina Hausman Rhode.

"Though the Department of Interior has reversed its plans to cut 5,000 seasonal NPS workers, the future is uncertain, and it remains unclear when Voyageurs can begin the long process of hiring 30-40 seasonal workers that are critical ahead of the busy summer season," Rhode said. "Seasonal staff at Voyageurs National Park support boat programs, visitor centers operations, wildlife monitoring, campsite cleaning, and dock and trail maintenance.'

Rhode urged people with concerns to contact their Congressional representatives, and to patronize the many businesses in VNP gateway communities that are dependent on serving park visitors, noting that, "Their services will be even more critical if park operations continue to diminish."

Rural EMS funding issues get attention from legislators

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Financially-challenged rural EMS services may get another boost on top of last year's special \$24 million allocation from the Minnesota Legislature as bills proposing a new ambulance operating deficit grant program move forward in this year's session.

Rep. Natalie Zeleznikar, R-Fredenburg Township and Sen. Grant Hauschild, DFL-Hermantown, have introduced companion bills to establish the program, reflecting the continuation of bipartisan efforts from last year's session.

Zeleznikar's bill was the focus of a House Health Finance and Policy Committee hearing on Tuesday, introducing legislators to a possible solution for rural ambulance services that are losing millions of dollars each year and are sometimes reimbursed at less than 25 cents on the dollar for transporting patients.

The grant program would be for ambulance services operating outside the seven-county metro area, Rochester and Duluth. Specific challenges for rural services include having

larger areas to cover, fewer paid runs to support overhead costs, a higher percentage of reimbursements from Medicare and Medicaid and heavier reliance on volunteers.

"We know we have to not do a band aid, but have something that's lasting and that's long term, and that is going to be reasonable and make sense," Zeleznikar said. "Today, this is just letting you be aware that we're looking at having some type of a grant program that would identify that as we move forward. We will turn over

every rock to ensure that, regardless of where you live, if you need an ambulance, one will get to you."

Erik Simonsen, representing the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities. testified in favor of the bill.

"House File 337 addresses several concerns we have heard over the past two years of working on this particular challenge," Simonsen said. "Number one, it addresses the operating deficits so many Greater Minnesota licensed ground ambulance services are facing annually to no fault of their own. Two,

it provides a clean formula using data provided to the state that distributes grant dollars only where they are needed. Three, it provides clear guidelines on what the grant dollars can be expended for and provides the clarity that the Office of Emergency Medical Services can perform audits of grant applications. It addresses the uncompensated care problem for ambulance services. It addresses the cost of readiness within the operational costs, and it provides reporting back to the legislature in the interest of accountability

and transparency.

"We know based on the 2023 reporting period, that non-metro services reported deficits totaling more than \$30 million when you use the formula within this bill. This bill resolves a challenge over 20 years in the making," he concluded.

Simonsen noted that one significant detail of the bill that has yet to be worked out is the source of funding, although mechanisms for establishing the fund and disbursing the grants are specified. Additional refinements will

Obituaries and Death Notices



(Laurie Hipple) Jam; stepdaughters, Vicki Rafn, Jeannie (David) Christopherson and Rebecca (Dan) Baumhoefner; sister, Rosemary (James) McNeven; 11 grandchildren; a great-grandson; and many special cousins and close friends.

1945, in Soudan, to parents ematical knowledge.

Faye was born on Oct. 8, teaching skills and her math-Throughout the span of her years as an educator, Faye was quietly accomplished. Faye was the recipient of several of the highest awards in her professional field, including the Wisconsin State Kohl Award, presented by Wisconsin Senator Herb Kohl, and the 1997 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching, granted by the National Science Foundation and for which she was honored at the White House by President Bill Clinton. Faye earned her master's degree and was ABD (All But Dissertation), completing all of the coursework toward a doctoral degree in Educational Leadership at St. Mary's University in Winona. Faye had her numerous mathematics lessons and professional development articles published in national

home, surrounded by family. A memorial service was

Clifford Littler; 11 grandchildren; 17 great-grand-

Joseph C. Jam

Joseph Charles Jam, 86, of Ely, passed away on Monday, Feb. 10, 2025, at Essentia Health St. Mary's in Duluth. A celebration of life will take place this summer. Funeral arrangements are entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

Joe was born on Jan. 16, 1939, in Minneapolis, to Lloyd and Rose Esler Jam. He was a skilled craftsman of many trades, including the home he designed and built with his wife Denise. He was known for his willingness to help anyone in need and was a big contributor to the community. Joe's passions were fishing, hunting, skiing, skating, gardening and spending time with family and friends. He was known for making his homemade wine from the grapes he grew in his large garden. Joe loved people and was always ready to lend a hand in any way. But it was his storytelling that made him the life of every gathering.

