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the TIMBERJAY



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989 VOL. 36, ISSUE 16 April 25, 2025 \$1⁵⁰

TOUGH DECISIONS

Cook commits to library repairs with or without FEMA

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

COOK- Cook’s library isn’t just a place to check out books – it’s long been described as the “heart of the city.” It’s where toddlers giggle during storytime, where seniors chat over puzzles, and where neighbors reconnect by the checkout desk. But for the past ten months, that heart has been barely beating. Gutted

by last June’s historic flood and mired in FEMA delays, the building remains stripped to bare floors and boxed-up shelves. This week, city and library leaders said they’ve waited long enough. A joint meeting of the city council and library board on Monday ended in clear consensus: it’s time to make temporary repairs and get the library functioning – with or

without FEMA’s help. **Library in limbo** Library Director Crystal Whitney didn’t sugarcoat the current state of the building. “The library has been like this basically for 10 months,” Whitney told the assembly. “Our hours have been limited; our services have been limited. Honestly, this is probably the best that it’s looked in the 10

Right: Members of the Cook City Council and the Cook Library Board met in joint session Monday to discuss the future of the library, which was damaged by flooding last June. photo by D. Colburn months.” The damage was extensive. See...**LIBRARY** pg. 9



RESURRECTION

WELY-AM now back on the air

New owners hope to have new FM transmitter operational by Memorial Day

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY — The AM side of WELY radio returned to the airwaves this week, providing the first tangible evidence of the progress being made by staff from Wisconsin-based Civic Media, as they work to bring the long silent station back to life. As a result, Ely-area residents have been able to tune into 1450 on the AM dial since last Thursday afternoon. The station has been playing non-stop pre-recorded R&B oldies and classic rock music programming to fill the airwaves while work on the FM side progresses. The new AM transmitter is an upgrade from the old one. Civic Media

Vice President of Broadcast Operations Kory Hartman told the *Timberjay*, “The AM probably has been running at half power for a decade. With the new transmitter, that will be back to full power and full capacity.” The AM station is licensed to broadcast at 6 kilowatts. The resurrected power of the new AM transmitter caught people’s attention. Ely resident Lucas Landwehr felt the spirit of the day move him in a Facebook message posted on Easter Sunday. “On this holiday, please join me in celebrating the rebirth and second coming of our beloved WELY! Yesterday, driving south, I had crystal See...**WELY** pg. 10

PUBLIC SAFETY

Council resignation cites threats from troubled neighbor

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER — A recently resigned member of the Tower City Council is raising questions about the safety of the community in a scathing resignation letter he provided to city officials last month. The letter, from David Wanless, came in the form of a lengthy email addressed to Mayor Dave Setterberg and Clerk-Treasurer Michael Schultz on March 18. The letter was not included in the city council packet at the council’s April 15 meeting but was provided by city

officials to the *Timberjay* upon request. Wanless, who moved to Tower in 2023 and won election to the council on a write-in last November, has repeatedly complained about threatening words and actions by a resident in his S. Second Street neighborhood who has had altercations with numerous See...**SAFETY** pg. 9



David Wanless



A COMEDY IN TWO ACTS

A night at the opera

Steve Solkela updates 1733 comic opera for laughs in the 21st century

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER-Steve Solkela’s production of the 1733 comic opera “La Serva Padona” was a bit unconventional, which hardly came as a surprise to anyone familiar with Solkela’s unique musical talents. The 40-minute Italian opera by Giovanni Battista Pergolisi was written as a short to be performed during the intermission of one of his more serious opera productions. The two short comedic acts follow an elderly bachelor, Uberto, and his eventual engagement to his somewhat scheming housemaid, Serpina, who it turns out he had been in love with all along. Most Italian operas don’t begin with Finnish accordion music or conduct three rounds of bingo for the audience during the intermission, but with Solkela you never know what to expect. But what people did expect, and certainly got in spades, was some quality entertainment, with



professionally-trained opera singers and actors who brought an almost 200-year-old Italian opera to life, thanks in part to Solkela’s clever updating for a 21st century audience. The production, performed for an audience of about 40, was a mix of opera, vaudeville, and improv comedy. And while

the seven songs in the production were sung in Italian, the programs included an English translation of each song, though it was easy to get the gist of the show from watching the singers’ expressions and pantomimes. The title “La Serva See **OPERA**, pg. 10

Top: The character Serpina moves in to plant a kiss on a confused Uberto. **Above: The couple-to-be express their love.** photos by J. Summit



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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.

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 prices.


“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.”

Join Itasca Waters for “Practical Water Wisdom” online program on May 1

REGIONAL- Do you want to leave a legacy of clean water for future generations? If so, don’t miss Practical Water Wisdom: A Virtual Learning Series, hosted by Itasca Waters. This free, hour-long program takes place online at noon on the first Thursday of each month (except July, when it’s on the second Thursday). Each session includes a live Q&A, offering an engaging way to learn about water-related topics. The upcoming program, “Climate Change Effects on Fisheries,” will take place on May 1, featuring Dr. Hadley Boehm, a Fisheries Research Supervisor with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR).

Based in Duluth, Dr. Boehm leads a team of fisheries research scientists dedicated to addressing critical questions about Minnesota’s aquatic resources. In this engaging presentation, Dr. Boehm will share insights from recent research conducted by the MNDNR Fisheries Research Unit, highlighting the potential impacts of climate change on the state’s fisheries. Attendees will gain a deeper understanding of how warming temperatures, changing water conditions, and other climate-related factors may influence fish populations and aquatic ecosystems in Minnesota. Don’t miss this opportunity to learn about the future of Minnesota’s fisheries, the science behind conservation efforts, and see water in a new way every month. Register for the May 1 free program at <https://itascawaters.org/water-wisdom-2025>. For more details, email info@itascawaters.org.

Practical Water Wisdom is the brainchild of Itasca Waters, a nonprofit organization located in Itasca County whose mission is to “team up” with other organizations and concerned citizens to maintain abundant, clean water for our continued health, enjoyment, and a strong economy. This series is made possible through support from Minnesota Sea Grant, the Itasca Coalition of Lake Associations, the Itasca County Soil and Water Conservation District, KAXE-KBXE, Rapids Radio, and the Grand Rapids Herald-Review. Don’t miss this opportunity to learn, connect, and contribute to preserving our water resources




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ARROWHEAD LIBRARY SYSTEM

Folksinger Charlie Maguire to present songs and stories about sailing on the Great Lakes at area libraries in May



REGIONAL The Arrowhead Library System is pleased to host Going To Bartalina: Songs & Stories of Commercial Sailing on the Great Lakes, a concert by COMPAS songwriter and performer Charlie Maguire.

With unequaled authenticity, Charlie brings a program of songs and stories to mark important maritime anni-

versaries in 2025. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald and the 120th anniversary of the Mataafa wreck off Duluth’s Canal Park on Lake Superior.

Charlie Maguire is the only songwriter ever granted passage to write about two working vessels: Nordic Trader and William Clay Ford. Charlie Maguire also served as an embedded crew member on USCG Sundew. From these unprecedented opportunities, Charlie Maguire turned experience into songs with insightful narratives behind each one in time for these important anniversaries.

In addition, Maguire’s program includes Gordon Lightfoot’s “The Wreck Of The Edmund Fitzgerald” and Woody Guthrie’s “Merchant Marine” songs to round out a solid hour of deep water adventure.

“If you have ever seen a big ship entering a harbor, or glimpsed one out on the horizon and wondered what it must be like to be onboard, then this program is for you. Charlie’s songs and stories make it as real as the wind in your face, the comradeship of the crew, and the movement of the deck

under your feet,” said Davis Helberg, Director (Ret.) Seaway Port Authority of Duluth.

This program is one-hour long, is appropriate for all audiences, and will be offered at the following locations in our area:

Monday, May 5, 1 p.m. - Babbitt Public Library

Tuesday, May 6, 10 a.m. - Ely Public Library

Tuesday, May 6, 2 p.m. - Aurora Public Library

Wednesday, May 7, 20 p.m. - Virginia Public Library

Wednesday, May 7, 5:30 p.m. - Cook Community Center, hosted by the Cook Public Library

Thursday, May 8, 10 a.m. - Mt. Iron Public Library

This program, sponsored by Arrowhead Library System, was funded in part or in whole with money from Minnesota’s Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (ACHF).

To learn more about Arrowhead Legacy Events, please see our calendar at www.alslib.info or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/alslibinfo.

No Ordinary Scrap Journal Kits Available from May 5 – 30

REGIONAL- The Arrowhead Library System (ALS) will be providing No Ordinary Scrap Journal Take & Create Kits for member public libraries to distribute May 5 – 30.

Turn a paper journal and a collection of household and scrap papers into a personalized, unique book that brings out your creativity. This art experience, as designed by area artist Mary Mulari, is “a relaxed and fun cousin to scrapbooking” and there are no rules. Design your journal with a theme such as travel or memories of 2025, or a free-spirit style collection of concert tickets, postcards, nature scenes, and sketching. This journal will be an eclectic treasure and the start of a new way to save and record your mem-



ories.

This free art experience is designed for adults, teens, and children ages 10 and up. Younger children may need assistance. All supplies are included, and suggestions for additional materials are included. An instructional video for the Take and Cre-

ate Kit will be provided for this art experience.

Kits will be distributed at the following public libraries and ALS outreach locations in our area:

Babbitt Public Library
Cook Public Library
Ely Public Library
Virginia Public Library

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 Motors Event Center (ITMEC) in Virginia, with the theme of The Price of Plastic.

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 Now.”

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, 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 501(c)3 nonprofit, is the voice of sustainability for the Iron Range. Through events, initiatives and projects, 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 Sustainability.



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POLITICS

Snow and wind doesn't deter protesters in Ely

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY— Freezing temperatures, a brisk breeze, and some light snow didn't seem to discourage the 120 people who turned out on Saturday for what has become an on-going protest against the policies of the Trump administration.

The national grassroots "50501" movement helped coordinate over 700 protest events on Saturday. 50501 is just one of the groups that helped organize the April 5 "Hands Off" protests, along with MoveOn and several other groups. However, the local protest appeared to be a homegrown effort started by local business owner Ozzie Reif. "I made a flyer and put it on Facebook, but that's all I did. Others are engaged and they spread the word."

Saturday's protest, which drew over 120 to Whiteside Park at its peak, saw somewhat fewer participants than the April 5 event, which peaked at just over 200. So, why organize a second protest in under a month? "They are not stopping what they



are doing in Washington so I'm not going to stop protesting," responded Reif.

New and repeat protesters

Retired miner and steelworkers' union member Bill Erzar, of Morse Township, who attended the April 5 protest, was back on Saturday carrying his same sign in support of veterans. Erzar said the layoffs of Veterans Administration employees in Minneapolis adversely af-

fected his recent visit to the VA offices there. "This random firing of people makes no sense," he said.

Heidi Mann was also back with her homemade "Cat Lady for Congresspeople with Backbones" sign, an apparent poke at Eighth District Rep. Pete Stauber, who has refused to hold in-person town hall meetings in his district, despite constant urging from his constituents.

Several in the crowd were there for the first time, like one woman from the Twin Cities who asked that her name be withheld. "This is the first time I've been at a protest," she told the *Timberjay*, "but what's going on is just wrong. The Constitution matters, the rule of law matters, and human rights matter."

It was also the first Ely protest for Tim McKenzie, whose artistic "Trump, the floater that won't flush" sign, showing Trump's orange-haired head swirling in a toilet bowl refusing to be flushed, was probably the

See PROTEST...pg. 5

BOIS FORTE BAND

Giizhik Market with new food options opens at Fortune Bay

REGIONAL- General Manager Elizabeth Deegan didn't wait long to fulfill her promise to raise the profile of Fortune Bay Resort Casino as a Native American-owned property. On Tuesday, April 8, the Giizhik Market officially opened its doors.

"The name pays homage to our Anishinaabe language," said Deegan. "We'll continue to come up with other ways to honor our culture, but this is the first step in ensuring guests know more about the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa."

Located across the hall from the Whispering Winds Gift Shop, the Giizhik Market marks the start of a broader revamp of dining options at Fortune Bay. The new market will house all Grab-and-Go

items previously available at the Gold Mine Grill, which has operated out of the Tamarack's breakfast buffet area since late November.

"This gives our guests more options while also opening up additional space in the Tamarack dining area, which is sorely needed," said Deegan.

Offerings at the Giizhik Market include cold sandwiches such as turkey, ham, club, and Italian subs – served with condiments on the side. There are also chef, Cobb, and Oriental salads, fruit and veggie cups, yogurt parfaits with granola, and desserts like cherry and blueberry cheesecake.

Guests will also find cookies, trail mix, muffins, cinnamon rolls, gluten-free breads, éclairs, Rice

Krispie bars, deli bars, and a variety of individually packaged baked goods. Microwaveable pizzas and other hot items are available, along with 12-packs of soda and six-packs of water for extended stays.

Food and beverage items formerly sold in the gift shop have also moved to the market, freeing up shelf space in Whispering Winds.

Giizhik Market is open daily from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Staffing includes employees from the former Gold Mine Grill, along with new hires brought on by Food and Beverage Director/Executive Chef Kirstie Kern.

"I'm super excited to have this space open again," said Kern of the area that previously housed Tim Horton's and the guest coffee

lounge. "It will give our customers more variety and open up the Tamarack dining area as well."

The added space will also allow for occasional specialty buffets like one recently held before the Bone Thugs-N-Harmony concert on April 11.

"There's no way we could have hosted the buffet if Grab-and-Go was still in Tamarack," said Kern, who began her Fortune Bay career in 2015 after working at Green Mill Restaurant. "This is a good move for us."

Plans are also in the works to install kiosks for self-service check-out, similar to those at Walmart or Target. The goal is to have the system in place before summer.

"If a guest runs into any issues,

we'll work with front desk staff to help out," said Kern, who praised the maintenance, hospitality, and gift shop teams for their help preparing for the opening.

To ensure product security, the market is covered by surveillance cameras, with more to be added if needed.

"We're not really worried about that happening," Kern said of potential theft concerns.

Longer term, Fortune Bay plans to rebrand the Gold Mine Grill into a new restaurant within the current Tamarack space. While specifics are still in development, Kern said she hopes that transformation will come "sooner rather than later."

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OPINION

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Editorial

Windigo ways

Can we find a new way to live on a finite planet?

For many of us, as children, we frequently learn the lessons of our society and culture through stories, often frightening tales that hold profound life lessons. That was as true in traditional European cultures as it was in Anishinaabe society, where the story of the Windigo taught children the fundamental lessons necessary to be a productive member of a commons-based society where concepts of private property and the accumulation of wealth were not only frowned upon, but practically unknown.

Those few who did consume in excess were a danger to other band members because at times, particularly during the Hunger Moon of late winter, food was scarce and sharing was essential to survival for all. The thought of hoarding food at a time when others were hungry would have shocked the conscience of any self-respecting member of such a society.

