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the TIMBERJAY



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989 VOL. 36, ISSUE 13 April 4, 2025 \$1⁵⁰

TRAGEDY

Ely woman dies in late-night fire

Cause of the fire under investigation

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- The fire siren here went off for five minutes just after 11 p.m. Tuesday night for a structure fire which claimed the life of a woman and two dogs. The fire caused extensive damage to the two-story home at 254 N. Fifth Ave. E., which county tax records list as belonging to Clary Larson of Gilbert. The Ely Fire Department's

Hummer arrived first to find the residence engulfed in smoke with some flames visible from the outside. Scanner traffic indicated that the fire department quickly knocked down the exterior flames, reporting that smoke was still pouring out from under the eaves and through the chimney from a fire that appeared to be in the basement and first floor. Firefighters on the scene reported a hot interior, with

See...**FIRE** pg. 10



Ely firefighters at the scene of a house fire on N. Fifth Ave. E. that started late Tuesday evening. photo by C. Clark

VOYAGEURS

State's only national park marks 50th anniversary

Months of festivities kick off on April 8

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

VOYAGEURS NAT'L PARK- Minnesota's only national park is turning 50 this year, and the celebration kicks off next Tuesday, April 8, with events honoring the park's half-century legacy of conservation, recreation, and natural beauty.

Established in 1975, Voyageurs National Park will mark the occasion with a series of programs and festivities throughout 2025. Gov. Tim Walz has officially proclaimed April 8 as "Voyageurs National Park Day" in Minnesota. "Anniversaries offer a moment in time for us to reflect on the past and envision the future," said Park Superintendent Bob DeGross. "On this golden anniversary of Voyageurs National Park, we celebrate not just the breathtaking beauty of its lakes and

See...**VOYAGEURS** pg. 10

CAR-MAGEDDON?

Impact of auto tariffs will be wide-ranging

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Few, if any, Minnesotans will likely be celebrating President Donald Trump's self-declared "Liberation Day" on Wednesday, as tariffs he imposed in a bid to bolster American car manufacturing are expected to drive up the prices on new and used vehicles, car repairs, and auto insurance.

A long-threatened tariff of 25 percent on imported cars and car parts was scheduled to take effect on Wednesday as the *Timberjay* went to press. When asked over the weekend if he was concerned that the tariffs would increase car prices in the U.S., Trump told NBC News, "I couldn't care less. I hope they raise their prices, because if they do, people are gonna buy American-made cars. We have plenty." Those needing loans to purchase a new car have already been dealing with interest rates that have soared since the COVID pandemic from an average of 4.56 percent for a 60-month loan in February 2020 to 7.53 percent in February 2025. Investopedia

See...**TARIFFS** pg. 9



Left: Nathan Thompson and Krystal Rynders smile at the dedication of Krystal's new home in Tower. Also pictured is Judy Johnson looking on.

Below: Rynders and family members gathered in front of Krystal's soon-to-be new home. Pictured (from left) Judy Johnson, Tammy Peterson, Krystal Rynders, Kevin Myhre, Tina Myhre and Adelyn Rynders.

photos by J. Summit

THE LEGACY OF ST. JAMES

Building strong families

North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity dedicates its newest home in Tower

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- The legacy of the St. James Presbyterian Church and its generous congregation was further cemented here recently as the former parsonage became the new home of the Rynders family. Krystal Rynders, her son Mason, and her daughter Adelyn took possession of the house on March 26 after Habitat for Humanity completed an extensive renovation of the building. The St. James congregation had gifted the parsonage, which served for many years as residence for the church's pastor, to the local

Habitat for Humanity which, in turn, sold it to Rynders once the work was completed. That work included new appliances and kitchen cabinets, flooring, lighting and bathroom upgrades. The renovation also made the house more energy-efficient, to keep utility costs low. The house has a fenced backyard, which means the family's dog will have a safe place to play. All of the work was completed by Habitat volunteers along with the Rynders, who had to put in at least 200 hours of sweat equity as part of the ownership process. "We are building homes with families,

See...**HUMANITY** pg. 9



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Community notices

Pancake Breakfast at Timber Hall in Embarrass on Saturday, April 5

EMBARRASS- Join us at the Timber Hall Event Center on Saturday, April 5 from 8 to 11 a.m. for all-you-can-eat pancakes, your choice of ham or sausage links, juice, and a bottomless cup of coffee. Adults \$7, Children 6-10 years old \$4, Kids under 5 eat free. We are excited to honor our firefighters who will eat FREE! Additional guests include representatives from State Farm Insurance, North St. Louis County FireWise, Forestry Department, and Northern St. Louis County Soil & Water Commissioner Paul McDonald and Rep. Cal Warwas will be present if their schedule allows.

MNDNR presentation on big game, CWD and wolves on April 9 in Mt. Iron

MT. IRON- The Sturgeon River Chapter of the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association will be hosting the Minnesota DNR for an open-to-the-public presentation on Wednesday, April 9 at the Mt. Iron Community Center at 6:30 p.m. The following people/departments will be present: Jessica Holmes, Area Wildlife Supervisor; Kelsie LaSharr, Elk Project, DNR Elk Biologist; AJ Temple, DNR Big Game Program Specialist. This event is free and open to the public.

Ladies of Kaleva Soinnuttaren Tupa 32 and Knights meeting on April 10

VIRGINIA- The Ladies of Kaleva Soinnuttaren Tupa 32 & Knights will be meeting Thursday April 10 at 6 p.m. at Kaleva Hall. Coffee ‘an will be served. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Northern Progressives invite people to participate in April 5 protest

DULUTH- People across the country are coming together to stand up and continue the fight for our Constitutional rights with a clear message that they do not consent to the destruction of our government and economy for the benefit of billionaires and their allies. Join us and help make that message clear. Everyone is invited to participate in a protest on Saturday, April 5 from 10 – 11 a.m. at Duluth City Hall.

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.

Presentation on Finnish names in Ely on Tuesday, April 15

ELY- Please join the Ely Finnish Kaleva group at the Ely Senior Center on Tuesday, April 15 at 1 p.m. as they host Hanna Erpestad, retired Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Lake Superior College. Erpestad will present a program on Finnish names: first and last names, pet names, place names, the Finnish name day calendar and traditions. Erpestad is a native of Finland and returns frequently to visit with family and friends. She is active in many Finnish-American cultural events and has been a frequent speaker at FinnFest. Coffee and treats will be served. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. Please direct questions to Sally at 218-760-2036.

NORTHWOODS FRIENDS OF THE ARTS



Winners of “A Shot in the Dark” photo contest

COOK- It was almost a tie for this year’s “A Shot In The Dark” photo contest, but a winner was determined when the final vote was cast. The top photo, awarded a \$100 prize, was Mark Reed from Orr. His photo, “Bobcat,” cat appearing through the ribs inside a hanging deer carcass. The second runner up, Sherry Durocher of Cook, was awarded the \$50 prize for “Just a

Hoot “, her fascinating photo of an owl camouflaged in tree bark. Honorable mention for third place went to Lauren Nelson of Britt, for his artistic photo, “Light Sculpture,” of a brightly lit house in dark night, drifted in snow. As in past years, the NWFA photo contest was a fun and successful fundraiser for thegallery. The gallery is located at 210 S. River St., and is open

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Visit www.nwfamn.org or contact us by email at nwfamn.org@gmail.com for upcoming events and classes.

Ely Folk School partners with the Steger Center

The partnership will bring summer program offers to Ely

ELY-The Ely Folk School is excited to announce that they will be partnering with the Steger Center again this summer to offer stone masonry classes, with priority given to local students who plan on continuing to use masonry skills in their own personal and professional futures. Two of the courses will focus on the Center’s Ernest Shackleton Hut replica project (one of which will be exclusively for women-identifying students) and the third is a Dry Stone Course. The Folk School is looking forward to helping run these masonry programs again this summer and is so grateful to the Steger Center for helping to provide knowledgeable instructors, camping opportunities, and meal plans in the name of accessibil-

ity and community-based educational growth. The courses include: Shackleton Hut (women only), Monday - Friday, July 21 – 25. Shackleton Hut (all gender), Monday-Friday, August 11 – 15. Dry Stone Course with Stonemaster Jim Sullivan, Monday-Wednesday, August 18 – 20. All three courses are now accepting interest form applications, which will be reviewed by our teams. The first round of invitations to register will go out on Friday, May 9. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more, contact us at info@elyfolk-school.org with the course name listed as the email subject line.



Learn how to create stone walls.

Mesabi Community Band Concert on Thursday, April 10 in Eveleth

EVELETH- The Mesabi Community Band, under the direction of Larry Baker, Bill Lavato and Daniel Melby, will present “A Spring Bouquet of Music,” on Thursday, April 10 at 7 p.m. in the Historic Eveleth City Auditorium. The evening will feature a variety of musical numbers that will include “The English Folk Song Suite,” by Vaughan-Williams, “America” from West Side Story, by Bernstein and Sinatra in Concert. Highlighting the concert will be flute soloist Dawn Trexel, playing “Concertino for Flute” by Cécile Chaminade. The piece was commissioned by the Paris Conservatoire in 1902. Dawn previously played this piece with her high school orchestra. In addition to playing



in the Mesabi Community Band, she also plays in the Virginia City Band. Another highlight will be “Duet,” by Saint-Jacome,

a tuba duet by Norm “Skip” Ferris and Raymond Jacobson. Saint-Jacome was an author of well-respected brass method books from

Left: Mesabi Community Band Tuba players, Raymond Jacobson and Norm Ferris, will be playing “Duet” by Saint-Jacome, at the spring concert on April 10, at 7 p.m. in the Eveleth City Auditorium. The public is invited to attend this concert. Admission is optionally free. and after concert refreshments will be served.

the late 1800s and many are still used by students today. Skip has been a member of the Mesabi Community Band since the 1970s, serving as its president for many years. He is a member of the Virginia City Band and participates in TubaChristmas concerts. Raymond is a homeschooled and former North Woods student in the ninth grade. He is presently a student of Bill Lavato. He has been a member of the Mesabi Community Band for the past two years, and a member of the Virginia City Band. He also has participated in TubaChristmas concerts.

The public is invited to enjoy this concert in the Historic Eveleth City Auditorium. Admission is a free will donation and refreshments will be served after the concert.

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APRIL FOOLS

Mosquitos “bug” the Ely City Council

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- The Ely City Council meeting on Tuesday evening got off to a raucous start when Mayor Heidi Omerza commented that Ely had once again made the news with an elaborate April Fools prank that was the work of several people. The gag was the announcement that the International Mosquito Center was coming to Ely.

The pranksters had lawn signs made, either for or against locating the International Mosquito Center in Whiteside Park and planted them all over Ely on Monday evening. They also created a Facebook page for the center. Ely’s Historic State Theater changed its marquee to read: “Ely for mosquitos.” The Ely-Bloomenson Hospital posted its opposition to the center on Facebook, with a graphic stating “Your blood, your choice,” and posting, “As one of the leading suppliers of blood products in the community, EBCH is opposed to this project.”

Omerza stated her stance as “anti-mosquito” but asked city council member Emily Roose, who was one of the pranksters, to explain the mosquito center initiative.

“This morning, it was posted on the ‘What’s Up Ely, MN’ Facebook group that there’s a new project going in at Whiteside Park,” Roose said. “Then, on April 31, there will be a town hall meeting to discuss this project ... there are different people in town that are either supporting or against the mosquito ecosystem.”

City council member Al Forsman remarked that he was not pleased to see a sign in opposition to the mosquito center planted on the lawn next to the entrance to City Hall. “What about those of us who are in favor?”

Omerza asked if the Parks and Recreation Board had anything to say about the project. Adam Bisbee, who is the city council Parks and Rec liaison, remarked, “We had a last-minute meeting on this and it’s meeting opposition. We’re not keen on the idea ... there may be some action. We’re not happy.”

Roose, who was handing out “Pro-mosquito, Pro-Ely” buttons before the meeting, was one of several people who orchestrated the April Fools prank. Like other gags and hoaxes that have come out of Ely over the years, the International



The Ely City Council’s April 1 proposal to build the International Mosquito Center was featured on statewide and national news programs. Lawn signs were placed around Ely both promoting and opposing the idea. submitted photos

al Mosquito Center was covered nationally on CBS News with a 15-second spot after being picked up by WCCO in Minneapolis. Ely has a tradition of attention-grabbing pranks that gained national attention, including when Ely seceded from the U.S. to join Canada in 2009 and when the community campaigned to bring the Olympics to Ely in 2016.

In other business, the council:

➤ Heard a report from Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski that the county did not have a start date yet for repaving Harvey Street, explaining that the job has not been sent out for bid yet. “We won’t have a start date on the construction,” Langowski said, “until after the bids come in.”

➤ Heard a report from Forsman on the dates for upcoming hazardous waste collection days hosted by St. Louis County. The county will accept household hazardous waste at the Ely Joint Public Works Facility on June 12 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and at the Northwoods Transfer Station on Aug. 28 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The county will accept business hazardous waste at the Northwoods Transfer Station on June 5 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Businesses must have pre-approv-

al from the county before bringing their waste for disposal. Call the county environmental services department at 218-741-8831 for more information.

➤ Heard from Mayor Omerza who issued a proclamation declaring April to be Sexual Assault Awareness Month, as part of a county-wide effort to improve awareness of this issue. “Our Sexual Assault Awareness Month is intended to bring awareness to the fact that sexual violence is widespread in this public health district,” Omerza said, “for individuals, families, community members, and communities as a whole. Child sexual abuse, exploitation, rape, and sexual harassment impact all communities. As seen by the national statistics, one in three girls and one in six boys will be sexually violated by the age of 18. One in five children is solicited sexually while on the internet. One-third of all sexual cases in northern St. Louis County happened to children 17 years and younger.”

➤ Heard a request from Ely Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Eva Sebesta for the city to support the week of April 21 as International Dark Sky Week. Ely is the gateway community into

the Boundary Waters, which was the largest Dark Sky Sanctuary in the world until being surpassed by the 2.5-million-acre Oregon Outback Dark Sky Sanctuary in March 2024. The city council voted in favor of the request.

➤ Approved a recommendation from the Ely Planning and Zoning Commission to go ahead with the fuels mitigation project to create a 10-acre fuel break in the west end of town. Fire Chief David Marshall explained that the fuel break was not a clearcut: “Everything six inches in diameter will be removed.” The fuel break will be on city property plus “a couple of acres on private property owned by the hospital in the same area that would also be part of this project.”

➤ Heard a report from the Ely Utilities Commission, or UEC, that they did not approve a requested removal of a streetlight at 1402 N. 19th Ave. E.

➤ Approved \$500 to be paid to Ely Area Television for additional filming in February.

➤ Approved the renewal of Todd Crego’s contract for another two-year term at a monthly rate of \$1,750 and an hourly rate not to exceed an additional \$600 per month for additional filming of events and

meetings.

➤ Approved sending a letter of support to extend franchise fees to broadband services, noting the decline in the number of people who subscribe to cable. Currently, cable franchise fees pay for the services provided by Ely Area Television to broadcast local meetings and events on cable TV. Expanding the franchise fee base would help Ely Area Television stream on the internet as well as broadcast on cable and post to YouTube.

➤ Approved the hire of temporary seasonal employees for the summer.

➤ Approved placing city council members Roose and John Laitonen, Mayor Omerza, and EUC Commissioner Tony Colarich on the city negotiating committee along with Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski and City Attorney Kelly Klun. The committee will negotiate upcoming contracts with local unions representing city employees.

➤ Approved the revised second reading of Ordinance 389, regarding the sale of lots in the East Spaulding First Addition plat. Klun

See ELY.,pg. 5

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OPINION

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Editorial

Empowering grift

Trump’s order on mineral production pushes secrecy. The question is why?

It’s going to take time to assess the full impact of President Trump’s March 20 executive order titled: “Immediate Measures to Increase American Mineral Production,” but one thing is certain – it has the potential for corruption on a scale we haven’t seen since the 1920s-era Teapot Dome scandal.

As is the case with most of Trump’s executive orders, it also has the potential to do little other than garner the usual dramatic headlines and the liberal tears on which Trump seems to thrive.

From a practical standpoint, the timelines in the order seem preposterous. The order gave federal agencies, many of which have been decimated by DOGE, ten days to identify all proposed mining projects that have submitted a mine plan or permit application and another ten days after that to identify “priority projects” that will be immediately approved and permitted with minimal environmental review. So much for an environmental review “proving” that northeastern Minnesota copper-nickel projects can be undertaken without harming water quality. The Trump administration appears to be proposing to skip that part almost entirely.

Equally concerning is the order’s elevation of mining as the top priority for all federal lands, a directive that provides no exception for federal wilderness areas or national parks. While the order can’t supersede federal law that protects these areas, at least some of those areas, including the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, can lose their protections from mining based on a national emergency declared by the President, something Trump has already declared for energy. Under this order, other forms of economic use of federal lands, such as all forms of outdoor recreation, timber production, cattle grazing, or the protection of water quality or wildlife habitat, will all take a back seat to mining.

While the environmental implications of this order are potentially devastating, the order is even worse when it comes to public integrity. Under Trump’s order, the government would be authorized to essentially fund and potentially even engineer the buildout of new mines, by offering loans, loan guarantees, technical and capital assistance, working capital, or other forms of public assistance.

But the kicker is the provision in Sec. 6(c) of his order which states: “Agencies that are empowered to make loans, loan guarantees, grants, equity investments... shall, to the extent permitted by law, take steps to rescind any policies that require an applicant to complete and submit to the agency as part of an application for such funds the disclosures that are re-

quired by Regulation S-K part 1300.”

This is the Security and Exchange Commission regulation that has, for years, set the rules for public disclosures related to mining projects. That includes the results of exploration as well as rules defining, measuring, and reporting of mineral reserves. All of that information needs to be backed by supporting documentation, which includes a pre-feasibility study by a “qualified person” with expertise in mine development.

These rules were designed to prevent the kind of fraud and misrepresentation that used to be rampant in the promotion of mining ventures. Trump’s order could very well take us back to the bad old days when investors were routinely fleeced by unscrupulous operators who overstated their identified reserves.

