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# the TIMBERJAY



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989

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## COUNTY SCHOOLS

# Four-day week draws mostly positive reviews

School district considering change in hopes of trimming \$1.5 million budget gap

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Parents, staff, and community members had the chance to express their opinions and ask questions at public meetings at North Woods School and Tower-Soudan Elementary School on Monday about the St. Louis

County School District's proposed change to a four-day school week next year.

The proposal represents an about-face for district officials, who last fall recommended putting the idea on ice for at least another year, but the proposal gained new life as the district continues to contend with a projected \$1.5

million shortfall in its 2025-26 budget. With a state application deadline looming in April, the 2142 school board will vote on the proposal at its March 25 meeting.

The group of more than 30 who gathered in the band room at North Woods School had more than just the four-day school week on their minds,

**Right: Parents and North Woods staff discussed the impact of a four-day school week at a meeting held this week.** photo by D. Colburn

as many continue to harbor ill feelings over cuts in teaching positions at the school for next year that could affect the quality

See...SCHOOLS pg. 9



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

# Deal inked for harbor

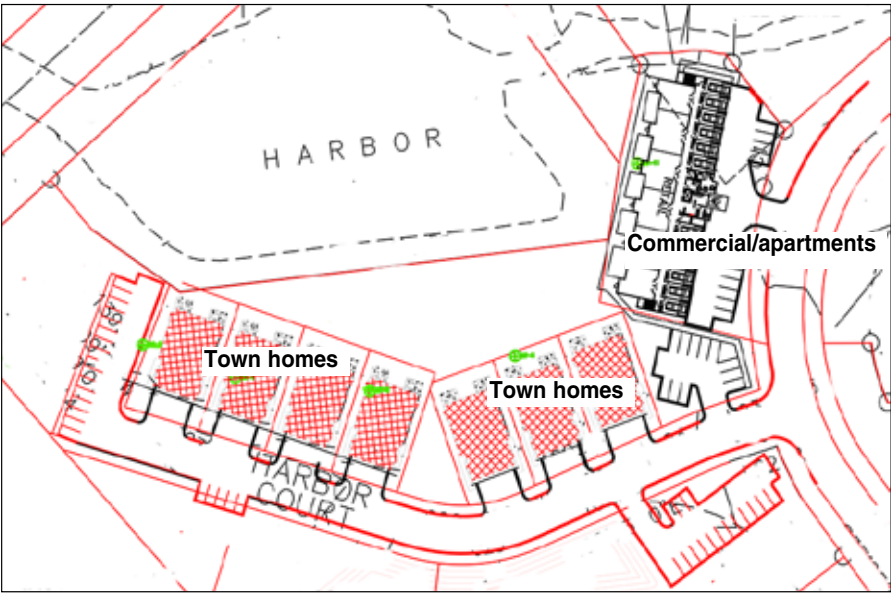
Developers plan mix of residential and commercial opportunities

by JODI SUMMITT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER— For more than 20 years, city officials here have worked toward the day when major development would come to Tower's harbor. It appears that day may finally arrive starting this year following the signing of a development agreement with an experienced Pine City-based builder who is proposing a mixed-use project including about 7,500 sq. ft. of commercial space along with 14 upper-level apartments overlooking the harbor. At least a dozen town homes will also be built as part of the project.

Eagle Ridge LLC has built both apartments and single- and multi-family housing in east central Minnesota and has received rave reviews from city officials in Pine City, where the company recently completed two apartment projects. The company is also building a 35-unit apartment complex in Mora this year.

It's not the first time that city officials in Tower have



**Top: The commercial/apartment building now planned for Tower's harbor will entail a design similar to Cove Point Lodge on Lake Superior, which was designed by the same architect. The color may be different.**

**Above: An initial site plan for the harbor, which may still be subject to changes.**

signed a development agreement for the harbor site, but it is the first time since the city resolved longstanding title issues for the property. As part of that work, the city transferred the property to the Tower Economic Development Authority, which has been working for the past three years to bring a major project to the site.

The project currently under development will include the commercial and apartment building near the

river rapids on the south-east side of the harbor. The three-story structure, with two levels of apartments above, will be among the most prominent structures in the city and will present an engaging façade from the Hwy. 169 bridge at the entrance to the harbor. The town homes, built as twin homes, will extend to the west from there along the harbor and docking for town home owners will be made available as part of the project.

Eagle Ridge principal

Cole Newman is moving quickly to advance the project and plans to have his application for a conditional use permit to the city's planning and zoning commission for its March 25 meeting. His company has engaged Ron Hommerding as architect on the project and is already at work on the civil engineering and has commissioned renderings of the buildings to begin the marketing.

TEDA is currently seeking funding for sewer and water extension as well as streets associated with the project.

At the same time, TEDA has issued requests for pro-

See...HARBOR pg. 10

## THE LEGISLATURE

# Hauschild provision would create helium tax relief district

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— The state of Minnesota would create a "helium tax relief area" under legislation advancing in St. Paul under the guidance of state Sen. Grant Hauschild. An amendment to create the tax relief area and establish a gross proceeds tax on helium produced commercially was expected to be on the docket before the Senate Tax Committee on Thursday this week, after the *Timberjay's* weekly press time.

The measure would allow a portion of the revenue produced by taxes on helium production to be retained in northeastern Minnesota,

where the recent discovery of what could be the world's richest helium deposit is attracting interest. The percentage of the tax revenue to be retained in the region was n't finalized as of press time.

The arrangement would be similar in structure to the taconite tax relief area established throughout the state's three Iron Ranges. Pulsar Helium, the company currently explor-

See...HELIUM pg. 9



Grant Hauschild

# Range lawmaker arrested for seeking sex with a minor

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL - Republican State Senator Justin Eichorn, of Grand Rapids, was arrested Monday in Bloomington after allegedly attempting to solicit sex from someone he believed was a teenage girl.

Eichorn, 40, was taken into custody by Bloomington police after he arranged to meet with what he thought was a 16-year-old girl but was in fact an undercover detective. Authorities said the meeting was set near the 8300 block of Normandale Avenue in the Minneapolis suburb. When Eichorn arrived in a pickup truck, he

was arrested without incident by uniformed officers.

Eichorn reportedly remains in custody as felony charges of soliciting a minor for prostitution are pending with the Hennepin County Attorney's Office.

Eichorn currently represents District 6, which encompasses Grand Rapids and areas to south and west. First elected to the Senate in 2016, he served as assistant

See...EICHORN pg. 9



Justin Eichorn



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## Community notices

**Spring testing clinic in Ely on Tuesday, April 1**  
ELY- Please join us on Tuesday, April 1 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., as the Ely Community Health Center hosts St. Louis County Public Health to test for hepatitis C and syphilis (one finger prick will cover both tests). The CDC recommends testing for these diseases. Paperwork is required and slots will be limited. Incentives will be given upon completion of the testing. The Ely Community Health Center is located at 33 W Chapman St. in Ely. Please use the front door or alternate access in the alley. Please note that no tests will be given after 1:40 p.m.

**Cook VFW hosting free lasagna dinner on Saturday, March 29**  
COOK- The Cook VFW Post 1757 and Auxiliary will be serving a free lasagna dinner on Saturday, March 29 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Cook VFW. Veterans and their families are invited to enjoy the dinner and share an evening with comrades.

March 29 is National Vietnam War Veterans Day. This day is to recognize all Vietnam veterans and those still unaccounted for. From February 1961 through May 1975, more than 3.4 million Americans served to support U.S. military operations in Vietnam and Southeast Asia.  
More than 58,000 young men and women gave their lives to this cause and about 1,580 of them still remain unaccounted for. Thousands more were wounded, injured, and suffered the effects of Agent Orange and other afflictions of the war.


The proclamation signed on March 29, 2012, marked the 50th anniversary of the departure of the last American troops from Vietnam.

The proclamation states: “The Vietnam War is a story of service members of different backgrounds, color, and creeds who came together to complete a daunting mission. It is a story of Americans from every corner of our nation who left the warmth of family to serve the country they loved. It is a story of patriots who braved the line of fire, who cast themselves into harm’s way to save a friend, who fought hour after hour, day after day to preserve the liberties we hold dear.”

“In one of the war’s most profound tragedies, many of these men and women came home to be shunned or neglected – to face treatment unbefitting their courage and a welcome unworthy of their example. We must never let this happen again.”

The Cook VFW reminds our community, “If you love your freedom, thank a veteran.”


**Embarrass High School class of ‘66 gathering in Virginia on March 27**  
VIRGINIA- Embarrass High School class of 1966 will get together on Thursday, March 27 at noon at the Copper Nickel (formerly Michael’s on the Course) in Virginia. Please pass the word. Classmates and their spouse or significant other are welcome to join us. We will order off the menu and enjoy catching up. See you there!




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## MUSIC FESTIVAL

# Ancestral Embers Native Music Fest

Fest brings Indigenous talent to Minnesota in a free three-night celebration April 2 – 4

REGIONAL- Get ready for a powerful celebration of Indigenous music and culture as the Ancestral Embers Native Music Fest takes the stage for a three-night event across Minnesota. This free music festival will showcase an incredible lineup of Native artists, bringing their voices, stories, and talent to Nett Lake, Cloquet, and Duluth.

**Festival dates & locations**

- April 2 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Bois Forte Government Building, 5344 Lake Shore Drive in Nett Lake.
- April 3 from 6 to 9 p.m. at Fond Du Lac Tribal Community College Commons, 2101 14th St. in Cloquet.
- April 4 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Dr. Robert Powless Cultural Center, 202 W 2nd St. in Duluth.

The festival will feature a stellar lineup of Indigenous musicians, including Keith Secola, legendary Native American musician and songwriter; Lelan “Itz Lil Lee” Leecy, a dynamic performer bringing energy and passion to the stage; Orville Councillor, with powerful vocals and storytelling through music; Jamie Sky, a talented



From left to right: Performers Jada Brown, Itz Lil Lee, Leonard Sumner, Keith Secola, and Jamie Sky.

artist blending contemporary and traditional sounds; Leonard Sumner, a soulful songwriter with impactful lyrics; Jada Brown, a rising voice in Indigenous music.

Ancestral Embers is more than just a music festival — it’s a space to honor and celebrate Native artistry, culture, and resilience. Each night promises electrifying performances that blend tradition with contemporary sounds, creating an unforgettable experience for all attendees. This free event is

made possible by KBFT Bois Forte Tribal Radio 89.9 FM Community Radio, and funding from the Clean Water, Land & Legacy Amendment.

Join us for an unforgettable musical journey through Indigenous sounds and stories!

For more information, please contact ray.villebrun@boisforte-nsn.gov, visit KBFT.org or KBFT 89.9 FM on Facebook and Instagram.

## FUNDRAISER

# Ely Community Resource Auction on Saturday, March 22

ELY- This year’s art auction for the nonprofit Ely Community Resource will be on the evening of Saturday, March 22 at Ely’s Historic State Theater, 238 E. Sheridan St. The doors open at 5 p.m. for viewing and appetizers. The evening will include a raffle and both live and silent auctions of works by local artists. The auction begins at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$10.

Items in the auction include art and ski lessons; certificates for fun and learning; certificates for spa services, massage, acupressure and more; elegant and delicious food; fitness advice; furniture; handmade candles and soaps; handmade clothing; jewelry; painting, prints, and more; photography; pottery; quilts and quilted art; specialty wood-working; sporting goods; stained glass;



and weaving, knitting, and crochet items.

**Clockwise from top left:**  
**Original Acrylic by Shaun Chosa, "Water Spirit" and "Indigenous," Woven Tote by Katie Kopp-Nelson, Green Stool "Unicorn Spit" by Barb and Bill Godlin, Elegant handmade cover and handbound journal by Nicole Selmer, Original Acrylic by Joe Baltich, Gorgeous Quilt by Dorothy Sands, Red Log Birdhouse by Donald Hoover, Lupine Stained Glass by Kekekabic Studios, Blue Finn Handtwined Bowl by Peter Kess.**

## Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital seeks participation

### EBCH seeks participation in Community Health Needs Assessment

ELY- Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital (EBCH) has once again partnered with Rural Health Innovations, LLC, a subsidiary of the National Rural Health Resource Center, to complete our Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), a vital tool that helps shape the future of health care in our region.

Nonprofit hospitals are required by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) to complete their CHNA every three years. The CHNA is a key component of CMS’s regulations to promote community-based care, health equity, and improved outcomes for all individuals. We need your voice to make it a success! EBCH is inviting community members to participate in this process by taking our survey or attending one of our four Focus Groups to provide invaluable feedback about the health care

needs of our community.

**How to participate**

Attend one of four Focus Groups. These group discussions will provide an opportunity to delve deeper into the health issues affecting our community. RSVPs are appreciated but not required.

- Tuesday, March 25 from 7 to 9 a.m. at the Ely Folk School
- Tuesday, March 25 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Grand Ely Lodge
- Wednesday, March 26 from 8 to 10 a.m. at Babbitt City Hall Conference Room
- Wednesday, March 26 from noon to 2 p.m. at the Tower Civic Center

The survey is also available online at <https://ruralcenter.research.net/r/Q86KRLG>. It takes just a few minutes, and your answers are completely confidential.

**Why your participation matters**

The insights gathered from the CHNA survey and Focus Groups will play an essential role in shaping our strategies and initiatives to address the specific health needs in our area. Whether enhancing access to care, improving preventive services, or addressing health disparities, your input ensures that our plans are rooted in what matters most to you and your neighbors. For more information or questions about the CHNA survey or Focus Groups, please contact Molly Carmack, National Rural Health Resource Center Program Specialist at 248-884-1029 or [mcarmack@rural-center.org](mailto:mcarmack@rural-center.org).

## Well-being Feast and Traditional Drum Teachings event on Saturday, April 5

VERMILION RESERVATION- The Bois Forte Heritage Center & Cultural Museum is hosting a Well-being Feast and Traditional Drum Teachings

event at the Vermilion Government Center on Saturday, April 5 at 4 p.m. The government center is located on the Vermilion Reservation at 1610 Farm Point Rd. in Tower. Rebecca Gawboy is serving the feast with deer meat, wild rice, blueberries, corn bread and a berry desert. David Morrison Jr. will provide traditional drum teachings

and will sing songs with fellow singers Lance Kingbird, Angelo Kingbird, and Mark Black.

This event is sponsored in part by the Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Families to celebrate April as Family Well-being Month. Bois Forte Community Programs will be on site to provide information

about their services that can assist individual and family well-being, such as Nutrition Education and Energy Assistance. If you need transportation, you can call for a ride from Big Woods Transit at 888-757-1540. Please call a couple of days in advance.

## Ladies of Kaleva Soinnuttaren Tupa 32 and Knights meeting on March 27

VIRGINIA- The Ladies of Kaleva Soinnuttaren Tupa 32 and Knights will be meeting Thursday, March 27 at 6 p.m. at Kaleva Hall. The Ladies will have installation of officers. Please wear white. Coffee will be served. All people interested in Finnish heritage and culture are welcome.



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ARTS AND CULTURE

Award-winning “Boundary Waters” caps the Ely Film Festival

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- Tessa Blake, the director of the indie film “Boundary Waters” has won the Ely Film Festival’s award for Best Director. Her film, which was shot in Ely almost two years ago, sold out its two showings in advance of last week’s Ely Film Festival and likely could have sold out a third.

The “rush line” list for seats due to no-shows was two pages long twenty minutes before the scheduled 7 p.m. start of the film for its second showing on Saturday. The festival staff were seating the people from the rush list as late as 7:20 p.m. No one in the audience seemed to mind.

For those who have not yet had a chance to see “Boundary Waters,” it is a rich and deep look at the effects of sexual assault, to its victims as well as the families surrounding them, as seen through the eyes of Michael, a 12-year-old boy whose mother is one of the victims.

The city of Ely is prominent in the film, with many scenes shot in the alley between Harvey and Chapman streets, near the post office and library. Ely City Hall was relabeled as “Athens City Hall” on the Art Deco sign above the main entrance. Ely Memorial High School was the backdrop of the school scenes.

Ely didn’t provide all of the shooting locations. The outdoor scenes were outside of Ely city limits in Morse Township, notably Grant McMahan Blvd. along the north shore of Shagawa Lake and the old quarry site. A small number of downtown scenes were shot on Chestnut St. in Virginia.

A question-and-answer session followed the Saturday showing of “Boundary Waters,” with director Tessa Blake, Bill Heck who played Michael’s father, and Alison Miller who played Michael’s mother.

Blake spoke about how

a staff member at Minnesota North College talked them into coming up to check out Ely, and how the film’s management fell in love with the community as a filming site.

Blake also had praise for the residents of Ely, who welcomed the production crew and served as the film’s extras: “This cast, from top to bottom, was incredible, including all the extras, all of the amazing kids from Ely who came for the talent show, all people who came for the amazing crowd scenes, and the clown band! Incredible, right?”

More showings ahead

“Boundary Waters” has only been shown at a small number of film festivals since its premier in October 2024. The film was nominated for best feature narrative and excellence in directing at the Woodstock Film Festival in New York. It also won the Bill Cooper Best Minnesota Feature Award at the Twin Cities Film Festival.

“Boundary Waters” does not have a deal yet with a film distribution company, which is a necessary step before it is shown as a general release in movie theaters and on streaming services.

“We’re hoping to be able to show it this summer,” said film festival director Jacob White, “but that depends on when the film gets a distribution deal. We know lot of people in Ely want to see it and haven’t had the chance yet.”

Assuming the film does make it to theaters, it may not appear under its current title. Blake said distributors had told her that a change in the film’s title will likely be necessary and her crew offered some suggestions and asked for feedback from the audience.

Film festival awards

The Ely Film Festival gave out all but one of its awards on Sunday morning. The winners are:

- Best Cinematography - Ryan Rumpca, “Where the Wind Takes You”



Above: The State Theater marquee welcomed everyone to the festival. Attendance at the festival continues to grow, with lots of sold out showings.



Left: “Boundary Waters” stars Alison Miller and Bill Heck, who played the young boy’s parents, and film director Tessa Blake, led a question and answer session after the Saturday evening sold-out showing of the film.

Below right: A drum group performed during the festival’s opening ceremony.

photos by C. Clark



- Best Director - Tessa Blake, “Boundary Waters”
- Best Documentary – “Electric Indian,” Leya Hale
- Best Minnesota Film - “A Sea Change for Superior”
- Best Feature Film – “Ultimate Citizens”
- Best Short Film – “Of Two Worlds,” Mikayla Swanson
- Independent Spirit Award – “Singing Back the Buffalo,” Tasha Hubbard

The Audience Choice Award will be announced on Friday, March 21, after all the attendee votes have been counted. The award could not be given on Sunday because the festival scheduled extra showings on Wednesday and Thursday of this week for the first eight films to sell out.

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# OPINION

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

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The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

## Editorial

### County schools

Teacher cuts a dangerous way to address budget woes

The St. Louis County School District, or ISD 2142, is facing a major financial challenge and teacher reductions may not be the answer to what ails the district. In an era of open enrollment and the increasing reliance by parents and students on online educational alternatives, it is more difficult than ever for districts to cut their way to financial solvency — at least when those cuts focus on the ranks of teachers.

