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The IMBERJAY

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VOL. 36, ISSUE 15

April 18, 2025

\$150

UNORGANIZED TERRITORY

Residents weigh local control in push for new township

by DAVID COLBURN

LAKE VERMILION - More than three dozen residents gathered at the Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade station last Thursday to consider a question that could reshape local governance on the western end of Lake Vermilion: Should Unorganized 63-17 become

its own township?

Facilitating the conversation was John Jordan, a longtime area resident and one of the organizers behind the effort. Jordan opened the meeting by acknowledging the work that had gone into exploring township formation and the legacy of those who got the idea rolling in the past.

"This started with my

dad and a couple others," said Jordan. "We've just tried to carry it forward.'

A move toward local

Much of the discussion centered on the benefits of moving from unorganized to organized township status most notably, local control over tax dollars and decision-making.

Right: Residents of Unorganized 63-17 turned out last Thursday to learn more about the push to form their own township.

photo by D. Colburn

In a township, residents - not the town board - vote on the tax levy during the

See...TOWNSHIP pg. 9



CITY OF TOWER

development

clears hurdle

TOWER- A proposal for a

planned mixed-use development at

the city's harbor here drew no public comment during a public hearing on

Tuesday held by the Tower Planning and Zoning Commission. After a brief

discussion of the proposed project and the needed process to facilitate what

would be the largest development in

decades in the city, the commission

unanimously gave its blessing to a

conditional use permit application

said he had reviewed the proposal with

project architect Ron Hommerding,

of RHA Architects, and agreed that

the proposal easily meets the density

requirements of the city's planned

POLITICS

Huge turnout

Ely town hall

for Hauschild's

Zoning administrator Cliff Koski

submitted back in March.

See...HARBOR pg. 10

Planning and Zoning board approves conditional use permit

by Marshall Helmberger

Managing Editor

City harbor

CITY OF ELY

Skraba gives legislative assessment

by CATIE CLARK

ELY- Former Ely mayor and current House District 3A Rep. Roger Skraba was in familiar territory on Tuesday, dropping in on the Ely City Council meeting to give an update on the current session of the Legislature during open

"The reason I'm here is I'm on Easter break and I have some time," Skraba began.

He then dug into issues before the Legislature, including school meals.

"There are three bills trying to get through the Legislature where, if a family makes more than \$156,000 a year, that those kids would not be eligible for free lunch, free breakfast. If that were to pass, there would be about \$88 million available, and we're trying to use those dollars to help the teachers' pensions."

Skraba commented that he is now on the Housing Committee, and he spoke of the uphill battle to get funds allocated to greater Minnesota and of using the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board to help that process on the Range.

"Right now, we don't have enough money for housing, so we're trying to get more. This morning, I spoke with Ida Rukavina, IRRR commissioner, about increasing the money from the IRRR for housing.'

Skraba described how the House and Senate haven't come together yet on the budget and how the state is going to address a looming deficit.

"We have to cut something. What we're trying to do is not cut the critical things that we use. Local government aid, LGA, should be fine."

He discussed what might happen in the Arrowhead region if Gov. Tim Walz's proposal to cut the state's payments-in-lieu-of-taxes to local governments is approved.

See...COUNCIL pg. 9



Moxie lives up to her name

Missing dog uses deer stand as a hideout after apparent wolf attack

by JODI SUMMIT

Tower-Soudan Editor

REENWOOD TWP- Laura Williams is relieved that her beloved bearded collie, Moxie, is back home after she went missing for three days and apparently survived a serious attack by a large predator.

Moxie's three-day odyssey began after she bolted from Williams' car while she was dropping her off at a dog groomer in Pike Township. That began a desperate search as nearby neighbors reported sightings of coyote and wolves in the

Moxie ran off just after 9 a.m. on Friday, April 4. Williams, with help from the groomer, spent hours wandering around the property calling for the missing dog. But after a few hours without response, Williams went home to figure out a new plan.

She got some good advice, with hundreds of responses to a post on Facebook. She left the dog's



That fluff stood up and started barking.

John Halloran

crate right where she had bolted from, and brought some clothing and blankets with familiar scents, as well as food and water.

There was some fresh snow on the ground, which improved the odds of finding

But on Saturday there was still no sign of Moxie. Jason Johnson and Christina Nelson, a couple who had seen William's Facebook

See...MOXIE pg. 10

by CATIE CLARK

Top: Moxie

eyes the photographer during her

recent photo

opportunity.

Above: Laura

thrilled to have

Williams is

Moxie back

home safe at

her home on

Lake Vermilion.

photos by J. Summit

ELY- It was standing room only at Vermilion Fine Arts Theater here on Tuesday as Sen. Grant Hauschild hosted his fifth town hall event, this time accompanied by Senate Majority Leader Erin Murphy. With political alarms going off for many Americans as a result of the unprecedented actions of the Trump administration, people came from as far away as Hibbing to voice their concerns on topics ranging from protecting the Boundary Waters to Medicaid cuts.

Becky Rom, a spokesperson for Northeast Minnesotans for Wilderness,

See...HAUSCHILD pg. 11



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Community notices

Rummage sale at Kaleva Hall on April 26

VIRGINIA- The Historic Kaleva Hall Annual Spring Rummage Sale will be held on Saturday, April 26 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at Kaleva Hall, 125 3rd Street North in Virginia. Coffee an' will also be served. Proceeds from the sale go toward the continued maintenance and preservation of the historic building.

Friends of the Boundary Waters hosting free movie on April 24 in Ely

ELY- The final movie night of the winter season is coming up and it's a bigger one. A 50th anniversary showing of the film Never Before, Never Again will take place at the Vermilion Fine Arts Theater followed by a Q&A by the Verlen Krueger Memorial Foundation. The event is scheduled for 6-8 p.m. on Thursday, April 24; it will be a free event.

Singers needed for Memorial Day program in Tower; rehearsals starting April 28

TOWER- Plans for the Tower-Soudan Memorial Day program, on Monday, May 26, are underway. The Tower-Soudan Area Singers invite area residents to help provide patriotic music for the event. Share your voice and help enhance this important community tradition.

Rehearsals begin on Monday, April 28 at 5 p.m. at the Tower-Soudan Elementary School music room. Rehearsals will continue on Mondays through May. The Memorial Day program is set for 10 a.m. at the Lamppa Civic Center. The singers are led by Rolf Anderson, and new singers are always welcome.

Dancing with the Ely Stars returns May 1

ELY- Northern Lakes Arts Association (NLAA) will present the third annual Dancing with the Ely Stars on Thursday, May 1 at 7 p.m. at Ely's Historic State Theater. This community fundraising event pairs local residents in dance duos who compete for audience votes and the rotating glitter ball trophy.

This year's featured performers include Sunshine Gardner, Megan Sisson, Elijah Olson, Lucy Soderstrom, Misha Goswami, Amari Christie, Jessie Dunn, Emily Dunn, Megan Wind, Aidan Bremner, Ozzie Reif, Eva Peters, and Jesse Olson. The performances will be evaluated by a panel of three judges, Ryan Stewart, Molly Roske and Andrea Strom.

Tickets are \$25 and include three votes toward a competing dance duo. Additional votes may be purchased at the door for \$1 each. Tickets are on sale at NorthernLakesArts. org/Tickets or by calling 218-235-9937. Over one-third of tickets have already been sold, and the event has reached full capacity in each of the past two years.

NLAA has set a fundraising goal of \$10,000 for this year's event. Proceeds will support local youth arts programs, community events including the annual spring musical and art workshops, and will help ensure that NLAA can continue offering classes and performances at reduced

"This event is a celebration of community and a key part of our annual fundraising," said Ian Francis Lah, Executive Artistic Director of NLAA. "Purchasing a ticket supports affordable and accessible arts programming for audiences of all ages in Ely.'

Northern Lakes Arts Association is a nonprofit organization based in Ely. Its mission is to enrich the community through year-round visual, performing, and literary arts programming. For more information, email Contact@NorthernLakesArts.org or visit NorthernLakesArts.org.

Citywide Rummage and Business Crazy Day, May 17 in Ely

ELY- Don't miss out! Register now for the 14th annual Citywide Rummage, Business Crazy Day, and Used Equipment and Watercraft Sale, to be held on Saturday, May 17. Register in person at the Ely Chamber, 1600 E Sheridan St., or online at Ely.org/citywide. The \$10 registration fee includes a map listing and media promotion. Registration deadline is Thursday, May 8. Call 218-365-6123 with ques-

Correction

The photo caption of the Mesabi Community Band tuba players mistakenly identified one of the players as Raymond Jacobson; his actual name is Rainer Jacobson.

EARTH DAY

Earth Fest set for April 25 & 26 in Virginia

VIRGINIA- The Iron Range Partnership for Sustainability (IRPS) is celebrating the 17th annual Iron Range Earth Fest, April 25 and 26 at the Iron Trail Motor Event Center (ITMEC) in Virginia, with the theme of The Price

The kickoff event is at 6 p.m. on Friday evening, April 25 with the screening of the award-winning documentary film, We're All Plastic People

On Saturday, April 26 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., the ITMEC arena and ballroom will host local marketplace vendors, exhibitors, activities, music by Horse FZCE and Christopher David Hanson and more. A silent auction will be held, with proceeds benefiting IRPS's mission-driven projects. KAXE's John Latimer will conduct a phenology walk. Food by 5 & Go will be available for purchase.

IRPS and Virginia Public Library are launching the Lending Library Toy Share at Earth Fest. Bring gently used toys to donate for the toy library. This



initiative aims to reduce waste, save money, and have fun. Stuffed animals or plushies, imitation weapons, or electronic toys cannot be accepted.

IRPS partners at Global Ewaste Solutions will be back to collect electronics for electronic waste recycling. This helps to keep harmful waste out of landfills or illegally dumped in our communities. Many items are free to drop off, however there is a fee for some items. See the IRPS website for more details.

Admission to both events is free thanks to the generosity of our Earth Fest sponsors.

Iron Range Partnership for Sustainability, a 501C3 nonprofit, is the voice of sustainability for the Iron Range. Through events, initiatives and proj-



ects, IRPS encourages and facilitates collaboration towards a sustainable and thriving Iron Range.

More information can be found at www.irpsmn.org and on Facebook at Iron Range Partnership for Sustainabil-

TRAVELING EXHIBIT

We Are Water MN exhibit will visit Ely in April

ELY- The Ely Folk School is pleased to announce that the traveling exhibition, We Are Water MN, will open at the Ely Area Community Hub on Miners Drive on Thursday, April 24. We Are Water MN is a project of the Humanities Center that engages Minnesotans with the state's most important natural resource through personal stories, historical content and scientific information. Thanks to a partnership with Ely Folk School, We Are Water MN will be on display at the Hub from April 24 through June 16.

"Bringing people together around an issue they care about is how the humanities can be put into action. When Minnesotans learn from each other about the water where we live, we can make decisions that account for the complexity of our world," said Kevin Lindsey, CEO of the Minnesota Humanities Center.

The Ely Folk School is collaboratively designing local events and public programming that connect people to issues surrounding water in their communities. In co-creating with community members and organizations who are working on and talking through water issues, We Are Water MN is expanding the local and state network of stakeholders at multiple levels within Minnesota to support citizen initiatives and create a shared vision around water in Minnesota. Join EFS for the opening ceremony at the Hub on Thursday, April 24 at 5:30 p.m. with a special performance from Reflections Dance

Visitors to the We Are Water MN exhibit in Ely will learn about water issues statewide and right here in the Ely area. An array of community members have generously given their stories to benefit the exhibit. By learning with

and from our own community members, we can better understand each other and relevant water issues.

Visit www.elyfolkschool.org/post/ we-are-water-ely to learn more and see the event schedule. We Are Water MN is led by the

Minnesota Humanities Center in partnership with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency; the Minnesota Historical Society; the Board of Water and Soil Resources; the Minnesota Departments of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources; and University of Minnesota Extension.

We Are Water MN is funded in part with money from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Fund that was created with the vote of the people of Minnesota on Nov. 4, 2008, and by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

THEATRE SCENE

Theater company looking for actors for radio plays

REGIONAL- What is more enjoyable than reading a good story out loud? For some, having a captive audience enthralled in the story is an uplifting experience. Combine that with texts from classic radio and you have an experience that's a and those being read to alike.

Stages of the Range Players (SRP) is offering this opportunity on the Iron Range. The community theater group travels to area nursing homes and performs radio plays that bring back many memories of years

The <mark>helpful</mark> place.

gone by with classics like Lassie, Our Miss Brooks, Dick Tracy and many others. SRP is currently looking for anyone interested in trying this type of theater.

The actors read from a script in front of the audience just as actors read for load of fun for those reading the radio in the years before television. Rehearsals are minimal, no memorization is required, and no previous experience is needed, just a desire to provide entertainment that the audience en-

> "The plays bring back memories for the residents

and have been very well received," said Jerry Newton, a SRP cast member. "And the actors are a joy to work

Theater has always been known as an accessible way to create community through a social network. Participatthinking, nurtures self-image, fosters collaborative spirit and improves communication skills for those who participate, while making a difference in their commu-

Another SRP cast member, Liz Bloch says, "I love

theater! Radio shows are a great introduction while being a much lower commitment than a full staged play You don't have to memorize lines and it's still a ton of fun to be in character."

Anyone who loves the idea of bringing a bit of theing in theater sparks creative ater to folks in a residential community like a nursing home, is welcome to get involved. For more information, contact SRP by email at s.r.p.theater@gmail.com or find the sign-up form on the Stages of the Range Players Facebook page.



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TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT

Greenwood hires Mortaloni as township treasurer

by JODI SUMMIT Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP- Interim treasurer Tammy Mortaloni got an upgrade at Tuesday's town board meeting here, when the board voted to hire her as the township's new treasurer. The board decision was made possible by the town's voters, who opted by a wide margin last month to adopt Option B, which allows townships to hire, rather than elect, a treasurer and clerk.

Mortaloni has worked in finance throughout her career and graduated from the University of Minnesota-Duluth with a degree in finance and marketing. She previously served as deputy treasurer and as the fire department's administrative assistant. She also has done grant writing for the township and fire department. The board had appointed her interim treasurer last month before advertising to fill the new permanent position. The new position pays \$45 per hour, up to 20 hours a month

Mortaloni lives on Echo Point and also is the treasurer for the Penguins Snowmobile Club.

Supervisor Steve Bradach, who was on the hiring committee, said they had interviewed four candidates, all qualified, and three of them had experience with the township's accounting software. Mortaloni was the highest ranked candidate, and the vote to hire her was unanimous.

The job was posted for up to 20 hours a month, but the board approved additional hours, if needed, as Mortaloni works to get the township's financial statements reconciled between the clerk and treasurer's accounts. The board also noted that the position may require additional hours, over the 20 specified, at the end of the year, to finalize year-end reporting.

Mortaloni said she had already started working over the financials from 2024, but still needs to review records from 2022 - 2023. She said the clerk and treasurer were accounting for investments differently during this time period, and that she would be able to clarify the numbers.

"We know where we are now," she said. "But I can't do a Schedule 1 until 2022 and 2023 are balanced. We are doing okay."

The board had failed to ap-



Tammy Mortaloni

prove their Board of Audit in February because the books did not match. The board will hold another Board of Audit on Tuesday, May 13, following the regular meeting. The township got an extension from the state to file their Board of Audit on May 15.

Door locks

The board tabled any decision on upgrading the door lock system at the town hall until June, on a 4-1 vote with Chairman Lois Roskoski voting against. The township will receive their first half of 2025 tax levy payments in June.

The township received two quotes for electronic locking systems and noted the quote from Arrowhead Locksmith Service appeared to be the lowest, but would still cost as much as \$12,000 depending on how many doors received the upgrades. The electronic locking systems would use a key card or fob, which would be programmed for individual employees and could be deauthorized as needed. The locks are battery operated so still work in case of a power outage, and the doors can also have keyed entry.

The board discussed how this would work for people renting out the hall, and how many doors actually need the system, and what doors could remain keyed.

Employee files

The board is still concerned

about possibly missing employee file information and incomplete employee files. The files are apparently located in different parts of the town hall and Roskoski said she and clerk Debby Spicer are working to consolidate

"Today a bunch of files showed up in Debby's office in a box under her desk," she said. "Not sure how they got there."

This is alarming, said Roskoski. "This is a reason we need those locks."

Former fire department member Jet Galonski said information, including his letter of termination from the fire department, is

missing from his file.

"Some of us firefighters are thinking about coming back," Galonski said. "We want you to say we were fired illegally and put that in for a grievance.'

Fire department members were previously dismissed from the department after they sent a letter to the board saying they would not respond to calls unless the board allowed them to select their own fire chief after the previous chief and assistant chief were relieved of their positions. These members had also left their turn-out gear in the town hall in protest.

Sheriff report

Roskoski reported on an incident at the town hall on March 17 when then-deputy treasurer JoAnn Bassing called the sheriff after a verbal altercation with clerk Spicer. Spicer had told Bassing that she was no longer deputy treasurer and shouldn't be in the office, though after calling Roskoski was told that Bassing was still technically in that position until the election contest period was over. Bassing was also upset because the password on the treasurer's computer had been changed, so she couldn't do the work she had planned on completing. At some point in the conversation, Spicer said either "gee" or "maybe" "I should have shot you."

Bassing had recorded the incident. The sheriff's department report noted that after listening to the recording, the officer felt that Bassing had "completely baited Spicer into an argument and attempted to get her to say something threatening," according to the sheriff's report, suggesting at one point, "Why don't you just shoot me? Are you going to shoot me?"

The report noted that Spicer's statement in response was "very tongue-in-cheek and not a comment delivered with a threatening tone." Roskoski noted that the com-

puter password was changed a week early because that's when the computer tech person was able to come and do it. "We need to stop this type of

behavior," said Roskoski. "I am fed up with the whole thing. It really needs to stop."