And given Trump’s transactional approach to virtually every aspect of federal policy, it’s easy to envision Trump using the directives included in his order to tip the playing field to benefit companies that shower him with favors or, coincidentally, invest in any of his new crypto ventures or any of the other products he regularly hawks from the White House. We’ve never had a president who has operated so shamelessly, and who has managed to skate away from scandals that would crush any previous politician.

Under this order, Trump has the ability to pick individuals or companies who could literally be paid by taxpayers to develop lucrative mining operations, or at least present the appearance of operating lucrative mining operations.

And what kind of royalty structure are we talking about? Who knows? For the right people, or for the right “contribution,” Trump might agree to hand over resources owned by the American people virtually for free. Those with the right connections stand to make a lot of money at the expense of our federal lands and the surrounding environment. It could make Teapot Dome look like a misdemeanor.

Then again, Trump’s order could go the way of most of the rest of them – and be shot down by a judge as unconstitutional or without foundation. Trump, after all, declared an energy emergency at a time when the U.S. production of domestic energy far surpasses any previous point in U.S. history. While Trump prefers to operate like a king, he has been running headlong into the federal court system, where his edicts are routinely neutered as unsupported rubbish. At this point, where it goes is anyone’s guess.



Letters from Readers

We are increasingly separated from truth

Separation of our true selves as special and above nature is a Western belief. Dominion over nature to exploit for our own ends, without giving back, is delusional. From the air we breathe, water we drink, food we eat, to all that sustains life, makes us dependent on Mother Earth, clearly understood for centuries among Indigenous people.

Separation from humanity, dehumanizes “the other” as unworthy objects, things or commodities. Prejudice is learned behavior that results from social conditioning, not an inborn attribute. Seeing differences as deficiency drives us apart. Recognizing each other as equals binds us together as social beings. “Separation from each other is an optical illusion of consciousness.” – Albert Einstein.

Separation from history results from an exclusive, top-down, Great White Man perspective. Ignored is the inclusive story of labor, role of women, immigrants, Blacks, and other minorities, all buried alongside the invisible lore of Indigenous people. A People’s History, the real story of how the past shaped the present, offers insight for creating a better tomorrow.

Separation from government short-circuits democracy with “divide and rule” of, by, and for the oligarchy. Big money politics, corporate capture of government, and media control disconnects people from governance. Overturning Citizens United, public funded elections and media cooperatives are necessary for restoring representative governance.

Separation from economics begins with corporatocracy. Those few who run big businesses dominate and rule our economy. These authoritarian overlords treat workers as commodities without voice nor vote and consumers as

objects to be manipulated. Workplace democracy, an alternative to oligarchy, promises greater prosperity for everyone.

Separation from truth is cultivated by corporate media control that allows no critique, nor questioning of big business authoritarianism. Schooling is complicit when emphasizing selective facts, neglecting critical thinking and separating analysis from values which are necessary in moving us toward creative and collective action.

Harold Honkola
Stillwater

Stauber should listen to We the People

Congressman Pete Stauber has his wealthy donors and has become so arrogant that he apparently believes he represents his own interests and no one else’s.

He can’t even use his own words or concoct his own excuses for why he did not attend the People’s Town Hall in Duluth last Saturday to listen to concerns from We the People. Instead, he has one of his staffers put out a message that comes directly from the Republican playbook that Trump has provided for all his thoughtless lackeys who refuse to lead but follow everything he demands of them. His statement calls constituents far-left extremists and accuses the people in attendance of being paid actors. Strong words of accusation from Chicken Pete, who is running scared. Pete also claimed that he was attending another event; however, the time and location were not made public because if you schedule it, people will come.

The people in attendance were not paid. Many traveled great distances, as I drove two hours each way to attend, and the last time I checked, no one paid for my gas to get there. And “extremists?” Hardly. The Minnesotans in attendance were of all ages and had numerous valid concerns. However, how would Pete know, as he

didn’t have the courage or grit to show up and face them? There is nothing extreme about worrying you won’t receive your Social Security check that you worked for and are entitled to. There is nothing extreme about fearing losing Medicaid or Medicare, as those are health care programs people rely on. There is nothing extreme about being concerned about protecting the water we drink and the air we breathe from being polluted. There is nothing extreme about calling out President Musk and the convicted felon Trump for completely gutting our federal agencies that are paid for by our tax dollars, while Republicans are okay with giving huge tax breaks to the billionaires who must need it the most – surely, they must be starving and need food.

Pete Stauber may want to watch the videos of this event and pay close attention to the 17-year-old female high school student who can teach him a lesson. She shared that she attends Duluth East High School and is on the student council. The lesson that she shared is that every time she is part of a debate, she learns.

So, Pete, you can run and you can hide, but remember, We the People can vote, and we will work to vote you out so that District 8 can have representation once again.

Karen Maverick
Ely and Scandia

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

DOGE: Overwhelming our system of checks and balances

It’s not even 100 days since the inauguration of the 47th president. Yet, with his Project 2025 playbook in hand, Trump has turned over the tables of our government and sent our system crashing. With the appointment of Elon Musk, his biggest campaign funder, together they created the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE for short) and set in motion a “slash and burn” approach to dismantling our federal government.

job very seriously. The latest count of federal employees who have been fired or have accepted buyouts has now well-exceeded 100,000. The incredible amounts of money frozen or cut from critical government agencies and contractors has not been confirmed, largely due to inaccurate reports by Musk and his team. What can be verified is that countless projects, that took decades to implement and reach levels of measurable success, are no longer operational. These include critical research for

cures for cancer and other serious diseases; for highly trained staff ensuring safe entry into flight corridors surrounding our busiest airports; global monitoring of infectious diseases to prevent outbreaks like COVID-19, or climate activities that warn us of hurricanes and tornadoes; even inspectors of farm products who ensure that our nation’s food supply is safe to eat. These are just a few examples of hundreds of federal programs, created for our safety and benefit, now undermined or disappeared.

Within each agency, inspectors who were tasked with reducing waste and fraud have now been re-

placed by Trump loyalists with little or no experience in that field. Instead of continuing efforts to improve our internal systems of governance, Musk has chosen to destroy them, resulting in utter chaos. For all of us depending on the news media to keep us informed about his daily attacks, we are left wondering in a state of disbelief, fear or despair. Minnesota’s two Senators, Tina Smith and Amy Klobuchar, have been reporting an increase in distress calls from constituents flowing into their phone desks at an alarming rate. From pre-Trump days at approximately 100 calls to now over 1,000

per day, and many stories detailing heart-wrenching circumstances.

DOGE actions have triggered dozens of lawsuits by states’ attorney generals for illegal activities or violations of our Constitution. Never in our nearly 250-year history have we experienced such a radical shift in our national priorities as the one we are seeing now – all at one man’s behest, Donald J. Trump, and his unvetted appointee, Elon Musk, who lacks both the official security clearances and the expertise to be meddling like this in our government’s internal affairs.

This dismantling of the

intricate network of our federal agencies has advanced beyond the checks and balances built into our Constitution by its founders meant to protect our democracy. The majority members of the Congress, charged with writing laws and appropriating funds to enact them, have inappropriately abdicated many of their responsibilities to the Executive branch, an extraordinary breach of the public’s trust in that critical branch of our government. As Musk has made decisions to cut programs and services, the Congress has declined to exercise its constitutional

See DOGE, pg. 5



KATHLEEN
MCQUILLAN

When will they come for you?

I see our current President has already answered my question from last week about whether we were going to be able to vote for our congress critters next year: Maybe not.

And now they’re disappearing students and others in our country perfectly legally for the apparent “crime” of exercising their free speech rights guaranteed under our Constitution.

The words of Martin Niemoller, a Lutheran Pastor who was sent into the concentration camps of Nazi Germany ring truer every day:

“The people who were put in the camps then were Communists. Who cared about them? We knew it, it was printed in the newspapers. Who raised their voice, maybe the Confessing Church? We thought: Communists, those opponents of religion, those enemies of Christians –”should I be my brother’s keeper?”

Then they got rid of the sick, the so-called incurables. I remember a conversation I had with a person who claimed to be a Christian. He said “Perhaps it’s right, these incurably sick people just cost the state money, they

are just a burden to themselves and to others. Isn’t it best for all concerned if they are taken out of the middle [of society]?” Only then did the church as such take note.

Then we started talking, until our voices were silenced in public. Can we say, we aren’t guilty/responsible?

... “We preferred to keep silent. We are certainly not without fault, and I ask myself again and again, what would have happened, if in the year 1933 or 1934 – there must have been a possibility – 14,000 Protestant pastors and all Protestant communities in Germany had defended the truth until their deaths? If we had said back then, it is not right when Hermann Göring simply puts 100,000 Communists in the concentration camps, in order to let them die. I can imagine that perhaps 30,000 to 40,000 Protestant Christians would have had their heads cut off, but I can also imagine that we would have rescued 30–40 million people, because that is what it is costing us now.”

Every day that goes by, this collection of inexperienced and incompetent brutes supporting the overly wealthy and under-taxed overlords who control our internet, our satellites, and now our government, take

us further down the road to what happened to Germany and Japan. The rest of the world is going to gang up on us and bring a very expensive end to this experiment in stupidity called “MAGA.”

Dave Porter
Minneapolis

Customers should weigh in on proposed ALLETE sale

I was happy to see the *Timberjay’s* excellent overview of the proposed sale of ALLETE (including Minnesota Power) to the Canadian Pension Plan Investment Board and Global Infrastructure Partners—which itself is owned by the world’s largest asset manager, BlackRock [“Stakeholders oppose sale of Minnesota Power parent company,” March 28, 2025]. As the article notes, this proposal has triggered a rare occurrence where a range of parties who are often on opposite ends of an issue – including consumer protection advocates, environmentalists, the iron mines and paper mills, Attorney General Kieth Ellison, and rural community advocates like CURE – have all united around a common position: this sale is a bad deal for Minnesota Power customers

and Minnesotans in general.

So far, this sale has gotten the go ahead by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (although not without one Commissioner expressing deep reservations) and the ALLETE shareholders, who stand to get a substantial premium payout if the deal goes through. The next and final stop is the Minnesota Public Utility Commission (MPUC) which must find that sale is “consistent with the public interest” before it approves it. You’ll notice that the only ones who don’t get a direct say in this decision are those of us who will be most directly impacted – Minnesota Power customers, municipalities, and all the communities in their service territory.

That’s why it’s imperative that we use the opportunity we have now to let the PUC know what we think about this sell-off of a critical public service and northern Minnesota institution to far-off, wealthy private equity interests whose sole priority is generating big profits for their investors, not making sure that northern Minnesotans have access to the reliable, affordable, safe, clean electricity that we need. Send the MPUC your comments and questions about the deal before April

17 or show up at one of the public hearings next week in person or online (more info: <https://www.mnpower.com/Company/PublicHearings>). And check out <https://curemn.org/take-action/> for more info about the deal and how to comment.

Maggie Schuppert
CURE Director
of Strategic Initiatives
Ely

Trump should learn a little history

Question: who was the first President to use an auto-pen? This question is raised because President Biden allegedly used an auto-pen on documents to authorize the release of prisoners from prison.

It was Thomas Jefferson who first used one and one is on display at his home in Monticello. It’s likely that many thousands of documents have been signed over the last two hundred-plus years by an auto-pen. Trump likes to display a flashy home crafted signature to sign documents as a means of garnering more publicity.

A horseback ride away from Monticello is Montpelier, the home of James Madison, who is considered the

“father” of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. He also was a prolific writer of the Federalist Papers and advocated a strong federal government and a system of checks and balances.

Trump ought to skip one of many golf games and take a helicopter ride to visit these historic homes in Virginia, not far from the White House. Montpelier has recently been painstakingly restored to its original form when James and Dolly Madison lived there. It is breathtaking when you can walk into Madison’s library where he wrote the United States Constitution. It is a tour de force, setting out “new” and far-reaching thinking during that era.

The Constitution is based on the understanding of human nature, history, and forward thinking. It has had a lasting impact not only on America, but the world.

Trump took the presidential oath of office, twice, “to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States.” He probably has never read it, given that he has violated several articles that are not ambiguous.

Gerry Snyder
Ely

ELY...Continued from page 3

explained that revision was necessary to correct an error.

➤ Approved the second reading of an ordinance to vacate a city right of way on Beacon Hill near the radio tower. The details of the properties affected were covered in the March

21 edition of the *Timberjay*.

➤ Approved the second reading of an ordinance to zone 14 parcels which were previously unzoned. The details of the properties affected were covered in the March

21 edition of the *Timberjay*.

➤ Approved the following claims for payment: \$392,565 for city and EUC claims through April 1, and \$5,637 for the Ely Community Resource.

➤ Approved a temporary

liquor license for the Ely Folk School for Semer’s Beach on May 7 for the school’s spring bonfire event.

➤ Approved the city clerk-treasurer to work with the Ely Events Group on rerouting the Fourth of July

parade because of the scheduled repaving on Harvey St. The council also approved the police department to work with the Ely Events Group on the necessary permits and arrangements for the fourth annual Rock the

Park even in Whiteside Park on July 5 from 4-11 p.m.

DOGE...Cont. from page 4

powers to stop these unauthorized actions by repeatedly deferring to Executive branch demands. In order for any legal restraints to be employed on Trump’s, or his DOGE’s, unconstitutional actions, any complaints must first defy a panoply of carrots and sticks hanging over the heads of every Republican member of Congress, as well as multiple lawsuits and court appeals moving through a log-jammed judicial system, only to eventually land at the most powerful bench, the Supreme Court which has already ruled largely in favor of the president’s immunity to any judicial reproach. In short, this leaves the country in the hands of people drunk with power and willing to abuse it, with no quick or easy way to stop their moving train.

There’s growing distress among the population. As the effects of these changes ripple through every state, affecting anyone and everyone regardless of creed or color, personal priorities, or party affiliation, many of us are seeing that we’ve been hoodwinked by manipulation, disinformation and outright lies. For those of us who voted for Trump, our decision rested in part on his record during his first term in office. But what we saw then could not forebode what is happening now at the speed and scale with which it is occurring. It’s never easy to recognize or admit that we’ve made a terrible mistake. Otherwise, more of us would be announcing from the rooftops that “This is not what we voted for!” But if we want to save what we have that’s what needs to happen.

Now, with growing evidence that Social Security, VA benefits, Medicare and Medicaid are in the crosshairs of the “Musk administration,” huge constituencies will soon be feeling the pain of their lives turned upside down. From their vantage points, the future looks very scary. They will join the ranks with others already suffering, as the Campaigner Trump so cavalierly warned.

Like farmers, unable to sell their crops due to President Trump’s trade wars. Disabled veterans, who already suffered for their country, now living in fear of losing critical benefits as promised to compensate for their service-connected injuries. Or lower income workers, who will lose access to the necessary resources that supplement low earnings to help secure adequate housing and nutrition for their families. Miners, production workers, and small business owners, who are also beginning to feel the negative impacts of excessive across-the-board tariffs. The stock market, a major driver of many business investment decisions, now a roller-coaster, disrupting the markets and leading economists to predict an inevitable recession or worse. This is disruption greater than any society can withstand and there’s more to come. And for what?

The House vote on the Congressional Budget Bill made it clear. The cuts are to fund the largest tax cut in our nation’s history, currently estimated to add \$4 trillion dollars to the national debt over the next ten years. And that’s likely a rough guess-timate. The Congressional Budget Office reports that it will benefit the top 0.1-percent of Americans, meaning a mere one-tenth of one percent of tax-filers will receive a tax reduction of \$278,000. Meanwhile, 28 million households in the bottom 80 percent of taxpayers will see no reduction in their tax bill. And 14 million households in the lowest tier of that 80 percent will see their taxes go up! As if the super rich, after filing their return, need more money in their pockets. To the average billionaire, this boost will seem more like a generous tip left for the golf caddy, in contrast to what it would mean to most of us who earn far less than six figures a year.

This is what ires many Americans. That the richest among us get a big tax break while many of us get nothing

back, or end up paying more. It should inspire us to challenge those who are writing these rules.

Many voters who pulled the lever for Republicans in November, 2024 did so in hopes of a better life. More affordable housing. Lower costs of food, child care and utilities. More money to keep the car and appliances running. The big question now is this. How long until voters who are not getting what they voted for are able to realize that they were tricked by the richest people in the world who betrayed them with campaign slogans rife with empty promises.

Cuts to entitlement programs like Medicare and Social Security hang like a dark cloud over many people’s future. In 1932, President Franklin Roosevelt signed these programs into law to reduce the unacceptably high poverty rate among older and disadvantaged Americans. His answer was to enact programs that have survived over ninety years of scrutiny and still receive the greatest approval ratings among recipients and the country at large, proving both their importance and success. To consider weakening them rather than improving upon them is not only stupid but unconscionable, removing assistance to people who can no longer work and independently support themselves.

To disregard the welfare of the elderly, the ill, the disabled, young children, and our veterans is not American. We’ve always willingly shared responsibility for the vulnerable. Hands down! If you don’t believe it, just consider the number of Americans volunteering across our country making sure of that. We donate millions of hours and dollars every day because we are people who care about each other.

We must stand up to the biggest lie of all - that caring for our families and neighbors in need doesn’t matter. Our actions speak louder than their words. This is who we are! It’s imprinted on the

soul of our nation. And we should never let that be lost.


The writing is on the wall. Trump and his hand-picked billionaire Cabinet members can sit around a table with Elon Musk, apparently in charge, selling and leading a frontal assault upon the American people. Enshrined in a well-crafted plan called Project 2025, he is out to shrink and reorganize our way of life, and is working at full throttle. These actions in the first 100 days have been shocking beyond belief, touching everything from the security of our nation’s nuclear arsenal to the precious hands-on-care provided to the aging people in our nursing homes who we love.

The greed for money and power are intertwined. Our government is in the hands of a group of self-interested billionaires with a well-planned playbook, racing to some kind of dystopian goalpost.

We will be the losers if we don’t come to our senses. If this were a meteor hurling toward Earth, we’d realize that we share more in common than not. We wouldn’t be wasting time asking, “Who did you vote for?” It’s time we pull together. We need to start talking to one another again about what really matters? The election is over.

Notice the letters to the editor written by folks seeking direction and others trying to respond. Read the flyer in the grocery store window or a social media post inviting you to a meeting. See the people standing on a street corner holding signs with their message, hoping you’ll read it and think about it later. These are all opportunities to learn from each other about what we can and should be doing to take back our power and save our fragile system of government, one that so many countries strive for and our forebears died for. Our time is now.