In the St. Louis County Schools, other parts of the budget deserve serious attention from the budget knife. That includes the district’s administration, which consumes a larger percentage of the district’s budget than the statewide average, according to data from the Minnesota Department of Education. The Rock Ridge, Hibbing, and Grand Rapids school districts all spend significantly less as a percentage of their student population than the St. Louis County Schools. Rock Ridge, which serves 2,357 students, spends \$3 million on administration, or 6.2 percent of total spending, compared to \$3.7 million, or 9.5 percent of total spending, for ISD 2142.

To be fair, the district appears to have made some progress in reducing its administrative costs. Those expenditures, based on a percentage of student population, used to be among the highest in the state. Even with some modest progress, they are still well above the statewide average, which includes of lot of very small districts which can’t help but have relatively high administrative costs when compared to enrollment.

Even so, the district can and should do more to reduce its administrative overhead, since those cuts have the least impact on students. The district can’t simply ask teachers to take on more without asking the same of their administrative staff.

As district officials have discovered, parents get upset when teacher cuts lead to schoolrooms packed with too many students. Now, the district’s possible shift to a four-day week, another attempt to save money, could further exacerbate the concerns of some parents.

The St. Louis County School District is uniquely vulnerable to open enrollment because the most populated portions of the sprawling district lie relatively close to neighboring districts that are eager to scoop up discontented students. And parents and students in the more remote parts of the district, where student bus rides tend to

be long, are understandably enticed by online alternatives or home schooling.

At the same time, school districts everywhere can expect their revenue streams to grow more slowly or even shrink in the years ahead. While Minnesota school districts saw some nice funding increases in recent years, those increases are almost certain to slow in the face of a projected state budget shortfall in the years ahead. And efforts to eliminate the federal Department of Education, along with the elimination of funding streams designed to help disadvantaged students, could further erode district finances generally.

What’s more, the district’s historic inability to pass an excess operating levy suggests more revenue from local taxpayers is unlikely. That’s particularly true in the wake of the bad feelings generated by the district’s 2010 restructuring, which closed longstanding community schools. That restructuring, school officials promised at the time, was supposed to address the district’s financial woes.

One supposed solution being touted on social media — the closure of the Tower-Soudan Elementary — is not a solution to the problem. The Tower-Soudan Elementary, for a variety of reasons, receives special revenue streams that the district would likely not receive were the school closed. That includes extra payments-in-lieu-of-taxes, or PILT, stemming from the creation of the Lake Vermilion Soudan Underground Mine State Park. Furthermore, Tower-Soudan Elementary could actually help relieve some of the classroom overcrowding that is currently upsetting many North Woods parents, since Tower-Soudan’s class sizes are appropriately small and could certainly accommodate a few more students. The district certainly has the option of restricting the flow of elementary students from the Tower area to North Woods, which would alleviate crowding there. It’s somewhat of a mystery why parents currently choose to send their elementary-aged children on a long bus ride to North Woods when the educational outcomes at Tower have been so consistently excellent for so many years. Keeping younger Tower-area students closer to home would give them the benefit of the solid educational program at Tower-Soudan Elementary while alleviating classroom crowding at North Woods. It seems like an obvious win-win.



## Letters from Readers

### Stauber can’t hide from his constituents forever

Pete has a lot of explaining to do. He needs to hold a town hall meeting — in person — to talk to the folks in Minnesota’s Eighth Congressional District and to answer our questions.

Stauber has continually promised concerned constituents, on both sides of the aisle, that he will not vote to pass a budget that touches Medicare, Medicaid, or Social Security — he has even said so on his own website. He is lying and so is the GOP.

Several weeks ago, Stauber voted to advance the GOP budget agenda that can include \$880 billion worth of cuts to Medicare and Medicaid — crucial programs his voters depend on. Trump, Musk, Stauber (and the GOP) also hope to crash Social Security. So that it is eventually privatized, becoming play money on Wall Street for the titans to recklessly gamble away, along with our futures? We all know the GOP has tried to undermine Social Security for years while pretending to support it.

The GOP has been chomping at the bit to privatize Social Security for at least 45 years. Today, with Musk and his teenage bros (with chainsaws) now in charge and running the country, the GOP’s dream of a thoroughly diminished, and privatized program, can become a reality.

The GOP cannot pass their huge and obscene tax cuts for the one percent richest humans and the wealthiest corporations without slashing our social safety net. The GOP will want to do this under cover of darkness AND will gaslight us, telling us they aren’t really cutting benefits — just “identifying fraud and implementing work requirements” and other such nonsense. This is NOT about ridding our government of “waste, fraud and abuse” — we all would welcome that. These cuts are being

done at the whim of Elon Musk and Donald Trump — ridding the government of programs they personally dislike. Please don’t believe this hogwash about waste and fraud.

Looking forward, the Dems in D.C. must stick together to say NO to any GOP tax cut bills for the richest Americans. These cuts will only happen — on the backs of our elderly, poor and working families — by slashing the social safety net and our essential government services, among many other outrageous spending cut proposals.

Stauber, Trump and the GOP cannot weasel out of this one. It is time for us to come together — to protect our social safety net — programs that have helped so many Americans since their creation. These programs are essential to the lives of everyday Americans.

We reject the GOP’s broken promises to the American people.

Pete, we are watching your every move.

**Valerie Myntti**  
Eagles Nest

### Trump is making America much worse

Instead of “Making America Great Again,” Trump is making our nation poor financially and morally by steering us toward a combination of recession, inflation, and by his continued ignorance of climate change, the forthcoming damage to our citizens and economy.

America is heading towards a confluence of a recession and inflation otherwise known as stagflation. The recession is due to the unemployment triggered by Trump’s massive layoffs of tens of thousands of federal employees and for those people whose activities depend on government-related services. More than three million employees lost their jobs last week. That is four times higher than ever recorded in one week, according to *The New York Times*. The last recession lasted five years and led

to around 26 million job claims. In addition to job loses, the U.S. Aid for International Development shut down assuredly will cause many deaths throughout the world.

The inflation factor will soon take effect. It is due to reciprocal taxes levied on the U.S. by countries on which Trump recently imposed substantial taxes on their imports into the U.S. For many imported products, a 25-percent price increase will be added to the product’s selling price.

In addition to inflation and recession, climate change will continually increase our woes, and we expect no help from Trump to curb its impact on the country because he regards it as a “hoax.” At some point, he might have an epiphany or maybe he’ll wake up. In any event, climate change will manifest itself in the form of a continuous rise in global temperatures accompanied by hurricanes, tornados, floodings droughts, high winds, wildfires, and rising oceans, all of which will cause death and destruction requiring huge costs to ameliorate.

Much of this potential anguish can be reduced if the rubber stamp Congressional Republicans would stand up to Trump and pass legislation that can help our economy, and not contribute to inflation, recession, and climate change.

**Gerry Snyder**  
Ely

### We welcome your letters

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

## COMMENTARY

# Strengthen democracy one action at a time

“May you live in interesting times,” states an oft-repeated curse, and we certainly do. Bizarre, confusing, incendiary times, which leave many of us perplexed and angry about why the president of our country, his

unelected co-president, and his spineless Republican sycophants think it’s okay to steal taxpayers’ money through illegal and unconstitutional actions while deconstructing and destroying agencies, departments



**BETTY FIRTH**

and funding that have contributed to America’s strength and success, such as the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH), the world’s biggest funder of biomedical research and widely considered the gold standard for a research-funding agency. What kind of fear drives them? Both were bullied in childhood and had cold, demanding fathers; they seem to be getting revenge and therapy at our expense.

Many people are feeling worried and overwhelmed,

but willing to fight back. The volume of outraged backlash may be surprising Trump supporters, but perhaps they are beginning to see that these irresponsible actions are for the sole benefit of the wealthy and power-hungry, and that everyone else is going to suffer collateral damage. Those who didn’t understand how tariffs work nor our interdependence on global trade are facing the reality that they will be paying more for a lot of things: new and used cars; gas and parts for their vehicles, snowmobiles, and boats; that food prices, already high, could skyrocket and some food products

just won’t be available. That Trump’s irrational promise to reduce food costs was just one more lie.

Trump is acting like an arrogant poker player toying with the well-being of our country and world. In his narcissistic view of the world, all he can perceive is his own image, as if surrounded by mirrors, a smirking bully who doesn’t care about the common good for American citizens or anyone else on the planet. He only cares about winning, loyal only to himself and his family — but then only if they do what he wants them to.

This inexplicable attack on Canada, always a strong

ally, must make Trump’s mental imbalance obvious to all. Why Canada? Because he didn’t like Trudeau? Because Canadian tariffs annoyed him? Although hard to believe from the amount of mayhem he has caused, he has only been in office two months.

Trump does have one gift — for making a lot of people very, very angry and willing to fight for their values. He has managed to antagonize and unify people across North America and the globe. Righteously angry citizens have been showing up in droves at Republican town halls, local Republican offices, on the streets, and in

organizational meetings.

Over 400 people showed up at Rep. Pete Stauber’s office in Hermantown in February, when 30 protesters was considered a good turnout previously. Even more attended an Indivisible meeting last week in Duluth. Cloquet Indivisible had 70 people show up to sign on Highway 33 in Cloquet in frigid weather on President’s Day, and a few weeks later 250 people showed up at an Indivisible meeting. A local resident said he has never seen anything like it in Carlton County.

Indivisible is described

See ACTION...pg. 5



COMMENTARY

“Trump Derangement Syndrome” may not be what these Republicans think it is

As reported this past week, five Republican state senators in Minnesota, have introduced a bill in the Legislature this year that would classify “Trump Derangement Syndrome” as a newly recognized mental health diagnosis.

I think these fine senators (and one alleged child predator) may be on to something. I, like them, believe that Trump Derangement Syndrome is very real and dangerous to the country. But



MARSHALL HELMBERGER

I’d like to suggest a friendly amendment to their bill that I think would help all of us more easily recognize the many symptoms of this unfortunate condition.

Symptoms would include, but would not be limited to:

- Believing that the 2020 election was stolen.
- Believing that a man convicted of 34 felonies in

a criminal case, and sexual abuse and defamation in a civil case, has any business being President of the United States.

➤ Believing that tariffs are paid for by countries whose companies export products to the U.S.

➤ Believing that the Jan. 6, 2021, assault on the nation’s Capitol building, which caused millions of dollars in damage and left more than 100 police officers and many protesters badly injured, was “A Day of Love.”

➤ Believing that the president should decide

which reporters can cover him, rather than the news organizations themselves.

➤ Believing that the U.S. has a right to claim the territory of other countries.

➤ Believing that the war on Ukraine was started by Ukraine, not started by Vladimir Putin and Russia.

➤ Believing that the U.S. is now respected, rather than reviled, throughout the world as a result of the actions of Donald Trump.

➤ Believing that Canada, Mexico, and Europe are our adversaries who should be subjected to tariffs, while encouraging free trade with

Putin’s Russia.

➤ Believing that Donald Trump will reduce the federal budget deficit.

➤ Believing that Donald Trump knew nothing about Project 2025 even as his administration is moving quickly to implement it.

➤ Believing that Medicaid should be slashed, putting rural hospitals and clinics at risk right here in northeastern Minnesota, all to pay for more tax cuts for corporations and the ultra-rich.

➤ Believing that a political party that changes its “principles” moment-to-mo-

ment, depending on the latest ramblings of their president, is anything other than a cult of personality.

➤ Believing that Donald Trump has any intention of using his authority as president to benefit the country, rather than himself.

➤ Believing that the GOP will ever stand up for the U.S. Constitution in the face of Donald Trump’s daily violations.

I move for the adoption of the above-noted amendment. All in favor, say aye.

Letters from Readers

Stauber’s silence is deafening

While I would like Congressman Pete Stauber to respond to calls for an in-person town hall meeting, I don’t hold out much hope. Given the number of calls and letters that his own staff admitted are unprecedented, one would think he would respond to the constituents who sent him to Washington.

Still, Pete says and does nothing.

Usually, a congressman makes a big deal about bringing jobs to his district. Indeed, all of Pete’s correspondence highlights his efforts to bring mining jobs to the Iron Range, jobs which never seem to arrive. Well Pete, the jobs that are currently being eliminated by the Trump administration were good jobs that were already here.

Still, Pete says nothing!

While we are pondering jobs, where are my friends at “Up North Jobs” on this issue?

The federal jobs being lost were held by contributing members of our community. They tick all the boxes mentioned in Up North Jobs’ mission statement on their website.

Pete, the silence is deafening. By your silence, you endorse all the negative results of this administration’s plan. By your inaction, you directly harm your own constituents.

Pete, come home (or is Washington your home

now?) and explain to people here your position and never mind the “call-in” town hall meetings. We all know that is not leadership.

Asking for a friend...

Tim McKenzie  
Ely

DOGE versus real efficiency

In 1957, the Social Security Administration paid out almost \$7.3 billion dollars in benefits and incurred expenses of 2.2 percent. In 2024, Social Security paid out \$1.48 trillion and expenses were 0.5 percent. Now that is efficiency. Expenses have been below one percent since 1989. Last year, Social Security distributed payments every month to about 73 million Americans, averaging, by my calculations, \$20,400 per person per year. This works out to just over \$100 per year of administrative overhead for each of those 73 million beneficiaries, or \$8.50 per payment per month to get the right amount to the right person for the right reason and on time. Who can match that? I’m interested in knowing.

Elon Musk calls Social Security a Ponzi scheme. He is so wrong it is laughable. It just shows how little he knows about how this government program works. Social Security is a pay-as-you-go plan established in 1935, with a dedicated tax for specific reasons written into law. Money from payroll taxes comes in and most (99.5 percent) goes right back out to

pay today’s benefits, mostly to retirees. For years, the system collected more than needed in anticipation of a time when a peak in the number of beneficiaries, the baby boomers, retired. In 2020 the positive balance had grown to just short of \$3 trillion. Last year it was \$2.7 trillion.

So here we are. The system started spending down the positive balance in 2021. Will this balance zero out someday at today’s rates? Yes. Will payments stop? No. If nothing is done, the system will still be able to pay out 70+ percent of current benefits. It will not be bankrupt as those who want to abolish it claim. However, allowing this to happen is a choice. Our so-called leaders have been kicking this can down the road for years. Everyone who cared to look and had half a brain could see the problem looming and project its effect almost to the minute. Like so many things, the longer we wait the harder the fix becomes.

Over the years, the surplus was “borrowed” by the Treasury Department to fund the federal budget deficit. Now they/we have to pay it back, not all at once but a little at a time as needed. Therein is the rub. Seems Republicans don’t like to pay their debts. They would cut benefits instead, claiming we can’t afford it. They were happy enough during Trump’s last term to cut taxes and increase the debt. Now they plan to do it again. Stopping that tax cut would cover the Social Security

imbalance plus a trillion dollars.

The truth is, Social Security is the most effective and popular antipoverty program in the entire history of our country and maybe of all time. Most vexing for Republicans who want to dismantle government programs is that SS shows how effective good government programs can be. They want to change that by cutting staff and service so it becomes unpopular. One in five citizens are beneficiaries in one way or another and 28 million people have been kept out of poverty. Who in their right mind would mess with that? This is not about the national debt. It is about dismantling the federal government and cruelty so that the rich can get even richer. Or so they think.

Tim Wallace  
Zim

Stauber delivers... tax hikes and lies

It’s all a lie, a smoke screen, a scam on all of us. The current fever of finding waste, fraud, and abuse is just another of the lies being spewed by Trump and Musk. And desperately wanting to be part of the cool kids group, our congressman Pete Stauber is parroting the same lies. Take, for instance, Stauber’s latest newsletter email to his constituents in which he gleefully gloats about voting for the CR bill that, through a consequence of Trump’s tariffs, will be the biggest tax increase on mid-

dle-class families that we’ve ever seen. But, according to Stauber, he states “after years of suffering, the American people are finally getting some much-needed relief.” Yes it is such a relief to know my taxes will increase due to unnecessary, misguided, stupid tariffs. But in reality, the only relief in all of this is for Stauber. Stauber has willingly forfeited his authority over government funding as laid out in the Constitution to an unelected, unchecked billionaire. Now he does not have to do his job.

Also buried within the bill is \$20 billion worth of IRS cuts from the previous year. Unlike with other federal agencies, cutting the IRS means the government collects less money and finds fewer tax abusers. Remember the excuses as to why the IRS needed to be cut? Armed IRS agents will be showing up at the doors of everyday Americans to simply harass us with the threat of audits? The real reason is when you hamstring the IRS, it’s just a tax cut for rich tax cheats. While this may look like a spending cut, it will increase deficits by \$46 billion due to a drop in the agency’s capacity to enforce taxes on wealthy individuals owed under existing federal

law. Economic studies have shown that for every dollar spent by the IRS, the agency returns between \$5 and \$12, depending on how much income the taxpayer declared. I wish my 401k had such a high return!

Congressman Stauber also states in his newsletter that Republicans will continue delivering the President’s popular agenda for the American people. Oh boy, can’t wait.

George Pliml  
Cook

Presidents are not kings

Like many citizens, I rejoiced that Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts pushed back on President Trump’s idea of impeaching judges that have blocked some executive orders. The irony is that this Supreme Court made President Trump a king by giving him immunity. It is time we citizens push back on the whole idea of a president having immunity, and the rich being able to buy elections with Citizens United ruling. Let us do this in 2026.

Rev. Charles D. Barnes  
Aurora

ACTION...Cont. from page 4

on their website (indivisible.org) as a “grassroots movement of thousands of local Indivisible groups with a mission to elect progressive leaders, rebuild our democracy, and defeat the Trump agenda. Indivisible’s national team offers strategic leadership, movement coordination, and support to Indivisible activists, and also directly lobbies congress, builds partnerships, runs media campaigns, and develops advocacy strategies. Together we fight to defeat the rightwing takeover of American government and build an inclusive democracy.”

New Indivisible groups have been popping up all over the Northland including, but not limited to: Northern Progressives, Indivisible affiliate-Cook/Tower/Ely; Duluth Indivisible; Good Trouble Indivisible Duluth; Zenith City Indivisible-Duluth; Indivisible Seniors-Duluth; Arrowhead Indivisible-Grand Marais; Itasca Area Indivisible-Grand Rapids; We the People Cloquet Indivisible-Carlton & St. Louis Counties, We Are Resisting and Rising (W.A.R.R) in Chisholm, and a group is forming in Biwawik/Aurora.

DAIR (Democracy Alliance of the Iron Range) is a Red Wine and Blue group based in Virginia,

which meets virtually. Red Wine and Blue is a national community of over half a million diverse women working together to defeat extremism, one friend at a time. They train and connect women from across the country and have free online training every week, which a local activist says is excellent. As with other national groups, you can find a group near you by going online to their website, redwine.blue.org.

All of these groups are in Congressional District 08, and Rep. Pete Stauber and his aides are hearing a lot from angry constituents about his failure to represent them, stand up against the Republican atrocities, or do anything, ever, for our district in his five years in office.

The grassroots 50501 effort got its start from a Reddit post in late January, urging people to protest the “anti-democratic and illegal actions of the Trump administration and its plutocratic allies.” The idea of 50 protests in 50 states on one day spread rapidly through social media, resulting in 72,000 people protesting in 80 protests in all 50 states across the country on Feb. 5. With no budget, centralized structure, or official backing, this grassroots action shows the organizing

power we have as citizens with social media fueling communication and rapid responses. On Feb. 17, tens of thousands of Americans declared “No Kings Day” and protested, and March 4 brought another wave of protests. The website fifty.fifty.one states, “The protests were covered by every major media outlet, showing the world that the American working class will not sit idly by as plutocrats rip apart their democratic institutions and civil liberties while undermining the rule of law.” 50501 is committed to inclusivity, non-violence, and conflict resolution. Their approach emphasizes respect, fairness, and long-term solutions that strengthen relationships and contribute to lasting stability in the movement.