Joe is survived by his beloved wife of 33 years, Denise; children, Bonnie (Bruce) Monsrud and Joey

He was preceded in death by his parents; sisters, Nancy and Delores; and brother, Jack.



Faye A. Hilgart

Faye Aileen Hilgart, 79, of Sun Prairie, Wis., passed away of natural causes at St. Mary's Hospital in Madison, Wis., on Friday, Feb. 14, 2025. Per her wishes, there will be no formal funeral service; her family will scatter her ashes this summer in Lake Vermilion, near her childhood cabin.

In lieu of flowers, the Hilgart family is accepting donations toward a scholarship fund in Faye's honor for women pursuing a career in mathematics or mathematics education. Please google Faye A. Hilgart Mathematics and Math Education Fund for details.

Arnie Branwall and Eline Williams Branwall. She was very connected to the earth, spending as much of her childhood as possible outdoors, including at her family cabin on Lake Vermilion, which her father built himself. Faye was valedictorian of her class at Tower-Soudan High School in 1963 and earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota-Duluth in Mathematics Education and Physical Education. She spent her summers as a camp counselor at Camp Birch Trail during college.

After her first teaching job in Minnesota, Faye took her second teaching position in Glidden, Wis., where she met fellow teacher and her future husband, Francis Hilgart, in the fall of 1969. They married on the first day of spring in 1970. Faye and Francis moved to Whitehall, Wis., in 1970, where they took teaching jobs in neighboring school districts and had two children, Erin and Brent. Faye taught at the Blair-Taylor School District for 30 years, from 1970 to 2001. The following school year, Faye started a position in the Madison Area School District as a Mathematics Resource Teacher, where she supported teachers to build teacher and student math confidence, competence and success. Her peers in that role described her as a model and leader among the team of teacher-educators, and the teachers she supported respected her for both her

textbooks and publications. Faye is survived by her husband, Francis Hilgart of Sun Prairie, Wis.; son, Brent Hilgart of St. Paul; daughter, Erin Hilgart Ed.D and son-in-law, Jose Viñals of Woodstock, N.Y.; and grandchildren, Amel and Liesel Viñals-Hilgart of Woodstock, N.Y.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Arnie and Eline Branwall and brother, Dexter Branwall, all of Soudan.

Arnold W. Niemi

Arnold William "Arnie" Niemi, 86, of Virginia, originally of Pike, died on Sunday, Feb. 16, 2025, in his

held on Monday, Feb. 24 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Virginia with Pastor Brad Felix officiating. Family services were provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by his loving wife and best friend of 63 years, Judy Kober Niemi; daughter, Tammy Sederlund of Virginia; son, Todd Niemi of Superior; grandchildren, Andrew (Danielle Hoppe) Sederlund of Plymouth, Stephanie (Adam) Smith of Chicago, Kaylie Niemi of Moorhead and Rachel Niemi of Rochester, N.Y.; a great-granddaughter on the way; and extended family and friends.

Floyd J. Littler

Floyd James Littler, 93, longtime resident of Babbitt, passed away peacefully after a brief illness on Sunday, Feb. 23, 2025, surrounded by his family at St. Mary's Hospital in Duluth. Visitation will be held from 5 to 8:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 28 at Range Funeral Home in Virginia. A celebration of life service will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 1 at the First Presbyterian Church in Ely, with visitation one hour prior to the service. Pastor Corey Larsen will officiate. Burial will take place at the Argo Cemetery in Babbitt in May. Arrangements are with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by his son, Karl (Kathy) Littler; daughter, Diane (Orrin) Johannessohn; sisters, Charlotte (Burdette Peterson) Jackson and Gladys Jensen; brother,

children; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Dale J. Marleau

Dale James Marleau, 84, of Ely, passed away at his home on Garden Lake on Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2025. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 28 at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely, with visitation one hour prior. Burial will be at the Ely Cemetery. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home in Ely.



Read It HERE



WINTER SEVERITY

Late February melt offers more hope for deer rebound



by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

REGIONAL- A week of well-above-normal temperatures and an extended forecast showing generally mild conditions through the first week of March, is likely to be good news for the area's deer population.

Left: Barring an unexpected turn in the weather, it appears the area deer herd may escape another winter with minimal mortality.

The area deer herd clearly benefitted from last winter, the mildest ever recorded in Minnesota. The mild conditions sharply reduced deer winter mortality and hunters in the region saw an effect as the hunter harvest jumped nine percent over the prior year this past November.