The township does have administrative guidelines for employees already in place.

Fire department

The board approved adding Brianna Lofquist, a current EMR, as a new firefighter, contingent on passing a background check and taking the required firefighter training classes.

Gilbert said the department needed to replace outdated wildland fighting gear, and that Bois Forte could cover the costs of the three sets needed for band members, but the department would still need to purchase three additional sets which will cost \$975 each. The department will also need to look at updating interior firefighting gear. This gear is only authorized for use for 10 years. The board also approved having the SCBA equipment tests and the annual pump testing, as well as repair of one portable pump. They also approved annual service on the three fire boats.

The fire department is holding a clean-up day on Saturday, April 26 starting at 9 a.m. and volunteers are welcome to help clean out the fire hall and storage areas.

Other business

In other business, the board:

➤ Heard from Jet Galonski, who urged the township to keep the existing gas range, noting it's value, if new, was over \$35,000. He told the board if all 10 of the pilot lights stayed lit, the stove would be easy to use. The township had turned off the gas to the stove a few years ago, because of issues with the stove's reliability. Clerk Debby Spicer, who used to run Wayside Café, noted that leaving the pilots burning would add a lot of heat in the town hall, which might be welcome in the winter, but would heat up the building significantly in the summer. A committee has been formed to look into getting the town hall kitchen back up to commercial code, so it could be used for community events and fundraisers.

➤ Will have the recreation committee look into options for purchasing benches to be placed along the bike trail, and the possibility of having the benches sponsored/donated.

➤ Tabled the idea of hiring a maintenance employee.

➤ Will call for bids on reroofing for the four town hall structures. Supervisor Craig Gilbert said he had done an inspection of the roofs with the owner of Vermillion Roofing which showed one roof in immediate need of reshingling. and another in need of immediate patching. He noted that roofing materials are expected to rise in price significantly by next summer. A rough estimate of the cost to do all four roofs is around \$90,000 -\$115,000, Gilbert said. Gilbert said they would call for 35-year shingles. The current roofs are all between 20 and 25 years old. Gilbert said the board also needs to deal with replacement or repair of several windows in the town hall, which have significant rot.

➤ Heard that the two outstanding OSHA complaints filed by Jeff Maus were dismissed by the state.

➤ Will call for quotes on lawn mowing for this summer.

➤ Approved a \$100 donation to Cook Timber Days. The board passed on donation requests from the North Woods School robotics team and the Cook Friends of the Park, saying they did not meet the public purpose test required. ➤ Gilbert reported that the

arsenic filtration system substrate was being replaced, and they are setting up a testing schedule.

REAL ESTATE



This stunning country home on 40 acres is perfect for nature lovers and hobby farmers alike! Enjoy a bright open floor plan filled with charm. Updated 3/4 Bath that's finished with gleaming subway tile and contemporary finishes. Newer flooring throughout the entire main floor. Main Floor Laundry is convenient and efficient. Dual fuel with wood boiler and newer gas furnace. Outdoor Amenities is perfect for animals with a fully fenced-in pasture, ideal for your hobby farm. Spacious pole building (42x62). Heated & Insulated Garage (32x42): Includes a workshop with wood boiler heat.

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OPINION

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

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

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial

Reaping what we've sown

Minnesota will feel the effects of punishing our neighbor to the north

There are consequences to punishing and bad-mouthing your neighbor, and Minnesota is going to be feeling the effects. The bad-mouthing, of course, isn't coming from those of us who live in Minnesota, but that won't limit the impact to our economy from the disrespectful statements and actions by President Trump toward Canada, its people, and those from so many other once-friendly nations.

Last year, Minnesota played host to 642,000 foreign visitors, about six-in-ten who came from our neighbor to the north. According to Explore Minnesota, the total number of foreign visitors was expected to increase to about 800,000 by 2028, but it's a fair bet that the state won't see growth in foreign visits for the foreseeable future. Indeed, the number of foreign travelers who come to Minnesota each year is almost certain to fall. Early indications are that the number could fall dramatically, with some Canadian travel businesses reporting bookings to the U.S. are down 70-90 percent. Foreign visitors spent over \$500 million in Minnesota last year, which directly supported about 125,000 direct jobs in Minnesota, and another 50,000 indirect jobs. Trump's belligerence toward Canada and other western countries will almost certainly reduce employment in the state's leisure and hospitality sector as well as local economies in border communities, like International Falls, which rely heavily on Canadian shoppers.

In Minnesota, Canadians come for a variety of reasons, but most come for recreation or to shop, taking advantage of generally lower prices for most consumer goods and gas. Those kinds of trips are likely to fall sharply this year as Trump's talk of Canada as the 51st state and his unjustified tariffs on our largest trading partner, anger and upset our Canadian friends. Canada imported \$349 billion worth of U.S. goods last year, by far the most of any country and maintained one of the smallest trade surpluses with the U.S. of any major economy. And that doesn't include the value of goods that individual Canadians purchase through cross-border shopping trips. Canada is also a reliable and trustworthy source for strategic minerals needed by the U.S. along with the heavy crude oil that provides the fuel we use in the Upper Midwest.

Canada is exactly the kind of trading partner we would want to reward, not punish with exorbitant tariffs and flagrant disrespect. The origins of President Trump's intense dislike of Canada have

been the subject of much speculation, although it seems to have its origins in his personal animosity toward former Liberal Party Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Regardless, a president operating in good faith sets aside his or her personal gripes and enacts policies that are beneficial to their country. Needlessly disrespecting a country that provides an enormous and positive economic impact on the U.S., and Minnesota, is self-destructive.

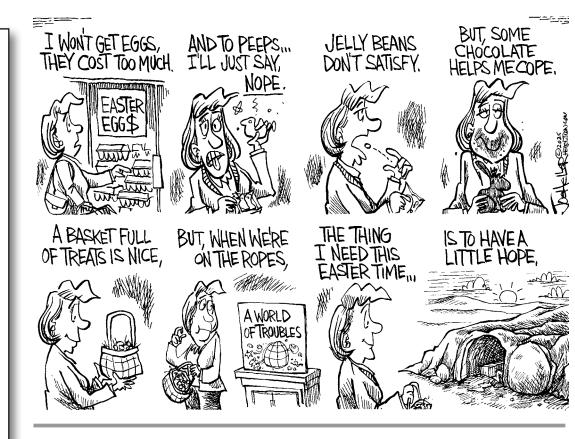
The Trump administration only makes it worse through its increasing hostility to foreign travelers to the U.S. Recent horror stories of Canadians and Europeans, and increasingly even U.S. citizens, being hassled by customs officials at ports of entry have prompted several western countries to post advisories for travel to the U.S. Such advisories used to be reserved for war-torn or politically hostile or unstable countries, yet the U.S. is now well on its way to being viewed as a pariah, even among our longterm former allies.

It's not just border hassles, either. Media reports have cited an increasing number of incidents involving lengthy detention of legitimate visitors, sometimes for more than a week, in crowded and unpleasant federal facilities. Such stories, which have received wide coverage in other countries, have cast a pall on would-be foreign visitors, who are canceling planned trips by the thousands.

Most Canadians aren't about to risk border troubles simply to save on some groceries, especially at a time when most are angry at America for electing a bully as

Let's be clear. This is entirely unnecessary and unwise. We're not talking about illegal immigration, here. Canadians and Europeans aren't seeking to live in the U.S., especially now. Indeed, media reports show the opposite. Canadians are selling their American winter getaways in places like Florida at a record pace, and that selloff is hitting property val-

While Trump's bullying tactics and threats may have worked at times in the business world, they're a recipe for economic disaster on the global stage. America has always thrived when being seen as an open country that welcomes tourists. The Trump administration's extraordinary xenophobia has changed that almost overnight. Minnesota's economy is guaranteed to suffer as a result.



Letters from Readers

Credit union member letter to the editor

Many communities across Minnesota center around a few key places; coffee shops, the post office, libraries and recreation centers, and local financial institutions. For me and over 2.2 million Minnesotans, our financial choice is a credit union.

Credit unions help people like me get a loan for their first car or home and a place to deposit paychecks and grow savings. What's the difference between a bank and a credit union? For starters, credit unions are owned by us members, and we decide what products and services we want and then receive the benefits of those investments.

A credit union is a financial cooperative owned and controlled by the people, or members, who use their services. Unlike banks and other financial institutions, credit unions return profits to members - not to shareholders - in the form of fewer fees on services, lower rates on loans, higher returns on savings, and personalized service.

We've seen banks close across the state and credit unions have stepped up for our communities by providing essential financial services and education. Credit unions are part of our communities because they are made up of and run by people who live and work here.

Credit unions are a reliable place to turn if you need help sorting out your credit and making a financial plan. They offer accounts with lower fees and better rates to help boost savings.

Credit unions can do this because Congress gave credit unions their not-for-profit tax status in 1937 to give everyday working people a place to save their money and get mortgages when other financial institutions wouldn't. As not-for-profit financial cooperatives, they are owned and operated for the benefit of the members

they serve - people like you and me. When credit unions thrive. their members and communities thrive.

lowing credit unions to continue

to support individuals to make

This status is crucial in al-

healthy financial decisions about their lives. That's why I, and so many of my neighbors, support our local credit union. **Jody Carlson** Hoyt Lakes, Embarrass

Vermillion Federal Credit Union member

Happy Earth Day!

People around the world use five trillion single-use plastic bags in a year. Not many of us can comprehend that massive number or know what to do with all those bags that last forever. It is estimated that it takes a thousand years for a plastic bag to decompose. In the meantime, it spends its long life in a landfill, an ocean, a tree, or a gutter, allowing its toxic chemicals to enter the air we breathe and the food we consume.

On average, plastic bags are used for 12 to 20 minutes, carrying groceries or other items that are already wrapped in plastic and are nearly impossible to open. Yet the plastic industry has found countless ways to impose plastic pollution into our lives. It's in our water, food, clothing, carpeting – even my computer - frankly, it's everywhere.

Earth Day is April 22, which makes this an excellent time to consider the many harms caused by our thoughtless overuse of

The southeast Asian country of Bangladesh is the symbol of plastic pollution because sewers have, for years, been plugged with carelessly discarded plastic bags and packaging. People have drowned in the floods that, on a regular basis, cover that low-lying country. Although plastic bags are

banned in Bangladesh, the ban is ignored by many shoppers. Sewer divers are hired at \$10 a day to clear the plastic from at least some of the clogged drains.

One small but vital step that we can take is simply to carry a reusable bag. Most of us have a bag or two tucked away in a closet or car trunk. Please take them with you when you shop. Let's avoid the dreadful consequences of carelessly handled plastic that is doing silent damage to our beautiful world.

> Pat Helmberger **Tower**

Could we go to everyother-day mail?

The Post Office isn't getting the mail out on time. People are ticked. The carriers and clerks are overworked and understaffed.

Why is six days every week the only possible goal, when a consistent delivery, every other day, could be actually achieved? Half the routes could be M/W/F and the other half T/Th/Sa. If we didn't expect so much,

we wouldn't be so disappointed.

Dave Porter

USPS Letter Carrier 1973-76, Union Member Branch 9, Minneapolis

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

My first Social Security check family vacation... Years ago, when living my son Keaton, and his wife, When we got close to the

in Alaska, if someone left to visit relatives in Minnesota or elsewhere, they would

say "I'm going outside for a couple of weeks" or 'gotta head to the lower 48." I kind of felt that way on a recent trip when I busted out of Soudan to go to Minneapolis. I hadn't been anywhere south of Virginia since last October when my son got married in

Kansas City. When you "bust out," you certainly discover what's changed in the big wide world.

On Saturday, April 5,

Ashley, picked me up in their car with Ashley's parents Joe and Leah Hiller following in another car.

We were going to Minneapolis's city center to explore and go to the Guthrie Theater. I had recently started collecting my Social Security, and in my state of happiness, I decided to spend it on a lovely weekend with the newly-combined family.

Without too much lead time, I booked three rooms on my credit card and also theater tickets to see The Mouse Trap by Agatha

STONE

Christie. There were only a few seats left, and they were in the closed caption section. "How does that work," I thought, so I did a little research and decided the seats would be fine and the captions useful.

Our caravan stopped at McDonald's in Virginia for lunch and rather than using the usual drive-through, we went inside to eat. Immediately I was faced with a new challenge when I noticed people were ordering at payment kiosks. I do it now at Walmart, Target, and the Virginia clinic, but I don't really like it, and now it's become the norm. "Go with the flow," I say, and stay relevant in this rapidly changing city, I had suggested we go to Rosedale Center to shop for "just a little bit," and was able to convince the guys. It was my first time in Von Maur's department store, and I delighted in seeing the lovely nostalgic displays on beautiful wood tables that reminded me of the old Dayton's and to top it off, a man in a suit was playing a baby grand piano. The excitement launched me gleefully in the direction of the shoe department. I had money to spend and planned to "go for it." After all, taking Social Security is a big deal in one's life, and a celebration is in order. The others drifted away, and we met up later with me carting numerous bags in contrast to the others with small purchases and Joe sporting a new haircut.

We left Rosedale and headed towards the city center and the hotel. The GPS gave Keaton some trouble, so in carnival-like fashion we swirled up and around a clover leaf or two before arriving at our destination. We pulled up in front of the hotel and utilized the valet parking. This was something I had not ever done before because I come from a free parking region in my state, but here it seemed a great idea. From this point on, contact with the valets would be done on a special phone app by tech-savvy Uber-Joe who booked and generously paid for all the rides. It eased

my senior senses that I was not in charge of this. Once inside the hotel, it took us 20 minutes to squeeze into an elevator to go up to the 16th floor because the hotel was filled with young adults who were attending the Model UN Conference. Soon I was settling into

my room when a knock on the door revealed Keaton brisking in with his suitcase rolling behind and Ashley with a smirk on her face. I instinctively knew they were hijacking my room for the better view; however, I got a couch in the trade. Joe and Leah's view featured a grand cityscape, neon theater mar-

See VACATION..pg. 5

Time to oppose the fascist genocide in Gaza

Do we live in a democracy or a fascist state, or somewhere in between? As in the marriage of industry and government, Trump and Musk epitomize fascism. The power, greed, fear, avarice, ignorance, and militarism are components of the fascism causing the ongoing genocide in Gaza. The scapegoated Palestinians are not much different from the scapegoated Jews of WWII. or the Native Americans in colonial settler days.

Friends have "There are many ongoing genocides, they are complicated, what can we do?" Well, how about using our taxes for social services instead of buying bombs to indiscriminately murder people in Gaza and elsewhere? This is no defensive action on the part of Israelit is an offensive genocidal theft of land. Ceasing arms shipments would stop it now, as Genocide Joe refused to do. and now Trump wants to build a Golden Trump Hotel in Gaza. Most of us do not want this genocide, and it is not antisemitic to say Israel and the U.S. are committing this genocide.

Besides genocide and the cutting of social services, other components of fascism are increasing sickness, poverty, cancer, murder, suicide, the worsening extreme weather of global warming and a general environmental degradation.

It would truly be a great reality TV show to incarcerate Trump, Musk, the Clintons, Netanyahu, Putin, Modi, Milieu, a few petrochemical CEOs and some crypto kings all together in the Gaza Concentration Camp. It would be great drama! And it might run for several seasons!

It is every American's business to speak up about this grossly immoral genocide their taxes are paying for. It is bad for America, Israel, Palestine, and everyone. Most likely one quarter of a million dead so far. A genocide perpetrated by fascists. Please speak against it. Don't be complicit in it. Stopping it is as easy as taking a weapon away from a

> **Doug Lande** Isabella

Letters from Readers

Takeover of Minnesota Power could harm

customers

I recently attended a meeting of the MN Public Utilities Commission that took public comment on whether or not certain investment firms should be allowed to purchase ALLETE, the parent company of Minnesota Power. The firms in question are Global Infrastructure Partners (owned by Blackrock, who already owns some MN Power shares) and the Canadian Pension Plan.

Several union representatives involved in servicing the electric production industry spoke in favor of the acquisition.

The state Attorney General's Office and the state Dept. of Commerce spoke against the purchase, citing that it was a bad deal for electricity consumers. My personal reading and

research show that when equity firms such as these buy out utility companies, several things take place:

1.) Layoffs of personnel often happen within a year, even though they say it won't happen.

2.) Direct investment in infrastructure improvement and maintenance often de-

3.) Rates invariably go up soon after purchase.

You can call the MN PUC at 800-657-3782 to find out how to comment on this

> Mark Roalson **Hoyt Lakes**

Why is Stauber making it harder for many women to vote?

The Constitution is a wonderful living document. According to the Constitution, women in the United States should be able to vote in federal elections regardless of their last name. In August 1920, the 19th Amendment was ratified and added to the Constitution giving women the right to vote. It is Donald Trump and his congressional allies who are trying to make it harder for women to vote in federal elections if their last name is different from the name listed on their birth certificate. The SAVE Act, H.R. 22, passed the U.S. House Representatives. Pete

Stauber, who represents the Eighth congressional district in Minnesota, voted in favor.

Pete Stauber is a strong Trump supporter and neglects to acknowledge it is the people of the Eighth congressional district that voted him into the House and not Donald Trump. Currently, Pete Stauber is not supporting the Constitution nor the people of the Eighth congressional district who voted for him.

This action is being done to silence the voice of women in the United States. This is a disgrace!

> Sandra Schwoch Moose Lake

Trump is making a mess of voting

One of the most important pillars of democracy is the freedom of our citizens to vote for government leaders. Trump, however, is seeking to disrupt the election process by imposing conditions to suppress voting eligibility to improve his election prospects.

In order to vote, he would require voter proof of citizenship. This requirement would put more than 21 million people, who lack

a passport or other approved document, at risk of disenfranchisement.

