



**Inside:**  
**New spa opens in Ely...** See /3  
**Babbitt burglary...** See /11  
**Spring sports underway...** See /1B  
**BWCAW permit changes...** See /4B

# the TIMBERJAY



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989 VOL. 36, ISSUE 17 May 2, 2025 \$1<sup>50</sup>

## EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

# Ely-Bloomenson opens employee day care

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- A two-year-long effort to help solve a child care crisis for Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital workers came to fruition last Thursday with the ribbon cutting at the hospital's employee day care facility. The day care, located at 204 W. Pattison St., is walking distance from the hospital and is already at its capacity of 14 kids,

according to Rochelle Sjoberg, EBCH's human resources director. The day care had a soft opening in December. The hospital started working on its child care project in early 2023. EBCH bought the current facility in November 2023 according to Sjoberg, who oversaw the project. The day care building was built in 2018 as a four-bedroom, three-bath residence meant as a residen-

**Right: Cutting the ribbon at the official opening of the employee daycare at Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital. From left-to-right: EBCH CEO Patti Banks, Ely Mayor Heidi Omerza, Rochelle Sjoberg, Machel Stepac, and EBCH board member Stephen Peterson.** photo by C. Clark

tial care home. The project met its demise due the COVID-19 shutdowns. But now it's taken on new life. "It was an employee effort to decorate," Sjoberg said. "It was a big team effort. The staff picked the colors and did a lot of the work on the inside. People really got into it." The interior beyond the entryway is open, with an area

See...DAY CARE pg. 9



## CRIME

# Former Orr man pleads guilty in crypto case

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook/Orr Editor

ORR- A man whose rural Orr property was raided by the FBI in the spring of 2023 has now pleaded guilty in federal court to a felony computer fraud charge tied to a cryptocurrency mining scheme targeting his former employer. Joshua Armbrust, 44, entered a plea agreement on April 1 in Minnesota U.S. District Court admitting that he unlawfully accessed the Amazon Web Services (AWS) accounts of Minnetonka-based payment processing company Digital River. Armbrust formerly worked for the company and left in early 2020.

According to federal prosecutors, between December 2020 and May 2021, Armbrust used Digital River's AWS resources without authorization to mine Ethereum, a type of cryptocurrency. The practice, often referred to as "cryptojacking," involves secretly using another party's computing power to verify transactions on a digital blockchain. The process earns the miner a small amount of cryptocurrency as a reward, while sticking someone else with the bill for the significant computing power and electricity used in the process.

Prosecutors say Armbrust racked up more than \$45,000 in cloud computing charges to Digital River during the scheme, which directed mined Ethereum to digital wallets and cryptocurrency exchange accounts registered solely in his name. He eventually liquidated at least \$7,000 into a Wells Fargo bank account.

The case first came to light following the 2023 FBI raid at Armbrust's home along

See...CRYPTO pg. 9



## FROM CELLS TO CLINICS

# Mental illness swamps St. Louis County jail

Change in inmate population taxing corrections staff

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- On any given day, the St. Louis County Jail in Duluth, along with its satellite detention facilities in Virginia and Hibbing, houses dozens of people struggling with mental illness. Many are prescribed psychiatric medications. Some are placed on suicide watch. Others return again and again because they can't or won't access community-based services. In practice, the main county jail has become one of the region's largest mental health facilities, a role it was never designed to play.

"This (jail) is now 30 years old, and a lot has changed with mental health and public safety," Sheriff Gordon Ramsay said in an extended interview with the *Timberjay*. "It was a very small part of our job and now it is significant. A 911 call for police has become the de facto response to mental health, and

**Above: The public entrance to the St. Louis County Jail in Duluth. Right: St. Louis County Sheriff Gordon Ramsay.** file photo

then we become the de facto mental health provider."

## Shifting norms

The transformation of local jails into mental health providers began with Minnesota's own involvement with a national trend in mental health services.

For much of the 20th century, Minnesota operated a system of large state hospitals for people with mental illness, including facilities in St. Peter, Rochester, Fergus Falls, Anoka, Hastings, and Willmar. By the 1970s and '80s, most of these institutions were gradually phased out or repurposed amid a growing national movement toward deinstitutionalization.

While the goal was to replace hospitals with community-based mental health services, those sup-



ports often fell short. Many individuals were discharged without adequate treatment or housing, leading to increased encounters with law enforcement.

The Moose Lake State Hospital, for example, closed its doors as a psychiatric facility in 1995. Today, it operates as the Minnesota Correctional Facility—Moose Lake—a striking symbol of how the lines between mental

See...JAIL pg. 10

## DEREGULATION

# A EIS in 28 days? New Trump mine rules beggar belief

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— The Trump administration has issued new guidance that could all but scuttle any significant environmental review of potentially hundreds of energy and minerals projects on federal lands throughout the country.

The Department of the Interior announced its plan in an April 23 press release that cites a national emergency declared by President Trump, which would allow federal regulators to limit environmental review of even the most potentially damaging new mines or oil and gas projects to just 28 days. Currently, reviews for such major projects typically take 2-3 years to complete.

The Trump administration is citing a purported national energy emergency as justification for sharply limiting environmental review for major projects. Trump declared the

See...MINE RULES pg. 9

## CHILD CARE

# EEDA voices support for Ely Head Start

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- Hearing news on Tuesday that Ely's Head Start program may be eliminated, the Ely Economic Development Authority voted to send a letter of support for the program, noting that any loss of child care in Ely is an economic loss to Ely's businesses. Indeed, providing more child care options in the community is one of EEDA's business development priorities.

EEDA member Al Forsman moved that the EEDA send a support letter to the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency,

See...HEAD START pg. 10



# Home to the Piragis Bookstore

Where great books always find you!

**OPEN DAILY -- CANOE RENTALS, GUIDES, PERMITS  
CANOES, KAYAKS, CAMPING, GEAR, KNIVES, GIFTS**

piragis.com 218 - 365 - 6745 boundarywaterscatalog.com

## Contact The Timberjay

218-753-2950  
editor@timberjay.com



8 0 4 8 7 9 3 5 1 4 0 5



# Community notices

## Finnish Americans and Friends meet Tuesday, May 6 in Hibbing

HIBBING- “Bringing Nordic Life to Finnfest” will be the topic at the Tuesday, May 6, 2 p.m. meeting at Grace Lutheran Church, 4010 9th Ave. W, Hibbing. A representative of Finnfest will talk about events scheduled for Finnfest 2025, happening this summer in Duluth. Anyone interested in this program is invited. The meeting will include coffee and a social time.

## PEO Chapter ER to meet Monday, May 12

COOK- The next meeting of PEO Chapter ER will be held on May 12 at 5:30 p.m. at the home of Pat Michaelson, 2384 Deerwood Ln., Cook. A light dinner will be provided. All PEO members in the area are welcome to attend.

## Celebrate National Astronomy Day on Saturday, May 3 at Paulucci Space Theater

HIBBING- The Range Astronomy Club invites you to celebrate National Astronomy Day on Saturday, May 3, from 4 – 9 p.m. at the Paulucci Space Theater on the campus of Minnesota North College in Hibbing. There will be astronomy information, games and prizes for the kids, and telescopes set up outside to view our sky (weather permitting). The Paulucci Space Theater will have shows at 5, 6, and 7 p.m. This family-friendly event is open to the public. Events are free, shows within the theater are \$5.

## Hope Lutheran Church to honor fallen firefighters on May 4

EMBARRASS- Join Hope Lutheran Church in Embarrass on Sunday, May 4, during their 10:30 a.m. service, as they participate in the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation’s Bells Across America for Fallen Firefighters, part of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend. Bells will ring from coast to coast as a grateful nation pauses to honor those firefighters who died in the line of duty in 2024 and previous years. Sirens will also sound off at the Embarrass Fire Hall from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

The sound of a bell holds special significance for firefighters. Long before there were telephones and radios in use in America, fire departments utilized the telegraph to receive fire alarms. The toll of a bell summoned members to the station, signaled the beginning of a shift, notified departments of a call for help, and indicated a call was completed and the unit had returned to the station. When a firefighter died in the line of duty, the Fire Alarm Office, the forerunner of today’s computerized Fire Communications Centers, would “tap out” a special signal, “Five-Five-Five” over the telegraph fire alarm circuits, which went to all station houses. Done for the purpose of notification, and as a sign of honor and respect, such symbolism has been a long-honored fire service tradition, which still continues in some cities today.

## Pancake breakfast at Timber Hall in Embarrass on Saturday, May 3

EMBARRASS- The Embarrass Region Fair Association invites you to Timber Hall on Saturday, May 3 from 8 – 11 a.m. for all-you-can-eat pancakes, choice of ham or sausage, juice, and a bottomless cup of coffee. Adults \$7, children 6-10 years old \$4, 5 and under eat free.

NORWEX POP-UP SALE



Friday, May 9 • 1-4 PM

Tower’s Gathering Gallery

Hosted by Robin Meyerle • 218-780-1739



CABIN QUILTING

Your North Country

• 5-Star Rated Shop •



Quilting Fabric & Supplies

Longarm Quilting Services, Gifts

Susan Covey • 218-666-3146

227 1st St SW & Hwy 53, Cook MN 55723

cabinquilting@gmail.com





KELLY KLUN

Attorney At Law

Estate Planning

• General Questions

• Wills

• Trusts

• Power of Attorney

• Health Care Declaration

• Cabin Succession Planning

Complimentary 15 Minute Consultation



Minnesota State Bar Association  
Certified & Specialist  
Real Property Law



KLUN LAW FIRM

Direction. Guidance. Results.

1 E. Chapman Street • P.O. Box 240 • Ely, MN 55731

218-365-3221 • 218-365-5866 Fax

www.klunlaw.com

## College scholarship funding

ELY- The Ely Pickleball Club donated \$1,220 to the Vermilion Foundation, which will go towards scholarships for deserving new or returning Minnesota North- Vermilion students who are graduates of Ely or Northeast Range (Babbitt/ Tower) high schools in good academic standing, working to their potential.

Front (from left) Deb Miller, Michelle Hedin, Anne Folz. Back: Nancy Hernesmaa, Craig Seydel, Matt Oberhelman, Debbie Cook.

## ELY PICKLEBALL CLUB



## NORTHERN PROGRESSIVES

## Schumacher to speak on international affairs on May 7 in Cook



Leslie Rogne Schumacher

COOK- Leslie Rogne Schumacher, PhD., Lecturer at Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government, will give a talk on “What Is to Be Done?: Burning Questions in International and Global Affairs” at a Northern Progressives meeting on Wednesday, May 7, at 6:30 pm at the Cook Community Center, 519 Gopher Drive in Cook.

Schumacher, the son of Leah Rogne and Fred Schumacher, of Gheen, is a scholar of Europe, the Mediterranean, and the Middle East. In his current course at Harvard, students learn about the central principles of international affairs and foreign policy analysis. Topics include key concepts of international relations and global affairs, tools of statecraft, and the implications of such features for contemporary policy problems. In addition to his work in the Kennedy School, he is also an Associate in Harvard’s History Department and a Faculty Affiliate in the university’s Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, one of the world’s leading international relations and public policy research centers.

Schumacher graduated from Orr High School in 2001, got his BA in history

and religious studies from Hamline University in 2005, and received his PhD. in modern European and Middle Eastern history from the University of Minnesota in 2012. He has taught global leadership and European regional studies at the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania and served as an Einaudi research fellow at Cornell University. He continues to serve on Cornell’s Fulbright Committee for European Programs.

Outside of his teaching, Schumacher serves as a Senior Fellow in the National Security Program at the Foreign Policy Research Institute in Philadelphia, and he was previously the Director of the Intelligence Community Center for Academic Excellence at Wells College. He held research fellowships at Harvard University, the University of London, and

Saint Joseph’s University. Schumacher has long worked in political and community outreach, including serving as the Tompkins County (NY) Democratic Co-Chair for NY-23’s Congressional race in 2016. In 2017, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts in honor of his civic engagement in refugee affairs in Philadelphia. In 2024, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society in honor of his book, The Eastern Question in 1870s Britain: Democracy and Diplomacy, Orientalism and Empire.

The meeting is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

For more about Northern Progressives, go to: <https://northernprogressives.org/>.

## BUSINESS

## Paige Dincau joins growing Pohaki Design Services

VIRGINIA- Paige Dincau joined the Pohaki team as a Design Services Expert in January. Dincau, whose college concentration was Interior Design, has been designing residential and commercial projects as a freelance designer for years. Her roots in design trace back to her mother, who is also a designer.

“I grew up watching my mom transform spaces and create environments that truly reflected the people she served,” said Dincau. “That early exposure to the design world is a huge part of what drives my passion today and I’m excited to bring that lifelong connection to our community.”

Brandon Seppala, Pohaki owner, said, “The addition of Paige to our Pohaki Design Center helps us to bring yet another new aspect of design services to the Iron Range.”

“I’ve worked as a freelance designer on a variety of residential and commercial projects across the Range, which has helped me



to develop a well-rounded design approach,” explained Dincau. “I’ve designed everything from kitchens and bathrooms in residential homes to more specialized spaces like therapy offices and even a yoga studio.”

“I thrive on seeing a space transform from something ordinary or underused into something beautiful and functional, yet still be aesthetically pleasing,” Dincau said. “I’m especially successful at maximizing small spaces and creating intuitive flow, which I think is key in both residential and commercial design.”

Seppala is confident that the addition of Dincau to the Design Center team at Pohaki will further help

customers across the region achieve their home improvement and commercial development goals.

“Our team at Pohaki keeps growing to better serve our customers,” added Seppala. “The addition of Paige to our team is just another example of our commitment to provide exceptional products and superior service to the Iron Range.”

Dincau said, “I’m excited to contribute new ideas, brands and design trends, while offering new relationships and making new connections in our community.”

To schedule a consultation with Paige Dincau or learn more about Pohaki, visit [Pohaki.com](http://Pohaki.com).

## EDUCATION

## Native American individuals receive Maada’ookiing grants

REGIONAL – The Northland Foundation is pleased to share that nine individuals were awarded a total of \$43,990 in Maada’ookiing grants last month. Maada’ookiing (“the distribution” in Ojibwe) is a Native American-led program of the Northland Foundation. Grant funding up to \$5,000 is offered three times per year to tribal citizens, descendants, or those who have kinship ties or affiliation to Native American communities within the foundation’s geographic region. Maada’ookiing grants are considered and approved by the Maada’ookiing Advisory Board.

Grants were awarded to several projects related to teaching and promoting Ojibwe language — including a children’s book, a video for young children and caregivers, and a billboard project. Other grantees’ projects involve sharing and building community around traditional arts such as ribbon skirts, moccasin making, and hand drumming. Educational programming on the night sky and dark skies as well as ongoing cultural programming at the charter school, located in Tower, received support.

“It was gratifying to see the great variety of projects coming from points throughout the Northland Foundation’s service area in this round,” stated Cay-

la Bellanger DeGroat, Program Officer at the foundation.

“The Maada’ookiing Advisory Board’s decision last spring to increase the grant to \$5,000 has, I believe, opened the door to more opportunities to support – in a more meaningful way – the wealth of important, creative work that happens at the grassroots community level,” she continued.

The next deadline to apply for a Maada’ookiing grant for summer funding has been extended to May 28, 2025. Find information about the program and application on the Northland Foundation’s website under Grant Funding at <https://northlandfdn.org/grant-funding/maadaookiing-grants/>.

Grants awarded in March are as follows:

Wendy Savage, Duluth: \$5,000: To support an informative historical session and project demonstrating Native American Great Lakes applique ribbon skirts and the sewing applique process.

Sarah Agaton Howes, Cloquet: \$5,000: To support a series of classes for Native makers and artists to learn, share, and build community on the Fond du Lac Reservation.

Ivy Vainio, Duluth: \$5,000: To support a billboard project in the Duluth community that brings visibility to

the Ojibwe language and strengthens use of the language.

Rebecca Gawboy, Tower: \$5,000: To support Native American cultural programming at the Vermilion Country School.