MoveOn.Org is another very active national group that supports candidates, fights to pass legislation, and works to change our culture. Their website explains, “MoveOn members are committed to an inclusive and progressive future. We envision a world marked by equality, sustainability, justice, and love. And we mobilize together to achieve it. This is our challenge to America: to move forward boldly and fearlessly, upholding and enacting the values that will make our

country work for all of us.

Americans of Conscience Checklist (americansofconscience.com) is a national group with a mission to provide tools that encourage engagement to strengthen American democracy and social justice. They send out a weekly list of actions you can take, from postcards to protests.

You can also track the status of any legislation, find the text, and receive emails about the progress of the legislation at govtrack.us.

The Fivecalls app is another very useful resource to make it easy to reach out to your elected officials to let them know your concerns about issues and their action or inaction. The app includes information on current legislation that affects your area as well as tips for making effective calls.

Getting involved is empowering, and you don’t have to do it alone. Find a group near you that’s a good fit and join in with your neighbors to cause some good trouble. Confused by all the options? Go to mobilize.us, enter your zip code, and see all the registered upcoming events in your area.



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TIMBERJAY

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Week of March 24

Monday

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

Tuesday

Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5 p.m. New location in the old St. James Church building. Next food shelf day is April 15.  
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](http://vermilioncountry.org).



TSHS weekly winners

TOWER- The \$100 winner of Week 27 Charlemagne's 52 Club is Sandra Yernatich of Plymouth, MN.

**History Tidbit:** In a 1972 *Mesabi Daily News* article, information was given about the cleaning and opening of the Train Museum for the year. Some of the cleaners included Mrs. Glenn Bystrom, Mrs. Aida Johnson, Mrs. Arthur Hendrickson, and Mrs. Chris Berg. On the outside of the Old Homesteader cabin was this sign: "In the early days of this community, many of the pioneers who came here to make their home took homesteads which were offered by the government. Among these pioneers was William Oates Jeffery who came to Soudan, from Cornwall, England, with his father, mother, sisters, and brothers in the early 1880s. He often spoke of his experiences as a homesteader. His mother was widowed when he was in his teens, and to help the family, he would go to his homestead to clear the land and improve it. In order to honor the memory of all these rugged men, we dedicate this house of native logs. Wood carving was a favorite pasttime of many of them, more especially those who spent the long winter months there alone."

Community meal at Immanuel

TOWER- Immanuel Lutheran Church is hosting a free community meal on Wednesday, March 26 from 4:30 – 6 p.m., or until the food is gone. The meal includes lasagna, salad, and breadsticks. Eat-in or take-out available. All are welcome to attend.

Correction

In the article on the Greenwood Annual Meeting, JoAnn Bassing did suggest that the levy be bumped to \$600,000, but it was Mary Worringer who made the comment that the average homeowner was only paying about \$200 in taxes in their township portion. Also, the paper incorrectly stated that the treasurer did not use the CTAS program.

Lunch Bunch to meet on April 17

GREENWOOD TWP- The Lunch Bunch will meet on Thursday, April 17 at the Tavern in the Bay at 12:30 p.m. Please RSVP to Linda at 612-916-1918 or Kathy at 218-753-2530. Everyone is welcome to join us.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Habitat for Humanity to dedicate renovated Tower home

Family to purchase rehabilitated former Presbyterian parsonage

TOWER- North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity will celebrate with Krystal Rynders and her family on March 26 when their new home in Tower is dedicated. Rynders worked with her family and community volunteers to renovate and upgrade the former St. James Presbyterian Church manse (parsonage), which the church donated to Habitat when the congregation dissolved.

The public is invited to the dedication ceremony and open house on Wednesday, March 26 at 5:30 p.m. at 506 N Second St. in Tower.

Rynders will soon purchase the home with an affordable mortgage through Habitat for Humanity.

"Our apartment was crowded, I couldn't afford utilities, and rent was outrageous," she said. "We'll finally have our own space. I'm tired of moving around a lot. Being a homeowner feels scary, but I know I can do it."

Pastor Corey Larsen of First Presbyterian Church in Ely has helped organize volunteer groups to work on demolition and painting at the former St. James manse.

"It's an incredible gift to be part of this project, helping turn the former St. James Presbyterian manse into a home for Krystal and her family," Larsen said. "When St. James closed, they didn't just walk away – they passed forward their legacy of faith, care, and hospitality in Tower by donating this house to Habitat for Humanity. That generosity is still making an impact, and we're honored to continue that story by lending our hands and hearts to the work. This is what it means to be



the church – loving our neighbors, building something lasting, and sharing in God's abundance."

North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity has served over 120 families in 15 Iron Range area communities since 1995. A staff of five works with partner families, contractors, local businesses, and community volunteers to build homes with households in need of simple, decent, affordable homes.

Habitat is an equal housing opportunity lender and considers a person's need for housing, their ability to pay an affordable mortgage, and their willingness to partner in the building of their home. Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope. To learn more, volunteer, or donate, visit [www.nslchfh.org](http://www.nslchfh.org).

**Above: Krystal Rynders (center) is pictured with her children, Adalyn and Mason, outside their future home in Tower.**

**Left: Pictured at the closing for the former St. James Presbyterian Church manse are former St. James member Jim Wright, NSLCHFH Executive Director Nathan Thompson, Ely Presbyterian Church pastor Rev. Corey Larsen, and former St. James member Peggy Syverson. submitted photos**



ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Kindergarteners try to trick a leprechaun

TOWER- Kristi Smith's creative crew of kindergarten students spent the afternoon on March 14 creating leprechaun traps out of a wide assortment of boxes, craft materials, and fabrics. Smith had read the class the best-selling book, "How to Catch a Leprechaun," by Adam Wallace, earlier in the day, giving them ideas for their construction projects.

*How to catch a leprechaun?  
It's tougher than you think!*

*He'll turn your whole house upside down.*

*He's quicker than a wink!*

The students worked individually and in small teams to create traps, which they left out over the weekend, hoping to catch one of the tricky, little creatures before school started on Monday, March 17, St. Patrick's Day. No leprechauns were harmed by the traps, though they did leave some "evidence" in the classroom for the students to discover.



Pictured clockwise from top left: Adelaide, Otto,

LAKE VERMILION CULTURAL CENTER

Baldrica, Winkelaar join the LVCC Board

TOWER- The Lake Vermilion Cultural Center (LVCC) is pleased to announce the addition of two new board members, Tom Baldrica and Karel Winkelaar. Both men are active in the arts, music and other organizations in the Northland and are looking forward to helping the LVCC fulfill their mission by educating and entertaining members of our greater community.

Tom was raised in Virginia and educated at the University of Minnesota where he received a degree in Public Relations. He said he earned a "minor" in marching band as a three-year tuba section rank lieutenant. He spent most of his professional career in the music world living in both Atlanta and Nashville before coming back to the Iron Range to work for Midwest Communications and launch a new daily radio show on country stations in Duluth and Hibbing. He retired in Decem-



**The LVCC executive committee welcomes two new board members, from left, chair Elaine McGillivray, member-at-large Tom Baldrica, president Mary Batinich, member-at-large Karel Winkelaar, secretary Shelby Vaske, and treasurer Ryan Bajan. submitted photo**

ber of 2024 and is enjoying spending time with his wife, Tracy. Tom also appreciates the vast music world on the Iron Range which his music educator parents, Bob and Barb Baldrica, nurtured over the years. He organiz-

es and performs in a Merry TubaChristmas every year.

Karel brings an equally interesting background to the LVCC which will enhance the mission of "enriching our communities through education and the arts by of-

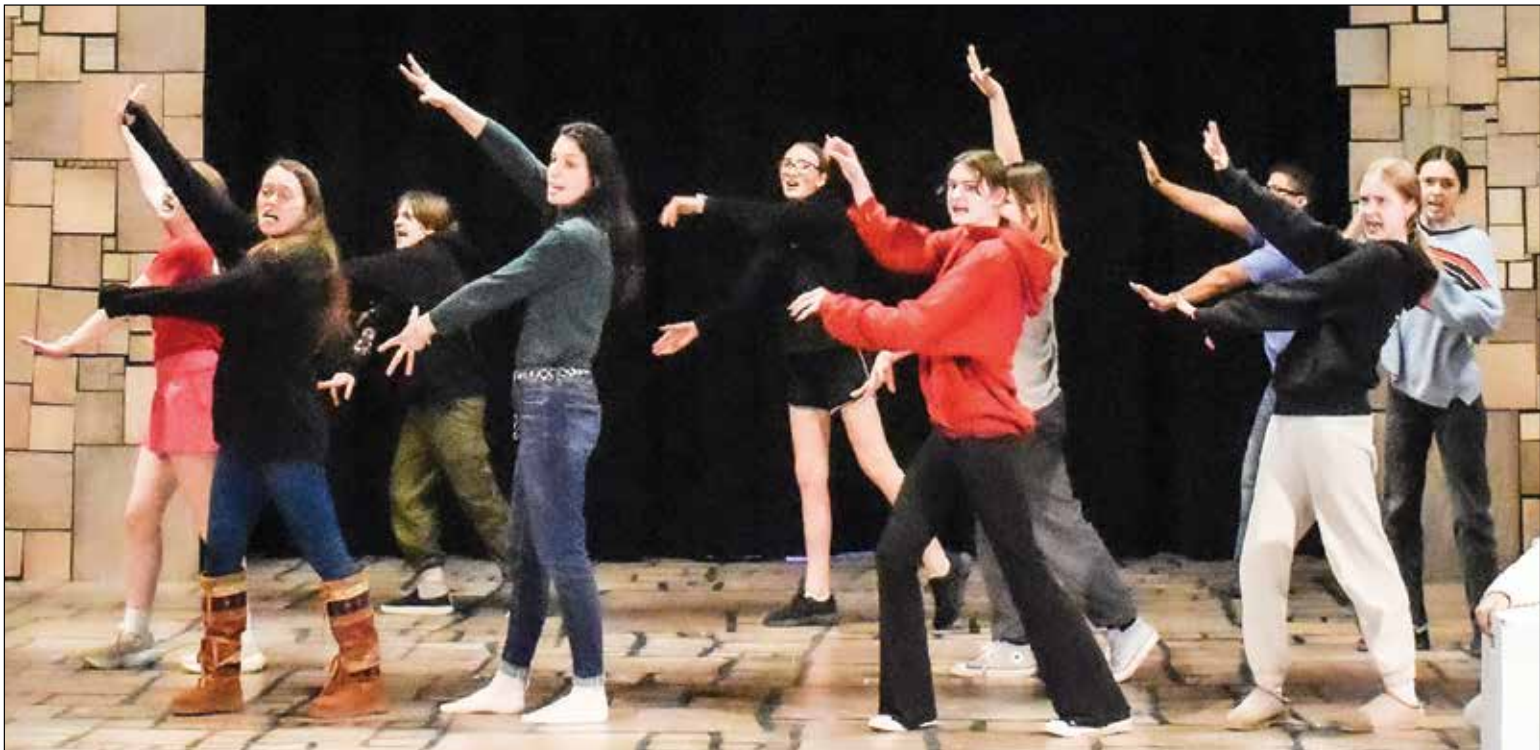
fering quality programming and providing opportunities to showcase the rich cultural heritage of our area." He came to America with his family from the Netherlands at the age of seven and grew up in Aurora-Hoyt Lakes.

He has worked in the mining industry as a supervisor at Erie Mining Company/LTV and as part owner of the Vermilion Land Office. He now works for the Tower Schools as a beloved bus driver and is a tour guide at the Soudan Underground Mine State Park in the summer. Recently he became active in Stages of the Range Players as an actor and board member. He lives with his wife, Brenda, in Tower and is involved in the lives of their adult children and grandchildren.

The LVCC is looking forward to working with both Tom and Karel as the board and committees continue to develop programs as well as renovating the building on the Main Street of Tower. Their expertise and experience will greatly enhance the LVCC's mission in the community. To learn more about the LVCC or to donate go to [vermilionculturalcenter.org](http://vermilionculturalcenter.org).



AROUND TOWN



The Northern Lakes Arts Association production of “Matilda, the Musical” opens next week at the Vermilion Fine Arts Theater. Tickets are on sale at <https://www.northernlakesarts.org>. The Timberjay snuck into rehearsals to check out the show and was astounded by the sophistication of the song and dance numbers with the ensemble. Above: The ensemble during the extended “Miracle” number during the first Act. Right: Asa Toddie, cast as Matilda, is verbally abused by her parents played by Ely theater veteran Wendy Lindsay and Rene Arguijo. photos by C. Clark



Left: Ely Film Festival Director Jacob White (left) and Dave Casey, the executive director of Ely’s Historic State Theater (right), taking a selfie before the start of Saturday evening’s showing of the film “Boundary Waters,” which was shot in Ely. Right: Simon, the store cat at the Prairie Fire Tobacco & Chapman Street Books, on his perch in the store window. photos by C. Clark



COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Babbitt Public Library

BABBITT- The library hours are changing. Starting this week, the library will be open Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Fridays, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Book bingo will be on Monday, April 14, at 1 p.m. and on Thursday, April 24 at 1 p.m.

The library will host Timber Tales on Wednesday, April 16 at 3:30 p.m. Timber Tales will be narrated by local author Susan Hawkinson, relating the history of the lumber industry and how it opened the Northwoods to settlement. The hour-long program is for adults and high school students.

The Friends of the Library is now accepting applications for table space from crafters and vendors for the Up North Craft Fair on Saturday, June 7. To reserve a table, contact the library at 218-827-3345, or email [babbittlibraryfriends@gmail.com](mailto:babbittlibraryfriends@gmail.com).

The take and make kit for kids for March is a shamrock man. Take one home while supplies last. The April take and make kit for kids will be mixed media collage and will be available to take home starting March 31.

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 library will hold a “Move and Groove” session for preschoolers and an accompanying adult Tuesday, March 25 at 10:30 a.m. The library’s Jessie will lead kids in simple dances and stretches.

Join the library for a special three-hour workshop, “Carving Your Clan,” with Jeffrey Tibbetts, on Wednesday, March 26, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. This activity is for teens and adults. The workshop blends ceremony, culture and art to deliver a unique hands-on experience as participants will carve a physical representation of their choosing from stone, while developing an understanding of the Ojibwe world view. This program has a limited number of spots available so register in advance. The library will not accept registrations for patrons below the age of 13. Younger teens will need to be accompanied by an adult.

The Get Crafty group will meet for a session of coloring for adults on Thursday, March 27, at 1 p.m. Register in advance so the library can arrange enough supplies for participants.

The library will celebrate World Party Day on Thursday, April 3, at 3 p.m. This activity is for all ages.

Find out more about this fun holiday and how to celebrate it.

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.

**Medication Lock Boxes**

ELY- The Ely Police Department has medication lock boxes available at no cost. The lock boxes are part of a St. Louis County initiative to reduce the risk of accidental drug ingestion in children. Stop by the PD to pick one up.

**Printmaking Workshop**

ELY- Rachael Pace, the Northern Lakes Arts Association 2025 Artist in Residence and winner of the 2025 Creative Spirit of the North Award, will teach an introductory relief-carving printmaking class on Saturday, March 22, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Vermilion Fire Arts Theater, 1900 E. Camp St. The cost is \$30 and includes materials. The workshop is limited to 20 participants so register early to ensure a seat, at [northernlakesarts.org/programs](http://northernlakesarts.org/programs) and click on the link for March 22.

**Sister Act Auditions**

ELY- The Northern Lakes Arts Association will hold auditions for the nuns in the musical “Sister Act” on Saturday, March 22, from 3-4:30 p.m. at the Vermilion Fire Arts Theater, 1900 E. Camp St. This is a corrected time for the auditions, originally scheduled later in the evening. NLAA moved the audition to avoid conflicting with the ECR Auction.

Annual ECR Auction

ELY- This year’s art auction for the nonprofit Ely Community Resource will be on the evening of Saturday, March 22, at Ely’s Historic State Theater, 238 E. Sheridan. The doors open at 5 p.m. for viewing and appetizers. The evening will include a raffle and both live and silent auctions of works by local artists. The auction begins at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$10.

**Canoe Fishing Webinar**

REGIONAL- Join Minnesota Department of Natural Resources area fisheries supervisor Scott Mackenthun at noon on Wednesday, March 26, as he talks about canoe angling opportunities in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. The webinar will cover angling opportunities, fishing tips and tricks, and wilderness angling idiosyncrasies that can help you catch more fish. The Minnesota Outdoor Skills and Stewardship Series webinars are free and offered year-round, though registration is required. Visit the Outdoor Skills and Stewardship webpage of the Minnesota DNR website ([mndnr.gov/discover](http://mndnr.gov/discover)) for the registration portal, more information about upcoming webinars and recordings of past webinars.

**Estate Planning Class**

ELY- Ely Community Education will host local attorney Kelly Klun for a free class on wills, trusts, and estate planning, on three

Wednesdays, from 5:30-6:30 p.m.: March 26, April 23, and May 28. The class will be in the Ely Public Schools Media Center, 600 E. Harvey St. Use door No. 1 in the center of the building complex and turn right after the double doors. The media center is on the right across from the new gym. Register at [ely.k12.mn.us/communityed](http://ely.k12.mn.us/communityed).

**The Pierogi Class**

ELY- The famous pierogi class is back! Doris Kolgji is once again teaching for Ely Community Education on how to make pierogis. This year’s class will be on Saturday, March 29, 1-4 p.m., at the Ely Senior Center, 27 S. First Ave. E. The cost is \$34. You will bring home a baking sheet of your own pierogis. Attendance is limited to 25. Register at [ely.k12.mn.us/communityed](http://ely.k12.mn.us/communityed).

**Coffee and Cards**

ELY- Northwoods Partners is excited to host a new activity starting March 29 called “Coffee and Cards with Evelyn” on the last Saturday of each month from 9–11 a.m. at the Northwoods Partners office at the Ely Area Community Hub, 760 Miners Dr. Evelyn will host a card-making gathering. Card-making supplies and coffee provided. The theme at the first event will be making two Easter cards and two spring-themed cards. If you have questions give Northwoods Partners a call at 218-365-8019.

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](mailto:ElyTuesdayGroup@gmail.com) or call her at 218-216-9141.

Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

- March 25: Take the Power Back: Why Minnesota Power Should Not Be Privatized
- April 1: TBA
- April 8: Updates from Visit Ely (the Ely-Area Tourism Bureau) with Abby Dare

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2025



one day sun, next snow melting ice, a sudden slip

lakes still marked with trails

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	9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Tuesday	9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Wednesday	9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Thursday	9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Friday	10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Phone: 218-827-3345

Support groups

**AA - Alcoholics Anonymous**  
**OPEN AA - 7:30** p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, in-person, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St., Ely.  
**AA FRIDAYS - 7 p.m.** Fridays, First Presbyterian Church, 262 E. Harvey St., Ely.  
**ELY WOMEN’S OPEN AA - Monday** at noon at Ledgerrock Church, 1515 E. Camp St., Ely.  
**BABBITT AA - 7 p.m.** Thursdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church.