The Washington Post stated that "voting experts have routinely demonstrated that illegal voting by noncitizens is exceedingly rare." In Georgia, for example, an audit found only 20 non-citizens among its 8 million voters.

Once again, Trump defies the U.S. Constitution that clearly states that the states have the power to set the rules for federal elections (not the federal government). He ordered Attorney General Pam Bondi and Kristi Noem, the homeland security secretary to investigate former officials and report findings to the White House.

The Post points out, "Trump is not fixing the problems you care about. He is creating new, much scarier

As Mark Twain framed the issue, "Patriotism is supporting your country all of the time and your government when it deserves it.'

Gerry Snyder

ELECTIONS

Bois Forte primary narrows field for new chairperson

by DAVID COLBURN

Cook-Orr Editor

NETT LAKE- The race to replace former Bois Forte Chairperson Cathy Chavers is down to two, as former tribal council member Travis Morrison and political newcomer Carlos Hernandez were the top vote-getters in Tuesday's special primary election.

Morrison, who served eight years on the council before stepping away in 2024, topped the field of six with Vote count up from 2024 primary; election set for Tuesday, June 17

139 votes, 34 percent of the total ballots cast. Hernandez, a former tribal and federal law enforcement officer, tallied 116 votes, or 28.5 percent. Morrison ran slightly ahead of Hernandez in District 1, Minneapolis and Duluth, while Hernandez held a three-vote edge in District 2.

Candidates who bowed out of the race and their vote totals include Peter Boney, 62; Mildred Holmes, 49; Marty Connor, 31; and



Travis Morrison



Carlos Hernandez

Rhonda Hoagland, 6.

Band members turned out in higher numbers for this special primary than for last year's regular primary, with 407 votes cast on Tuesday compared to 387 last year.

Chavers was narrowly re-elected to a third term as chair last year, but unexpectedly retired from the position in January, citing mental health reasons. With first-term member Perry

absence in the wake of an incident at Fortune Bay Resort Casino on Friday, April 11 (see related article in this edition), the tribal council currently has just three active members – interim chair Shane Drift, Robert Moyer and Tara Geshick. Three members constitute a quorum for conducting tribal

Drift now taking a leave of

The special general election will be held on Tuesday, June 17.

VACATION...Cont. from page 4

quees, and a huge Prince mural. As I settled into my new room, I noticed a bottle of water on my TV credenza with a six-dollar price tag hanging around its neck, so I was aware that being charged incidentals could occur here.

I eased onto my kingsize bed as a new goddess of Social Security ought to do and decided to review my bank account on my iPhone. To my shock, there were charges from the hotel totaling \$600 because they had deducted \$100 per room per night. Yikes, I thought, and called the front desk person who explained in three to five days the money would be returned if no damages occurred. Geez, there goes my shopping money into an unexpected temporary savings mode. I realized I'm certainly not upbeat and relevant with metro traveling.

We freshened up and Uber-Joe summoned a ride that took us to eat at the famous Hell's Kitchen with its fabulous food and service. The basement location featured plenty of red decor and had funky vintage portraits of the dead in the bathrooms with eyes that followed you as you moved. After dinner, with a tip from Leah who manages karaoke at a bar in Ely, we took an Uber across the Mississippi River to Otter's Saloon. We were all carded upon entry, and I perked up and stated, "Even me, I'm old!" I actually got carded, which gifted me an experience I hadn't had since I was 37. The bar was located on a corner, and the interior was an obtuse triangle shape with an antiqued green tin ceiling, vintage signage, and boho bartenders that worked together like a well-oiled machine. I managed to get a barstool and sat drinking a string of cranberry spritzers.... having ceased the drinking of spirits 15 months prior. It was another savings plan as the price of mixed cocktails was \$14 a

The sign-up to sing karaoke was done through a phone app, and after about two hours as we were nearly leaving, Leah's song finally came up, and she was able to sing. She was a hit with screaming young female groupies jumping up and down next to her. A rose vendor came easing through, and I received two lovely pastel roses from Ashley and Leah that are still blooming. What remains stuck in my head from that bar is the insanely popular song.... Pink Pony Club by Chappell Roan. We left Otter's and Uber'd to another karaoke bar that was crowded, had a beverage, heard Pink Pony Club again....then left for the hotel to relax in our own fine company and enjoy the

The following morning, Leah and I awoke early and went down for a buffet breakfast. A staffer told us to fill a plate, so we did and found a seat in a lovely glass room nearby. Before my fork hit my egg, another staffer told us to leave the room, explaining that we were in the VIP lounge. I could see relevant-Keaton outside the glass frowning and motioning us

out. Lightly embarrassed but giggling, we picked up our plates and walked them to an appropriate area whereby avoiding arrest and possible deportation to a prison in El Salvador. As it turned out, it was not continental, and each plate was \$20. Following the breakfast from hell, I was feeling like I should be taken immediately to a rest

After a bit we took an Uber to the Guthrie to see the matinee show. Nothing unfortunate occurred at this event, the show was great, and Joe and Leah enjoyed their first Guthrie visit. We decided to walk a couple of blocks to grab some lunch at The Clay Oven, an Indian restaurant where chicken coconut curry, naan, and tikka masala graced our table... receiving high praise and shared tasting all around. After lunch, the others took the skywalk over to the Crystal Court plaza to look around. I was still tired from the Pink Pony Club extravaganza and opted for a wee nap...once again merging with that lux king-size bed adorned with four tubular pillows and crisp white sheets and comforter.

I awoke to a knock and Keaton happily entered with a white paper bag of treats he had bought me from the candy store across the street. "Oooooh," I happily exclaimed, opening the bag to his description of white almond bark, turtles, and a toffee crunch. I started to sample with random bites, and he shortly returned to his room. How great it is to be a senior, on SS with a thoughtful son

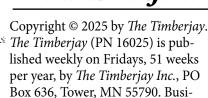
and a body free from diabetes. I watched the big-city TV for a bit, slid from the bed to grab my water, and on return saw a long brown streak on the fitted sheet that certainly was not what it appeared to be. "Good God, what next?" I texted Leah, who chuckled and urged me that trying to clean the stain would make it worse but suggested I leave

On Sunday morning, we "hurkle-durkled" (Scottish expression of lounging in bed longer than one should), then I composed a note of apology with a candy store alibi and drew an arrow pointing to the skid mark. I propped it against a pillow in a state of paranoia, fearing the hotel would hold back the \$200 damage deposit for my room. We checked out in festive spirits under blue skies with the valets delivering our cars to the tune of \$248 for the parking with valet accommodation. We drove to Bloomington for a fun visit with the Springborgs; Leah's mother, brother and his wife,

and Lucy the plump cat. The trip back north had to include that stop at Tobie's for unhealthy pastries and another traditional pop-in visit at The Warming House in Cloquet. Over the next days, the damage deposit charges dropped out of view from my bank account, and I continued to relish the happiness and hu-

mor of the trip. Happy Easter to you and your families.

TIMBERJAY



ness/Editorial Office at 414 Main St., PO Box 636 Tower, MN 55790. Call (218) 753-2950 to subscribe. E-mail address is editor@timberjay.com. Periodicals postage paid at Tower, Minnesota.

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

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

Publisher General Manager Cook/Orr Editor Ely Editor Office Manager Graphics/Ad Sales Ad Sales/Sports

Marshall Helmberger Jodi Summit David Colburn Catie Clark Michelle Toutloff Scarlet Lynn Stone Jay Greeney

Official Newspaper:

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

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Week of April 21

Monday

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

Tower Area Food Shelf-

Tuesday

Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5 p.m. New location in the old St. James Church bulding. Next food shelf day is May 20. 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 31 Charlemagne's 52 Club is Betsy Clark of Tower.

History Tidbit: The current cemetery is not the first one that served Tower-Soudan. The first cemetery, started in 1884, was moved for the most part in the 1960s to the Lakeview Cemetery location to accommodate the newly-constructed County garage (now City of Tower garage). Two stones and other unmarked graves still remain, located in the general area of the new development near the MarJo Motel.

Free community meal at Immanuel on April 23

TOWER- Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower is hosting a free community meal on Wednesday, April 23 from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., or until the food is gone. The meal this month is biscuits and gravy, egg bake, and dessert. Eat-in or take-out. All are welcome.

Cemetery cleanup day on April 26 VERMILION LAKE

TWP- Vermilion Lake Township cemetery cleanup is set for Saturday, April 26, from 1 - 3 p.m. in Vermilion Lake Township. Please bring shovels and rakes. In the event of inclement weather, an alternate date/time will be announced. Please call the township at 218-248-2731 to sign-up.

St. Martin's Holy **Week Mass schedule**

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**

TOWER- 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.

EASTER







The Embarrass Fair Association and Tower Fire Department Relief Association hosted Easter egg hunts last weekend, and children had games and fun, plus 1,000s of candy-filled eggs to collect. Clockwise from top left: Harper Olson helps her brother Camdyn collect eggs. Owen and Amelie Zak won the coloring contest sponsored by the fair association. Theo Purkat won a large chocolate bunny at the Tower event, and promptly ate both ears. Tanner Mickle was all smiles while opening up the eggs he collected in Tower. Luca Gould was busy collecting eggs in Embarrass. Ada Gornick wasn't eager to share her candy with her father Cade in Tower. Aven Chavez got to pet a baby chick at Timber Hall in Embarrass. photos by J. Summit







BREITUNG TOWNSHIP



Celebrating 45 years of leadership

SOUDAN- The Tower-Soudan community gave former township chair I im I omsich a great send-off, Saturday, as well over 100 community members, family members, and friends stopped by the newly-renamed Timothy Tomsich Community Center for a brunch buffet hosted by the Tomsich family and friends.

Tomsich recently retired after serving 45 years on the town board, most of that time as chair.

Tim and Lori Tomsich, and their three children, Phillip, Matthew, and Alex, granddaughter Tori, plus many nieces, nephews and their families, spent time visiting with neighbors, and new and old friends.

photo by J. Summit

TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY



TS team travels to statewide Pacesetters **Tournament on March 29**

Tower-Soudan Elementary Girls Basketball fourth-grade team travelled to Sauk Rapids on March 29 to participate in the statewide Pacesetters Tournament. They played three games, and while they didn't score any wins, the team had a great experience. photos by T. Trucano



AROUND TOWN





Above: Amanda Faulkner's fourth-grade class at Washington Elementary School having fun in their costumes for their "wax museum" presentation of historic figures. Visitors to the wax museum could press a button on the student's homemade displays to hear a recitation of historical facts about the people they portrayed.

Magellan's sixteenth century expedition was the first to circumnavigate the globe. A parent visiting the wax museum on last Thursday asked Smith as Magellan what her favorite place was on the globe. Smith pointed at northeast Minnesota and said, "my home." Center middle: Sarah MacCoy, a North Country Trail Association volunteer from the group's Ely

Center left: Laurana Smith portrayed Ferdinand Magellan in the "wax museum" presentation of historic figures by Nancy Preblich's fourth-grade class at Washington Elementary School.

chapter flagging trees for the trail near the Kawishiwi Falls trailhead.

Center right: Proof that good manners are not dead.

Bottom left: After Minnesota Senators Grant Hauschild (left) and Erin Murphy (right) finished with their town hall on Tuesday at Minnesota North College (see article on p. 1), they toured the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital with EBCH CEO Patti Banks (center).

Bottom right: Ely Police Chief Chad Houde (center) introduced Ely's newest police officers, Charles Petersen (left) and Ashlan Barthrope (right). Petersen and Barthrope were sworn in as patrol officers that Tuesday's Ely City Council meeting by Ely Mayor Heidi Omerza. photos by C. Clark









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 in-

terested in supporting Ely's nonprofits, please call 651-303-1094 for more details. **Ely Clean-Up**

ELY- Three Ely groups

are coming together to sponsor a clean-up and mulching day on Saturday, April 26, with three 9 a.m. events for volunteers to improve the city's appearance.

Incredible Ely will hold a clean-up of the Jerome Debeltz Softball Fields on Old

Airport Rd. The Ely Climate Group will hold a trash clean-up of the Trezona Trail, staring at the trailhead on Miners Dr.

The Friends of the Trees of Ely will meet at Whiteside Park for a mulching lesson followed by mulching the city's trees in Ely parks and on street boulevards. All volunteers should

bring gloves if they have them. Tools, bags, and vest swill be provided. **Ely Public Library**

ELY- The Get Crafty

group will meet on Wednesday, April 23, from 2-3 p.m. to make spring-themed crafts at craft stations. Register supplies for participants.

in advance for this event so the library can order enough The Move and Groove for Preschool group will

meet on Tuesday, April 29, from 10:30-11 a.m. The library will host a presentation for adults on Wednesday, April 30, from

1:30-2:30 p.m. The talk will

be by Joanna Swanson from

the Northwoods Volunteer Connection, who will speak on Superior National Forest, the work required to maintain the forest, and how people can get involved as volunteers. Preschool Storytime

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

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

BABBITT- The library

will be open on Friday, April 18, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and closed on Monday, April Book bingo will be 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 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.

The library will host "Going to Bartalina," a presentation of songs and stories about sailing on the Great Lakes by folk singer and story teller Charlie Maguire, on Monday, May 5 at 1 p.m.

The April take-andmake kit for kids is mixed media collage. Pick one up while supplies last. The kit

for May will be tissue paper art, available starting on April 30. Preschool story time is every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. All library events are at

the Babbitt Public Library,

71 South Dr., unless other-

wise noted.

Ely Community Education

ELY- Attorney Kelly Klun will teach a free Elv Community Education class on Wednesday, April 23, on estate planning. Anyone with assets, no matter how small, should plan on how to pass those on. Klun will walk attendees through the documents and steps needed for your estate. Ely Community Educa-

tion will hold a free class on "Five Keys to Retiring Fearlessly," about planning for retirement, on Wednesday, April 30. The above classes are all

at 5:30-6:30 p.m., in the Ely Public Schools Media Center, 600 E. Harvey St. Enter the campus buildings through the center door (door No. 1), pass through the foyer and second set of doors, and turn right. The media center is on the right, across from the new

In Brief

Tuesday Group schedule

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

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

Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

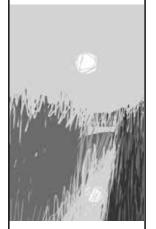
➤ April 22: Answering the Call of the Loon with Steve Maanum

➤ April 29: We Are Water Exhibit

➤ May 6: Swimming as Connection with Michael Kleber-Diggs

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2025



drab month of april occasional sun shining

green plants to rise soon

<u>Libraries</u>

Ely library

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

Babbitt library

9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday Tuesday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday Friday 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Phone: 218-827-3345

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

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

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

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

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

ADULT BASIC Call 218-365-3359, or

EDUCATION GED Study materials and pre-test available.

1-800-662-5711.

CITY OF ORR

Council tables water rate hike to review comparisons

Intent is to build reserves for anticipated future maintenance costs for system

ORR – A proposal to raise Orr's water rates by five percent annually over the next four years hit pause Monday night, as council members agreed they needed more information before moving forward.

The proposed increase was recommended by Veolia, the company contracted for city maintenance work, that oversees the water and wastewater systems. The proposal was brought forward as a proactive step to help the city build a reserve to address future infrastructure costs for the aging systems and keep pace with depreciation. The city currently has \$100,000 available for both the water and wastewater funds, but it's anticipated that won't be enough to cover upcoming repair needs they've identified.

Council member John Jirik led the call for caution, seeking comparative data to further public understanding.

"What I'd like to see is where are we at now in comparison with other places," Jirik said. "Like if I'm getting water and sewer in Orr, what does that compare to Cook and others? Because I just don't know. For a family of two, it's about \$130 a month. I don't know if that's high or low. No clue."

Jirik wasn't opposed to an increase but urged a more deliberate approach.

"Would it be feasible to take a look at, instead of going four years in a row at this, maybe just look at doing a one-year increase of five percent, then take a look at where we're at?" he asked. "Let the public know we're doing this right now, but we're going to do everything in our power to see where we're at and what's really necessary so we don't increase it all the time unless it's absolutely something we

He also expressed concern about the timing of the increase amid lingering public complaints about water

"With some of that chlorine taste and everything that's been going on, now all of a sudden throwing this out to people might not be the best timing in the world," he said. "Doesn't mean we don't want to do something. But just speaking from last week, it's back. So that would not be something I'd want to push without at least discussing."

Jirik also questioned whether other cities had more diverse revenue streams to support infrastructure or access to grants for upgrades.

"Do other cities have different forms of income to cover some of this, rather than just making it a five-percent increase?" he asked. "You had said something about you can't put it on a levy, which makes sense to me. But what kind of income do we have that might help cut costs?"

In the end, the council voted unanimously to table the resolution, with plans to revisit the issue after gathering rate comparisons and further financial information.

While water rates generated the most discussion, the council moved efficiently through a number of other agenda items.

Airport projects

The council approved three separate airport projects involving runway lighting, hangar design, and apron development. Each project is being funded through state and federal grants, with support from the IRRRB.

"This is one of the rare situations where we're actually getting something that can generate revenue," Jirik said of the hangar project.

It was noted that the grant structures require each component to be approved separately, but the projects will proceed in parallel.

Other business

In other business, the council:

➤ Formally accepted donations from over 30 businesses, couples, and individuals for the fire department's Easter drive-through at the tourist information center. The council also approved a \$250 donation from the city. A total of \$3,945 was donated for the event, Fire Chief Jeremy Wright said that over 80 children showed up on Saturday and that they passed out over 40 bikes and scooters, along with Easter

➤ Approved an invoice for \$562.31 for transmission repair work for a city ambulance.

➤ Renewed a vacation rental license for P4T Holdings at 4568 Lake Street, noting that payments were current and no complaints had been filed.