Travis Novitsky, Grand Portage: \$5,000: To support the purchase of equipment that will allow Gitch Onigaming dark skies education and outreach efforts to continue to expand community understanding of the night sky.

Suzanne Buan, Hermantown: \$5,000: To support a video production for babies, preschool children, and their caregivers which promotes Ojibwe language skills and use in families of young children.

Erika Bailey-Johnson, Bemidji: \$4,000: To support the distribution of a series of children’s books that strengthens the understanding and use of the Ojibwe language to tribal communities in the region.

Elizabeth Jaakola, Cloquet: \$5,000: To support an annual gathering where Indigenous women can learn about Anishinaabe hand drumming.

Alberta Warwas, Iron: \$4,990: To support classes on ribbon skirt and moccasin making for students and parents at the Cherry school.



WELLNESS

New Ely day spa now offering non-toxic nail services

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- Étoile du Nord, a day spa dedicated to non-toxic, vegan, and cruelty-free nail services, has opened just ahead of the summer season. For Katherine (“Kate”) Kalan, the spa’s new owner, opening a business in Ely came naturally. She’s the daughter of Louie Kalan, who ran the State Farm agency in Ely for decades, and mother, Flossie, who ran Flossie’s clothing store.

Kalan decided last year to open a day spa specializing in non-toxic nail services when she and her mother tried to get a nail appointment and found the wait was unexpectedly long. “That’s when I saw there was an opportunity here.” She named the spa after the Minnesota state motto, “Étoile du Nord,” or “Star of the North” in French.

Kalan said she’s looking “to provide a relaxing, nature-infused sanctuary for both residents and visitors that combines high standards



in health-conscious nail care with Ely’s unique community charm.” The airy and comfortable spa at 1221 E. Sheridan St. is finished

with white walls and wainscoting, unstained horizontal paneling, with cream and tan accents. Kalan has collaborated with well-known lo-

**Day spa Étoile du Nord manager Olivia Frey works on a customer’s pedicure on the spa’s first day of business on April 22.** photo by C. Clark

cal artist Dafne Caruso to feature interior artwork that will add to the whimsical and warm ambiance the spa aims to create.

A table with four comfortable chairs awaits customers. The manicure and pedicure stations feature special armchairs which conceal a pull-out foot soak. A cooler full of canned beverages sits in the corner by the shelves full of nail polish and other products.

Kalan has employed several experienced nail technicians, including spa manager Olivia Frey, Luna Klingsporn, and Thahn Li — who many Ely regulars may recognize as one of the faces at the Oriental Orchid.

The spa also has two studio rooms for rent for purveyors of other day spa-compatible services.

One of them is already let out to Cameo Gillson’s Bear Naked Healing, an established Ely personal care business that bills itself as providing energy healing and holistic health services.

“The other room is still available,” Kalan added.

Kalan spent several years working in the Twin Cities in the media industry before moving back to Ely during the COVID-19 pandemic, where she has been working remotely. She currently serves on the board of the Incredible Ely nonprofit.

Her parents’ legacy as Ely small business owners and her own love of her hometown were part of the motivation behind starting her own business here. She hopes the spa’s presence will inspire others to invest in downtown Ely. “There’s something magical about our little town. It’s like living in a Hallmark movie. I want our streetscape and businesses to reflect that.”

STATE POLITICS

Senate approves extended UI benefits for Iron Range miners

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- More than 600 laid-off Steelworkers from the Hibtac and Minorca mines could soon receive 26 weeks of extended unemployment benefits, following an amendment added Tuesday to the Senate Jobs omnibus bill.

The amendment, co-authored by Sen. Grant Hauschild, DFL-Hermantown and Sen. Rob Farnsworth, R-Hibbing, passed during floor debate and awaits action in the House.

“When our miners are laid off, it doesn’t just impact their families – it threatens the economic fabric of the entire Iron Range,” Hauschild said. “These are the folks who power our economy and have been the backbone of our Range economy. Today, we stood by them and expedited an extension of unemployment benefits for our miners.”

“This amendment gives laid-

off workers at Minorca and Hibtac a critical lifeline while we fight to restart production and secure the future of mining in our region,” he added. “Now we need the House to join us and pass this extension in unemployment as quickly as possible.”

During the recent legislative recess, Hauschild invited Senate Majority Leader Erin Murphy, DFL-St. Paul, to meet with laid-off mine workers. Lawmakers at the meeting pledged to fast-track the benefits extension.

The full Senate Jobs bill is expected to pass later Tuesday.

In the House, a standalone companion bill to extend benefits authored by Rep. Pete Johnson DFL-Duluth, has advanced through committee and awaits further action. An earlier version tying benefits to environmental regulation changes failed to pass.

Senator Hauschild named Legislator of the Year by Minnesota Ambulance Association

REGIONAL—Senator Grant Hauschild, DFL-Hermantown, has been named Legislator of the Year by the Minnesota Ambulance Association, in recognition of his work fighting on behalf of the needs of Minnesota’s emergency medical services.

In the 2024 legislative session, Sen. Hauschild ushered an EMS reform and aid package that delivered \$30 million in new funding for EMS, mostly in sparsely populated rural parts of the state, along with critical changes to how EMS operates on a state-wide basis. In the current legislative session, Sen. Hauschild has introduced legislation increasing Medical Assistance rates

for ambulance services, establishing an ambulance operating deficit grant program, and exempting small rural ambulance services from health care gross receipts taxes.

“I want to thank the Minnesota Ambulance Association for this incredible honor,” said Hauschild. “Our EMS providers are answering calls every day that save the lives of my constituents and Minnesotans across the state. I’m proud of the work we’ve done to support EMS providers, but there’s much more we must do. I will continue to fight for EMS in this year’s budget.”

The Minnesota Ambulance Association



brings together over 85 percent of Minnesota’s EMS response volume, with membership com-

prising both governmental and non-governmental organizations.

REAL ESTATE

Making DREAMS a REALITY!

MEET SOME OF OUR AGENTS!

Joe Rasmusson  
(651) 270-8911

Sara Powell  
(218) 780-7737

Andrea Zupancich  
(218) 749-0159

Chessa Reichert-Olson  
(763) 257-5080

TOWER - 2 BED | 1 BATH

BOAT ACCESS ONLY | LAKE VERMILION

One-of-a-Kind Cabin on Pine Island - Sleeps 9 Discover the charm of Pine Island with this unique cabin that comfortably sleeps 9. Immerse yourself in nature with walking and biking trails, as well as private lakes exclusive to the island. This cabin offers a Lakeside Sauna, Screened-in Porch, Multiple Parcels, Rain System, Fully Furnished. Move-in ready with dock, shore station, and Zodiac boat included. Top-Notch Fishing: Excellent fishing opportunities right at your doorstep. IN/OUT boat service with Gruben's marina.

MLS#146946 | \$338,900

Ely (218) 365-8822  
Babbitt (218) 827-2288  
Aurora (218) 229-8888  
Tower (218) 696-2008  
info@zupnorth.com  
www.zupnorth.com

VERMILION  
LAND OFFICE  
Real Estate • Appraisals

Looking To  
Buy Or Sell?  
Give Us A Call!

vermilionland.com

info@vermilionland.com

1-866-753-8985

Cook • Tower • Virginia

WE NEED LISTINGS!  
Contact us for a free  
property valuation

218-666-5352  
info@bicrealty.com bicrealty.com

COOK Prime corner lot in downtown Cook with room for a new business and parking lot. \$50,000  
MLS# 144081

NEW PRICE 2-3 BR, 1.75 BA home in Virginia w/ updated kitchen, hwd floors, full basement. Newer appliances, new furnace, water heater and washer/dryer. Detached garage, large deck and yard. Near shopping and restaurants. \$168,500 MLS #147549

NEXT TIME COME HOME!

218-780-6644

JANISCH  
— REALTY —



# OPINION

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

“CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO  
LAW...ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM  
OF SPEECH, OR OF THE PRESS;”  
*The First Amendment of the United States Constitution*

## Editorial

### The plastic within us

It’s time for our political leaders  
to take microplastics seriously

Humanity may soon face an existential crisis, and we are deluded if we believe a free market will save us.

Here’s the problem: Our brains are increasingly being filled with plastic. According to a study released in February in the journal *Nature*, scientists examined the brains of dozens of deceased humans and found an average of seven grams of plastic (the equivalent of an entire plastic spoon) in each. Tiny particles of plastic, referred to as either microplastics or nanoplastics depending on the size of the particles, enter our bodies mostly through the food and water we consume daily. The particles are small enough that they enter our blood stream and slowly accumulate in different parts of our bodies, but especially in our brains.

That’s frightening enough, but the truly scary finding in this latest study is that the amount of plastic in our brains has increased sharply over just the past several years, and there is no reason to believe that trajectory will reverse itself any time soon. The question is, how many spoons worth of plastics will our brains tolerate before they stop working?

The answer to that is unknown, although researchers increasingly fear there’s a connection between the increasing amount of plastic in our brains and rising rates of dementia. Less clear is the extent to which the levels of plastic in our brains today may already be manifesting more subtle changes in our cognition.

It is not just humans who are affected, of course. All living organisms on the planet, from soil invertebrates on land to whales in the farthest reaches of the Arctic Ocean, are experiencing rising levels of plastics in their bodies.

We are, undeniably, engaging in an uncontrolled experiment on the ability of all living things on Earth to sustain themselves and the food webs with which they are a part, as their organs increasingly fill with a toxic material that our bodies are ill-equipped to expel. Humans, of course, have been used in research experiments for a long time. Yet, while there have been a few notable and grossly immoral exceptions over the years, human participation in experiments has in more recent times been mostly voluntary. But when it comes to the impact of the growing amount of plastics in our bodies, we are test subjects against our will.

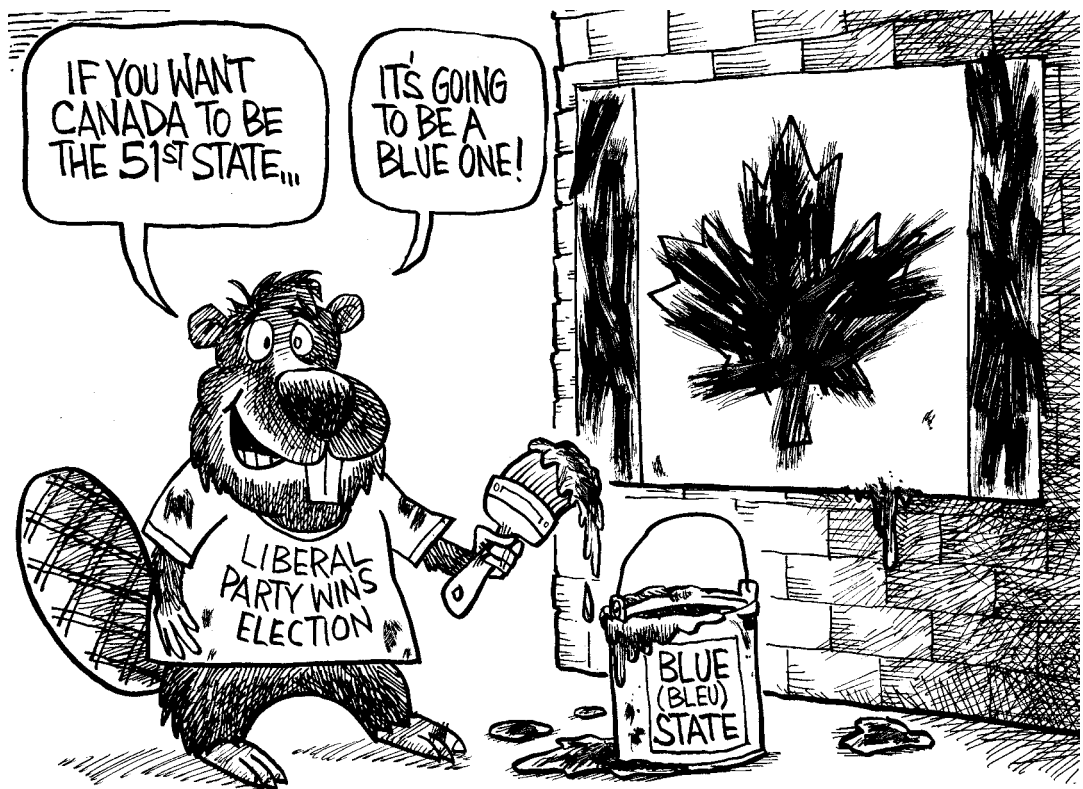
There is no question that humans are remarkably clever, but it is equally clear that Western society, which has largely set the terms of the global economy, ex-

hibits astonishingly little wisdom about the long-term consequences of the decisions supposedly guided by the invisible hand of a “free market.”

Because plastics have become so ubiquitous in our daily lives, we can easily fall prey to the propaganda that suggests the rise of plastics is the result of conscious choice, rather than a decision made largely by the corporations that profit from spreading plastic bits to every last corner of the planet, including our own bodies. These are companies that make money — lots of money — from the manufacture of a myriad of plastic polymers and the items molded from them, and in a society where money equals political influence such companies can forestall the kind of sensible regulatory response that our current circumstances demand.

Consider the prospect of a ban on one-time-use plastic bags or similar plastic packaging, the kind we see at every retail outlet. Politicians are fearful of such bans because they know the plastics industry will use their money to undermine those who propose such regulations as “anti-choice.” Yet what if those who fall for such corporate propaganda are contributing to a decline in public health, a claim for which strong evidence now exists? At some point, the evidence breaks through and the public recognizes the need for regulation. After all, who really wants to go back to allowing smoking on airplanes, for example? The idea that we used to allow a handful of individuals to contaminate the air for unwilling passengers now seems astonishing.

Any such regulatory response always draws pushback from those who profit from the lack of regulation, but once in place, new regulations invariably prompt far less of a burden than opponents suggest, particularly when there are easy alternatives. Many other countries, and even a few U.S. states and municipalities, have enacted bans on one-time-use plastic bags. And guess what? Within a few weeks everyone remembers to bring re-usable shopping bags when they go shopping and life goes on. The retailers even save money. It’s only the plastic industry that suffers. Like the cigarette companies, they’ll need to find other products to make, hopefully ones less destructive of human health. But why should humanity risk our future just so plastic manufacturers can continue to profit? It’s time our political leaders stick up for our future, before we no longer have one.



## Letters from Readers

### We need someone who represents us

Last week I attended a town hall in Grand Marais. The town hall was not in support of any particular candidate or political party, but instead was an opportunity for people to come together to speak their minds. About 100 people from the community attended. Most talked about how they and their families have been hurt by the Trump administration’s ongoing destruction of the nation’s social infrastructure. They talked about how the devastation of federal services is crippling everything from forest management and firefighting, to food programs, to health care, to education and library support, to weather forecasting. Underlying the moving stories people told of their fear, anger, and loss was the sense that people in Washington simply don’t care about us.

Among those who just don’t care is our own congressional representative, Pete Stauber. We would expect him to be standing up for Minnesotans and speaking out against the upending of people’s lives. But he does not. Apparently, he has neither the courage nor the integrity for that. Instead, he does whatever the Washington billionaires tell him to do. We deserve better. Stauber should resign immediately and be replaced by someone who actually cares.

**Charles Hathaway  
Grand Marais**

### Keep the shovels moving – pass a bonding bill in 2025

Capital Investment, or bonding bills, have always been some of the most important bipartisan agreements in the Minnesota Legislature. It’s how the state partners with local governments to fund essential projects — projects that keep our towns running, our busi-

nesses growing, and our communities safe.

This is why the Range Association of Municipalities and Schools, or RAMS, and local elected leaders from every corner of the Iron Range and northeastern Minnesota are calling on the Legislature to pass a bonding bill that will address the critical infrastructure needs of our region.

Too many of our communities are dealing with outdated and failing water and sewer systems. Usually, this critical infrastructure lies buried beneath our feet and mostly remains out of sight. Roads, bridges, water, wastewater systems are all necessary to our everyday lives.

We have drinking water systems that need upgrades to ensure clean, safe water for residents. These aren’t luxuries — they’re necessities. Without access to reliable, safe, and updated infrastructure, our economic growth, and quality of life our region suffers.