**AL-ANON - Sundays** 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church in Ely.  
**BABBITT AL-ANON - Thursdays,** 7 p.m., at Woodland Presbyterian  
**CO-DEPENDENTS’** 12-step support group, 4:00 p.m. Tuesdays, hosted by Well Being Development, Ely. *This meeting is suspended temporarily.*

**CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS:** Babbitt: 3rd Monday of Month: 6-7:30 p.m. at Carefree Living. Ely: 4th Monday of Month: 10-11:30 a.m. at Ely-Bloomenson Hospital. Conference Room B.

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



SHOPPING FOR GOOD

# Renovations spruce up Cook auxiliary thrift shop

New flooring, new paint, and new addition are functional and attractive

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- While perhaps not considered an extreme makeover, recent renovations at the Cook Area Healthcare Auxiliary Thrift Shop are ones to be extremely welcomed by volunteers and shoppers alike, enhancing both the functionality and appearance of the popular secondhand store.

The shop is in the final stage of resetting after having a new non-slip urethane floor covering installed, the first such improvement in over 25 years, according to auxiliary volunteer Betty Mlaker.

“That was a big job, because everything had to be moved out,” Mlaker told the Timberjay on Tuesday. “We did it a half at a time, they did the first half and three days later we went back in and moved everything to the other side. Yesterday we were setting up all the shelves again and all the racks. We had a total of probably 20 women who were working on it, and they worked very, very hard. It was just a wonderful group to work with.”

With a long-established reputation for the variety, volume and quality of merchandise they sell, the Cook shop has a broad regional customer base, and the same can be said of its volunteers.

“We have some women from Ash Lake who come,

we’ve got a lady from Aurora who volunteers, a lot of them from Cook and some from Orr – they all came,” Mlaker said.

And some volunteers took the opportunity to give the front walls a fresh coat of paint.

“There was kind of a dark aqua color on the walls, and they painted it a light yellow,” Mlaker said. “It’s bright in there now – it’s going to have a nice light feel when people come in.” Mlaker noted that the top-coat of the urethane flooring is infused with a type of sand that will prevent people from slipping, and the new coating will also make the floor easier to clean.

“We won’t need the big, long rugs through there,” Mlaker said. “We’ll have a rug by the front door so people can wipe their feet off, but it should keep the store cleaner and safer.”

Mlaker gave thanks to Jason Burdine, of Cook, for doing the floor covering. The new floor and paint job is the second significant improvement to the shop over the past year, the other being an addition to the building to increase storage space. “This summer we put on a 12-by-15-foot addition to the end of the building, and a fourth of that is for donations,” Mlaker said. “The other part is for storing our holiday decorations that



**Above: The new speckled urethane floor covering at the Cook Area Healthcare Auxiliary Thrift Shop is attractive and safer with a nonslip surface. Top right: Volunteers brightened up the checkout area by covering the old aqua paint with a new yellow tint. Bottom right: All the shelving moved for the flooring project is being reset and restocked.** D. Colburn photos

come in, because we get so much stuff. We had sheds in the back that we used, and at Christmas time we were going outside, back and forth, and it was just so much easier to have it inside. We have a cement floor and we’ve got electricity and heat in there.”

The auxiliary worked with Ken Novak, of Greaney, and Stew Martinson, of Martinson Electric, did some additional work.

“He did some more lighting in the back and more plugins for us, and put a heater in that new addition,” Mlaker said. “And for the donation shed, when you open the doors, the lights go on

automatically now. Some of us get there at 7:30 a.m. and in the winter time it was dark, but now when you open it up it’s all lit up.”

In the past, with more limited storage, the shop occasionally had to stop receiving donations, but that hasn’t been an issue since the addition was built, Mlaker said. Things are now set for the shop to continue serving the community well into the future. “We kept the other two sheds that we had, if we need them for donations, or if somebody wants to donate some type of furniture we can always put it in there, too,” Mlaker said.



“Especially when people start coming back to the lakes, we get quite a bit of donations. And (the proceeds) all goes to the hospital for different projects they’ve got going on, or for equipment.”

The shop will re-open for customers on Thursday, March 27, and will also be open on Friday, March 28,

from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. A return to regular hours follows, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. every Thursday and Friday and the second and fourth Saturdays of the month. Donations are accepted during regular hours, as well as on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m.-noon.

COOK CITY COUNCIL

# Council passes updated city flood plain ordinance

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- It was “trade-off Thursday” last week for members of the Cook Planning and Zoning Committee and the Cook City Council as they weighed options for a new flood plain ordinance in order to beat a mandated deadline.

The city’s work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in response to last year’s flood prompted the look at updating the ordinance, for which the city had ample help in the form of a model flood plain ordinance from DNR. The model was developed to be consistent with Minnesota statutes and rules for various relevant state agencies and FEMA policies, with language meant to facilitate

ordinance administration.

DNR State Floodplain Manager Ceil Strauss called into the Planning and Zoning Committee meeting and public hearing to provide members with interpretations of various sections of the model ordinance and answer any questions.

Committee members Dan Manick, Ron Bushbaum, and David Danz zeroed in on a section of the ordinance focused on two options for determining whether the costs of improving and/or repairing a structure constitutes a substantial improvement of a substantially damaged structure. Substantially damaged is defined as “damage of any origin sustained by a structure where the cost of restoring the structure to its before damaged condition would equal or exceed 50 percent of the market value of the

structure before the damage occurred.”

Manick expressed reservations over the option that would allow people with flood insurance to access \$30,000 of additional insurance funds because of additional language that would require any structure that has suffered losses twice in ten years to be brought into conformity with the rules of construction in the new ordinance.

“So if somebody suffers a repetitive loss, we’re putting this in there because they would have access to the \$30,00, but at the same time, oh sorry, because we have this you cannot reconstruct until you bring it into compliance,” Manick said. “Is it always possible to bring it into compliance, or are we dooming somebody?”

Strauss noted that there are different ways people

could comply with the ordinance.

“It might mean they have to fill in for a residence, that they can’t have a basement,” she said. “If they’ve got an area above ground they might need to put in flood vents and abandon that as a livable space. They can have a basement, but you’d have to do floodproofing after the fact, and sometimes that can be difficult in an existing building.”

Manick noted that the issue for many, including himself, would be more than just filling in a basement, but making accommodations for things like water heaters and furnaces.

“Well, now what do I do? Now I have to add onto my home to have a utilities room.”

Strauss clarified that the requirement to bring homes with repetitive damage into

compliance with the ordinance would apply to all structures in the flood plain, whether they were covered by flood insurance or not.

“You don’t really have a way to say it only applies if you have flood insurance,” Strauss said. “It would apply to all the buildings. So that is the conundrum.”

Strauss said it would be possible to make some minor changes to the ordinance language administratively, without having to call another public meeting or pass a revised ordinance. Manick asked City Administrator Theresa Martinson if a lot of people had flood insurance, and she replied that, “a lot of people do not have flood insurance.”

As the gathering transitioned to a formal city council meeting, the main question they faced was whether or not to adopt the

higher standard that would allow flood insurance holders to access the additional \$30,000 of assistance, or choose a lower standard that would have less impact on reconstruction requirements but forego the additional funds for insurance holders.

“Closing the door on the opportunity to access an additional \$30,000 for those who do have insurance, well, I’d hate to see us do that,” Danz said.

The council ultimately agreed, adopting a version of the ordinance that preserved the \$30,000 option but that will require all buildings with repeated flood damage to be brought up to ordinance standards to be repaired.

“Either way, somebody could get hurt – you can’t cover all the bases,” Manick said.



GROUPS O' GRIZZLIES



**Above: It was a festive atmosphere in the North Woods School commons on Monday for a St. Patrick's Day Family Fun Night and Lucky Bingo Night, with plenty of food, displays, and activities for the entire family. Below: The Cook Community Center was nearly at capacity on Thursday, March 13 as the Senior Class of 2025 was feted at the annual banquet.** photos by D. Colburn

PIATIGORSKY CLASSICAL



Photo contest voting deadline approaches

COOK- Time is running out, but it's not too late to hustle over to the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook to cast your vote for your favorite entry in the “A Shot in the Dark” photo contest.

Voting closes next Friday, March 28, at noon, so you'll have enough time if you arrive when the gallery opens at 10 a.m. to browse the entries and pick your winner. Or give yourself a more leisurely opportunity to savor the images by going to the gallery on Thursday between 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Winners will be announced on Friday at a gallery reception from 5-7 p.m. The public is invited.

**Above: Clarinetist Katsuya Yuasa and pianist Mary Au were the featured artists in a Tuesday night concert at Trinity Lutheran Church in Cook. The concert continued the long-standing collaboration between the Piatigorsky Foundation and Northwoods Friends of the Arts.** D. Colburn



## SCHOOLS...Continued from page 1

of education their children receive.

North Woods Principal Kelly Engman facilitated the meeting, supported by school board members Mallory Manick and Jarrett Bundy, and between them they were able to keep the focus mainly on the four-day week proposal.

Manick fielded the first question about why the district had changed its decision from the fall, noting that extensive work in a subcommittee showed the district was ready for the change.

“We’ve been meeting twice a month, and we felt like we were far enough along,” Manick said. “We’re actually ahead of Mt. Iron-Buhl (which has already committed to a four-day week for next year), so we felt like if we’re going to be ready for it and then sit here for a year and we have the plans in place, why not try to get it going for next year?”

The issue of class sizes came up immediately afterward, and while Manick was openly critical of the large projected class sizes for next year at North Woods at the last school board meeting, Engman fielded the question.

“We’re really looking at that right now and exploring our options, the balances, meeting kids’ needs and making sure the class sizes are the smallest that we can make them,” Engman said. “We’ll have another time to explore those questions.”

Bundy took the opportunity to weigh in on the teacher cuts.

“Nobody wanted to do teacher cuts by any means,” Bundy said. “The way it works is that if we don’t cut them we have to stick with them, even if our numbers fell off the bottom. So, what we did was to cut early and we can always hire them back – that’s why they’re watching the student numbers so closely. Once they get back to that point we will hire back if these classes get too big.”

But when asked what “too big” means, Bundy didn’t have a specific answer.

“We don’t have an actual

number,” he said.

For parents, it was the first time they had an opportunity to ask about the district’s proposed school-age care program that will be offered on Fridays, something that hadn’t been on the table when the district surveyed parents last fall. Questions were raised about enrollment and drop-in care, cost, support for children with disabilities, meals, staffing, teacher-child ratios, and more.

Manick said the cost will be more reasonable than regular child care rates to make it as affordable as possible, and said they would look at rates for families with multiple children needing care. Part-time staff wanting to pick up more hours would be able to work in school-age care, Manick said, as would older high school students who would be used to enhance teacher-child ratios. A lunch and snack will be provided, she said. Parents would preregister and pay a week in advance through the district’s continuing education web page. Transportation would not be provided. Children with disabilities would be able to attend, although Manick said additional planning would need to be done to flesh out more specifics. Drop-in care, which had initially been ruled out for planning purposes, would also need a closer look, she said.

A concern expressed by many was the impact on students of a school day that would be 34 minutes longer under a four-day week.

“This school has a hard time getting all the academic standards in as it is with a five-day week, and that’s with smaller class sizes,” one person said. “So, you’re going to take teachers away, you’re going to put more kids in a classroom, especially on the elementary side, and then you’re going to shorten the week. A longer day is not going to allow you to learn more, it’s just going to be more exhausting. That’s my concern.”

Manick said that other districts they had looked at,

such as Superior and Carlton, have longer class times than what ISD 2142 is proposing, but that didn’t slow the comments.

“They also probably don’t have kids that ride the bus for a long time,” was the response. “Your kids aren’t even going to get home before five o’clock in the evening – where’s your time for homework? Where’s your time for dinner? Where is your time for relaxing and spending quality time with your family? This is just too long of a day.”

“There are a lot of teachers here,” another person said. “I’m curious to know how they feel. I mean, not necessarily just about our students, but they also have to extend their days in the morning and evening. Are they for it or against it?”

The fall survey included staff, who skewed favorably toward the four-day week, and North Woods Kindergarten teacher Beth Wilenius said she would like the consistency in attendance that would come from parents having Fridays to schedule appointments for their children rather than have sporadic absences throughout the week. She also indicated that the longer days would not be too hard of a challenge to deal with.

“We do a lot of moving, we do a lot of changing activities,” she said. “We go for walks outside whether it’s 20 above or 20 below. I don’t feel concerned about that piece. As a mom, I feel like (Friday) with my family I would absolutely treasure.”

Industrial Arts Teacher Bruce Black said his classes and others with labs or activities that require more set-up time would benefit from the extended days, particularly given the constraints of the district’s current partial day on Wednesday schedule.

“On Wednesdays we have 38 minutes, so they barely get their stuff out and get started before they’re out,” Black said. “A science class, an art class, a shop class, any class that has something you have to get out, some kind of project

to work on, you get that much longer.”

Several parents expressed the desire that if their children were going to be in class longer that teachers try to cut down on homework assignments and teach some of that material in class. The discussion took up the full hour allotted and covered numerous other questions, but at the end the general consensus of the group leaned toward favoring the switch to the four-day week, with only a few expressing their dissent.

### Tower-Soudan

It was the nitty-gritty details that raised the most questions at Monday’s meeting at Tower-Soudan Elementary. TS Principal John Jirik led the meeting, with about 20 in attendance, including parents and school staff. The four-day proposal, he said, shows school starting 10 minutes earlier, and ending 23 minutes later, Monday through Thursday. The bus schedule in the morning would remain mostly unchanged, with buses arriving at 8 a.m., but then departing 30 minutes later than the present schedule at 3:40 p.m.

“The number one reason for looking at the change is financial,” Jirik noted.

The district has estimated the switch would save the district about half a million dollars, off a projected \$1.5 million shortfall next school year.

The district had surveyed parents about the issue earlier in the school year, but results showed that so many families would look at open-enrolling their children to other districts that it would counteract the cost savings of moving to a four-day week. But after the board talked about cutting 10 licensed teachers, including five at North Woods, which angered many parents at North Woods, the issue once again was on the board agenda.

The main concern expressed by parents involved bus times, especially for high school students. Tower-area students who stay in the

district for high school are transported to either Northeast Range in Babbitt, or North Woods, north of Cook. Bus pickup times are already early, at 6:30 a.m. in Soudan for students attending North Woods, and 6:56 a.m. in Soudan for NE Range.

“It’s a long day for kids,” said Amber Zak. “They are getting up so early, and then would be keeping them later.”

Cade Gornick wondered if the district could set a later start time, and then extend the school day in the afternoon.

Jirik told parents he was noting all their questions, which would then be relayed to the district for review.

As far as child care options on Fridays, Jirik said the district was looking to possibly partner with the Boys and Girls Club on the Vermilion Reservation.

Parent Monica Porter said the Boys and Girls Club sets hours in response to the school schedule, so that if school was not in session on Fridays, they would be open. She said the club stays open until around 6 p.m. on weekdays and they might be able to offer transportation back to Tower in the late afternoon, if there was enough interest. Porter said the club is currently fully staffed and serves around 30 kids a day for afterschool hours. The club could add up to 20 more children, age 5 – 18, by adding more staff. Club membership is open to all area children and is free of charge. The club also provides meals and snacks and programming includes homework help and academic supports.

Jirik told the parents the decision will be made by the school board, but that the input from the meeting, and similar meetings held at all the school sites, would be important.

Jirik noted the longer school day would give TS teachers more time to provide educational programming in the newly-established school forest.

Several of the parents said they could see the four-day week working for their families, but they noted that it

would be harder to manage for single-parent or dual-parent working households.

Tower-Soudan was on a four-day week schedule for several years prior to consolidating with ISD 2142, and some of the parents said their experience with the four-day week was positive.

But others wondered if the four-day week would further lower enrollment at the elementary school, and possibly force its closure. They noted that parents at North Woods were wondering why TS Elementary was kept open with smaller class sizes, when North Woods classrooms were overfilled.

“You could bus kids from Cook to Tower,” one parent said. “We have the room here.”

School staff at the meeting said the administration had told them there was no talk of closing the elementary school. Jirik noted the school had added programs, including extra-curricular sports, this year.

But parents, especially those who had graduated from high school in Tower, were not ready to trust the district.

“I see some of you were deeply hurt when the high school closed,” Jirik said.

One school staffer noted that many area school districts are facing similar financial shortfalls.

Cade Gornick commented that many parents chose to open-enroll their young children to other districts because they want their kids closer to where they work. Another reason, said Jirik, is when the oldest sibling moves to another school or district, parents choose to move all their children.

“It can be easier for parents to worry about one school, not two,” Jirik said.

Greg Dostert said his grandsons, who attended NE Range, and this year decided to go to Ely, would probably choose to go back to NE Range if the district switched to a four-day week.

*Jodi Summit reported on the Tower-Soudan meeting*

## EICHORN...Continued from page 1

minority leader in 2023-24 and is the newly elected chair of the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Advisory Board.

### Political fallout

News of the arrest was met with swift bipartisan calls for Eichorn’s resignation.

The Senate Republican Caucus released a statement Tuesday afternoon saying, “We are shocked by these reports and this alleged conduct demands an immediate resignation. Justin has a difficult road ahead and he needs to focus on his family.”

House Speaker Lisa Demuth, R-Cold Spring, and

House Republican Leader Harry Niska, R-Ramsey, echoed those calls in a joint statement.

“Given the seriousness of the charges, Senator Eichorn should resign. While he is entitled to due process, we must hold legislators to a higher standard,” they said.

Senate Majority Leader Erin Murphy, DFL-St. Paul, described the allegations as “deeply disturbing,” adding that the situation “raises serious questions that will need to be answered by the court, as well as his caucus and constituents.”

Reaction on social media

was quick and brutal on Tuesday, with commenters flocking to Eichorn’s official Facebook page to leave derogatory comments condemning his actions. Posters also attacked Eichorn on family photos on his wife Brittany’s Facebook page until the account was either blocked or removed by mid-afternoon.

Eichorn’s arrest comes at a time when the Senate is already grappling with ethical controversies. Earlier this year, Republicans led efforts to expel DFL Senator Nicole Mitchell, who faces felony burglary charges for breaking and entering her late father’s

residence. That effort stalled after Democrats insisted she receive due process before any action was taken, although Gov. Tim Walz had called on Mitchell to resign last year. Mitchell’s continued presence in the Senate gives the DFL a 34-33 majority.

Just weeks ago, Eichorn himself had publicly criticized Mitchell’s presence in the Senate, saying her case was a “growing scandal” that was a distraction from important legislative work. In a now widely circulated Facebook post, Eichorn said, “We need to end the disruption and let voters choose a new senator.”

## HELIUM...Continued from page 1

ing the helium deposit near Babbitt, would also pay what’s known as an occupation tax, which is assessed on taconite mining operations already.

Hauschild said he’s figuring the gross proceeds tax would start at seven percent and increase to nine percent after two years if the deposit

is still producing. That’s considerably higher than taconite production taxes but Hauschild said that reflects the fact that there are few jobs produced through the helium production process. “This is more purely extractive in nature,” he said.

Hauschild wasn’t certain

if his measure would win passage this session, but he’s hopeful to get some kind of tax structure in place before the company starts production, currently slated for 2028 or later. Hauschild said he’s worried the evenly-divided House could slow progress on legislation this session.