The Windigo, so the story goes, was a human who fell victim to self-indulgence and greed, and in that fall from grace, was turned into a monster who consumes without end, suffering a gnawing hunger that never dies. Such a person would be banished from a culture based on sharing, doomed to forever haunt the world alone.

The author Robin Wall Kimmerer, an enrolled member of the Potawatomi Nation, closely allied with the Ojibwe, sees much more in the story of this Native bogeyman than just a children’s tale.

Kimmerer, a professor at State University of New York’s College of Environmental Science and Forestry, and director of its Center for Native Peoples and the Environment, sees the presence and the damage wrought by the Windigos of our present day.

“The native habitat of the Windigo is the north woods,” she writes in her now classic environmental bestseller, “Braiding Sweetgrass,” “but the range has expanded in the last few centuries... the footprints are all around us once you know what to look for.”

Kimmerer sees the rampages of the Windigo in the self-destructive epidemics of addiction, to drugs, alcohol, gambling, and technology, as well as environmental devastation.

Windigo footprints are all around, notes Kimmerer: “They are the tracks of insatiable consumption.”

Kimmerer recalls a scene while walking down a street in

Manhattan. “Where the warm light of a lavish home spilled out over the sidewalk on a man picking through the garbage for his dinner. Maybe we’ve all been banished to lonely corners by our obsession with private property. We’ve accepted banishment even from ourselves when we spend our beautiful utterly singular lives on making more money, to buy more things that feed but never satisfy. It is the Windigo way that tricks us into believing that belongings will fill our hunger when it is belonging that we crave.”

Indeed, Kimmerer finds the Windigo at work on an even grander scale. “We seem to be living in an era of Windigo economics of fabricated demand and compulsive overconsumption.” It leaves Kimmerer fearful of a world that seems turned inside out, with the dark side made to seem light. “Indulgent self-interest that our people once held as monstrous is now celebrated as success. We are asked to admire what our people viewed as unforgivable. The consumption-driven mind-set masquerades as ‘quality of life’ but eats us from within.”

It’s easy to understand Kimmerer’s fear in a world, and in an America, where billionaires – the ultimate Windigos – set the agenda and pervert our very government to serve their interest in the endless accumulation of more and more. While a few billionaires have used portions of their vast wealth for good, the billionaires currently throwing their weight around in Washington have never shown the slightest hint of generosity. For them, life is a never-ending quest to take an even larger piece of the pie, with no consideration of how doing so might affect others.

Perhaps that should come as no surprise since our capitalist society has come to measure success almost solely in terms of money. It’s so ingrained in the popular American mindset that it is easy to lose sight of the fact that it doesn’t have to be this way – that there are alternatives that could lead to a more just society and a greater sense of belonging.

We live on a finite planet. It is madness to assume we can ever find a sustainable and satisfying future without changing our ways. What if we found value in healing the planet and we healed ourselves at the same time? What if we recognized Windigo thinking for what it was: A hollow lie that leaves everyone and everything poorer for believing it?



Letters from Readers

Let’s do something about noxious tansy

It’s spring and time to talk about tansy, that dreadful invasive species that has exploded across our beautiful land. The seeds from those little yellow button flowers become imbedded in the wheels of ATVs, autos and even our shoes and boots. They are carried on the wind.

In the 1600s, it was brought to the U.S. from Eurasia as an ornamental plant, but through the years, it has taken over native plants and grazing land. It is toxic to cattle but, because it doesn’t taste good, most animals pass it by, allowing it to thrive untouched.

I’ve been troubled by the rapid spread of tansy along the country roads my daughter and I travel when we take her dog, Lily, for a run. It is everywhere and we knew we were contributing to its spread simply by driving down the road.

When I found tansy near my home, I reached out to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for information on how to eliminate it. I was connected to Laura Van Riper, the Terrestrial Invasive Species Program Coordinator, who is a wealth of information on all invasive plants. We zeroed in on tansy.

One of the many sites she suggested is the Minnesota DNR web site, a trove of information on tansy as well as other invasive species. You can also find a Guide to Removal and Disposal of Noxious Weeds in Minnesota. Most sites strongly encourage wearing long sleeved shirts, long pants and appropriate gloves when touching tansy because of its toxicity.

My son, Marshall, said “Mother, you’re tilting at windmills again.” Perhaps he’s right but I believe in this simple adage: “We can do nothing, or we can do something. Let’s do something.”

So, let’s put on our work clothes when the first yellow flow-

ers appear, take a plastic bag, and pick the flowers, putting them in the bag and allowing them to dry. If there is a toxic plant disposal location near you, please use it. If not, let’s ask our yard waste site operators to establish one. We need to take care of our little spot of the Earth.

**Pat Helmberger
Tower**

We must stand together against Trump’s lawlessness

The Trump/Musk administration has been running roughshod through the government for more than three months now. They claim the goal is to cut waste and fraud. So far, these claims have proved unfounded. Their accomplishments, to name just a few, have been unlawfully firing thousands of federal workers, unlawfully closing agencies and bureaus, unlawfully ignoring court orders, issuing so many, many Executive Orders that are contrary to law that the courts have issued numerous restraining orders to stop their implementation. Trump has threatened the whole world, except Russia, with record high tariffs. This has tanked the stock market and is slowing the economy. He has unlawfully deported immigrants without due process of law... and the list goes on and on. He has also used his office to intimidate all levels of education with threats to cut funding over DEI, threatened the news media he doesn’t like, and otherwise is being a lawless authoritarian by every measure. Note the common theme: lawlessness.

Make no mistake, your country and your way of life is under attack. Immigrants, documented or not, are not rising up to overthrow our laws and institutions. Foreign powers are not invading to do similarly (well maybe Pu-

tin). The oft vilified liberals and progressives are not weakening your constitutional rights. People getting by on Social Security are not plotting huge tax cuts to benefit billionaires. No. This attack is not from the without. It is from within. Extreme far right ideologies are the attackers. Trump is just a tool, and a good one, malleable, easily manipulated and easily distracted (except about tariffs). Over the last 40 years they have used people like him and fooled the conservative community to slowly and steadily drive a wedge between us based on fear. Fear of gays (when that failed, trans people), fear of losing gun rights, fear of government, fear of losing religion, fear of electric vehicles, fear of conservation, and in general fear of anyone or anything that is different from their idea of normal.

Too many fellow citizens applaud this disorder and confusion believing it is somehow to their advantage. Too many stand silent hoping it will all go away or that someone on a white horse will save the day.

I and many others do not trust in hope or prescribe to fear. We will not be silent or be intimidated into silence. I will be howling to anyone who will listen. I will, as best I can, uphold my oath from long ago to defend our Constitution from all threats and defend the rule of law. I will do my best to convince others to join the fray on the right side of history. I will join others of like mind to take collective action to stop this evil. We will be on the white horses. Democracy is the only form of government I know of worth fighting for. Democracy only prevails if good people stand against evil. Join in. You will feel better. People from around the world and far into the future will thank you when we win.

**Tim Wallace
Zim**

COMMENTARY

Lincoln’s speeches provided a glimpse into the future

When Abraham Lincoln took the oath of office for his second term as president, the United States was divided as never before or since. The Civil War had killed over 600,000 Americans, North and South. The end of the war was in sight, but bitterness remained.

Lincoln could have celebrated the Union’s approaching victory or claimed a mandate for his policy goals. Instead, he adopted a conciliatory tone. He called on both sides to make peace and face the nation’s challenges together.



**LEE
HAMILTON**

“With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right; let us strive on to finish the work we are in,” he concluded. “To bind up the nation’s wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan – to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.”

Lincoln’s second inaugural address is one of the most consequential presidential

speeches in U.S. history, both for its eloquence and its impact. At only 703 words, it was the third-shortest inaugural address in history, longer only than George Washington’s second and Franklin Roosevelt’s fourth. Yet it remains relevant after 170 years.

I’ve always felt that Lincoln glimpsed the future in some of his better-known addresses, including his second inaugural. For example, in calling for “malice toward none” and “charity for all,” he evoked qualities the world would need 80 years later.

After World War II, much of Europe was in ruins. America’s allies, including France, England and the Soviet Union, and our en-

emies, Germany and Italy, were devastated. More than 50 million had been killed, including the six million European Jews who died in the Holocaust. Governments and economies were crippled.

The U.S. responded with charity and not with malice. The Marshall Plan helped rebuild Europe. There were also private efforts, including a “friendship train,” named for Lincoln, that crossed the country collecting food and clothing for the war’s survivors. In subsequent years, we partnered to create NATO and other alliances to keep the world secure.

Lincoln also called for reconciliation at his first inauguration in 1861, hoping to avoid war. “Though pas-

sion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection,” he said, appealing for the “mystic chords of memory” to “yet swell the chorus of the union.”

Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address, delivered in November 1863, is even briefer than the second inaugural and better known. In just 272 words, Lincoln honored the Civil War dead, called for perseverance, and appealed to a generous vision of America’s future. He looked ahead to the challenge of reconstructing the nation and called for a “new birth of freedom,” words that have inspired generations.

Unlike modern presidents, Lincoln didn’t employ speechwriters. He wrote

his own speeches by hand, sometimes asking aides for suggestions but laboring over the text. He preferred simple, direct language, not the flowery oratory that was common in his era.

Ted Sorensen, a speechwriter for President John F. Kennedy, recalled that Kennedy asked him to prepare for the job by studying Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address and all the previous inaugural addresses of the 20th century. “I did not learn much from those (inaugural) speeches ... but I learned a great deal from Lincoln’s ten sentences,” he wrote.

Lincoln was a skilled

Trump is destroying our economy and reputation

Foreign countries are angry about Trump’s tariff taxes and are considering selling their U.S. Treasury bonds and/or not renewing them. China apparently is planning to sell their \$761 billion. Canada holds \$328 billion. Additionally, the U.S. Treasury will have to be selling additional bonds to cover our rising national debt.

There is a direct correlation between rising interest rates on Treasuries and the increased rates for mortgages, car loans, credit cards, and corporate bonds. Compounding this rise is the diminution of the value of the dollar, down a huge eight percent just since Trump’s inauguration day. The U.S. currency has traditionally been stipulated as payment in most trading agreements.

This will be no longer be the case. America’s creditworthiness reputation will be damaged, and result in an increase in cost of our national debt.

Trump’s fickle implementation of tariffs is leading to lasting irreversible harm to the U.S. reputation, economy, and ethical standards. If even possible, it will take considerable time to reestablish our good reputation, long after Trump has left the stage.

According to a recent article in The *New York Times*, autocratic leaders are influenced by warnings from advisers, allies and powerful constituencies like business owners. In the case of Trump, however, all of his appointees have sworn fealty to him prior to appointment, or he has threatened them, or has showered them with special favorable treatment.

It is doubtful if Canada will ever again trust the ability of U.S. voters to elect

knowledgeable and ethically principled leaders. In the meantime, Canada has engaged in a long-term contract to supply China with oil. They are starting to use their new oil pipeline to the West Coast for heavy crude oil that previously was sent to the U.S. Their contract states that they get paid when the oil is received at their Vancouver port, providing China with an option to sell Canadian oil to other Asian countries.

It will be impossible for the U.S. to replace the diverted oil with domestic oil reserves because U.S. domestically drilled oil is a lighter grade which cannot be processed by refineries that are designed to handle heavy crude. Therefore, the U.S. will have to import heavy crude oil to meet the requirements of the refineries left idle as result of Canada selling its oil to China. It will be extremely expensive to retrofit our existing refin-

eries and might take years to accomplish.

Another problem Trump must consider is a possible cut off from Canada’s low-cost hydro-generated electricity imported to serve one and half million U.S. homes in three states: Minnesota, Michigan, and New York. At a minimum, Canada will impose a tariff tax of 25 percent to reflect U.S. tariff taxes on Canada. If Canada decides to punish the U.S., (remember Trump’s threatening annexation of Canada as the 51st America state, doesn’t help) it can redirect the low-cost electricity to their own uses in Canada and subject Americans to an indeterminable long-lasting blackout of homes, stores, offices, factories, hospitals, churches plus curtailing transportation of electric vehicles and use of electricity operating gas pumps, until the U.S. can establish a new source of electricity for these states. (Remember Trump’s “we don’t

need them.”)

Canada controls our access to Alaska over land, water and air space. They might establish tolls or barriers despite any previous contracts to the contrary. Alaska is dependent on imports, especially by trucking across Canada.

Already, many Canadians have stopped using American goods and services creating substantial losses for the American suppliers, especially for the tourist businesses. Furthermore, Canada has been an ally in U. S. military operations. We have lost their support, adding to our growing isolationism.

As the new prime minister of Canada has accurately stated, “We will get stronger as they get weaker.”

Gerry Snyder Ely



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.

Letters are a great way to offer your input to the *Timberjay*’s editorial page. We want to know what you think!

COMMENTARY

Camper bound during ice off

Now that the wait for ice off is truly upon us, Nibs, Echo, Luna and I are camper bound. It’s not a bad thing at all. We are just living, ummm, small. While the lake is trying to decide if it wants to be soft or hard water, we head to the Herbie Camper for 14 feet of adventure.



APRIL WAMHOFF

Herbie’s gone through a pretty serious transformation, though, whenever practical, I’ve tried to make her “vintage.” She’s gotten a new paint job, inside and out. Outside, she’s bright red and white. I painted her back to her original design from the white she sported

generation. I took her to the dump in Montana to throw some things out before I left for home. The lady at the dump came running out to tell me I couldn’t just leave her there. Be still my heart! Leave my treasure? At the dump!?!

when I took ownership of her. She’s well, noticeable, and makes a splash! Inside, she boasts rather eclectic decorating. Yes, Lucy, you can, indeed, have too many pictures, knick-knacks, and throw pillows.

Herbie has a new mattress on the twin-sized bed which Nibs and I share. Big, fluffy dog beds go on the new floor for Echo, who sleeps beside the bed, and Luna, who resides under the table. We are all living in 14 feet of space, so no one is too far from anyone else!

The bathroom arrangement allows for a rather tight shower space and will soon have a composting toilet.

She’s equipped with a new fridge, one burner stove, and a toaster oven. Sufficient

for my level of culinary ability.

I think Herbie will always be a work in progress, but she’s good enough for our seasonal abode.

For a couple of years, we stayed in the Herbie Camper in my parents garage during the water changing times. Life can get in the way of big adventure plans. We’ve made one trip back to Montana, after the transformation, and we’ll certainly be back. This spring, we’ve headed to a secluded spot at my sister’s place in Clear Lake, near St. Cloud.

They’re a bit ahead of us in Clear Lake, and spring is in full swing. The pussy willows are popped and the frogs in the pond are making quite a racket! We’re loving



our walks in the woods and our evening campfires.

To be sure, we’re back once a week. I certainly want to be on top of things when the lake is ready to open. Summers are short and I most certainly don’t want to miss a minute when I can

get home.

Still, the Herbie Camper, while small, isn’t bad. We’re enjoying our springtime, ice off, adventure.