➤ Approved a check withdrawal of \$30,041.89 from RBC Wealth Management to Park State Bank to support general fund expens-

➤ Heard from ambulance director Donna Hoffer that a new first responders course with ten participants from Orr and surrounding departments is ready to get started. Hoffer also reported that new AEDs have been installed in the ambulances, and that new radios secured through a \$40,000 grant are expected soon.

➤ Heard from Orr Muni manager Nicole VanOs that the doors of the off-sale cooler were being replaced. In response to a question from council member Melissa Wright about ventilation problems at the Muni, VanOs said that a new ventilation fan had been discovered in the basement and that it would be installed as soon as possible. Also discussed were various possibilities for obtaining a dunk tank for the 3rd of July celebration.

➤ Heard from Wright that the new city website is still in development, and departments were asked to submit content for inclusion. The site remains in draft form but is expected to go live in the near future.

➤ Heard that Voyageurs National Park Superintendent Bob DeGross has confirmed that he will move ahead with another service contract to support operations of the tourist information center.

Community events

Trinity Luthern to host free meal on **April 24**

COOK-Trinity Lutheran Church, 231 2nd St. SE in Cook, will offer a free community meal on Thursday, April 24 from 4-5:30 p.m. at the church. The menu will be scalloped potatoes and ham, green beans, dinner roll, and

The meal will be dine-in or carry-out, and is free to the

May art classes on tap at NWFA Gallery

COOK- Let spring inspire your creativity by signing up for an art class in May at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook.

On Saturday, May 3, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., join instructor Linda Revier for "Addicted To Knitting: a Beginners Class," and learn to cast on, knit, purl and cast off. Students will need size 7 needles and worsted weight cotton yarn.

Explore your inner writer in "Intro to Personal Poetry" with Cecelia Rolando on Thursday, May 15, 1-4 p.m. This class is limited to ten students.

Go more in depth with creating with clay with a two-part pottery class offered by Lyn Reed. You'll explore clay slab and coil methods for creating a hand-built vessel or sculpture in the first session on Saturday, May 17, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. On Saturday, May 24, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., the attention turns to glazing.

Students must register for these classes. There are

several ways to sign up. Visit www.nwfamn.org; send an email to nwfamn.org@gmail. com; call Alberta Whitenack at 218-666-2153; or sign up in person at NWFA Gallery at 210 S River St.

A complete list of art classes may be found at the NWFA Gallery or on the website at www.nwfamn.org.

ATV field training day will be April 26 in Cook

COOK- The Cook Timberwolves Snowmobile will host an ATV field training day on Saturday, April 26 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the clubhouse at 126 N Hwy. 53 in Cook.

Sponsored by North Woods Community Education, the course is designed for kids ages 10-15. Participation in the field day requires completion of an online training course at ATV course.com.

Register for the event at https://slc2142.revtrak.net/ rw-northwoods-community-education. Questions can be directed to North Woods Community Ed Coordinator Dee Ann Sandberg at 218-666-5221 ext. 5201 or dsandberg@isd2142.k12.mn.us.

Easter bunny will host kids party at community center

COOK- The Easter Bunny welcomes one and all for a children's Easter party at the Cook Community Center on Saturday, April 19 from 9-11 a.m.

For kids ages 0-10, there will be games, Easter bags, and boys and girls bikes to be given away.

North Woods School student art show and reception at NWFA

COOK- The artistic talents of North Woods School students will be featured at the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook beginning Wednesday, April 16 in the gallery's Wolfe Den.

A reception honoring the student artists will be held at the gallery on Thursday, April 24 from 5-7 p.m., and the public is invited to attend.

View the student exhibit from April 16-30 during the gallery's open hours on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. The gallery is located at 210 S River St. in Cook.

NWFA sponsors 80 Sq. Inches of Art

COOK- It's time to get your creative juices flowing and grab a canvas, or two or three, for "80 Sq. Inches of Art," a celebration of the talent of local artists at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook.

Register at and take your canvas home from NWFA Gallery, 210 S River St. through Saturday, June 28. The sky's the limit for what you do with your canvas paint it, draw on it, weave on it, glue on it, quilt on it, slash or felt on that canvas. The artwork is your choice, your medium and your subject. Picking up a canvas now will give you plenty of time to strike the perfect creative spark for your work of art.



Julie's Dance held its annual spring recital last week at North Woods School. About two dozen vivacious dancers entertained an enthusiastic crowd with performances tied together with a circus them. Left, Savannah Abts performs a lyrical dance with a flowing

Photo by D. Colburn

More than 80 children turned out on Saturday for the Orr Fire Department's annual Easter drive-through at the Tourist Information Center. For the first halfhour of the event, the line of cars waiting to drive through stretched well down the highway shoulder to the north. Orr-area businesses, organizations, couples and individuals donated about \$4,000 for the event.

Photo by D. Colburn





On Saturday, April 5, the 218 Elite volleyball team took second place out of 15 teams in the "AJV 12u Queens of the Court" volleyball tour-nament that was held at South Ridge School. Pictured are, bottom row, Charlotte Pascuzzi. Kensie Herdman: middle row, Libby Glass, Brittany Phillips, Bailey Brunner; top row, Joselyn Pacuzzi, Chloe Kajala, Harlow Anderson, Zoey Novak, and Lucy Talberg. This team is made up of girls from the Cook area and Eveleth and were coached by Amanda Pascuzzi and Jen Brunner. Submitted photo

A Honor Roll

Seniors

Addison Burckhardt John Carlson Nia Gaskell Aidan Hartway Talen Jarshaw Sheyenne Schuster Amber Sopoci Richard Swinson Lydia Trip

Juniors

Lincoln Antikainen Lauren Burnett Josephine Carlson Isabelle Koch Brittin Lappi Victoria Mathys Isabel Pascuzzi Celine Reis Caje Sadie Spears

Sophomores Alethea Bangs

Corralyn Brodeen Abigail Dargontina Emarie Gibson Andrew Hartway Jackson Hendricks Carson Johnson Ella Kruse Sophia Mathys Aiyeshia Mohamed Nathan Ploof Kaycee Zupancich Freshmen

Gage Aune Sopia Bangs Zoey Burckhardt Carsyn Burnett Sawyer Glass Memphis Goodsky Cyrus Johnson Brittan Koskela Evangelina Mathys Aubrey Olson-Stoltenberg Vincent Pascuzzi Alice Sopoci

Eighth Grade

Olivia Baumgartner Anelise Brodeen Michaela Brunner Tessa Burnett William Flores-Leander Laurin Glass Kaleb Gornick Cooper Long

Seventh Grade

Clark Danielson Katherine Hanson Jordan Herdman Jackson Long Aaron Mathys Sydney Olson-Stoltenberg Kaidence Scofield Reece Whitney Daniel Zupancich

B Honor Roll

Seniors

Kalvyn Benner Kayla Boutto

Nevada Gauthier Ryder Gibson Mya Kinsey Cody Kirkman Jaida Lambert

Ronald White

Sophomores

Wilkerson

Geyshick

Grace Bundy

Jack Anderson

Makayla Benner

TaySean Boshey-

Presley Chiabotti

Bryleigh Drift-

Rory Bundy

Juniors

NORTH WOODS THIRD QUARTER

Levi Chaulkin Brynn Chosa Rowan Christian John Danielson Marriah Glowaski-Kingbird Rogelio Noves Milton Spears Charlie Wipf

Johnathon Hampson Cedar Holman Rebecca Koch Tysen Lenzen Joshua Long Kalle Nelson Cassidy Pinski Peyton Swanson Evalyn Thiel Donelle Villebrun

Kaelyn Ehrbright

Sydney Krecklau

Victoria Phillips

Caleb Rutchasky

Merilee Scofield

Elwood Spears

James Yernatich

Oliver Spears

Aiden Woitel

Freshman

Hunter Schwarzenberger

Collin Grahn

Khloe Holland

Kiley Kopatz

Eighth Grade Savannah Abts

Mallory Bibeau Kayla Dougherty Beau Fabish Josie Gibson Lila Kajala Buckley LeForte Bayla Rutchasky Elias Sheffer Carleigh Whiteman Ashlyn Woitel

Seventh Grade Brayden Amundson

Gunner Fultz Rylie Gibson Lanara Guenthner Curtis Krecklau Jillian LaFave Brock Long Jackson Pliml Savannah Villebrun annual meeting each March. That distinction was described repeatedly as a key feature of township government.

"You are the only people who get to do that in a township," said Maddie Cash, a representative of the Minnesota Association of Townships who was on hand to answer questions. "It's why a lot of people move to townships. That often means lower taxes -but either way, it's your call."

Jordan reiterated that the township levy would not be added on top of current taxes but would replace the portion of county taxes currently going into the general county road maintenance fund.

Following the money

St. Louis County Commissioner Keith Nelson attended the meeting on behalf of vacationing Fourth District Commissioner Paul McDonald. Nelson, who lives in Fayal Township, explained that under the current unorganized system, tax revenues from 63-17 are pooled with those from other unorganized areas and spent collectively - sometimes outside the immediate area.

"When you form an orga-

nized township, you get to keep the money your township raises," said Nelson. "Right now, that money is shared across all the unorganized townships in the county."

Nelson pointed out that with a sizable property tax base and just over seven miles of road to maintain, the new township would be in a strong position to manage its finances efficiently.

"It's a pretty good equation," he said. "The levy stays here. The roads are yours. And you decide what gets spent."

Jordan added that the organizing group has already sketched out a preliminary budget and expects no surprises.

"We've got a decent idea of what we'll need," he said. "But this is your township it'll be your budget."

Additional funding

Many had questions about road responsibilities. Jordan clarified that township formation wouldn't affect private road associations, and that contracting services - such as snowplowing and grading - would likely still be done through the county.

Most of the state's orga-

nized townships take a similar approach.

Cash noted that townships also become eligible for grant programs and funding streams that unorganized areas can't access. Nelson added that includes DNR assistance for roads leading to public water

"If your township road leads to a public access, the DNR will pay you to maintain that road," said Nelson. "That money doesn't come to you right now. With a township, it could."

Cash added that grant opportunities go far beyond roadwork.

"There's money out there for sidewalks, broadband. emergency services, bike trails - even pickleball courts," she said, drawing a laugh from the crowd. "The only catch is, you have to be a government entity to apply."

Several people present indicated they didn't want their tax dollars going to pay for a pickleball court.

Some residents asked whether forming a township would mean taking over the Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade. Jordan was quick to dispel the idea.

"The fire brigade is a separate nonprofit, and it's going to stay that way," he said.

The brigade building will serve as the host for secure storage of township records and monthly and annual meetings. The brigade had offered to donate the space, but state law requires the new township to pay market rate for rent, calculated to be about \$14,000 annually.

If the measure passes

Cash explained that if the vote passes, the county would set an organizational meeting within 20 days. Residents at that meeting would elect three supervisors, a clerk, and a treasurer to serve until the regular township elections next March.

"You'll run the meeting, elect the board, and get rolling," she said. "From there, it's up to you."

To encourage voter participation, Jordan said he had asked the county not to schedule the election during the winter.

'That was important to us," he said. "February's not the time for this kind of vote."

Protecting identity

One of the motivations behind the push to organize is a concern about possible annexation. Residents expressed unease about neighboring townships eyeing expansion, especially as budget pressures

mount elsewhere. "Greenwood already annexed part of us," said one resident. "Beatty just took a big budget cut - what do you think they'll be looking at next?"

Cash offered a blunt assessment of the risk.

"Cities are eating up townships like a snack," she said. "You want to control your destiny? Now's the

What's in a name?

With the formal structure still to be determined, discussion near the end of the meeting turned playful what would the new township be called? A name would be selected at the first organizational meeting, but people had already given it some thought.

"Wakanda has a ring to it," someone suggested. "Or maybe Lucky?"

Someone suggested it be named Vermilion Dam for

the area's signature structure. That got a quick response from the crowd.

"Dam Vermilion," someone called out from the

back, drawing hearty laughter. Regardless of the name, Jordan and others stressed that the decision is about building a foundation for long-term local decision-making.

"It's not about adding bureaucracy," said Jordan. "It's about having a say in what happens here and keeping what's ours, ours."

Voting

Ballots asking residents to approve the creation of a new township are expected to arrive by mail beginning this week, although those at the meeting were told not to expect all of them to arrive on the same day. Voters will have until May 13 to return them. In-person voting will be available on Tuesday, May 13, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Virginia Government Services Building, located at 201 S. 3rd Ave. West in Virginia, and the St. Louis County Courthouse, at 100 N. 5th Ave. West, Room 214 in Duluth.

COUNCIL...Continued from page 1

"If PILT gets cut, Koochiching County's taxes will go up about 20 percent across the board. Cook County, about 10 percent. Lake County, about 15 percent. St Louis County – I have asked Kevin Gray (St. Louis County Administrator) to find out what that percentage is going to be. We have enough public land in our counties that PILT helps offset our costs. So, if that money gets cut, a county can say, 'Okay, we're just going to cut other services down, and then it won't be a rise in taxes.' But if you try to keep the programs that you have funded now with less money, then something's got to give."

Library rumors

Ely Library Director Rachel Heinrich reported to the city council regarding

rumors of possible funding cuts that spread on social media since last week's library board meeting.

"No, despite the rumors, the library is not making cuts," Heinrich began. "The library does not receive any direct federal funding. I am not going to stop buying books today. I am not canceling the summer reading program today. The implications of some of the things I saw online was that everything was going away immediately, and that's not happening.'

Heinrich believed the confusion originated with a library board discussion.

"The board was being proactive about what we might do in the future, so we're not scrambling at the last minute over funding," Heinrich stated.

The board was looking at the effect that cuts to the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) might have on the library's budget starting next year, Heinrich said. The library receives funding from the state, and the state library program receives most of its

funding from the IMLS. Heinrich described some of the reactions the library has received from patrons due to the misinformation.

"One lady called and asked that we not cut the summer reading program because she would contribute to it to keep it going."

In other business, the council:

➤ Witnessed the swearing-in of two new Ely Police Officers, Charles Petersen and Ashlan Barthrope, by Mayor Heidi Omerza.

➤ Approved a Department of Natural Resources agreement to purchase a kayak dock and make improvements to the Miners Lake boat landing. DNR will provide up to \$142,000 for the project.

➤ Approved lease agreements for the Ely Softball Association, the Ely Area Youth Girls Softball Association, the Ely Dog Park nonprofit, and the Ely Arts and Heritage Center.

➤ Approved a recommendation from the projects committee to allow Mark Hoppe to salvage the Quonset building at 50 W. White St. at no cost to the city. Hoppe must provide insurance for the salvage project, and work must be completed by June 30.

➤ Approved two payments to Low Impact Excavators of

\$41,820 for hauling contaminated materials at the former railroad depot, and \$108.373 for infrastructure work at Voyageurs North Outfitters. Ely will be reimbursed for both payments by the IRRR, which funded the work through its brownfield cleanup and business development grant programs.

➤ Heard the report of Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski that Harvey St. repaving will probably start "sometime in May." Louis County will repave the street from Central Ave. to Whiteside Park. Ely will replace and upgrade subsurface utilities while the pavement is removed. The city will also repave Conan St. between Second and Third Aves. and replace the water main by the Ely Senior Center.

"Work will start as soon as a contract is awarded,' Langowski said. The county and Ely have received bids for their portions of the project. "We were pleased to see that the bids came in under the amounts we estimated for the

> Heard a report from Fire Chief David Marshall on the fatal structure fire on April 1. Marshall also spoke on the need to do more frequent maintenance and cleaning of wood-burning stoves and furnaces. He also advised that all homes should have smoke detectors installed. "They're cheap insurance and they save lives," Marshall pointed out.

➤ Hired Emily Bernard and Maxwell DeBuhr as summer parking enforcement interns for the Ely Police Department.

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COOK TRANSFER

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KABETOGAMA LAKE CANISTER SITE

10150 Gamma Rd

ORR CANISTER SITE

4038 Hwy 53

PORTAGE CANISTER SITE

6992 Crane Lake Rd, Buyck

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SUMMER HOURS

Wed: 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Mon: 10 a.m.—6 p.m.

Sat: 2:30 p.m. — 5:30 p.m.

Tues thru Sat: 9 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Tue: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m. **Thu**: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. **Sat**: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sun: Noon-6 p.m.

SUMMER HOURS

Mon. Wed: 9 a.m. - Noon Sat: 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

SUMMER HOURS

Tue: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. **Thu:** 2 p.m.— 7 p.m. Sat: 8 a.m.-noon **Sun:** 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

SUMMER HOURS

Tue: 2 p.m. - 6 p.m. **Thu**: 10 a.m.— 1 p.m. Sat: 1 p.m.—5 p.m. Sun: 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.

REGIONAL LANDFILL

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Mon-Fri: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

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Summer hours effective April 15 - September 30



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HARBOR...Continued from page 1

unit development ordinance. City Clerk-Treasurer Michael Schultz said the city and the Tower Economic Development Authority, which owns the site, have begun the wetland impact process with an updated delineation completed last year. The rest of that process will get underway shortly, he said.

The city council, on Monday, approved soliciting bids for the utility extension needed for the project. The site is expected to be served by a utility extension that will connect from Pine St. along the platted Harbor Drive before heading under Hwy. 169 to the Marjo RE property currently under development. The extension will provide a sewer connection for the six residential units currently under construction on that site. A portion of the funding for the utility extension has already been secured, but some additional funding may be needed depending on the bids that come in.

The proposal by Pine City-based Eagle Ridge Developers, will include the construction of 7,500-squarefeet of first floor commercial space with 14 apartments on two floors above. Fourteen town homes are also slated for construction adjacent to





the apartments.