Investment in infrastructure lays some of the most important groundwork, quite literally, for our cities, townships, and school districts. It maintains some of our most important functions of government. We have towns struggling with aging wastewater treatment plants that can’t keep up with modern standards.

The bonding bill is also about jobs. Infrastructure projects put people to work. When we invest in water treatment plants, roads, and public facilities, we are supporting local contractors, construction workers, and tradespeople who are the backbone of our economy.

More importantly, strong infrastructure attracts private investment. Businesses looking to expand or relocate need modern utilities and reliable roads. If we want to keep northeastern Minnesota competitive, we must make these investments now.

Finally, bonding is good for greater Minnesota. We come together as a state to share in the burden of investing in communi-

ties across the state. Greater Minnesota comes out ahead anytime the Legislature passes a bonding bill.

This is not about politics. It is about legislators of both parties coming together to do what’s right for Minnesota. Infrastructure is not a partisan issue.

This isn’t just another bill — it’s an investment in our future, our economy, and the basic infrastructure that every resident relies on. Without state support, small towns face the impossible choice of either raising local taxes to unaffordable levels or watching their infrastructure deteriorate. The bonding bill provides critical funding to ensure that every community — no matter how small — has access to safe, modern, and efficient water infrastructure.

This is our priority because it affects every single resident of northeastern Minnesota. It’s about ensuring clean water, creating jobs, and keeping our infrastructure strong.

Let’s keep the shovels moving. Northeastern Minnesota — and the entire state — can’t wait.

To our legislators: Pass a bonding bill in 2025. Our communities are counting on you.

**Paul Peltier  
Executive Director of the  
Range Association of Municipalities and Schools in Mt. Iron.**

### We welcome your letters

The *Timberjay* encourages letters to the editor. You can submit letters by mail at PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790, or email letters to marshall@timberjay.com.

We ask that letters be limited to 300 words. Letters are subject to editing, primarily for length and clarity.

## COMMENTARY

# This isn’t a budget cut. It’s a betrayal

I spent a big chunk of my life in the Head Start family, as a consultant, trainer, education coordinator, and program director across eight states. I even helped write the national standards for kids with special needs. So when I say I know what Head Start means to this country, it’s not a slogan — it’s personal. I’ve seen it. I’ve lived it. Head Start isn’t just a line item on some federal spreadsheet. It’s a lifeline.

And now, President Donald Trump, the same guy who tried to distance himself from the Heritage Foundation’s Project 2025 plan to dismantle much of the federal government, is walking right in step with it by proposing to eliminate Head Start entirely. Sixty years of helping children and families, tossed aside without a care for the devastation it will cause.



**DAVID  
COLBURN**

We can’t let that happen.

Since 1965, Head Start has reached nearly 40 million children. Not just with early education, though that’s huge, but with health screenings, nutritious meals, dental care, mental health services, family support, and a whole lot of heart. It’s not just about preparing kids for kindergarten. It’s about giving them a real shot at a better life. And killing it? That would leave a hole we can’t fill.

Study after study shows early childhood education works, especially for kids growing up without a lot of resources. Head Start kids

do better in school. They’re less likely to need expensive special ed services. They’re more likely to graduate, get jobs, and contribute to their communities. They also grow up with the kind of social-emotional skills that help in life.

Eliminating Head Start would yank those supports away from hundreds of thousands of kids, most from low-income families already facing uphill battles. No early screenings? That means undiagnosed health issues and learning delays will get worse, not better. No steady classroom? That means kids starting school behind and staying there.

For Black, Latino, Native American, and rural children, this loss would hit especially hard.

Head Start isn’t stuck in the ‘60s. It’s grown from a part-day preschool program to include full-day, year-round child care for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. It’s a lifeline for working families, especially in rural and lower-income communities. Without it, parents — especially single moms — face child care costs that rival college tuition. And without child care, a lot of those parents have no choice but to leave the workforce. That’s not just a family issue. That’s an economic gut punch.

And rural America would be particularly hit hard. In many small towns, Head Start is the only child care option available. No Head Start means child care deserts where the only choices are unaffordable or unsafe. Parents left scrambling. Kids left behind.

And we’d lose more than classrooms. Head Start employs tens of thousands of teachers, aides, cooks, bus drivers, and more. That’s real income in communities that can’t afford to lose jobs. And Head Start does more than teach kids.



# Letters from Readers

## What we do to the BWCAW, we do to ourselves

Contextual learning cycles engage whole brain thinking with concepts, beyond memorizing facts, to see the “Big Picture.” A Harvard study concluded that the mining ban in the protected Boundary Waters area generates more jobs and income than would copper-sulfide mining.

CONTENT that describes wilderness are factual statements. Contextual statements explain how photosynthesis converts solar power into sugar power. Value statements recognize treaty rights in Anishinaabe ancestral homelands which include the BWCAW.

CONCEPTUALIZING organizes packets of information into ideas, beyond the narrow interests of mining profit. Tourism, outdoor recreation, and human interaction with over a million acres of pristine wilderness of water, wildlife and forest speaks for itself. Mining outsources profits, externalizes costs and leaves wasteland in its

wake when ores are depleted.

CONNECTING ideas are illustrated by understanding forest as a “wood wide web,” an underground “internet.” Certain kinds of fungi connect trees to send warning signals to each other and for sharing water, nitrogen and carbon in a mycelium network. Connection in context is everything!

CONTEXTUALIZING weaves how and why the BWCAW is a gift that keeps on giving. Beyond a collection of trees, forests and lakes form symbiotic communities of cooperation. Forests “inhale” carbon dioxide and “exhale” oxygen, animals do the reverse. The BWCAW, greater than the sum of its parts, absorbs and stores carbon to regulate climate.

CRITIQUING requires evaluation of how vulnerable the BWCAW is to incursion by an industry with a notorious history, leaving a record of destruction in its wake. Acid mine drainage devastates lakes, rivers, aquatic life and surrounding forest ecosystems.

CREATIVITY is a call for action in this Anthropocene Epoch when human activity adversely effects natural systems. We know how we got here, can we find our way out? Remember “water is life,” what we do to the BWCAW, we do to ourselves.

**Harold Honkola**  
**Stillwater**

## Time for a little soul-searching

Catie Clark’s article in the April 25 *Timberjay* mentioned Braver Angels and civility in American political discourse. It’s difficult to engage in civil discourse about a President who himself makes no attempt to be civil.

It doesn’t surprise me that the greedy and vindictive support Donald Trump. After all, he is one of them. What surprises me is that people I consider to be decent human beings support a man who dodged the draft (while I was serving in Vietnam) by claiming he had bone spurs. During his first administration he proudly tore babies away from their mothers at

the border.

At the risk of being uncivil, I believe that anyone who claims to respect veterans or love children should do a little soul searching if they support Donald Trump.

**Bob Tammen**  
**Soudan**

## Who is next on Trump’s hit list?

It is imperative that university educational systems should be able to act with academic freedom, free from government restrictions. “No government, regardless of which party is in power, should dictate what private universities can teach, whom they can admit and hire, and which areas of study and inquiry they can pursue,” stated Harvard’s president, Alan Garber, in response to Trump’s efforts to curtail and restrict the university and other educational organizations on what they can teach. To enforce his point of view, Trump is threatening to eliminate the current age-old tax exemptions for the academic institution.

It’s likely that religion is prob-

ably next on his hit list to control by threatening the tax exemption status on churches. Trump said that “Pope Francis actually said that maybe I am not a good Christian or something unbelievably nasty.”

Trump not only is threatening to cancel Harvard’s tax-exempt status, but he believes Harvard should be taxed as a political entity and cut off federal contracts for medical research. Harvard is a leader noted for in-depth medical research saving countless patients’ lives. It has enabled the United States to achieve meaningful, life-saving discoveries and provide world leadership in science and technology.

Subsequently, Harvard has filed a federal lawsuit against the Trump administration, arguing “it has violated the university’s constitutional rights by freezing billions of dollars in federal funding and imperiling its academic independence.” In the suit, Harvard says the government may not interfere with private speech to advance its own ideology.

**Gerry Snyder**  
**Ely and Simsbury, Conn.**

# COMMENTARY

## How much do you know about International Workers Day, May 1?

May Day is known by multiple names with multi-faceted origins. The maypoles and young maidens dancing with baskets of flowers version stemmed from the pagan celebration called Beltane, celebrating spring, rebirth, and fertility. That’s the one you’ll see on Hallmark cards.

But the May Day that originated in America was birthed in the labor movement with bloody beginnings in Chicago in 1886. As industry had developed in the U.S., working class conditions had worsened, with many jobs demanding 10- to 16-hour shifts in unsafe conditions as portrayed in Upton Sinclair’s book, “The Jungle.”

The Industrial Workers of the World website (iww.org) states that “workers had seen firsthand that capitalism benefited only their bosses, trading workers’ lives for profit...with life expectancy as low as the early twenties in some industries. Socialism offered another option. Many were drawn to its ideology of working-class control over the production and distribution of all goods and services.”

Many socialist political parties and other organizations emerged in the second half of the 19th century. Chase states that “many of these socialists were hamstrung by the political process which was evidently controlled by big business and the bipartisan political machine.” Sound familiar? Anarchist groups were created by people who felt just reforming the current system was inadequate; that revolution was needed to upend the hierarchical structures, including government; that



BETTY FIRTH

whether workers worked eight or ten hours a day, they were still slaves.

Recognizing that an estimated quarter million workers in the Chicago area were mobilizing to fight for the eight-hour day, the anarchists conceded and led the way with fiery speeches as 40,000 Chicago workers went out on strike on May 1, 1886, which quickly grew to 100,000 in a few days. More than 300,000 workers in 13,000 businesses across the country joined them.

Strikers were peaceful until police intervened, acting on misinformation. They beat strikers with clubs, who retaliated with rock-throwing; the police responded with gunfire, wounding and killing some strikers. The following day in Haymarket Square, anarchists gathered to discuss the police brutality. May Day historian Peter Linebaugh described the police as “basically the armed force of the capitalist masters.” The police attempted to disperse the crowd when an anonymous bomb was thrown, aimed at the police, who responded by firing randomly into the crowd. Civilians and police were wounded and killed; the police who died were most likely victims of their own erratic gunfire.

Eight anarchists were arrested and convicted of murder, although only three were at Haymarket and there was no evidence to connect any of the eight to the bombing. The jury was made up of business leaders and was considered a kangaroo court by many, convicting these

men for their political and social beliefs. People protested the mockery of justice in the U.S., Mexico, and abroad, pleading for mercy, but four men were hung, one committed suicide, and three were pardoned six years later by Governor Altgeld, who decried the injustice of the court as an atrocity.

To honor the Chicago workers, the 1889 International Socialist Conference named May Day a labor holiday, which today is celebrated throughout the world as International Workers Day.

However, in the mainstream media, “anarchism became synonymous with bomb throwing and socialism became un-American” according to the IWW website. Those who held the reins of power in countries like the U.S. and Canada feared the collective power of workers identifying with an international brotherhood and did not want to promote a holiday that banded workers together globally.

In the early 20th century, the U.S. government attempted to override the memory of the strikes and violence, renaming May 1 “Law and Order Day.” Continuing the effort in 1958, President Eisenhower pronounced May 1 to be “Law Day,” to honor the role of law in the creation of the United States, which was confirmed by Congress three years later. The American Bar Association stated that Law Day “underscores how law and the legal process have contributed to the freedoms that all Americans share.”

While other countries celebrate International Workers Day and the rights of the working classes to participate in government, Law Day supposedly focuses on every American’s rights as laid out in the our funda-

mental documents: the Declaration of Independence, the federal Constitution, and the Bill of Rights.

I would venture a guess that while many Americans may still be aware that May 1 is celebrated as International Workers Day in the rest of the world, the majority of Americans probably are not aware that May Day was renamed Law Day in our country. Additionally, I could say with some certainty that our current administration is neither aware nor cares that Law Day is happening this week, celebrating the rights of free speech, free press, and fair trial. They may have also overlooked that America was founded by people fighting for their rights.

We have witnessed Trump, Musk, and their appointed henchmen stealing taxpayer money, invading personal data, violating the rule of law, flaunting opposition to court orders, and gutting staff and money from federal agencies that are essential in many ways for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, rights guaranteed by the Constitution. The rights of due process were blatantly ignored in the kidnapping and deporting of immigrants to a gulag in El Salvador, such as Kilmar Abrego Garcia, who was given protected status in 2019 and had committed no crime.

Americans have been shocked by the rapid-fire decimation of critical service agencies and funding to higher education and scientific research along with threats to Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security, and public education at all levels...but are not taking it lying down. Millions of Americans have been protesting these lawless, irresponsible actions and will continue to do so as

long as the atrocities continue. No doubt some people are still hoping their confidence in Trump as a positive game-changer will be proven true, but that seems to me to be a very difficult delusion to hang on to.

People are coming out to protest who have never before joined a protest in their life. I talked to one man holding a sign, “Have you seen this Congressman?” who had voted for Pete Stauber and has been appalled by his unwillingness to stand up or show up to represent and answer to his constituents. So he’s standing up in protest. Have you had enough?

People will be out on the streets all over our region this week in support of family, friends, and neighbors who have lost jobs, opportunities, and needed services. A few of the events in our

region:

May Day Rally for Democracy, May 1, 3-5 p.m., Hwy. 53 and 12th Ave., Virginia.

May Day Strong: We Are the Many, May 1, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Old Central School, Grand Rapids.

Hands Off Our Wild Rice, May 1, 3-4:30 p.m., Online MPCA WebX.

May Day Demonstration for unions, workers, and families, May 3, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Whiteside Park, Ely.

National Day of Awareness for MMIWR (Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives), May 5, 1-5 p.m., Duluth City Hall.

Go to NorthernProgressives.org for ongoing updates, events, actions, and training in our region. Information also available on Facebook and BlueSky.



the

TIMBERJAY

Copyright © 2025 by *The Timberjay*. *The Timberjay* (PN 16025) is published weekly on Fridays, 51 weeks per year, by *The Timberjay Inc.*, PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Business/Editorial Office at 414 Main St., PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Call (218) 753-2950 to subscribe. E-mail address is editor@timberjay.com. Periodicals postage paid at Tower, Minnesota.

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

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

Publisher	Marshall Helmberger
General Manager	Jodi Summit
Cook/Orr Editor	David Claburn
Ely Editor	Catie Clark
Office Manager	Michelle Toutloff
Graphics/Ad Sales	Scarlet Lynn Stone
Ad Sales/Sports	Jay Greeney

**Official Newspaper:**  
Townships of Bearville, Eagles Nest, Breitung, Embarrass, Kugler, Vermilion Lake, Field, Morcom, Leiding, Kabetogama, Crane Lake, Owens, ISD 707, ISD 2142, city of Tower, city of Orr.

**Member:** Minnesota Newspaper Association, Lake Vermilion Resort Association, Lake Vermilion Area Chamber of Commerce, Ely Chamber of Commerce.

**Subscriptions Available:**  
St. Louis County: \$54 year Elsewhere: \$68 year. We accept VISA/Mastercard/Discover/AmEx. NOTE: Changes of address must be sent or called in to the Tower office. Out-of-state delivery may take 2-3 weeks. For prompt out-of-state delivery try the First Class Subscription: \$155 year or \$15 per month.

Read the entire paper on-line every week. On-line subscriptions cost \$29.95/year; details and payment at [www.timberjay.com](http://www.timberjay.com).

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

## CUTS...Cont. from page 4

It’s a family empowerment program that lifts everyone in a family. It connects families to health care, mental health support, job training, things that build up communities, not just kids. Shut it down, and you don’t just break a program. You break a support system.

And here’s the kicker: shutting Head Start down doesn’t even save money in the long run. In fact, it costs us. Big time. Research says that every dollar spent on quality early childhood programs like Head Start saves seven to nine dollars down the road. That’s less money spent on crime, welfare, and remedial education. So, when Trump says he’ll

“save” \$12 billion a year by cutting Head Start, what he’s really doing is throwing away as much as \$108 billion a year in future benefits. That’s far too big a price to pay.