LINCOLN...Cont. from page 4

writer with a poetic sensibility who deftly used rhetorical devices and biblical references, Sorensen said. But his

speeches resonate because his ideas and values were timeless. In today’s divided times, we would do well

to take to heart Lincoln’s words, phrases and, especially, his ideas. Showing malice toward none and charity for

all is as valuable today as ever.

PROTEST...Cont. from page 3

funniest at the event. “I was at the Capitol in St. Paul for the last protest (on April 5). It was a family affair for me with my sisters,” McKenzie said.

Civil discourse

In an interesting display that was worthy of the best aims of the Braver Angels movement for civility in American political discourse, one Ely resident with views more favorable toward the Trump Administration’s actions showed up and politely spoke with the protesters about their views.

Mike Forsman walked along the sidewalk where the protesters had spread out along the Sheridan St. side of the park. The three Forsman conversations observed by the *Timberjay* appeared polite and and respectful, like watching a Braver Angels playbook for civility while discussing opposing political views.

One attendee of the protest reported to the *Timberjay* that she was upset that Forsman appeared to be recording his conversations with the protesters on his cell phone, which was plainly visible in his hand.

The *Timberjay* caught up to Forsman while he was speaking with Heidi Mann and asked him about his recording conversations. At the time, he was discussing with Mann their different views on whether the U.S. courts had the legal authority to order the administration to retrieve the illegally deported Kilmar Abrego

Garcia from the El Salvadoran prison he was sent without due process — a conversation where both ap-

peared to agreeably agree to disagree.

“I was thinking about maybe blogging about this,

so I wanted to capture what people were saying accurately,” was Forsman’s response.

RETIREMENT AUCTION
ROGER MANNING - OWNER



THURSDAY, MAY 1 • 10 AM
7431 North Jarvinen Rd., Virginia, MN 55792

CONTRACTOR EQUIPMENT-Case 580K Loader/Backhoe, 82-In. Bucket, w/Ext-a-Hoe and Quick-Tach Bucket, Cab w/Heat; 2 Quick-Tach Buckets; JD 544D Artic Loader; Case W12 4x4 Loader; JD 450C Crawler/Dozer, 6-Way Blade; JD 450 Crawler/Loader; 1971 LaCross Flatbed 18-Ft. (16-Ton) Tandem Axle Trailer; Ford Dump Truck, 6-Yd. Box, needs engine; Used Rollers for 350-550 Dozers; Allen 15-In. Shear Head;

CLEAN TRACTORS-IH 826 German Diesel, WF, 3-Pt., 540 & 1000 PTO, Good Rubber, New PTO Clutch, 9,500 Hrs; Farnall 560 Diesel, WF, Good Rubber, w/Loader; JD 2640 Diesel, WF, 3-Pt. Dual Hyd, w/Loader; JD 40, WF, Hyd. Loader w/Live Hyd., 3-Pt.; Ford 8N, w/Loader; HAYING AND FARM MACHINERY- JD 1219 Haybine, 9-Ft.; NH 451, 3-Pt. 7-Ft. Mower; JD 752 4-Spool Tedder; Kuhn SR110G11 Speed Rake, 10-Wheel, Hyd. Bi-Fold, Looks new; NH 55, IH, & JD Rollbar Rakes; NH 648 Silage Special 4x5-Ft. Baler; JD 510 Lg. Round Baler; Vermeer 504G Rnd. Baler; Kverneland UN7512 Sgl Bale Silage Wrapper; Sev. Rolls of Plastic Silage Wrap; JD Running Gear w/Rack; IH 550 Manure Spreader; Brillion Seeder/Packer, 8-Ft., Oat/Grass Seeders; IH 10 Silage Chopper; JD 6-Blade Disc Plow; 3-Pt. 2-14s Plow; Deerborn 3-Pt. 6-Ft. Disc; Tandem 7-Ft. Disc; Allis 8-Ft. Tandem Disc; Bale Spear; 3-Pt. Back Blade; Shaver 3-Pt. Post Driver;

CATTLE AND EQUIPMENT- Six 2nd-Calf Black Heifers, Exposed for Oct. Calves; 1 Yrlg. Heifer; 1.5 Yr. Black Bull; 2 Oct.-Born Bull Calves & 3 Oct.-Born Heifers, Approx 400#; Foremost Headgate and Squeeze Chute; Asst. Gates, Stock Tanks, Feed Bunks and Other Cattle Equip;

COLLECTIBLE TRACTORS AND MACHINERY- Fordson Tractor on Steel; Co-op C126 Tractor; Oliver 77 Diesel, NF; Mpls Moline Tractor, 4 ¼ x5, w/Loader; Allis-Chalmers Tractor, Steel Rear Wheels; 2 Shop-Built One Model A and Other Jokers; 1973 Ford Bronco, 302 Auto, w/Plow, 75k mi, Runs/restorable; 3 Ground-Driven Manure Spreaders; Two 6-Ft. Grain Drills; 4 Steel-Wheeled Running Gear; Steel-4-Wheeled Road Grader, 6-Ft.; Moline Roll-Bar Rake; Sev. Dump Rakes and Horse Mowers; Cultivator on Steel; Asst. Steel Wheels; Lg. Potato Digger on Rubber and Other; Potato Planter; 2-Row Corn Planter;

AUTO LIFT & SHOP- Eagle 10,000# Car Hoist, Dismantled and palleted; Ford Industrial Engine; Comm. 4-Burner Grill/Griddle Dbl Oven; Fuel Barrel;

FIREARMS- Browning 12-Ga. Semi-Auto; HR Topper 158, 3" SS; Brazilian 20-Ga.Dbl. Bbl. Kit Gun; 12-Ga. Dbl. Bbl. Wallhanger; Winchester 36, 9mm Rimfire SS; Mauser 1891, 7.65 Bolt; Taurus 357 Mag; Etc.

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the
TIMBERJAY

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Moving? Questions about your subscription? Call the Tower office at (218) 753-2950.

Week of April 28

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

Tuesday
Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5 p.m. New location in the old St. James Church building. Next food shelf day is 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 32 Charlemagne's 52 Club is Julie Johnson of Tower. Julie was the first person to purchase a ticket in our second year of the Charlemagne's 52 Club. Julie is also honored as the Tower-Soudan Historical Society volunteer who sold the most 52 Club tickets (48) this past year! Thank you Julie.

History Tidbit: Settler's Cabin Part 1: The story of the settler's cabin that sits among some cedars on the western side of Tower's City Park is also the story of Mike Smulter, the man who built it. One early spring day in 1912, Mike bought a train ticket to Tower. After boarding the train, he refused to sit in the smoking section of the train. Smoking his pipe caused such a commotion that the conductor stopped the train and ejected him. A short time later, an ore train came down the tracks and Mike, trying to catch a ride, slipped under the car wheels. One of his legs was amputated below the knee. Mike eventually recovered. A skilled craftsman, he carved a "wooden leg" for himself. In fact, several extra legs. He left them in several places on his land in case one was lost (and they often were lost). One of his "wooden legs" was recently discovered in the settler's cabin and is now on display in the train depot museum.

Part 2 to be continued next week.

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.

Get Results!

Advertise in the Timberjay!



Bag ladies spread message of reducing plastic use

From left: Pat Helmberger, of Tower, along with Polly Edington and Barb Veit, of Grand Rapids, spent some time in Tower businesses on Earth Day, spreading the message about how reusable shopping bags can help reduce plastic pollution. Zup's cashier Josiah Jonas (also pictured) said he does see some Zup's customers using reusable bags, but the three woman watched as the majority of shoppers were opting for the store-supplied plastic or paper bags at checkout. photo by J. Summit

SCENIC RIVERS

Scenic Rivers sponsors coloring contest; winners received huge Easter baskets

TOWER- Scenic Rivers in Tower hosted an Easter coloring contest open to all area children. All the children who completed a page were entered into a drawing for two huge Easter gift baskets. The two winners were Eve and Nathaniel. The baskets were put together and donated from the staff.



HELPING VETERANS

Frederick Godec honored for volunteer work with Guard and Reserve

CAMP RIPLEY- Frederick J. Godec has served as an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve ESGR volunteer since May 15, 2001, working with veterans from Hill City to International Falls, as well as the entire Arrowhead region. The 82-year-old Hibbing man has served as a liaison since 2005 and the chair since 2019. He was awarded the ESGR Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his significant achievement promoting ESGR objectives over 24 consecutive years.

The lifetime achievement award is given to those who contribute more than 4,000 hours of service in their lifetime along with the ultimate honor of presidential recognition. The recipient receives a personalized certificate, an official pin, medallion or coin, and a congratulating letter from the president of U.S.

ESGR is a Department of Defense office that develops and promotes supportive work envi-

ronments for service members of National Guard and Reserve. Through outreach, recognition, and educational opportunities that increase awareness of applicable laws, ESGR also provides assistance in resolving conflicts between service members and their employers.

Godec ran his own business, Security Systems, from 1965 to 2014, and worked at USS as an electronic technician from 1970 to 2000. He also was a community volunteer stretching back to 1965. He belonged to the Knights of Columbus from 1965 as a Grand Knight. He became a certified firearms safety instructor in 2001, teaching gun safety to girls and boys 11 years old and older. An avid musician from age 11, he still plays today, and was the original bass player in the Electras, played with many area polka bands, and performed Irish and western music on the Iron Range and in Wisconsin and Michigan.



Pictured from left to right: Jack Grams, award director, Fred Godec, Lt. Colonel Steve Hall, Deputy Commander of the Camp Ripley military facility, and Chad Sackett ESGR state chair.

Food, music, and culture on the menu as part of Wellbeing Feast



VERMILION RESERVATION- The Bois Forte Heritage Center hosted a Wellbeing Feast and Traditional Drum Teachings event at the Vermilion Government Center on April 5, on the Lake Vermilion Reservation. While the Heritage Center was expecting as many as 40 people, 64 people attended, making it a great community turnout.

Rebecca Gawboy

served a wonderful feast with deer meat stew, deer meat chili, wild rice, corn bread and a berry dessert. David Morrison Jr. (at left) shared traditional drum teachings. Along with singers Lance Kingbird, Jordan Gawboy, and Mark Black, David and his team sung beautiful songs while explaining powwow etiquette and the deeper meanings behind each song. Dewe'igan is the

Ashinaabemowin (Ojibwe language) word for drum. A main teaching is that we are to treat the drum as a relative, a grandfather or grandmother, to never put it in the closet or off to the side, but to keep it somewhere in the house just like a living relative.

Bois Forte Community Programs were at the program to provide information about their services that assist individual and

family wellbeing, such as Nutrition Education, Energy Assistance and Bois Forte's Cultural Healing Program.

Miigwech to everyone who came out to join us! This event was sponsored in part by the Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Families to celebrate April as Family Wellbeing Month.

TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY

Boys and Girls Club to offer extended hours next school year
VERMILION RESERVATION- In response to the Tower-Soudan Elementary's move to a four-day school week next fall, the Boys and Girls Club on the Vermilion Reservation will be expanding its hours. The 2025-2026 school year hours will be Monday through Thursday from 3 – 6:30 p.m. and Fridays from 7:50 a.m. – 4:40 p.m. The club is

located at the Bois Forte Wellness Center.

The club is for children ages 5 – 18, and offers a wide range of programming, including teaching life skills, anti-bullying, positive actions, homework help, and crafting. They also offer meals and snacks. The club is also open during the summer.

The program is free of charge, but families must sign up their children in advance. Parents can sign up at www.bgcb Boiseforte.com/s/ and

click on need a login and create an account. Families can call or text 218-404-8078 if they need assistance to sign up.

TSAA raising funds to build a storage shed for elementary school
TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Athletic Association, with help from the Tower-Soudan Elementary PTO, is raising funds to build a storage shed at the football field. The shed

will be used to store athletic equipment for the elementary soccer, flag football, and other outdoor education programs.

Donations can be sent to TSAA, c/o Timberjay, PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790 or dropped off at the Timberjay office. Any questions, contact Amy Banks at 612-281-5808.

Anyone interested in helping raise funds for this project, or wanted to help with the construction, can also contact Amy Banks.

FINE ARTS

Gardner Humanities Trust awards \$9,750 in grants

ELY- The board of the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust voted to award \$9,750 to both individuals and arts organizations at its April 9 board meeting.

The trust received 12 grant applications requesting over \$18,000.

“This was nearly double our budgeted amount,” stated Peter Schamber, executive director for the Trust. “It was a very competitive grant round, but the board is very proud of the applications that were funded.”

The trust currently gives grants in four categories: scholarships, youth grants, individual artist grants, and organization project grants. In this grant round, the board awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to Elyite Gabe Mann to continue his degree in Theater at the University of Minnesota in Duluth. Gardner scholarships are awarded to graduates of Ely schools who are entering their third or fourth year of a four-year undergraduate program in the fine arts.

The trust also awarded three individual artists grants. These grants fund unique, short-term opportunities that will impact an artist’s career.

The board awarded the following individuals:

- Wendy Rouse received \$1,000 to create a series of paintings to be included in the Northern Lakes Arts Association’s 2025 art show series.

- DyAnne Korda received \$500 to self-publish a book of poetry.
- Kat Albrecht received \$500 to create a digital gallery of paintings representing people’s nightmares.

The trust gave grants to four arts organizations. These grants are intended to support the fine arts activities, presentations, and productions of local arts groups. Project grants were awarded during the spring grant round to the following organizations:

- The Mesabi Symphony Orchestra received \$2,000 to present a classical music concert that will feature the winners of MSO’s annual Young Artist Competition for high school- and

college-age musicians.

- Ely’s Historic State Theater, which is a non-profit, received \$2,000 to develop a series of media development workshops in partnership with the SAGE Foundation at Minnesota North College for local students.
- The Northern Lakes Arts Association received \$1,500 to support its Youth Summer Theater Experiences program, which is focused on developing theater skills for local students.
- Waawaate Programs received \$1,250 to host a powwow at the Vermilion Campus of Minnesota North College to celebrate Native American culture through singing, dancing, and drum-

ming.

The Gardner Trust also allocated \$3,000 for use by the Ely Public Library this year. The trust and library have a special relationship, with the library receiving priority attention and funding from the trust because the library possessed the impressionist painting whose sale endowed the trust. Supporting the library is one of the four primary goals of the trust.

Any questions about the grant programs, the Trust, or ways to support the arts in Ely can be directed to Peter Schamber, executive director at 218-365-2639 or at info@gardnertrust.org.