The developers had previously proposed a residential development at the site, but the Tower Economic

Development Authority, which owns the harbor site, had opted for a proposed hotel project instead. But as that project was slow to develop,

Eagle Ridge came back earlier this winter with its current proposal, prompting TEDA to switch gears. TEDA and Eagle Ridge signed a development

agreement last month and the two parties have been working closely together ever since to get the site ready for the project. The developers hope

Left: An artist's sketches of the planned harbor development. Clockwise from top: The commercial and apartment complex, the overhead site plan, and the planned town homes.

Courtesy of Eagle Ridge

to break ground by mid-July, which is a tight timeline.

The developers are currently looking to identify business tenants interested in the property. TEDA is assisting in that effort through its posting of a Request for Proposals seeking interested businesses, particularly service-oriented businesses. A mid-level restaurant with some outdoor summer seating along the harbor is another high priority for TEDA as an addition to the harbor area.

The apartments will be offered in 690 square-foot one-bedroom units and 973 square-foot two-bedroom units, each with an attached garage on the building's back side. The two-story, three-bedroom town homes will be approximately 1,800 square-feet and will come with attached two-car garages and boat slips on the harbor, providing direct access to Lake Vermilion.

MOXIE ... Continued from page 1

pleas, came and set up a trail cam on Saturday. They also found canine tracks nearby but weren't sure if they were wolf or coyote.

Sunday morning, the beginning of the third day since Moxie's disappearance, was unseasonably cold, which worried Williams. But there was some potentially positive news when she came back to the groomer's property, along with another helper, John Halloran, an amateur drone operator.

Halloran's wife works at Tavern in the Bay, and they had heard that Moxie was missing. Halloran had done some handyman work for Williams, and he knew how special Moxie was, and what a strong relationship she had with Williams.

"Dogs have incredible senses," Halloran said. "They know when you are sad and upset, and they comfort you."

He hoped to get out with his drone right away on Saturday, but the drone's software wasn't compatible with his new cell phone, and it took him a while to find the right software. By Sunday morning, he was able to help.

There were signs that perhaps Moxie was nearby. "The crate was knocked over and food was gone," Williams said. "The trail cam showed something moving around but we couldn't tell if it was my dog."

"I felt such a wave of grief when I saw the crate knocked over," she said. "I was crying so hard."

Halloran said he had meditated about finding the dog, had said some prayers, and envisioned finding Moxie. Once on the site, he had a good idea of the best place to look, and immediately got the drone up in the air, over a large open clearing in the woods. The day was really windy, and his drone had trouble staying airborne, but within 10 minutes he spotted

something suspicious on the top of a deer stand in the middle of a clearing. At first, he thought it might be a deer hide, but when he flew the drone directly over the tree stand, the furry bundle moved.

"That fluff stood up and started barking," he said.

For the love of a breed

Williams makes no bones about it: she loves bearded collies. The breed, a sheep-herding dog from Scotland, is known for their heart, energy, and sense of humor- as well as their almost-human looking eyes, hiding underneath their shaggy coat.

Williams has owned nine of these shaggy dogs over the years, known to many as the "nanny" in Peter Pan or the dog in the Disney film, "Shaggy D.A."

Currently, Williams owns two dogs, six-year-old Moxie a full-blooded "beardie" and eight-year-old Maddie, a "beardie-poodle" mix. Both



John Halloran with one of his dogs during his time with the Hells Angels.

have thick, long, wavy hair which requires grooming a couple of times a year.

Williams, a retired teacher from southern California, lives on Lake Vermilion, though she is planning a move to a newly-renovated house in Soudan. She spent childhood summers at a camp in northwestern Ontario, often canoeing in the wilderness of Quetico Provincial Park

"If Moxie was a human, she would be a camp counselor," said Williams. "She's happy, she's a bit ditzy, and

often lacks common sense." Despite her unexpected disappearance, the dog normally isn't a wanderer, according to Williams. Though often on alert for any deer that might wander through their wooded yard, Moxie always stays close to her house, Williams said.

An apparent close call

After finding Moxie in the deer stand, it took Halloran some time to convince Williams that her dog was really up in a tree. The stand

had a homemade ladder-type stairs leading upward, with steps not quite as vertical as a ladder and a little wider, but something a dog would not normally want to navigate.

Halloran eventually convinced Williams to come and look, and as soon as Moxie saw Williams, she came bounding down the ladder.

With the fresh snow, it was apparent why it was that Moxie had opted to climb into the stand. Halloran noted several sets of large canine tracks, circling round the base of the tree.

Moxie had a deep wound on the top of her head, and a smaller wound below her chin, suggesting something with a large mouth had bitten her around the head. A quick trip to the Ely vet showed Moxie was in good shape otherwise and the wound did not require stitches, though Williams said they expect to find some more wounds once she gets groomed. The dog has thick hair and an undercoat, and this would have protected her somewhat.

But the dog's instincts

helped, too.

"People don't give dogs enough credit," said Halloran. "This dog knew she was in danger. This could have been a fatal attack had she not got up in that tree stand."

Williams was amazed that Moxie was able to escape whatever attacked her.

"I didn't think she had much common sense," she said. "But she saved her own life.'

Halloran figured there were tracks from two or three large canids around the base of the tree stand.

Moxie quickly settled

into life back at home. She was hungry and thirsty, and got treated to part of a pork chop along with her regular kibble. Then she curled up in her crate and went to sleep. By the next day she was back to her usual self, Williams said. She was also heading back to the groomer, this time on a sturdy leash, to get her summer haircut.

Williams also wants to thank all those who helped search for the dog in the area.

Halloran is now without a drone, since it crashed into trees due to the high winds during the search for Moxie. Halloran, who is disabled and was recently diagnosed as autistic, is hoping to raise enough money to buy a new drone, probably a used model, he can use for similar searches, perhaps even one with thermal-imaging capabilities. He and his wife had two dogs die in 2022, and he understands the pain of losing such companions. Halloran, who lives in Virginia, is a former Hells Angel, but quit the club before news of the criminal activities of the Eveleth club were widely reported. After quitting, club members came to his home, tried to steal his motorcycle, and threatened

"I realized I wasn't the same as them," he said, "We didn't have the same goals. Those guys would never waste a second of a day to help someone else."

him with violence.

"You can change," he said. "You can walk away from that kind of life."

Anyone interested in donating to Halloran's drone fund can contact the Timberjay for more information.





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HAUSCHILD...Continued from page 1

kicked off the discussion on the Boundary Waters. "I'm asking the two of you in the Minnesota Senate to do everything you can to protect the Boundary Waters from the Trump administration and the draconian measures that are coming," she said. She explained that her advocacy organization was tracking "executive orders, secretarial orders, and internal decisions in the Trump administration, all of which are bad when it comes to protecting our

natural world." Protecting the Boundary Waters from the potentially damaging effects of copper-nickel mining in its headwaters has been a major political fault line in the region for more than a decade, one on which politicians in Washington seem keen to leave their mark. In 2016, the Obama administration halted federal mineral leases in Minnesota. Trump restored them during his first administration. Biden later reversed Trump's order, closing 350 square miles of the Rainy River watershed to federal leasing for up to 20 years. Now the Trump administration is currently maneuvering to restore mining activities on federal land in northeast Minnesota through executive orders and at least one bill in Congress introduced in early February by U.S. Rep. Pete Stauber.

Nine individuals who spoke advocated for Boundary Waters protection from the actions of the Trump administration. Three of them asked Hauschild to state his position, especially given his known opposition to Biden's mineral lease moratorium.

A few commenters disagreed on the need for a mining ban or lease moratorium. One speaker argued that the reaction to sulfate pollution in the headwaters of the Boundary Waters was overblown, noting that Birch Lake is not a Superfund site and that the sulfate levels measured in its waters were barely over the 10 parts per million standard the state had established for the protection of wild rice.

"Birch Lake is listed as impaired for wild rice because of sulfate concentrations of 10.6 parts per million. (That's) not a lot, right? Birch Lake is harvested for wild rice annually, and has been for decades, and will be for decades."

Hauschild's mining position

Hauschild was upfront that his position was to remove Minnesota mining as a political football at the federal level and to leave the evaluation of whether a mine project should go forward in the hands of engineering and environmental experts working for the state. "I don't agree with the Trump administration on expediting permits, opening up all federal land to mining, and not looking at our environmental policies that protect our national natural environment. These are the things that I think go far too far from the objective process that I would favor," he said. "I think that what he is doing has crossed a line. I think what he has done with regard to the federal government, with not following the ways our laws are in place — those things are not things that I believe in."

Hauschild offered a general assessment of the current chaos in Washington: "When it comes to the other things that are happening with the Trump administration, I've been very forceful in calling out those things, whether it's the across-theboard firings of U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service members or whether it's the cuts that could be coming down the pike on Medicaid. If you don't think that our rural communities in northern Minnesota won't be impacted by those Medicaid cuts, then you're foolish, because it will cause a shutdown of some of our rural hospitals. It will cause nursing homes to close. These are the

things that I think will impact our lives directly, and so I'm not afraid to call out when I see bad ideas, regardless of which party they are from."

Rural health care

The ongoing concern about the future of ambulance services in rural areas came up as well. One commenter offered the advice he received while training as part of the ski patrol at Giants Ridge, "That if I come upon somebody who's hurt on a hill and they need a doctor, to figure out a way to get that person to self-transport or have friends transport him to Duluth. Do not call an area ambulance or that skier will end up in a Range hospital, which could be a trap where they'll have

to wait hours and sometimes days to get transferred."

He contended that Range hospitals had cut services so much that they had become just waystations in transferring care to Duluth. Then he asked Senator Murphy to comment since she started out as a nurse.

Murphy agreed that the health care system is in some peril. "We see it most acutely where service lines are closing, hospitals are closing, clinics are closing, and larger parts of the state are going without access to care, as you were describing, and we're going to have to figure out how to pump the brake and make the turn to a system that is financed differently than this."

Hauschild said the Legislature is continuing to work on EMS solutions. "We're looking at EMS taxing districts to try to encourage consolidation. Because I do think that is part of the answer ... We're putting together different packages. So, really,

we are taking a multi-faceted

approach to the EMS issue." Joe Baltich, chair of the Ely Area Ambulance Service Board of Directors, argued that consolidation of services wasn't an affordable solution. He argued that smaller, localized services would service their communities better.

"Not if it was done right," said Dena Suihkonen, the EMS director for Tower, who argued that a district approach

would allow for better wages for EMS staff. "Right now, we are not paying living wages. You keep wanting to say our hospitals are bad, but you know what? Our providers up here rock."

Other topics

Other attendees voiced their concern for what was happening in both St. Paul and Washington. Barb Jones of the Ely Climate Group spoke in favor of the state continuing to fund the solar power program for schools. This a program that ISD 696 has applied to, which will enable the Elv Public Schools to break even on a solar installation in five years and to make money selling power to the grid after

Hudson Kingston of the rural community advocacy group CURE asked the legislators to be vigilant in maintaining Minnesota's commitment to achieve carbon neutrality and mitigate climate change. He specifically asked Hauschild to stop promoting biomass because it was not carbon neutral.

Hauschild responded that he agreed the state should adhere to its 2040 climate goals, but that fuels like biomass gave the state a smooth "glide" to transition to cleaner power.



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VERMILION COUNTRY SCHOOL

Lessons from Keith Secola: writing music, respecting the earth

by JODI SUMMIT Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- When Keith Secola visited Vermilion Country School

on April 8, it wasn't solely to give a concert for the students and staff. Secola, a nationally known, award-winning Native American musician, writer, and singer, was raised on the Iron Range, but now lives in Arizona. He had recently met Vermilion Country School students during a performance he gave at the Ely Film Festival, and his visit was a chance to share his knowledge, not just of music, but of how students can write and record on their own. He had just finished up a three-day music festival, the Ancestral Embers Tour, which performed in Nett Lake, Cloquet, and Duluth.

While telling stories of his youth and his own history, he talked about his philosophy of both writing and recording music. Then he demonstrated how easy it is to use Garage Band software, which comes bundled on Apple computers, to produce professional-quality

VCS students Wilbur and Jake Lien helped Secola, with Wilbur adding tracks on both an electric and traditional guitar, and Jake ready to add vocals.

"I like to think about this as sketching with audio," Secola said, showing how to capture tiny snippets of melody and turn them into more polished music. He talked about taking melodies and chord progressions and turning them into finished songs.

He said he often feels like a

song has just captured him. He gets a melody, and then an idea for the song, and then is inspired to write

"I am honored that I was asked to come here," he said. He sang a rendition of Woody Guthrie's "This Land is Your Land," with lyrics that honored the Ojibwe/Anishinabe view of the world, "this land, this earth, we were made for her," he

He talked about the inclusivity of the Ojibwe language, and the many layers of meanings in words.

Miigwech," he said, "is not just the word for thank-you. It means I will hold what you give me in the highest honor."

This language connects with our earth, he told the students.

Secola talked to the students about the importance of living "in the present tense." He said concentrating on the present helps ease anxiety about the past and the fu-

Secola's music continues to be widely distributed and he has received much recognition for his work. He told the students that some of his songs were used on the recently-released third season of the hit television series "Dark Winds." In 2011, Secola was inducted into the Native American Music Awards Hall of Fame, joining Jimmy Hendrix, Hank Williams, Crystal Gayle, and Richie Valens among other inductees. He is a seven-time Native American Music Award winner including Artist of the Year, Best Producer, and Best Country/Folk Recording. Learn more about his career at www.secola.com.



Keith Secola talked about a new flute he had just purchased. He also showed the students how to record and edit music using Garage Band.

Below: Wilbur and Jake Lien worked as the tech crew during the performance, and Wilbur also played acoustic and electric guitar with Secola.

photos by J. Summit





Wanless resigns from Tower City Council

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER

Managing Editor

TOWER— The city council here, on Monday, authorized soliciting bids for a sewer and water extension from Pine Street to the Marjo RE property to serve up to six new homes currently being built on the site.

The new extension would be built along the planned alignment of the new Harbor Drive, which will be created as part of a planned major mixed commercial-residential development along the harbor front.

Back in February, the city received approval for \$482,000 in grant funding from the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation to install temporary holding tanks for the six new planned homes near the Marjo Motel. Since then, however, plans for an even larger development at the harbor have moved forward quickly, which prompted consideration of redirecting the already-approved funds to pay for a utility extension that would serve both developments, and with a permanent sewer solution on the Marjo property, rather than the temporary holding tanks.

While the council had previously authorized bidding for installing the temporary holding tanks, Clerk-Treasurer Michael Schultz said the significant change in the scope of the proposed project prompted him to bring it back to the council for further authorization.

At this point, all the parties involved are supportive of the new approach. Schultz noted that city officials met with IRRR staff earlier in the month, who were strongly supportive of the new approach. The developers on the Marjo property have also expressed support.

"It's a win, win for everybody," said council member Kevin Norby.

Bidding the proposed extension should help give city officials a clear idea of how far the already approved funds might go and how much additional funding might be needed to complete the project.

In other business, the council approved a resolution accepting the resignation of council member David Wanless, who was elected to the council on a write-in campaign in November. The council also authorized advertising for applicants to fill Wanless's seat through the November 2026 election.

Wanless, a relatively new resident in the community, has expressed frustration about the city in the wake of two fires in his neighborhood this past winter, one that destroyed a house and the other that destroyed Wanless's garage, two cars, and various equipment. On the council he had urged more aggressive action to address what he saw as shortcomings on the fire department, which had struggled in its response to the two recent fires.

Wanless, who has said he suspects an arsonist was responsible for his garage fire, has indicated he and his wife plan to move somewhere outside the city.

In other action, the council:

> Heard that the funding mix-up with the state's Public Facilities Authority, or PFA, had been largely resolved with help from Sen. Grant Hauschild. Under the resolved arrangement, approximately \$1.2 million in funding for the joint Tower-Breitung drinking water treatment plant will come in the form of a low-interest loan (at 1.647 percent), with the remaining \$4.8 million in

"This is much more in line with what we were expecting," said Schultz.

In related action, the council approved the bond purchase from the PFA along with a related resolution. The council also gave approval to a pay estimate of \$934,025 to Lakehead Constructors for ongoing work on the drinking water plant.

➤ Discussed the ongoing review of the city's fire department, noting that maintenance checklists have been completed and that repairs on some of the vehicles have been made. Those repairs include replacement of leaf springs on the city's

main pumper and repair of a

leaking gas tank on the city's brush rig. Schultz said the city is planning to have the rigs inspected in the coming weeks and that he hopes to have those reports done by the next council meeting. He noted that the department has also replaced some equipment that was no longer in good working order.

Schultz also outlined some training opportunities that the department will need to undertake and he said he hoped to have a training plan for the year established by next month.

Schultz also gave an assessment of the department's leadership, which was comprised of a chief and a captain for a five-member department. The department's structure has typically included an assistant chief and a training officer as well, but Schultz said the city's review committee felt it didn't make sense to have so many officers with such a limited number of volunteers. "So, based on that in our kind of review and analysis, we'd like to leave the fire chief as is, put Steve Freshour in as the assistant chief and vacate the captain position," Schultz said. "And, again, we definitely want to continue to monitor this and consider different options as we continue to work through this process and may have recommendations in the future.'

Following Schultz's comments, the council voted to eliminate the captain position for now and appointed Freshour as assistant chief.

➤ Gave the first reading to a revised city ordinance regulating the use of city streets by off-road vehicles. Schultz said city officials wanted to update the current ordinance in anticipation of further increases in OHV use in the city once the new OHV campground opens near Soudan in 2026. Among the changes would be the posting of a ten-mph speed limit sign in alleys that see significant OHV traffic, a change recommended by police chief Dan Reing.

➤ Approved motions to hire Karen Fischer as an EMT on the ambulance service and Daniel Fischer as an

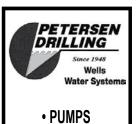
EMR.