The tax proposal comes in the wake of the work completed by the Gas Resources Technical Advisory Committee, or GTAC, which was formed by the Legislature last year to develop a framework for regulating and taxing helium production. It’s the first time that a major gas

deposit has been discovered in Minnesota, so lawmakers wanted some expert advice on how to regulate the potential new industry. The GTAC included representatives from the Department of Natural Resources, the Environmental Quality Board, Department of Health, Pollution Control

Agency and the Department of Revenue.

Their recommendation cover taxes, permitting, environmental review, as well as rules for gas well construction. The GTAC issued its recommendations in a 222-page report released in January of this year.

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Peter Schamber, Executive Director  
**[info@gardnertrust.org](mailto:info@gardnertrust.org) | 218-365-2639**  
Office hours (in City Hall) Fri 3pm–5pm or by appointment

**COOK THRIFT SHOP**

**DELAYED OPENING**





The painting and indoor upgrade projects at the Thrift Shop are not yet complete, so we will be delaying our re-opening to...

• Thursday, March 27 •

**We will also be open on Friday, March 28**

**Shopping hours are 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

We will then return to our regular shopping days and hours which are, once again: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. every Thursday and Friday, as well as the second and fourth Saturdays of the month.



Donations are accepted during the posted shopping dates, as well as on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. – noon.



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



PUBLIC SAFETY

# Rock Ridge High dean arrested in child exploitation case

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook/Orr Editor

EVELETH- Rock Ridge High School dean of students Christopher Chad has been arrested in connection with a child exploitation investigation spanning multiple states, according to the St. Louis County Sheriff’s Office.

Chad, of Eveleth, was taken into custody on Tuesday at a residence on Auburn Avenue. Authorities said he

was arrested on a felony warrant issued in Georgia and is being held at the St. Louis County Jail pending extradition.

The investigation began on March 5 when the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension



Chris Chad

(BCA) alerted the St. Louis County Sheriff’s Office to multiple CyberTip reports involving child exploitation. These reports, submitted by electronic service providers to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, were forwarded to state and local law enforcement.

Authorities determined that one of the reports involved the solicitation of a minor in Georgia, while another

tip involved an individual receiving child sexual abuse material. The receipt of child sexual abuse material investigation is for a cyber tip unrelated to the Fulton County case. Investigators traced the suspect in the Georgia matter to Eveleth, where they discovered he was employed at Rock Ridge High School. Chad is listed as the dean of students on the school website.

On March 6, law enforcement agencies, including the

BCA and the Lake Superior Forensic Technology and Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, executed multiple search warrants in Virginia and Eveleth. Investigators collected evidence, but no arrests were made at that time. Rock Ridge Superintendent Noel Schmidt issued a letter indicating that the employee was placed on administrative leave at that time.

The sheriff’s office said

that there is no evidence suggesting any local victims or that any Rock Ridge High School students were involved. The investigation remains ongoing.

Anyone with concerns or information related to the case is encouraged to contact Sgt. Eric Sathers at the St. Louis County Sheriff’s Office at 218-336-4311.

FALL LAKE TOWNSHIP

# Board likely violates Open Meeting Law in supervisor appointment

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

FALL LAKE- The supervisors of Fall Lake Township appointed Adam Masloski as its third supervisor on Tuesday night in a closed session that was likely in violation of the state’s Open Meeting Law.

Masloski will serve one year, filling Sheila Gruba’s

supervisor’s seat. Gruba resigned her position in February at the end of her first year in office.

To fill the seat, the Fall Lake Supervisors can appoint an interim supervisor until the next election in March 2026, which is the action taken on Tuesday evening. Next March, the township’s voters must

elect someone as supervisor for the remaining year of Gruba’s original three-year term.

Fall Lake advertised for those interested in the one-year appointment to submit their name to the township clerk, and scheduled a meeting for March 18 to appoint one of them. Four people

presented themselves to the board of supervisors: Henry Jacobs, Hudson Kingston, Adam Masloski, and John Pierce. Each was given time to speak to the board in an open meeting. According to Kingston, the supervisors adjourned the meeting and went into a closed session where they apparently selected

Masloski.

The *Timberjay* left a message for township officials seeking their justification for a closed session on the supervisor appointment. The Open Meeting Law requires closed sessions for preliminary consideration of charges or allegations against an individual under a governmental body’s authority and allows for closed

sessions to evaluate the performance of an individual under their authority, but neither exception would apply in this instance. A supervisor is an elected or appointed office, not an employee subject to supervision by the town board.

Masloski’s first meeting as a new supervisor was set for Wednesday, March 19.

FUNDING CUTS

# Small business initiative targeted by Trump budget cutting

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- President Trump issued an executive order last Friday that put several smaller federal programs on the chopping block. The loss of one of them, the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, will cut off a source of non-traditional lending available to rural and Indigenous small businesses in the Arrowhead region. Organizations like the Entrepreneur Fund and the Northland Foundation are among those likely to be affected by the order.

The executive order mandated that the programs must “reduce the performance of their statutory functions and associated personnel to the minimum presence and function required by law.” The order went on to give the heads of these programs seven days to report which functions are statutorily required. The order also instructs the Office of Management and Budget to “reject funding requests for such governmental entities to the extent they are inconsistent with this order.”

CDFIs

Community Development Financial Institutions, or CDFIs, provide financing to small businesses in rural and underserved communities through grants, loans, and small business support. The CDFI fund certifies non-governmental lending organizations to invest in local small business start-ups or expansions using a mix of the fund’s money and private investment.

The Arrowhead region has five community development finance institutions, or CDFIs, that fund rural small businesses. In addition to the Entrepreneur Fund and the Northland Foundation, the NorthRidge Community Credit Union, the Embarrass Vermillion Federal Credit Union, and the Minnesota Power Employees Credit Union are all CDFI partners.

Of the five, the Entrepreneur Fund and the Northland Foundation are nonprofit business development organizations that offer a mix of small business development services, consulting,

and financing programs for business owners and entrepreneurs in rural markets where mainline commercial financing is not available. Earlier this week, Entrepreneur Fund business advisor for the Ely area, Emily Roose, said the management of her organization was still evaluating how the potential loss or reduction of the CDFI Fund would affect its programs.

Tony Sertich, President and CEO of the Northland Foundation, told the *Timberjay*, “We don’t know yet what the effect will be on us. As we’ve seen over the past two months, executive orders come and go and change course. Congress will probably also have a say on what happens here. Right now, it’s really up in the air.”

But Sertich said he’s concerned. “Losing CDFI funds will lessen our ability to provide gap loans to small business owners so that they can leverage larger loans from banks to start or grow their business.” Northland has generated \$3.8 million in CDFI-funded loans to local small businesses over the last five years.

It’s not clear that President Trump’s efforts to eliminate the CDFI initiative will find support in Congress. The co-chairs of the bipartisan U.S. Senate Community Development Finance Caucus, Sens. Mark R. Warner (D-Va.) and Mike Crapo (R-Idaho), have already issued a statement in support of the CDFI Fund.

“When the CDFI Fund was developed 30 years ago, it was created in the form of a private-public partnership to promote access to capital in our most underserved urban and rural communities,” the senators’ statement read. “Since 1994, the CDFI sector has grown to over 1,400 institutions, located in every state and territory in the nation — and leveraging at least \$8 in private sector investment for every \$1 in public funding received.”

The Senate’s Community Development Finance Caucus has 28 members, which is more than a quarter of the Senate, evenly split between 14 Democrats and 14 Republicans.

Native American CDFIs

Part of the CDFI Fund is the Native American CDFI Assistance Program, or NACA. This program has provided over \$221 million in financing for Indigenous housing and small businesses since 2001. The Treasury Department has certified 69

Native CDFIs which provide financing in Indigenous communities where traditional banking services are lacking.

Trump issued his executive order seven days before the March 21 deadline for NACA’s 2025 funding round, leaving applicants uncertain about the future of their NACA

applications.

The Native CDFI Network, a national association of Native American financial institutions, opposed the order. “Native CDFIs are among the most efficient financial institutions in the nation, stretching limited resources to drive economic

growth in some of the most rural and remote areas where traditional banks have failed,” wrote network CEO Pete Upton in a statement, adding that the change would be “a devastating blow to economic self-sufficiency in Indian Country.”



20TH ANNUAL

SWEET SPRING AUCTION

Ely Young Life

ONLINE AUCTION

OPENING  
6:00 PM SUNDAY, APRIL 6

CLOSING  
6:00 PM SUNDAY, APRIL 13

BIDS CLOSE EVERY HALF HOUR STARTING AT 2 PM

IN PERSON AUCTION & BANQUET  
NEW SUNDAY, APRIL 13  
1-2:30 PM • THE HUB  
VIEW SELECT AUCTION ITEMS IN WEBSITE CATALOG

MORE INFO  
ELY.YOUNGLIFE.ORG



 @YLELYMN   Checkout the Auction Catalog

## HARBOR...Continued from page 1

posals from prospective business owners who are interested in owning or leasing commercial space at the harbor. TEDA is also looking for an owner or operator interested in operating a mid-level to fine dining restaurant at the site. TEDA will be reviewing responses to its requests as they come in. Currently, the deadline for

responses is Friday, April 25. Interested individuals can see the full RFPs on the TEDA website at <https://cityoftower.com/teda-rfp>. TEDA will work to coordinate contacts with interested prospective business owners and Eagle Ridge, which will be managing the property, at least initially.



CITY OF ELY

# City council fills gaps in its zoning map

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY—The Ely City Council approved the first reading of a new ordinance that assigns zoning to 14 unzoned parcels within city limits and scheduled a public hearing on the new zoning assignments for April 1 at 5:15 p.m.

These unzoned parcels include the location of the new Ely Regional Trailhead Building, a city-owned parcel that will be classified as public (P1) land. The unzoned parcel immediately to the south, which belongs to the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital, hosts part of a parking lot and the steep slope down to S. Fourth Ave. W. It will also be zoned as P1. Two unzoned residential parcels for the homes at 355 and 357 W. Harvey St. will be zoned as R1. Two unzoned residential parcels at the western edge of city limits, at 1884 and 1886 Shagawa Rd. W., will be zoned as shoreline mixed use as they front onto Shagawa Lake.

The other eight properties belong to the city and are located mostly in the undeveloped areas to the east of the Jerome Debeltz softball fields. These will be zoned as either open space or public land.

In other business, the city council:

➤ Approved the formation of a negotiating committee to work on a lease agreement with the Ely Chamber of Commerce, which leases their offices from the city. The council, noting that another agenda item also called for negotiating with the city’s employee unions, added that negotiation committee to the motion, thus approving both committees in one vote.

➤ Approved the purchase of a Board Safe Dock for the ADA compliant kayak launch at the new eastern access area for Miners Lake. City council member John Lahtonen questioned whether the cost of the dock was funded by the city. “This project is funded by the Department of Natural Resources on a reimbursement basis,” responded Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski. “We won’t order (the dock) until DNR approves of the reimbursement. So, we pay upfront and then DNR will reimburse our costs, so Ely will spend no net city funds.”

➤ Voted 6-0-1 against a recommendation of the tree board to allow non-resident John Lindquist to tap four silver maple trees on the second block of E. Conan St. The tree board no longer approves of tapping maple trees within city limits. It made an exception for Lindquist’s request because the four trees are slated for removal this spring, so the question of damaging city trees is moot.

Lahtonen made the case for turning down Lindquist’s request, not because it lacked merit, but because the city should enforce it’s no tapping policy equally: “My only concern is that you can have four trees that have taps on them, and then somebody two blocks down, who hasn’t heard (that you can’t tap trees in Ely) wants to tap. I think it’s a slippery slope, and it should be all or nothing.” The rest of the council agreed and voted accordingly.

➤ Approved the hire of Josh Pohlman as an equipment operator trainee, pending a pre-employment physical, drug testing and background check.

➤ Approved the advertisement for bids for the clean-up project at the Depot redevelopment site. The project has received the DEED grant for the clean-up, for which the city is the fiscal agent.

➤ Heard the report from Langowski that the recycling bins next to the Jerome Debeltz softball fields are sited on ground that saturates during the spring thaw. “There may be

a bit of mud by the recycling bins. If it gets too muddy, we’ll put up barricades and close the area temporarily.”

➤ Heard the report of Fire Chief Dave Marshal that enough snow has now melted that burning permits are now required.

➤ Heard the report from Police Chief Chad Houde that the police department has a drop box for unused medicines on the first floor of city hall. Langowski added his plea for Ely-area residents to utilize the medicine disposal box: “Please, don’t dump unused medicines down the toilet. It just isn’t good to send that stuff to the wastewater treatment facility, which isn’t designed to handle it.”

Houde also reported that the police department has locking storage boxes at no cost for people who need to prevent small children from accessing medicines, courtesy of St. Louis County. Those interested can pick one up at the police department office on the first floor of city hall during office hours.

➤ Approved advertising for the new hire of a full-time police officer.

➤ Approved the second and final reading of Ordinance 389 to amend the sales price of city-owned lots 9 and 10 in the East Spaulding First Addition plat. The approval came after a public hearing where no one testified for or against the price change. The lots were formerly \$33,000 and \$29,000 respectively. The

new price is \$25,000 apiece or \$38,900 if bought together. The two adjacent lots share a wetland area which reduces the land available for residential development.

➤ Approved the first reading of Ordinance 379, which would vacate a 33-foot right of way on Beacon Hill that the city no longer needs. The right of way is between the Tower View Estates and Ahola plats, just south and east of the radio tower next to S. Third Ave. E. The vacated right of way will be split between the landowners along the Tower Estates and Ahola plat boundary. The city council scheduled a public hearing on the new ordinance for April 1 at 5 p.m.

➤ Approved the fol-

lowing claims for payment: city of Ely and Ely Utilities Commission claims through March 18 for \$106,795 and a \$266,559 pay estimate from Max Gray Construction for the Ely Regional Trailhead Building.

➤ Approved the appointment of Linsey Dare to the open mid-term seat on the Ely Park and Recreation Board. Her term will expire on Jan. 31, 2026.

➤ Approved the new utility rates recommended by the Ely Utilities Commission. The city council held a public hearing before the Tuesday meeting where two residents posed questions about water lines and water quality, but did not comment on the rates themselves. The new rates are available online in the agenda packet for the March 18 city council meeting at [ely.mn.us](http://ely.mn.us).

➤ Approved a letter of recommendation from Max Gray Construction, the general contractor for the Ely International Hotel project, to award a contract for \$381,913 to VCI Environmental for selective interior demolition plus asbestos and hazardous materials abatement. The abatement work is being funded through an Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board grant, for which Ely is the fiscal agent.



## MARCH IS TRUCK MONTH AT FORD OF HIBBING AND WE HAVE OVER 30 NEW F150 TRUCKS PRICED TO MOVE!!

CHECK OUT OUR GREAT SELECTION OF TRUCKS ON THE LOT. STOP IN OR CHECK OUT OUR SELECTION AT [FORDOFHIBBING.COM](http://FORDOFHIBBING.COM)

<div><h3>2024 F150 SPORT 4X4 CREW CAB</h3><div><div><div>61,945 MSRP</div><div>-2,000 XLT DISC</div><div>-5,330 FOH DISC</div><div>-2,000 CUSTOMER CASH</div><div>-1,000 BONUS CASH</div><div>-1,000 TRUCK MONTH BONUS CASH</div><div>-500 RETAIL BONUS CASH</div><div>-500 FLEX BUY FORD CREDIT BONUS CASH*</div></div><div></div><div><div><div><b>\$49,615<sup>+TTL</sup></b></div><div>EVERYONES PRICE</div></div><div><div>SAVE</div><div><b>\$13,330</b></div></div></div><div><div><div>-1,000 TRADE-IN ASSISTANCE</div><div>BONUS CASH**</div></div><div><b>\$48,615<sup>+TTL</sup></b></div><div>CONDITIONAL PRICE</div><div><small>*MUST FINANCE THRU FORD CREDIT OAC. **Must trade in a 1995 or Newer Car, Truck, or SUV.</small></div><div><div>Tailgate Step • 2.7L EcoBoost</div><div>Heated Seats</div></div></div></div></div>	<div><h3>2024 F150 XLT SPORT 4X4 CREW CAB</h3><div><div><div>64,460 MSRP</div><div>-2,000 XLT DISC</div><div>-5,621 FOH DISC</div><div>-2,000 CUSTOMER CASH</div><div>-1,000 BONUS CASH</div><div>-1,000 TRUCK MONTH BONUS CASH</div><div>-500 FLEX BUY FORD CREDIT BONUS CASH*</div></div><div></div><div><div><div><b>\$52,339<sup>+TTL</sup></b></div><div>EVERYONES PRICE</div></div><div><div>SAVE</div><div><b>\$13,121</b></div></div></div><div><div><div>-1,000 TRADE-IN ASSISTANCE</div><div>BONUS CASH**</div></div><div><b>\$51,339<sup>+TTL</sup></b></div><div>CONDITIONAL PRICE</div><div><small>*MUST FINANCE THRU FORD CREDIT OAC. **Must trade in a 1995 or Newer Car, Truck, or SUV.</small></div><div><div>5.0L V-8 • FX4 PKG</div><div>36 Gallon Fuel Tank</div></div></div></div></div>
<div><h3>2024 F150 SPORT 4X4 CREW CAB</h3><div><div><div>62,310 MSRP</div><div>-2,000 XLT DISC</div><div>-5,370 FOH DISC</div><div>-2,000 CUSTOMER CASH</div><div>-1,000 BONUS CASH</div><div>-1,000 TRUCK MONTH BONUS CASH</div><div>-500 RETAIL BONUS CASH</div><div>-500 FLEX BUY FORD CREDIT BONUS CASH*</div></div><div></div><div><div><div><b>\$49,940<sup>+TTL</sup></b></div><div>EVERYONES PRICE</div></div><div><div>SAVE</div><div><b>\$13,370</b></div></div></div><div><div><div>-1,000 TRADE-IN ASSISTANCE</div><div>BONUS CASH**</div></div><div><b>\$48,940<sup>+TTL</sup></b></div><div>CONDITIONAL PRICE</div><div><small>*MUST FINANCE THRU FORD CREDIT OAC. **Must trade in a 1995 or Newer Car, Truck, or SUV.</small></div><div><div>20" Wheels • Heated Seats</div><div>Extended Range Fuel Tank</div></div></div></div></div>	<div><h3>2024 F150 XLT 4X4 CREW CAB</h3><div><div><div>65,610 MSRP</div><div>-2,000 XLT DISC</div><div>-5,688 FOH DISC</div><div>-2,000 CUSTOMER CASH</div><div>-1,000 BONUS CASH</div><div>-1,000 TRUCK MONTH BONUS CASH</div><div>-500 FLEX BUY FORD CREDIT BONUS CASH*</div></div><div></div><div><div><div><b>\$53,422<sup>+TTL</sup></b></div><div>EVERYONES PRICE</div></div><div><div>SAVE</div><div><b>\$13,188</b></div></div></div><div><div><div>-1,000 TRADE-IN ASSISTANCE</div><div>BONUS CASH**</div></div><div><b>\$52,422<sup>+TTL</sup></b></div><div>CONDITIONAL PRICE</div><div><small>*MUST FINANCE THRU FORD CREDIT OAC. **Must trade in a 1995 or Newer Car, Truck, or SUV.</small></div><div><div>61/2' Box • 20" Wheels</div><div>Brake Controller • 3.5L EcoBoost</div></div></div></div></div>