In Brief

Tuesday Group schedule

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

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

Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

- April 29: We Are Water Exhibit
- May 6: Swimming as Connection with Michael Kleber-Diggs

ELY WINTER FESTIVAL

Before: February 10

After: April 22



Lo, how the mighty have melted. Four small heaps of snow are all that remains of the snow sculptures from this year's Ely Winter Festival. The sculpture entitled "Beacon of Hope," depicting a lighted buoy between crashing waves and shoreline rocks had melted down to a small chunk of solidified snow three feet long and less than a foot high 71 days later. Given the newly arrived springtime temperatures, the last of the winter festival snow will be gone by next week. Now, all we need is for ice out to arrive before the fishing opener. photos by C. Clark

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2025



birds crowd the river
heron lands with flapping wings

welcomed in by ducks

Libraries

Ely library

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

Babbitt library

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

Phone: 218-827-3345

Support groups

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

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

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

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

AROUND TOWN



Left: Dorothy Molter Museum Executive Director Jess Edberg giving the monthly History Happy Hour presentation on the history of Ely's drinking water and wastewater last week at the Boathouse Brewpub. The next History Happy Hour will be on May 21.
Right: The Timberjay spotted these strange concrete boxes in the large field across from the Debeltz Softball Fields on the Old Airport Rd. Guessing these may have been stormwater vaults for the upcoming reconstruction of Harvey St., the Timberjay called Harold Langowski, Ely's clerk-treasurer to confirm, only to be informed that these mystery concrete boxes were insulated septic tanks, made and sold by Forest Concrete of Ely, which owns the field and the batch concrete plant at the end of Airport Rd. photos by C. Clark

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

The Ely Dog Park Wants You!

ELY- The Ely Dog Park wants you to donate to its GoFundMe to get a dog-worthy fence around the dog-friendly field on the backside of the Jerome Debeltz Softball Fields on Old Airport Rd. The lease for the field and the dog park’s conditional use permit from the city require a functional fence around the dog park area that’s high enough to prevent canine escape artists. The nonprofit dog park group needs to raise \$35,000 to replace the current damaged fence. The GoFundMe account is at <https://gofund.me/81b073b4>.

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 vests will be provided.

100 Ely Women

ELY- The 100 Ely Women Who Care giving circle will hold its spring meeting at the Ely Senior Center, 27 S. First Ave. E. on Sunday, April 27, starting at 4 p.m. The giving circle is a group of women who meet twice a year to choose and support a local 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and to enjoy a potluck of appetizers and desserts. If you are curious or interested in supporting Ely’s nonprofits, please call 651-303-1094 for more details.

Ely Public Library

ELY- The Move and Groove for Preschoolers 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.

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 Tuesday, May 6, from 10-11 a.m.

The Curiosity Cohort group for adults will hold a session on making a reed basket on Thursday, May 8 from 1:30-3 p.m. Please register in advance for this event so the library can have enough supplies on hand for event attendees.

The Friends of the Library Book Club will meet on Monday, May 12, from 3-4 p.m. The book for discussion is “Apples Never Fall” by Liane Moriarity.

The Friends of the Library monthly board meeting will be on Tuesday, May 13, from 1-2 p.m.

The Library Scientists

group for all ages will hold a session on bubbles, what they are, how they form, and why they pop. Please register in advance for this event so the library can have enough supplies on hand for event attendees.

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

Babbitt Public Library

BABBITT- The 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.com.

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

The take-and-make kit for May will be tissue paper art, available for pick-up 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 otherwise noted.

Ely Community Education

ELY- Ely Community Education will hold a free class on “Five Keys to Retiring Fearlessly,” about planning for retirement, on Wednesday, April 30, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. The class will be in the Ely Public Schools Media Center, 600 E. Harvey St. Enter the campus buildings through the center door with the “Main Door 1” sign. Pass through the foyer and second set of doors, then turn right. The media center is on the right, across from the new gym.

ST. LOUIS COUNTY SCHOOLS

ISD 2142 approves application for four-day school week

Concerns from staff and board member surface over care, staffing, and budget cuts

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

VIRGINIA- The St. Louis County School Board took further steps Monday night toward implementing a four-day school week starting in fall 2025, but not without hearing a chorus of concerns from staff and board members alike – ranging from planning gaps in Friday care programs to dissatisfaction with recent budget cut decisions.

Superintendent Reggie Engebritson presented the district’s completed application for the proposed schedule, which the board approved for submission to the Minnesota Department of Education. The application includes three specific goals, each designed to measure the impact of the new schedule over the next three years.

To address academic outcomes, the district is aiming to boost test scores.

“By the end of the 27–28 school year, the district will maintain or increase student proficiency in reading and math at least three percent,” Engebritson said. The plan includes extended instructional blocks, embedded intervention time, and culturally responsive teaching methods.

For staff and student morale, the district is also looking to improve overall well-being.

“I’ll send out a survey now to get a baseline, and then do it again a year from now,” Engebritson said. The goal is a five percent improvement in well-being indicators such as stress and work-life balance.”

To improve classroom climate, a third goal aims to reduce behavioral referrals.

“We’ll implement proactive and preventative behavior supports through the extended instructional periods,” she said. “Structured time for social-emotional learning and alignment with PBIS and MTSS frameworks are part of that strategy.”

When asked whether failure to meet these goals would jeopardize the schedule, Engebritson clarified that the district could adjust its plan and resubmit the report annually.

“If we don’t meet these percentage goals, then we just adjust it,” she said.

Para criticizes plan

One of the most direct critiques of the new schedule came from a Cherry paraprofessional who delivered a detailed and emotional monologue about the district’s preparation for Friday day care.

While Friday care will be offered, she said planning has been inadequate, especially given the reliance many working families have on it. She also raised concerns about how the program

will be staffed, supported, and clearly communicated to families.

“Without a proper Friday care plan, our families are left scrambling,” she said. “Parents who depend on this service are now forced to seek answers that aren’t being given.”

She also warned that paraprofessional staff could be overburdened without additional resources or clarity.

“There is an expectation that we will simply absorb the extra load, but that’s unrealistic unless we have more support, she said.

Her remarks were later acknowledged by several board members, including Ron Marinaro.

“Those are all good things that we need to plan for,” Marinaro said. “We’re just now getting through the nitty-gritty of what needs to get done.”

Marinaro also raised broader concerns about district readiness, particularly around staffing the longer four-day schedule.

“I don’t know where you’re going to find staff, especially when someone calls in sick. There’s no one doing it now,” he said.

Manick concerns

In the final portion of the meeting, board member Mallory Manick expressed strong frustration with how recent budget cuts were handled – particularly in how

reductions were introduced, discussed, and finalized.

“We spent less than, like, five minutes discussing [budget cuts],” Manick said, referring to a prior working session. “And it’s a very important topic.”

She pointed out that the cuts outlined in the final consent agenda were much deeper than what was previously shared – particularly in the elementary at Northeast Range.

“At the second working session, it said we’re going to cut Babbitt Elementary 0.7,” she said. “But then I look at the consent agenda, we’re cutting their Elementary Education Teachers 3.1.”

She also raised concerns about unequal impacts, with some schools seeing no reductions while others were cut to what she described as “bare bones.”

“South Ridge is cutting zero, Cherry’s cutting one,” she said. “It just doesn’t seem right that Northeast Range and North Woods take the brunt of the cuts.”

Manick questioned whether multi-age classrooms are an effective solution, especially in transitional years like sixth grade.

“Sixth grade – it’s a big transition year. So half of my sixth graders’ time in sixth grade science is going to be spent on fifth grade work?”

Finally, she called on the board to do better by teach-

ers, parents, and students.

“I think we’re doing them a disservice and sending them a bad message if the school board doesn’t even take the time to discuss the budget cuts.”

It should be noted that the board began discussions with district administrators about budget cuts prior to Manick being seated as a new member at the December business meeting.

In other business, the board:

➤Heard a report from Northeast Range Principal John Vukmanich about various initiatives and activities at the school.

➤Held second readings of policies regarding staff development and mentoring, school-sponsored student publications and activities, student medication and telehealth, development and maintenance of an inventory of fixed assets and a fixed asset accounting system, and community notification of predatory offenders.

➤Approved the FY 2023-24 audit report.

➤Approved continuation of the Q-comp teacher professional development program.

➤Hired Alyssa Israel as a social worker at North Woods.

➤Accepted resignations from NW substitute van driver Cindy Powell and NW boys head basketball coach

Andrew Jugovich.

➤Approved non-renewal of contracts of the following probationary teachers: Adam Hagen, NER, 0.2 FTE Physical Education; Laura Saarela, NW, 1.0 FTE Elementary Education; Blake Scofield, NW, 1.0 FTE Elementary Education; Malania Madill, NER, 1.0 FTE Elementary Education; Heidi Carlson, NW, 0.1 FTE Science; Amanda DeGraef, NER, 1.0 FTE Elementary Education; Alli Stone (Sandberg), T-S, 1.0 FTE Special Education; Jennifer Kinler, NW, 0.5 FTE ECFE/First Steps; Sara Debruzzi, NER, 0.5 FTE Title I; Amos Kolodji, NER, 1.0 FTE Math; Lorenda Daugherty, NW, 1.0 FTE Music; Dawn Merrill, NER, 1.0 FTE Media/Language Arts; Jacob Rosin, NER, 1.0 FTE Special Education; Tarryn Bayliss, NER, 0.5 FTE Elementary Education; Paul Zollinger, NER, 1.0 FTE Science; Andrew Jugovich, NW, 1.0 FTE Science. Non-renewal of probationary teacher contracts is an annual routine action of the board for various reasons, and affected individuals are often rehired to those positions for the new school year. However, some positions represent ones that have been eliminated due to the district’s budget cuts, and those positions will only be restored pending available funding.



Kids are egg-static for Cook Easter bash

Saturday saw perhaps the biggest turnout ever for the kids' Easter celebration at the Cook Community Center, with nearly 500 visitors. Above: The featured guest, the Easter Bunny, holds seven-month old Waylon Green with five-year-old Declan Green sitting nearby to have their picture taken. Left: It wasn't only the kids who had fun, as one can tell from Kari Hultman's fancy getup. photos by D. Colburn

Community events

May art classes on tap at NWFA Gallery in Cook

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.

North Woods art show at NWFA nearing conclusion

COOK- The artistic talents of North Woods School students is being featured at the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook during April in the gallery’s Wolfe Den.

View the student exhibit through April 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.

NWFA strives to inspire, nurture and celebrate the arts, in all forms, in the region of Cook, MN where a space is provided for artists to display and sell their work.

IN THE LIONS ZONE



Babbitt, Chisholm, Quad Cities (Eveleth/Virginia) and Orr Lions joined the host Cook Lions Club for a zone meeting last week at the Cook VFW, where they had a hearty meal, learned more about each other's clubs and activities, and welcomed new members. About 70 seasoned and new members attended. TOP: Cook Lions Club President Steve Kajala isn't conducting an auction, he's giving directions for one of the evening's activities. BELOW: The highlight of the evening was the formal acceptance of new Lions Club members. Pictured here with a few of their member sponsors are 19 inductees from Cook, four from Chisholm, one from Orr, and one from Quad Cities. One new Cook member is not pictured, and the club added four new members after the meeting. Photos by D. Colburn

BRIGADE HONORED



The Cook Lions Club presents the Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade (LVFB) with a Lions Dream Catcher award for their assistance with flood recovery efforts during the summer of 2024. LVFB contributed significantly to the club's relief efforts with volunteers, financial support, and opening up their fire hall to provide multiple out-of-town volunteer groups with a place to stay while they were assisting flood victims. submitted

State urges parents to catch up on their kids’ vaccines

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- In a move to help boost declining vaccination rates in recent years among the state’s youngest residents, the Minnesota Department of Health, or MDH, brought greater visibility to the issue this week by joining the national observance of Infant Immunization Week.

In 2019, about 69 percent of two-year-olds in Minnesota

were fully up to date on their immunizations. That number dropped to 63 percent by 2023, according to data from the Minnesota Immunization Information Connection.

Health officials say that catching up on well-child visits and vaccinations can help reverse that trend—and prevent outbreaks of diseases that were once largely under control.

“Childhood immunizations are a cornerstone of public health,” said Jessica

Hancock-Allen, director of the Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Prevention and Control Division at MDH. “They protect our youngest from devastating diseases like pertussis (whooping cough) and measles that have been on the rise across the country. Getting recommended immunizations by two years of age not only saves individual lives but also protects entire communities.”

Vaccines are one of the most effective and affordable

tools available for preventing serious illness and death, health experts say, and the effort to protect children starts before they’re even born with maternal vaccinations that will pass protective antibodies to a baby.

Steps to take

MDH recommends these action steps:

- Check your child’s immunization record. Use the online Find My Immunization Record tool on the MDH

website to see what vaccines your child has received and what may be due.

- Schedule a well-child visit. Contact your child’s health care provider to catch up on immunizations.
- Ask questions. Speak with your doctor about vaccine safety and timing.
- Explore free or low-cost options. If your child doesn’t have insurance, or if insurance doesn’t cover all vaccines, MDH’s online Vaccine Map can help you find clinics offer-

ing shots at low or no cost.

- If you’re pregnant, talk to your provider about recommended vaccinations during pregnancy.

More information and resources are available at MDH’s Immunization: Me and My Family webpage at <https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/basics/index.html>.

Drug take-back set for April 26 in Ely and Virginia

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- North Country residents will have a safe and simple way to clean out their medicine cabinets later this month during National Prescription Drug

Take-Back Day.

The St. Louis County Sheriff’s Offices in both Ely and Virginia will host drug turn-in events on Saturday, April 26, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. as part of a nationwide effort to prevent misuse and environmental harm caused

by leftover medications.

People are encouraged to bring any unused or expired prescription and over-the-counter medications in their original containers. Personal information should be crossed off the labels before drop-off.

The goal is to prevent

accidental poisoning, reduce the risk of drug misuse, and keep pharmaceutical waste out of landfills and waterways.

While National Drug Take-Back Day happens twice a year, secure disposal boxes are available year-round at numerous law enforcement

agencies and pharmacies across St. Louis County. A full list of locations and guidance on what is accepted is available at stlouiscountymn.gov/medwaste.

For people unable to travel to a drop-off site, free mail-back envelopes and other

disposal tools are available by contacting Maggie Myers at 218-471-7385 or myersm@stlouiscountymn.gov.

SAFETY...Continued from page 1

other residents of the community.

The individual, Adam Norgren, has been known in the community for years as volatile. His regular outbursts and threats towards others in the community have left many fearful of confronting him over his behavior.

“It is with great sadness and disappointment that daily and nightly harassment from a very troubled individual known well to city officials and the police chief, interferes with my new role as city councilman and as a private resident of this city,” Wanless wrote in his resignation announcement. “This seemingly tolerated behavior as well as other identified and long ignored city public safety issues, renders it impossible to continue to live here with any piece (sic) of mind and degree of safety.”

Wanless said he and his partner Laura Garofalo have opted to rent a home outside of town to escape Norgren’s threatening behavior.

The couple lost their two-car garage and both vehicles and other equipment in a suspicious garage fire that Wanless is convinced was an act of arson by his troubled neighbor. The couple is planning to rebuild the garage, sell the property, and move outside of town.

Wanless said he believes



Scorched remains of the garage and vehicles owned by Dave Wanless and Laura Garofalo after a suspicious fire last January. file photo

that the lack of law enforcement action against Norgren has encouraged his threatening behavior.

“Even our chief of police allows himself to be subject to the most foul and unacceptable language and behavior, and will not act on it and passes it as ‘just the way he is known’ around the city and he is ‘used to it.’”