While deer numbers are still below goal due to back-to-back tough winters in the early 2020s, a second straight mild winter could bring an even bigger population rebound.

The stage for that was set in the first half of this winter, as the region experienced exceptionally warm and snowless conditions through early January. That left the deer herd in unusually good shape even as more typical winter weather arrived in mid-January. Now, six weeks later, an already below-average snowpack has taken a hit from temperatures near 40 degrees several days in a row. And with an extended forecast suggesting little new snow and continued mild temperatures through the first week of March, the prospects that the current winter will end on the mild side are improving daily.

The Department of Natural Resources uses it winter severity index, or WSI, to determine how winter conditions might affect the deer population. The index adds a point for each night below zero and for each day with at least 15 inches of snow on the ground.

As of Feb. 26, the WSI

See WINTER...pg. 5B



SMALL SCALE AGRICULTURE Managing hens akin to herding cats The pecking order presents a challenge for keeping chickens in winter

FISHERIES DNR taking public input on area fishery plans

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

REGIONAL—The walleye season may have come to an end for now for most anglers, but that makes it a good time to read up and weigh in on updates to management plans for a number of area lakes.

The Department of Natural Resources is taking public comments on management plans for dozens of lakes in northern St. Louis and Lake counties.

People who want to discuss any of the individual fisheries listed below must call or email the area fisheries office listed for each lake during March.

"People interested in the health and quality of Minnesota's fisheries are a critical part of the DNR's fisheries lake management planning process," said Shannon Fisher, DNR fisheries populations and regulations manager. "These plans establish fisheries management goals and objectives for each lake and define the work fisheries biologists do each year. Observations and input from a lake's stakeholders are essential to the planning effort." Comments about preferred experiences, observations or general concerns about the fishery-rather than suggestions on how DNR might accomplish a specific goal or objective - are the most helpful kinds of input. Management plans in the Tower and International Falls work areas currently being updated include those for the following lakes:

've been busy in recent weeks with the fallout from the pecking order. Life with chickens certainly has its advantages when a dozen eggs is going for nearly \$10 a dozen in the local grocery store, but managing ten hens can require a willingness to think outside the box at times.

Or maybe inside the box, as I'll explain.

Henpecking is a real thing, and by that I'm not referring to the husband with

a domineering wife, although the dynamics can be similar. During winter, especially, I've learned that chickens get bored inside their coop, even a large one like the one I built for my ladies. When

it's cold, as it usually is here in winter, I keep the door to their outside run closed up

MARSHALL

HELMBERGER

tight to keep them warmer. The coop is unheated but I built it like a solar greenhouse, well insulated everywhere except for the glass on the south wall. The coop warms into the 60s and 70s when its sunny, even when it's below zero, and it even warms a bit on cloudier days. Keeping that heat inside helps maintain warmer temperatures overnight, which is when the hens can be the most stressed when the temperatures drop well below zero.

One thing I've learned about chickens, at least the hardier stock like the Rhode Island Reds and the

Top: The regular hens keep a sharp eye out from their coop.

Right: The two recovering chickens wake up after spending the night under a blanket in their roost box. The two birds have since been returned to the coop.

photos by M. Helmberger

Barred Rocks that we're keeping right now, is that they are tough. It can be 35-below outside and they're not complaining, at least in a coop that is insulated and free of cold drafts. That is not to suggest, for a moment, that it stays warm in an unheated coop, even one built like mine. My birds rely on their dense layer of feathers to avoid freezing to death, and that's why henpecking can be a real problem.

It turns out, it's not so much pecking as pulling. Some mornings, it can look like the hens just finished a pillow fight, the kind where the pillow breaks and the feathers go flying. I came out earlier in the winter to find one of the hens had been picked nearly clean sometime in the evening after their last water check and it had frozen solid during the night.

I suspect one of the two Rocks, both of which have spectacularly pristine, dense plumage that leaves me to wonder if they wouldn't be right at home on an ice floe with a flock of penguins.

Of course, it probably wasn't just one hen. As is often the case with humans as well, once one bird is identified as weak, it can become a pile-on. In either case, I silently vowed to keep it from happening again.

So, when sizeable bare patches started showing up on two more hens,



a Rock and a Red, and with another cold snap looming, I removed the two birds from the coop and put them in the solar greenhouse next to the chicken coop. I put down straw in the greenhouse's growing bed and fenced them in there, figuring I'd keep them there until their feathers grew back in.