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the
TIMBERJAY

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Week of April 7

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.



TSHS weekly winners
TOWER- The \$100 winner of Week 29 Charlemagne's 52 Club is Jordan Cannon of Oak Creek, Wis.

History Tidbit: Isle of Pines had a resort called Hotel Idlewild. People would boat to the resort for parties throughout the summer. Eventually, the iconic Isle of Pines bridge was built to the island in 1936, to be replaced with a more modern version in 1984. Hotel Idlewild was eventually torn down and the remains of the resort became houses and cabins.

Bookmobile stops
REGIONAL- The Arrowhead Bookmobile will be in the Tower-Soudan area on Wednesdays: April 30; May 21; June 11; July 2 & 23; Aug. 13; Sept. 3 & 24; Oct. 15, Nov. 5 & 26; and Dec. 17.

Stops include: Britt (Sand Lake Storage): 9 - 9:30 a.m.; Bois Forte (Boys & Girls Club): 11 - 11:30 a.m.; Greenwood (Town Hall): 12 - 1 p.m.; Soudan (Post Office area): 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.; Tower (Civic Center): 3:45 - 4:30 p.m.; and Embarrass (Hwy 135 & Hwy 21): 5 - 6 p.m.

For more information on the Bookmobile or Mail-A-Book services, contact the Arrowhead Library System, 218-741-3840, email at als@alslib.info, or website at alslib.info.

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

The Vermilion Lake stop is from 4:15 - 5 p.m. on April 16; May 7 & 28; June 18; July 9 & 30; Aug. 20; Sept. 10; Oct. 1 & 22; Nov. 12; and Dec. 3.

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HIBBING FEED and SEED

262-3049

Comic opera at the LVCC on April 16

TOWER- The Lake Vermilion Cultural Center will be hosting the comic opera, “La Serva Padrona” on Wednesday, April 16 beginning at 7:14 p.m. Yes, it really does start at 7:14. This presentation of “La Serva Padrona” is a Modern English version of the comic opera by Giovanni Battista Pergolesi, revised by Steve Solkela. The performers in this production are Jessica Moss- Soprano, Steve Solkela- Bass, and Branden Taus- Mute.

Steve Solkela is a talented, northeastern Minnesota musician and professionally-trained opera singer. Previous performances at the LVCC have sold out, so advance ticket purchases are encouraged. Tickets are available in advance for \$20 by contacting Steve Solkela at ssolkela49@gmail.com or 218-290-5453. Tickets at the door will be \$25.

There will also be a performance at the Ely State Theater on Tuesday, April 15 at 7 p.m.

The Lake Vermilion Cultural Center is located at 705 Main Street, Tower. The LVCC is dedicated to community enrichment through education and the arts by offering quality programming and providing opportunities to showcase the rich cultural heritage of the area. To learn more about the LVCC or to donate, visit their website at vermilionculturalcenter.org.



TOWER-SOUDAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Historic Fire Hall: Interior restoration project underway

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- The oldest public building north of Duluth is getting closer to once again becoming a vibrant part of Tower's Main Street. The historic fire hall was purchased by the Tower-Soudan Historical Society in 2015, after being vacant for many years. The building originally housed the city hall, fire department, police department, and jail. In later years, it housed a youth/community center, video store, coffee shop, and was leased to many businesses, including the *Timberjay*. The building, constructed in 1895, was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.

TSHS has successfully written grants and raised funds locally to restore the brick building for at least another century. Previous grants funded repairs to the roof, windows and doors, and to the building's brick exterior and interior walls. This year, another three-quarters of a million dollars is being spent to repair and renovate the building's interior, install ADA-compliant restrooms, new electric and plumbing, and other interior finishing work.

The final piece of interior work needed, according to historical society president Nancy Larson, is replacing the ceiling tiles. While the current grants were not enough to cover the estimated \$10,000 - \$12,000 cost, the TSHS has applied for a \$10,000 grant from the Minnesota Historical Society to complete the ceiling. If this grant is successful, Larson said, they will be able to have the current general contractor finish that work this summer.

This year's work is being funded with grants from the Minnesota

Historical Society, IRRR, Mortenson Family Foundation, and private donations from the local area.

Right now, the general contractor, Norse Valley Construction, is working to gut and rebuild some of the interior rooms, making room for the new restrooms in the part of the building that used to house the city jail. The company specializes in historic renovation projects. The bathroom project was complicated, Larson said, because they had to change the location of the restrooms due to some plumbing complications, which required additional architectural work. Electrical work is also underway. The project also includes adding an audio-visual system.

Larson said most of the interior renovations should be completed this summer, which means the building will be ready to use this fall. The building will be used for historical exhibits, including display of the antique steam fire engine, as well as for hosting events.

The final phase of this multi-year renovation project is the repair and restoration of the building's back/south wall. The historical society is hoping to receive another MHS grant for the final work as early as 2026.

Summer programs
The historical society will once again be sponsoring its popular history talks and train tales programs this summer. There are also a few special programs being organized, including a Lake Vermilion history trivia event at Gruben's Marina on July 19, and a presentation on the history and Minnesota connections to Cream of Wheat on July 10 in the coach car. The 52 Club raffle will again help raise funds for projects, and a new capital fundraising campaign will kick off this summer.



This room, which used to house two jail cells, is being renovated and turned into a new restroom. submitted

The historical society also maintains the old Tower Depot and Museum building and trains. Volunteers staff the museum and trains on weekends in the summer. The coach car is available to rent to the public for events and parties.

“This project was made possible in part by the people of Minnesota through a grant funded by an appropriation to the Minnesota Historical Society from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.”

COMMUNITY NOTICES



VCS announces second quarter honor roll
A Honor Roll Qtr 2
Tayden Gillette-Olson, 8
Iliana Gillette-Olson, 9
Logan Kainz, 9
Remington McDonough, 9
Amelia Swanson, 9
Amara Patterson, 10
Aalyah Webb, 11
Ethan Howard, 12

B Honor Roll Qtr 2
Aadyn Cobbs, 7
Cassius Morrison, 9
Addison Myers, 9

Joint Powers Rec Board meeting April 8
TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Joint Powers Recreation Board will meet at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 8 at Good Ol' Days. Requests for funding should be made in writing prior to the meeting and can be dropped off at Tower City Hall.

St. Martin's Holy Week Mass schedule
Holy Thursday, April 17
St. Mary's - 5:30 p.m.
There will not be a Mass at the Cook

Care Center.
Good Friday, April 18
Holy Cross - 3 p.m. and St. Martin's - 6 p.m.
Holy Saturday, April 19
St. Martin's - Blessing of Easter Baskets: 12:30 p.m.
St. Mary's - Easter Vigil Mass - 9 p.m.
Easter Sunday Mass, April 20
Holy Cross - 8 a.m. and St. Martin's 10:30 a.m.

Easter coloring contest at Scenic Rivers
Scenic Rivers Medical Clinic in Tower is sponsoring a coloring contest for Easter. Children can pick up a coloring page at the clinic. Drawings should be returned by April 18. All entries will be entered into

a drawing for a boy's Easter basket and a girl's Easter basket.

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.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

Ely teens win writing camp scholarships

ELY- The Ely branch of the American Association of University Women presented two scholarships to Ely teens for summer writing camp. Freshman Elena Freking and junior Aila Harding each received \$500 toward the Northwoods Young Writers Camp.

This summer will be their third year attending the camp, which was founded by author Mary Casanova in 2019. Author Margi Preus and playwright Cristina Pipa will also facilitate camp sessions, which run through June on Woman Lake.

The purpose of the camp



is to create a sacred space not just for writing, but for sharing ideas and learning the art of critiquing. Two faculty from Ely will chaperone this year: Heather Cavalier and Madeline Olson. For more information about the camp, please visit writingcamp.org.

Seated from left-to-right, AAUW scholarship recipients Aila Harding and Elena Freking. Standing, from left-to-right: Darlene Nemanich, Barb Soderberg, and Sarah Paro. submitted photo

AROUND TOWN



Upper left: Students at the March 29 Ely Community Education pierogi class at the Ely Senior Center stuffing potatoes into pierogi dough wrappers.

Above: Doris Kolodji, the instructor of the pierogi class, demonstrating how to make pierogi wrappers. Kolodji, who lives in Hibbing, teaches pierogi classes throughout the Iron Range, using her Polish grandmother's recipe.



Lower left: An attendee at the March 22 Ely Community Resource fundraiser art auction writing down a bid in the silent auction. The event also included raffles and a live auction. This year's auction event raised over \$20,000 for the nonprofit.

photos by C. Clark

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Ely for Ely

ELY- The April meeting of Ely for Ely will feature Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski, whose topic will be "The insider scoop on getting your voice heard at City Hall," with tips on how to navigate the city's government, committees, and commissions. The event will be on Tuesday, April 8, from 7:30-8:45 a.m. The event will be in council chambers on the second floor of Ely City Hall, 209 E. Chapman St. The presentation is free and open to all.

Virtual Power Plants

ELY- The Ely Climate Group will hear a presentation on Tuesday, April 8, at 4 p.m. from Mike Overend from Two Harbors on "Virtual Power Plants – what are they, and are they good or bad?" To avoid the need for gas-fired "peaker plants" during peak electrical demand, utilities propose more consumer control of electrical consumption through the use of batteries. Overend will explain the details of the proposal. The Ely Climate Group meets at the Ely Field Naturalists Resource Center, 41 E. Chapman St., upstairs from the NAPA store. The program is also available through Zoom. The Zoom link is at elyminnesota.com/elyclimate.

Medicare 101

ELY- Ely Community Education will hold a free class on how to navigate

enrolling in Medicare on Wednesday, April 9, from 5:30-6:30 p.m., in the Ely Public Schools media center, 600 E. Harvey St. The class will explain how to navigate Medicare's complicated enrollment rules and options.

Contented Critters

ELY- Contented Critters will hold an open house on Saturday, April 12, from noon to 3 p.m. at the Ely Flower and Seed, 145 W. Camp St. Come pet a farm critter, meet cats available for adoption, purchase some merchandise, grab a cupcake, learn about the animal shelter's spay and neuter program, and more.

Health Care Directives

ELY- Ely Community Education will hold a free class on health care directives on Wednesday, April 16, from 5:30-6:30 p.m., in the Ely Public Schools media center, 600 E. Harvey St. A health care directive is a written document that informs other of your wishes about your health care if you are unable to make medical decisions. The class will cover what a health directive is, how to draft one, and why it is an important document for people to have.

100 Ely Women

ELY- The 100 Ely Women Who Care giving circle will hold its spring meeting at the Ely Senior Center, 27 S. First Ave. E. on Sunday, April 27, starting at 4 p.m. The giving circle is a group

of women who meet twice a year to choose and support a local 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and to enjoy a potluck of appetizers and desserts.

If you are curious or interested in supporting Ely's nonprofits, please call 651-303-1094 for more details.

Ely Public Library

ELY- The Friends of the Library April 8 meeting has been canceled.

The library will be closed on April 18.

The week of April 7 is National Library Week with a library activity every day. The library will also grant fine forgiveness for all overdue items returned during the week.

On Monday, April 7, the library will hold a jigsaw puzzle contest from 3-4 p.m. Form a team and compete to assemble a puzzle the fastest.

On Tuesday, April 8, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Friends of the Library will set you up on a blind date with a book that you can keep or pass along.

On Wednesday, April 9, while the library is open (9 a.m.-6:30 p.m.), patrons can visit the Craft Stick Bookmark Station to make a bookmark.

The library will host a library trivia challenge on Thursday, April 10, while the library is open (9 a.m.-6:30 p.m.). Answer two or three questions correctly and win a prize.

On Friday, April 11, the

library will hold a scavenger hunt. At any time from 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m., get the scavenger hunt instructions from the staff and hunt down the hidden items.

The Friends of the Library book club will meet on Monday, April 14, from 3-4 p.m. The book for discussion will be "Born on a Blue Day," by Daniel Tammet. You do not need to be a member of Friends of the Library to attend.

On Wednesday, April 16, from 1-2 p.m., the library will host Susan Hawkinson as she tells raucous and entertaining lumberjack and settler stories and equally astounding tales of the Joyce lumber baron family from her co-authored book, "Timber Connections: The Joyce Lumber Story," a past Minnesota Book Award finalist. If you miss Ely's Timber Tales event, Hawkinson will also be at the Babbitt Public Library at 3:30 p.m.

The Curiosity Cohort for adults will meet on Thursday, April 17, from 1:30-3 p.m. to pursue the old-fashioned art of silhouette cutting to capture likenesses. Register in advance for this event so the library can order enough supplies for participants.es for participants.

Preschool Storytime is held every Friday from 10:30-11 a.m. All library events are at the Ely Public Library at 224 E. Chapman St. unless otherwise noted.

Babbitt Public Library

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

The Friends of the Library will host a bingo fundraiser on Saturday, April 26 at 1 p.m. in the Babbitt Municipal Gym, 71 South Drive. Bingo cards will be \$5 apiece, cash only. Cards must be purchased before gaming starts. Prizes will be split equally among multiple winners.

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.

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.

In Brief

Tuesday Group schedule

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

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

Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

►April 8: Updates from the Ely-Area Tourism Bureau with Abby Dare

►April 15: 1854 Treaty Authority Natural Resources Program with Darren Vogt

►April 22: Answering the Call of the Loon with Steve Maanum with Rachel Hedlund

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2025



lakes iced three feet thick
two months done and it is june

transition to warmth

Libraries

Ely library

Hours: Monday – Friday,
9 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
Ledgerock Church, 1515 E.
Camp St., Ely.

BABBITT AA - 7 p.m.
Thursdays, Woodland
Presbyterian Church.

AL-ANON - Sundays
8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony's
Catholic Church in Ely.

BABBITT AL-ANON -
Thursdays, 7 p.m., at
Woodland Presbyterian
CO-DEPENDENTS'
12-step support group, 4:00
p.m. Tuesdays, hosted by
Well Being Development,
Ely. *This meeting is sus-
pended 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.

STAYING STRONG

After 25 years cancer free, Simpson remains unstoppable

by KIRSTEN REICHEL
Contributing Writer

COOK- Each April is a special month for Brenna Simpson, of Cook, and it has been so her whole life for a couple of different reasons.

Not only was she born in April, it is also the month that she was first diagnosed with cancer in 2000. This year, on April 5, she is celebrating 25 years of being cancer free - her 25th “cancerversary.”

When she was first diagnosed with leukemia in 2000, at the age of three, she didn’t understand what that even meant. However, her parents were afraid when they heard those three words, “She has cancer.” In the intervening years, however, she’s learned to focus on her future and celebrate survivorship.

In the United States, about 3,500 children are diagnosed with leukemia each year. Leukemia is the most common childhood cancer, making up about a third of all pediatric cancers.

Brenna was very fortunate that her brother, Bo, was a perfect bone marrow donor match at just six years old. He was 100 percent compatible, when the typical compatibility is usually 25 percent.

And only one in approximately 250,000 donors are 100 percent compatible. A huge hurdle was jumped knowing she had a match right off the bat.

Prior to her transplant, she underwent chemotherapy and radi-

ation to kill off her entire immune system to prepare her body for the new bone marrow. Once the immune levels came to zero, it was time for the bone marrow transplant.

The procedure and recovery led to a three-month stay in the Cities for her and her mom. Family, friends, and community support all played an essential role in the process.

Her dad and Bo made the trip to the Cities from Cook every week and sometimes for more extended stays when Bo was done with school for the summer. He moved in with Brenna and his mom for a time to be able to be closer to them.

On April 5, 2000, Brenna survived a bone marrow transplant. From then she has remained cancer-free for the past 25 years.

The odds of her cancer returning are slim to none, but she does still live with muscular dystrophy, which was a result of the weakening of her immune system prior to the bone marrow transplant.

Prior to her cancer diagnosis, she suffered a severe stroke in February of 2019, and spent about two weeks in the hospital. It is believed that her heart played a factor in causing the stroke.

In hopes of concluding the heart issues, Brenna underwent a heart ablation.

The ablation, a minimally invasive procedure, was meant to fix her heart rhythm issues by cauterizing problematic heart tissue. It’s



ABOVE: Brenna’s tattoo reminds her of her struggles and keeps her moving forward. submitted

RIGHT: A recent photo of Brenna and her brother Bo. photo courtesy of Susan Mankus Photography

often the preferred treatment for conditions like atrial fibrillation in which she was experiencing.

However, the ablation procedure was not a success, necessitating medication that ultimately put her into heart failure.

In March of 2021, at the Minneapolis Heart Institute, she had a pacemaker implanted, and has been experiencing excellent heart rhythms since.

I wrote an article about her battle with cancer about five years ago. Brenna recently contacted me to write a follow-up story as she now celebrates her 25th year of being cancer-free.

She maintains regular visits with doctors to manage side ef-



fects that may be related to cancer, chemotherapy, and radiation. They carefully monitor her labs and other tests to ensure her overall health.

She also takes multiple medications for commodities related to effects that are potentially related to her past chemo and radiation treatments.

Brenna is currently employed as a loan clerk at North Star Credit Union in Cook, a job she really enjoys.

She loves spending time outdoors when the weather is pleasant, enjoying the company of family and friends, engaging in various activities such as side-by-side riding, bonfires, concerts, shopping, and many other activities.

Taking a pontoon ride is another enjoyable summer activity. In the winter, she occasionally indulges in ice fishing. She’s up for any adventure that comes her way!

Despite her willingness to participate in as many activities as she can, she does continue to face various medical difficulties; the most challenging being severe dependent edema in her lower extremities due to wheelchair limitations.

When I asked what her usual yearly cancer-free celebration is, Brenna responded, “I don’t have a unique tradition, but I certainly make April 5th a special day every year, even more so than my birthday which is the 13th. However, this year is a BIG one – it’s 25 YEARS, and I couldn’t be more blessed.

“Despite these obstacles, I remain grateful for the journey I’ve been on and reaching this milestone, with hopes of continuing to defy the odds.

“I continue to have a very close relationship with my life-saver brother Bo. Never would I have thought that 25 years later I would be where I am at today. ‘Stay Strong!’ is a phrase I tell myself every day. My first tattoo, on my left wrist, carries those words. Every time I see it, I’m reminded of my inner strength.