“While on my very short term on the city council, numerous residents have approached me and informed me of their own constant fear of this individual and how they will not speak out because of verbal and physical retaliation, as they themselves and their property may become the

subject to the same harassment and property damage we have endured,” wrote Wanless. “Two life long residences (sic) have also told us in the near future they will consider putting their lifelong homes up for sale and move from the City of Tower, also because of fear of this individual and current public safety issues that have been identified.”

On occasion, Norgren’s outbursts have been directed at the city itself. According to Mayor Dave Setterberg, Norgren was prosecuted recently after he threw a large rock at the city’s loader, although Setterberg was uncertain about the final disposition of the case and there

is no record of the prosecution in the state’s online court records.

There have been other incidents as well. Back in 2020, city officials locked the doors at city hall out of concern after Norgren became enraged over unwanted alley maintenance behind his residence. “In another incident where the act did not rise to the level of a criminal act, we verbally told him it was not acceptable behavior and it would not be tolerated,” said Setterberg.

While Setterberg said he can try to understand Wanless’s feelings about his experiences with his neighbor, in the end, he contends that the city’s ability to take action is somewhat limited. “The city can only take action on acts that violate the law against the city which we have done. We have contacted our city attorney on what actions are available to us. At the end of the day, we rely on our police to act and act within their legal bounds.”

Differing approaches

Wanless, who came to Tower from Florida, has touted the “stand your ground” law in that state that would have allowed him to deal permanently with an aggressive individual like Norgren. Such laws allow individuals to avoid prosecution for homicide by more easily citing self-defense as justification

for shooting someone in public spaces. Under current law in Minnesota and many other states, individuals have a duty to withdraw when confronted by a hostile individual. A number of studies have shown that states that enact stand-your-ground laws can expect to see an increase in homicides. A study on the open network of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, found an average increase in homicides of between 8-11 percent.

Breitung Police Chief Dan Reing, who serves Tower under contract, said his department is focused on community-centered approaches, rather than confrontation. “As your Police Chief, my goal is to ensure that the Breitung Police Department is not just a department that enforces laws, but is also a trusted partner in the community,” said Reing. “We will focus on being transparent, accountable, and respectful in every interaction we have... I am committed to ensuring that we provide a safe environment for all citizens while protecting their rights. We will maintain a strong focus on constitutional policing.”

Reing also cited his efforts to openly communicate on cases and incidents as they occur and that the department is working to meet high ethical standards and to find

ways to reduce conflict in the community. “My department will continue to prioritize de-escalation tactics and equip officers with the tools they need to handle challenging situations without resorting to force whenever possible,” Reing said in a statement.

Rather, Reing said he was focused on ensuring a proper response to those in crisis. “In situations involving individuals with mental health issues or substance abuse problems, we will be partnering with specialized services when needed,” he said.

Reing said recent allegations and social media posts suggesting that the Breitung Police Department is failing to act or enforce the law “are false or grossly misrepresented.”

Wanless, meanwhile said he is hopeful that the city will take more decisive action to address the disturbance to the community’s peace and sense of security posed by his neighbor.

“Laura’s and my hope is this action if finally taken will make this a city where people want to peacefully live, retire, get involved civically, and be part of the community,” he said.

Reing said he could not comment on the garage fire at the Wanless-Garofalo residence, noting that it remained an active investigation.

LIBRARY...Continued from page 1

sive — drywall was removed several feet up the walls, flooring was ripped out, electrical outlets were left unusable. The library has no ADA-accessible restrooms, and public computer stations remain offline.

“There are about 3,300 books that are in boxes right now,” Whitney said. “We don’t have enough outlets to even plug computers in.”

Before the flood, the Cook Public Library was the most-used library per capita in the Arrowhead region, and a community fixture, its central location essential to downtown vitality.

FEMA frustration

While FEMA representatives began working with the city last fall and have received all required documentation, the agency has yet to determine how much funding will be approved for the library.

The delay has deeply frustrated both city and library leaders, especially given that FEMA’s approach would likely cover only the cost to restore the building to its pre-flood condition—an estimated \$160,000. However, new floodplain rules would require the city to incorporate additional floodproofing measures if any major repairs are made, bumping the cost to roughly \$1.6 million.

“They’re probably not

going to give you one and a half [million],” Whitney said. “That money is based on that pre-flood condition, which is not that much.”

Library Board President Eric Tripp was more blunt. “It just seems like we need to move away from FEMA,” Tripp said. “We could probably have this up and running in two, three months without FEMA.”

Mayor Dan Manick echoed the sentiment, saying FEMA’s rules would only prolong the process.

“FEMA may require you to have a general contractor and all this kind of stuff,” Manick said. “If we pay for it in a different way, then maybe we’re not held to their standard.”

From relocation to repair

Back in November, at FEMA’s urging, the city council voted to pursue the option of relocating the library out of the floodplain, what FEMA identified as the most sustainable long-term solution. There was even discussion of designing a new building that could house both library services and city offices.

Three options were formally submitted to FEMA by the city’s engineering firm, SEH:

- Repair to pre-flood condition: \$160,615, not code-compliant
- Repair and floodproof: \$1.59 million
- Build a new library outside the floodplain: \$1.88–\$2.04 million, not including land, furnishings, or demolition

But months later, with FEMA still silent, momentum has shifted. Local leaders say the need for services now outweighs the uncertainties of building from scratch.

“We were so lucky to have this space,” Whitney said of the current downtown location. “I would really hate to see us wait longer, longer, longer while we demolish the building.” Another hurdle to building elsewhere in town is that there aren’t any suitable alternative spaces for the library during the two years it’s estimated it would take to build a new facility.

Repair now

The city and library board agreed to move forward with short-term repairs aimed at restoring full service as quickly as possible. These include fixing bathrooms, installing flooring, restoring internet access, and ensuring ADA compliance. Initial funding will come from a \$50,000 allocation from the city’s liquor store profits.

“Top priority is get this usable,” Manick said.

City Administrator Theresa Martinson said the time for planning is over.

“We have to have a task force,” Martinson said. “We should be directed to make a bold statement of the situation our public library is in.”

The newly formed task force will include Martinson, Mayor Dan Manick, Library Director Crystal Whitney, and Library Board President Eric Tripp. The group will focus on contacting the IRRRB and identifying additional funding sources that could help cover the cost of bringing the library back to full operation.

Library Board Member Michelle Manick also volunteered to assist outside the task force by reaching out to local contractors to gather cost estimates for the initial repairs. Maintenance Supervisor Tim Lilya will also support the effort as his duties allow.

Martinson underscored the urgency of getting the library back in working order.

“They need the library, they need the computers,” she said. “It’s a gathering place. It’s a community within a community.”

Reclaiming the heart

The decision to move forward with repairs marks a turning point for a town

that has, for months, lived without one of its most vital institutions.

“I would like to be able to continue to have a library before I die,” said longtime resident Liz Storm, 81.

For city leaders and residents alike, the message was clear: Cook’s heart still beats – and it’s time to help it heal.



Everyone Invited!

Breitung Fire Department
will host this
75th Anniversary Event



APRIL 26
12 Noon to 3 PM
at the Breitung Community
Center in Soudan

FREE OF CHARGE

BROADBAND

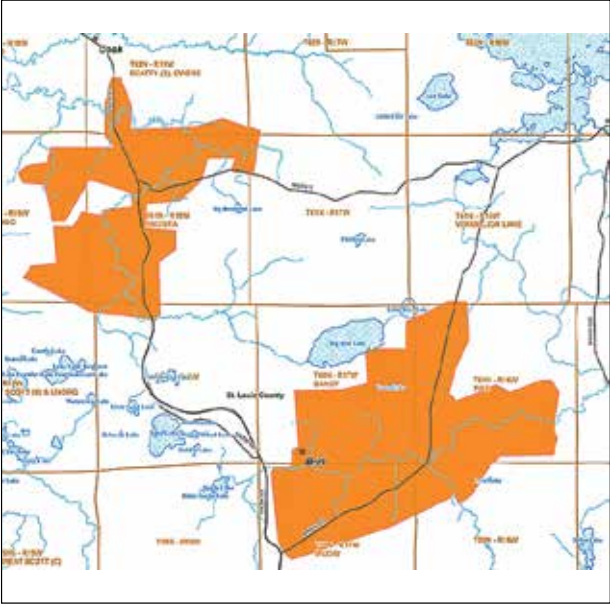
Paul Bunyan bringing high-speed broadband to Angora, Pike-Sandy

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Paul Bunyan Communications (PBC) confirmed Monday that construction will begin this summer to extend its all-fiber optic GigaZone broadband network to more than 1,600 additional locations across St. Louis County, with two of the expansion zones landing squarely in the North Country.

One project will bring service to over 300 locations in and around Alango, Angora, and Owens townships, near Cook. A second project will reach over 645 homes and businesses south and east of Britt, in Pike, Sandy, and Wuori townships.

“These communities have waited a long time for reliable internet,” said Chad Bullock, CEO and General Manager of PBC. “In today’s world,



Areas marked in orange are scheduled for a major upgrade in broadband capacity.

internet access is not a luxury, it is a necessity.”

“This will be a game changer for these communities,” said Leo Anderson, Chief Technology Officer.

“Without true high-speed internet, daily tasks – whether for work, school, or business – become incredibly challenging. Our all-fiber network delivers fast, reliable service.”

The Britt-area buildout is part of a federally supported initiative, funded through the USDA ReConnect 3 Grant Program, while the Alango-area project is being driven by Minnesota’s Low-Density Population Grant Program.

Combined, these additional projects will bring gigabit-speed service to some of the region’s most rural and underserved communities. Services are expected to go live before winter.

Funding breakdown

The Alango-area project, which includes neighboring Angora and Owens townships, comes with a price tag of just over \$7.5 million, with most

of the funding—about \$5.6 million—coming from the state. PBC is contributing \$1.88 million, with Angora Township providing a local share of \$33,104. The state and PBC funding also include a buildout for 550 locations in Balkan Township.

The Britt-area project, one of the largest in this year’s buildout, is estimated at \$13.6 million, with more than \$10.1 million coming from federal USDA funds. Paul Bunyan is investing \$3.38 million, and Wuori Township is contributing \$16,026. Areas of French Township near Side Lake, Perch Lake, and Luna Lake, and Bearville Township in Itasca County will also receive service through the overall project funding.

Signing up for service

Once service becomes available, residents in the

expansion zones will have access to Paul Bunyan’s full suite of offerings, including GigaZone internet with speeds up to 10 Gig and unlimited local and long-distance voice service.

There is no membership fee to join the cooperative—customers become members by subscribing to either internet or local phone service.

Those interested in signing up are encouraged to do so early, either online by phone, or in person at Paul Bunyan’s Grand Rapids Technology Center. To see if an address is within a service area, visit www.gigazone.com.

Paul Bunyan Communications operates the region’s largest all-fiber network, covering over 5,500 square miles across parts of Beltrami, Aitkin, Cass, Hubbard, Itasca, Koochiching, and St. Louis counties.

OPERA...Continued from page 1

Padrona” translates to “The Maid Turned Mistress.” And Serpina, the maid in question, does get her wish, after tricking Uberto into thinking she was about to marry a soldier who had a violent temper and was demanding a large dowry. The only solution to this problem, she said, was for Uberto to marry her himself.

“I believe opera is for everyone,” Solkela wrote in the show’s program. “You don’t need to dress up fancy. You can come right from work if you need to. Clap and cheer, hoot and holler, whenever you feel like it.”

And there was plenty of that from the audience in Tower on April 16, in what was the first production of the

year at the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center.

The opera was set in one location, with simple staging and limited props, something which allowed Solkela to perform the piece in different venues with simple set-ups and take-downs. Solkela recorded and mixed the musical tracks himself, on an electronic keyboard, using the violin and harpsichord feature in keeping with the music’s 1700s roots.

“This production has been a dream of mine since 2017,” Solkela said. “I’m very proud of what my team has been able to create on my budget of pocket lint and prayers.” Solkela joked that he needed to get some grant-writing skills into his repertoire.

But the fact is, he was able to pull together this original production with the help of collaborators Jessica Moss, a professional opera singer who played Serpina, Branden Taus, a local actor who played the mute Vespone, tech and background music guru Peter Anderson, and costumer Miranda Stachowicz. He also thanked Ian Carlson, Barb Tucker (Andrew’s Camera), and Kyle Gray Young for their help in the production.

A boy from Palo

For a boy who grew up in Palo playing Finnish music on his accordion and honing other important skills like unicycle riding and juggling, moving on to study opera in college

in New Jersey might not have been the path he expected. Coming from Palo, he liked to tell people the two career paths available were mining or the military. College was not on his radar, and Solkela had considered joining the Marines after graduating from high school.

But Northern Lights Music Festival artistic director Veda Zuponcic met Solkela when he was helping with set designs for a summer festival production. She heard him singing and arranged for him to audition for the music department, where she was a professor. Solkela was admitted after graduation from Mesabi East in 2015 and earned a scholarship that

covered his tuition, but Solkela still needed to work to pay for housing and living expenses, often holding several jobs at a time, and working as a resident assistant in the dorms.

Four years of professional music training gave Solkela not only a love of opera, but also a chance to add to his impromptu set of skills, creating his own one-man-band setup, traveling overseas to perform Finnish music, and playing over 200 gigs a year working full-time as a musician.

Solkela now splits his time between Duluth and his grandmother’s home, which he recently purchased, in Mt. Iron.

Solkela said he’d love

to schedule additional performances, perhaps in larger cities and with a live orchestra. “But without a grant it was just too risky,” he said. But Solkela is a Finn, and knows how to be thrifty. “Being an artist during a recession has been my entire existence.”

Solkela and company performed the opera in nine venues this month, ranging from Duluth to Finland, to Ely, and at the Vermilion Cultural Center in Tower. You can keep track of Solkela and his other area performances, concerts, and projects by following him on Facebook, and find many of his music videos on YouTube.

WELY...Continued from page 1

clear reception all the way past Virginia, through Eveleth, and could still hear Jim Croce reminding me not to mess around with Jim all the way in Cotton on AM 1450. I can only imagine the capabilities of the future FM transmitter. Here’s a toast to the future of WELY!”

FM proving a bigger challenge

While the AM side of the station is now up and running, the FM side has seen a parade of woes. The FM transmitter appeared to be on its last legs in February 2024 when the previous owner, Zoe Communications, fired it up for the first time in over a year. The results weren’t good. “It was breaking down like crazy,” said Ely radio personality “Trader Craig” Loughery at the time. After testing the old FM transmitter, Zoe Communications decided to replace it. That was the last solid bit of information from Zoe before the news that Civic was buying the station a year later.

Civic tested the FM transmitter in February and had the

FM station back on the air briefly before Civic’s engineers determined it needed to be replaced. The firm has a new transmitter on order, which should arrive in May according to Hartman. Civic sent the refrigerator-sized transmitter off to be “scrapped” on Thursday morning. When the new transmitter arrives, it’s going to be noticed far and wide.