They spent the first couple nights lying in the straw but as the 30-below air moved in, I came up with a different plan to keep them warmer. I put about six inches of straw in a cardboard box, which I set on a workbench in the greenhouse,

figuring they'd stay warmer up off the floor. After a bit of chasing them around the garden bed, I was able to grab each of the birds and I placed them in the box and covered it with a blanket. The next morning, the two birds were just fine and I put them back in the garden bed for the day. That evening, I went out to put them in their box, figuring I'd have to chase them around again like the night before. Instead, I found both birds perched side-by-side, right next to the box on the workbench.

See HENS...pg. 5B

Tower area

Arthur, Bear Head, Deep, Ely, Embarrass, Emberrass Pit, Ensign, Everett, Farm, Garden, Hanson (Burntside), Miner's Pit, Mott Pit, Mudro, Pike River Flowage, Sand, Slim, South Farm, White Iron, Whitewater. Contact Keith Reeves at 218-300-7803 or keith.reeves@ state.mn.us

International Falls area

Agnes, Battle, Brown, Dark, Echo, Elephant, Fat, Gun, Ryan, Winchester.

Contact Phil Talmage at 218-598-8196 or phil.talmage@ state.mn.us



COMMENTARY

There's so much to know about turtles in winter

this year the old lady from the island has ended up in it's the sea turtles. I learned

Texas for a couple of months. To be sure, the weather is better, but it ain't all lying on the beach in old lady swimsuits. As I write this earlier this month, it's in the 40s and it's been raining for three days. And the winds. Oh, the winds! Off the bay and the ocean are at

a sustained 15-20 mph with, and may I say frequent, gusts up to 50 mph.

But, and here's the gig,

Ok, not gonna lie to y'all, every place has their own weather casualties and here

> about the winter plight of sea turtles at the turtle sanctuary, Sea Turtles, Inc. All kinds of cool stuff about sea turtles and even some ambassador turtles to check out. Turtles that, for one reason or another, can't be released back into the ocean.

Gulf of Mexico (ocean side) and the Laguna Madre which separates mainland Texas from South Padre Island. It is

an approximately 130-mile long salt water lagoon. It is four to six miles wide and is on the average only about three-and-a-half feet deep. Sea turtles go there because of its food sources, but it gets cold. Too cold for sea turtles. At water temperatures below 50 degrees, the turtles get "cold stunned." They become lethargic and unable to swim. If they float, they become vulnerable to predation and boat strikes. They can also drown if they become unable to lift their heads to draw a breath.

The sanctuary staff, members, volunteers and the public come together to the aid of the stunned sea turtles by patrolling the shores on foot and by boat. When they're found they are transported to the sanctuary first and when that fills, they are brought to any available warm environment.I thought a volunteer told me that on one particularly bad year, sea turtles recovered at the community center.

While I was there, the first cold stun event happened and they rescued and released over 175 turtles. When they "come to" and are deemed fit, they are released into the Gulf side of the island where the water temperatures don't fluctuate nearly as much. It's all pretty cool ...

But it got me to thinkin,' what do our northern turtles do? Fifty degrees! Our poor little turtles would barely notice that, I think. Well, what I learned from the all-knowing internet is, our 11 species of turtles survive by retreating to cold but unfrozen water-under the ice. They don't eat and their metabolism is slowed greatly, with only about four heartbeats per minute. But wait, says I, how do they get oxygen? Like under the water? And the answer is this. Most turtles get oxygen from the oxygen in the water as it passes over, well, their butts. They, apparently, have lots of blood vessels there and in their mouths and they have the ability to absorb oxygen, through their skin, from the

water. Sounds fishy, doesn't it?

They can also switch to a process called "anaerobic respiration." It's a process which produces energy without the need for oxygen. Problem with this one is it creates a lactic acid build-up which, for all you non-biology stars like me, gives them cramps, and other bad stuff. Best not to rely on this one too much.

So, wow! Our own little turtles have developed the ability to survive much colder temperatures without the need for human intervention. Now that is super cool stuff! Gotta love them all!

Outdoors in brief

Turkey hunting licenses now on sale for spring hunt

REGIONAL- With wild turkeys now well established in much of the North Country, area hunters may want to take advantage.

Licenses for the spring 2025 turkey hunting season go on sale starting Saturday, March 1.

Licenses may be purchased online (mndnr.gov/ buyalicense), by telephone at 888-665-4236 or in person wherever hunting and fishing licenses are sold. Hunters can hunt statewide and buy licenses for any time period (A-F) over the counter. The earliest season(A) is open April 16-23 with other seasons running consecutively through May 31.