“It is a story of both happy and sad memories, but a beautiful outcome for my family that has been faced with unexpected circumstances.”

Council studies aging wastewater system issues and options

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK — A recent inspection by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) was enough incentive for city officials to convene a special meeting last Thursday to get some education on wastewater systems, the inspection process, known deficiencies of Cook’s aging wastewater system and possible fixes, and being equipped to ensure that the city is staying on the right side of environmental compliance.

Representatives Marc Weikert and Terah Rinerson from the Minnesota Rural Water Association were present to review the findings of the inspection, shared concerns about system conditions, and outline possible avenues for funding and long-term repairs. The main takeaway: while the infrastructure shows wear, the city’s response has been proactive, and help is available.

No violations

Cook’s wastewater system, like many in small rural towns, was due for an inspection. According to Weikert, a wastewater assessment expert, MPCA found several areas of noncompliance, but emphasized that none were formal violations.

“These are the kinds of findings you’d expect on any visit,” Weikert told the council. “They’re not violations, just things to monitor and maintain.”

Tim Lilya, the city’s wastewater operator, was commended for promptly addressing the state’s recommendations. Officials credited his follow-through for keeping the city in good standing with regulators.

Erosion and aging

More concerning were findings related to the system’s physical condition. Cook’s wastewater ponds, built in 1969, are showing signs of age, most notably the secondary pond’s riprap barrier, which has begun to erode.

“The rocks that hold the dike in place are collapsing into the pond,” Weikert said. “That opens the door to erosion, and even worse, burrowing animals like muskrats that compromise the structure.”

If left unaddressed, those kinds of failures could lead to contaminated wastewater escaping into nearby fields or water systems. Control structures between ponds are also degrading due to corrosion from hydrogen sulfide, making it harder to manage water flow effectively.

Facility plan being updated

An earlier facility plan drawn up in 2021 estimated costs of about \$357,000 for needed repairs, including lift station work that has since been completed. That figure is now being updated, with new estimates expected soon.

“We’re revising the plan and updating cost estimates

to keep our spot on the state’s project priority list,” engineer John Jamnick from JPJ Engineering told the council. That list is key to securing state and federal funding for construction and rehabilitation.

Cook has submitted annual funding requests to state and federal agencies, including the offices of Sen. Tina Smith and Rep. Pete Stauber, in hopes of tapping into infrastructure improvement dollars.

The meeting also touched on Cook’s recent struggles with flooding, which placed pressure on its wastewater system and forced crews to act fast. The city brought in truckloads of sand to protect key equipment like lift stations and prevent overflows.

Council members questioned whether a more permanent solution, such as a reinforced concrete barrier or structural elevation, could be funded through grants. Rinerson said options may be available through FEMA and other sources, especially if the city continues to demonstrate a proactive approach.

“They don’t want to give money to a city that’s sitting still,” said Rinerson, a disaster response specialist. “But if you’re preparing and documenting your needs, that puts you higher on the list.”

Monitoring

Officials said maintenance remains a priority. Sludge levels in the wastewater ponds are currently

low, but the city is considering routine monitoring with equipment like a “sludge judge”— a tool for measuring buildup at the bottom of the ponds.

To reduce excess water entering the system from homes and storm sewers, the city is also reviewing ordinances that could require sump pumps to be redirected from sanitary sewers.

“Some of these measures — they’re small, but they can make a big difference,” Weikert said.

City council members expressed interest in a field trip to the wastewater ponds this spring to see the erosion issues first-hand.

“It’s good to get eyes on what’s happening out there,” Weikert said.

Blighted properties

Tim Lilya asked the council to begin assessing \$100-a-week fines on the owners of blighted properties in the city who have not cleaned up the properties despite notices going back to June 2023.

The addresses of the properties Lilya identified are:

- 121 Second Ave. SE
- 122 Second St. SE
- 115 Sixth Ave. SW
- 511 First St. SW
- 20 N Vermilion Dr.
- 220 Second St. NW

Lilya said that the property owners have received numerous letters and were invited to a meeting at which Lilya was prepared to provide them with the names of

contractors who could assist with their cleanup needs, but only one person showed up, and that one did not follow through on the cleanup process.

The council spent a large portion of last year working on the blight ordinance to provide some teeth to it, and this will be the first time that the \$100 weekly fines will be imposed, beginning April 1. If the fines are not paid directly to the city, the city has the option to attach the fines to property tax bills.

In other business, the council:

►Approved a request from the Timber Days committee for the annual fireworks show at the Doug Johnson Recreation Area. Property owners on Lund Rd., an area of past fireworks fallout, will be given the option of being added on to the fireworks vendor’s insurance, and the fire department will station additional resources on the road during the show.

►Approved designating April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Cook.

►Approved the request of Airport Manager Doug McDuff to attend the Minnesota Council of Airports conference in Makato April 23-25. McDuff estimated the cost to be \$996, which exceeds the \$750 allotted in the budget for the conference. Martinson indicated that former Mayor Harold Johnston had made a donation to the city to be used for professional development activities, and that the extra

expense could be covered by those funds, to which the council was agreeable.

►Heard a request from Tammy Palmer for the city to waive the \$30 fee for gambling permits for the Friends of the Parks, as the projects they raise funds for directly benefit city-operated properties such as the parks and community center. The council deferred a decision on the request until their next meeting.

►Approved the use of the downtown park for the Cook Area Farmers Market this summer.

►Approved a request from Ashley Julkowski of Franks Pharmacy to use the city of Cook logo on a line of promotional items to be sold in the store.

►Approved a gambling permit for a Cook Lions Club fundraiser.

►Convened a public hearing for the city’s proposed cannabis ordinance. No citizens offered comments during the hearing.

►Heard a report from Library Director Crystal Whitney. Information about building codes and floodproofing from engineering firm SEH was to be submitted by March 28 to FEMA for determination of which option the agency will fund for repairing or replacing the flood-damaged library.

New North Woods PTO puts together ambitious agenda

COOK- Parents and staff gathered on Monday in the North Woods School library for the second organizational meeting of a new Parent Teacher Organization, aiming to build stronger connections between families and the school, and to ease some of the burdens facing both.

PTO President and founder Kandis Garcia facilitated the meeting which was attended in-person by about a dozen North Woods parents and staff members, with several more joining the meeting virtually. The organization sees virtual access as a vehicle to engage more members on a regular basis.

Much of the conversation focused on a familiar concern for parents and teachers alike: school supplies.

As one person put it, “It’s not just the cost—it’s the inconsistency.” Families often receive long, varied classroom supply lists, and many

teachers end up covering the gap out of their own pockets. While the school offers parents the option of buying a pre-made supplies package, many said the packs were overpriced, and several parents noted that their students often came home at the end of the year with leftover supplies.

To facilitate getting the right kinds and amounts of supplies, which are more extensive and critical in the elementary grades, the group decided the best approach would be to ask for monetary donations so that teachers could maximize the supplies purchased by taking advantage of sales and buying in bulk. The PTO discussed launching a donation campaign at the April 17 elementary school music concert. A flyer would go out in advance, giving families a heads-up, and collections would be taken at the concert.

The PTO also discussed launching an “Adopt-a-Class” program

where community members or businesses could sponsor classroom supplies directly. Organizers said they hope the campaign will evolve into a yearly tradition.

“We want this to be easy, dignified, and helpful for everyone,” one participant said. “No child should go without, and no teacher should feel like they have to pay for basics.”

Beyond supplies, the PTO tackled a wide range of topics, from volunteer support to next year’s shift to a four-day school week. Proposals to create Friday enrichment programs or fund scholarships for families needing childcare received strong support.

Volunteers are still needed for a number of committees, which include:

- Fundraising and Event Planning
- Teacher Relations / PBIS
- Indigenous Representation

- Special Education Representation
- Community Engagement
- Legislative and School Board Monitoring
- Safety Initiatives

The group also discussed a wide array of possible activities and fundraisers, including fall and spring carnivals, movie nights, Bingo, trunk-or-treat, elementary school dances, a book recycle, sponsoring area food trucks at the school’s open house, and more.

The PTO plans to meet monthly, with a promise to keep meetings under an hour.

“The goal is to solve problems, not just talk about them,” Garcia said.

Interested families can contact the school, call Garcia at 218-966-7894, or keep an eye on the North Woods Grizzlies Facebook page for upcoming event details.

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TARIFFS...Continued from page 1

reports that average monthly car loan payments are up 26 percent for new cars and 30 percent for used cars over the past five years. Various analysts estimate that Trump’s tariffs will add anywhere from \$4,500 to \$20,000 to the cost of a new vehicle, depending on the model and its foreign content. Trump’s steel and aluminum tariffs are projected to add \$250-\$800 on top of that for gas-powered vehicles and \$2,500 or more for electric vehicles, further exacerbating price increases.

The wide variation in estimates is due in part to uncertainty over how the auto tariffs will be applied. Vehicles manufactured under the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) will reportedly be subject to tariffs only on their non-Amer-

ican content, while vehicles from other countries will have the full tariff applied. So, if a vehicle imported from Mexico has 40 percent of its content coming from U.S. sources, only the 60 percent of Mexican-sourced content would be subject to the tariffs.

The tariff on automotive parts, including engines, transmissions, power train components, and electrical components will be similarly taxed once the government figures out how they will assess those items, which was not expected to be finalized as of Wednesday. The majority of cars manufactured in America have at least 40 percent of their parts sourced from other countries, and virtually none have less than 15 percent foreign components. That means virtually every

car made and sold in the U.S. will be affected by Trump’s tariffs in some way.

The increase in new car prices is also expected to have an inflationary effect on the used car market, as drivers are priced out of the new car market. Higher demand for limited stock leads to higher prices, analysts say.

Repairs and insurance

The Minnesota Department of Commerce issued a warning last week that tariffs on vehicle components imported from Canada, Mexico, and China could also significantly increase the cost of car repairs and insurance premiums.

“This is a manmade crisis that will make it more expensive for every day Minnesotans to drive,” said Commerce Commissioner Grace Arnold

in a press release.

Nearly 60 percent of replacement auto parts used in the U.S. come from the three countries facing new tariffs, according to the American Property Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA). When those parts get more expensive, so do the repairs—and that, in turn, drives up insurance claims and premiums.

Auto insurance costs have already climbed significantly in Minnesota. A 2024 analysis by Insurify, an auto insurance comparison company, found that Minnesota had the highest percentage increase of insurance premiums in the country at 58 percent over 2023. The Insurance Federation of Minnesota points to several reasons: more expensive car repairs, rising legal claims, and the increasing number of

extreme weather events like hailstorms, which lead to more damage and more claims.

The new tariffs could worsen the trend. The APCIA estimates that personal vehicle insurance claims could jump by as much as \$24 billion nationally.

“If insurance companies are paying more to fix or replace vehicles, they may pass those costs on to drivers,” said Arnold.

Higher repair costs mean higher insurance premiums for many Minnesotans, especially when policies come up for renewal—typically every six to 12 months. While the state regulates insurance rates, companies can still file for adjustments if they can show that higher costs are driving the changes.

“Minnesota’s insurance

market is competitive, and consumers can often shop around,” Arnold said. “But these tariffs threaten the stability insurance markets rely on to keep rates affordable.”

What you can do

The Department of Commerce urges residents to:

- Review their current auto insurance policy.
- Shop around for competitive rates.
- Factor in potential increases to future budgets.

“Whether it’s commuting to work, dropping kids off at daycare, or getting across town, these tariffs could hit Minnesotans right in the wallet,” Arnold said.

HUMANITY...Continued from page 1

Did you know?

- In 2021, only 150 homes were built in Minnesota for four-person households making less than \$31,000.
- St. Louis County home values increased 43 percent from 2000–2019. Homeowner income during that period only increased eight percent.
- Twenty-five percent of renters in St. Louis County pay more than half of their income towards housing.
- Our volunteers contribute over 2,500 hours per home in 2022.
- You can earn an 85-percent tax credit by donating to Habitat housing projects. See their website for details.

not building homes for families,” said Nathan Thompson, executive director of the North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity.

Thompson stressed that the home is earned by the recipient families involved. Partner families take classes on home ownership, and work with Habitat before and after the home is purchased. They will have an affordable mortgage payment and will also pay property taxes on their new home. “This is not a free house,” Thompson said.

Habitat works on a pay-it-forward model, so the mortgage payment on this home, and others recently built, go to fund the construction and renovation of new homes in years to come. To date, this local Habitat chapter has built 120 homes which pay a total of \$93,000 a year in local property taxes. The Rynders house is one of seven Habitat projects in 2025. Thompson said the IRRR also helped fund the renovations at the house and has given Habitat another grant for upcoming projects.

At a brief dedication ceremony held on March 26, Thompson talked about the history of the house, which was special in several different ways.

“St. James’ members planted lots of trees,” said

Thompson, “and used the money earned to build this house.” Now, Thompson said, the congregation had donated the house so they could continue to serve their community and this family. “St. James gave us the seed for a new home,” he said. “The house is now ready for a new chapter.”

As part of the dedication, Thompson gave Rynders two gifts: a special bible and a brand-new hammer. The hammer was passed around to everyone attending, reminding Rynders that the house was built with the help of many friends. The hammer, which was brand new, symbolized the new start for the family. Habitat also used the symbol of the hammer, which dates back to Millard Fuller, the founder of Habitat for Humanity in 1965. Fuller felt the hammer was a metaphor for the understanding that their Christian faith mandates that they do more than just talk about their faith and love, but instead to put it into action.

Pastor Richard Blood, who served at St. James back in the 1990s, was on hand to give a blessing during the ceremony.

“This doesn’t happen every day,” Blood said. “Getting to dedicate a house that you used to live in.”

While Habitat usually

builds new homes, the non-profit organization’s board was excited to get the opportunity to renovate this house, which doesn’t take as much planning and manpower as building from the ground up.

Steve Burgess, who worked for three years as the construction manager for Habitat, and now serves on the board of directors, said this was “the best day ever.” He thanked everyone who helped on the project and was excited to see all the improvements made.

Current construction manager Tim Officer, formerly of Soudan, helped on this project, going “above and beyond” according to Thompson. Other volunteers

included Rynders’ family members, Presbyterian Church members from Ely, and Steve Burgess, among many.

Rynders family

Krystal and her two children, 14-year-old Mason and fifth-grader Adelyn, hope to move into their new home in late April. This will be the first time the family has had a home of their own, and her kids are excited to have their own bedrooms. Krystal is excited for a new and fresh start. She works as a CNA at Waterview Woods Nursing Home in Eveleth, a job she enjoys.

The new house will be a huge upgrade from their current apartment, which is too

small for the family, has high rent and even higher utilities. Adelyn is especially excited to have an entire room of her own to decorate. She currently has her bed in a large closet in their apartment.

Habitat home ownership

Habitat families must meet specific criteria, including a demonstrated need for housing, ability to pay a mortgage, and willingness to partner with Habitat. Families must have a stable source of income of at least \$30,000 a year (up to 60-percent of the median household income for one’s family size), have manageable debt, responsible credit practices, and live or work in the area.

Partner families must

not only donate 200 hours of sweat equity but must recruit relatives and friends to donate another 100 hours. Partner families do not need to make a down payment, but are required to cover closing costs, which are currently around \$1,000.

North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity is a locally run affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry.

If you or your group are interested in volunteering, contact Community Engagement Coordinator Tucker Nelson at tucker@nslchfh.org or 218-780-4594.

NOTICE

Residents of

Unorganized Township

63-17

There will be an informational meeting to discuss the upcoming election in regard to organizing the Township.

The meeting will be held

THURSDAY, APRIL 10

at 6 PM

at the Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade building

8025 Oak Narrows Road, Cook, MN

Keep it Clean, ST. LOUIS COUNTY



AURORA TRANSFER STATION 5910 Hwy 135 N, Aurora	HOURS Mon, Thu, Fri: 8 a.m.–4 p.m. Tue, Wed: 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Sat: 8 a.m.–Noon
EMBARRASS CANISTER SITE 7530 Koski Rd, Embarrass	HOURS Sat: 12:30 p.m.– 4:30 p.m. Thu: 10 a.m.– 5 p.m.
NORTHWOODS TRANSFER STATION 9384 Hwy 21 N, Ely/Babbitt	WINTER HOURS Mon, Thu-Sat: 8 a.m.–3 p.m. Tue: 9:30 a.m.–3 p.m. Wed: 11 a.m.–5 p.m.
SOUDAN CANISTER SITE 5160 Hwy 169, Soudan	HOURS Mon, Wed, Sat, Sun: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
REGIONAL LANDFILL 5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia	HOURS Mon-Fri: 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Sat: 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITY 5345 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia	HOURS Tues and Sat: 8 a.m.–1 p.m.

ST. LOUIS COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
218-749-9703 | OFFICE HOURS MON - FRI 8 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.
Winter hours effective October 1 - April 14



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VOYAGEURS...Continued from page 1

forests, but the enduring spirit of adventure and connection to nature that it inspires in all who visit. The story of the park is not just in its landscapes, but the story of people connected to the land. From the Tribal Nations connected to the area for millennia; to early settlers seeking wealth and resources; to those who sold long-held family properties so the area could be protected for generations to come. These waterways have carried those stories for time immemorial and will continue to do so into the future.”

Kickoff events

The opening day celebration on Tuesday includes both in-person and online events:

- NPS Archives Tour – Join Park Archivist Catherine Crawford for a behind-the-scenes look at rare historical materials, documents, and artifacts. The open house will be held at park headquarters



Left: An aerial view overlooking Lake Kabetogama in Voyageurs National Park.
photo by M. Helmberger

partner.

Local activities at a glance

- June 6: Crane Lake Visitor Center Grand Opening – celebration of the park’s eastern gateway and newest visitor center.
- Summer 2025: Voyageurs Photo Contest and Summer Sweepstakes for a chance to win park-themed prizes; Scavenger Hunt on the Oberholtzer Trail (Rainy Lake Visitor Center); Special 50th Anniversary Passport Stamp at visitor centers; Limited-Edition Merchandise & Art Prints by northern Minnesota artist Sam Zimmerman; After-Dark Programs, including telescope nights and night sky tours.
- August 29–30: Voyageurs Star Party –

Astronomy festival with NASA speakers, guided night sky canoe tours, telescope sessions, and more.