Take away Head Start, and you shrink the workforce. Parents can’t work if they can’t afford child care. Kids grow up less prepared. And our economy loses a whole generation of talent, just as we’re falling behind globally. That’s not just shortsighted. That’s self-sabotage.

And if the money argument doesn’t move you, let’s talk about values. Head Start is about fairness. About making sure a kid born into

tough circumstances isn’t doomed by them. About building a country where everyone gets a shot. Shut it down, and what you’re saying is that some kids just aren’t worth it.

That’s not a country I want to live in. And I don’t think it’s one most Americans want either.

I’ve seen what Head Start can do. I’ve watched shy kids bloom into confident learners. I’ve seen parents rise, becoming leaders in schools, and even teachers and directors themselves. I’ve seen communities grow stronger because they invested in their youngest members.

This isn’t the first time

Head Start’s been on the chopping block, and it probably won’t be the last. In America, it seems programs that help people climb out of poverty are always first on the hit list.

A generation of young learners and their families need our support now. Remind those insulated in Washington, D.C. from the lives of everyday Americans that behind every budget number is a child, a family, a future. Saving Head Start isn’t just about preserving a program. It is about preserving our belief that in America, every child deserves a real chance to succeed. It is about who we are and who we hope to become.



Week of May 5

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](http://vermilioncountry.org).



TSHS weekly winners

TOWER- The \$100 winner of Week 33 Charlemagne's 52 Club is Cheryl Hanson of Carl Junction, Mo.

History Tidbit: Part 2 Settler's Cabin: Mike Smulter was born in Finland. He and his parents emigrated to Minnesota in the early 1900s and they settled in the Embarrass area. As Mike grew into a young man, he acquired excellent carpentry skills and was considered a "craftsman." Mike decided to find some land to "squat" on and soon found a 40-acre section on Smarts Bay, where he built a 13 by 17-foot cabin. Using only a double bit axe and a "buck saw," Mike cut down trees that were about 14 inches in diameter and made the round logs into 10-inch square ones with a broad axe. He then fit these logs using "dovetail joints" so tight no chinking or plastering was needed. He completed the cabin with a tin roof. Part 3 to be continued next week.

New bookmobile stop at Vermilion Lake Town Hall

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

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

PUBLIC SAFETY



From left: Lance Dougherty (Lieutenant), Mike Anderson, Detton Koski (Training Officer), Dean Broten, Doug Carter (Captain), Chris Suihkonen, Trevor Banks (Chief), Ross Swanson, Matt Tuchel (Assistant Chief), Matt Lenci, Brian Zak and Wayne Kultala. Not pictured: Nick Bjorgo, Nate Dostert, Bob Dale and Steve Burgess. photo by S. Ukkola

Celebrating 75 years of protecting our communities

SOUDAN- The Breitung Fire and Rescue Department celebrated its 75th year of serving the community by hosting a community spaghetti feed on April 26. The Tomsich Community Center was full of community members, neighbors, and well-wishers, as well as current and former fire department members. Fire Chief Trevor Banks was really happy with the community turnout, which he estimated at over 100 people.

The department currently has 16 members, though their longest-serving member, and former chief, Steve Burgess, will be retiring this month after 42 years of service. Another long-

time member is Wayne Kultala, with at least 30 years of service, as well as Banks himself, with 29 years. The department is lucky to have a mix of experienced older members along with younger recruits. The department will be looking at recruiting some new members this fall. Anyone interested in learning more can contact the town clerk or the fire department.

The department would like to thank the following sponsors for their generous donations towards our anniversary party: Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital, Zup's, and Lake Country Power.

**Right: Isla Swanson eyes all the food choices. Isla's father, Ross, is a department member.**  
**Far right: Owen Zak makes a bit of a mess with the reportedly delicious chocolate cake. Owen's father, Brian, is a department member.**  
**Bottom right: Edwin and Dot Swanson spent time visiting with their neighbors.**  
**Below center: Sawyer Suihkonen enjoyed her spaghetti. Sawyer's father, Chris, is a department member.**  
**Below left: Longtime department members Wayne Kultala (left) and chief Trevor Banks (right).** photos by S. Ukkola



SUMMER SPORTS CAMP

Paul McDonald to hold Pacesetter Basketball Camp in Tower June 16-17

Camp is for students entering grades 3 – 6

TOWER- Paul McDonald, former men's head basketball coach at Vermilion Community College and two time high school state champion, will be directing a Pacesetter Basketball Camp for all area boys and girls entering grades 3-6, Monday and Tuesday, June 16 – 17, at the Tower-Soudan Elementary School gym located in Tower.

All boys and girls entering grades three and four will meet from 8 – 10 a.m. and all boys and girls entering grades five and six will meet from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. daily. Families are encouraged to register as soon

as possible because space is limited. Players registered by May 15 will receive a free camp t-shirt.

Coach McDonald, who is now a St. Louis County commissioner, has been a basketball camp director for over 40 years. Pacesetter director Jeff McCarron said, "Paul is one of the state's top basketball clinicians. He is widely known for his knowledge of the game at all levels and his good humor. He makes the camps fun while teaching champi-

onship basketball."

All players will receive a strong program of teaching. The Pacesetter "Fundamentals for Champions" program stresses a solid foundation of instruction, followed by drills to simulate game situations, and games to help develop the skills into a habit.

Pacesetter Sports is the Midwest leader in providing high-quality, low-cost programs. The Pacesetter staff is comprised of former state

champions, college coaches, or highly-successful high school coaches who love teaching basketball to young people. Pacesetter focuses on teaching the most important skills to make the greatest possible improvement in a few days...for a cost most families can afford. This summer marks Pacesetter's 46th season.

Register at [www.pacesetter-sports.net](http://www.pacesetter-sports.net). Interested players or parents may also contact Pacesetter directly at 320-243-7460, or email [pacesettersportsmbbn@gmail.com](mailto:pacesettersportsmbbn@gmail.com).

COMMUNITY NOTICES

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 chil-

dren in advance. Parents can sign up at [www.bgcboisforte.com/s/](http://www.bgcboisforte.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 wanting to help with the construction, can also contact Amy Banks.

Singers needed for Memorial Day program in Tower; rehearsals now underway

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 are on Mondays 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.

Little Church to meet Saturday, May 10

VERMILION LAKE TWP- The Little Church will hold a business meeting on Saturday, May 10 at 10 a.m. The group will also conduct spring cleaning after the meeting. The group welcomes everyone and is looking for people interested in keeping The Little Church preserved and maintained in our community. The group has a men's group that meets every Thursday at 9 a.m. for coffee and conversation. There is also a new women's group that will begin at 10:15 a.m. All are welcome. The Little Church is located on Cty. Rd. 26/Wahlsten Rd. Any questions, contact/leave message, Len Hujanen at 218-749-2014.

Get Informed!  
Get the Timberjay!



WINDOW INTO YESTERDAY

Mirror, mirror, on the wall, who's the oldest one of all?

by DAVID KESS  
Ely-Winton Historical Society

By the 1880s, prospectors, timber men, and miners — some with families — came to Ely. The 1958 Roaring Stoney booklet said this about the absence of churches: "Amongst them, there were many who could not conceive of an ordered society, even in the wilderness, without the presence of a church and an opportunity for religious worship." While priests from St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower came occasionally to celebrate mass at various homes, some Protestants had organized a Sunday school above a tavern in 1875. Planks were placed between beer kegs for seating. This possibly was upstairs of 9 E. Chapman, a bar that later became the Maki Clothing Co.

The First Presbyterian Church was formally organized on Dec. 19, 1888. The first building was completed in 1890 and was in use until 1924 when it was sold to Mike Weinzerl for \$500 and moved to the corner of 4th Ave. and James St. where it was converted into apartments. It is still standing. The present church building was completed in 1924 at a cost of \$30,000.

St. Anthony's Catholic Church was organized six months later. The original church building, built in 1890, was on the site of the present church. It stood there until 1922. The second church building, which was across the street, was dedicated in 1900. The third and newest of the church buildings was built in 1958 — back on the original church site. Father Buh and Father Mihelčič were long-term pastors who were well known in the community.

The Methodists first organized in 1892, but because of hard times, the church was not completed until 1895. A pipe organ was installed in 1922 at a cost of \$1,850. Carrying on with the Cornish pasty tradition, members continue to make and sell them from October through April.

The Methodist Church is now the only original church building left standing in Ely. All the other churches in Ely have built new buildings - the Catholics, the Presbyterians, both the Lutheran churches, and the Baptists.

So, there, now you have it: the oldest organized church is the Presbyterian and the oldest church building is the Methodist.

The Finnish Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church dates to 1890, when the congregation met in a now unknown rented space in town.



Top: The second incarnation of St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church. Below: Grace Lutheran Church. submitted photos



The congregation then built a small church building known as the "pikku kirkko," on what is now Washington St. By 1899, a much larger church was built next to the Tanner hospital. In 1969, a much larger brick building was constructed eight blocks to the east on Camp St. By then the congregation had split into two groups, one of which belonged to the Missouri

Synod, and the other the Suomi Synod. The latter group met in the Bethany Lutheran Church (Swedish) until it purchased property on Conan St. They met in their "basement church" from about 1902 until the present church was erected in 1939. Construction of the Gothic-style church took nearly two years.

Ironically, the Swedish Beth-

any church merged with the Finnish Our Savior's (Suomi Synod) in 1962, so the two groups were back together, this time as the Evangelical Lutheran Church. The Bethany church was torn down and the two congregations met in the Conan St. church, renaming it Grace Lutheran.

In 1902, the Winton Community Church was built, largely through the efforts of the St. Croix Lumber Company. Originally, it affiliated with the Methodist church. Still standing and owned by the City of Winton, it is no longer used.

The original Baptist church on Boundary St. was a building assembled by the Modern Development Corporation in 1957. Modern Development Corporation constructed many prefabricated homes in Biwabik that were used in the development of both Hoyt Lakes and Babbitt. In 1989, that building was sold to the Praise Fellowship church, later the Word Church, and a much larger church was built on the 1500 block of E. Camp St. It is now known as the Ledgerock church. The Word Church sold their building in 2023 and it now meets at the Ely Senior Center.

The small church building on Washington St. stood empty for a few years, but the Gospel Tabernacle began there. In 1948, under the leadership of Gust Hallberg, a new building on Hwy. 21 and Allaire St., was started. A half mile further south on Hwy. 21, the Jehovah's Witness congregation also built a church building in 1969.

St. Mary's Episcopal was a church that "moved." The original location was in Tower in 1888 but the congregation relocated to the Mary Brown house on Central Avenue in Ely in 2005. Another church that moved locations was the Lord of the Harvest Church. It began in 1997 at the Senior Citizens building; it changed its name to Oasis International Church and moved into the Amici building on Central Avenue in 2021.

On old Hwy. 169, near the Rock Crusher site, is the newest church near Ely — the Berean Baptist Church. It first met at the Hidden Valley Chalet in 1998. The congregation later built a church building out on old Hwy. 169 in 2003.

For more information or to offer some insights, contact the Ely-Winton Historical Society at 218-365-3226, or email ewhsmuseum@gmail.com

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:

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

►May 14: Special Edition Tuesday Group *on a Wednesday, upstairs at the Boathouse Brewpub*, featuring Joshua Forsman speaking on gamifying education for youth.

► May 20: Northern Lights Music Festival featuring Veda Zupancich

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2025



rain nurturing green  
two days of welcomed moisture  
  
a sustaining soak

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 suspended temporarily.*

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

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

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

AAUW awards trades scholarship to Ely student

ELY- The Ely branch of the American Association of University Women is happy to announce that it has awarded this year's Women in the Trades scholarship to Carena DeBeltz. This \$2,000 scholarship is given to a woman in high school or post-secondary education who is accepted or enrolled in a non-traditional trade program (e.g., plumber, electrician, mechanic, construction worker, etc.). DeBeltz will graduate this year from Ely Memorial High School and will attend North Dakota State University's Construction Management program.



From left-to-right: Sarah Paro, Carena DeBeltz, Barb Soderberg, and Darlene Nemanich. submitted photo

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Babbitt Public Library

BABBITT- 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 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 Li-ane 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.

The Get Crafty group for adults will meet on Tuesday, May 20, at 1:30 p.m. to learn how to recycle old jigsaw puzzles into wall art. 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.

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.

The Get Crafty group for adults will meet on Tuesday, May 20, at 1:30 p.m. to learn how to recycle old jigsaw puzzles into wall art. 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.

Ely Community Education

ELY- Banker Tom Omerza will offer a no-cost Ely Community Education class on how to buy a home on Wednesday, May 7. Ely Community Education will also hold a free class on "Five Keys to Retiring Fearlessly," about planning for retirement, on Wednesday, May 21. Attorney Kelly Klun will teach a free Ely Community Education class on Wednesday, May 28, on estate planning.

The above classes are all at 5:30-6:30 p.m., in the Ely Public Schools Media Center, 600 E. Harvey St. Enter the campus buildings through the center doors ("Main Door 1"), pass through the foyer and the second set of doors, and then turn right. The media center is

on the right, across from the new gym.

100 Ely Women Who Care

ELY- The 100 Ely Women Who Care held their spring fundraiser and dinner event at the Ely Senior Center last Sunday. The group heard a presentation by the SAGE Foundation, which provides services and community connections for Minnesota North College students.

The organization picked the Northern Lights Clubhouse as its spring 2025 donor. For those who could not attend but want to donate, send a check payable to the Northern Lights Clubhouse — not the 100 Ely Women Who Care — and mail it to: 100 EWWC, 3460 North Arm Rd., Ely, MN, 55731.



COOK CITY COUNCIL

# Friends of the Parks serve up new pickleball court plan

## Library moving ahead with temporary repairs to restore operations

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- A long-anticipated plan to add pickleball courts at the Cook Community Center took a leap forward at last Thursday’s Cook City Council meeting, as members of Friends of the Parks presented a revised design that separates the new courts from the skating rink – a shift made after learning the original all-asphalt concept could compromise winter ice and court durability. Jeannie Taylor and Carrolle Wood of Friends of the Parks walked the council through the changes, which emerged after nearly a year and a half of community-driven fundraising and planning.

“We had originally gotten approval from the past council,” Wood explained. “But after dealing with the companies that do the painting and everyone else, they said no, you do not want to have ice on top of your pickleball courts.”

The original idea had been to dual-purpose the existing rink space – pickleball in the summer, ice skating in the winter. But the plan was scrapped when contractors warned that paving under the rink would cause heat retention and rapid thawing.

The updated layout splits the space into distinct zones: three asphalt pickleball courts, a downsized rink, and a smaller basketball area.

“We have room for

three pickleball courts sideways on the far end towards the road,” Wood said, pointing to the revised map submitted to the council. “This will be 100’ by 85’. This will be rink. And this will be basketball hoops and a walkway to get in here.”

The redesign also opens the door for improvements in durability and maintenance. The new rink boards will use long-lasting poly materials instead of plywood, and the smaller size means less water, less labor, and better ice retention. The labor for the rink boards will be provided by the Carpenters Training Institute. Mesabi Bituminous will handle the major construction of the rink and pickleball courts.

Friends of the Parks has been driving a very active and successful fundraising effort, organizing raffles, benefit events, and donation drives to support the project. In addition to a \$20,000 IRRR grant and a variety of in-kind contributions, the group has secured commitments of \$1,000 or more from nearly 20 individuals and businesses, who will be recognized on a donor sign at the facility. “That’s been a big boost for our fundraising,” Wood said.

Council members expressed support and passed two motions, one authorizing construction to begin, and a second to establish a temporary construction access off 3rd Ave. SE. The goal is to avoid damage to sidewalks and parking and to reduce

hazards from heavy equipment during peak activity in the adjoining ballfields and playground.

Despite the practical challenges, Wood said the team is proud of how far the effort has come.

“This has been a huge undertaking for us,” she said. “I am very proud of us and very proud of this community for the pitching in that they’ve done, the money they’ve helped us raise. I think that Cook can be really proud of this when it’s done.”

### Library update

As Cook continues to wait for word from FEMA on whether funding will be approved to rebuild the flood-damaged public library, Library Director Crystal Whitney reviewed a more immediate plan for phased temporary interior repairs to get the facility back into full use.