## SPRING IS COMING! THE DEALS ARE HEATING UP!

<div><h4>2020 EDGE ST 43K MI</h4><div></div><div><div><b>\$27,698</b></div><div>#8528</div></div></div>	<div><h4>2025 EXPLORER ACTIVE 4K MI</h4><div></div><div><div><b>\$42,410</b></div><div>#26059A</div></div></div>	<div><h4>2023 ESCAPE ST LINE W/PANO ROOF</h4><div></div><div><div><b>\$23,397</b></div><div>#8516</div></div></div>	<div><h4>2021 EDGE TITANIUM ELITE</h4><div></div><div><div><b>\$26,980</b></div><div>#8533</div></div></div>	<div><h4>2023 F150 LARIAT ONLY 10K MI</h4><div></div><div><div><b>\$52,471</b></div><div>#8285</div></div></div>
<div><h4>2018 ESCAPE SE 88K MI</h4><div></div><div><div><b>\$13,712</b></div><div>#8526</div></div></div>	<div><h4>2020 CHEROKEE TRAILHAWK V6</h4><div></div><div><div><b>\$19,980</b></div><div>#8536</div></div></div>	<div><h4>2018 EDGE TITANIUM 62K MI</h4><div></div><div><div><b>\$19,478</b></div><div>#8509</div></div></div>	<div><h4>2021 EDGE SEL 26K MI</h4><div></div><div><div><b>\$25,541</b></div><div>#8515</div></div></div>	<div><h4>2018 EDGE SEL 66K MI</h4><div></div><div><div><b>\$17,980</b></div><div>#8534</div></div></div>
<div><h4>2020 EDGE SEL 39K MI</h4><div></div><div><div><b>\$21,980</b></div><div>#26067C</div></div></div>	<div><h4>2015 CHEROKEE LIMITED V6</h4><div></div><div><div><b>\$13,980</b></div><div>#8532</div></div></div>	<div><h4>2016 DURANGO LIMITED ONLY 33K MI</h4><div></div><div><div><b>\$23,980</b></div><div>#8530</div></div></div>	<div><h4>2023 F150 XLT 6.5FT BOX</h4><div></div><div><div><b>\$37,410</b></div><div>#258365A</div></div></div>	<div><h4>2015 EDGE SEL 86K MI</h4><div></div><div><div><b>\$14,980</b></div><div>#8529</div></div></div>
<div><h4>2020 EDGE SEL 24K MI</h4><div></div><div><div><b>\$24,980</b></div><div>#8537</div></div></div>	<div><h4>2015 ESCAPE TITANIUM 93K MI</h4><div></div><div><div><b>\$12,980</b></div><div>#8539</div></div></div>	<div><h4>2018 EDGE SPORT 33K MI</h4><div></div><div><div><b>\$24,581</b></div><div>#8514</div></div></div>	<div><h4>2016 MKX AWD ONLY 65K MI</h4><div></div><div><div><b>\$18,980</b></div><div>#8541</div></div></div>	<div><h4>2019 DURANGO SXT 52K</h4><div></div><div><div><b>\$20,712</b></div><div>#8269</div></div></div>
<div><h4>2021 EXPLORER XLT AWD</h4><div></div><div><div><b>\$18,974</b></div><div>#25989A</div></div></div>	<div><h4>2019 FUSION SE 74K MI</h4><div></div><div><div><b>\$14,980</b></div><div>#8540</div></div></div>	<div><h4>2015 200 LIMITED 37K MI</h4><div></div><div><div><b>\$12,710</b></div><div>#8288A</div></div></div>	<div><h4>2012 RAM 2500 DIESEL</h4><div></div><div><div><b>\$21,984</b></div><div>#24101A</div></div></div>	<div><h4>2021 EDGE ST LINE 62K MI</h4><div></div><div><div><b>\$24,698</b></div><div>#8525</div></div></div>
<div><h4>2015 FOCUS SE 85K MI</h4><div></div><div><div><b>\$8,510</b></div><div>#8293</div></div></div>	<div><h4>2019 EXPLORER XLT 63K MI</h4><div></div><div><div><b>\$21,472</b></div><div>#8522A</div></div></div>	<div><h4>2017 ESCAPE SE 62K MI</h4><div></div><div><div><b>\$14,712</b></div><div>#8520</div></div></div>	<div><h4>2014 F250 XL 8 FT. BOX</h4><div></div><div><div><b>\$10,980</b></div><div>#27014B</div></div></div>	<div><h4>2022 ESCAPE SEL 53K MI</h4><div></div><div><div><b>\$21,397</b></div><div>#8296</div></div></div>
<div><h4>2021 EDGE ST-LINE</h4><div></div><div><div><b>\$24,710</b></div><div>#8519</div></div></div>	<div><h4>2023 ESCAPE ST-LINE ONLY 18K MI</h4><div></div><div><div><b>\$24,980</b></div><div>#27001A</div></div></div>	<div><h4>2016 SILVERADO LT 1500 99K MI</h4><div></div><div><div><b>\$20,980</b></div><div>#54</div></div></div>	<div><h4>2022 EXPLORER XLT 84K MI</h4><div></div><div><div><b>\$24,980</b></div><div>#8527</div></div></div>	<div><h4>2021 ESCAPE SE AWD 34K MI</h4><div></div><div><div><b>\$20,984</b></div><div>#8298</div></div></div>





LEIGH LONSON



TIM CARRUTH  
218-212-7202



RYAN AULTMAN  
218-293-4606



JAMI HENDRIX  
218-293-4636



ERIC GRAFF  
218-293-4627



MIKE DAY  
218-293-4637



BLAKE PLUMMER  
218-293-4625



NICOLE STEINBRECHER  
612-429-3177



2627 Hwy 169  
218-262-3881



PUBLIC SAFETY

Truck catches fire in alley

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- The engine compartment of a pickup truck appears to have been destroyed here Tuesday morning after it caught fire shortly after 8 a.m. in the alley north of the 100 block of W. Chapman.

The engine compartment was reported to be fully engulfed when the Ely Fire Department arrived, but the two-man crew responding with the department’s Hummer had the fire knocked down by the time other firefighters arrived in their No. 1 engine. The Hummer carries a crew of two and 250 gallons of water.

“Our Hummer is a really effective initial attack vehicle for knocking down fires,” said Ely Fire Chief Dave Marshall. “The Hummer is a military model that was converted over for firefighting. It can respond to a fire very quickly because the first two firefighters ready to go can jump in and be on the scene to knock down small fires, often before one of our fire engines arrives.”

After the fire engine arrived, the department ran additional hoses from the hydrant on the corner of W. Chapman and N. Second Ave. W. to further douse the engine compartment of the truck.

The cause of the fire is not known. “The truck’s owner started the truck and then loaded his tools for work into the extended cab,” Marshall said. “He saw flames through the grill and hood and called 911. The fire blew both front tires. Everything under the hood was pretty much destroyed so it’s hard to say how the fire got started, which is often the case with engine fires.

“It was an older truck. We estimated its value before the fire at around \$5,000,” Marshall added. “It didn’t look like the fire affected the extended cab where the owner put his tools, so his tools should be okay. Some overhead communication lines looked like they may have been damaged, but the power lines in the alley were high enough that they were not affected.”

The Ely and Babbitt Police Departments also responded to the fire scene.



An Ely firefighter hosing down the truck that caught on fire Tuesday morning. photo by C. Clark

TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT

Breitung residents vote to raise 2026 levy to \$773,000

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA  
Staff Writer

SOUDAN- At the Breitung annual meeting, residents approved a 2026 levy of \$773,000, a \$33,000, or 4.46 percent, increase over last year. The town board recommended the levy increase to pay for higher costs for maintenance worker benefits and matching funds for road-work on Echo Point Rd. Most other spending is projected to remain at 2025 levels.

Only 15 citizens attended the meeting and only one voted against raising the levy increase.

The township still owes \$282,142 on a loan for building renovations completed in 2019. The township has reserve funds of \$228,710, operating funds of \$448,075, and \$118,809 in savings certificates. The township ended the year with a ledger balance of \$445,248.

Steve Tekautz and Teresa Dolinar easily won their respective elections, both were running unopposed. Tekautz will take supervisor Tim Tomsich’s seat on the board and Dolinar will take treasurer Jorgine Gornick’s position.

The citizens took time to honor Jim Hill who passed away last August. Hill generously gave his time to the community, serving as the Breitung Police Chief, on the Tower Housing Authority, water commission board, town board, and Breitung Fire Department. Residents unanimously voted to honor him by purchasing a name plate to place on a bench in town.

Citizens voted to continue supporting annual events at the same rate as in years past including \$2,000 for the Fourth of July, \$300 for food for the Tower-Soudan Elementary Early Childhood Program’s Big Truck Night, \$200 for the Old Settlers Picnic, \$3,000 for the Tower Cemetery plus \$273 additional for software, and \$300 for the Joint Powers Recreation Board. Residents will also continue to support the Tower-Soudan Historical Society at \$500.

Residents lauded community efforts to lower water usage and the township’s time and money spent to reduce inflow and infiltration. Rainwater and leakage that gets into the sanitary sewer system must be treated, costing the township a lot of extra dollars. Flow into the wastewater ponds has been reduced

from a high of 56.268 million gallons in 2019 to 41.242 million gallons in 2024.

McKinley Park increased its revenue by \$11,175 in 2024 compared to 2023. The total end-of-year revenue was \$201,093.

Tim Tomsich, who served as the meeting moderator, noted several accomplishments of the township in the past year, including prompt road repairs after the June flood, completing the trail upgrade from Soudan to McKinley Park, blacktopping of Spring St., sewer work on Poplar St., rebuilding the bottom of Church St., reducing inflow and infiltration on Church St. and First Ave., upgrades to the Stuntz Bay Rd., and a new playground at McKinley Park. Tomsich will be leaving the board after 45 years, being first elected in 1980. Tomsich offered thanks to his family, citizens, and colleagues. “It’s been my honor to have earned your respect and trust, thank you.”

**Fire Report**

In 2024, Breitung Fire and Rescue responded to nine structure fires, seven auto accidents, five alarms that were canceled while on route, four fire alarms, two medicals, two public service or assis-

tance, two power line incidents, one snowmobile accident, one hazardous condition, one vehicle fire, one uncontrolled permit burn, one water rescue, one wildland fire, zero unattended or unauthorized burning, and zero auto extractions. There were 36 emergency calls in 2024 as compared to 26 in 2023.

The department finished the year with sixteen members, one retirement and two resignations.

**Police Report**

Police Chief Dan Reing gave a report of the department’s activities over the past year. The department responded to 274 traffic stops, 242 business checks, 68 assists to other agencies, 67 traffic citations, 61 residential checks, 55 medicals, 46 informational calls, 42 public assistance, 42 community engagements, 22 disturbances, 22 welfare checks, 21 civil cases, 19 parking complaints, 19 check hazards, 17 animal, 14 suspicious activities, 13 total arrests, 13 blight complaints, 13 thefts, 12 traffic accidents, 11 firearms permits, 11 mental health crises, nine 911 disconnects, eight damage to property, six DWI arrests, six alarms, five motorist assists, five fire calls, four tobacco checks, four frauds, three non-traf-

fic citations, two drug calls, two deaths, two assaults, one burglary, and one civil paper service.

In the provided data from 2021-2024, assaults were down from a high of six in 2023 to two this year. Drug calls have been reduced from a high of six in 2023 to two in 2024. Mental health crisis calls have been steadily increasing from three in 2021 to four in 2022, nine in 2023, and 11 in 2024.

Reing said understaffing has been a challenge for the department. All of the township’s officers, aside from Reing, work full-time at other agencies, he said. Reing hopes to be able to hire more officers in the future but acknowledges that the shortage in officers is a nationwide epidemic.

Reing ceremoniously retired two officer badge numbers in 2024. Badge #155 was retired in honor of Officer Jim Battin who retired in 2024 after ten years of service to the department. Former Police Chief Jim Hill also had his badge number, #136, permanently retired after serving the department for over 30 years.

ELY CHAMBER

Motivational speaker from Tower is keynote speaker at Celebrate Ely on April 3

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- The 34th Celebrate Ely dinner will be on Thursday, April 3 at the Grand Ely Lodge. This year’s event will include the presentation of

Ely Chamber of Commerce awards, a buffet dinner, games and activities, and a motivational speaker. The theme for this year will be pirates. While pirate apparel is encouraged it is not required. The event will begin at

4:30 p.m. with an OUT Mobile Escape Room and other games. An escape room is a themed space where participants work as a team to search, solve puzzles, think creatively, and complete a challenging mission or story-line — all before time runs out. OUT Mobile is an Ely-area business.

Dinner will start at 5:45 p.m. The buffet menu includes broasted chicken, pork shanks, mushroom ravioli, herb-roasted baby reds, and dessert by Brainstorm Bakery. The Grand Ely Lodge will provide a cash bar. The Chamber of Commerce will present its four yearly awards — the Good



“Iron Jen” McDonough

Neighbor Business Award, the Citizen Volunteer Award, the Spirit of Bob Cary Award, and the Excellence in Customer Service Award — when dinner is over.

Keynote Speaker

The speaker for the event is Jen McDonough, also known as “Iron Jen.” Her topic will be “Calming the Chaos – Navigating Stormy Seas & Steering Your Ship to Resilience.”

Jen will share real-life powerful stories about how resilience can help anyone weather even the toughest storms in life. The talk will present practical strategies for staying steady during turbulent times, to lessen stress, make space for what truly matters, and build resilience.

McDonough is an Amazon Top-100 author, eight-time national weightlifter champion, and a two-time U.S. Olympic Festival medal winner. She is also a Minnesota Hall of Fame inductee, an Ironman triathlete, a volunteer firefighter, a first responder, and a motivational

speaker.

McDonough and her family are well known for paying off over \$212,000 in debt and medical expenses in four years. Their story has been featured in local, national, and international media.

McDonough and her husband are also the owners of the Tower Café, well-known for its weekend breakfast buffet. Jen lives in Tower with “four awesome kids, one handsome husband, three naughty dogs, five cats and one ugly mortgage.” Her website is [www.TheIronJen.com](http://www.TheIronJen.com).

“I am absolutely delighted that the chamber asked me to speak,” McDonough told the *Timberjay*. “I speak all over the country and it’s easy to do, but it’s a lot more intimidating when the group knows you. It’s such an honor and it’s a great responsibility.”

Tickets for Celebrate Ely are \$30. Stop by the chamber office at 1600 E. Sheridan St., call 218-365-6123, or email [director@ely.org](mailto:director@ely.org) to reserve tickets. Ticket sales close on Friday, March 28.

All three of Jen’s books have hit Amazon’s Top 100 categories including her book “5 Minutes a Day to Living Beyond Rich,” which hit number one under Amazon’s budgeting category.



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THE LEGISLATURE

# Hauschild works two sides of property tax equation

## Seeks relief for resorts, school tax adjustment for seasonal recreational properties

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- District 3 Sen. Grant Hauschild, DFL-Hermantown, is walking a bit of a property tax tightrope this legislative session as he pushes forward one bill that would bring relief to small, family-owned resorts, while at

the same time seeking to redirect more funding to school districts with high percentages of seasonal recreational properties.

### Resort relief

Last week, Hauschild presented his bill for small resort property tax relief to the Senate Tax Committee. The measure would redefine

the values used for calculating the tax on resorts that are Class 1c properties, increasing the amounts for each of three tiers used to determine rates. For example, the first \$600,000 of tier one



Grant Hauschild

properties are currently taxed at 0.5 percent, but Hauschild's bill would raise that to \$1.5 million of market value, a change that would lower property taxes for many small resorts. Increasing the tier two ceiling to \$4.5 million would have the same effect for many resort owners whose properties currently fall into tier three.

Minnesota was once home to more than 3,000 family-owned resorts, according to Hauschild, but today, fewer than 600 remain statewide. "Minnesota's lakes and great outdoors are our greatest resource," Hauschild said. "They attract countless visitors, support local economies, and offer families lifelong memories. But our small,

family-owned resorts – the very businesses that help make these experiences possible – are disappearing." Rising property taxes, increasing operational costs, and development pressures have made it harder for small resort owners to stay in business. These mom-and-pop *See TAXES...pg 2B*



LAKE VERMILION ACCESS

# Moccasin Point upgrade has longtime users concerned

## DNR hopes to get major remake of key access underway later this year

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

LAKE VERMILION — With funding finally in place, the Department of Natural Resources is planning to move forward with an estimated \$2-plus million renovation of the Moccasin Point landing, and users of the site say they're concerned about the changes.

The landing has been heavily used for decades by anglers, Boundary Waters visitors, residents of nearby islands and other remote-access properties on Lake Vermilion and, perhaps most critically, by emergency responders for everything from fire to medical response. Moccasin Point has also been a protected harbor for private barges loading and unloading as they service the many water-access properties in the area.

Sarah Schmidt, who spends summers with her husband Jake at their cabin on nearby Pine Island, said there's a lot at stake for people who depend on the landing. "A lot of people have designed their

“There are currently a number of transgressions out there.

Scott Kelling  
Regional Manager  
DNR Parks and Trails

dream home around having access to that landing," she said. "People need propane, they need lumber, and if they need to install a septic system, they need lots of gravel," she said. For the many hundreds of island or other water-access property owners on the lake, all of that material comes by barge. Moccasin Point is particularly well suited for such use, since it is arguably the most protected harbor on Lake Vermilion, with islands and mainland protecting it from wind from just about any direction. It's also centrally

**Above: A Google Earth view of Moccasin Point landing. The popular access point is slated for major reconstruction starting later this year.**

located on the sprawling lake and close to concentrations of island homes and cabins.

Scott Kelling, northeast regional manager for DNR Parks and Trails, said the plans for the reconstruction of the landing are still being finalized, but insisted they will take into account the unique mix of recreational and commercial use of the landing, including use by all three of the barging companies that service customers on the lake.

According to Kelling, the remake of the landing will include removal of the old pier and the reconstruction of a new one in nearly the same location. "The new pier will serve the same function," said Kelling, and will include an additional ramp that will be dedicated for barge loading and off-loading. Kelling said an engineer's inspection of the existing pier determined it

was near the end of its useful life, although Schmidt said she thinks that opinion reflects the DNR's desire to remove the structure rather than its actual condition.

Kelling acknowledges that it's not the only reason for replacing the structure. "With our redesign it's just not in the right location," he said.

Adequate parking is another major concern of longtime users of Moccasin Point. Tim Logan, whose family has owned island property near the landing since the 1950s, said plans the DNR had shared a few years ago seemed to show less parking than is typically used at the site. Schmidt notes that during high-traffic weekends, the parking area is frequently full and overflow parking can extend for hundreds of feet along Moccasin Point Rd. She said she counted 163 vehicles parked at the landing at one point last Memorial Day weekend and said there are routinely 90-100 vehicles during the summer season.

*See LANDING...pg 2B*

TRAVEL

# Skraba bill would allow ATVs greater access to small town roads

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Since his first campaign for the state Legislature, Rep. Roger Skraba, R-Ely, has wanted to find ways to connect ATV trail riders with businesses in nearby communities served by trails. That goal took a step forward on Monday as a bill sponsored by Skraba cleared a second committee hearing in the House.