Hunters will be asked which permit area they plan to hunt, so hunters are advised to know that information when they buy their license. All of northeastern Minnesota is included in permit area 508. The Department of Natural Resources will use this information for research purposes to help inform management of the state's turkey population. Importantly, hunters who identify their permit area when purchasing their license will not be restricted to hunting in only that area.

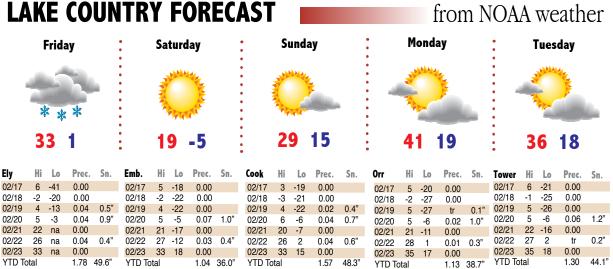
Season dates and hunt rules can be found on the DNR's turkey hunting webpage (mndnr.gov/ hunting/turkey).

HENS...Continued from page 4B-

"Just a coincidence?" I wondered as I picked up both birds without any fuss and put them in their box for the night. But there they were for the next three straight nights. As the sun went down, the two birds would jump over their fence and fly up onto the workbench so I could put them in their box. That is, until the fourth night, when I went out to find they had already put themselves to bed and were sleeping comfortably in their box. All I had to do was tuck them in for the night with their blanket. And that's how it's been every night since then. The Red has already grown back her feathers, but the two birds seem to have bonded so

well I won't put them back in the coop until they're both fully feathered again.

I figure their reintroduction back to the coop could involve more feathers flying, so I'm planning to move the two suspected troublemakers into the greenhouse for a week or so to, hopefully, readjust flock dynamics. By that time, we'll be well into March and I'll start opening up their outside run more often, giving the birds something better to do than pluck feathers from their coop mates.



WINTER...Continued from page 4B

across all but tiny pockets of northeastern Minnesota was registering below 50. According to the DNR, any winter with a total severity index of 50 or less is considered mild, while winters with a reading of 51 to 119 are considered moderate, although there's obviously a difference between a WSI of 60 versus 115.

And final WSI readings include the entire winter season, which means there's a chance that this winter's reading could still reach the moderate level. That would take considerably more snow and more below zero temperatures, which is certainly possible, but the prospects for a return to more winter-like conditions diminish in March.

As of Feb. 28, the average high in the region is 29.8 degrees with an average low of 1.4 degrees.

The DNR updated its WSI scale in 2020 to clearly define winter severity categories. Based on 36 years of data from winter conditions across deer permit areas in the northern forest zone, 25 percent of winters had values of 50 or less; 50 percent of winters had values of 51 to 119; and 25 percent of winters had values of 120 or higher.

Lower deer mortality may be expected during mild winters and higher mortality during severe winters. But the winter severity index is not predictive by itself, according to the DNR, because the simplicity of the point calculation does

not account for the many other factors, such as habitat quality and the timing of spring green-up that can impact deer survival.

According to the DNR, white-tailed deer populations are very resilient due to their high reproductive potential. Annual pregnancy rates average 90 percent for yearlings and are near 100 percent for does from two-and-a-half to at least 15 years old, with more than half of those does having twins.

While winter severity and other factors can cause sharp decreases in deer populations, deer have the reproductive capacity to rebound quite rapidly and can do so if normal conditions continue for three to four years.





"Texas" sea turtles live in the

02/20 02/21 02/22

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice to the Voters of the Town of Crane Lake

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of the Town of Crane Lake, County of St. Louis, State of Minnesota, that the Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 11 2025, at 5:30 PM at the Crane Lake Chapel Fellowship Hall to set the levies, and conduct all necessary business prescribed by law. In case of inclement weather, the Meeting may be postponed until Tuesday, March 18, 2025.

Jo Ann Pohlman, Deputy-Clerk Town of Crane Lake

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 21 & 28, 2025

KUGLER TOWNSHIP **OPENING OF ANNUAL MEETING REGULAR MEETING NOTICE**

Kugler Township will hold their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, with the opening of their Annual Meeting to follow at the Kugler Town Hall.

In case of inclement weather, both meetings will be postponed to one week later, Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at the same time and place.

Brianna Broten, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 28 & March 7, 2024.

BEARVILLE TOWNSHIP Annual Town Meeting Tuesday, March 11, 2025

The Annual Town Meeting for Bearville Township will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, beginning at 6:30 pm at the Bearville Town Hall, to set the levies, and to conduct any and all other busi-ness proper to be conducted when the Annual Meeting is convened. Residents of Bearville Township that are eligible to vote in Bearville Township may vote at the Annual Meeting. All meetings are open to the public.