“We’re not just putting the FM back on at its original power level,” Hartman said. “We’re going to be putting out about five times the power because in the interim period, while the station has been off, we were granted an upgrade of power by the FCC. So, the FM station is not just coming back at what it was — it’s coming back more powerful.”

Hartman said he hoped to have WELY-FM on the air by Memorial Day. “In the broadcast radio business, that’s the date that radio stations like to be on the air before the summer.”

The antenna tower

The FM transmitter is not the only big piece of equip-

ment that Civic needs to repair before the FM can get on the air. “We keep finding things to fix,” Hartman said, “like damage to the antenna.”

Hartman pointed out a stack of seven “bays” — thin metal tetrahedral frames — attached at the top of the tower. “Each one of those individual bays works together as the antenna part of the FM transmit system, and you can see the main connector piece is kind of hanging; so, you can tell that it’s slid down to the tower and pushed some of the bays together.” Hartman said they weren’t sure how or when the damage occurred. “We have conflicting information on how it happened.” Regardless, those bays are what guide the radio signal to broadcast at the FM station’s assigned frequency of 94.5 MHz.

Bogs and ground waves

Fortunately for Civic, the damage at the top of the tower has little impact on the AM transmissions, since AM functions with a much simpler set-up compared to the sophisticated antenna arrangements needed for FM.

“We could hook that transmitter up to a tree and it would put out 50 kilowatts. And all the squirrels around would be like, ‘Hey, wow, do your teeth hurt?’”

AM can use a simpler tower because its lower-frequency transmission method uses a ground wave to help propagate its signal. WELY’s AM signal also gets a helping hand from its location on Beacon Hill on the south side of Ely.

The transmitter building and antenna are located inside a small bowl at the top of the hill. The bottom of the bowl

is a bog; Hartman pointed out that the wet ground improves the surface conductivity for the formation of the ground wave.

Eager public

So far, public enthusiasm about the resurrection of WELY has been enormous. Trader Craig asked for help to equip WELY’s new office at 25 N. First Ave. E. and Ely residents delivered, donating desks, chairs, and other necessities, anxious for the current venture to succeed.

Hartman said he’d received many offers of help from the Ely community and

even other radio professionals after hearing the Civic was getting the iconic station back on the air. “The big thing is how much support and outreach we’ve had, even since the last time we were here (in February) from the community, and from engineers in the Midwest and nationwide, plus all the equipment that’s been donated.”

For those wanting to get news on the station in their inbox, Civic has set up an email newsletter to send out updates. Sign up at <https://wely.fm/>.

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We would like to recognize the amazing contributions of these four individuals this past year. They gave of their time and talents to make a beautiful difference in our community. They along with our other 85 volunteers are changing lives and making our community healthier and stronger! We can't thank them enough!

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BASEBALL

Ely looks impressive in back-to-back road wins

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

ELY — The Timberwolves seem to be hitting their stride early in the season, picking up two convincing wins this week. Dominant pitching, timely hitting, and sharp execution of small ball tactics made the difference in back-to-back wins over Littlefork-Big Falls and Silver Bay. Playing in Aurora last

Thursday, junior ace Hunter Halbakken turned in another gem on the mound, tossing a complete game two-hitter in Ely’s 5-1 win over the Vikings. Halbakken struck out 12 and allowed just two walks, with the only Littlefork run coming on an Ely error in the fifth inning. Halbakken’s performance marks his second strong outing of the season. Offensively, Caid Chittum led the way, col-

lecting a double and a triple while driving in three runs. Brothers Ben and Evan Leeson each contributed with two hits apiece, helping the Wolves secure the win. **Ely 11, Silver Bay 0** Ely carried that momentum into their home matchup Monday with Silver Bay, erupting late for an 11-0 shutout at Veterans Memorial Field. Ely’s offense, which had

struggled early in the season, broke through after four scoreless innings. Drew Johnson drew a walk to start the fifth, and after a Ben Leeson sacrifice bunt moved him over, Chittum delivered a clutch RBI single to open the scoring. Ely exploded for four more runs in the sixth, stringing together five hits. Bunt singles from Evan Leeson and Tyde Brecke set the table for Johnson’s two-run double,

followed by Ben Leeson’s RBI single. The Wolves weren’t done yet. In the top of the seventh, Stig Majerus roped a three-run double, and Chittum and Ben Leeson followed with back-to-back RBI doubles to cap the 11-run offensive outburst. On the mound, Owen Marolt kept the Mariners off balance with five strong innings, giving up just three hits and striking out seven.

Chittum added two strikeouts in the sixth, and Jack Davies closed the game with two strikeouts in the seventh. Silver Bay’s Jake Carpenter, who had previously faced Ely in past Section 7A elimination games, kept the Wolves in check early, striking out nine over six innings, but couldn’t stop the late-inning surge. “Nice couple of wins

See **WOLVES...**pg. 2B



SOFTBALL

Grizzlies maul Chisholm 13-3

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- Nevada Gauthier had a huge day at the plate Tuesday to drive the North Woods softball team to a 13-3 five-inning home win over Chisholm. Gauthier singled and scored in each of the first two innings, but she really came to the fore in the third. With Zoey Burckhardt, Josie Gibson and Rory Bundy already on base, Gauthier stepped to the plate and ripped a scorcher into right field, and streaked around the basepads to beat the throw home for an inside-the-park grand slam. Gauthier picked up one more single in her final at bat. The Grizzlies made the most of the few good pitches they had to hit, as the Chisholm hurler had trouble just finding the plate, let alone the strike zone. Conversely, Addison Burckhardt did a good job of keeping the Bluestreaks in check, helped by some outstanding defensive play behind her.

North Woods took a 1-0 lead in the first, then blew the game open in the second. The Grizzlies got a triple from Emarie Gibson and a double from Zoey Burckhardt as they pounded the Bluestreaks for five runs and a 6-0 lead. Gauthier’s big blast made it 10-0 after three, and then Chisholm answered back with three runs in the top of the fourth. Brynn Chosa got things rolling for the Grizzlies in the bottom half of the inning with a single, Zoey Burckhardt drew a walk, and then Addison Burckhardt brought them both home with a solid double and advanced to third on the play. She scored when Josie Gibson laid down a bunt and the third baseman threw to first for the out on the fielder’s choice, accounting for the 13-3 final. North Woods Head Coach Dee Ann Sandberg was pleased with the Grizzlies’ all-around play. “It was good. The girls hit the ball, and we’ve been waiting

See **GRIZZLIES...**pg. 2B



Top: With Nevada Gauthier looking on from shortstop, Addison Burckhardt winds up for a pitch.

Above: Catcher Evalyn Thiel puts a tag on a Chisholm runner.

MOVING ON



Addison Burckhardt is flanked by her parents Eric and Stephanie during her recent signing ceremony.

Burckhardt signs with St. Mary’s

North Woods senior will run cross country and track

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- When North Woods School graduation comes around this year, it will bring an end to an unusual and lucky run of having three top-level long distance running siblings representing the school at cross-country meets. Addison, Alex, and Zoey Burckhardt have been top performers for the South Ridge Panthers team the past few years, but Addison and Alex will put on their caps and gowns on May 30 and walk away from their high school careers forever. But while Alex is foregoing collegiate running to focus on his studies, Addison is going to give the academics/athletics

See **BURCKHARDT...**pg. 2B

SOFTBALL

Wolves rout Warriors 18-4

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

DEER RIVER — Timely bats and 14 walks proved the ticket to an easy 18-4 Timberwolves rout here over the Warriors on Tuesday. It was Ely freshman Naomi Archer’s varsity pitching debut and she showed real promise on the mound, allowing just seven hits and one walk, while fanning two Deer River batters, to notch the win and improve Ely’s record to 2-2 on the season. The Wolves only tallied eight hits in the onslaught, but they used their hits well, regularly clearing the bases filled by the 14 walks issued by Deer River pitchers. At the plate, Maija Mattson led the team with two hits and three RBIs, while walking twice and scoring three times. Zoe MacKenzie notched a three-run HR and scored once while Amelia Penke notched an RBI triple and scored three times thanks to four walks. Makenzi Huntington

See **ELY GIRLS...**pg. 2B

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TRACK

Ely boys and girls dominate at Deer River meet

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

DEER RIVER- Both the Ely boys and girls track teams opened their spring season with statement victories at Tuesday’s meet in Deer River, each capturing first place among seven competing schools.

On the boys side, the Wolves were paced by Eli Olson and Otto Devine. Olson picked up two wins on the day, including a strong showing in the triple jump and anchoring the winning 4x400 relay. Otto Devine also delivered a gold-medal run in the 300-meter hurdles and anchored the victorious 4x800 relay team.

For the girls, Addison Forsman delivered an all-

around performance with high finishes in the 400, long jump, triple jump, and discus, while Lydia Shultz sprinted to a win in the 100 meters and added another first in the high jump. The girls 4x800 relay team also topped the field behind strong legs from Mattie Lindsay, Elsa Ellerbroek, Lucy Dunn, and Molly Brophy.

Boys

- 100 Meters – Jack Rintala, 10th, 13.3
- 200 Meters – Dylan Durkin, 1st, 24.1; Aksel Skustad, 10th, 27.9
- 400 Meters – Aksel Skustad, 5th, 1:2.7; Noah Axlessen, 7th, 1:7.7
- 800 Meters – Silas Solum, 2nd, 2:11.6; Eli Olson, 4th, 2:18.7; Brooks Brenny, 6th, 2:26.7
- 1600 Meters – Oliver

Hohenstein, 1st, 5:17.6; Oren Solum, 4th, 5:32.0; Grady Anderson, 6th, 6:13.0

- 3200 Meters – Wyatt Devine, 1st, 11:19.3; Blake Houde, 3rd, 11:29.1; Mason Kurnava, 5th, 11:39.5
- 300m Hurdles – Otto Devine, 1st, 51.6
- Shot Put – Wyatt Mattson, 2nd, 36’ 3.5”; Tory Hughley, 7th, 30’ 1”
- Discus – Wyatt Mattson, 2nd, 99’ 4”; Milo McClelland, 5th, 84’ 0.5”
- High Jump – Dylan Durkin, 1st, 5’ 4”
- Long Jump – Eli Olson, 2nd, 16’ 11”
- Triple Jump – Eli Olson, 1st, 36’ 4”; Silas Solum, 2nd, 34’ 1”; Tory Hughley, 3rd, 31’ 4”; Mason Kurnava, 5th, 30’ 1.5”
- 4x100 Relay – Jack Rintala, Wyatt Mattson, Tory

Hughley, Silas Solum, 2nd, 51.7

- 4x200 Relay – Wyatt Mattson, Milo McClelland, Dylan Durkin, Tory Hughley, 2nd, 1:42.2
- 4x400 Relay – Eli Olson, Silas Solum, Aksel Skustad, Dylan Durkin, 1st, 4:13.7; Otto Devine, Brooks Brenny, Noah Anderson, Milo McClelland, 2nd, 4:21.5
- 4x800 Relay – Otto Devine, Milo McClelland, Brooks Brenny, Oliver Hohenstein, 1st, 9:28.9

Girls

- 100 Meters – Lydia Shultz, 1st, 13.7
- 200 Meters – June Nelson, 6th, 33.7; Maddie Tome, 8th, 39.6
- 400 Meters – Addison Forsman, 3rd, 1:11.3; Elsa Ellerbroek, 4th, 1:13.4; Lizzy

Merriman, 5th, 1:15.5; Anna Dunn, 8th, 1:18.8; Sydney Cooley, 10th, 1:21.4

- 800 Meters – Mattie Lindsay, 1st, 2:41.4; Anna Ziegenmeyer, 4th, 2:57.0; Lucy Dunn, 8th, 3:17.1
- 1600 Meters – Molly Brophy, 2nd, 5:57.7; Elsa Ellerbroek, 3rd, 6:35.2
- 100m Hurdles – Lillie O’Neill, 6th, 20.9
- 300m Hurdles – Lillie O’Neill, 5th, 59
- Shot Put – Kaylin Visser, 7th, 22’ 8”; Molly Vetos Keen, 10th, 20’ 8.5”
- Discus – Kaylin Visser, 1st, 102’ 8”; Addison Forsman, 2nd, 84’ 1”; Maddie Tome, 7th, 55’ 6”; Elsa Ellerbroek, 13th, 47’ 2.5”; Lucy Dunn, 15th, 43’ 3”
- High Jump – Lydia Shultz, 1st, 4’ 10”; Sydney Cooley, 5th, 4’ 0”

- Long Jump – Addison Forsman, 1st, 13’ 11”; Lillie O’Neill, 7th, 11’ 8.5”; Lucy Dunn, 8th, 11’ 6”; Lizzy Merriman, 9th, 11’ 2.5”
- Triple Jump – Addison Forsman, 3rd, 27’ 7.25”; Anna Dunn, 5th, 24’ 11.5”
- 4x100 Relay – Anna Dunn, June Nelson, Chantel Ridings, Sydney Cooley, 4th, 1:02.7
- 4x200 Relay – June Nelson, Chantel Ridings, Anna Ziegenmeyer, Lizzy Merriman, 2nd, 3:16.5
- 4x400 Relay – Mattie Lindsay, Lillie O’Neill, Lydia Shultz, Molly Brophy, 2nd, 4:46.9
- 4x800 Relay – Mattie Lindsay, Elsa Ellerbroek, Lucy Dunn, Molly Brophy, 1st, 11:34.9

North Woods goes solo for track season

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

DEER RIVER- The newly independent North Woods Grizzlies made a strong impression at Tuesday’s Deer River track and field meet, competing as their own team after several years combined with the South Ridge Panthers.

Despite their smaller roster and limited entries, the Grizzlies showcased familiar

talent. Several athletes who were key contributors under the Panthers banner last season now lead the charge for North Woods, with the boys finishing fourth and the girls placing fifth among the seven teams in attendance.

Among the boys, Aiden Hartway sprinted to a first-place finish in the 100 meters with a time of 11.9 seconds and also helped pace the 4x200 relay team to fourth. Lincoln

Antikainen notched a pair of top-five distance finishes, taking second in the 1600 and fourth in the 3200.

On the girls side, Izzy Pascuzzi was a force in the sprints and jumps, claiming fourth in the 100 meters and third in long jump, while also anchoring the second-place 4x100 relay. Amber Sopoci turned in a strong outing in the field events, placing fourth in shot put with a mark of 25’ 6”.