- Fall 2025: Symphony Premiere – Composer Marko Bajzer will debut an original orchestral piece, “Sky-Tinted Water,” inspired by Voyageurs landscapes, at various venues throughout Minnesota.

For full event listings and details, visit www.voyageurs.org/50th.

About Voyageurs Conservancy

Voyageurs Conservancy is the official charitable partner of Voyageurs National Park. The nonprofit works closely with the National Park Service to support conservation and recreation projects, advance educational outreach, and protect the wild nature of Minnesota’s only national park.

FIRE...Continued from page 1

dense smoke and low visibility as they worked to extinguish the blaze. Firefighters staged from the side and back of the house, while dense smoke rolled out the front door, at times shrouding the entire street in acrid smoke.

Firefighters dispatched

multiple search crews equipped with self-contained breathing apparatuses into the residence. They discovered a woman inside at 11:56 p.m. who was then taken by the Ely Area Ambulance Service to Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital, where she was later

pronounced dead.

In the belief that a second victim might still be inside the structure, the fire department continued to search until 12:28 a.m. when Fire Chief David Marshall reported to St. Louis County Dispatch that the fire was “mostly out” and that the

firefighters were switching to mop-up operations, pulling down portions of the ceiling and looking for remaining hot spots.

Chief Marshall reported that the fire appeared to have started in the basement, which was finished with a bedroom.

Final determination of the cause, if possible, will be made by the state Fire Marshal’s Office following its investigation.

Public safety agencies responding to the blaze were the Ely, Babbitt, and Morse-Fall Lake Fire Departments,

the Ely Police Department, and the St. Louis County Sheriff’s Office.

The name of the deceased was not available at press time, pending notification of her family.



Ely Young Life



20TH ANNUAL SWEET SPRING AUCTION

Bidding is OPEN Sunday, April 6 – 13

Items close on April 13 at half-hour increments starting from 2:30–6 PM

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ELY.YOUNGLIFE.ORG

- Adventure Inn - Two nights Jacuzzi Suite
- AJ's Fast Lube - Oil changes
- Anderson, Dawn - Dream catcher, hand-beaded earrings
- Arrowhead Outdoors - Bait, lithium battery kit, & Universal Sonar Flasher Case Roamer Shuttle
- Bagge, Erika - Cookie of the month - (1 doz. each mo.)
- Bianco, Joe and Mary - Triple chocolate cheesecake
- Bina, Cindy - Fine silver jewelry
- Bloomers - \$25 Gift certificate
- Blue Loon Boutique - \$50 Gift certificates & painting
- Boathouse Restaurant - Microbrew tasting & appetizers
- Boundary Waters Septic - 2 Residential septic pumping
- Brainstorm Bakery - Pumpkin Rolls
- Brandenburg Gallery - Jim Brandenburg photo card sets
- Britton's Cafe - \$20 Gift certificates
- Cache Lake - Camping food
- Canoe Country Outfitters - One-week Kevlar canoe rental
- Chernak, Sue - Pottery bowls
- Colarich, Char - Linens sets
- Cole, Autumn - Child's quilt and pillow
- Cove Point Lodge Restaurant - 2 Night stay
- Curtiss, Carly (Functional Fitness) - 60 min sports massage
- D & D Accounting - \$135 in services
- Dairy Queen - Ten small blizzards (1/month)
- Dale's on Lake of the Woods - 2 night stays: RV & fish house
- Dan MacCoy Chimney Sweeps - Chimney sweep and inspection
- Dan's Garage - \$50 off any service
- Dannenbring, Greg - "Moose Tracks" wood burn wall art
- Devine, Meg - Upcycled earrings and handmade soap
- Dirty Dog Manufacturing - YL logo fleece pullover & vest
- Dock on Wheels - Dock benches
- Domino's Pizza - Large specialty pizzas
- Dorothy Molter Museum - Family membership, root beer package
- Dunnom, Janet - Fondue party for 6
- Dutchman Tree Service - \$2500 toward Phase 1 balsam trimming
- Ely Auto - \$100 Gift certificate
- Ely Bike and Kicksled - Bike & kicksled rentals
- Ely Chiropractic Clinic - Tri-Core pillow
- Ely Fire Department - Private rides
- Ely Flower and Seed - Moss hanging flower basket
- Ely Golf Club - Nine-hole round of golf for two with cart
- Ely License Bureau - Custom boat vinyl lettering
- Ely Memorial Senior High - Athletic passes
- Ely Mercantile Co. - Gift basket
- Ely Surplus - \$25 Gift certificate
- Ely Veterinary Clinic - Dog food
- Ely Vision Center - Nonprescription sunglasses
- Ely's Historic State Theater - Movie passes
- Eric Sherman Images - Wilderness photo puzzles
- Erzar, Debbie - Quilted table toppers
- Evergreen Spa & Wellness - Iron tree sculpture
- Faltesek, Evan - Custom cutting board and charcuterie board
- Fisher Maps - Map set covering Ely area
- Fortune Bay Resort - One-night stay & \$50 dinner voucher
- Gator's Emporium - Pizza party
- Gene Hicks Gourmet Coffee - Coffee baskets
- Gilbert, Paulette - Basket of embroidered kitchen items
- Gracie's Plant Works - \$25 Gift certificate
- Grand Ely Lodge - 2 Night stay package

- Great Lakes Aquarium - 4 Admission passes
- Greiner, Randy - Wooden signs
- Gunflint Lodge - Zipline passes, pontoon rental
- Healthy Family Chiropractic - Wellness gift basket
- High, Claire - Gift basket of baked goods and spreads
- Highland Bank - Stadium blankets
- Holen, Jo - Melaleuca & RENEW products gift packages
- Hunter, Anne - \$100 Cabi gift certificate
- Ingerson Family - Epic kayak
- Insula - \$50 gift cards & bottles of wine
- International Wolf Center - 4 General passes
- Jessie Brooks Massage - 60 minute massage & wellness pkg.
- Joe's Marine - Stihl gift set & \$25 gift certificate
- Kaetterhenry, Dennis - Bucket of "Farmhouse" matchsticks
- Kaiser, Bob - Suncatchers
- Kidd, Kris - Metal print, greeting cards
- Kleist, Steve - Coat hangers
- Kottke, Carrie - Carrie-Mels & \$25 gift cards
- KTIS Northwestern - Four annual Christmas concert tickets
- L & M - \$50 gift certificate
- Laine, Susan - Custom carrot cakes
- LaTourell's Resort - Canoe paddles
- Lee, Stephen - Twins tickets
- Lepisto, Andrea - Jewelry and 2-hour house cleaning
- Log Cabin Coffee - \$50 gift certificate
- Low Impact Excavating - Class 5 gravel
- Lucky 7 Store - Car wash gift certificates
- MacCoy, Sarah Kahle - Dog or cat sitting
- Magee, Heather - Five Pines Candle Co. candles
- Mealey's Gift & Sauna - \$25 Gift certificate
- Merhar's Ace Hardware - \$50 Gift certificate
- Mike Nielsen Logging - 1 Cord firewood - cut, split, delivered
- Mischke, Sue - "Autumn Waters" watercolor painting
- Mitska's Market - \$10 Gift certificate
- Moravitz, Erin - Key lime pies
- Nate Bargatze - 2 Comedy show tickets, May 8 in Duluth
- Neighbor's BBQ - \$50 Gift certificate
- Nesteroff, Margie - Breakfast basket
- North American Bear Center - Admission tickets and "Got Milk," a Lynn Rodgers signed print
- Northern Expressions - Single scoop waffle cones
- North Shore Camping Co. - 2 Nights stay - Glamping
- OJ's HVAC & Refrigeration Inc - Dewalt drill & driver set
- Olson, Brenda - Handmade soaps & soap making class
- Olson, Justin - Tres Leches cake
- Orcutt Guide Service - Half-day guided fishing for two
- Passananti, Stan - Authentic Italian dinner for 6
- Pebble Spa - 60 min. massage, acupuncture w/Sarah Murn
- Penke, Matt & Sherry - Yeti cooler, \$50 Costco gift certificate
- Piragis Northwoods Co. - Northwoods picnic package
- Portage North - Prospector satchel and Nalgene
- Range LP Gas - 20# LP cylinder tank refills
- Raven Words Press - 2 book sets
- Razor Edge - \$30 certificates
- Rue, Jan - Dozen scones
- Rusty Nail Woodcraft - MN-shaped cribbage board
- Schoonover Honey - Bottles of Dewitt, MI honey
- Sheridan Street Deli - Cheesecake
- Skelton, Stan - 1 hr Scenic float or skiplane ride

- Smith's Piano Tuning - One regular piano tuning
- Solum, Linda - 2 dz Biscotti
- Spirit of the Wilderness - \$50 Gift certificates
- St. Paul Saints - 2 Outfield reserved tickets
- Stahl, Carol - Watercolor prints
- Stony Ridge - \$50 gift certificates
- Stouffer, Carol - Sour cream orange rolls
- Studio A - Rusk volumizing mousse
- Studio North - 1 wk of Pilates North classes, youth dance pkg.
- Sundell Eye Associates - "Belah" Kate Spade sunglasses
- Svatos, Sharon - Guinness Chocolate Cake w/Irish Cream
- Swanson Excavating - Class 5 gravel
- Swanson, Ardie - Northwoods lap quilt
- Tara Kay Photography - Photoshoot \$100 gift certificate
- The Boat Club Restaurant - \$50 Gift certificate
- Thomas Erickson - "Miners Dry House" oil on canvas
- Thompson, Anna - Paula Dean's chocolate malt cake
- Three Jewels Pottery - Handmade ceramic mug
- Tim's Auto - Oil change
- Today, Dave - Half-day guided fishing trip for two
- Vermilion Veterinary Clinic - \$100 gift certificate
- Wetzel, Tom & Mischke, Larry - Walleye fish fry
- Wick, Chuck - Hand-crafted cutting boards and wooden tray
- Wilderness Wood Fire Pizza - 2 Specialty large pizzas
- Wolfland Computers & Hobby - Little Ely water tower
- Young Life Camp Fundraiser - 3-hour spring yard clean-up
- Zup's Food Market Ely - \$100 grocery gift cards
- Zup's Food Market Babbitt - Variety of brats for grilling

- Anonymous Donations:**
- Manicure & Pedicure at Roots Salon
 - Haircut & Partial Foil at Roots Salon
 - \$100 Chamber Bucks
 - \$50 Natural Harvest Food Coop Gift Card
 - 60-minute Massage by Evergreen Spa & Wellness

- Financial Contributions:**
- Ely Credit Union
 - Frandsen Bank
 - RMS Virginia
 - Voyageur Outfitters
 - Serena's Carpet
 - John Passananti
 - Matt & Sherry Penke



Local tragedies

Tower man found dead in his home

TOWER— A 55-year-old man was found deceased in his home here during a

welfare check by the Breitung Police Department on Sunday. Robert Michael Glinsek, of 5617 Pine St., was found dead at about 2:30 p.m., at which point the police secured the scene pending a cause of death determination by the medical examiner.

In light of the circum-

stances surrounding the death, the Breitung police asked the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension to assist local authorities with the investigation. Following an autopsy, the medical examiner determined the death was due to natural causes.

Int’l Falls youth dies in ski accident

GIANTS RIDGE— A young International Falls man was killed here last Saturday

as a result of a skiing accident. Christian Hufnagle, 21, was pronounced dead at Essentia North Pines in Aurora after an emergency response by the Giants Ridge ski patrol and the Biwabik Ambulance.

“Medical staff attempted all available life-saving

measures,” according to a statement by the Gilbert Police Department. The police provided no additional details of the incident but indicated that an investigation is underway with assistance from the local ski patrol.

Flambeau Mine offers arguments for both sides in mining debate

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

LADYSMITH, Wis.— Since the Flambeau Mine, located just outside this small northwestern Wisconsin community, closed in 1997, it has served as a kind of Rorschach test for both supporters and opponents of sulfide-based mining in and around the Great Lakes.

Here in northeastern Minnesota, supporters of the proposed NorthMet and Twin Metals copper-nickel mine proposals, regularly cite the Flambeau Mine, built by Rio Tinto/Kennecott subsidiary Flambeau Mining Co., as an example of a sulfide-based deposit that was successfully mined and closed without polluting ground or surface water. Considering the likelihood that these proposals could gain new traction under the Trump administration and given that Foth Engineering, the firm that conducted much of the engineering for the Flambeau Mine, is involved with others in northeastern Minnesota, it’s worth examining those claims.

To the Flambeau Mining Co., which completed reclamation of the copper and gold mine in 1999, there is little question that the company met its obligations under the regulations established by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

“Flambeau Reclaimed, promises made, promises kept” is part of the logo now used on the company’s letterhead, which continues to sample and test groundwater twice a year from about 20 monitoring wells located in and around the former mine pit. According to a statement from Rio Tinto, those tests “show conclusively that ground water quality surrounding the [mine] site is as good as it was before mining.”

Yet, the term “surrounding the mine site” seems to be an important qualifier in that Rio Tinto statement. In fact, there is no evidence that the company has failed to meet groundwater standards outside of a designated “compliance boundary” that extends roughly a quarter mile out from the perimeter of the former mine pit.

Yet, as mine critics point out, within both the backfilled mine pit as well as some test wells located near the former pit (but within the compliance boundary), the company’s own test data shows clear

and substantial contamination from a variety of heavy metals, including arsenic and manganese, at levels far above those found prior to mining and well above water quality standards.

According to the 1990 Environmental Impact Statement completed by the Wisconsin DNR, private water supply wells near the mine averaged 1.5 parts per billion (ppb) of arsenic and 217 ppb of manganese prior to the opening of the mine. Yet water quality tests conducted by the company as recently as last November show arsenic levels in test wells within the former pit as high as 24-32 ppb and manganese levels as high as 27,800 ppb in a shallow well, far in excess of the public health standard of 300 ppb.

And while contaminant readings are higher within the pit itself than anywhere else, two test wells located between the former pit and the Flambeau River showed arsenic levels in testing last fall ranging from 19.4 to 12.1 ppb and manganese levels ranging from 85.7 to 1,750 ppb.

The mine itself was in a sensitive location, just 140 feet from the edge of the Flambeau River, which is why the mine proved controversial when Kennecott originally proposed to build the facility in the early 1970s. That proposal prompted Wisconsin to update its mining regulations and the Flambeau Mine was the first and, so far, only, mine approved in the state since the new rules were put into effect. It was only later, in the early 1990s, that the proposed mine moved forward and as part of its closure plan, the company proposed to build a dam on the pit’s southwest end, which lay closest to the Flambeau River. It’s that dam that appears to have allowed some contaminants to migrate from the pit to the surrounding groundwater very close to the river.

“It is moving out, it’s just a matter of how quickly it’s moving out,” said David Chambers, a geophysicist with 45 years of experience in mineral exploration and development. Chambers is also the founder and president of the Center for Science in Public Participation, which provides technical advice and support to grassroots organizations working on mining related issues.

At the same time, it’s

notable that the level of manganese contamination within the mine pit itself appears to be declining slowly but steadily from the peaks seen in the years immediately after the company backfilled the mine pit with a combination of waste rock and limestone. At the same time, arsenic levels appear to be rising. Chambers said the generating of metals will continue at the site for years based on the well-known process when sulfide-based ore is exposed to air and water.

Despite the level of contaminants found in the groundwater near the river, it isn’t clear that it is affecting the river itself. The Flambeau is only about five feet deep in the vicinity and its connection to groundwater in that location is uncertain. “Some contaminants are probably going under the river,” said Chambers. “They may be impacting [private] wells on the other side.”

Laura Gauger, a Duluth resident and activist who has written a book about the Flambeau Mine, said the possible contamination of private drinking wells located on the opposite side of the river is one of her biggest concerns, but it’s one that may never be answered. “There are no test wells on the other side of the river, so there’s no monitoring,” Gauger noted.

It’s not the only example where lack of monitoring could be working to the advantage of the mining company. In addition to groundwater near the former pit, a small adjacent stream, known as Stream C, is now listed as impaired by the Wisconsin DNR due to high levels of copper. “Both the mining company and the state of Wisconsin are taking the position that it’s a little stream, so it’s not a big deal,” said Chambers, who has examined the stream in question. He believes that the surface contamination is coming from fugitive copper dust left over from a former ore loading dock at the mine that likely created dust during loading operations. That metal-containing dust appears to be slowly migrating into the stream.

Chambers acknowledges that the levels and the volume of metals being discharged in the stream aren’t extraordinary, but he notes that a monitoring station on the Flambeau

MINING

But does it provide a case study for proposed sulfide mines in NE Minnesota?

River, located immediately downstream of Stream C, has been discontinued. “I don’t think we have any case of egregious environmental harm, but if there is we wouldn’t know it,” said Chambers.

The *Timberjay* reached out to Wisconsin-based Foth Engineering, which designed the Flambeau Mine, for comment on the effectiveness of their operational and closure plans. The company did not respond prior to press time.

A case study for larger operations?

While the debate over the pollution impact of the Flambeau Mine is likely to continue for decades, the larger question is whether the former mine provides a relevant example that could help to illuminate the risks associated with proposed mines in northeastern Minnesota.

That appears tenuous at best. By the scale of the proposed Minnesota mines, the

Flambeau Mine was tiny, with a 32-acre mine pit, created by the removal of a high-grade ore containing as much as ten percent copper and lesser percentages of gold, silver, and zinc. The mine’s total footprint, including associated surface buildings and related facilities, covered just 181 acres. After operating for four years, removing a total of 1.9 million tons of ore, the 8.6 million tons of waste rock was placed back in the pit and the site was revegetated and buildings removed, leaving a site that one would need to examine closely to determine it once contained a mine.

The Flambeau Mine left no tailings behind on the site since the ore was of such high grade that it was economical to ship it to Canada in raw form for processing.

By contrast, the deposits proposed for mining by NewRange Copper (formerly PolyMet) and Twin Metals mines are very low-grade—less than one percent copper,

and the associated mining operations would be massive in scale compared to Flambeau, involving total footprints in the range of several thousand acres. Both would permanently leave hundreds of millions of tons of surface stockpiles of waste rock as well as tens of millions of tons of tailings from processing, leaving the potential for contamination for centuries. The original NorthMet proposal would directly impact over 900 acres of wetlands, compared to eight acres impacted by the Flambeau Mine.