In case of inclement weather, the Annual Town Meeting will be held one week later on Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at the time and place stated.

The Bearville Township Board of Supervisors March meeting has been rescheduled to Wednesday, March 12th, 2025 at 6:30 pm at the Bearville Town Hall. All meetings are open to the public.

Kathy Cressy, Bearville Town Clerk bearvilletownship@gmail.com 218-376-4495

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 28, 2025

EMPLOYMENT

Wanted: Tractor Trailer Delivery Drivers looking for a Local Career

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Range of pay last year \$65K-\$95K, depending on FT hours worked. Family Insurance at a reasonable co-pay. You choose the deductible.

GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ELECTION MN 205.16, subd. 4.

THE GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP ANNUAL ELECTION WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 11.2025

POLLS WILL BE OPEN from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm AT THE GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP HALL, 3000 County Rd 77, Tower MN 55790.

The March 11, 2025, Election will be for the following positions: 3- year term Supervisor 4

Treasurer 2-year term

Question #1 - "Shall Option B, providing for the appointment of the Clerk and Treasurer by the Town Board, be adopted for the government of Greenwood Township?"

The successful candidate for the Town Treasurer position shall take office only if Option B is abandoned at the election.

GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025, AT THE GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP HALL AT 8:15 PM

THE GREENWOOD TOWN BOARD WILL MEET IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ANNUAL TO CANVASS ELECTION MEETING, RESULTS and conduct regular business.

In case of inclement weather, the ELECTION, GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING will be postponed until Tuesday, March 18, 2025, AT THE GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP HALL with the Board meeting immediately following.

Debby Spicer- Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 21 & 28, 2025

Town of Embarrass Annual Meeting Notice

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Embarrass Township, County of St. Louis, State of Minnesota, that the Annual Township Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025. In case of inclement weather, the meeting may be postponed until the third Tuesday in March (March 18. 2025).

The Annual Meeting will commence at 7:00 pm to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law. This meeting will be held at: Embarrass Town Hall, 7503 Levander Rd., Embarrass. MN 55732

Jennifer Boese, Embarrass Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 28, 2025

EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The Eagles Nest Township Annual Township Meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 7:00 pm and will be located at the Eagles Nest Town Hall. In the case of inclement weather, the annual meeting will be held Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at 7:00 pm.

Keely Drange, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 28, 2025

Notice of Annual Meeting and Election of Officers for Morcom Township, St. Louis County, MN

Notice is herby given to the voters of Morcom Township, County of St. Louis, State of Minnesota that the Annual Election of Town Officers and Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at the Bear River Community Center, 12512 HWY 22, Cook, MN 55723.

In case of inclement weather, the meeting and election may be postponed until the 3rd Tuesday in March (March 18, 2025).

The Election Poll hours will be from 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm at the Bear River Community Center. Voters will elect:

1 Treasurer 1 Township Supervisor

The Board of Canvass will meet on March 11, 2025 following the closing of the polls to certify official election results.

The Annual Meeting will commence at 8:15pm to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law.

Board of Audit and Town Budget meeting will be separate, and held at the Bear River Community Center on February 24, at 6:00 pm.

Sasha Lehto, Clerk 218-969-5812 Morcom Township

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 21 & 28, 2025

KABETOGAMA TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Kabetogama Township, County of Saint Louis, State of Minnesota that the Annual Election of Town Officers and Annual Town Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 11, 2025**. In case of inclement weather, the meeting and election may be postponed until the third Tuesday in March (3/18/25).

The election poll hours will be open from 4:00 to 8:00 pm, at which time the voters will elect: One **Supervisor** 3-year term, and one **Treasurer** 2-year term.

The Annual meeting will commence at 8:15 pm to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law.

The Board of Canvass will commence immediately following the Annual meeting.

Annual Election and Meeting The will be held at the following location: Kabetogama Town Hall, 9707 Gamma Road, Kabetogama, MN 56669

Mary Manninen, Clerk, Town of Kabetogama

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 21 & 28, 2025



ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS BOIS FORTE - NETT LAKE FOOD SHELF **ORR, MINNESOTA**

The Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Indians will receive sealed bids for the "BOIS FORTE - NETT LAKE FOOD SHELF", until 2:00 THESDAY MAR

LEIDING TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Leiding Township, County of St. Louis and State of Minnesota, that the Annual Election of Town Officers and Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at the Leiding Town Hall.

In case of inclement weather, the election and meeting will be postponed until Tuesday, March 18, 2024.

The election poll hours will be open from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at which time the voters will elect by ballot:

One Supervisor for a term of 3 years One Treasurer for a term of 2 years

> The Board of Canvass will follow the election.