Boys

- 100 Meters – Aiden Hartway, 1st, 11.9; Andrew Hartway, 5th, 12.4
- 400 Meters – Vinny Pascuzzi, 6th, 1:06.6
- 1600 Meters – Lincoln Antikainen, 2nd, 5:18.5
- 3200 Meters – Lincoln Antikainen, 4th, 11:29.3
- 4x200 Relay – Aiden Hartway, Dawson Stavenger, Andrew Hartway, Talen Jarshaw, 4th, 1:48.2

Girls

- 100 Meters – Izzy Pascuzzi, 4th, 14.5
- 200 Meters – Mya Kinsey, 7th, 35.4; Kalle Nelson, 9th, 41.0
- 400 Meters – Aubrey Olson-Stoltenberger, 7th, 1:17.2
- 800 Meters – Grace Bundy, 9th, 3:33.6
- 1600 Meters – Brittan Koskela, 5th, 6:55.0
- 4x100 Relay – Lauren

Burnett, Aubrey Olson-Stoltenberger, Brittin Lappi, Izzy Pascuzzi, 2nd, 1:00.2

- Shot Put – Amber Sopoci, 4th, 25’ 6”; Tessa Burnett, 8th, 21’ 5”
- Discus – Anna Nelson, 8th, 54’ 2”; Kalle Nelson, 9th, 53’ 11.5”
- Long Jump – Izzy Pascuzzi, 3rd, 13’ 2.5”

ELY GIRLS...Continued from page 1B

and Clare Thomas both had doubles.

Playing at Bovey on Monday, the Timberwolves took an early lead but couldn’t hold on as they lost 12-4 to the unbeaten Raiders.

After Greenway/

Nashwauk-Keewatin took a 1-0 lead early, the Wolves put four on the board in the third to grab a 4-1 advantage. Clare Thomas, Amelia Penke, and Makenzi Huntington each knocked out singles in the frame to put points on the

board.

The Raiders bounced back in the bottom of the fourth as they put four on the board off of home runs by MaKenna Sobtzak and Reagan Schoonmaker. The Raiders added seven more

runs in the bottom of the sixth for their winning margin.

Zoe MacKenzie took the loss for Ely, giving up 12 runs, ten of them earned, on ten hits, while striking out four and issuing three walks.

Offensively, Huntington

notched two RBIs on a third-inning single for the Wolves, while Penke went 2-4, notching one RBI.

The Wolves were set to host Chisholm on Thursday. They’ll be on the road next Monday and Tuesday with

games against International Falls and Chisholm respectively.

GRIZZLIES...Continued from page 1B

for that to happen,” she said. “It’s hopefully coming around. They’ve played together for a long time.”

This year’s team is a mix of experience and youth, with seniors Gauthier, Addison Burckhardt, and Rory Bundy

providing solid leadership for a squad that features three eighth graders and two ninth graders. Sandberg is excited

about this crew’s potential.

“Their communication is good – a good group of girls working together, lis-

tening well,” Sandberg said. “They’ve got some strong seniors they listen to, and they want to have fun and they want

to win. It’s a different group of girls, just a different mentality out there this year. They really want to win.”

WOLVES...Continued from page 1B

against teams we should beat,” said Ely Head Coach Frank Ivancich. “Hunter continues his impressive pitching, and Owen delivered an efficient performance against Silver

Bay. We faced two tough arms in Tommy Larsen and Jacob Carpenter, both of whom have given us trouble in the past.”

With a roster not built on power hitting, Ely has

embraced small ball to generate offense. “We executed four sacrifice bunts and dropped three bunt base hits in the last two games,” noted Ivancich. “We’re not going to hit many

home runs or doubles, so being able to deliver some key bunts and play what the baseball experts call ‘small ball’ is key for our success.”

The Timberwolves will

look to continue their momentum as they head into an extended home stand. They were set to host Deer River on Thursday with a 4 p.m. start and North Woods on Friday,

with a 1 p.m. start. Cook County comes to town on Saturday with a 10 a.m. start, followed by South Ridge on Monday, with a 1 p.m. game time.

BURCKHARDT...Continued from page 1B

balancing act the good old college try, signing a letter of intent on April 9 committing to run cross country and track for the St. Mary’s University Cardinals next year.

Addison is looking to St. Mary’s and Coach Darren Schneider to push her running to a higher level.

“You still have a team,

but I can really push myself as an individual, and I really like that,” Addison said. “I hope I improve a lot there by running year-round.”

This was a match made not in heaven, but in cyberspace. Following the trend of college recruiting in the digital age, Addison created an athlete profile on the NCSA College Recruiting platform, where athletes from smaller schools often get noticed by schools that might not have otherwise known about them.

“Colleges all over the country were contacting her,” said Stephanie Burckhardt, Addison’s mom. “It really opened doors to anywhere she wanted to go, and she did get a lot of recruiting visits in the Midwest, about 13. The last one we went to was St. Mary’s, and it just felt right, It was the perfect fit.”

And Addison clicked with Schneider, the team, and the environs.

“He took me everywhere, to all the trails and everything,” she said. “He’s been reaching out to me since then, keeping in contact. I think he’ll be a really good coach. And I just really like the campus, and I met the whole team. They were super nice.”

While Addison has been a multi-sport athlete at North Woods, cross country has always been her passion. She started running with Stephanie when she was seven or eight, and by the time she was a freshman she was good enough to win the 7A sectional meet

and go to state, and returned to state as a junior. Stephanie credits Addison’s coaches for fostering her development.

“We were so blessed to have Dan Squires and Jeremy Polson,” she said. “Jeremy ran in college, and he’s been such a good inspiration for Addie. I think that’s what really solidified her decision to run in college.”

Addison’s going to get an early taste of what it’s like to balance collegiate running and studies this summer. In the past she’s taken summers off from running, but this year she has a full training regimen to get ready for the fall season. And at the same time, she’ll be pursuing a certified nurse assistant certificate, hours of study that will benefit her in the accelerated physician assistant major she plans to study at St. Mary’s.

Addison’s father, Eric, admitted that it will feel a bit different this next fall having just Zoey to keep track of at high school meets, but the Burckhardts plan to attend as many of Addison’s meets as they can. He’s glad that Addison will be continuing to run, in part because cross country has been such a positive experience.

“At least we’ve got Zoey for a couple more years,” he said. “It’s a very positive sport. Everybody there seems to really cheer on all the members of the team and even the kids who may be coming in last. It’s just a great positive environment.”

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Obituaries and Death Notices



David W. Maki

David Wayne Maki, 68, of Orr, passed away on Sunday, April 13, 2025, at St. Luke’s Hospital in Duluth. The family would like to invite all friends, family, and individuals influenced by David to join them at 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 17 at the Old Muni in Cook for a celebration of life. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook.

David was born on Oct. 18, 1956, in International Falls, to Wayne Maki and Jenny Mallen Maki. Through

the years he worked as a surveyor, carpenter, and owned his own business. He enjoyed spending his retired years working on and planning projects with his two sons at their family cabin in northern Minnesota. To him there was no better place. When the sun went down, he enjoyed cooking on the wood stove and playing cribbage.

He is survived by his two sons, David Maki and Samuel Maki (fiancée Marie Petersen); daughters, Emily Koch and Jackie Stout; and adopted daughter, Nellie Phillips.

Robert D. Reed

Robert Dana Reed, 99, of Virginia, previously of Pike Township, was called home by his Heavenly Father on Sunday, April 13, 2025, in Chisholm. The family would like to thank East Range Hospice for their care and kindness. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 26 at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Virginia.

Pastor Zachary Klumpp will officiate. A gathering time for family and friends will be held one hour before the service. Family services are provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by his children, Dale (Darcy) Reed of Esko, Stanley (Roxanne) Reed of St. Paul, Dan (Sue) Reed and Pam (Chris) Kotys, both of Virginia; son-in-law, Dave Malenius of Gold Canyon, Ariz.; daughter-in-law, Peggy Reed of Moorhead; 14 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and brother, Donald (Beverly) Reed of Hermantown.

Diane D. Vesel

Diane Dawn Beseman Vesel, 67, died on Nov. 23, 2024. To honor her memory, a service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 3, 2025, at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Babbitt.

Easter Giveaway winners announced

REGIONAL- Thomas Loewen, the winner at Range Cenex in Babbitt, won the \$100 grand prize drawing in this year’s *Timberjay* Easter Shopping Giveaway. He won a \$100 gift certificate to his choice of any of the participating stores in this year’s giveaway.

Congratulations to all the other winners, who received a \$25 gift card to Zup’s or Pelican Bay Foods (for winners of Orr businesses).

And thank you to all the area participating businesses.

Orr

Lumber Orr Hardware: Brian Lagergren
Pelican Bay Foods: Dan Jacobson
Orr Muni: Allan Connor
Park State Bank-Orr: Kathleen Gabrielson

Cook

Waschke Family Chevrolet: Elizabeth Storm
Cook Building Center: Bill Aune
North Star Credit Union: Trisha Aune
1st National Bank: Robin Fisher
McDonald’s Cook: Tammy Palmer
Park State Bank-Cook: Megan Bundy
Barb Hegg (Vermilion Land): Christina Takala
Zup’s Grocery Cook: Paula Shermer
Cook VFW: Leah Geray
Cook Hospital: Don Flack
Northern Comfort Company: Cleo Cottrell
Rose Cottage Bakery: Julie Horihan

Tower-Soudan

Tower-Soudan Agency: Dan Hess
Soudan Store: Craig Koski
Frandsen Bank Tower: Keith Mattila
Vermilion Fuel & Food: Casie Skala
EVCU- Tower: Erica Akins
Ubetcha Antiques: McKenzie Clinton
Lamppa Manufacturing: Alaiyah Romans
Zup’s Grocery Tower: Ron Alarcon
D’Erick’s Tower Liquors: Shane Broughten
Living Well Therapy: Greta Nevala
Tower Café: Steve Tekautz

Ely

Dee’s Bar: Mark Zupec
Frandsen Bank Ely: Dan Stocks
Merhar’s Ace Hardware: Gary Tedrick
Piragis: Charles Kothe
Ely Auto: Brianna Mumme
Grand Ely Lodge-Evergreen: Pat Nettise
Zup’s Ely: Rick Ellis
Ely Flower & Seed: Chico
Mealey’s: Elaine Hartleben
Ely Surplus: Jim Butler
Range Cenex Ely: Chico
Ely-Bloomenson: Helen Delaney
Sheridan Street Deli: Gary Roderick

Babbitt

Range Cenex Babbitt: Thomas Loewen

Embarrass

EVCU-Embarrass: Al Bozicevich Jr.



Thank You



20TH ANNUAL SWEET SPRING RECOGNITION

We want to express our heartfelt thanks to our generous donors and bidders for making our 2025 auction and banquet successful. We are continually astounded by the support from our community, from both businesses and individuals. Ely Young Life would truly not exist without you. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for supporting the youth of our community with your endless generosity.

ELY.YOUNGLIFE.ORG

- Adventure Inn
- AJ's Fast Lube
- Dawn Anderson
- Arrowhead Outdoors
- Erika Bagge
- Joe and Mary Bianco
- Cindy Bina
- Blóm Clothing
- Bloomers
- Blue Loon Boutique
- Boat Club Restaurant
- Boathouse Restaurant
- Boundary Waters Septic
- Brainstorm Bakery
- Brandenburg Gallery
- Britton's Cafe
- Canoe Country Outfitters
- Sue Chernak
- Char Colarich
- Autumn Cole
- Cove Point Lodge
- Carly Curtiss (Functional Fitness)
- D & D Accounting
- Dairy Queen - Ely
- Dale's on Lake of the Woods
- Dan MacCoy Chimney Sweeps
- Dan's Garage
- Greg Dannenbring
- Meg Devine
- Dirty Dog Manufacturing
- Dock on Wheels
- Domino's Pizza - Ely
- Dorothy Molter Museum
- Janet Dunnom
- Dutchman Tree Service
- Ely Auto
- Ely Bike and Kicksled
- Ely Chiropractic Clinic
- Ely Fire Department
- Ely Flower and Seed
- Ely Golf Club
- Ely License Bureau
- Ely Memorial Senior High
- Ely Mercantile Co.
- Ely Surplus
- Ely Veterinary Clinic
- Ely Vision Center
- Ely's Historic State Theater
- Eric Sherman Images
- Debbie Erzar
- Evergreen Spa & Wellness
- Evan Faltesek
- Fisher Maps
- Five Pines Candle Co.
- Fortune Bay Resort & Casino
- Gator's Grilled Cheese Emporium

- Gene Hicks Gourmet Coffee
- Paulette Gilbert
- Gracie's Plant Works
- Grand Ely Lodge
- Great Lakes Aquarium
- Randy Greiner
- Gunflint Lodge
- Healthy Family Chiropractic
- Claire High
- Highland Bank
- Jo Holen
- Anne Hunter
- Ingerson Family
- Insula
- International Wolf Center
- Jessie Brooks Massage
- Joe's Marine
- Dennis Kaetterhenry
- Bob Kaiser
- Kris Kidd
- Steve Kleist
- Carrie Kottke
- KTIS Northwestern
- L & M
- Susan Laine
- LaTourell's Resort
- Stephen Lee
- Andrea Lepisto
- LIFE 97.3
- Log Cabin Coffee
- Lossing Building Center
- Low Impact Excavating
- Lucky Seven General Stores
- Sarah and Luke MacCoy
- Mealey's Gift & Sauna
- Merhar's Ace Hardware
- Mike Nielsen Logging
- Sue Mischke
- Mitska's Market
- Minnesota State Fair
- Erin Moravitz
- Nate Bargatze
- Neighbor's BBQ
- Margie Nesteroff
- North American Bear Center
- Northern Expressions
- North Shore Camping Co.
- OJ's HVAC & Refrigeration Inc.
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- Razor Edge
- Jan Rue
- Lynn & Donna Rogers
- Rusty Nail Woodcraft
- Schoonover Honey
- Sheridan Street Deli
- Stan Skelton
- Smith's Piano Tuning
- Linda Solum
- Spirit of the Wilderness
- St. Paul Saints
- Carol Stahl
- Stony Ridge
- Carol Stouffer
- Studio A
- Studio North
- Sundell Eye Associates
- Sharon Svatos
- Swanson Excavating
- Ardie Swanson
- Tara Kay Photography
- Thomas Erickson
- Anna Thompson
- Three Jewels Pottery
- Tim's Auto
- Dave Today
- Vermilion Veterinary Clinic
- Tom Wetzel & Larry Mischke
- Chuck Wick
- Wilderness Wood Fire Pizza
- Wolfland Computers & Hobby
- Zup's Food Market Ely
- Zup's Food Market Babbitt

A special thank you to the following for making our Sweet Spring Banquet a success:

- Boundary Waters Catering
- Ely Area Community Foundation - The Hub
- Ely Echo & Chris Ellerbroek
- Northwoods Partners
- Riley Bishop - Guest Speaker

Financial Contributions:

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





Outdoors

Our lives in the Northwoods

A PIECE OF HISTORY

NPS seeking ideas for operation of Kettle Falls Hotel

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

V O Y A G E U R S
NATIONAL PARK— The National Park Service is looking for ideas and interest for maintaining the historic Kettle Falls Hotel, a popular destination in the park. The park service has issued a Request for Expressions of Interest, RFEI, open to individuals, educational institutions, government entities, nonprofit or for-profit orga-

nizations interested in the preservation and re-use of one or more of the facilities at Kettle Falls. The RFEI allows interested parties an opportunity to review the property, facilities, and surrounding park land, and to submit their ideas for potential future use of the facilities. The Kettle Falls Hotel currently has ten rooms available for overnight stays, along with a restaurant and bar. The surrounding site offers additional opportunities, includ-

ing three villas, four newly installed camper cabins, two marinas, one portage road, one general store, one staff housing complex, and multiple outbuildings. Several of the facilities in this area are eligible for listing or are already listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Constructed by timber cruiser Ed Rose and reputedly financed by Madame Nellie Bly, the Kettle Falls Hotel has accommodated and entertained travelers since 1913.