➤ Heard that the city received reimbursement from FEMA for \$4,930 for debris removal in the wake of last year's June flooding event. The city continues to work with FEMA for reimbursements of \$61,380 for repair of damage to roads and bridges and \$65,687 for re-

Gave Schultz and public works supervisor Ben Velcheff the authority to interview and hire a summer maintenance worker.

pair of damage to parks and





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SPORTS

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BASEBALL

Hopeful signs for North Woods despite 6-0 loss



by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

AURORA- A 6-0 loss to the Chisholm Bluestreaks on Friday may have looked like an inauspicious start to the North Woods baseball season, but first-year Head Coach Steve Baker saw a lot to like from his Grizzlies.

When asked how he felt about the first game of the season, Baker grinned and said, "Happy."

Baker was an assistant coach last year for a North Woods team laden with young players, so he's no stranger when it comes to assessing his team's potential,

Left: Talen Jarshaw keeps his eye on his pitch as it floats toward a waiting Chisholm batter.

Right: Carson Johnson attempts to catch a fly ball.

photos by D. Colburn

and he appears confident that with another year under their belts, this season's edition will be more competitive and pick up more wins.

"We've got five seniors on the team, and we've got experienced ballplayers now, so I'm looking for a really good year," Baker said.

See GRIZZLIES...pg. 2B



BASEBALL

Wolves split in weekend road trip

by Marshall Helmberger

Managing Editor

REGIONAL—With winter conditions still lingering up north, the Timberwolves kicked off their 2025 baseball season last weekend with a two-game swing through southern Minnesota that showed both promise and challenges ahead.

Ely 3, Kenyon-Wanamingo 2

Hunter Halbakken was electric on the mound in the Wolves' season opener at Kenyon, further cementing his position as Ely's ace following a 3-2 win over the

The senior right-hander retired the first 15 batters he faced, not allowing a baserunner through five innings while striking out six. It appears Halbakken is starting right where he left off last season when he recorded 31 strikeouts and an

Offensively, the Wolves were first on the board thanks to second inning hits from Halbakken and Jace Huntbatch, which set the stage. Caid Chittum walked to load the bases, then Drew Johnson delivered in the clutch, ripping a two-run single to give Ely an early lead. While the Wolves would go on to leave the bases loaded in that inning-and five innings overall with multiple runners stranded—they still managed to put pressure on Kenyon throughout the game.

A Jack Davies single in the sixth led to a key insurance run, driven in by a Sean Merriman infield hit.

Kenvon mounted a threat in the bottom of the sixth, finally breaking through with three hits and two walks to trim the lead to one, but Chittum came in to close the door in the seventh. He struck out two to earn the save and preserve the 3-2 season-opening win.

"Hunter really gave us a boost Friday," said Ely Head Coach Frank Ivancich. "Seventeen straight outs to start the season is incredible. We did a solid job getting guys on base, even though we left too many stranded. Early in the season, the bats are usually behind, so that wasn't unexpected."

Hayfield 11, Ely 1

Saturday's matchup against an impressive Hayfield squad told a different story, as the Wolves fell 11-1 in six innings.

Ely did get on the board early, with Drew Johnson scoring in the first inning on an RBI single by Owen Marolt. But once again, the Wolves left the bases loaded, unable to capitalize on a chance to build

Hayfield responded quickly, tying

See WOLVES...pg. 2B



SOFTBALL

Wolves' rall sinks Giants

MacKenzie fuels Ely comeback

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

AURORA- A big day for Zoe MacKenzie powered the Ely Timberwolves to a 9-6 comeback win over Mesabi East on Friday, as the Wolves' hurler drove in four runs on three hits, including a solo home run.

MacKenzie sparked the Timberwolves' offense in the fourth with a sizzling line drive four-bagger over the center field fence to tie the game at 1-1 after an early error had put Mesabi East on the board.

Mesabi East regained the lead in the bottom half of the inning on an RBI double but the Wolves tied things up again in the fifth, capitalizing on a wild pitch that brought Ella Perish across the plate to knot it at 2-2.

In true slugfest fashion, the Giants punched back in the bottom of the fifth with a solo homer and another RBI double to take a 4-2 advantage.

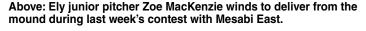
With the Wolves up in the top of the sixth, MacKenzie came through again, lining a single up the middle that scored Rylee Larsen and Peyton Huntington to even the game at 4-4.

Mesabi East threw another counterpunch in the bottom half of the inning, scratching out two more runs to take a 6-4 lead into the final inning.

That's when Ely delivered the knockout combination blows.

The Wolves exploded for five runs in the top of the seventh. Julia Zgonc came out of the corner swinging with a lead-off single, and Huntington drew a one-out walk. MacKenzie collected her fourth RBI with a single that scored Zgonc. Clare Thomas smashed a single to center that brought Huntington across the plate to tie the score at 6-6. Perish delivered the go-ahead blow

See ELY GIRLS...pg. 2B



Sophomore Julia Zgonc eyes home intently as she dances off



MEET OUR NEW DESIGN SERVICES EXPERT



ELY SCHOOLS

Board slashes \$450,000 from next year's budget

Ely Editor

ELY- Like many other school districts on the Iron Range, ISD 696 has been faced with the triple budget whammy of increasing expenses, the loss of federal COVID-19 funding, and declining enrollment. To address its financial situation, the Elv school board trimmed \$450,004 from its 2025-26 budget at its Monday evening meeting.

Over the last two months, the district held meetings with faculty and staff and created opportunities for feedback on possible budget cuts recommended by the district's finance and budget committee. The agenda packet for Monday's school board meeting included six pages of written feedback from district employees on how and where to cut expenses.

Budget cut options were presented to the school board at its March 24 study session. The proposed reductions were covered in detail in the March 28 edition of the *Timberjay*.

The reductions approved on Monday include:

- ➤ Consolidating two Kindergarten classes into one for 24 incoming students and adding a teacher's aide.
- ➤ Reducing the third and fourth grades to one teacher apiece with a floating teacher between the two grades but no aide. This is a reduction of one teacher position.
- ➤ Keeping a 0.4 FTE sixth grade position for language arts and math but with no aide.
- ➤ Reducing the music department from 1.8 to 1.6 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions, Spanish instruction from 1.0 to 0.6 FTE positions, and the English department from 2.8 to 2.0 FTE positions,

the combined equivalent of 1.4 teaching positions.

- ➤Eliminating the community education position, a part-time contract day custodian, and science teaching
- ➤ Cutting two bus routes and combining the rest.
- After the meeting, Superintendent Anne Oelke remarked, "When we had to make cuts last year, we were able to cut items that did not touch student instruction. That wasn't possible this year."

The district cut non-teacher staff positions last year and reduced hours for others. This year, both staff and teacher positions were trimmed.

Knowledge Bowl

In only their second year as an activity, the Ely Memorial High School Knowledge Bowl team took fifth place in the Class A division at the Minnesota Knowledge Bowl state meet last week. A total of 48 teams participated in the event. The trip to the state meet was made possible through the support of the Ely Educational Foundation and several individuals who helped fund the team's travel.

In other business, the school board:

- ➤ Approved March receipts of \$1,059,818, March disbursements of \$465,256, and the March financial report.
- ➤ Approved a professional services contract between ISD 696 and Range Mental Health Center from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.
- ➤ Approved a consulting agreement with the Costin Group of \$2,000 per month from Jan. 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.
- ➤ Accepted the resignation of Peter Schamber from his 0.80 full-time-equivalent

English teaching position, effective at the end of the school year.

- ➤ Accepted the resignation of paraprofessional McCartney Kaercher, effective at the end of the school
- ➤ Accepted the resignation of Community Education Coordinator Chris Hartman,
- effective June 30. > Approved Kevin Niskala as volunteer assistant baseball coach.
- ➤ Approved a new district policy on the use of personal electronic communication devices.
- > Accepted the following donations: \$1,000 from the Ely Educational Foundation, \$50 from Tom and Kathy McDonald, \$100 from Kathleen Champa, and \$100 from Tomi Cole for the Knowledge Bowl team; \$500 from the Parent-Teacher

Organization for the eighth grade trip; \$4,000 for performing arts and \$2,000 for weight room equipment, both from Kathleen Shirley; and \$2,068 from the Ely Baseball Association for high school baseball uniforms.

➤ Heard a report from Facilities Director Tim Leeson regarding the Phase II Completion Project. "It's done," Leeson said, adding that the final walkthrough for the project was scheduled for Wednesday. The most recognizable feature of the project is the new windows at the high school and elementary school buildings. The project also included upgraded bathroom facilities and new doors.

➤ Heard from Athletic Director Tom Coombe that 160 students in grades 7 through 12 are participating in spring sports.

PUBLIC HEALTH

State's flu hospitalizations hit highest level in 15 years region, which includes Carlton, media radar, which has been

REGIONAL- Minnesota has just suffered its worst influenza season in over 15 years, but health statistics suggest the worst is likely behind us for now. As of April 5, a record-breaking 7,442 people have been hospitalized with the flu across the

state, shattering the previous record of 6,288 admissions set back in 2017-18. A total of 347 Minnesotans have died of the respiratory disease this flu season, the highest number since before the COVID-19 outbreak.

A total of 579 flu victims have been hospitalized this season in the Arrowhead

Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, and St. Louis counties.

Anditisn't just Minnesota. This year's flu is the worst in over a decade across the U.S. according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

This year's hospitalization count was far above typical levels in Minnesota, where flu seasons with more than 4,000 hospitalizations are uncommon. Over the last 15 flu seasons, Minnesota has averaged 2,961 flu-related hospitalizations.

Flu awareness

Despite the record-breaking flu statistics, this flu season has largely flown under the

far more focused on measles outbreaks in other parts of the country. In northeastern Minnesota, media coverage has been almost non-existent.

2024-25 Hospitalizations

According to data collected by the Minnesota Department of Health, or MDH, more than half of this year's flu hospitalizations were recorded in the Twin Cities metro region. MDH's northeast region, which includes five percent of the state's population, saw eight percent of the state's flu hospitalizations.

The flu peaked throughout Minnesota in early January and again in mid-February.

April 11, at Fortune Bay. The

Briefly

Tribal council member on leave after incident at Fortune Bay

TOWER- Bois Forte following an incident at Tribal Council District 1 Representative Perry Drift Friday, April 11, that is under has taken a leave of absence

Fortune Bay Resort Casino on internal and law enforcement

investigation.

Drift publicly acknowledged in a social media post the following day that he had been intoxicated during the incident and said his behavior was inappropriate. He described the episode as a result of his struggle with alcoholism and announced his intention to begin a 30-day treatment program.

He indicated that he would be unavailable while in treatment and stated his intent to take responsibility for his actions. Drift said he would remain on leave from Tribal

Council duties while the investigation continues and would abide by whatever outcome results from that process. The nature of the inci-

dent has not been officially

detailed. As of press time, no charges have been filed. The Bois Forte

"The Reservation Tribal Council (RTC) is aware of

RTC understands that these incidents are being investigated internally by Fortune Bay staff and by law enforcement. The RTC supports a full investigation of these matters and is committed to supporting that process without any interference or influence by individual RTC members or the RTC as a whole. The RTC takes this matter seriously, will be monitoring it closely, and will provide updates when appropriate."

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Tues and Sat: 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

ST. LOUIS COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT 218-471-7703 | OFFICE HOURS MON - FRI 8 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Summer hours effective April 15 - September 30

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Reservation Tribal Council released the following state-

ment about the situation on Monday:

incidents that occurred on

The Grizzlies put numer-

just couldn't push a run live pitches for the first time

ELY GIRLS...Continued from page 1B -

GRIZZLIES...Continued from page 1B – year, guys throwing to batters ous runners on base but for the first time, guys seeing

across the plate. One of those – we're happy, and I think it's seniors, Louie Panichi, gave only going to grow from here," the Grizzlies their best shot at a run with a scorching triple to The game was played left in the seventh inning, but on the synthetic turf field a strike-out ended the threat at Aurora because April's and the game. Another senior, fickle weather rendered the Talen Jarshaw, took the mound Grizzlies' diamond unplayable. Spring sports teams are in the middle of the game and looked very sharp, ringing accustomed to early season cancellations and reschedulup eight of the team's nine

ing. Weather permitting, the

Grizzlies will take on a solid

Ely team in Ely next Tuesday.

"This being our first time outside doing anything this

with a clutch two-run single that made it 8-6, and a Maija Mattson single added another

RBI for a 9-6 advantage. Mesabi East was poised to answer back after drawing back-to-back walks in the

Wolves snuffed out the Giants' hopes with three straight outs to get the win.

MacKenzie went the distance on the mound for Ely, allowing six runs on eight hits while striking out five and bottom of the seventh, but the walking three.

WOLVES...Continued from page 1B -

the game in the bottom half of the frame and adding two unearned runs in the third. A pair of costly pick-offs ended a potential Ely rally, and the Wolves never regained their

Chittum started on the mound for Ely, working four innings and giving up five runs on eight hits while striking out four. Marolt took over on the mound in the fifth, surrendering six runs on five hits with four walks over the final two innings.

Offensively, Marolt led the way with three hits, while Tyde Brecke and Evan Leeson each added one. Still, it wasn't enough to overcome Hayfield's 13-hit offensive

Defensively, the Wolves were sound, committing just a couple of errors over the two games. Against Hayfield, however, too many free passes-six walks and hit batters-came back to haunt "They were just better

than us," McDonald acknowledged. "But we're going to get better. Half our starters are playing varsity for the first time, so there's going to be an adjustment period.' Sitting at 1-1 on the young

season, Ely will be back in action Thursday when they take on Littlefork-Big Falls at Aurora. First pitch is set for 1:30 p.m.

Obituaries and Death Notices



Justin Grotberg

Justin Grotberg, 35, of Vermilion Lake Township. succumbed in the evening of Thursday, April 3, 2025, from injuries acquired in his battle with brain cancer. There will be a celebration of life from 1-4 p.m. on Saturday, April 26 at the Lamppa Civic Center, 602 Main Street in Tower.

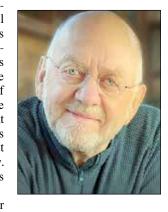
Justin was born in Bemidji to Christina Hujanen-Premo and Richard Todd Grotberg on Aug. 29, 1989. Justin lived a truly incredible life, reaching out to many people and having stories for all. Justin spent his last years by the side of his mother who passed just last February. Justin loved his family dearly. He graduated from Tower-Soudan High School in the class of 2008 where he was voted prom king his senior year. He would often talk about his trip to play in the Metrodome in the state baseball tournament with the BEST Beavers. He originally started college at Mesabi Range Community College where he aspired to be an accountant, but after coaching

the Tower-Soudan elementary teams in flag football and basketball he shifted his career path toward physical education. He took this pursuit to Duluth where he studied at the University of Minnesota-Duluth. While in Duluth, Justin worked at Old Chicago where he was unanimously voted biggest a*%hole four years in a row. Justin loved to pull pranks and make people laugh.

Justin found another passion when he started sailing with the racing team, The Kraken, on Lake Superior. His dream was to start up a sailing school either on Lake Vermilion or in Hawaii. Justin spent his time golfing, sitting around the campfire sharing stories with family and friends, spending time in Nimrod, and floating down the river. Justin was a movie quote connoisseur and enjoyed the finer things in life. Justin was very passionate about food; he enjoyed bartending and talking to everyone who crossed his path. He will be greatly missed by those who have had the pleasure of knowing him.

Justin is survived by his father, Richard Todd Grotberg; stepfather, Bobby Hujanen; brothers, Mark Grotberg, Brock Peterson, Ryan Hujanen and Logan Hujanen; and many other family members.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Christina Hujanen-Premo.



James E. Brandenburg

Minnesota has lost a legend. One of the world's most celebrated nature photographers, James "Jim" Edward Brandenburg, 79, passed away peacefully at his Medina home on Friday, April 4, 2025. He was surrounded by his wife Judy, daughter Heidi, and granddaughter Olivia. He had been privately battling anaplastic thyroid cancer for seven months with further complications from pneumonia in 2025. A celebration of Jim's life will be held this summer. In lieu of flowers, the family wishes that memorials be made to an organization of your choice that works to protect our natural environment. Arrangements are with David Lee

Funeral Home of Wayzata. Jim was born in Luverne on Nov. 23, 1945, to Edward and Olga Aanenson Brandenburg. He was an environmentalist, philanthropist, photographer, author and filmmaker. He graduated from high school in Luverne in 1963, and attended Worthington Community College and the University of Minnesota-Duluth where he studied Art and Art History. In 2006, he received an honorary Doctorate of Human Letters degree from the University of Minnesota.

He started his photographic career at the Daily Globe in Worthington. For the next 30 years he worked as a contract photographer for the National Geographic Society, traveling worldwide primarily for the National Geographic Magazine. He was twice named the prestigious Magazine Photographer of the Year by the National Press Photographers Association.

In 1988, he began publishing 10 of his bestseller books, including White Wolf, Brother Wolf, and Chased by the Light. In 1991, for his work with Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center in Finland, Minn., his creation of the nonprofit Concerts for the Environment, and his work with The Nature Conservancy, he received the United Nations' 500 Environmental World Achievement Award, which was presented to him by the King of Sweden. Jim Brandenburg's well-known image of the leaping Arctic wolf was named one of the 100 most important photos in Canadian history and was included in the book 100 Photos that Changed Canada. His work appeared in a collection of the 40 most important nature photographs of all time, which

Adams, Edward Weston and Eliot Porter. The collection, selected by members of the International League of Conservation Photographers, included four of Brandenburg's images, the most of any photographer. In 2023, he was awarded the National Geographic Lifetime Achievement Award from his fellow National Geographic photographers.

The award-winning Secrets from a Forest, his first full-dome movie production for the Bell Museum of Natural History in St. Paul, premiered in 2023. Worldwide, Jim has long been considered one of the most influential nature photographers of his time with awards too numerous to mention; but for all the accolades and recognition, he remained a humble, quiet and kind man, drawn to the hushed beauty of the world. He was an inspiration to many.