The Annual Meeting will commence following the Board of Canvass to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law.

Regular Town Board Meeting The regular meeting of the Leiding Town Board will be held on Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

Marie Milan, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 21 & 28, 2025

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.

Applications are available at the Greenwood Town Hall office during business hours, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 9 am - 1 pm or on our website: www.greenwoodtownshipmn.com

Return a completed and signed application to: Greenwood Township, 3000 County Rd. 77, Tower MN 55790

or Attach to an email to: clerk@greenwoodtownshipmn.com or

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.

Debby Spicer-Clerk 218-753-2231

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

waive any irregularities and informalities therein and to award the Contract to other than the lowest bidder, if in their discretion the interest of the project will be best served thereby.

MILESTONE DATES:

1. A Pre-Bid meeting will be

Chippewa Indians, as war ranty that the successful bidder will enter into a contract and furnish the usual Bonds (Performance Bond and Labor and Material Payment Bond) as required by the Specifications within ten (10) days after Notice of Award of Contract.

held on February 25th @ Bid Documents (plans 10:00 a.m., but contractors and specifications) will be available electronically beginning February 18th, 2025. Free access to the plans & specifications may be obtained by contacting DSGW Architects, Inc., (218) 727-2626. Bid Documents may also be examined at builder's exchangthe es of: Minnesota Builders Exchange, Construct Connect, and Dodge Data & Analytics. Pre-printed plans and specifications will not be provided.

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Application deadline: March 17, 2025 **GREAT BENEFITS PACKAGE** AA/EOE. Veteran Friendly

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

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

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION -UNORGANIZED TOWNSHIP 63-17 AND MAIL BALLOT VOTING PROCEDURES

Notice of Special Election:

Notice is hereby given to the residents of Unorganized Township 63-17, St. Louis County, Minnesota; a Special Election will be held on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, on the question whether congressional township 63-17 should be organized as a town.

All persons residing in Unorganized Township 63-17 and registered to vote as of April 14, 2025, will automatically be sent a ballot. If you are registered to vote and do not receive a ballot by April 28, 2025 please contact the Auditor's Office at one of the locations listed below.

NOTE: If you reside in Unorganized Township 63-17 and are eligible to vote but are not currently registered, you may apply to the Auditor's Office in person or by mail for ballots and registration materials.

Voted ballots may be returned by mail (stamped return envelopes are included with each MAIL BALLOT packet) or in person at one of the below listed locations. All returned ballots MUST BE RECEIVED by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day at one of the below listed Auditor's Office locations. Assistive voting equipment and witnessing of signatures is also available at the Auditor's Offices.

Auditor, St. Louis County Courthouse 100 North 5th Avenue West, Room 214 Duluth, MN 55802 (218) 726-2385

Virginia Government Services Building 201 South 3rd Ave West Virginia, MN 55792 (218) 749-7104

Email guestions: elections@stlouiscountymn.gov

Business Hours:

Monday - Friday: 8:00 am - 4:30 PM

Extended Hours for Mail/Absentee Ballot Voting Saturday, May 10, 2025 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m

Monday, May 12, 2025

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

The polling place will be at:

St. Louis County Courthouse 100 North 5th Avenue West, Room 214 Duluth, MN 55802

Virginia Government Services Building 201 South 3rd Ave W Virginia, 55792 MN

The polls will be open:

Tuesday, May 13, 2025 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

NANCY NILSEN, ST. LOUIS COUNTY AUDITOR-TREASURER By: Phil Chapman, Deputy Auditor/Elections Supervisor

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 28, 2025

11th, 2025, at the office of the Nett Lake Tribal Government Center, 5344 Lakeshore Drive, Nett Lake, Minnesota, at which time all Bids will be publicly opened, and read aloud.

All bids must be sealed and clearly marked, "BID FOR: BOIS FORTE - NETT LAKE FOOD SHELF ", along with bidder's name, and must be accompanied by a certified check or bidder's bond in the amount of five percent (5%) of the net base bid amount, payable to the order of Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Indians, as warranty that the successful bidder will enter into a contract and furnish the usual Bonds (Performance Bond and Labor and Material Payment Bond) as required by the Specifications within ten (10) days after Notice of Award of Contract

Bid Documents (plans and specifications) will be electronically available beginning February 18th, 2025. Free access to the plans & specifications may be obtained by contacting DSGW Architects, Inc., (218) 727-2626. Bid Documents may also be examined at the builder's exchanges of: Minnesota Builders Exchange, Construct Connect, and Dodge Data & Analytics. Pre-printed plans and specifications will not be provided.