Whitney told the council that Friends of the Library met with an electrician and others to lay out a practical course of action.

“Priority one is getting that main library and bathroom fixed,” she said. “Second priority would be the meeting room, and the last priority would be the staff and storage rooms.”

The proposal includes replacing lost electrical service, updating damaged wall coverings with water-resistant materials, and installing new carpet. In place of drywall, which had to be torn

out after last year’s flood, Whitney said they were considering corrugated metal panels and wainscoting, which would be easier to install and less susceptible to water damage.

Council member Jesse Scofield raised a potential code concern.

“I’m pretty positive you’re going to have to put Sheetrock on for fireproofing because it’s a commercial building,” he said, suggesting it could still be paired with decorative coverings. Whitney acknowledged the comment and said she’d follow up with the appropriate inspectors.

The plan relies on the availability of a local contractor who has agreed to take on the work as time allows.

“He’s really busy, but I think if we have everything and have it ready, if he has a rain day or a day that he can’t do something, I think we can get him to kind of sneak in a day here and there to get it done,” Whitney said.

There was also discussion about updating the electrical layout to prevent future damage.

“We lost a whole strip under our windows, so we don’t ever want to put electrical that low ever again,” she noted.

While the total project cost isn’t finalized, Whitney gave a rough estimate of \$32,000 to \$34,000 for the main room, ADA-accessible bathroom, and meeting space. Council members

didn’t vote on the proposal, but no objections were raised, and several expressed appreciation for the library’s effort to move forward even as FEMA funding remains in limbo.

“This is our temporary solution for now to get us back to open and running,” Whitney said. “There’s obviously discussions about what happens next, but I think this needs to happen now.”

In other business, the council: ➤ Heard a presentation about services provided for small communities by Community and Economic Development Associates (CEDA). Vice-president Hillary Tweed introduced the organization and described an upcoming “first impressions” report on Cook. No action was taken.

➤ Voted to allow reuse of Main Street flower pots, and approved the volunteer-led beautification project at no cost to the city.

➤ Approved a temporary liquor license for Northwoods Friends of the Arts. The license covers a June 28 concert featuring Monroe Crossing at the community center.

➤ Discussed the city’s updated emergency operations plan. Council members were asked to review highlighted changes ahead of a May committee meeting.

➤ Reviewed a list of open and closed grants, noting the city currently has nearly 25 active.

➤ Received an update

on the city’s online utility payment portal. Low registration, only 30 of around 300 eligible, was noted, and a 99-cent transaction fee was identified as a barrier for some.

➤ Formed a city finance committee. Mayor Dan Mack and council member Jody Bixby will serve on the new two-member group.

➤ Approved a construction contract for airport improvements. The contract with Mesabi Bituminous is contingent on state grant funding. They also approved a related engineering contract with SEH after thorough examination of the financials and a phone consultation with SEH.

➤ Heard from the blight committee on property cleanup. Progress is being made with some residents, and cleanup days are scheduled for May 16–17.

➤ Discussed cannabis ordinance development. A draft is expected to be ready for the May meeting.

➤ Approved JPJ to prepare bids for road work for the Eldien housing development. Council also discussed potential utility access easements.

➤ Voted not to pursue a ZEF Energy grant for a vehicle charging station. Council members agreed it’s not a priority at this time.

➤ Noted low public response to the economic development council application. Council hopes to receive more applications before forming the group.

## NORTH WOODS SHOW STOPPERS



Last Friday's music concert at North Woods School was a waltz through medleys of favorite Broadway showtunes. Clockwise from lower left: The middle school band performs in between appearances by the elementary and high school bands; the junior high choir sang while bands were changing places and setting up; Aaron Mathys plays the saxophone; Charlie Holter focuses her attention on band director Paige Stanislawski; Weston Quam plays the tuba; an artistic lighted cityscape set the mood for the performance. Photos by D. Colburn



## NWFA Gallery hosts educator artists

COOK — A trio of retired educators will showcase their creative talents this May at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook. The exhibit, titled “Beyond the Classroom: Color and Clay,” features the work of Lyn Reed, Ron Maki, and Mark Reed.

Lyn and Mark Reed, longtime teachers in Orr and Cook, are well known for their pottery classes and inventive ceramic work, including pit-fired pieces, fish platters, and sculptural garden forms. Mark, a former science teacher, discovered his passion for pottery in retirement, bringing the same precision to clay that he once applied to biology.

Ron Maki, a former art teacher in Cook and Floodwood, describes himself as an esoteric painter. His abstract paintings evolve gradually from shifting lines and forms, with bold colors and no intended message.

A public reception for

the artists will be held Friday, May 9, from 5-7 p.m. at the gallery, located at 210 S. River St.

Regular gallery hours are Wednesday through Friday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. More information is available at [www.nwfamn.org](http://www.nwfamn.org) or by email at [nwfamn.org@gmail.com](mailto:nwfamn.org@gmail.com).

## Lions fish fry coming up on May 9

COOK — The Cook Lions Club will host its annual Fish Fry on Friday, May 9, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the Cook VFW, 206 1st St. SW.

Meal options include a \$12 plate with two pieces of fish, baked beans, coleslaw, and dessert, or a \$15 Big Fish Meal with three pieces of fish, an extra side, and dessert. Takeout is available, with local delivery in Cook for a \$2 fee per address. Orders can be placed by calling or texting 218-750-0310 or by emailing [cookmnlions@gmail.com](mailto:cookmnlions@gmail.com).

A basket raffle will also

be held to support Lions Club projects.

## Artists invited to take part in NWFA's Spring Art Expo

COOK — Area artists and crafters are invited to exhibit and sell their work at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook during the annual Spring Art Expo, running June 4–28. All proceeds go directly to participating artists, with no commission collected by the gallery during the show.

The entry fee is \$15 for NWFA members and \$30 for nonmembers. Exhibitors will be provided approximately 4x8 feet of wall space or six feet of table space for sculptures and other non-wall items. Artists may also use their own display units if they meet the size guidelines.

Registration forms are available at the gallery at 210 S. River St. and online at [www.nwfamn.org](http://www.nwfamn.org). Completed forms are due by Friday, May 22, and may be submitted by email to [nwfamn.org@gmail.com](mailto:nwfamn.org@gmail.com).

org@gmail.com, mailed to NWFA, P.O. Box 44, Cook MN 55723, or dropped off at the gallery.

Artwork drop-off is scheduled for June 4 or 5 during gallery hours, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.). Artists unable to deliver during regular hours may call Alberta at 218-666-2153 to arrange a special drop-off time. Participants are also asked to email a short artist biography to Shawna Kishel at [shkishel@gmail.com](mailto:shkishel@gmail.com) by June 3.

A public reception for participating artists will be held Friday, June 6, from 5-7 p.m. at the gallery.

## 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.

Read It  
HERE

A  
Tradition  
of Trust

- Traditional Funerals
- Graveside Services
- Cremation
- Pre-Need Planning
- Monuments by Warren Mlaker

Mlaker  
FUNERAL  
HOME

[www.mlakerfuneralhome.com](http://www.mlakerfuneralhome.com)

218.666.5298  
Cell-218.240.5395

Cook, MN  
24 Hours A Day







# Summer job safety net for school staff on track to expire

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL - Minnesota’s summer unemployment benefit for hourly school workers, once hailed as a national first, looks headed for the chopping block.

The program, passed in 2023 to help paraprofessionals, bus drivers, cafeteria workers and other hourly school employees make ends meet during the summer, is now scheduled to sunset after the 2028-29 school year under a deal that cleared a key committee on Tuesday.

DFL and Republican leaders struck a budget deal with a tight spending cap and just enough room to throw in

a \$30 million patch to help keep the benefit going one more year with state funds. After that, school districts will be expected to cover the cost themselves, something many say they can’t afford.

ISD 2142 St. Louis County Schools Finance Director Kim Johnson estimated when the original bill was passed that it could cost the district about \$1 million if it had pay for the program.

But that would be a time-limited hit with the benefit getting axed in 2029.

The summer unemployment program was designed as a lifeline for school staff who often get laid off when the school year ends and don’t have access to summer work.

Most earn about \$17 an hour, and many say it’s tough to scrape by when June rolls around.

Kristen Scott, a special ed paraprofessional in Elk River, said the benefit made it possible to stay in her job.

“It also allows us to continue to come back each year to do the important job of helping all of our children thrive,” she told lawmakers. “Cutting unemployment benefits will force many in my field to seek other full-time jobs, leaving our kids wondering who will be there to care for them year after year.”

In 2023, lawmakers initially set aside \$135 million to fund the benefit through 2027, but most of that money

is already spoken for. The Minnesota Department of Education says the program cost \$102 million over the past two years. That leaves just \$33 million for summer 2026, when it’s expected to cost nearly twice that.

Gov. Tim Walz wants to plug the gap with an additional \$30 million, and the DFL-led Senate is eyeing another \$70 million for 2027. But starting in 2027-28, districts would be on their own, and by 2029, the benefit disappears.

Some lawmakers have floated the idea that schools could use other funding to keep summer paychecks going and reduce the number of workers needing unemployment in the first place.

“My vision is not that we fight against UI,” said Rep. Ron Kresha said, “but that we give the opportunity for employees not to file for it in the beginning.”

Not surprisingly, many DFLers reacted negatively to the compromise.

“This is a line-in-the-sand moment,” said Rep. Emma Greenman, DFL-Minneapolis, who authored the original bill. “These are the same benefits seasonal workers in construction and other industries have had for years.”

Rep. Aisha Gomez, DFL-Minneapolis, called the workers “the fabric of our schools,” adding, “they’re the ones who fill in the gaps and make education possible.”

All three versions of the education finance bill ran through committees this week. Each one included an amendment from Democrats to keep the benefit in place long-term. Each one failed on a party-line vote.

The final version, HF2433, made it through the House Ways and Means Committee Tuesday and now heads to the full House for a vote. The legislative session wraps May 19. Lawmakers need a full budget passed by June 30 to keep the state running.

Democrats say the delayed repeal gives them a chance to reverse course if they win back more seats in 2026. But that’s a big “if,” and for now, the clock is ticking.

## JAIL...Continued from page 1

health care and incarceration have blurred.

**Fuel on the fire**

If deinstitutionalization helped set the stage for today’s mental health crisis in jails, methamphetamine poured gasoline on the fire.

Since the 1980s, when crystal meth emerged as a more potent and easily manufactured version of the drug, meth use has surged across rural Minnesota. Its impact is especially visible in county jails.

“People don’t realize how much meth has changed the game,” said Ramsay. “We’re seeing drug-induced psychosis daily – schizophrenia, paranoia, aggression.”

Jail administrator Jessica Pete agreed.

“Sometimes it’s hard to know,” she said. “Are we dealing with a mental illness or are we dealing with a five-day meth run? Sometimes, it’s both. It’s completely blurred.”

These meth-related cases can be among the most difficult to manage. They tend to be volatile, unpredictable, and often involve co-occurring

mental health conditions. Some may stabilize after detox, while others reveal underlying psychiatric disorders that have been worsened by long-term drug use.

“Ten years ago, we would have one or two acute cases on the floor,” Pete said. “Now, there’s ten.”

The population inside the St. Louis County Jail today bears little resemblance to what it looked like a generation ago. In 1995, just before the current facility opened, the *Duluth News Tribune* talked to then-jail administrator Dave Prachar about the new jail, and reporter Matt Nelson recorded this note: “Relatively harmless inmates like drunk drivers and petty thieves comprise 90 percent of its population.”

Fast forward to Monday, April 28, and the contrast is stark. That morning, the jails held 186 inmates. Of those, 65 were in custody for violent offenses, 15 for drug offenses, and 47 for both. Charges ranged from aggravated assault and domestic violence to meth possession and fentanyl distribution.

The remaining 59 were held for non-violent charges like DWI, petty theft, or probation violations.

Pete, who has worked at the jail for over two decades, has watched the shift unfold.

“Back in 2003, we were overcrowded, but we were dealing with people that for the most part were not as serious of charges,” Pete said. “And they didn’t have the behaviors that we see with the mental health today.”

That’s backed by both local experience and national data. A 2006 federal study found that 63 percent of male and 75 percent of female jail inmates reported symptoms or a history of mental health problems. More rigorous studies using clinical criteria still estimate that 6-12 percent of inmates suffer from serious psychiatric disorders – well above the rate in the general population.

In Minnesota, a survey of jail staff estimated that 25 percent to 35 percent of inmates are on psychiatric medications daily, according to a 2016 state Legislative

Auditor’s report. Many have co-occurring substance use disorders, making stabilization more complicated and resource-intensive.

Ramsay echoed Pete’s concerns. “We are one of the largest mental health providers in the county right here,” he said. “That shouldn’t be right. This is not the place for people that are in crisis. Inmate safety is number one and this facility makes it very difficult to provide that.”

**A strained system**

The St. Louis County Jail, like many others, was never intended to serve as a psychiatric unit. There is no dedicated mental health wing. Suicide watch protocols require staff to monitor high-risk inmates every 15 minutes. That adds to the burden on correctional officers already managing substance withdrawal and rising levels of inmate aggression.

Medication distribution, which once was a minor part of daily operations, has grown into a major task.

“It just got to be too much

for our correctional officers to manage, so we had to hire health techs just to handle medications,” Pete said.

Commander Jon Skelton added that the jail regularly houses people waiting for psychiatric evaluation or civil commitment. “Sometimes they sit here for weeks,” he said, “because there’s no bed available at Anoka or St. Peter.”

The jail’s shift toward mental health care isn’t just a problem for the inmates. It puts increasing stress on staff, facilities, and taxpayers.

“We’re expected to maintain the safety and security of the facility, but also to provide care to people that are actively hallucinating or suicidal or just completely disconnected from reality,” Pete said.

Even telehealth, often cited as a solution in rural areas, has limitations.

“It’s a band-aid,” Pete said. “It’s better than nothing, but it doesn’t replace having mental health professionals here in person.”

**No quick fix**

Ramsay and his team

emphasize that the problem didn’t arise overnight, and it won’t be solved overnight either.

The combination of deinstitutionalization, underfunded community treatment, and the criminalization of addiction and homelessness has gradually redefined the role of jails. And while many in law enforcement recognize the mismatch, the system continues to default to what exists.

“We’re not saying people with mental illness shouldn’t be held accountable,” Ramsay said. “But when the only place they can get care is a jail, we’ve already failed them.”

In the second story of this three-part series, we’ll take readers inside the St. Louis County Jail to explore in more detail how mental health issues impact inmates, staff, and jail operations. The third story will look at community resources and possible policy changes to support better mental health in the jails.

## HEAD START...Continued from page 1

the organization that runs Ely’s Head Start program. “It just came to my attention today that the AEOA is considering suspending the Head Start program here in Ely ... losing Head Start would be a big loss to our community.”

Mayor Heidi Omerza added, “There’s no other place for some of those students to go. And I think that is a really important point to make.”

Head Start is an early childhood education program for low-income preschool children, funded by state and federal money. Ely’s Head Start is run by AEOA and hosted at Washington Elementary School. Because Ely is a small community with

limited child care facilities, the low-income preschoolers currently served by Head Start may have no affordable child care alternatives.

**Corridor grants**

Ely’s business development advisor John Fedo reported that the end of Ely’s Commercial Corridor loan program is June 30 and that \$63,000 is still available for qualifying businesses. The program is for Ely businesses seeking to expand and add jobs.

“The money is in thirds,” Fedo explained. “A third is a loan from Ely at two percent interest. A third is the forgivable loan financed through

the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board, which — if a business satisfies the job creation and retention parts of the loan — is really a grant. And a third has to be equity, which is to say, either provided by the owner or financed by the business.”

Five businesses currently have loans with the commercial corridor program, with amounts between \$10,000 and \$50,000.

**Water supply**

Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski reported that U.S. Rep. Pete Stauber was working on reinstating the 15 earmarked projects which were cut earlier this year by

the Trump administration, including \$2 million in federal funding for the replacement of Ely’s five-mile-long water supply line from Burntside Lake.