Jim and his wife Judy founded the Brandenburg Prairie Foundation and have helped preserve over 1,200 acres of prairie in southwest Minnesota, at Touch the Sky Northern Tallgrass Prairie, a unit of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service prairie refuges. They also worked with the Minnesota Land Trust to put a Conservation Easement on their beloved Judd Lake in northern Minnesota.

Jim made his home in Ely and Medina; his Brandenburg Gallery locations are in Ely and Luverne.

Jim Brandenburg is survived by his loving wife, Judy Frederiksen Brandenburg; daughter, Heidi Brandenburg and husband Nels Pierson of Ely; grandchildren, Olivia Ross, Liam Ross and Lindsey Brandenburg; sister, Judy (Bill) Stanton of Sioux Falls, S.D.; and many other loyal friends and family who loved him.

Jim's son, Anthony Brandenburg, preceded him in death on Feb. 24, 2025.

Pearl H. Koskela

Pearl Helen Koskela, 87, of Embarrass, passed away on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at the Essentia Health Hospital in Virginia. Arrangements are being handled by Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

Jeffrey S. Lange

Jeffrey Scott Lange, 57, of Angora, passed away on Thursday, April 3, 2025, in his home. Arrangements are entrusted to Rupp Funeral Home and Cremation Ser-

He is survived by his wife, Valerie Fesnick Lange; children, Nick and Claire; parents, Rudy and Marion "Chicky" Lange of Chisholm; sister, Shirley (Russell) Johnson of Cook; sister-in-law, Joyce Lange of Angora; nieces, Sarah, Katie and Becky; nephews, Andy and Erick; nine great-nieces and great-nephews; an uncle; two aunts; many cousins; parents-in-law, Stan and Sandy Fesnick; and sistersin-law, Michelle Gonzalez and Nancy Fesnick.



Margaret A. Yernatich

Margaret Agnes Yernatich, 88, of Duluth, passed away peacefully from cancer with her family by her side, on Friday, April 11, 2025, at her daughter's home in Champlin. She was excited for her trip to Eternity where she was looking forward to meeting her loved ones. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, April 23 at St. John's Catholic Church, 1 W Chisholm Street in Duluth, with visitation held one hour prior to the Mass. Interment will be at a later date at Lakeview Cemetery in Tower, next to her husband Jack. Arrangements are by Dougherty Funeral Home of Duluth.

Margaret was born on Holy Thursday, March 25, 1937, in Soudan, the daughter of John and Agnes Skala Tekautz. Margaret grew up in Tower, living above Skala's Tavern with her cousins through junior high. She received her sacraments at St. Martin's Catholic Church and attended the Tower-Soudan schools where she was active in Girl Scouts, band, orchestra, cheerleading, the Senior Choir, class plays, and the TA-SA-HA Newspaper. She dated Jack Yernatich throughout high school, where they were the homecoming king and queen, graduating in the class of 1955.

After high school, Jack and Margaret earned their barbering and cosmetology licenses. They were married on May 25, 1957, in Tower. She was employed at The Beauty Nook in Tower and became its owner/operator in 1977, when she moved the shop next to Jack's Barber Shop. They ran their businesses side-by-side and lived above their shops on Main

Street until 2000 when they retired to Duluth.

Margaret attended all her family's events and was their biggest fan. She was a Girl Scout leader, den mother, religion teacher, and hosted many homecoming floats being built in the family's garage. She sewed cheerleading uniforms, warm-up pants for the basketball team, and always decorated the shop's windows for tournament games. She loved spending time with her family, whether going on car trips to the State Fair, or to the cabin. She always cooked everyone's favorites and made everything a party. Although the internet was not fast enough for her, she quickly became tech savvy and used technology to Dimitri Saretzky. ily. She loved her phone and

Margaret was proud of her Slovenian heritage and devoted in her Catholic faith. She made the best potica and prayed "all the time" even for many she did not know. She was the queen of organizing and went full speed into any project. She knit a multitude of slippers, sweaters and blankets, made quilts, painted an entire Christmas village of ceramic houses, co-chaired Tower-Soudan's All School reunions, ran many Fourth of July parades, and kept all the flowers on Main Street watered in the summer. She was a member of the Tower Women's Club, Tower-Soudan Historical Society, Old Settlers, Slovenian Union of America, KSKJ Lodge, and Church Council.

In retirement she continued to play the piano, make new friends, play cards, plan wine nights, and visit. No one ever left her place hungry. She especially loved cooking weekly meals for her "Duluth girls" and visiting with her great-grandchildren. Margaret will be missed by all.

Margaret is survived by her daughter, Mary (Paul) Ravnikar of Champlin; sons, Dan (Crystal) Yernatich of Mt. Iron and Dave (Sandra) Yernatich of Plymouth; daughter-in-law, Yvonne Yernatich of Duluth; eight grandchildren, Jacquelyn (Tom) Smith, Josh (Sarah) Yernatich, Jessie Yernatich, Kelly (Austyn Lind) Yernatich, Jack (Payton Melville)

Yernatich, Marisa (Jake) Williams, Megan Yernatich and Joe (Sidney) Yernatich; fourteen great-grandchildren, Agnes, Anthony and Teresa Smith, Cole, Caden, Cale, Ava, Colin, Chase and Cooper Yernatich, baby boy Lind to arrive in May, and Weston, Ella and Beau Williams; brother, John Tekautz of Tower; sister-in-law, Marlene Saretzky of Springfield, Va.; two nieces, three nephews and numerous cousins, godchildren and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, John and Agnes Tekautz; husband, Jack (2009); son, Matt (2021); nephew, Bradley Yernatich; and in-laws, Jerry and Kathy Yernatich and



Viona A. Hildebrandt

Viona "Vi" Ardis Vogh Hildebrandt, 86, of Embarrass, died in her home on Friday, March 7, 2025. A memorial gathering is planned for 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 26 at the Village Inn in Vir-

Vi was born on Jan. 6, 1939, in Wright County. She graduated from West High School in Minneapolis in 1957, where she participated in Kamera Klub and choir. She married Ginther Hugo Hildebrandt, and adopted Dean in 1963. Around 1988, Vi moved to Embarrass and set up homesteading on her 28-acre farm. There she raised chickens, pigs and turkeys, as well as canning the produce from her garden. She dabbled in many different crafts such as making candles and soap, stained glass and many types of needle and fiber arts which she would sell at local craft fairs. She particularly loved collecting milk glass and copperware. Phone calls to her

usually included a conver-

sation about what the family

bear was up to. Vi enjoyed getting together with the Lunch Bunch to share a meal

included the work of Ansel

and lots of laughs. Vi is survived by her sisters, Velm Lager of Brainerd and Virginia Klinger of Dundas; grandchildren, Kandis Hildebrandt and Tony Hildebrandt; great-grandchildren, Isaac, Alani and Ariana; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her son, Dean Hildebrandt; brothers, Victor Vogh and Vernon Vogh; and parents, Charles and Lucille

Virginia M. Tuura

Virginia Mae Ukkola Tuura, 96, of Babbitt, died peacefully at home on Saturday, April 5, 2025. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Family services are provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her sons, Bruce Tuura (dear friend Sandy) and Tom Tuura; daughters, Laverne (Rick) Ellis, Bev (Loren) Gorecki, Cheryl (Paul) Zillmer and Missy (Kevin) Carlson; 11 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; one great-great granddaughter; sisters, Kay Kitch and Bernice Herm; brother, Erland Ukkola; and many cousins, nieces, nephews and other family.

Sydney F. J. Wiltshire

Sydney Francis Joseph Wiltshire, 85, of Cook, died on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at the Cook Hospital as the result of a head injury he suffered two days earlier when he fell. A memorial service with Military Honors will be held at 11 a.m. on Monday, May 5 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. Visitation will be held one hour prior to He is survived by his

brother, Neil F. (Dee) Wiltshire of Beaumont, Calif.

Frances Rozman

Frances "Fran" Devich Rozman, 97, of Minnetonka, originally of Ely, passed away peacefully on Thursday, April 10, 2025, surrounded by family. A family gathering will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, April 18 in Ely. In lieu of flowers, the

family encourages you to enjoy a peaceful moment by the lake or watch the birds, just as Fran would have. Arrangements are with Kerntz Funeral Home in Ely.



Jessica J. Dusich

71, of Ely, passed away on Friday, April 11, 2025, at Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. on Friday, April 25 at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely with visitation one hour prior. Father Charlie Friebohle will be the celebrant. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral

Home in Ely. Jessica was born on March 4, 1954, to Frances Albina Zakrajshek Dusich of Gheen and Michael Nick Dusich of Dojutrovica, Croatia. Growing up in Ely in the 1950-1960's post-WWII decades was an idyllic time for children, for the neighborhood, and for Jessica, with Saturday sidewalk car washes splashing everyone on hot summer days as The Beach Boys' songs filled the streets from Thunderbird convert-

ibles cruising by. Ely schools nurtured her love of reading and learning, providing opportunities for leadership at State Clarinet Competitions, as the Ely High School Band President, and Pom Pom Girls Debut season. Four years of German language classes with Norma Gourley established a solid foundation for additional language studies over the decades.

Winona State University and the University of Minnesota-Minneapolis inaugurated a lifestyle of lifelong learning both formally and informally in educational institutes. Jessica's first nursing job in the Mayo Clin-

ic-Rochester system offered her positions for establishing initial stateside hospital, clinic and research nursing work. She achieved certification as a Legal Nurse Consultant with which she established a research consultancy

practice. Jessica's interest in cultures and languages and her passion for helping the vulnerable and disadvantaged led her to serve as a public health nurse in Croatia with the American Refugee Committee, presently Alight, during the Bosnian War, 1993-1994; in deep Peruvian, Amazonian headwater jungles with Rainforest Health Project, 1996; for Romanian Iron Crib babies of the Ceausescu era from stateside, 1985; in the U.S. Virgin Island of St. Croix as a territorial clinic manager, 2002 - 2005; and for Haitian children and teens rescued from child and sex slavery stateside with Restavek Freedom, 2017 -2022.

More recently, back in her hometown of Ely, her volunteerism has been local with P.E.O. Philanthropic Educational Organization Chapter FD, Ely Food Shelf, Ely Senior Center, Northwoods Partners, and Slovenian Union of America Branch 23.

Jessica's lifelong love of Christian Scripture, The Trinity and Prayer nurtured and enriched her as a Guardian through decades of service and life.

Jessica is survived by her siblings, Michael Dusich Sr., Patricia (Joseph) Ljubic, Daniel (Jayne) Dusich and John M. Dusich; nieces and nephew, Tiffany Rados, Michael J. (Alyce) Dusich Jr., Tina (Mike) Dittel, Alexandra (Jamie) Kaiser, Crystal Culhane, Letitia (Mark) Lofquist, Brittany (Stephen) Swarts; many great-nieces and great-nephews; cousin, Bernie (Kari) Dusich among others internationally; and special friends for whom she was truly grateful, who have touched Jessica's life deeply throughout the decades and most recently. She was preceded in

death by her grandparents; parents; sister, Darlene (Matt) Felando; and special aunts and uncles.



FOREST MANAGEMENT

Prescribed burning planned on the Superior NF

REGIONAL - The air may smell a little smoky in the North Country over the next few weeks as the Superior National Forest gets its spring prescribed fire season underway.

Prescribed fires help reduce overgrown vegetation to protect local communities, infrastructure, and natural resources from wildfires.

On the forest's west end, the following projects are planned for this spring, although the completion of any of them is dependent on weather condi-

➤ Bear Island (121 acres) located ten miles south of Ely and one mile east of Cty. Hwy. 21; Township 61N, Range 13W, Sections 10 and 15. ➤ Canary (60 acres) located

at the intersection of Hwy. 21 and County Rd. 120, between Canary and Blueberry Lakes, Township 61N, Range 12W, Sections 4 and 5.

➤ Geraldine (289 acres) located one-half mile west of the North Arm Rd, east of Geraldine Lake, Township 63

North, Range 13 West, Section 4.

➤ Fenske (212 acres) is six miles north of Ely, off County Rd. 116 (Echo Trail); Township 64N, Range 12W, Section 30.

➤Deer Ridge (119 acres) is located on the Mushroom Island Rd and White Iron Lake, approximately two and one-half miles southeast of Ely, Township 62N, Range 12W, Section 1.

➤ Fernberg Remote Automatic Weather Station (RAWS) (5 acres) is located at Township 63N, Range 9W, and Section 8.

Right: A burn crew works a prescribed fire last spring near Pfeiffer Lake.

➤ Kinmount (97 acres) is located northwest of Ash Lake, and west of Hwy. 53, Township 67 North, Range 21 West, Sections 20, 27, 28, 29 and 34.

➤ Norwegian Island-Lake Vermilion (9 acres) located on the west end of Norwegian Bay, Township 63 North, Range 18

See BURNING...pg. 5B





caught spring sneaking up on winter while skiing on Lost Lake last Friday morning. It was at the end of a typically cool stretch of early April weather that followed in the wake of our snowstorm of the week before.

The snow on the lake had melted and congealed into the kind of perfect crust that I live for this time of year, so I had been out skate skiing on the lake most mornings over the

previous week. This was the first morning, however, that I could feel that winter would soon be giving way. It was the layer of morning fog that first hinted at the change. It shone brilliant white in the early morning sunlight and



HELMBERGER

lay in a thin layer just above the ice, a reaction to the milder breath of spring air that was slowly infiltrating into the North Country and condensing atop the ice and still mostly snow-covered ground. Just the previous morning, with

a temperature in the teens, it had seemed as though winter was still firmly in charge. What a difference a day can make in mid-April. We see this every year, but it

always seems a bit like a miracle, and it isn't just us humans who sense that the switch has been flipped and the world around us has changed. It was no coincidence that this was the morning that the sandhill cranes returned to Lost Lake Swamp and I could hear their bugling as I made my way along the lake's muskeg-lined western shore. Robins were back, singing from the birch forest on the high ground along the lake's north shore. A redwing poked amidst the upturned roots of a tamarack, looking for his breakfast.

And the herring gulls, who have claimed Lost Lake's only island, a slab of bedrock that hosts nearly



100 breeding pairs each summer, were back in force, calling with excitement, greeting the warmer air as it made its way north on an almost imperceptible southwest breeze.

It made me wonder if this would be my last ski of the season, which is why I lingered a bit on this pleasant morning. While the lake ice was still thick, the forecasted warmup over the weekend and the prospect of some rain, suggested my perfect skiing crust might well be spoiled for the season. But like the sandhill cranes and the herring gulls, I was ready to turn the page, tuck the skis away for the season, and turn to the spring.

We wrapped up our maple sugaring season a bit early this year, with a little over two gallons of rich, amber syrup to show for it, so I was ready to begin spring planting in the greenhouse and leave winter in the rear-view mirror.

I sometimes feel a bit of sympathy for those who live in warmer climates, where the seasonal changes are far less pronounced than the kind we enjoy. How do they experience that morning when spring breathes its first tentative breaths, or when that first slap of crisp and invigorating fall air serves as the impetus to prepare for the long winter ahead? These are remarkable moments and we are so much richer for the opportunity to experience them every year as the seasons turn.

Top: Morning mist sits atop the ice on Lost Lake this past week.

Above: Herring gulls gather around the lake's lone island, which has become a well-used gull rookery.

Below: Looking ahead across a perfect crust for skate skiing.



HUNTING



Spring turkey hunt now underway

REGIONAL -Minnesota's turkey hunting is now underway and continues through May 31.

Wild turkey hunting is popular in Minnesota, and increasingly here in the North Country as the species continues to expand its range to the

For anyone new to the experience, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has how-to guides and videos on a learn-to-hunt webpage (mndnr.gov/gohunting/wild-turkey-hunting.html).

The 2025 spring turkey season dates are as follows:

Youth season - April 16-May 31

Archery season - April 16-May 31

A – April 16-22 B – April 23-29

C – April 30-May 6

D - May 7-13

E - May 14-20

F - May 21-31

More details on the seasons and hunting turkeys can be found on the Minnesota DNR website (mndnr.gov/hunting/ turkey).

Burning restrictions now in effect

REGIONAL — The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has instituted spring burning restrictions across all of St. Louis, Lake, Cook, and Koochiching counties. That means the DNR will not issue permits for the open burning of brush or yard waste in these counties until restrictions are lifted.

People cause more than 90 percent of wildfires in Minnesota. If a fire rekindles or escapes, the person who set it is liable for any damage caused, as well as for wildfire suppression costs. Burning restrictions will be

adjusted as conditions change. For more information and daily updates on current fire risk and open burning restrictions, visit the statewide fire danger and burning restrictions page of the DNR website (mndnr.gov/ burnrestrictions).

And the perennial wait for ice-out begins

I want to thank you all, from the bottom of my cold dark heart, for saving that last winter storm for me. Well, maybe the last. And in all sincerity, I am so very glad to be home that I hardly even noticed the two and a half days of near constant snowing, the slippery sidewalks, or the entire morning of snow removal earlier in the month.

I made it to my island home across the ice. Twice walking in ice cleats and twice on the side by side. Everything is good there. Most of the plants survived. I plugged in the water pump and, just

like magic, water came right out of the faucet. It was pleasantly warmish inside and a fire in the wood stove made the temperature just perfect. I just love it there.

Thing is this, I believe the waiting hour is upon us. The ice at the Stuntz Bay landing is showing

serious signs of wear and tear. Though I hate to see it come, it's good that the landing goes first. Safer for someone like



WAMHOFF

rare occasion, push the limits of safe ice travel. After all, it just doesn't matter if there is six or sixteen feet of good ice in the middle of the lake. If the landings and shoreline are gone, well, we just wait.