Since both proposed northeastern Minnesota copper-nickel mines are currently in the process of revamping their mine plans, the specific details of each could change if and when new mine plans are issued.

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KICK OFF
to Kindergarten

If you have a child who will be 5 years old by September 1, 2025, they are eligible to enter Kindergarten next fall.

You are invited to attend Parent Information and Registration Night on Wed., April 9, 5:30-6:30 PM in Washington Auditorium.

This informational session is a chance for parents to ask questions and start the registration process.

If your child is not enrolled in a pre-school program, please contact the elementary office at 365-6166. ext. 4.

We look forward to creating a positive transition to kindergarten for your child! Feel free to contact us if you have any questions at: 218-365-6166, ext. 4.

CRIME

Counterfeit \$100 bills circulating locally

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- The Breitung Police Department has received reports of numerous fake \$100 bills being circulated and used in various locations in the Tower/Soudan area.

“Please be vigilant, the bills do

appear real,” said police chief Dan Reing. “If any of our area business locations suspect a fake bill is used, please notify our office.”

Reing reported three fake \$100 bills were discovered at Frandsen Bank in Tower, and one had been used at Zup’s Grocery. The coun-

terfeits are rather well done, said Reing, though the paper quality is different, more paper-like, than real bills, and the color is a little off.

For tips of spotting a counterfeit bill, visit <https://www.uscurrency.gov/>.

Right: One of the counterfeit bills found in the area.



COUNTY SCHOOLS

District responds to Indian Education concerns, promises progress

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

VIRGINIA- After a local advisory group of American Indian parents flagged a long list of concerns about how the ISD 2142 St. Louis County School district handles Indian Education, school officials say they’re listening – and making changes.

The list of noncompliance issues raised by the American Indian Parent Advisory Committee (AIPAC) touched on everything from staffing and curriculum to community engagement and the use of student data. District leaders responded in writing, acknowledging some missteps while outlining efforts already underway and plans to do better moving forward.

The board reviewed their formal response at the March 25 regular board meeting, with member Chris Koivisto facilitating the discussion.

Oversight and planning

One major issue was the lack of consistent collaboration between the district and AIPAC on critical decisions, especially around how federal and state funding is used. Parents said home visits meant to support Indian Education

students hadn’t been happening as required, and that key advisory voices were being left out of planning processes.

The district pushed back slightly, saying those meetings are happening and that the committee is invited to participate. Still, they admitted there’s room for improvement, especially when it comes to documenting home visits and making sure federal funding rules are fully understood and followed.

Hiring and training

AIPAC members said there aren’t enough Native teachers and staff, and that the district hasn’t done enough to recruit or retain them. They also raised concerns that teachers and administrators haven’t been given the training they need to understand and support American Indian students.

District officials say job postings will include a note encouraging Native applicants, and that they’re working with tribal communities to get the word out. They also pointed to ongoing cultural competency training – some of it required for licensure – and said they’re open to more opportunities suggested by AIPAC members.

Koivisto underscored the board’s commitment to equity and collaboration in these efforts.

“We must continue to work together to ensure that the decisions we make honor the traditions, concerns, and aspirations of the American Indian community,” he said, “and that we remain dedicated to the academic success and cultural sensitivity of every student.”

Curriculum concerns

Families say the curriculum doesn’t reflect local tribal history or culture in a meaningful way, and that even when good materials exist, they aren’t consistently used across schools or classrooms. They also noted that many teachers are left to decide on their own how much American Indian content to include, or not include, in their lessons.

The district responded by pointing to some existing resources, including the Northern Lights curriculum used in some grades, and said plans are in the works to roll out American Indian language and culture classes across the district starting next school year. They also said staff are reviewing curriculum to find gaps and better align with new

state standards.

Community engagement

AIPAC members said the district hasn’t done enough to build relationships with American Indian families and community leaders. Cultural events are rare, and there’s little in the way of planned programs to welcome families into the school environment. They also want to identify tribal policies or cultural practices that affect American Indian student performance, especially regarding attendance.

District leaders said they’re open to supporting cultural absences and that they want more parents and community members involved. They invited families to monthly meetings and said they’re looking for ideas on how to create more family learning opportunities and informal connections.

“Our shared goal remains to create an educational environment where every student feels seen, heard, and supported,” Koivisto said. “I look forward to further collaboration with the AIPAC committee, parents, educators, and community members to find solutions that best serve all students.”

Using data for change

Finally, parents voiced concern that while the district collects data on things like attendance, graduation, and discipline, that information isn’t being used effectively to make programs better. They said AIPAC and tribal partners are often left out of conversations about what the data means and what to do with it.

The district acknowledged that while some of the data is shared at meetings such as AIPAC and tribal consultations, they haven’t always used it effectively to drive change. They pointed to programs like Dream Catcher and restorative practices as tools to address disparities, and said they’re committed to doing more with the data going forward, including bringing AIPAC more fully into those discussions.

The district’s response doesn’t resolve every issue, but it does show a willingness to engage, and that’s something both sides say they want to build on.

“While the non-concurrence vote indicates there is still work to be done, I see this as an opportunity to continue

to engage in open, respectful dialogue and identify common ground,” Koivisto said. “I would like to sincerely thank the AIPAC committee for generously volunteering their time, dedication, and commitment to supporting both students and the ISD 2142 schools. Their contributions are invaluable to the success of our partnership.”

In other business at the March 25 meeting, the board:

- Approved updates to policies on harassment and violence and literacy and the Read Act.
- Held first readings for revisions to policies on staff development and mentoring, school-sponsored student publications and activities, student medication and telehealth, fixed asset inventory and accounting, and community notification of predatory offenders.
- Approved a three-year achievement and integration plan, including specific plans for Tower-Soudan School as a racially-identifiable qualifying school.
- As previously reported, approved the change to a four-day school attendance week for the 2025-26 school year.

CRIME

Cook teen arrested for alleged car theft

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

OWENS TWP- A Cook teenager is facing felony charges after allegedly taking a vehicle without permission from a home in Owens Township on the morning of Saturday, March 22.

According to a criminal complaint filed in St. Louis County District Court, 19-year-old Ayden Jack Weatheron, of Cook, has been charged with felony motor vehicle theft after authorities say he took a 2015 Chevrolet Impala from a residence without the owner’s consent.

The vehicle’s owners, Penny and Karl Weatheron, told deputies they had allowed Ayden to stay at their home for a few days. But when they woke up on the morning of March 22, both Ayden and their car were gone. They confirmed to law enforcement that no one had given Ayden permission to drive the vehicle, and that they both

wanted him held accountable.

Roughly 90 minutes later, at 9:17 a.m., a sheriff’s deputy spotted the missing vehicle near the Nichols Town Hall in Mt. Iron. After following it, the deputy initiated a traffic stop near the intersection of U.S. Hwy. 53 and Shady Pines Drive in Wuori Township. The driver was identified as Ayden Weatheron and was taken into custody without incident.

Weatheron is currently being held in St. Louis County Jail with bail set at \$18,000. If convicted, he could face up to five years in prison, a \$10,000 fine, or both.

Domestic assault charge

While Weatheron’s driver’s license indicates a Cook address, he had apparently been living in Mt. Iron, according to a deputy’s report filed March 16 in conjunction with a charge of fear-inducing domestic assault. Weatheron had reportedly been staying at the home of his girlfriend and her parents

in Mt. Iron for over a year, and the young couple were parents to a four-week-old child born on Feb. 13. Weatheron called dispatchers to report that the infant’s grandparents had taken him out of the home, saying that the baby’s doctor had said to not take the premature infant out of the home until he was six weeks old.

During the initial response to the residence, officers confirmed that the child’s grandparents “wanted Ayden out of the house.” The grandmother alleged that Weatheron had been mean and verbally abusive to her daughter, and that she was worried he might be abusive to the baby. The deputy advised the grandmother that they would have to file eviction paperwork, then spoke with Weatheron and the grandmother and determined that they did not need any further assistance at that time. A short while later, Weatheron contacted the deputy directly saying that “they were trying

to take his son,” according to the report. A third party called a dispatcher to report that Weatheron was aggravated and had punched and damaged doors and had locked himself in a basement room with the baby. After the deputy made contact with Weatheron, the baby’s mother was able to retrieve the infant, but it took longer to coax Weatheron upstairs, where he was taken into custody for “fear-based domestic assault” and taken to the jail in Virginia. Under Minnesota’s domestic assault law, committing an act with the intent to cause fear of immediate bodily harm to a family or household member is a misdemeanor punishable by up to 90 days in jail, a \$1,000 fine, or both. Weatheron is scheduled for pre-trial hearings on both charges on Monday, April 7 in St. Louis County District Court in Virginia.

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READ THE TIMBERJAY!



FISHERIES

Vermilion walleye numbers dip, but remain strong

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

LAKE VERMILION — Walleye fishing on Lake Vermilion should be solid once again when the 2025 season gets underway on Saturday, May 10, at least based on fall test netting completed by the Department of Natural Resources.

While the lake-wide walleye catch was slightly below average, the numbers remain well above all but a handful of lakes in Minnesota. On a lake-wide

Strong electro-fishing results suggest a strong 2024 year-class

basis, the fall survey averaged 13.9 walleye per net. Numbers were slightly higher in the lake’s eastern basin, with an average of 14.7 per net, compared to 12.6 per net on the lake’s west end. According to Matt Hennen, the DNR’s Tower area large lake fisheries specialist, weak walleye year-classes in 2020 and 2022 appear to be impacting total walleye numbers, particularly on the lake’s east end.

Last fall’s netting results

again show stronger-than-average walleye numbers on the west end of the lake, which has been a positive development there. Walleye numbers have traditionally run much lower than the east end of the lake. As recently as five years ago, resorts on the lake’s west end were complaining about too few harvest-sized walleye.

“This continues a trend of five consecutive years of high catches in West Vermilion largely resulting from an exceptionally

Right: While walleye numbers are down slightly on Lake Vermilion this year, there are still plenty to keep anglers smiling.

file photo

strong 2018 year-class and a strong 2021 year-class,” wrote Hennen in his annual report on the fall test netting program. As one of the state’s premier walleye lakes, Vermilion’s fishery is

See **WALLEYE**...pg. 2B



EXTREME WEATHER

Encased in CRYSTAL

A rare ice storm hits the North Country

Last weekend’s freezing rain left the ground, tree branches, vehicles, and just about everything else left outdoors encased in a layer of ice. This week, it was heavy snow set to fall. Spring in the North Country is always unpredictable!

photos by M. Helmberger



LAWSUITS AND THE LEGISLATURE

Deer farmers seek relief from fencing rules

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- While the battle in federal court over a 2023 Minnesota law imposing strict regulations on the cervid farming industry rages on, the battleground shifted to the state House Agriculture and Finance Policy Committee on Monday where lawmakers heard testimony on a bill that would reverse two key components that cervid farmers contend threaten the existence of their businesses.

Cervids are another term for

species in the deer family, including deer, elk, and moose.

The regulations were intended to tighten controls to prevent the spread of chronic wasting disease, or CWD. CWD infection rates in confined farm herds of deer and other cervids can be higher than in free-ranging populations, and a 2020 study found that movements of cervids between farms presents a risk for spreading CWD in Minnesota. Preventing the spread of CWD gained additional steam when researchers promoted a theory that the non-curable prion-based

disease, similar to mad cow disease, could be transmitted to humans.

Dennis Udovich, of Greaney, was one of 40 individual plaintiffs who joined with the Minnesota Deer Farmers Association (MDFA) to file a lawsuit against the Department of Natural Resources and the Board of Animal Health (BAH) in December 2023 challenging the regulations. Udovich figures prominently in the case, arguing that he has a constitutional right to pursue the profession of his choice. Udovich had, at one

point, voluntarily ceased his deer farming activities for a time. Then, the state’s moratorium on new registrations for white-tailed deer farming and a provision that prohibited transfer of existing registrations to anyone other than immediate family members made it impossible for Udovich to re-enter the industry.

Minnesota U.S. District Court Judge John R. Tutheim dismissed the lawsuit in August 2024, and denied a motion that would have prevented DNR and

See **DEER**...pg. 2B

POLLUTION CONTROL



A view across Hay Lake, which is receiving higher-than-allowable sulfate discharges from the Keetac plant.

U.S. Steel bid for looser regulation shot down in Court of Appeals

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— In a ruling handed down Monday, the Minnesota Court of Appeals has affirmed the rejection by state regulators of a “site-specific standard” that would have loosened sulfate discharge rules for U.S. Steel’s Keetac plant near Keewatin.

Back in 2014, U.S. Steel had sought a looser standard for sulfate discharges upstream of Hay Lake, a 25.2-acre lake known to have wild rice. Under Minnesota’s wild rice rule, sulfate discharges are supposed to be limited to 10 milligrams per liter.

U.S. Steel had sought to allow a higher limit, of 79 mg/l, based on a now-abandoned proposal to variably determine sulfate standards based on iron levels in lake or stream sediments. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency had proposed using the variable standard as part of a new rulemaking process several years ago, but ultimately abandoned the method after new research suggested the approach lacked validity.

In 2023, after years of inactivity on the request, the MPCA ultimately rejected U.S. Steel’s request for a looser sulfate limit, based on the variable standard calculation. U.S. Steel appealed that determination, arguing that the MPCA acted arbitrarily and capriciously in its decision, was unsupported by evidence, and was the result of legal error.

In their non-precedential ruling, a three-judge panel led by Judge JaPaul Harris, rejected each of U.S. Steel’s arguments in turn.

Given the court’s longstanding deference to agency rulings in the absence of clear evidence to the contrary, the court ruled in the MPCA’s favor.

“This record shows that MPCA applied a case-by-case, fact-specific analysis to fulfill its obligation to determine whether sufficient information was available to justify a site-specific modification [of its

See **KEETAC RULING**...pg. 2B

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THE LEGISLATURE

Budget proposals highlight deep cuts, sharp divides

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Minnesota lawmakers are advancing rival budget plans that propose billions of dollars in cuts over the next four years, as both chambers and Gov. Tim Walz attempt to address a projected deficit later this decade without triggering immediate financial instability.

The race to complete a new budget by the end of the current legislative session heated up over the weekend after Gov. Tim Walz and Senate and House leaders unveiled budget frameworks to tackle a steep \$6 billion deficit projected for 2028–29, if current spending trends continue. The Senate’s DFL majority on Friday released a framework that would cut nearly \$2.5 billion in state spending through 2029, while House leaders, navigating a 67-67 partisan split, unveiled a more aggressive plan with \$3.8 billion in reductions over the same period. Gov. Walz is seeking approximately \$2.7 billion in cuts.

Though the proposals vary in scope and tone, they all share one theme: belt-tightening now to prevent a shortfall later.

“We’re doing the best that we can given the circumstances,” said Senate Majority Leader Erin Murphy, DFL-St. Paul. “We have to balance this budget.”

Human services targeted

The largest proposed

reductions in both chambers target the state’s fast-growing health and human services programs, particularly the disability waiver program under the Department of Human Services.

The House would reduce spending in human services by \$300 million for 2025–27 and \$1 billion after that, far more aggressive than the Senate’s proposal of \$272 million and \$430 million for the same periods.

The Senate proposal drew immediate pushback from minority Republicans.

“These targets seem to align with Gov. Walz’s plan to cut services for disabilities and special education, which is the wrong way to balance the budget,” said Senate Minority Leader Mark Johnson, R-East Grand Forks.

Democratic leaders, however, said the services targeted are unsustainable at current growth rates.

House Ways and Means Committee Co-Chair Zack Stephenson, DFL-Coon Rapids, defended their plan as a responsible approach to a growing challenge.

“We’re slowing expenditures in areas that are growing faster than inflation,” Stephenson said.

County officials and disability service providers have expressed concern that local governments could be forced to absorb the burden if state support declines.

The Senate DFL’s framework would leave \$2.4 billion on the bottom line through fiscal year 2027, and law-

makers said it would preserve recent gains such as the child tax credit and free school meals. But the budget targets do not include funding for inflation, which could push actual agency costs significantly higher – up to \$1.1 billion more in the next two years alone.

Agencies may be forced to stretch flat funding against rising wages and operating costs, potentially leading to layoffs and reductions in service.

House compromise

The House proposal reflects the unique political makeup of the chamber, where Democrats and Republicans share equal power. The compromise target of \$3.8 billion in total cuts over four years came after negotiations between House DFL Leader Melissa Hortman and Republican Speaker Lisa Demuth.

“If Democrats were setting targets on our own,

these targets would, of course, look very different,” Hortman said. “We would have asked the wealthy and large corporations to pay their fair share.”

“House Republicans are holding strong on fiscal responsibility,” said Demuth. “These targets represent the largest spending cut in state history.” Walz has proposed cutting the state sales tax rate while broadening the base to currently untaxed professional services, such as legal and accounting work, a combination which would end up generating additional revenue. Senate leaders have not yet said whether those proposals will be part of their final package.

Unlike the Senate and the governor, the House plan does not rely on new revenue. Hortman said her caucus was unwilling to cut taxes or raise them under the chamber’s tied political arrangement.

Still, the House plan calls for modest funding boosts to housing and education,

including a proposed \$40 million increase in K-12 funding. The Senate, by contrast, would keep education funding flat for 2025–27, with a \$687 million reduction slated for 2028–29.

Increases remain

Despite the overall focus on cuts, the Senate DFL proposal includes increases in several key areas:

►Judiciary and public safety: \$106 million, largely for the courts and Department of Corrections.

►Veterans and military affairs and pensions would also see increased funding.

What’s next

Legislative committees now face an April 11 deadline to finalize budget bills that align with their respective targets. Leaders in both chambers have begun negotiations with the governor to work toward a unified budget plan.