The bill would give small towns more flexibility in allowing ATVs on local roadways and highway shoulders by allowing cities and towns with populations under 25,000 to pass ordinances permitting ATVs on roads or the shoulders of trunk highways.

However, specific conditions would apply:

- The speed limit must be 45 mph or lower.
- ATVs could only use a road to reach businesses, residences, or make trail connections.
- There must be no alternative public access for ATVs.

Skraba presented the bill to the House Transportation Finance and Policy

*See ATVS...pg 2B*



Roger Skraba

SPECIALTY PRODUCTS

# Dorothy Molter root beer AWOL until at least May

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- Dorothy Molter root beer addicts may be in for a tough two months. Dorothy's famous root beer won't be back on store shelves until May. An unexpected delay in the manufacturing of the root beer's cardboard six-pack bottle carriers is the cause.

"We order the six-pack carriers once a year," said Jess Edberg, executive director of the Dorothy Molter Museum, which sells the root beer using Molter's proprietary recipe. "When putting in our order for fiscal

*See ROOT BEER...pg 2B*

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THE ECONOMY

Hospitality sector continues to lag post-pandemic

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- At the five-year anniversary of the onset of the coronavirus epidemic, Minnesota’s hospitality industry is still struggling to get back to its pre-pandemic levels.

Hospitality Minnesota, the industry’s primary state-wide trade association, recently issued its first-ever State of Hospitality Report, and the document reveals that while not all food service and lodging establishments

are hurting, the industry as a whole has stalled since 2020, with negative trends seen in numerous metrics in 2024.

Average annual lodging occupancy rates in northern Minnesota dropped 5.6 percent from 2019 to 2024. From a pre-pandemic rate of 55.4 percent in 2019, the sector took its biggest hit in 2020, falling to just 40.4 percent. Lodging bounced back in 2021 and 2022 but declined slightly in 2023 and slightly more in 2024. However, losses in the central and southern parts of the state and in metro areas

were even greater. The state-wide rate of 52 percent in 2024 is nine percent lower than in 2019. Hospitality Minnesota’s report ranks Minnesota last in the Midwest for hotel occupancy rate recovery since the pandemic.

The food service sector isn’t hurting for restaurants – Minnesota added 485 new establishments between 2019 and 2023, when the total was 8,212. The challenge is finding people to work in them, as the number of restaurant employees dropped by over 4,000 during the same time period.

Even though wages have jumped by 32.2 percent, total payroll is up only 23.8 percent, pointing to a significant labor shortage. Specifically in northern Minnesota, establishments are up 3.4 percent while the number of employees has dropped by 2.4 percent.

The same is true of caterers, where establishments are up and employment is down. Employment is down 9.5 percent since 2019, even though the number of caterers has increased by 15 percent.

Across the \$392 billion industry, 2024 was a gloomy

year for about half of all hospitality businesses, with 49.7 percent reporting lower revenue and 51 percent reporting lower customer traffic. Only 27 percent of businesses expected revenues to increase, and 35.9 percent reported some stage of financial decline. The report described the situation as “a concerning trend of declining revenue, customer traffic, and financial health.”

However, Hospitality Minnesota also touted a bright spot, that being workforce development programs spon-

sored through its own educational foundation. The flagship ProStart Program focuses on culinary arts and restaurant management, and has seen enrollment grow from 1,617 in 2020 to 12,989 in 2024 at 69 participating schools. The report emphasized the need for continued investment in workforce development to meet workforce needs and ensure accessibility for all students.

TAXES...Continued from page 1B

resorts are not only a gateway for middle-class families to enjoy the outdoors but also a key driver of rural economies, providing seasonal and year-round jobs in their communities, Hauschild said.

“My grandparents’ cabin was right next to a family-owned resort, and I grew up watching families return year after year to experience the magic of Minnesota’s lakes,” Hauschild said. “These resorts aren’t just businesses – they are part of our state’s identity and an essential way for working families to connect with the outdoors. We need to do everything we can to support them.”

By reducing their tax burden, the measure aims to help preserve these businesses, ensuring that future generations can continue to experience Minnesota’s lakes in an intimate, family-friendly setting, he said.

With bipartisan support, the tax relief measure was successfully amended onto a mini-omnibus bill which passed out of committee and is now headed to the Senate floor for further debate.

**Cabin property taxes**

Another bill authored by Hauschild that failed to pass last year is back on the table this year. It’s a measure that

would create a new state aid fund for school districts based on the amount of seasonal recreational property in their taxing districts.

Property taxes aren’t only collected by counties, they’re collected by the state as well, and in 2001 the state exempted seasonal recreational properties from local school operating levies. Instead, the state levied a general school tax that directed revenues to a single state fund that was disbursed to districts across the state. The following year, faced with a \$2 billion budget deficit, the Legislature shifted those dollars into the general fund, where they have remained, and school districts cannot tap those seasonal properties for their local operating budgets. Districts with high percentages of seasonal recreational properties have lost out on hundreds of thousands of dollars in revenue as a result.

Hauschild’s bill, and a companion bill in the House, would set up a seasonal tax base replacement aid fund to try to restore some of the financial balance to districts that continue to feel the effects of the 2001 change.

The bill wouldn’t increase or decrease the taxes currently levied on seasonal properties, Hauschild told *KAXE News* in February, but instead would

take money from the general fund and transfer it to districts where voters pass a supplemental operating levy locally. The seasonal tax base replacement aid, based on the percentage of seasonal recreational property in a district, would reduce the cost of the operating levy for local taxpayers.

Hauschild argued to the Senate Education Finance Committee last week that the issue is one of equity.

Hauschild asked committee members to imagine a young, single father living in a rural northern Minnesota community with rising property taxes who is being asked

by the local school district to fund an operating levy just to keep class sizes down, a father who also sees wealthy Minnesotans from the Twin Cities or people from out of state opening up million dollar homes on a nearby lake, homes that as seasonal recreational properties aren’t a part of the local school district’s tax base and won’t contribute toward solving the school’s budget crisis.

“So, I just want to make this point that this is truly an equity issue, and we don’t talk enough about equity issues when it comes to rural versus some of our most wealthy parts of our state, and we

need to have that conversation,” Hauschild said. “This bill corrects a wrong in state policy, where some of our most rural school districts are losing out because high-end cabins and second homeowners are not paying towards the local operating levies for the school districts where their second home is.”

When the legislation was being considered last year, ISD 2142 St. Louis County Schools Finance Director Kim Johnson explained the potential impact for her district.

“An operating referendum has to be voted on by all of the voters,” Johnson said. “If we were to go out for an

operating referendum, the state would pick up 44 percent of the cost and give it to the district and therefore the taxpayers would not have to pay for that. This is a big deal.”

Ely Superintendent Anne Oelke testified remotely last week in support of the bill.

“The money generated by non-residential taxpayers should be directed back into our districts rather than redistributed back to the state general fund,” Oelke said. “The passage of this bill is necessary to close the funding gap.”

Hauschild’s bill was forwarded on to the Senate Tax Committee.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST from NOAA weather

Friday

35 3

Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
03/10	51	28	0.00	
03/11	59	9	0.00	
03/12	26	9	0.00	
03/13	40	24	0.00	
03/14	49	na	0.00	
03/15	59	na	0.15	
03/16	43	6	0.02	0.2"
YTD Total			2.18	52.4"

Saturday

32 17

Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
03/10	53	22	0.00	
03/11	61	12	0.00	
03/12	29	12	0.00	
03/13	44	19	0.00	
03/14	52	20	0.00	
03/15	60	39	0.00	
03/16	44	7	0.34	
YTD Total			1.38	36.0"

Sunday

38 21

Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
03/10	54	25	0.00	
03/11	60	12	0.00	
03/12	28	12	0.01	0.2"
03/13	45	23	0.00	
03/14	52	21	0.00	
03/15	60	41	0.07	
03/16	42	8	0.25	1.2"
YTD Total			2.04	51.4"

Monday

38 19

Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
03/10	52	18	0.00	
03/11	61	12	0.00	
03/12	26	9	0.00	0.2"
03/13	43	20	0.00	
03/14	48	23	0.00	
03/15	60	36	0.05	
03/16	40	7	0.34	1.3"
YTD Total			1.65	42.6"

Tuesday

38 20

Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
03/10	53	23	0.00	
03/11	61	11	0.00	
03/12	27	11	0.00	
03/13	43	19	0.00	
03/14	53	23	0.00	
03/15	61	39	0.25	
03/16	44	8	0.00	45.3"
YTD Total			1.72	

ROOT BEER...Continued from page 1B

year 2025, we found that the company providing our carriers was no longer sourcing them from a manufacturer in Winnipeg and was now getting them from a plant in West Virginia. No one knew. I’m not sure who didn’t tell whom about the move ... Right now, it’s a six-week lead time to get the carriers. Usually it’s less than two weeks.”

The West Virginia manufacturing location has new equipment which produces six-pack carriers of a different size. “Because our brewer has



to make changes to accommodate the change in the carrier size, that adds an additional three-week delay before we receive our first shipment of root beer,” Edberg told the *Timberjay*.

**Making Dorothy's root beer**

“We contract with Gray Brewing Co. of Janesville, Wis., to brew our root beer,” Edberg said. “We provide the packaging and the flavorings. Gray Brewing provides the glass bottles, the water, the sugar, and the production

equipment. The root beer has to fulfill our mission of being true to Dorothy’s legacy, so we use glass bottles like Dorothy did and her proprietary recipe.

“We have a long-term relationship with Gray Brewing Co. and they have given us a lot of support over the years,” Edberg added. “Gray is the oldest family-owned craft brewer in the country, founded in 1856. They also can bottle in glass. Most modern craft brewers these days prefer to use cans or kegs.”

The sale of Dorothy’s

root beer is a major revenue source for the museum. “Our largest distributor is Zup’s,” noted Edberg.

“We only had one pallet of root beer going into winter this year because our distributors have been selling more root beer than previous years. Usually, a short supply in the winter is not an issue, but it is now because of the delay in receiving our root beer.”

Edberg was confident that the root beer would arrive in time for opening the museum for the season on May 24.

LANDING...Continued from page 1B

Many of the regular users of the landing, particularly those on island properties, use the site for long-term parking of their vehicles for days, weeks, or months at a time. That’s unusual at public landings, which are typically limited to day use.

Kelling said the DNR is making an exception to that rule for Moccasin Point, given the many varied uses of the unique property. “Overnight parking will be allowed,” he said.

Kelling said the current plan will allow parking for a bit over 100 vehicles, which

is more than some original plans for the site. “We’re doing everything we can to maximize the parking there, at some considerable expense,” he said.

**Longstanding issues**

Kelling said the DNR’s plan for reconstruction is motivated by a desire to “manage the site more responsibly on a number of fronts.” The DNR acquired the site in 2008 and had planned to undertake reconstruction of the landing back in 2013 but lacked the funds at the time to accomplish the work. The funding was

approved in 2023 and the DNR has been working on design of the project ever since.

According to Kelling, the site has operated essentially as a “free-for-all” for years, with uses and resource impacts that aren’t typically permitted at DNR-managed access points. “There are currently a number of transgressions out there,” said Kelling, including long-term storage of personal property and building materials. He said the site, which slopes toward the lake, also contributes large amounts of sediment into Vermilion during heavy rainfall. “We need to better

manage the stormwater,” said Kelling. “Currently, a lot of sediment and other things end up in the lake when it rains.”

Schmidt questions whether the change will be an improvement, since the DNR’s reconstruction of the site will convert the existing grassy hillside that currently serves as the site’s parking lot into a paved parking area.

Kelling said the parking area will be leveled before being paved and that stormwater will be directed into one of two planned stormwater ponds in order to contain sediment. Schmidt claims the ponds will

become a mosquito breeding ground.

Kelling said he expects the final design will be completed soon and he is expecting to hold an open house in early summer so interested users can see what’s planned for the site. He expects actual construction to begin sometime in October if all goes as planned. That initial work will include blasting of some underlying bedrock in order to level the site.

But most of the work will take place in 2026, he said, and during that period, it may be difficult to maintain public

use of the site, although he said use of the site by barges should still be possible, with potentially some minor delays. But he said other users of the site may want to explore other access options for that summer. Kelling said he hopes to have more information on that at the open house later this year. “A goal of the open house is to really share the timeline and alternatives for users,” he said. “They might need to park somewhere else in 2026.”

ATVs...Continued from page 1B

Committee, supported by testimony from Ely Mayor Heidi Omerza and ATV Minnesota Board Secretary Nick Wognum.

Skraba said the legislation would address a critical need in Greater Minnesota, where ATVs serve both recreational and practical purposes.

“This bill will better help cities to integrate ATVs into their local transportation networks,” Skraba said.

Omerza called the bill

“essential” for towns like Ely that depend on outdoor recreation. “The ability to safely operate ATVs on designated public roads is not just about recreation, it’s about connectivity and accessibility,” Omerza said. “This bill helps open up opportunities for more people to enjoy our natural resources in a sustainable way.”

**MnDOT has concerns**

Ken Johnson, assistant state traffic engineer for

the Minnesota Department of Transportation, warned committee members that mixing ATVs with heavier, faster-moving traffic could be dangerous.

“Having ATVs operate with or near heavier and faster-moving vehicles is not consistent with our ‘Toward Zero Deaths’ goals,” Johnson said. “The Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety, and the state patrol

share our serious concerns about safety. Their size and design make ATVs difficult to see. Imagine trying to see an ATV behind a large pickup. And they don’t have safety features to reduce the consequences of higher-speed crashes. The DNR and DPS have pointed out to MnDOT that ATVs are not road worthy vehicles and don’t meet Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards.”

Some research sup-

ports MnDOT’s concerns. A 2013 study of seven years of ATV crash data published in the journal *Traffic Injury Prevention* found that compared with off-road ATV use, on-road ATV users were ten times more likely to be involved in a vehicle-vehicle collision, three times more likely to suffer a severe brain injury, and twice as likely to have suffered major trauma. Adult operators in on-road crashes were also twice as

likely to test positive for alcohol.

Despite the opposition, Skraba expressed willingness to work with MnDOT officials to address safety concerns while still supporting rural communities that rely on ATVs for transportation.

The committee approved the bill, sending it to the House Elections Finance and Government Operations Committee for further consideration.



Obituaries and Death Notices



**Charles Richards**  
Charles “Chuck” Richards, 86, of Cook, and previously of Edina, died peacefully on Sunday, March 2, 2025, surrounded by family. A service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 26 at Meetinghouse Church (formerly Colonial Church) in Edina, followed by lunch and a private burial. In lieu of flowers, the family asks for contributions to support the Cook Hospital’s WC Heiam Medical Foundation.  
Chuck was born in Joliet, Ill., on Nov. 12, 1938. He grew up in Virginia and graduated with a Master’s Degree in Pharmacy from the University of Minnesota

Twin Cities. Chuck spent 37 years working at the Hennepin County Medical Center, starting as a pharmacist and rising to the position of Chief Operating Officer. A few of his many accomplishments included planning and supervising the building of the “new” hospital and the certification of HCMC as a Level 1 Trauma Center.  
Chuck retired to the home that he and Mary built on Lake Vermilion in Cook. The lake was his happy place, where he loved being outdoors, feeding birds, touring the lake in his boat, pulling his grandsons on water skis, maintaining the road with his tractor, and meeting people around the world on his ham radio.  
Chuck is survived and missed by his wife of 63 years, Mary Schuler Richards; children, Nancy (Daniel) Randolph and Greg (Sandy) Richards; grandchildren, Kyle (Nicole) Randolph, Collin Randolph, Gavin Richards and Garrett Richards; siblings, Marijane (Jeff) Porupsky and Beverly (Tim) Altman; and other family and friends.



**Elizabeth E. Nikkinen**  
Elizabeth E. Nikkinen, 78, of Aurora, formerly of Virginia and Ely, passed away on Saturday, March 8, 2025, at Essentia Health in Virginia. A memorial service was held on Thursday, March 20 at the Chapel in Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Virginia with Pastor Marion Rova officiating. Honorary pallbearers were Lori Ekman, Steve Ekman, Debbie Bodine, Mark Bodine and Mary Bodine. Burial was in the Ely Cemetery. Arrangements were with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.  
Elizabeth was born on April 11, 1946, in Ely, to

Tauno and Ruth Martin Nikkinen and attended school there. Elizabeth enjoyed spending time with her family and watching TV.  
Survivors include nieces, Lori (Steve) Ekman of Lakeland and Debbie Bodine of Virginia; nephew, Mark (Mary) Bodine of Babbitt; cousins, Shelby Sorbye and Darrell Nikkinen, both of Florida, Leonard Pete of Ely and Gail (Tom) Carlson of Embarrass; great-nieces, Kristina (Sean) Peyla and family, Erika Ekman, Samantha (Luke) O’Neil, Kelly (Jonathen) Norton and Kari Bodine; and great-nephew, Andrew (Tayler) Ekman.  
She was preceded in death by her parents; and sister, Paulette Bodine.

**Margaret E. Gentile**  
Margaret Emily “Peggy” Gentile, 81, of Cook, passed away on Thursday, March 13, 2025. A celebration of life will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 12 at First Baptist Church in Cook. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the church. Arrangements are

with Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook.

**Dean W. Buchanan**  
Dean William Buchanan, 93, of Lake Vermilion-Cook, passed away peacefully on Friday, March 14, 2025, at the Cook Hospital from pancreatic cancer. The family would like to thank Essentia Health St. Mary’s Hospice East Range for their excellent care and compassion while assisting in his care at home. A celebration of life is planned for Saturday, May 31 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. Visitation is at 10 a.m. followed by the 11 a.m. service. A luncheon will follow the service at the Cook Community Center. Memorials may be directed to Essentia Health St. Mary’s Hospice East Range or the Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Sandi; children, Jodi (Jim) Smith, Chad Buchanan and Rae Anne (Jim) Zupetz; grandchildren, Natalie, McKenzie, Austin, Michael, Bo, Jack, Mitchell and Jacie; great-granddaugh-

ter, Charlotte, and another great-grandchild arriving in July.

**Lois Luoma Lind**  
Lois “Sis” Widner Luoma Lind, 88, formerly of Pelican River, Orr, passed away peacefully on Thursday, March 13, 2025, in Bradenton, Fla., with family by her side. In accordance with Lois’s wishes, a private service will be held in the spring.  
She is survived by her husband, Clint Lind; children, John (Tammy) Luoma and Debbie (John) Novak, both of Orr, and Connie (Glenn) Pearson of Eveleth and Bradenton, Fla.; grandchildren, Michael Novak of Robbinsdale, Grant (Nicky) of Sturgis, S.D., Brandon Luoma of Britt, Terry (Kezia) Luoma and Carah (Micah) Lynch, both of Eveleth; stepchildren; step-grandchildren; special god-daughter, Angelene (Pat) Aker of Orr; brothers; sisters; a half-brother; and numerous nieces, nephews and great-grandchildren.