“I sent all our stuff to Stauber’s office yesterday,” Langowski said. “There looks like there’s support to restore the 15 projects, so here’s hoping.”

The price tag on the water supply line project is \$4.5 million. The city has already arranged financing and grants to cover the costs not covered by the congressional funding.

TOWER-SOUDAN  
GARAGE SALES

SATURDAY  
JULY 26 • 9-2

Get Your Address On Map List  
scarletstone60@gmail.com  
218-235-1377

Map List Available July 22-Tower Zups/S.O.S./Online

RANGE JEWELRY  
& GIFTS

A Gift For Every Occasion

- In-store jewelry & watch repair
- Cash for Gold & Silver
- SISU JEWELRY

OPEN: Tues-Sat 9-5  
218-827-2515  
Babbitt Shopping Center

PETERSEN  
DRILLING

Since 1948  
Wells  
Water Systems

- PUMPS
- WELLS
- HYDRO-FRACKING

1-800-662-5700  
Spring Park Rd.  
Mt. Iron, MN 55768

Scenic Rivers  
Clinics

Medical, Dental, and Behavioral Health  
Quality and Compassion  
For Every Patient for Life

Cook • Bigfork • Tower • Eveleth • Northome  
Floodwood • Big Falls

Same Day Appointments Available

24-Hour Emergency Care in Cook and Bigfork

(877) 541-2817  
www.ScenicRiversHealth.org



Tower-Soudan Agency  
& Palo Mutual

Your Independent Insurance Agency



We Can Insure:  
Residential, Seasonal, Island and  
Non-Road Access Properties

218-753-2101  
415 Main St.  
Tower, MN  
www.towersoudanagency.com



WILDERNESS PROTECTION

Hearing held in longstanding towboat lawsuit

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

REGIONAL- The Wilderness Watch lawsuit seeking to curtail towboats in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness was finally back in court again after two years of motions and counter-motions in U.S. District Court in Minnesota.

Wilderness Watch and attorneys for the U.S. Forest

Service made their cases before U.S. District Judge Nancy E. Brasel on a motion for summary judgment filed by Wilderness Watch last fall after efforts to settle the suit proved unsuccessful. Summary judgment is a way for a judge to rule on the legal merits of a case once both sides are agreed on the essential facts.

Even so, particularly at the federal level, a judge can

take months to issue a ruling.

**The lawsuit**

Montana-based Wilderness Watch filed the lawsuit, which challenges the number of towboats allowed to operate in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, back in February 2023, alleging that the USFS is allowing excessive towboat and other motorboat use in the BWCAW. They allege that

violates wilderness protection mandates of several laws, including the 1964 Wilderness Act, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Act of 1978, and the National Forest Management Act.

The USFS has employed an array of counterarguments, including a failed motion for the court to dismiss the case for “lack of standing.” The forest service argues that Wilderness Watch’s allegations are based

on a misunderstanding of how the Wilderness Act and the BWCAW Act are interpreted together.

An initial request by Wilderness Watch for a preliminary injunction to prohibit all towboats in the Boundary Waters was rejected by the judge. However, the court also ordered the USFS to continue an ongoing moratorium on issuing any new special use permits for towboats.

Since the initial fight over

the preliminary injunction, the suit has been mired in motions and counter motions. The case stalled between July 2023 and February 2024 while Judge Brasel deliberated on whether to grant the USFS motion to dismiss, which she ultimately denied. That set the stage for the summary judgment arguments laid out for the court this week.

A decision on the motion likely won’t be issued before fall.

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

Eichorn pleads not guilty to federal charge in soliciting case

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Former State Sen. Justin Eichorn pleaded not guilty to Monday to a federal charge of attempting to entice a minor for sex in a brief arraignment hearing before U.S. Magistrate Judge Shannon Elkins.

Eichorn, 40, was arrested in Bloomington on March 17

after allegedly responding to an online prostitution ad posted by an undercover officer posing as a 17-year-old girl. According to the charging document filed in Minnesota U.S. District Court, Eichorn exchanged explicit text messages and arranged to meet the girl for sex in exchange for



Justin Eichorn

money.

The Grand Rapids Republican resigned from the Legislature on March 20, three days after his arrest. He had represented District 6 in northeastern Minnesota.

The charge – attempted coercion or enticement of a

minor – carries a mandatory minimum sentence of ten years in federal prison if convicted. A grand jury returned a felony indictment on April 1. State charges were originally filed but dropped in favor of the federal case with its more stringent penalties.

Eichorn is currently living in a halfway house in Duluth under court-ordered condi-

tions that prohibit any unsupervised contact with minors. During Monday’s hearing, his defense attorneys withdrew a motion they had filed just days earlier requesting a change in those release conditions.

That motion had sought permission for Eichorn to have contact with his four minor children, arguing that the restrictions would impair

his ability to maintain relationships with them. Eichorn’s wife filed for divorce within days of his arrest.

Prosecutors did not oppose the request, but no explanation was given for the defense’s decision to withdraw the motion.

Eichorn’s next court hearing is set for May 21.

Ely man remains in custody for repeated harassment of local woman

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- The consequences are beginning to pile up for an Ely man whose apparent obsession with a local woman has now led to multiple charges. Peter Kimball Allen, age 60, is in the St. Louis County Jail after he was re-arrested on Sunday, April 27, for once again violating a protective order granted to the victim because of Allen’s alleged repeated harassment.

Allen was charged last week with violating two protective orders and spent time in the county jail before being

released on Friday. But just two days later he was back in lock-up after sending his victim a letter expressing his strong feelings for her.

According to the statement of probable cause, the woman was in tears because “she is worried the defendant will show up at her house one day with the intent to kill her because of this obsession he seems to have with her. She had installed multiple security cameras around the house and has been afraid to leave.”

The probable cause statement notes that the woman has made “ten separate reports

to the Ely PD of unwanted contact” from Allen since October. Five of those incidences resulted in further charges against Allen for allegedly violating the protection orders. Both orders prohibit Allen from contacting the victim or going to her residence.

**Repeated contacts**

On April 23, the woman received eight emails from Allen. According to court records, “One email was a meme image highlighted in yellow saying, ‘I just can’t understand how some people can be okay with themselves

knowing that they emotionally destroyed someone who loves them.’ Other emails spoke of the active court orders and how the defendant loves her.”

On April 25, Allen was charged with allegedly violating the protection orders. He was released the same day, under the supervision of a probation officer through Minnesota’s pretrial early release program. The conditions on Allen’s release included abiding by the terms of the two protective orders.

Yet it appears that Allen failed to abide by those terms, after he sent a letter to his

victim the following day, expressing his love for her.

Allen was charged on Sunday with felony stalking and two misdemeanors for violating the protection and restraining orders. At a Tuesday hearing on the matter, Assistant St. Louis County Attorney Amber Pederson argued that Allen should not be allowed to participate in the pretrial early release program but should, instead, be subject to a no-bail hold until his sentencing hearing on May 13 in five of Allen’s seven open cases. She pointed out that because of Allen’s

continual violation of the protection orders, “victim safety concerns exist ... Defendant has a history of domestic abuse offenses with the same victim.”

Judge Bhupesh Pattni revoked the conditional release and removed it as an option for Allen’s open cases. The judge did not remove Allen’s ability to post bail, which is \$12,000 for a 2024 drug charge, \$3,000 for a protection order violation in November, \$5,000 for the April 25 charges, and \$40,000 for the April 27 charges.

Virginia man faces charges in burglary of Babbitt-area resort

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

BABBITT- A Virginia man was caught on camera allegedly burglarizing his employers’ residence at the Timber Bay Lodge.

According to the statement of probable cause, the couple who run the resort were out of town over Easter weekend. They were alerted early Saturday morning, April 19, of activity being recorded on a camera they had set up inside their residence at the

resort. The couple identified their employee, Ronald Eugene Childs, age 43, as the person inside their residence.

The couple then alerted local law enforcement and provided images from their residence camera. Officers from the St. Louis County Sheriff’s Office responded to the burglary in progress at 5:43 a.m. Law enforcement officers found Childs near the marina garage for the resort and took him into custody. At the time, Childs had many one-dollar bills in his front pants pocket.

He was charged with two felony counts for second- and third-degree burglary.

The couple who operate the resort told the St. Louis County Sheriff’s deputies that there was a cash box in their residence with “several one- and five-dollar bills.” Court paperwork stated, “Both the cash box and an Apple watch were not inside the residence and have yet to be located.”


Childs has prior felony convictions dating back to 2000 for burglary, motor vehicle theft, and possession

of controlled substances. Because of Childs’ previous record, Amber Pederson, an assistant St. Louis County Attorney, recommended \$35,000 bail or a supervised

pretrial release under the supervision of a probation officer — terms which the court approved.

Childs was released from St. Louis County Jail on April


22 under the supervision of a probation officer through the pretrial early release program. His initial arraignment is set for May 13.



TIME FOR THE

NEXT STEP IN

YOUR CAREER?




EBCH is Ready to Meet You!

FULL TIME

Childcare Caregiver

If you’re looking for a rewarding career within a safe, positive, and supportive environment, look no further than Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital.

Full-time positions include competitive wages, outstanding benefits, a health savings account, a retirement plan with employer-matching funds, professional growth and tuition-reimbursement opportunities, generous paid time off, and more. EBCH also provides employee assistance programs, wellness programs, an employee rewards program, and flexible scheduling.




EBCH  
Ely-Bloomenson  
Community Hospital

TAKE YOUR NEXT STEP NOW.

Learn more at [ebch.org/about-us/careers](https://ebch.org/about-us/careers).

ELY FLOWER & SEED

Remember Mother's Day-Sunday, May 11  
Stop & Shop!



Pet Food, Toys & Supplies


Greenhouses Are Open!

• Stepping Stones


• Statues

• Colorful Hanging Baskets & Plants!

Lawn Care Products




GIFT CARDS!

ELY FLOWER & SEED

145 W. Camp St, Ely • 365-6555  
HOURS: Mon-Sat: 9-5:30, Sun: Closed

Lake Vermilion

WEINER CRUISER



Leaves Aronsons at 11 AM

Dates are weather dependant

Cruisin' On These Saturdays


May 10 & 24

June 7 & 21


See us at Tower Zup's July 4


July 5 & 19


August 2, 16, & 30



Cash Only





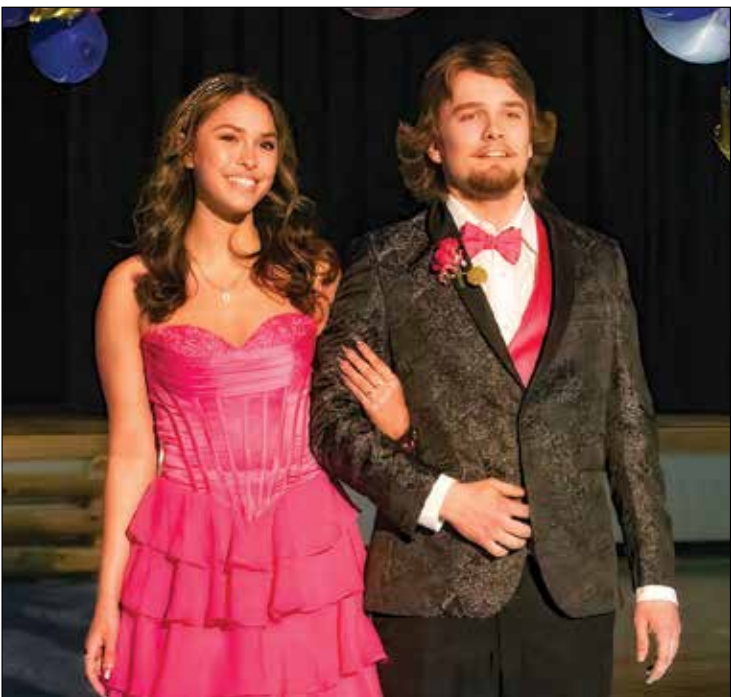
Check out our  page for weather updates & location

Questions, Call 218-220-1968

CLIP-N-SAVE



NORTH WOODS HIGH SCHOOL PROM 2025



North Woods High School held their prom on April 26.  
Above: Sierra Schuster and Kaden Gornick  
Left: Isabelle Koch and Lainee Olson  
Right: Victoria Ryan and Richard Swinson photos by D. Colburn

WELLNESS

Helping people stay active and fit as they age

by JODI SUMMIT Tower-Soudan Editor Tower woman offering coaching for fitness and nutrition; free training plans available

TOWER- It's never too late to start to get healthy, and Lisa Ledman is hoping to help people get started on the journey. Ledman, who started running at age 47, took classes to become certified as a running coach back in 2017, then added advanced coursework to become a level 2 running coach (requires three years of experience as a coach), became certified in strength-training and also in nutrition.

Coaching most likely came naturally to someone who taught high school math and coordinated her school's advanced academic programming. Ledman retired from her assistant principal's position at Southwest High School in the Minneapolis Public Schools three years ago. She and her husband David, who recently retired from his job at 3M, sold their home in the Twin Cities last year and moved up full-time to late father's home on on Lake Vermilion. Her late father, Pastor Leroy Holmes, was a kind of coach himself for many in the area over the years.

For Ledman, running and coaching just seem to fit. "I like to be outdoors," she said. "I like to run, walk, and bike," she said.

She started working with a running coach in 2019 and found it has helped her achieve her goals, kept her accountable, and offers an ob-



Lisa Ledman.

Right: Free training plans for Vermilion 5K and 10K are available by emailing [jsummit@vermilioncountry.org](mailto:jsummit@vermilioncountry.org).

jective viewpoint on her training and fitness levels, as well as helping her find ways to improve.

"He is currently trying to kill me," she joked. Perhaps it's her goals that are testing her limits, goals which include setting her own personal best time for the Ely Half Marathon (which has a challenging, hilly route), and tackling her first trail race, a 25K coming up in a few weeks. She will also be running the Grandma's Half Marathon in June, and the Twin Cities 10-Miler later

Vermilion Walk/Run 5K Training Plan							
Week/Day	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Week 1	Easy Run 15 min.	Rest	Speed Run 17 min.	Rest	Easy Run 18 min.	Optional Interval Run 24 min.	Rest
Week 2	Easy Run 18 min.	Rest	Speed Run 19 min.	Rest	Easy Run 20 min.	Optional Interval Run 26 min.	Rest
Week 3	Easy Run 20 min.	Rest	Speed Run 21 min.	Rest	Easy Run 22 min.	Optional Interval Run 28 min.	Rest
Week 4	Easy Run 22 min.	Rest	Speed Run 23 min.	Rest	Easy Run 24 min.	Optional Interval Run 30 min.	Rest
Week 5	Interval Run 24 min.	Rest	Easy Run 25 min.	Rest	Pace Run 26 min.	Optional Interval Run 32 min.	Rest
Week 6	Interval Run 26 min.	Rest	Easy Run 27 min.	Rest	Pace Run 28 min.	Optional Easy Run 34 min.	Rest
Week 7	Easy Run 28 min.	Rest	Pace Run 29 min.	Rest	Easy Run 30 min.	Optional Easy Run 36 min.	Rest
Week 8	Easy Run 30 min.	Rest	Walk 30 min.	Rest	Pace Run 30 min.	Race Day!	Rest

This plan is based on time instead of mileage to fit the needs of runners of all levels. If you prefer walk/run intervals that work perfectly with this plan. Just use your preferred walk/run interval timing to complete the plan. \* You can use the plan for any distance you want. Just adjust the times to fit your goal. \* Easy Run - you can use the plan for any distance you want. Just adjust the times to fit your goal. \* Pace Run - you can use the plan for any distance you want. Just adjust the times to fit your goal. \* Interval Run - you can use the plan for any distance you want. Just adjust the times to fit your goal. \* Race Day! - you can use the plan for any distance you want. Just adjust the times to fit your goal.

this year. She also plans to run the Vermilion Fourth of July race, either the 5K or 10K.

And as a bonus for readers, she has created two eight-week training programs for these races, suitable for beginning runners, which are available free of charge by emailing [jsummit@vermilioncountry.org](mailto:jsummit@vermilioncountry.org), or by stopping by the Timberjay office. The Vermilion Run is a fundraiser for the Vermilion Country School in Tower.