Right: Kettle Falls Hotel in an aerial image. file photo

Robert Williams bought the hotel in 1918 for \$1,000 and four barrels of whiskey. From its somewhat scandalous past, grew a long tradition of hearty home cooking and hospitality served for decades by the Williams family.

More recently, the hotel has been run under a concession with Oveson Kab-Con,

See **HOTEL**, pg. 5B



THE NEIGHBORS

They're watching us

Our wild neighbors keep a close watch on our comings and goings

They know our schedules and are obviously watching us. That point was made apparent to me yet again last Friday, when my wife Jodi left the house about the usual time to head to the office. I was working from home that day, but the eagles, ravens, and vultures apparently hadn't gotten the memo.

Within minutes of the car disappearing down the driveway, they showed up, with an interest in the already well-picked-over remains of a hunter-harvested deer carcass I had put out near the house earlier in the winter. But it's apparently a lean time for these scavengers, so they were willing to scrape the last bits of meat and sinew of the increasingly gnawed bones.

Why it suddenly had their attention this morning wasn't clear to me, although the fact that the carcass had been moved the day before told me that perhaps the scavengers were tracking the predators as well.

Somehow, word had gotten out and they were ready to get the party started, such as it was.

I was busy writing when I noticed a bald eagle drop out of

Top: A bald eagle watches warily from a high perch overlooking the Lost Lake Swamp.

Right: A turkey vulture waits patiently while a bald eagle feeds on an old deer carcass.

Lower right: More vultures wait and watch the activity.

photos by M. HelMBERger

the sky and land not more than 20 feet from the house. Then I looked out the window and the vultures were circling. Ravens joined them moments later. A second bald eagle showed up and perched high in an aspen, probably the mate of the first eagle to appear. There's a pair of eagles that now nest every year in a big white pine on the shore of Lost Lake, and I suspected these birds were looking for breakfast. With the ice still thick on most area lakes, the bald eagles won't have access to much fresh food for a few more days anyway.

The first bald eagle stuck to the carcass, working off small bits of the scraps still remaining. All the other birds just circled or sat, but never moved in closer. After watching for a few minutes, it dawned on me that this was a photo opportunity, so I grabbed my camera with the big lens and set up in an upstairs window to watch and grab some images of the excitement.

It was much ado about next to nothing as it turned out since it seemed there wasn't enough meat left on those bones to satisfy a

See **PARTY**, pg. 5B



DEER SURVIVAL



Winter '24-25 wraps up on the mild side

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— As a second mild winter in a row comes to an end across the North Country, the region's deer herd appears to have come through in good shape— and that should bode well for the population's continued recovery.

After a tough winter, even surviving deer can be in rough shape. But that doesn't appear to be the case this year, said Jessica Holmes, Tower area DNR wildlife manager.

"They're looking really healthy right now," she said.

That's to be expected after the winter severity index, or WSI, in the area finished up under 50 in most deer permit areas in northeastern Minnesota, which is considered mild. "We had a few areas bumping into the 60s," said Holmes, "which is still pretty mild."

The WSI adds a point for each day with a minimum temperature of zero F or below and a point for each day with a measured snow depth of 15 inches or greater.

In the Tower area, a WSI reading of 100 is considered average, while anything over 120 is considered severe. Winters with readings over 160 tend to lead to severe winter mortality that can set the deer population back for several years. The area saw back-to-back severe winters in the early 2020s, which led to a significant decline in deer numbers.

Despite two mild winters in a row, Holmes said she expects the DNR will remain conservative with its bag limits for this fall's white-tailed deer hunt. "If we had a highly productive habitat, it would definitely help the recovery," said Holmes. Wildlife managers have been sounding the alarm for several years about the lack of good winter cover on many public acres, which they believe has hampered winter survival among deer.

Holmes said the DNR should have a better idea about the state of the deer herd once fawns start to drop beginning in mid-May. "If we start seeing a lot of twins, that will be indicative of the improving conditions," she said.

"We could use three or four mild winters in a row to really start to make a difference," said added.

TRAINING YOUR BEST FRIEND

Using games to teach your dog impulse control

by NICOLE WIEBUSCH
Contributing writer

Does your dog jump on guests, steal food from counters, or lunge at squirrels on walks? If so, they might need help learning impulse control. The good news? Teaching your dog to think before they act is easier than you might expect—and it can even be fun!

Impulse control refers to a dog’s ability to pause and make better decisions instead of reacting immediately to excitement or temptation. Just like children need to learn patience, dogs also require practice to develop self-con-



trol. The great news is that you can teach these skills through simple games that can easily be incorporated into your daily routine.

1. The Name Game
A great way to start build-

ing impulse control in your dog is to teach them to respond reliably to their name. Use a happy tone when you say their name. When they turn towards you, reward them with a treat or praise. This practice encourages your dog to check in with you rather than making impulsive decisions.

2. It’s Your Choice
This game teaches dogs patience. Start by holding a handful of treats in your closed fist. Your dog may sniff, paw, or nudge at your hand, but wait until they back off or look away before you open your hand and give them a treat. With time, they will learn that calm behavior is rewarded

while pushy behavior is not.

3. Wait for It
Before giving your dog their food, opening the door, or tossing a toy, ask them to wait briefly. Start with just a second or two, then gradually increase the time. Reward them for staying still until released with a cue like “okay.” This helps build patience in everyday situations.

4. Leave It
Teaching “leave it” helps dogs resist temptation. Hold a treat in your hand and close it when your dog tries to take it. As soon as they stop trying, reward them with a different treat from your other hand. Once they understand, intro-

duce the phrase “leave it” to reinforce the concept. With practice, your dog will learn that ignoring something often leads to an even better reward.

5. Two-Cookie Game
This game helps dogs learn to refocus quickly. Start by asking your dog to perform a simple behavior like “sit.” When they do it correctly, mark the behavior with a word like “yes” and give them a treat. As soon as they finish eating the treat, take a few steps back and encourage them to come to you for a second treat. This game fosters engagement and reinforces positive choices.

Practicing these simple

games for just a few minutes daily can make a big difference in your dog’s behavior. Not only will they develop better self-control, but you’ll also build a stronger connection with them.

If you’d like more guidance on impulse control and other key life skills, our Basic Manners class is a great way to set your dog up for success. In the meantime, grab some treats and have fun training!

Nicole Wiebusch CPDT-KA is a certified professional dog trainer, based on the Iron Range. See more at goldenpawsdogtraining.com

HOTEL...Continued from page 4B

Inc., although the initial ten-year contract expired in 2020 and has since been extended on a temporary basis through 2026. The park service had issued a Request for Proposals in 2022 but found no interest in continuing to operate the facility as a hotel and restaurant. The park service is hoping that the broader RFEI will generate some new ideas for the future of the historic site.

Kettle Falls and the hotel named after it are located at the junction of Rainy and Namakan lakes, within Voyageurs National Park. The hotel is remarkably remote, accessible only by water, and is at least 15 miles from the nearest road, which complicates operations and mainte-

nance of the facilities there.

Copies of the RFEI are available for downloading at www.sam.gov. A formal site tour will be held to allow interested parties to observe existing conditions and current operational uses at each of the Kettle Falls facilities (including building interiors) on Wednesday, May 21. Individuals and organizations interested in attending the site visit must register to attend by emailing VOYA_Commercial@nps.gov by close-of-business on April 30.

For more information, please visit <https://www.nps.gov/voya/getinvolved/dobusinesswithus.htm> or view the RFEI at www.sam.gov.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
58 33					60 39					60 47					63 49					63 48				
Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
04/14	50	31	0.00		04/14	52	36	0.02		04/14	46	32	0.22		04/14	50	31	0.08		04/14	51	34	0.30	
04/15	33	25	0.00	1.6"	04/15	37	29	0.18	0.5"	04/15	37	29	0.18	0.5"	04/15	37	28	0.22	0.2"	04/15	36	28	0.14	0.8"
04/16	37	21	0.00		04/16	39	16	0.00		04/16	39	21	0.00		04/16	42	20	0.00		04/16	40	18	0.00	
04/17	48	na	0.00		04/17	51	16	0.00		04/17	52	21	0.00		04/17	52	20	0.00		04/17	50	20	0.00	
04/18	60	na	0.00		04/18	61	16	0.07		04/18	59	35	0.14		04/18	61	35	0.13		04/18	62	35	0.20	
04/19	37	23	0.00		04/19	39	29	0.00		04/19	36	29	0.02		04/19	38	29	0.00		04/19	na	na	0.00	
04/20	44	na	0.07		04/20	47	19	0.00		04/20	44	25	0.00		04/20	47	22	0.00		04/20	45	21	0.07	
YTD Total	4.35 65.5"				YTD Total	2.93 45.4"				YTD Total	3.92 64.6"				YTD Total	3.77 60.2"				YTD Total	3.79 58.6"			

PARTY...Continued from page 4B

chickadee much less a dozen vultures, half a dozen ravens, and two bald eagles.

It was the second bald eagle that eventually called a halt to it all. With its eagle eyes, it eventually spotted my movements in the upstairs window. After thinking about it for 10-15 seconds, it finally grew restless, then turned and

flew away in the direction from which it had come. It all seemed to happen without a sound or any noticeable signal, but as the eagle slowly flew off, all the other scavengers got the message and quickly scattered to the wind as well. As suddenly as it had formed, the party was over.

It’s as if they finally got the message that, despite our usual behavioral pattern, on this particular day there was still a human on the premises. Which was apparently more than enough reason to get the heck out of there.

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Tractor Trailers based in these areas: Hibbing, Grand Rapids, Virginia, Esko - and we need 4 drivers to fill them.
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• Range of pay last year \$65K-\$95K, depending on FT hours worked.
• Family Insurance at a reasonable co-pay. You choose the deductible.
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We have not had a lay-off in last 15 years. Reason for posting: Growth

If you are a quality Class B driver living in these areas:
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Contact: Krissy/recruiter at 218.741.9634 • kwarwas@eoctrimark.com
or our website: edwardsolandpropane.com/careers.
Edwards Oil and Propane, 820 Hoover Rd, Virginia, MN 55792

Super Crossword

Answers

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

FIELD TOWNSHIP
ROAD/CEMETERY REVIEW

The Field Township Board will meet at the Field Township Cemetery at 5:30 p.m. to conduct a township road review on Tuesday, May 13, 2025. A cemetery inspection will follow with the regular board meeting to convene after the inspection at the Field Town Hall.

Pat Chapman/Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, April 25, 2025

GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP
LAWN MOWING
AT GREENWOOD TOWNHALL
COMPLEX

The Greenwood Township board is accepting quotes for the lawnmowing at the Town Hall for the 2025 season. The quote should state the cost of mowing and trimming all areas of the Town Hall complex at 3000 Hwy 77, Tower MN 55790. The contractor must provide a certificate of insurance as to general liability insurance coverage. Successful candidates must carry equip-

ment and general liability insurance for no less than \$1,000,000.00 for personal injury and property damage. Quotes are to be sent or delivered by May 12, 2025, to Township Clerk at 3000 Hwy 77, Tower MN 55790, or clerk@greenwoodtownshipmn.com
The township reserves the right to reject any or all quotes, to waive any irregularities and to accept any quote deemed most advantageous to the Township.
Debby Spicer, Greenwood Township Clerk, 218-753-2231

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://cityof-tower.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

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://cityof-tower.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

EAGLES NEST 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 Eagles Nest Township shall meet on Friday, May 9, 2025 at 9 a.m., at Eagles Nest Town Hall 1552 Bear Head State Park Rd. Ely, MN 55731. 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.

Keely Drange, Clerk, Eagles Nest Township

Published in the Timberjay, April 25 & May 2, 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 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.

Amber Zak, Breitung Township Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, April 18 & 25, 2025

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CryptoQuote
answer

Don't laugh at a youth for his affectations; he is only trying on one face after another to find his own.
— Logan Pearsall Smith

CryptoQuip
answer

The two weasellike mammals are inseparable. I think they're probably in a sable relationship.

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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LOCAL BOARD OF APPEAL
& EQUALIZATION
LEIDING TOWNSHIP

Important Information Regarding
Property Assessments. This may affect
your 2026 property taxes.

Notice is hereby given that the Board
of Appeal and Equalization for Leiding
Township shall meet on Tuesday,
May 6, 2025, from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
at the Leiding Town Hall.

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

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

Marie Milan, Leiding Township Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, April 25, 2025

timberjay.com

LEIDING TOWNSHIP

The Leiding Town Board will conduct their annual road inspection on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, starting at 4 p.m.

Marie Milan, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, April 25, 2025

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

Notice is hereby given that the Open Book Meeting of the Township of Greenwood shall meet on May 14, 2025, 9-10 a.m., at the County Assessor's Office, 9558 Ashawa Road, 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 at 218-471-7705 to discuss your concerns. If you are still not satisfied with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appeal at the County Board of Appeal and Equalization.

Published in the Timberjay, April 25, 2025

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

Notice is hereby given to the residents of Unorganized Township 63-17, St. Louis County, Minnesota that a Special Election will be held on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, for the purpose of voting on the following question:

Shall congressional township 63-17 be organized as a town?

☐ Yes

☐ No

All persons residing in Unorganized Township 63-17 and registered to vote as of April 14, 2025, will automatically be mailed a ballot. If you are registered to vote and do not receive a ballot by April 28, 2025, please contact the St. Louis County Auditor's Office at (218) 726-2385 or by email at: elections@stlouiscountymn.gov

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

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

Auditor's Offices:

Virginia Government Services Center
201 South 3rd Avenue West or
Virginia, MN 55792
(218) 749-7104

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

Office Hours:

Monday – Friday
Saturday, May 10, 2025
Monday, May 12, 2025

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Polling Places:

Virginia Government Services Center
201 South 3rd Avenue West or
Virginia, MN 55792

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

The polls will be open:

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

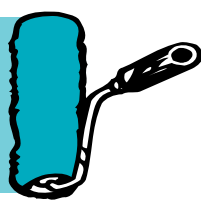
7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

NANCY J. NILSEN, COUNTY AUDITOR-TREASURER
BY: Phil Chapman, Deputy Auditor / Elections Supervisor

Published in the Timberjay, April 25 & May 2, 2025



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CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR is **LONGFELLOW**

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

QMD'B ICWTV CB C FMWBV
JMU VHA CJJYRBCBHMDA;
VY HA MDIF BUFHDT MD
MDY JCRY CBYU
CDMBVYU BM JHDQ VHA MGD.
- IMTCD XYCUACII AEHBV

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