The regular session adjourns May 19. Lawmakers

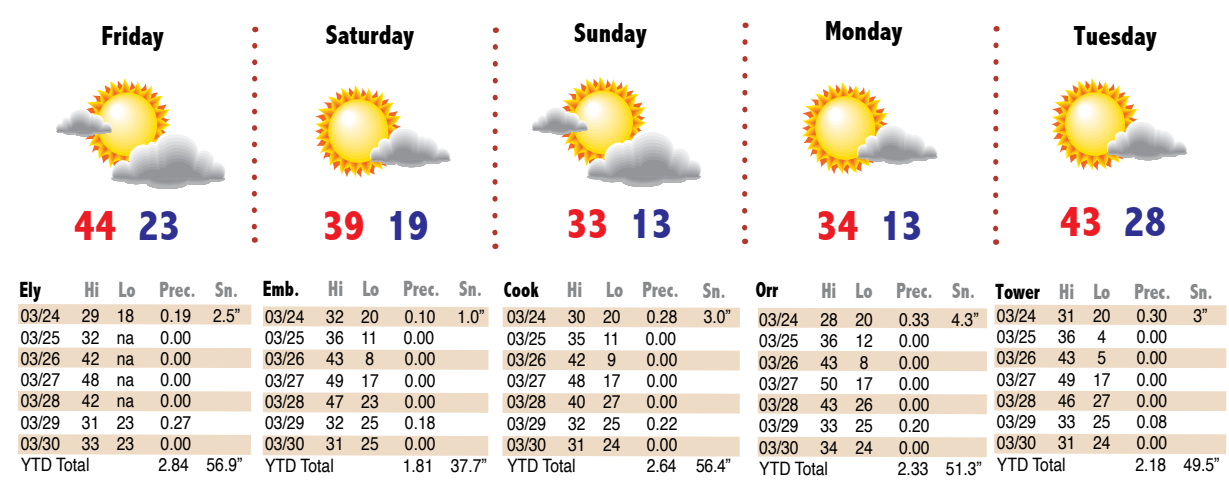
must pass a balanced budget by July 1 to avoid a government shutdown, a scenario that has played out in previous years when Minnesota had a divided government.

Although the state successfully passed its last budget in 2023 without requiring a special session, the mix of federal funding uncertainty and divided legislative control has raised the possibility of an overtime deal.

“There is a lot of chaos and uncertainty coming from Washington, D.C.,” Murphy said, referring to potential federal cuts. “We could do this job and then later this summer or fall be facing deep cuts in Medicaid, deep cuts to our public schools, deep cuts to SNAP (food assistance). I’m hoping my congressional colleagues pull their heads out of their behinds and they step away from the cuts that they’re talking about.”

MPR News contributed to this report

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST



WALLEYE...Continued from page 1B

assessed annually by the DNR.

While strong year-classes on the west end are helping to maintain solid numbers there, a very poor 2022 year-class in the eastern basin is limiting walleye numbers there, according to Hennen. “Overall, fair numbers of fish can be found from 13 to 20 inches lake-wide, which is generally the size range anglers prefer to harvest,” noted Hennen. “Additionally, above-average numbers of smaller fish from 11 to 13 inches were present in the population last fall. These fish will grow throughout the 2025 fishing season and provide catch and harvest opportunities. Moderate numbers of fish 20 inches and larger will

continue to provide memorable catch opportunities throughout the lake.”

Walleye populations tend to be heavily dependent on the success of each year-class, and it’s been hit and miss in recent years on Vermilion. “Recently, walleye recruitment in Lake Vermilion has been on a boom-and-bust cycle with weak year-classes occurring in 2017 and 2020 followed by strong year-classes the following years in 2018 and 2021,” wrote Hennen in his report. “This is fairly normal for walleye populations driven primarily by natural reproduction. Early estimates indicate this trend may not hold in the near-term with moderate year-classes produced in 2022

and 2023. Fortunately, back-to-back weak year-classes have not occurred since 2008 and 2009.”

The outlook for the 2024 year-class appears favorable, noted Hennen, based on the results of their fall electro-fishing, which allows DNR fisheries staff to sample smaller fish than they could catch in their standard gill nets. “In Lake Vermilion, both the catch rate and the average length of young-of-the-year walleyes help predict future year-class strength. In 2024, high catches of larger than normal young-of-the-year walleyes create the potential for a strong year-class to be produced,” noted Hennen.

Early ice-outs and mild

spring weather tend to benefit the reproductive success of walleye and last year saw an exceptionally mild winter and an ice-out almost three weeks earlier than average.

Yellow perch

Anglers on Vermilion should find fewer perch than in recent years, however, the average size of sampled fish was fairly large in the fall survey, including many over ten inches, which are large enough to harvest. The west basin contains more perch, while the perch in the east basin are substantially larger on average.

Northern pike

The northern pike population in Vermilion continues to show a declining trend and this

year offered no exception. The good news for anglers is that the average size of northern pike continues to increase, with the catch ranging from 20 to almost 38 inches, suggesting anglers can find trophy opportunities. The protected slot limit implemented for northern pike is likely a contributing factor to the increase in average size.

Fisheries management

In addition to the annual fish population surveys, the DNR conducts regular creel surveys, water quality monitoring on Vermilion along with fish contaminant and disease inspections, zooplankton surveys, and aquatic invasive species surveillance. The DNR is reminding anglers

that special regulations exist for walleyes where all fish from 20 to 26 inches must be immediately released. There is a possession limit of four walleyes with only one fish over 26 inches allowed. Anglers are also reminded that since 2019, northern pike have been managed under the Northeast Zone regulations requiring immediate release of all angled fish between 30 and 40 inches with only one over 40 inches allowed in a two fish possession limit. Separate regulations exist for dark house spearing which allows spearers to have two pike in possession but only one may be over 26 inches. All other fish species are managed under current statewide fishing regulations.

KEETAC RULING...Continued from page 1B

permit].”

Several environmental groups submitted “friend of the court” briefs in defense of the MPCA’s position in the case. Not surprisingly, they hailed Monday’s ruling. “The court’s ruling affirms that the MPCA is empowered to regu-

late pollution and protect wild rice,” said Paula Maccabee, chief legal counsel for Duluth-based WaterLegacy. “It feels great for WaterLegacy to be standing with the MPCA and sharing in the agency’s victory today to protect wild rice and clean water.”

Delay part of the plan?

While environmental groups saw the ruling as a victory, the reality is that the Keetac plant has continued to violate its sulfate standard since requesting a looser rule more than a decade ago.

According to Maccabee, the plant’s discharge has averaged about 34 mg/l of sulfate in recent years. “If you apply the real standard, they are violating the rule. But there has not been any enforcement action because this has been hanging out there,” said Maccabee.

U.S. Steel will likely appeal the latest ruling, which should further delay any need to meet the tighter standard for at least a year. Then, assuming the high court rejects U.S. Steel’s request for review, the company will spend years negotiating with state

regulators over a so-called “schedule of compliance,” an enforcement timeline which U.S. Steel has failed to meet in the past.

DEER...Continued from page 1B

BAH from enforcing the regulations. The plaintiffs filed an appeal of the rulings in the Eighth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals which is still ongoing. In the most recent action in the appeal, the plaintiffs again tried to obtain a preliminary injunction against the state’s enforcement of the regulations, arguing in part that the regulations had already caused nearly 40 cervid farms to go out of business.

“The DNR estimated a loss of 39 white-tailed deer farms from 140 in January of 2023 to 101 farms as of February 2024,” the motion stated. “The most recent losses are attributed to recent changes in the law, and the DNR’s recent requirement for an additional exclusionary fence, economically devastating to white-tailed deer farmers.”

The motion was denied by the court on Feb. 13.

Legislative remedy sought

Three days before that

ruling, Rep. John Burkel, R-Badger, introduced House File 40, a bill that would roll back the provision requiring fencing that prevents nose-to-nose contact between captive and wild deer. That requirement, according to the DNR, is critical to halting the spread of CWD. But Burkel and deer farmers say it’s unnecessary, expensive, and scientifically unsupported.

“As things stand, the current statute is just unjust and frankly it’s a regulatory taking of these farmers’ livelihoods,” Burkel told colleagues Monday during a House Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee hearing.

The DNR currently enforces rules requiring eight-foot-tall fences, which must be built to prevent the escape of farmed deer, entry of wild deer, and physical contact between the two. Options include double fencing with a 48-inch gap or electrified barriers – measures that some cervid farmers argue are financially out of reach.

“This provision is the primary reason breeders are leaving the industry, with many breeders who have had decades of great compliance and surveillance now forced to exit the industry,” Minnesota Elk Breeders Association board member Brenda Hartkopf told the committee. “The barrier’s effectiveness is questionable. We’ve seen examples of closed, double-fenced herds that still contracted CWD, and no other state mandates such a barrier. Many of our breeders are still struggling with this requirement, facing significant financial burdens due to the unfunded mandate. We all share the goal of eliminating CWD, but driving breeders out of business isn’t the solution.”

Tim Spreck, of MDFA, said that the fencing guidance provided by DNR is inadequate to insure compliance with the regulations.

“What (they have) is four different options, most of which are extremely expensive and very hard to comply

with, and also ambiguous in their nature,” Spreck said. Noting that the DNR fencing pamphlet included a disclaimer that “nothing in this document should be considered legal advice,” Spreck summarized the conundrum farmers face.

“We’ve got a statute that was very hard to interpret,” he said. “The DNR did what they did in interpreting it, provided this document to deer farmers, and then told them oh, by the way, if you do comply with this at great cost, it may not be good enough and it may fail. So, what are we doing to deer farmers here? We’re putting them in a position that’s untenable, where they can never comply and as a result we can drive them out of business. And currently, farmers are being fined.”

MDFA President Scott Fier estimated that it would cost a minimum of \$50,000, and more likely in the neighborhood of \$70–80,000, to build a compliant double-fence.

“As president, I field the calls daily,” Fier said. “People are struggling financially, mentally, emotionally. How can we afford this fence?”

Burkel’s bill would remove the requirement for physical separation, leaving in place height and containment rules but allowing for the possibility of deer getting close enough to touch through a single fence.

Lt. Col. Robert Gorecki, assistant enforcement director for the DNR, said that’s a risk the state can’t afford.

“Eliminating the physical separation requirement would potentially increase the chances of transmission of CWD in both directions,” he said.

The DNR also pushed back on another provision in the bill that would weaken enforcement tools. Specifically, the proposal would strip the Board of Animal Health of its authority to revoke a farm’s registration if there are multiple escapes within six months or uncorrected violations after

inspection. It would also take away language that gives DNR the ability to seize and destroy animals in the event a deer from the herd escapes.

“Removing the potential penalty of revocation in particular would leave little to no consequences to incentivize farmers to maintain their fences and prevent escapes,” Gorecki said. “If there is a producer who flat out refuses to follow fencing guidelines, including fencing rules that have been in place for decades, neither the BAH nor the DNR could take action against their herd registrations or take any serious actions against the producer to ensure compliance. Overall, this bill would increase the likelihood of CWD spread.”

The House Agriculture Committee laid the bill over for possible inclusion in a broader committee package later this session. No vote was taken.

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

Speaking to the Saturday crowd, Schultz said the U.S. was in a constitutional crisis.

Schultz said people are hungry for leadership to ad-



Joining Schultz were several other local elected officials, including Duluth School Board members Rosie Loeffler-Kemp and

The town hall also offered time for those in attendance to sound off. Veterans, folks caring for disabled veterans, educators, and students shared their concerns about proposed Republican cuts to the Veterans Administration, Medicaid, Social Security, and food assistance for children and vulnerable adults. Others expressed anger over the elimination of the Department of Education and the loss of federal grants for the University of Minnesota. Many spoke about the loss of the Duluth EPA lab, noting the important oversight work

Two young women shared their concern over the attacks on the LGBTQ community from the Trump

Practicing Democracy will be hosting similar events throughout the Eighth District and specifically mentioned Ely as a likely location. It will also be hosting training sessions to help volunteers engage. Reach out to Practicing-Democracy.org or PracticingDemocracyPAC@gmail.com to request a town hall in your community and to sign up to volunteer. The town halls are nonpartisan and open to all, regardless of political affiliation.

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

“The sudden and unexpected action from the federal government

- Reduced infectious disease response capacity, with slower response times to outbreaks state-wide.
- Suspension of vaccine clin-


- Reduced funding for Tribal public health programs.

Cunningham emphasized the

The move comes amid broader budget cuts at the federal level.

State officials are now scrambling to assess what, if anything, can be salvaged in the short term.

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A black and white photograph of a man dressed as Superman. He is wearing a white tank top, dark pants, a red cape, and a yellow headband with a blue 'S' emblem. He is holding a large, full plastic trash bag in his right hand and has his left hand on his hip. He is smiling at the camera.

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KABETOGRAMA LAKE CANISTER SITE 10150 Gamma Rd	HOURS Wed: noon — 4 p.m. Sat: 8 a.m. — noon
ORR CANISTER SITE 4038 Hwy 53	WINTER HOURS Tue, Thu: 9 a.m.—noon Sat: 8 a.m.—noon
PORTAGE CANISTER SITE 6992 Crane Lake Rd, Buyck	WINTER HOURS Tue, Sat: 1 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.
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HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITIES	
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Obituaries and Death Notices



Scott A. Larson

Scott Alan Larson, 57, of Cambridge, Md., passed away peacefully on Friday, March 21, 2025, in Baltimore, Md. Scott will be greatly missed by his many friends and family. A celebration of life will be held in Cook in the upcoming months.

Scott was born on Nov. 11, 1967, and grew up in Cook, where he spent many happy days on and around Lake Vermilion. Scott was a lifelong hunter, fisherman and nature lover.

He is survived by his life partner, Anne; sons, Nathan (Jade) and Kodi; grandson, Slade; sister, Kit; and niece, Tily (Sean).

He was preceded in death by his parents, Alan and Lois Larson.



Edith M. Villebrun

Edith Mae Morrison Villebrun, 80, of Nett Lake, began her journey to her heavenly home on Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at St. Luke’s Hospital in Duluth, surrounded by her children and grandchildren. Wake services for Edith were held at the Bois Forte Tribal Government Building on Friday, March 28 with the Rosary prayed. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Saturday, March 29 at the Bois Forte Tribal Government Center with Fr. Beau Braun as celebrant. Casket bearers were Nicholas Hayes, Alexander Hayes, Corporal Ian Villebrun USMC, Timothy Lilya, Corey Kolkin, Olin Nelson, Brendan Parson and Wesley Jeanotte. Honorary bearers were Edith’s grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Bridget Villebrun, Cassandra Villebrun, Davis Villebrun, Patia Hayes, Savannah Parisien, Hannah Villebrun, Emily Drift, William Drift, Kristen Lilya, Angeline Lilya, Asher Kolkin, Andrew Kolkin and Inayah Kaivola. The Rosary was led by Rae Villebrun, Patia Hayes, Savannah Parisien and Hannah Villebrun. The readers were Edith’s daughter, Miranda Lilya and friend, Patti Wilkie. Edith’s son, John, gave her eulogy. The funeral pall was placed by Edith’s children, David, John and

Miranda. Edith was buried at the old Nett Lake Cemetery. A meal was served after the burial service at the Bois Forte Tribal Government Center. Edith’s love, strength, and unwavering devotion to her family and community will always be remembered. Services were provided by Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Edith was born in Nett Lake on Sept. 17, 1944, to John and Angeline Wein Morrison. She was a proud member of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa. She spent most of her life in Nett Lake and Indian Point, graduating from Orr High School in 1962. She then attended Haskell Indian Junior College in Lawrence, Kan. After earning her degree, she moved to California for two years, living with her sister Lucille.

In 1977, Edith served as a member of the Nett Lake Ambulance crew and later worked as a U.S. Census worker in 1990, conducting interviews in many homes. She dedicated many years to the Bois Forte Tribal Government, holding positions such as CAP Secretary, Acting Director of the Bois Forte Accounting Department, Accounting Supervisor and Commissioner of Administration. Even after retiring in 2017, she returned to work as an Accounting Specialist.

Edith was a woman of deep faith, a member of St. Bridget’s Catholic Church in Nett Lake before joining Holy Cross Catholic Church in Orr. Her faith was central to her life. On the day she passed, her children prayed the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet with her many times.

In November 1970, Edith married David “Fox” Villebrun at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Orr. Though they later divorced, together they raised three wonderful children, David Jr., John and Miranda. She was a devoted mother, grandmother to 14, and great-grandmother to three. Edith loved fiercely and took great care of her family. Though finances were often tight, her children never felt it; she made sure they were always provided for and loved.

Edith had a competitive spirit and a love for games. She enjoyed playing bingo and golf, especially when competing alongside her children in the Black Bear Tournament. A two-time Vermilion Fairways Women’s Golf Club League Champion, she also loved watching golf, tennis, figure skating, the Olympics, the Game Show Network, and The Price is Right. She was an avid true crime fan, often telling Miranda about a show she started but fell asleep before finishing. She also had a fondness for keepsakes, even collecting Bois Forte flags from this year’s State of the Band. She cherished time with her family, cheering on her children and grandchildren in sports, playing sudoku, and sharing her favorite stories. Her signature saying, “Whatever,” summed up her

sharp yet lighthearted spirit.

Edith was loved dearly and will be missed by her children, David Villebrun of Nett Lake, Miranda (Tim) Lilya of Orr and John (Rae) Villebrun of Mt. Iron; brother, Floyd Morrison of Nett Lake; sister, Marcella Connor of Nett Lake; grandchildren, Bridget, Cassandra, Davis, Nicholas, Alexander, Patia, Savannah, Ian, Hannah, William, Emily, Kristen, Timothy and Angeline; and great-grandchildren, Asher, Andrew and Inayah.

She was preceded in death by her spouse, David Villebrun in 1995; parents, John and Angeline; brothers, Dan and Joe; and sister, Lucille.



Kirsten Shultz

Kirsten Knuti Shultz, 57, passed away peacefully on Sunday, March 9, 2025, surrounded by her family, after a courageous fight against cancer. A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, April 25 at the Embarrass Evangelical Free Church. A private interment, with family only, will be at Forest Hill Cemetery where Kirsten will be laid to rest next to her brother Erik.

Kirsten was born on Nov. 19, 1967, in Berwyn, Ill. She grew up in Glencoe, Ill., and attended New Trier High School, where she played the trumpet in the orchestra and jazz bands. She also performed in her brother Erik’s rock band, The Cymbals.

Her love for Minnesota led her to the University of Minnesota-Duluth, where she earned a degree in history, continued music in college, and most importantly, it was at UMD that she met Matt, the love of her life.