"Running is a healthy outlet for me," she said, "both mentally and physically." Running, along with nutrition training, helped her lose excess pounds she gained as she inched closer towards 60. She is

now happy with her weight, as well as her fitness level.

Coaching was something she felt she could offer to other runners, as well as those just looking to gain fitness. She especially likes working with older athletes, and she has advanced training to work with runners going through menopause. "Runners at this age really need to listen to their body more," she said.

Her coaching program includes a "holistic approach" to achieving a client's health and fitness goals. This includes creating a clear vision of what it takes to build a healthy lifestyle, establishing achievable habits, and creating manageable steps that lead to these results. She also works with clients to create a mindset that will help build sustainable, healthy habits.

"I have plenty of time now," she said, and she is hoping to build up her coaching clientele. She reaches out to clients at least weekly, and most of her training plans offer daily and weekly accountability check-ins.

"I can customize a plan to meet your goals," she said. She offers both one-on-one and group coaching options.

Nutrition coaching is not just for athletes, she said, and she can help create programs to build muscle, lose weight, or whatever a person's goal might be. She also has

training and personal experience working with food allergies and other food-related diet restrictions.

Time to get moving

Two area hiking groups that Ledman helps organize and other resources. Both hiking groups are open to the public, and well-socialized dogs on leashes are welcome to also attend, though the pavement on the Mesabi Trail might be too hot for dogs in the summer.

➤ Sunday hikes with the Vermilion Activity Club with the help of Laura Ricker on Sundays in the afternoon. Weekly hikes are posted on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/vermilionareactivityclub>.

➤ Wednesday hikes with Mesabi Trekkers. This group will hike the entire Mesabi trail, bit by bit, starting Wednesday, May 14 and finishing up on Oct. 8. Local trekkers will carpool to the week's starting/ending point. Find the weekly hiking locations on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/735812381114103>.

➤ Lisa Ledman's Healthy Living Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/healthylivingover40>.

➤ Learn about custom coaching options on her website at [www.itsyourjourneytraining.com/](http://www.itsyourjourneytraining.com/).

New members settle into roles on Breitung Town Board

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA Staff Writer

SOUDAN- At the April 15 town board meeting here,

Supervisor Matt Tuchel stepped into the role of board chairman and made his mark from the outset by establishing a new tradition for the board.

"We're going to start doing the Pledge of Allegiance at our meetings," he said. "The county does it at their board meetings, we do it at our annual meeting. I think it's a good reminder that we're here for the benefit of our citizens and our country," he said.

Tuchel, who also serves as manager of the Tower-Breitung Waste Water District,

reported that the wastewater board has worked with legislators to clarify the financing of the new water treatment plant. After clearing up some erroneous assumptions by state officials, the state's Public Facilities Authority, or PFA, agreed to reduce the local contribution for the water plant project down to a \$1.2 million loan, down from the \$1.76 million the PFA had recently determined.

The loan interest also was a bright spot. The PFA had originally forecasted 2.45 percent and now it's set at 1.68 percent, bringing the yearly loan payment to \$53,000 instead of the forecasted \$58,000.

In total, the \$10 million water treatment plant will be funded by a \$4.8 million

PFA grant, \$3.375 million from the Army Corps of Engineers, \$3 million in state bonding, along with the loan for \$1.2 million.

New payroll schedule

The board approved changes to the schedule of how the township pays its employees. New treasurer Teresa Dolinar recommended the changes to alleviate confusion and increase efficiency in her role. The township had been paying full-time employees every two weeks and hourly workers were paid bimonthly on the second and fourth Tuesdays. Now both classes of employees will be paid every two weeks.

Other business

In other news, the town board:

➤ Heard an update from

Chief Reing on his search for a new squad car. The specific vehicle hasn't been selected yet, but will likely be a Ford SUV or truck for about \$45,000 plus \$7,000 for equipment and \$2,000 for decals.

➤ Set the Fourth of July community picnic for Sunday, July 6.

➤ Accepted donations from Laurie Anderson for \$80.75 for any purpose and the Tower Civic Club of \$100 specifically for flowers.

➤ Accepted the resignation of Jorgine Gornick from her role as Breitung Water Department Manager, effective April 30.

➤ Accepted a new sewer ordinance and set a special "electors" meeting to present the new sewer ordinance to township citizens, along with an animal control ordinance that was updated and accepted by the board last year. Before the ordinances can

officially be enacted citizens must review the ordinances and give their recommendation for the town board to adopt them.

Next meetings

Local board of appeals and equalization meeting, Tuesday, May 6 at 1 p.m.

Special electors meeting to review new ordinances, Tuesday, May 20 at 5:30 p.m.

Regular board meeting, Tuesday, May 20 at 6 p.m.

All meetings will be held at the Tomsich Community Center.

March Breitung Police Report

Calls of service: 70 Citations: 3

1 adult male formal complaint for driving with a cancelled license, Inimical to Public Safety

1 adult male citation for speed (67 in a 50)

1 adult female citation for driving after revocation

• Seed Potatoes

• Onion Sets

• Lawn Seed

HIBBING FEED and SEED 262-3049

living well PHYSICAL THERAPY

- Individual Exercise

Pilates

Weight Training

Post Surgical Care

Back & Neck Pain

Headaches

TMD/TMJ/Jaw Pain
- Dry Needling

Graston

Cupping

Joint Manipulation

Kinesiology Tape

Myofascial Release

Running Analysis

TOWER & EVELETH  
218-481-7603

Cook VFW

GREAT FOOD!  
Everyone Welcome!

HAPPY HOUR: 3:30-6:30

THURS: 4:30-6:30  
WEEKLY SPECIALS

BINGO: 6:30  
Progressive Prizes

FRI: 4:30-7  
1/3 lb. Burgers

\$7

Take-Out 666-0500

206 1st St SW, Cook, MN

HEARTHESIDE CORNER



FIREPLACE SALES & SERVICE

Contact us for  
Fireplaces, Stove &  
Chimney Products,  
Installations, Inspections  
and Repair

218-365-5013

[hearthsidecorner@citlink.net](mailto:hearthsidecorner@citlink.net)



• On the Hiking / Biking Trails  
• Near Lake Vermilion,  
Fortune Bay Resort Casino and  
State Parks

Your Spring Getaway Destination!

- Comfortable Private Rooms
- Continental Breakfast



BOOK ONLINE: [vermilionparkinn@gmail.com](mailto:vermilionparkinn@gmail.com)  
218.753.2333 • 30 Center St., Soudan • [vermilionparkinn.com](http://vermilionparkinn.com)





# SPORTS

Serving northern  
St. Louis County  
since 1989

## SOFTBALL

# Second inning the charm for Ely in week’s action

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

TWOHARBORS — Give the Timberwolves an inning to warm up and then watch out. That was the message sent this past week as Ely blew back-to-back games wide open in the second inning.

On Friday, the Wolves exploded for nine runs in the second inning here as they went to crush Two Harbors

## Top Two Harbors and Chisholm in back-to-back blowouts

17-0 to improve to 4-2 on the season. Ely put up five runs in the first inning. Amelia Penke hit into a fielder’s choice that allowed a run to score, followed by an Ella Perish double that brought home two more. A Two Harbors error followed by a ground out by Makenzi Huntington added two more runs in the opening frame.

In the second, Clare Thomas, Ella Perish, Julia Zgonc, and Maija Mattson each hit RBI singles, and another run scored on a Two Harbors error. Peyton Huntington knocked in two runs with a single of her own, and Thomas iced the cake on her second time at the plate in the inning, with a two-run

triple.

The Timberwolves stacked on one more run in the third inning, thanks to another Two Harbors error, bringing the final score to 17-0.

On the mound, Zoe MacKenzie was lights out, pitching three straight shutout innings, allowing just two hits while striking out five

and issuing no walks. Naomi Archer came in for one inning of relief, surrendering one hit and striking out two. Ely racked up 14 hits on the afternoon.

**Ely 11, Chisholm 1**

Hosting Chisholm last Thursday, the Wolves used a six-run second inning to cruise to an 11-1 win over the

Bluestreaks.

Ely wasted no time getting on the board, with Thomas driving in the game’s first run with a single in the opening frame. In the second, Peyton Huntington and Mattson both delivered two-run singles, while the Wolves sent two more across the plate on a wild pitch.

Ely extended its lead

*See WOLVES...pg. 2B*



## BASEBALL

# Ely dominates North Woods

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

ELY- The North Woods baseball team traveled to Ely last Friday with hopes of avenging a pair of losses to the Wolves last season, but Ely hurler Owen Marolt put shackles on the bottom half of the Grizzlies’ order, collecting nine strikeouts in a 9-2 win.

Junior John Warren tried to jumpstart the Grizzlies’ offense with a solid leadoff double to right field, but following a Marolt strikeout, Ely second baseman Hunter Halbakken

snared a Talen Jarshaw liner and doubled-up Warren after he broke for third on the hit.

After a scoreless first, the Wolves took command with a four-run second inning. Sean Merriman reached first on a fielding error and advanced to third on a pair of passed balls, and Evan Leeson drew a walk from North Woods starter Jarshaw to put runners at the corners. Tyde Brecke looped a single to left field that scored Merriman, and Leeson and Brecke ended up on third and second. After a pair of strikeouts, Jarshaw loaded the bases by hitting Ben Leeson with a pitch,

**Top: North Woods’ Louie Panichi slides into second ahead of a tag by Ely second baseman Hunter Halbakken.**

**Right: Ely’s Owen Marolt winds up for a pitch during Friday’s game against North Woods.**

photos by D. Colburn

and a walk to Caid Chittum brought Evan Leeson home. Two more wild pitches resulted in two more Ely runs, giving the Wolves a 4-0 lead after two.

*See BASEBALL...pg. 2B*



## SOFTBALL

# Grizzlies slip to Rangers 5-3

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

MT. IRON- Early North Woods pitching problems gave Mt. Iron-Buhl a lead they wouldn’t relinquish last Thursday, as the Rangers defeated the Grizzlies softball team 5-3 in Mt. Iron.

Zoey Burckhardt took the mound for North Woods, and the first three Rangers batters worked the freshman hurler for walks. Two of those runners stole home for scores, while the third crossed the plate on a single to give MIB a 3-0 edge at the end of the first.

North Woods got on the board in the

*See NW GIRLS...pg. 2B*

## GOLF

# Area golfers show promise

VIRGINIA- Golf season has finally arrived, and the Northeast Range/Ely and North Woods girls squads teed it up last Thursday in the Rock Ridge ERC meet at the Virginia Golf Course.

NER/Ely didn’t field a four-player team to compete for the team title, but they would have fared well in the competition on the strength of performances by Maizy Sunblad, Carena Debeltz, and Danica Sunblad. Maizy Sunblad shot a nine-over-par 45 to finish fourth behind a trio of Rock Ridge golfers in the 38-player field. Debeltz finished four spots back in eighth with a 49, and Danica Sunblad tied for tenth with a round of 52.

Laurin Glass led the Grizzlies’ contingent with a 54, good enough for a three-way tie for 15th overall. Sophia Hoffman was close behind with another trio of golfers who tied for 18th with a 58. River Deatherage placed 29th and Kiley Kopatz finished 32nd as the Grizzlies finished fifth among six teams.

## BASEBALL

# Wolves win fifth straight in convincing fashion

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

ELY — The Timberwolves looked convincing in a three-game weekend home stand, allowing just five combined runs to improve to 6-1 and extend their winning streak to five games.

Hosting Cook County on Saturday, junior pitcher

Jack Davies dominated on the mound, allowing just five hits while striking out nine enroute to a 9-2 win over the Vikings.

Ben Leeson paced the Wolves’ offense with three hits and three runs scored, while Caid Chittum remained red-hot, delivering two doubles and four RBIs. Drew Johnson continued his stellar play, scoring three runs, stealing

three bases, and adding a hit.

“A good week for us despite not having much practice time,” said Ely Head Coach Frank Ivancich. “We’ve played more games than we’ve had outside practices so far this spring,” he added.

Playing at home on Friday, the Wolves dominated North Woods in a 9-2 win (see full story and photos above).

Hosting Deer River on Thursday, junior pitcher Hunter Halbakken continued his dominant stretch, earning his third straight victory as he scattered three hits and struck out eight to lead the Ely to a 5-1 win over the Warriors.

Offensively, Drew Johnson led the way with three hits and two runs scored, while Chittum added two hits,

including a double and an RBI. Sean Merriman chipped in two hits of his own as the Wolves racked up ten hits overall in the win. Deer River’s Preston Reed was tagged with the loss.

Ivancich lauded his team’s consistently strong pitching. “Hunter Halbakken continues to be very dominant, and sophomore Owen Marolt had an impressive week, picking

up two wins while striking out 15 and giving up only five hits in his two starts. Jack Davies was very good in his first start as well.”

Offensively, Ely has seen key contributions from Chittum and Johnson. “Caid Chittum, with eight hits and four doubles in his

*See ELY BOYS...pg. 2B*



## BREATHE NEW LIFE INTO YOUR HOME

Summer on the Iron Range offers the perfect opportunity to breathe new life into your home! It's the time to tackle those projects you've been dreaming about. From sprucing up your yard with a new deck, siding, windows or doors to renovating your kitchen or bath, the possibilities are endless when you tap into our team at Pohaki.



SERVICE. QUALITY. GOOD PEOPLE.

804 N. 6th Avenue | Virginia | 218.741.3014

pohaki.com



MAKING SENSE OF THE BUREAUCRACY

Learning to navigate Ely’s city government

ELY- Navigating Ely’s local government isn’t anyone’s idea of a sexy topic, but Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski packed the city council chambers here last month when he spoke on the subject as part of the Ely for Ely program.

Langowski’s foremost advice for interacting with city hall was simple: “Number one, if you have an issue or a concern, reach out.”

He encouraged residents to speak with city council members. If a councilor can’t help or provide an answer, “Reach out directly to me, Casey (Velcheff, assistant clerk), or any other city staff. I would say 99 times out of 100, we can resolve concerns or questions folks have right then and there.”

Langowski also said one of the city’s committees, boards, or commissions may already be set up to handle certain concerns. “If you have a grievance, inquiry, or general comment, consider whether there is an official committee



Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski spoke at the April Ely for Ely meeting on how to navigate Ely’s city government.

or commission pertaining to the topic. Then contact representatives on the committee or attend their public meeting.”

Langowski explained the confusing minefield of Ely’s numerous committees, commissions, and boards. “A committee is typically a group within an organization that provides or makes recommendations. A commission

is a group entrusted by the governing authority to carry out a specific task or function. And a board is a body with authority to make decisions and oversee operations in the city of Ely. The city council has the ultimate say over all committees and boards and commissions.”

**Where to find information**

Langowski pointed to the [ely.mn.us](http://ely.mn.us) website as a place to find information about the city, including:

- Minutes and agendas for the city council at [ely.mn.us/council-meetings/](http://ely.mn.us/council-meetings/).
- The role and composition of Ely’s committees, commissions, and boards at [ely.mn.us/boards/](http://ely.mn.us/boards/).
- City ordinances at [ely.mn.us/ordinances/](http://ely.mn.us/ordinances/).
- The city’s schedule for meetings at [ely.mn.us/meetings-calendar/](http://ely.mn.us/meetings-calendar/) and [ely.mn.us/boards/](http://ely.mn.us/boards/).

**Addressing the council**

Langowski had advice for those who wanted to address

the city council, explaining the council has two opportunities at each regular meeting for the public: during the “requests to appear” portion of the agenda and at the end of the meeting during the public forum.

He explained that requests to appear “are meant for local organizations and businesses ... to give the public an update as to what they’re doing and what their tasks are moving forward.” He cited the Ely Community Resource and League of Minnesota Cities as examples of groups with requests to appear.

Requests to appear need to be submitted to the clerk’s office by noon on the Friday before a city council meeting. Langowski remarked that it wasn’t the role of the clerk’s office to censor what individuals or groups wanted to present during a request to appear. However, he did state that any topic brought to the council should be “something that’s going to directly impact the citizens of the city of Ely.” Presenters have 15 minutes to

speak to the city council.