ST. LOUIS COUNTY

Spring load restrictions in place for county roads

REGIONAL- Seasonal road weight restrictions are now in effect across St. Louis County as spring thaw conditions make roads more vulnerable to damage. Restrictions for the North Zone of Minnesota, which includes most of St. Louis County north of U.S. Highway 2 and east of Hwy. 33, went into effect on Monday.  
Vehicles on unpaved roads are limited to five tons per axle unless other-

wise posted. Paved roads with restrictions will be posted with the maximum axle weight. Paved roads without posted limits remain at ten tons per axle.  
Some essential vehicles, such as school buses, milk transport trucks, utility maintenance vehicles, garbage and recycling trucks, and fuel delivery vehicles, have special allowances under state law.  
The exact end date for spring re-

strictions depends on weather conditions and road stability, but limits are typically lifted by May.  
More details, including a county-wide load restriction map, can be found at [stlouiscountymn.gov/roadrestrictions](http://stlouiscountymn.gov/roadrestrictions) or on the Minnesota Department of Transportation’s website at [mndot.gov/loadlimits](http://mndot.gov/loadlimits).

LOCAL HISTORY

Presidential order could affect local museum

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor  
  
ELY- Dorothy Molter Museum Executive Director Jess Edberg expressed dismay this week over the possible elimination of the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services, or IMLS.  
The Institute of Museum and Library Services provides grants and training to museums and libraries. Numerous museums and libraries in Minnesota have benefitted from IMLS grants, including the Minnesota Historical Society; the Fond du Lac, Red Lake, White Earth

Bands; and the International Wolf Center.  
The IMLS also provides free training and resources through webinars, videos, in-person events, and publications on topics like online literacy, collections management, and emergency planning. The Dorothy Molter Museum actively uses the IMLS training resources for its staff.  
“I’m grateful that our revenue stream does not rely on federal funding,” said Edberg, “but if access to IMLS’s virtual training goes away, we’ll have to pay to replace that, so it affects us

indirectly ... There are other ways the federal cuts will impact us through the economy,” Edberg added. “Rising cost of living and (lower) visitation (to the museum) — these will also affect us. It’s hard to grasp it all. All of this is happening all at once and it’s overwhelming.”  
President Trump issued an executive order last Friday to eliminate the IMLS and six other federal entities “that the President has determined are unnecessary,” ordering that these will be “eliminated to the maximum extent consistent with applicable law, and such entities

shall reduce the performance of their statutory functions and associated personnel to the minimum presence and function required by law.”

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County reminds homeowners of property tax refund options

REGIONAL- With property tax statements arriving in mailboxes this month, St. Louis County officials are reminding residents about two state programs that could provide some financial relief.  
The Minnesota Department of Revenue offers two types of property tax refunds for homeowners with a homestead classification: the regular homestead credit refund and the special homestead credit refund.  
► Regular Homestead Credit Refund – This income-eligible option assists homeowners whose property taxes exceed a set percentage of their household income. For taxes payable in 2025, a household’s 2024 income must have been less than \$139,320 to qualify.  
► Special Homestead Credit Refund – This refund is available to homeowners whose net property tax has increased by 12 percent or more from the previous year, with a minimum increase of \$100. The increase cannot be due to

new construction. There is no income limit for this program, and the maximum refund is \$1,000.  
Some taxpayers may qualify for the special refund even if they do not meet the income requirements for the regular refund.  
In 2022, nearly 31 percent of homeowners in the Arrowhead region, including St. Louis County, received a property tax refund, according to the most recent data available.  
Applications for both programs must be submitted to the Department of Revenue using the MIPR form, which is available on the department’s website. The filing deadline for a 2025 refund is August 15, 2025.  
Homeowners with delinquent property taxes are not eligible for refunds. More information is available at [revenue.state.mn.us/property-tax-refund](http://revenue.state.mn.us/property-tax-refund) or by calling the Department of Revenue at 1-800-652-9094.

**MnFIRE**  
Hometown Heroes Assistance Program

**Supporting Our Hometown Heroes**

Firefighters have our backs. We have theirs.

We protect firefighter physical and emotional health with no-cost programs including mental health and wellness services and trainings through the Hometown Heroes Assistance Program.

ALL ACTIVE MINNESOTA FIREFIGHTERS ARE ELIGIBLE

Learn more at [mnfirehealth.org](http://mnfirehealth.org)



PUBLIC NOTICE

EMPLOYMENT

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS  
SIXTH JUDICIAL  
DISTRICT DISTRICT  
COURT PROBATE  
DIVISION  
Court File No.  
69VI-PR-25-11

Estate of  
James Floyd Saatela, aka  
James F. Saatela, and as  
James Saatela,  
Decedent

NOTICE AND ORDER  
OF HEARING ON  
PETITION FOR FORMAL  
ADJUDICATION  
OF INTESTACY,  
DETERMINATION OF  
HEIRSHIP, APPOINTMENT  
OF PERSONAL  
REPRESENTATIVE AND  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

It is Ordered and Notice  
is given that on April 15,  
2025, at 1:30 pm, a hearing  
will be held in this Court  
at 300 South 5th Avenue,  
Virginia, Minnesota, for  
the adjudication of intestacy  
and determination of heirship  
of the Decedent, and for  
the appointment of Michael  
R. Saatela, whose address  
is 8370 Tamarack Dr.,  
Mountain Iron, MN, 55768  
as Personal Representative  
of the Estate of the Decedent  
in an UNSUPERVISED  
administration. Any objections  
to the petition must  
be filed with the Court prior  
to or raised at the hearing.

If proper and if no objections  
are filed or raised, the  
Personal Representative will  
be appointed with full power  
to administer the Estate,  
including the power to collect  
all assets, to pay all legal  
debts, claims, taxes and  
expenses, to sell real and  
personal property, and to  
do all necessary acts for  
the Estate.  
Notice is also given that  
(subject to Minnesota  
Statutes section 524.3-  
801) all creditors having  
claims against the Estate  
are required to present  
the claims to the Personal  
Representative or to the  
Court Administrator within  
four months after the date  
of this Notice or the claims  
will be barred.

Dated: March 6, 2025  
BY THE COURT  
Leslie Beiers  
Judge of District Court  
JENNIFER MILLER, Court  
Administrator  
by Stefanie Higgins as  
Deputy

Attorney for Petitioner  
Angela E. Sipila  
Sipila Law Office, LLC  
412 1st St. S.  
Virginia, MN, 55792  
Attorney License No:  
024501x  
Telephone: (218) 741-5000  
FAX: (218) 741-5000  
Email: ange@sipilaw.com

Published in the Timberjay,  
March 14 & 21, 2025

ADVERTISEMENT  
FOR BIDS  
CITY OF ORR  
ORR, MINNESOTA  
PAPI AND REIL  
REPLACEMENT  
General Notice

City of Orr (Owner) is  
requesting Bids for the construction  
of the following Project:

PAPI and REIL Replacement  
246006

Bids for the construction  
of the Project will be received  
at the office of the City Clerk,  
4429 Highway 53, Orr, MN  
55771 until Wednesday,  
April 2, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.  
local time. At that time, the  
Bids received will be publicly  
opened and read.

The Project includes the following  
Work:

Remove and replace all  
existing Runway End  
Identifier Light (REIL) and  
Precision Approach Path  
Indicator (PAPI) equipment  
and associated electrical  
components, including constructing  
new foundations and  
site grading and restoration.

Bids are requested for the  
following Contract: PAPI and  
REIL Replacement

Obtaining the Bidding  
Documents

Information and Bidding  
Documents for the Project  
can be purchased online  
at: www.bollig-engineering.  
com under the bidding tab  
through the designated website  
QuestCDN.com for \$40.

Bidding Documents may be  
downloaded from the designated  
website. Prospective Bidders  
are urged to register with  
the designated website as a  
plan holder, even if Bidding  
Documents are obtained from  
a plan room or source other  
than the designated website in  
either electronic or paper format.  
The designated website will  
be updated periodically with  
addenda, lists of registered  
plan holders, reports, and  
other information relevant  
to submitting a Bid for the  
Project. All official notifications,  
addenda, and other Bidding  
Documents will be offered  
only through the designated  
website. Neither Owner nor  
Engineer will be responsible  
for Bidding Documents,  
including addenda, if any,  
obtained from sources other  
than the designated website.

The Issuing Office for the  
Bidding Documents is:

Bollig Inc  
1721 Technology Drive NE,  
Suite 100  
Willmar, MN 56201

Prospective Bidders may  
obtain or examine the Bidding  
Documents at the Issuing  
Office on Monday through  
Friday between the hours  
of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.  
and may obtain copies of  
the Bidding Documents from  
the Issuing Office as described  
below. Bidding Documents  
may also be examined Partial  
sets of Bidding Documents  
will not be available from  
the Issuing Office. Neither  
Owner nor Engineer will  
be responsible for full or  
partial sets of Bidding Documents,  
including addenda, if any,  
obtained from sources other  
than the Issuing Office.  
Bidding Documents may  
also be examined at the Orr  
City Office located at 4429  
Highway 53, Orr, MN 55771,  
Monday through Friday  
between the hours of 8am  
and 4pm.

Printed copies of the Bidding  
Documents may be obtained  
from the Issuing Office by  
paying a deposit of \$100.00  
for each set. Bidders who  
return full sets of the Bidding  
Documents in good condition  
within 10 days after

receipt of Bids will receive a  
full refund. Non-Bidders, and  
Bidders who obtain more  
than one set of the Bidding  
Documents, will receive a  
refund of \$60 for documents  
returned in good condition  
within the time limit indicated  
above. Make deposit checks  
for Bidding Documents payable  
to Bollig inc.

**Pre-bid Conference**  
A Pre-bid Conference will  
not be held for this project.

**Wage Rates**  
State of Minnesota and  
Federal Davis-Bacon prevailing  
wage rates apply to this  
contract.

Instructions to Bidders  
For all further requirements  
regarding bid submittal,  
qualifications, procedures,  
and contract award, refer to  
the Instructions to Bidders  
that are included in the  
Bidding Documents.

**This Advertisement is  
issued by:**

Owner: City of Orr  
By: Angela Fabish  
Title: City Clerk  
Date: March 7, 2025

Published in the Timberjay,  
March 7, 14, 21, 2025

Full-Time Office Manager  
Weekdays, Hours Per Week: 40

**Salary Offered:** \$23.00 - \$26.00 Hourly  
**Benefits:** 401(k) Retirement, Health  
Insurance, Holidays, Vacation

**Education Required:** Your actual work  
experience is more important to us and  
will be ranked higher than college education  
with limited experience.

**Experience Required:** Processing pay-  
roll, paying bills, billing out work, normal  
small business operations.

**Required Skills:** Knowledge of book-  
keeping through financial statements, we  
use QuickBooks. Ability to work independently  
of supervision. General everyday  
communication skills to interact with  
people. Familiarity with the construction  
and logging industry is helpful, it is not a  
requirement.

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Proceedings of St.  
Louis County Schools,  
ISD 2142

MEMBERS PRESENT:Chris  
Koivisto, Jarrett Bundy,  
Kristin Zorn, Linsey Larson,  
Lynn Hilde, Mallory Manick,  
Ron Marinaro  
MEMBERS ABSENT: None  
ALSO PRESENT:  
Dr. Reggie Engebritson,  
Jeanne Sopp

Regular Meeting of the  
School Board held at Tower-  
Soudan School February 25,  
2025 at 5:00 p.m. Pledge of  
Allegiance.

Approved agenda with addition.  
Superintendent's Report.  
Tower-Soudan School  
Report.  
Comments from Visitors.  
Approved Consent Agenda.

Adopted Resolution  
Directing Admin to Make  
Recommendations  
Regarding Reduction and/or  
Discontinuance of Programs

and Positions.  
Accepted AIPAC 2024-2025  
Vote of Nonconcurrence and  
Recommendations.

Hired support and coaching  
staff.  
Accepted retirements and  
resignations.  
Approved personnel correction.

Meeting adjourned at 5:41  
p.m.

A full text of the minutes of  
this meeting is available on  
the district's website or may  
be obtained from the District  
Office.

Published in the Timberjay,  
March 21, 2025

Proceedings of St.  
Louis County Schools,  
ISD 2142

MEMBERS PRESENT:Chris  
Koivisto, Jarrett Bundy,  
Kristin Zorn, Linsey Larson,  
Lynn Hilde, Mallory Manick,

Ron Marinaro  
MEMBERS ABSENT:  
None  
ALSO PRESENT:  
Dr. Reggie Engebritson, Kim  
Johnson, Jeanne Sopp

Special Meeting of the  
School Board held at the  
District Office March 11,  
2025 at 5:40 p.m.

Adopted Resolution to  
Expel Student "SLC/North  
Woods-X2-24-25" for a  
Period of Twelve Months.

Closed meeting to discuss  
negotiation strategy.  
Returned to open meeting.  
Meeting adjourned at 6:00  
p.m.

A full text of the minutes of  
this meeting is available on  
the district's website or may  
be obtained from the District  
Office.

Published in the Timberjay,  
March 21, 2025

EMPLOYMENT

Wanted: Tractor Trailer Delivery Drivers looking for a Local Career

**CDL Class A. Year round work. Home every night.**  
Tractor Trailers based in these areas: Hibbing, Grand Rapids,  
Virginia, Esko - and we need 4 drivers to fill them.  
Min 75000 miles OTR, clean record, no accidents, safety attitude.  
Tanker and Hazmat work, but we train for these.

- Range of pay last year \$65K-\$95K, depending on FT hours worked.
- Family Insurance at a reasonable co-pay. You choose the deductible.
- 401K with 20% match
- Part Time available also.

We have not had a lay-off in last 15 years. Reason for posting: Growth

If you are a quality Class B driver living in these areas:  
Ely/Babbitt, Virginia, Hibbing, Silver Bay  
**We have work available close to home.**

Taking care of our customers is our #1 priority.  
If you have that mind-set, please apply.

Contact: Krissy/recruiter at 218.741.9634 • kwarwas@eoctrimark.com  
or our website: edwardssoilandpropane.com/careers.  
Edwards Oil and Propane, 820 Hoover Rd, Virginia, MN 55792

BARTENDER WANTED – COOK VFW

Flexible hours. Call the VFW  
at 218-666-0500 or Shirley at  
218-750-3474

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www.mnpublicnotice.com/

Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

- |                      |             |                    |             |
|----------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|
| 1. Very talkative    | — — — D —   | Fret               | — — — R —   |
| 2. Rosie's target    | — — — — T   | Danube or Thames   | — — — — R   |
| 3. Next to           | B — — — —   | Inhabit            | R — — — —   |
| 4. Striped feline    | — — G — —   | Rome's waterway    | — — B — —   |
| 5. Military task     | — — — — — L | Keep back          | — — — — — N |
| 6. Lion's group      | — — — D —   | Blue ribbon, e.g.  | — — — Z —   |
| 7. Mental well-being | S — — — —   | Make-up table      | V — — — —   |
| 8. Egypt's city      | — — — — O   | Scotland's terrier | — — — — N   |
| 9. Thermometer unit  | — — G — —   | Pronouncement      | — — C — —   |
| 10. Youngster        | — — — — D   | Spicy stew         | — — — — I   |

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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King Crossword

ACROSS

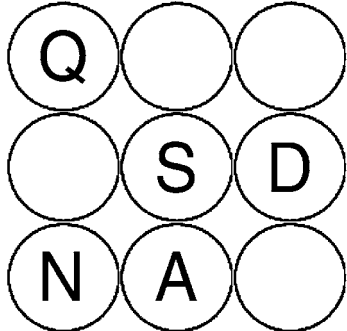
- 1 Huck's raft-mate  
4 Peeve  
8 "Phooey!"  
12 Docs' bloc  
13 List-ending abbr.  
14 Bassoon's kin  
15 Dyeing vessel  
16 Video-streaming brand  
17 Radiate  
18 Vulnerable spots  
21 Physique  
22 Youngster  
23 "Taste!"  
26 Chaps  
27 Brit. sports cars  
30 Stretches (out)  
31 Polite address  
32 Hawaiian coast  
33 Speck  
34 Aunt, in Mexico  
35 Nodded off  
36 Cyndi Lauper's "— Bop"  
37 Tennis feat  
38 Spinning disks used by ceramic artists  
45 Latin love  
46 Authentic

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16					17			
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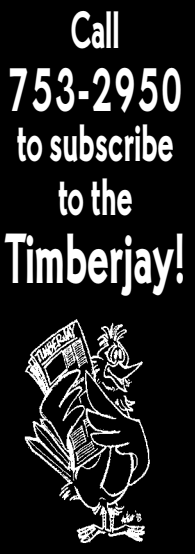
- |                      |                           |                        |
|----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 47 Tic-tac-toe loser | 8 Thesaurus compiler      | 31 Western ranges      |
| 48 Hindu royal       | 9 Competent               | 32 Swiss artist        |
| 49 Bern's river      | 10 Hammer or sickle       | Paul                   |
| 50 — carte           | 11 Gives a darn?          | 34 "That'll be — day!" |
| 51 Journey           | 19 Nile wader             | 35 Drag                |
| 52 Dance move        | 20 Sweetie                | 36 Vegas area          |
| 53 Tourist's chart   | 23 "Dilbert" engineer     | 37 Cognizant           |
|                      | 24 MGM rival              | 38 Fraction            |
|                      | 25 Still                  | 39 Sharif of film      |
|                      | 26 Soccer's Hamm          | 40 Author              |
|                      | 27 "The Simpsons" barkeep | 41 Pants part          |
|                      | 28 Econ. statistic        | 42 Physical            |
|                      | 29 Plopped down           | 43 Classic Kinks song  |
|                      |                           | 44 Bath bar            |

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WORD SPIRAL



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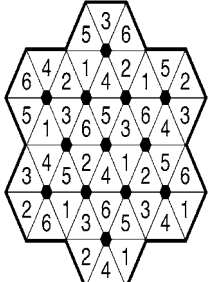


CryptoQuote answer

Make an empty space in  
any corner of your  
mind, and creativity  
will instantly fill it.  
— Dee Hock

(SNOWFLAKES)

solution



CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands  
for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout  
the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: H equals M

IKTDC GFOG HV YPD'Y RTLK  
IPZZPRKB O XOZCK OHPQDG  
PL HPDKV LZPH HK, TY YFK  
HV BKIGPZ-TD-XOR?

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Super Crossword


Answers

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

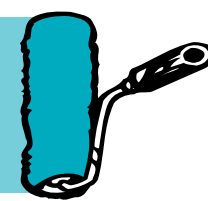








# HOME IMPROVEMENT GUIDE





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**Ryan Scharber-Owner/Technician**  
Upnorthautoglass@gmail.com • 218-504-9181

## NOTICE to our CUSTOMERS

**WE WILL BE CLOSED**  
**MARCH 21-30**  
**RE-OPENING ON MARCH 31.**

We are a UPS Shipping Drop-Off



**VERMILION TREE SERVICE LLC**  
Joshua Hasbrook-Owner  
218-780-1572

- TREE REMOVAL
- TREE TRIMMING
- FIREWOOD

- LAND CLEARING
- BRUSH/DEBRIS REMOVAL

24/7 EMERGENCY SERVICE

www.vermiliontreeservice.com

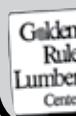


## New Cabinets



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info@cookbuildingcenter.com



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## GO FIGURE!

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

	+		×	7	=	77		
+		-		+				
	-		÷		=	4		
×		+		×				
	+		-		=	3		
=		=		=				
60		11		54				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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

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Spring  
**PALE** \_\_\_\_\_ 

Deride  
**CORNS** \_\_\_\_\_

Degree  
**TEXTEN** \_\_\_\_\_  

Answer  
**LOVES** \_\_\_\_\_ 

**TODAY'S WORD**

\_\_\_\_\_

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