After college graduation, Kirsten and Matt settled in Wayzata, but their deep connection to the North Shore of Lake Superior eventually drew them back. They built their dream home in the woods overlooking the lake, embracing the beauty and serenity of the area.

Kirsten worked as a paralegal her entire career. She loved her job and was sad having to retire early due to illness. She was passionate about health and fitness - an avid skier, sun lover, horseback rider, full and half-marathon runner, and, above all, a devoted hiker and walker. She was sure to get the dogs out morning and night for a brisk three-mile walk.

She and Matt welcomed two sons, Bridger in 2001 and Wyatt in 2003. Both inherited Kirsten’s passion for physical fitness, love of the outdoors, and a deep appre-

ciation for horses. Though Kirsten was dedicated to her career, her greatest joy was time spent with family and friends.

Kirsten was first diagnosed with cancer in 2014. She did not let cancer define her and she refused to let it interfere with her activities or spending time with those she loved. Kirsten was fierce in her pursuit of living and showed many of us that having a strong mind could push a person through most things. As her cancer made “normal” life more difficult, especially towards the end, walking and lifting weights remained her sanctuary; she continued to put one foot in front of the other with Jasmine by her side, embodying the same will and resilience that carried her through marathons. Her positive attitude said she would beat it again, no questions asked.

Kirsten is survived by her loving husband of 31-plus years, Matt; sons, Bridger and Wyatt; sister, Ingrid Spirito (Chris); brother, Ethan (Marina); loving parents, Paul and Carol; many extended family members; and her four-legged walking partner, Jasmine.

Kirsten was preceded in death by her brother, Erik.



Leo Nurmi

Leo Nurmi, 89, formerly of Iron, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, March 19, 2025, in Jarvenpaa, Finland. A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, April 12 in Jarvenpaa. Condolences may be sent to:

Heidi.korkeamaki@luukku.com.

Leo and his wife Anna-Liisa started the Scandinavian Bakery on northside Virginia in 1965, but he was a “jack-of-all-trades” after they moved to Iron. Leo had a passion for life and was someone who touched the lives and hearts of many. He lived life to the fullest, taught his children and grandchildren never to say, “I can’t” or “I don’t know how,” and to chase your dreams so you have no regrets. Leo did exactly that and then some... and when he took his last breath, he was surrounded by and showered with the love of his family that he loved so very, very much.

Survivors include his wife of 64 years, Anna-Liisa; daughter, Heidi (Jarmo) Korkeamaki; son, Heikki; eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by brother, Pentti; and sister, Kyllikki.



Darrel M. Brodeen

Darrel Myran Brodeen, 69, of Lake Vermilion-Tower, joined his parents in heaven on Friday, March 28, 2025. He fought a courageous battle against CMML ASXL 1, a rare form of blood cancer, and was surrounded by his family at home when he passed. Visitation will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, April 4 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. A celebration of life will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 5 at the First Baptist Church in Cook. Visitation will be held again for one hour prior to the service at the church. The family wishes to thank the staff at the Bois Forte Medical Clinic – Vermilion, Mayo Clinic, Minnesota Oncology, Mercy Hospital, Fairview Range Medical Center, Essentia Health-Virginia and Essentia Health St. Mary’s Hospice East Range.

Darrel was born in Virginia to Irving and Faith Sundeen Brodeen on Nov. 6, 1955. He graduated from Cook High School in 1974 and attended Bethel University in St. Paul. The north woods lured Darrel back early, where he worked in construction for many years. He was a highway heavy pipe foreman for Hoover Construction Co. for over a decade before beginning a career with St. Louis County Public Works as a supervisor. Darrel was promoted to Superintendent of District 6 and retired from St. Louis County Public Works in 2021. After retirement, Darrel established Brodeen’s Guiding Services, where he was a fishing guide on Lake Vermilion.

Darrel was united in marriage to Barb Boshey on Dec. 2, 1983, at the First Baptist Church in Cook. They built their first home on the outskirts of Cook, where they raised their daughters, Gina and Brianne, and son, Philip. In 2002, Darrel and Barb build their second home on Lake Vermilion in Tower and raised their granddaughter, Lexi Boshey.

Darrel spent a lifetime exploring the outdoors, leaving a lasting impact on the lives of those who were blessed to share adventures with him. He enjoyed spending time on the lake and in the solitude of the woods. He was an avid fisherman and hunter and never missed a walleye, deer or moose season. While Darrel enjoyed the thrill of the hunt, he also cherished the camaraderie of the “Brodeen Breakfasts” on opening morning of deer

season. He instilled the love of fishing and hunting in his wife, children and grandchildren.

Darrel’s greatest joy was being a grandpa to Lexi, Talon, Tennley, Lake, Gianna, Case and Jordan. You could find Darrel swimming, catching bugs, playing catch, fishing, hunting, reading, and just about anything that his grandkids wanted him to do with them. Darrel and Barb could often be found at their kids’ - and then grandkids’ - school, music and sporting events.

Darrel is survived by his wife of 41 years, Barb; two daughters, Gina Boshey of Tower and Brianne Brodeen of Lino Lakes; one son, Philip (Cheyenne) Brodeen of New Brighton; seven grandchildren, Lexi and Gianna Boshey of Tower, Talon and Tennley Peterson of Lino Lakes, Lake and Case Brodeen of New Brighton, and Jordan Gottfried of Lino Lakes; five brothers, Randy (Lauri) Brodeen, Pat (Karen) Brodeen, Curt Brodeen, David (Shari) Brodeen and Tim (Kelly) Brodeen; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Irving and Faith Brodeen; grandparents, Carl and Lucille Sundeen, and Victor and Myrtle Brodeen.

Fred W. Gabrielson

Fred William Gabrielson, 29, of Myrtle Lake-Orr, passed away on Sunday, Feb. 23, 2025. A celebration of life will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 26 at Calvary Lutheran Church in Orr. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the church. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook.

He is survived by his parents, Fred and Kathleen and sister, Laura, all of Orr.



Dean J. Esala

Dean J. Esala, 54, of Lake Vermilion-Tower, First Sergeant MNARNG (retired), passed away on Sunday, March 30, 2025, at his home following a lengthy illness. Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. on Monday, April 7 at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Pike-Sandby, preceded by visitation at noon.

Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia. Full obituary in next week’s paper



The Ely Folk School is hiring a Marketing and Hospitality Manager.

Apply by April 11, 2025



MESABI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA




5 BEETHOVEN

12 APR 7pm
Hibbing High School Auditorium
Hibbing, MN

13 APR 2:30pm
Rock Ridge High School
Performing Arts Center
Virginia, MN


www.mesabisymphonyorchestra.org

Funding for MSO's 2024-25 season is provided by the Eveleth Area Community Fund of the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation.



St. Paul's Lutheran
Soudan, MN

Souper Thursdays
During Lent at Noon



Soup & Movie
with a Short Bible Study

All are welcome

EMPLOYMENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

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: edwardsoliandpropane.com/careers.
Edwards Oil and Propane, 820 Hoover Rd, Virginia, MN 55792

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 payroll, 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.

Louis Leustek & Sons Inc.
1715 East Sheridan Street, Ely
Phone 218-365-6161 • Fax 218-365-6985
Email : louisleustek.sons@gmail.com ttn

BARTENDER WANTED – COOK VFW

Flexible hours. Call the VFW at 218-666-0500 or Shirley at 218-750-3474 3.28

Camp Voyageur is Hiring

Registered Nurse wanted for summer months. If you like working with youth and the outdoors this is an ideal job for you. Lakeside accommodations. For complete job description contact deb@campvoyageur.com. 4/18

CALL FOR BIDS

SEALED BIDS
'20 DODGE DURANGO

The City of Babbitt is accepting sealed bids on a 2020 Dodge Durango Police Pursuit Vehicle, the minimum bid for this vehicle is \$16,000. The vehicle can be seen at the Babbitt Police Department at 71 South Drive, Babbitt, MN.

2020 Dodge Durango PPV
KBB valued at \$19,947 - \$23,364

- Very Good Condition
- Some minor cosmetic defects.
- 4 Door SUV
- AWD – All Wheel Drive
- 5.7 Liter Hemi V8 Motor
- Air Conditioning
- Cruise Control
- Push Bumper (Not Mounted) and Spotlight
- Power Locks, Windows, and Seats
- Keyless Entry

Please direct any questions to
Chief Bissonette at tbissonette@babbitt-mn.com

- 115,073 miles
- Single owner, garage kept, city maintained.
- Engine, Transfer Case, AC Condenser, and Fuel Pump all replaced less than a year before being pulled from service.
- Detailed Service records.

Sealed bids will be accepted at the Babbitt City Hall located at 71 South Drive in Babbitt, MN 55706 by mail or in-person. Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM. All bids must be signed and include name, address, phone number, and offer price to be considered. The top bidder will be given 10 business days to pay for and collect the vehicle. Deadline to submit a bid is May 5th, 2024.

KABETOGAMA TOWNSHIP
Important Information Regarding Assessment and Classifications of Property
This may affect your 2025 property tax payments.

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeal and Equalization of the Township of Kabetogama shall meet on **April 23, 2025, from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the Kabetogama Town Hall, 9707 Gamma Rd, Kabetogama, MN 56669.** The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether taxable property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor, and also to determine whether corrections need to be made.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you are still not satisfied with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the local board of appeal and equalization. The board shall review the valuation, classification, or both if necessary, and shall correct it as needed. Generally, an appearance before your local board of appeal and equalization is required by law before an appeal can be taken to your county board of appeal and equalization.

Mary Manninen, Clerk
Kabetogama Township

Published in the Timberjay, April 4, 2025

LOCAL BOARD OF APPEAL AND EQUALIZATION
KUGLER TOWNSHIP

Important Information Regarding Property Assessments.
This may affect your 2025 property taxes

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeal and Equalization for Kugler Township shall meet on **Wednesday, April 23, 2025 from 10 - 11 a.m. at the KUGLER TOWN HALL 9072 HWY 135, TOWER**

The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether taxable property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor, and to determine whether corrections need to be made.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you disagree with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the local board of appeal and equalization. The board will review your assessments and may make corrections as needed. Generally, you must appeal to the local board before appealing to the county board of appeal and equalization.

Any questions, call Paul Cherry at 218-365-8235

Brianna Broten, Kugler Township Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, April 4, 2025

Notice of Public Hearing
City of Tower - Planning and Zoning Commission

The City of Tower Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 5:00 PM at the Tower Civic Center to consider a Conditional Use Permit application for a development at the Tower Harbor, Parcel #080-0050-00020. Written comments may also be submitted to City Hall prior to the hearing.

City of Tower Planning & Zoning Commission

Published in the Timberjay, April 4, 2025

CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR
is **LONGFELLOW**

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

PRNQ MQRYYQYK RYQ RK MRA

RK PXQ PRNQ LRDQYK –

PJK RV UNA UMKQYGRPJUV

RVA R GQYZ PYEQ UVQ.

– YJSXRYA KXQYJARV

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each week timberjay.com
www.mnpublicnotice.com/

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

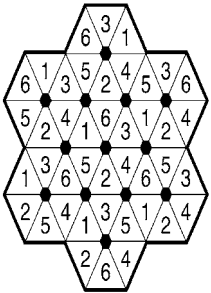
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CryptoQuip
answer

After an opponent prevented me from getting even one point, I had to give him a shutout shout-out.



SNOWFLAKES
solution



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to the
Timberjay!

King Crossword

ACROSS
1 "Li'l Abner" creator
5 Yellowstone grazer
8 Cymbal's kin
12 Petri dish gel
13 Sturgeon product
14 Ancient Dead Sea land
15 Fierceness
17 Milan money, once
18 PC alternative
19 Sheryl Sandberg best seller
21 Grating
24 Harangue
25 "Rhyme Pays" rapper
26 With passion
30 Monk's title
31 Piquant
32 Tic-tac-toe win
33 Hit song by ABBA
35 Friend
36 Curved lines
37 Jiggly dessert
38 Rum cocktail
41 Pear-shaped fruit
42 Spumante source
43 Agitates
48 Actor Schreiber

DOWN
1 Half- — (latte option)
2 Candle count
3 Standard
4 On time
5 Idle or Bana
6 Parcel of land
7 Bogart/Bacall classic
8 Trattoria deserts
9 Valhalla VIP
10 Sushi wrapper
11 Fed. agents
16 Low isle
20 Jealousy
21 Jazz phrase
22 Estate measure
23 Burn something
24 Tears apart
26 Imaginary
27 Toy store buy
28 Lounge
29 Cellist Ma

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15				16					17			
			18				19	20				
21	22	23				24						
25					26					27	28	29
30				31						32		
33			34						35			
			36					37				
38	39	40					41					
42					43	44				45	46	47
48					49				50			
51					52				53			

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TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

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

AUTOMOTIVE

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

Ely AA OPEN GROUP MEETINGS- in person meetings, Wednesdays & Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Babbitt Municipal Building, senior room. Open to all. For information contact Mary at 218-827-8327.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

— **King Crossword** —
Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

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

CryptoQuote
answer

Tale bearers are as bad as the tale makers — tis an old observation and a very true one.
— Richard Sheridan

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HAIR CARE

DREAMWEAVER SALON & DAY SPA- Open Monday-Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Evenings by appointment. 218-666-5594. tfn

PET CREMATION

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

WANTED

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

FREE PIANO

FREE PIANO You move. Located in Soudan. Call 218-410-6001. 4/11nc

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WANTED: 1967-1972 Chevrolet Project Cars, NOS Parts & Memorabilia!

➤ Looking for Chevelle, Camaro, and more – but open to all!
➤ Also buying Chevrolet signs & memorabilia!
➤ Top cash paid – Immediate pickup available!

Send details/photos via text or call: 612-214-1866

SNOWFLAKES
by Japheth Light

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦
♦ Easy ♦♦ Medium ♦♦♦ Difficult

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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: Z equals G

BVSUL BO PWWPOUOS
WLUGUOSUC KU VLPK ZUSSJOZ
UGUO POU WPJOS, J NBC SP
ZJGU NJK B ENTSPTS ENPTS-PTS.

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Answer

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

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

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Lake Vermilion
218-753-3319

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Service/Repairs/Sales
Mechanic on Duty

moccasinpointmarine.com

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www.franksmarinesales.com
franksmarine@centurytel.net
Hwy 53, Orr • Call 218-757-3150

ARONSON BOAT WORKS

LAKE VERMILION, TOWER
Located two miles southwest of Tower on Hwy. 169

Winter Hours Start Nov. 1:
Mon-Fri: 9 AM-5 PM
Sat & Sun: Closed

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90.5fm - Bemidji
89.9fm - Brainerd
kaxe.org

Super Crossword FULLY STATED

- ACROSS**
1 Despises
7 Tennis great Rafael
12 Loutish guy
15 Drop- — (declines)
19 Corned beef sandwich
20 Kind of daisy
21 Bullring shout
22 Perfume bottle
23 Baseball's "Iron Man," fully stated?
26 Western U.S. gas brand
27 Hit sketch show since '75
28 Atop
29 Move, as a seedling
31 Stitch clothes
32 Statistic of a chemical element, fully stated?
39 Protein in egg white and milk
41 Panther
42 2010s dance move often done with the Whip
43 Tropical vines
- 44 —'s razor ("keep it simple" principle)
47 Fallon's network
49 Singer Ora
50 Irritability, fully stated?
53 — Lingus
55 Some racing autos
56 Evil "Get Smart" group
57 Tyro, in gaming lingo
58 Actor Cage, informally
60 Sneeze noise
62 Prefix with tourism
63 "Aladdin" monkey
65 Auto-cleaning site, fully stated?
69 "I knew it all —!"
71 Once surnamed
72 "Thank you, Yvette!"
73 Lode of unrefined metal, fully stated?
78 — -di-dah
79 .001 inch
82 Singer Cherry
83 Hoppy drink
- 84 UConn women's basketball coach
Auriemma
86 Radiohead title track of 2000
87 Prone (to)
88 British islet
90 Biblical boat, fully stated?
95 Architect Ludwig Mies van der —
97 Fun, in brief
99 "The — Professor"
100 Tribe of the Southwest
101 Grads
103 Ear-busting
105 Mistaken
106 Annual beauty contest, fully stated?
111 Sorority letter
112 Motif
113 Solitary
114 Uproar
117 At the drop of —
119 "Mystic River" actor, fully stated?
125 Christ, in Italy
126 CPR expert
127 French ice cream
- 128 Focal point
129 Punta del —
130 Enzyme suffix
131 Useful thing
132 Believers in God, of sorts
- DOWN**
1 Circle bits
2 Coffee bit
3 Uproar
4 Kabuki sash
5 Sports official
6 — -Caps (candy brand)
7 Not for Windows
8 Truism
9 Country singer Carter
10 Scottish port
11 Luau gift
12 Certain cola container
13 Hebrew "A"
14 Rail against
15 Egg cells
16 Initial performance on Broadway, say
17 Inked cheek image, e.g.
18 Period when sales slump
24 Destroy
25 Baby buggy, in Britain
30 Airport agcy.
- 33 North African capital
34 Muscat's land
35 Soup with tofu
36 Junk email
37 Kind of wrestling
38 Alway
39 Comparable
40 Pale purple
44 Bear, in Baja
45 Alternative to vanilla, informally
46 Native of Habana
48 Part of B.A.
51 Overwhelm
52 Stranded cellular stuff
54 Cattle locale
59 Dogma suffix
61 Some film FX
63 Hilo "Hello!"
64 "— voyage!"
66 Abode: Abbr.
67 Ounce, e.g.
68 Writer Levin
69 Birthday topic
70 Hair stiffener
73 Running riot
74 Buffs again
75 Devotee
76 Put in writing
77 Trial balloon
79 Criminals
- 80 Boise locale
81 Cutting beam
85 Anti's vote
86 Tree knots
89 Body of water west of Liverpool
91 "Movin' —" ("The Jeffersons" song)
92 German auto
93 "Citizen —"
94 Impressionist
96 "Mom" has two conditions
98 Weather conditions
102 Tiny criticism
104 Uncork, e.g.
105 Judith with two Tonys
107 Looks as if
108 Arm bones
109 For the — (temporarily)
110 Map blowup
115 Cut calories
116 Boaters' tools
118 Mon. follower
120 Links gp.
121 Letters before 96-Down
122 PC readout of a sort
123 Winning sign
124 Singer DiFranco

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