No Bidder shall modify, withdraw or cancel their Bid or any part thereof for sixty (60) days after the date designat-ed for the receipt of bids. The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to are welcome to visit side conditions at the project site, 12831 Nett Lake Rd, Orr MN 55771. Please check in with personal upon arrival. 2. Receive Bids the week of March 10, 2025. 3. Award at March Tribal Council Mtg, March 22, 2025. 4. Construction to Start in

March 2025. 5. Substantial Completion after Big Woods utilities are in, as we are tying the utilities to sewer and water

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 21 & 28, 2025

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS BOIS FORTE VERMILION HEAD START **ORR, MINNESOTA**

The Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Indians will receive sealed bids for "BOIS FORTE the VERMILION HEAD START" until 2:00 p.m., TUESDAY, MARCH 11th, 2025, at the office of the Nett Lake Tribal Government Center, 5344 Lakeshore Drive, Nett Lake, Minnesota, at which time all Bids will be publicly opened, and read aloud.

All bids must be sealed and clearly marked, "BID FOR: BOIS FORTE – VERMILION HEAD START", along with bidder's name, and must be accompanied by a certified check or bidder's bond in the amount of five percent (5%) of the net base bid amount, payable to the order of Bois Forte Band of

No Bidder shall modify, with draw or cancel their Bid or any part thereof for sixty (60) days after the date designate ed for the receipt of bids. The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any irregularities and informalities therein and to award the Contract to other than the lowest bidder, if in their discretion the interest of the project will be best served thereby.

MILESTONE DATES:

1. A Pre-Bid meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 25th. 2025 @ 1:00 p.m., but contractors are welcome to visit side conditions at the project site, 1611 Farm Rd S, Tower, MN. Please check in with personal upon arrival 2. Receive Bids the week of March 10, 2025.

3. Award at March Tribal Council Mtg March 22, 2025 4. Construction to Start in March 2025.

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 21 & 28, 2025

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Advertise	4 7 1 6 9 2 3 5 8	118				119		120			121	122	123				124	125	126			
in the	7 3 4 2 8 9 6 1 5	127						128						-		129				-		
Timberjay!	5 8 9 1 4 6 7 2 3																					
I IIII OCIJAY:	1 6 2 5 7 3 8 4 9	130						131								132						

98 Mafioso John

rather quickly

99 Narrates

100 Running

on one's

shoulder

Panther"

8 "Black

47 Ex-Yankee

Martinez

48 James Bond

genre, in brief

84 That girl

bloom

85 Large yellow

46 Oxidizes

49 Put the

kibosh on

50 Missy Elliott

college srs.

in sonnets

121 Prior to,

122 Indian



Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: •



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King Crossword

13

16

22 23

19

21

ACROSS

- 1 Doubtfire or Dalloway Pesky insect 4 8 Blaze 12 "Alley ---13 Verdi heroine 14 Booty 15 Sugar suffix 16 Some online
- essays 18 Doppler device
- 20 "Diamonds" singer
- 21 Brzezinski of **MSNBC** 24 Group char-
- acter 28 Coin that
- keeps turning up
- 32 Stitched 33 Artist Yoko
- 34 "- luck!" 36 Actor Stephen

12

15

18

- 37 Euro fraction 39 Pub game
- 41 Cognizant

chant

crime

two

55 — Maria

46 Loan shark's

50 Ginsberg and

Kerouac, for

43 "No seats" signs

DOWN 44 Olympics

1 Heath

3

4

5 Zero

Raced

trumpet

28 29 30 33 34 37 39 38 41 42 44 45 50 51 52 56 57 59 60 56 Eyebrow 7 Labels shape 8 Parade attrac- 30 Lady of Spain 57 Microwave, tions 9 Cyclades slangily 58 Request island 59 Citi Field 10 Decay team 11 UFO engi-60 Love god neers 61 "- a Rebel" 17 Diner dessert 42 Sixth sense 19 Sound boost- 45 Top-notch

Angel with a

- 47 Beehive State er 22 Handle 48 Get up 2 Activist Parks 23 Poker pay-49 Tibetan herd 50 "Kapow!" ments 25 Medal earner 51 Before
 - 26 Actor Clive
 - 52 Play segment
 - 53 Where Lux. is 28 - Raton, Fla. 54 Ring decision

10

14

32

40

25 26 27

36

47

55

58

61

29 From the start

31 Belgian river

38 "We hold these

– to be ..."

da, for short

40 Letter adden-

35 Stirs up

48 49

17

35

46

20

31

43

53 54

6 Commotion © 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

27 Hitch