And wait we

shall. In good-natured fashion the dogs and I will stalk the shore-

line. Oh sure, at first we'll be very nice and matter-of fact. "Well, you know, Lucy, it's just that time of year, blah, ice out day EVER was?" I'll blah, blah."

And we'll bring home encouraging springtime reports to my dad: "Boy, she's sure gettin' black out in the raceway." Or, "The pussy willows are out along the boathouses. That's gotta be a good sign."

But after a while, oh, maybe 4 or 5 days, my impatience will start to show. What was cute little inquiries at the coffee klatch and in town will begin to sound urgent and, dare I say, possibly, umm, whiny. "Excuse me, MUST you tell me what the very latest start checking the weather reports at least twice daily and watching the Vermilion ice cams.

I'll start calling and texting my "ice people," until they quit responding. I'll check any remaining ice in the boathouse 'cause, well, clear boathouse ice must show something, right?

the earliest and latest ice out days on Lake Vermillion myself. Like they change daily, from year to year.

Then I'll start checking

And then, on a considerably windy day, the cracks in the ice that have been ever widening and making bigger and bigger lake spots will start moving and breaking up that ice. It will start blowing and shifting and end up piled on some shoreline or melted in the lake.

April 18, 2025 5B

Then I'll go home, over soft liquid water, in a boat. I'll talk to my plants and give the house a hug. I'll take a long deep breath of island air, because I'll be home and that's where I'm supposed to be. I love it there.

Outdoors in brief

Apply by May 2 for 2025 bear hunting permits

REGIONAL-Anyone hoping for a 2025 bear permit has until Friday, May 2, to apply with the Minnesota DNR. Applications for the 2025 season can be submitted online, at any license agent or by telephone at 888-665-4236.

A total of 4,605 licenses are available across the 15 quota areas where licenses are limited for the 2025 season, which opens Monday, Sept. 1, and closes Sunday, Oct. 12.

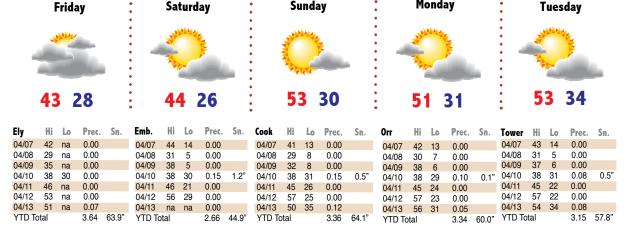
The number of licenses available each year in the quota area is based on Minnesota's bear population trends for those areas. License quotas for the 2025 bear season include a moderate increase where population trends indicate sufficient growth.

The DNR adopted changes to several bear permit area boundaries, including a change that moves the Trout Lake unit of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness from permit area 25 to 22, and permit area 22 is now consistent with the entire BWCAW boundary. Changes to these areas are reflected in the Minnesota bear permit areas map available on the DNR website.

Lottery winners will be notified by Sunday, June 1. The deadline to purchase bear hunting licenses awarded by lottery is Friday, Aug. 1. Any remaining unpurchased licenses will be available over the counter starting at noon on Wednesday, Aug. 6.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather



BURNING...Continued from page 4B

West, Section 13.

➤ LaCroix Pond (2 acres) located on the north side of Cook at the LaCroix Ranger District office site, Township 62 North, Range 18 West, Section 18.

➤Integrator (139 acres) located near the junction of County Rd. 65 and Hwy. 73, west of Lake Leander, Township 60N, Range 20W, Sections 12, 13, 14, 15, 22 and 23.

➤ Lisa (96 acres) located northeast of Orr along County Rd. 116 (Echo

Trail), Township 65 North, Range 14 West, Sections 6 and 7, and Township 65 North, Range 15 West, Section 1.

➤ Fourteen (87 acres) located south of Lake Leander, Lake Fourteen, and County Road 65, Township 60N, Range 19W, Sections 22 and 23.

➤ Jack Pine Bay (48 acres) located south of Hwy. 1, Township 61 North, Range 17 West, Sections 13 and 14. ➤ Tanner Lake (226 acres) located

six miles east of Isabella off FR 172 and

FR 174 in Lake County, Township 59N, Range 7W, Sections 5 and 8. ➤ Shack (142 acres) located approx-

imately eight miles northeast of Isabella, along the Wanless Rd., Township 60 North, Range 6 West, Sections 9 and 16

Prescribed fires may close these areas to the public for several days. Watch for warning signs along roads near all prescribed fire areas before and during prescribed fire operations.

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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.

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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.

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

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

CryptoQuote

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.

RSGF ZOQS RSQ OCI GRIX

CGG JTVBRIBXF CMRTX XOQ DTXTVQ OCI RSQ VQCJOQW

XOQ CAQ XR ZVBXQ CS

CTXRMBRAVCNOF.

QPQGFS ZCTAO

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Answers O R E S G R A P E H E R O O I L E D TILTS A C U R A K E T E L A H E M K E T E L N A I L B I T E R S C O M P L E T E B L O O D C O U N T TOSSES LON ARG SRI ERASED SNOSTEVE ACNE P E R M S S E D A N A M A M A H E S T O T A L S O L A R E C L I P S E A D E S S L O B B E L L E T A S E S A D A E G A D S D O O I N L O V E P A R S E F U L L D I S C L O S U R E T H W A P H I D E O E S L A T Y A U N A B R I D G E D E D I T I O N WEN MUSCLE U N D I V I D E D A T T E N T I O N D O O R T O D O O R U T A H N A V I D A D A G E E I N E C U R I E F I R E

A D A G E E I N E D E F E R O D E D

LOCAL BOARD OF APPEAL & EQUALIZATION TOWN OF CRANE LAKE

St. Louis County, Minnesota

will meet at The Crane Lake Chapel Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, April 30, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.

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 vour property is incorrect, please contact your St. Louis County 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. Please email info@cranelaketwp.com or mail Town of Crane Lake, P.O. Box 402, Crane Lake, MN 55725 with your concerns, if possible. The board will review your valuation, classification, or both and shall correct it as 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

Ashlyn Denning, Clerk, Town of Crane Lake

Published in the Timberjay, April 11 & 18, 2025

CITY OF TOWER COUNCIL SEAT VACANCY

The City of Tower is accepting applications to fill a vacant City Council seat. This is a great opportunity to get involved and help guide the future of our community.

Applications are available at https://cityoftower.com/positions-available and must be submitted by May 8, 2025.

For more information, contact City Hall at 218-753-4070.

Published in the Timberjay, April 18 & 25, 2025

MORCOM TOWNSHIP

PUBLIC NOTICE

Important Information Regarding Assessment and Classification of Property. This may affect your 2026 property tax payments.

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeal and Equalization of the Township of Morcom shall meet on Wednesday, April 30, starting at 5:00 p.m., at the Bear River School/ Community Center, 12512 Hwy 22, Cook, MN 55723.

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.

If you are planning to attend, please send written notice to the clerk, Sasha Lehto, PO Box 240, Side Lake, MN 55781, or email morcomtownshipmn@gmail.com. Please call if you have questions, Sasha Lehto, Clerk, at 218-969-5812.

Published in the Timberjay, April 11 & 18, 2025

CITY OF TOWER

GUNDERSEN ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

The City of Tower is accepting applications for the newly formed Gundersen Endowment Fund Committee.

Applications are available at https://cityoftower.com/positions-available and must be submitted by May 8, 2025.

For more information, contact City Hall at 218-753-4070.

Published in the Timberjay, April 18 & 25, 2025

Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

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

1. Pearl collector	_	White Cliffs location	_ 0					
2. Plain Scrabble tile	K	Tasteless	D					
3. Make public	v	Overturn in Congress	P					
4. Toast topping	_ E	Like St Nick	_ 0					
5. Door decoration	w	Intake of air	В					
6. Bullwinkle, e.g.	s _	Mandy or Roger	R _					
7. Halloween gifts	s	Peace pact	Y					
8. Wisconsin mascot	D	Grocery store employee	G					
9. Arms and legs	s	Caribbean dance	0					
10. At no time	v	More recent	W					
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LEGAL NOTICE City of Tower Publishing of Ordinance 92

1st Reading March 10, 2025

2nd Reading April 14,

Given length Ordinance, please review at: https://cityoftower.com/city-ordi-

Published in the Timberjay, April 18, 2025

VERMILION LAKE TOWNSHIP

Important Information Regarding Assessment and Classification of Property. This may affect your 2026 property tax payments.

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeal and Equalization of the Vermilion Lake Township shall meet on May 6, 2025, 2:00- 3:00 pm, at the Vermilion Lake Town Hall, 6703 Wahlsten Road. 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.

Frank Zobitz Vermilion Lake Township Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, April 18, 2025

BREITUNG TOWNSHIP

Important Information Regarding **Assessment and Classification** of Property. This may affect your 2026 property tax payments.

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeal and Equalization of Breitung Township shall meet on May 6, 2025, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM, at the Breitung Community Center, 33 First Avenue, Soudan, MN. 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 con-cerns. 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.

Amber Zak, Breitung Township Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, April 18 & 25, 2025

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

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆



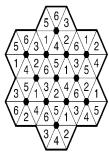
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CryptoQuip

What should you say when a young child fails at fastening his shoelaces? "Tie, tie again."

NOMELIANES

solution



WEEKLY SPECIALS BINGO: 6:30

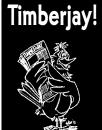
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1 Barn birds

ACROSS

- 5 Snooze
- 8 Humdrum 12 Nerd's kin
- 13 Somewhat (Suff.)
- 14 Green land
- 15 Hindu royal
- 16 "Mv word!" 17 Taxi alterna-
- tive 18 Allow
- 20 Peace

flict

- Nobelist Lech 22 Poetic con-
- traction 23 Armed con-
- 24 Melville captain 27 Shortly
- 32 canto
- 33 Nonpro sports org.
- 34 DDE's opponent 35 Parts
- 38 L-Q bridge
- 39 Moray, for one 40 Attempt
- 42 "Rats!"
- 45 Actress Phylicia
- 49 China setting 50 "The
- Greatest" 52 Empty truck's

weight

King Crossword

- 7 "That was 53 Male deer close!" 54 Meadow
- 55 Inventor's inspiration
- 56 Sharpen 57 Family 58 "Brian's
- **DOWN**

Song" star

- 1 Shrek, for one 21 2 Gradually withdraw
- 3 Sultry Horne
- 4 Winter vehicle
- 5 Resident of Lagos
- 24 Sit-up targets 46 "Mary Little
 - 26 Resident of
 - 25 Haw preceder

28 D.C. baseballer

29 Resident of

8 Biondi in "It's

9 Resident of

Monrovia

11 Wife of Zeus

19 French article

"Adorbs!"

Life"

10 War god

a Wonderful

- Oran
- Lamb"
 - 47 Bailiwick
 - 48 Campus big-
 - wig
 - 51 Island garland

30 Summer sign

31 Mentalist's

36 Household

37 Yale grad

38 Spiritualist

god

43 Regarding

42 Sprint

44 Chat

41 Egyptian sun

gift

6 Enzyme suffix Vienna © 2025 King Features Synd., Inc. 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:

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Shape. Turn your classic cance into cash. Call Steve at

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ELY CITY-WIDE Rummage.

Business Crazy Day, and Used Equipment & Watercraft

Sale on Saturday, May 17, from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. \$10 registration fee. Receive a listing

on the map and advertising

Stop at the Ely Chamber of Commerce, 1600 E Sheridan

St, or visit Ely.org/citywide for a registration form and details. 4/25

WANTED

OLD CEMENT MIXER

Junker is OK

/NOMLFHRE(

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.

Q

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦ ♦ ♦

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CryptoQuip

◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆ Difficult

4

2

Call 218-666-2750 5/2p

365-6745. tfn



TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

Considerations of personal privacy, time and resources prevent the newspaper from investigating ads placed in the classified section. If vou 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

AA OPEN GROUP MEETINGS- in person meetings, Wednesdays & Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. First Lutheran Church, 915 E Camp St., Ely.

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

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

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

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

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP-Are you troubled by some-one's drinking? Al-Anon Family Group is a community-based mutual support program for the friends and 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-

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 alco-

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

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

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

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

A L C O H O L I C S ANONYMOUS- East Range meetings and information, call 218-749-3387 or www. district8online.org

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

King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.



Even Exchange Diver, Dove

- 2. Blank, Bland 7. Treats, Treaty
- 8. Badger, Bagge 3. Reveal, Repeal 4. Jelly, Jolly
- 5. Wreath, Breath
- 9. Limbs, Limbo

CryptoQuote answer Only when one has lost

all curiosity about the future has one reached the age to write an autobiography. Evelyn Waugh



Try out the Timberjay classifieds

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

MARINE

MOCCASIN POINT

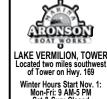
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at timberjay.com and at https://www.mnpublicnotice.com/

Super Crossword

6 "Law &

actor

Order: SVU"

7 Guitar's kin

8 High-pitched

9 Sickly yellow

10 "This is bad!"

11 Part of ROM

12 "Layla" singer

13 Single-person

14 Freaking out

15 "Norma Rae"

director

Martin

16 Bristol brew

17 Part of rpm

18 Mag VIPs

26 Hamilton's

28 "Holiday"

duel rival

actor Ayres

Clapton

show

3 Agenda parts 40 Lie next to 96 Larger

Stridex 5 Pinball fouls target

10 Tram loads 14 Raisin, at first

ACROSS

19 \$5/hour, e.g. 20 Maker of the

RDX SUV

23 "Pardon me" **24** — One

option)

situations 27 Test giving information about red and white

30 Throws 31 Actor

Chaney 32 Country west

of Uru.

Ritz tidbit

48 Comet's path

Jordan

50 Gamut

55 Wiped away

56 — -cone

57 Carell of

"Date Night"

60 Jobs at hair salons 61 Roomy car

63 Doctors' gp. 65 "- So Fine"

66 Sun-hiding phenomenon **72** Suffix with

lemon 74 — -Blo

(fuse type) **75** Beauty in

"Beauty and the Beast" **76** Stuns with

a charge **79** "There, I did it!"

81 "By gar!" 85 Whoop-de-– (fuss)

86 Like sweethearts 87 Not at all

dense 89 Withholding

of no relevant

facts 92 "Bam!" 93 Pitcher —

Nomo 94 Subj. for U.S.

95 "Back —!" ("Ditto!")

land 2 Cowboy cry

4 Office subs version of a dictionary, 5 Listens carefully

say 101 Article in

Essen 102 Bill for

services:

Abbr.

103 Scientist — Ho Lee

104 Triceps, e.g. 109 What you

are giving when you

contemplate this puzzle's

theme? 115 Like some

canvassing

118 Orem native

119 Eager 120 Wise truism

121 Article in

Essen 122 Physicist

Marie

123 Inferno

124 Put off

125 Really

binged, for short

126 Long-term

govt. security **127** Turned tail

1 Chunk of

29 Like a stove burner turned 70 Storeroom way up

33 Does a rough plan of

34 Mend the

38 Backslides 39 Is mistaken 41 Clock info 42 Pro wrestler John

43 Sob 44 As to

45 Provoked major fighting

46 California's

informally

Frosty's eyes

54 Hauling truck

between hills

many urban

addresses

68 Actor Foxx

72 Offered for

breeding,

"Frasier

as a horse

61 Plod heavily

53 Either of

58 Hollow

62 Snag

64 Abbr. in

Beach 90 "Camelot" **51** Respites

composer Frederick 52 Root canal performer,

91 "-: Vegas" (CBS series)

93 Sharp TV images, e.g

ALL THERE

78 "— penny,

80 Saudi, e.g.

82 Not worth —

vehicle

86 Inauspicious

88 Rapid runner

83 Guy

84 Arctic

pick it up ..."

97 — -Chinese

98 Subtract, as an expense

99 Like "three men" of

kids' verse

100 Convent

woman

67 Not aweather 105 Work group

106 Part of

69 Race created **ACLU**

by H.G. Wells 107 French river

108 Ceased

71 Taco topping 109 Implore

110 Make null

111 Actress

Skye

inner layer of 73 Niles' wife on 112 — Scott

case

113 Poi source

114 Slender

115 Pa

116 Keats poem 117 Stumblebum

19 20 21 22 23 24 25 27 28 30 31 32 33 34 36 38 40 47 48 44 45 49 51 52 53 58 59 63 69 70 67 68 l71 73 74 75 76 77 78

126

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: U equals L

5

4

8

9

6

5

9 3 4 1 8

5

4 8

F XNHVR BZGUE CFGUY FS CFYSMVGVR ZGY YZNMUFBMY?

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Answer

3

124

MARINE

218-753-3319

Mechanic on Duty

MERCURY Outboards

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THE THIND MONTH

Handberg's Crane Lake, MN

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59 Clearasil or 1 Taunt in fun

21 Leading man 22 Greased

(vodka 25 Suspenseful

cells

33 — Lanka 36 Triscuit or

43 Faint streak 47 Clean air gp.

49 "Us" director

54 Remitted

immigrants

DOWN

35 Castle and Cara 37 Intel

missions, e.g.

77 "Climb — Mountain" ("The Sound of Music" tune) 12 13

16

17

35

127

ndicate,

King

50 TZFS YZNHUE XNH YFX TZMV 55 60 "SGM, SGM FRFGV." 72 79 80 81 83 84 85 86 8 9 1 87 89 88 90 91 5 92 93 94 196 99 197 98 8 101 102 103 104 4 109 110 | 111 | 112 113 | 114 2 |115 |116 |117 118 119 120 121 122 123 9 2

125



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ATTORNEY

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Wednesday, April 23 • 5:30-6:30 PM Ely School Media Center

Learn the basics of Wills, Trusts and the effects of other legal documents with attorney Kelly Klun.

To register: call 218-365-3221 or visit elyclasses.com





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