“Bringing a contentious political issue or grievance up during a request to appear is probably not your most productive use of time,” Langowski added. “The open forum at city council meetings is a better fit for individual remarks and commentary.” Before resorting to the open forum, Langowski advised: “First, email the city clerk’s office or the city councilors with grievances. The open forum should not be the first place to express concerns.”

Presenters during the open forum portion of a city council meeting have three minutes to speak to the council.

“Don’t expect the council to make a decision or to comment on what your three-minute presentation was,” Langowski cautioned, “because that is not how it works.”

Citizens wishing to speak during the open forum should give the request-to-speak form — available in the council chambers before each meeting

— to the staff member recording the minutes.

**Ely for Ely**

Langowski’s talk on navigating Ely’s city government is available to watch at [youtube.com/BoundaryWatersConnect/](https://youtube.com/BoundaryWatersConnect/) videos. His presentation was part of the Ely for Ely program, a monthly networking and professional development program for Ely-area entrepreneurs, nonprofit leaders, and interested community members.

Ely for Ely meetings start at 7:30 a.m. with facilitated networking and community followed by the educational program for the month. Consult [boundarywatersconnect.com/elyforely](http://boundarywatersconnect.com/elyforely) for the topics and locations of upcoming meetings. Ely for Ely events are free and do not require pre-registration to attend.

ELY SCHOOLS

Ely school board reviews early release program

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- A state-of-the-art professional development model for teachers got high marks at the Ely School Board meeting on Monday, as Superintendent Anne Oelke reviewed the first two years of the program with board members.

Instead of having four full days throughout the school year reserved for professional development, Ely switch to a model for the 2023-24 school

year of releasing students an hour early on Wednesdays using that time for teacher training activities. Most of the faculty was in favor of the switch.

Oelke reported on teacher feedback for the early release system.

“I asked the staff to give me what they felt were the benefits, the evidence they felt they saw, and to suggest some improvements that I can make moving forward,” Oelke said. “Focused development

and more consistency is what I heard from staff.”

Oelke provided a grid of teacher comments to the board on the early release program during the meeting.

As a result of the feedback, Oelke will present a revamped early release schedule to the board this summer.

“I’d like to come back in July or August and show the map of the whole year that’s more focused and planned.”

The district did explore whether cutting the early

release program and returning to the former full-day professional would save money. There was a small cost savings with the four-day model; however, staff felt that the benefits were really on the early releases, so the Finance Committee decided not to change.

In other matters, the school board:

- Reviewed the district’s plans to revamp the superintendent evaluation process.

School board chair Rochelle

Sjoberg and Oelke were using the Minnesota School Board Association’s evaluation model and forms and are adapting them to use in Ely. Sjoberg stated that before now, the superintendent evaluation process was “haphazard.”

Sjoberg commented, “I told Anne (Oelke) that I would like something structured and compliant, from not just the statutory perspective. Then, no matter who is in the board chair role, and no matter who is superintendent, the board

could pick up this evaluation packet and have all of the instructions and directions. It’s got the timeline for what you do each month and all the forms are.” Sjoberg also stated that she would like to see a parallel process put into place for the board to evaluate its own performance.

- Moved the date of the May study session to Tuesday, May 27, because of the Memorial Day holiday.

STREET RECONSTRUCTION

Harvey Street bid comes in under county estimate

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY — St. Louis County has awarded a \$4.214 million contract for the Harvey Street reconstruction to Casper Construction of Grand Rapids. The bid was 11.37 percent lower than the county engineer’s estimate for the work.

The project will replace

the pavement and utilities on Harvey Street from Central Avenue to Ninth Ave. E. Construction is expected to start on May 19 and finish by Oct. 11. The work is jointly funded by the county and the city of Ely.

The county solicited bids on April 3 and received four: \$4,214,000 from

Casper, \$4,251,811 from Utility Systems of America of Eveleth, \$4,337,292 from KGM Contractors of Angora, and \$4,442,600 from Northland Constructors of Duluth. Every bid came in under the county estimate of \$4,754,797.

The county awarded the project to Casper Construction

at its April 15 Committee of the Whole Meeting. The first preconstruction planning meeting is next week in Virginia.

The city of Ely’s portion of the project is budgeted for \$390,881. The city will replace the utilities along Harvey St. once the old pavement has been removed. The

city will also replace the water main by the Ely Senior Center and perform additional street repair on Conan St. between Second and Third Aves. E.

“We told the county to go ahead approve the work so long as the accepted bid did not exceed our budgeted cost by more than 10 percent,” Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold

Langowski told the *Timberjay*. “If it was over that, then the county would need to get the approval of the city council to go over that amount. But as you can see, they didn’t need to.”

BASEBALL...Continued from page 1B

Ely padded their lead in the third when Stig Majerus drew a leadoff walk and advanced to second on a sacrifice bunt by Merriman. Brecke smashed an RBI single to up the lead to 5-0.

The Grizzlies finally drew blood in the bottom of the fourth. Jarshaw ripped a one-out single to right, and advanced to third when a Marolt pickoff attempt sailed past first baseman Drew Johnson. Louie Panichi drew

a walk and stole second to put two runners in scoring position. Ceder Holman rapped a sharp grounder to Ely shortstop Chittum, who elected to throw to third in a failed attempt to tag Panichi. Jarshaw scored on the fielder’s choice. When Holman attempted to steal second the throw went into center field, allowing Panichi to score. Holman was gunned down at third, and a strikeout ended the inning, but the Grizzlies

were back in it at 5-2.

That was as close as North Woods would get, as Chittum scored in the bottom of the fourth and Drew Johnson, Ben Leeson and Chittum crossed the plate in the sixth to round out the 9-2 win.

Having had Jarshaw and Panichi play for him this past summer, Ely Head Coach Frank Ivancich said his squad didn’t take the Grizzlies lightly.

“Talen and Louie have

played with us, and that top of the order can hit,” Ivancich said. “Talen made some nice pitches, and we knew we were going to have our hands full with him. We knew if we just put the ball in play and forced some other guys to make some plays that we’d probably be OK. We’re not a team that’s going to hit a lot of doubles and triples and home runs, which means we’ve got to move some guys over, just put the ball in play.”

Ivancich said he was pleased to get six good innings from Marolt on the mound.

“He threw on Monday and came back today and we got some good work out of him,” Ivancich said. “He did his job.”

North Woods Head Coach Steve Baker was upbeat after the loss.

“I like the fact that we’re putting the ball in play, we’re making plays on defense, and our pitchers are getting better

every day,” Baker said. “Every phase of our game is getting better every game we play. Ely has the advantage of summer ball and a huge program, and they get way more time on the field than we do. It shows, but I was proud of the way our guys played. We’re going to take some lumps but we’ll continue to grow, and we hope to be peaking at the right time.”

ELY BOYS...Continued from page 1B

last five games, and Drew Johnson, with nine runs scored and seven hits in his last five games, have led the way for us,” said Ivancich.

Chittum has been especially impressive, amassing 10 hits in total and 11 RBIs in his last five games.

“However, three consecu-

tive game days definitely took a toll — we committed seven errors in our last two games after making only three errors in our first five.”

As the Timberwolves continue their busy schedule, the focus will be on staying sharp physically and mentally to keep the momentum rolling.

The Wolves’ planned Monday contest with South Ridge was postponed due to rain. They were set to take on Rock Ridge on Wednesday as

the *Timberjay* went to press. They’ll be back in action at Mt. Iron on Thursday.

WOLVES...Continued from page 1B

with four more runs in the third, fueled by RBI singles from Huntington, Thomas, and Amelia Penke. In total, the Timberwolves tallied nine hits on the day and drew seven walks, showing patience and

discipline at the plate.

Zoe MacKenzie earned the win for Ely, tossing three scoreless innings while allowing just two hits, striking out four, and walking three. Naomi Archer came on in

relief. Chisholm’s Avaya Fontaine took the loss, pitching four innings and giving up 11 runs (10 earned) on nine hits while striking out four and issuing seven walks.

At the plate, Penke led

the Timberwolves with three RBIs, going 1-for-2 from the cleanup spot. Huntington, Thomas, and Julia Zgonc each chipped in with two hits. Ely was especially aggressive on the base pads, notching a

remarkable 14 steals in the game. Huntington, Thomas, Zgonc, and Penke each had multiple steals. MacKenzie and Rylee Larsen also showed patience, each drawing two walks.

Ely was set to host North Woods on Thursday, with a 4 p.m. varsity start. They’ll travel to International Falls on Monday and head to Chisholm on Tuesday.

NW GIRLS...Continued from page 1B

second inning when Addison Burckhardt cranked a two-out double and came home after a single by eighth-grader Kayla Dougherty to make the score 3-1.

MIB collected a pair

of runs on consecutive RBI singles in the bottom half of the inning, but the Grizzlies stiffened and had consecutive three-up, three-down defensive stands to stay in the hunt.

The Grizzlies struck again

in the fifth when Addison Burckhardt reached on a walk, stole second and third, and scored on a Rory Bundy ground out to shortstop.

Continuing to stymie the Rangers’ offense, the

Grizzlies entered the top of the seventh needing three runs to tie the 5-2 contest. Addison Burckhardt drew a one-out walk, and Dougherty moved her over to third with a single. Burckhardt scored with a steal

of home on a passed ball, but the Rangers stopped the potential rally with a strikeout to end the game, 5-3.

Addison Burckhardt came on in relief in the second inning and collected seven

strikeouts in five innings of work. Hits were hard to come by in this one for North Woods, with Burckhardt’s double and Dougherty’s two singles the only times the Grizzlies put the ball in play.



## Obituaries and Death Notices



# Warren B. Kregness

Warren Ben Kregness, 95, of Superior, Wis., died on Sunday, April 27, 2025, at Aspirus Hospital in Duluth. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 3 in Bauman's Vermilion Funeral Home in Tower. A gathering of family and friends will begin at 10 a.m. Honorary pallbearers will be Warren's grandchildren. Family services are provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.

Warren was born on Feb. 9, 1930, in Duluth, to Ben and Thora Larsen Kregness. He graduated from Hermantown High School in 1948. Warren proudly served in the United States Marines from 1948 to 1951. He fought in the Korean War and earned two Purple Hearts; he was honorably discharged as a Staff Sergeant. He had the honor of participating in the Honor Flight Northland to Washington, D.C., in 2012.

Warren married Laurene Branwall, of Tower, in 1951 and they had four children. He worked at First American National Bank in Duluth from 1948-1967. In 1967, Warren and Laurene moved their family from Hermantown to Soudan, where they purchased the State Bank of Tower, the Tower-Soudan Agency, and the Falls Insurance Company. In 1992, he sold the businesses. In 1990, Warren built a home in Cape Coral, Fla., and would spend his winters there, leaving Minnesota after hunting season was over.

On Sept. 7, 1996, Warren married Kathleen Horner Williamson, of Duluth. In 2000, they sold their Florida home and became residents

of Superior, Wis., to be closer to family and friends. Warren was an avid hunter and fisherman. He was also a commercial pilot who owned and flew his planes to the Arctic and the cabin on Hope Lake in Kenora, Ontario, Canada. He was a member of the Birdwatchers' Duck Camp in Squaw Lake and a deer camp on Lake Vermilion. Warren also enjoyed time in his workshop building gifts for family members and doing many carpentry projects and repairs. He looked forward to his outings with his good friend Bob Sederberg, and saunas at the Kitchi.

Warren is survived by his wife, Kathleen; children, Scott (Marilyn) Kregness of Port Charlotte, Fla., and Tower, Jorgine Gornick of Soudan, Karen (Ward) Patterson of Port Charlotte, Fla. and Barb (Steve) Burgess of Tower; grandchildren, Sean (Allison) Kregness, Sara (Steve) Colberg, Nichole (Bryan) Chiabotti, Aaron Gornick, Jillian (Mike) Anderson, Cheri (Dean) DeBeltz, Alaina (Dustin) George, Brynn (Patrick) Rhodes and Alli (Ryan) Harasyn; great-grandchildren, Bria (Chase Kleppe) Chiabotti, Jared Chiabotti, Kaden and Kaleb Gornick, Joey and Jacie Lakoskey, Chloe and Jack Anderson, Carena and Cylvia DeBeltz, Hunter (Meghan), Kimber, Ruger and Jagger Carpenter, Sammy and Sophie Harasyn, Lyra and Julian Kregness and Thomas and Lucy Colberg; stepchildren, Patti Williamson of Phoenix, Ariz., and Scott (Lori) Williamson of Superior; step-grandchildren, Kathryn (John) Tidenberg, Erik, Niklas, Seth and Luke; and many extended and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; former wife and mother of his children, Laurene Kregness; sister, Frances who died in infancy; and son-in-law, Franklin Gornick.

**Dolores M.  
Cederholm**

Dolores M. Cederholm,  
95, of Babbitt, passed away  
on Saturday, April 26, 2025.

at Babbitt Carefree Living. Funeral arrangements are pending with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.



## Jody A. King

With heavy hearts, we share the unexpected passing of Jody April King, 49, of Cook, on Saturday, April 20, 2025. Her loss leaves a space that cannot be filled and she will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 10 at Mlakser Funeral Home in Cook. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service. Lunch and fellowship will follow at the VFW in Cook.

Jody was born in Virginia to Rocky and Glory King on Easter Sunday, April 18, 1976. She graduated from Cook High School in 1994 and went on to obtain her nursing degree from Lake Superior College. She was a proud mother and grandmother, devoted daughter, beloved sister, and treasured friend to many.

Jody's bright eyes, beautiful smile, and infectious laugh left a lasting impression on everyone she met. She had a way of lighting up any room she entered. She was beautiful inside and out. Her straightforward, matter-of-fact personality was as refreshing as it was unforgettable. She loved fiercely and was a loyal friend to many. Jody was always the

first to show up when someone needed help or when life took a hard turn; her care and presence was constant in the lives of those she loved.

Jody loved those around her with her whole heart - her friends, her family, her three children, Shania, Gavin and Kennedy, and especially her four grandchildren, Melody, Isabella, Jackson and Amelia, who brought her immense joy.

Jody spent many years living and working in Duluth as a nurse, forming lasting friendships and touching many lives. She later made her home in Cook, where she embraced a slower pace and the beauty of small-town life. Jody enjoyed golfing when she got the chance, spending time at the casino, cheering on the Minnesota Vikings, and soaking up the sun. And when she needed quietude, she always found serenity in her favorite place, in a long hot bath.

Her intense love for her family and friends, and enduring strength, will never be forgotten. Her memory lives on in the hearts of those who loved her.

Jody is survived by her children, Shania Esala-Shoars (Allen Shoars) of Blaine, Kennedy (Tony) Chesser of Hoyt Lakes and Gavin Esala (fiancé Cassandra Celley) of Eveleth; grandchildren, Melody Esala, Isabella Esala, Jackson Shoars and Amelia Shoars, all of Blaine; parents, Rocky and Glory King of Cook; sister, Roxie (Jason) Wefel of Duluth; niece, Bryanna Wefel of St. Cloud; nephew, Payton Wefel of Hopkins; grandmother, Audrey Armagost of Cook; and many loving aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Kenneth Hill, Clark Armagost, Marianne (Hoffer) King, Warren King and Judy King; uncle, Terry King; and cousin, James Krank.

such as hunting weekends  
and golf.

Jim is survived by his loving wife, Kathy; daughter, Sara Tait; sons, Jay Smrekar and Jack (Amy) Smrekar; and grandchildren, Grace and Jack Tait, Tatiana and Jesse (Danielle) Smrekar, and Maya Smrekar.



## Pearl H. Koskela

Pearl Helen Koskela, 87, of Embarrass, passed away on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at Essentia Hospital in Virginia. A small celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Pearl was born on May 7, 1937, to Harry and Esther Windells in Sebek. Pearl was married to Harold Butzin and raised her two sons in Embarrass. She was later married to Richard Koskela until his death. She remained in Embarrass until she was hospitalized just before her passing. Pearl enjoyed playing guitar music and multiple crafts.

Pearl is survived by her sons, Timothy of Granite Falls and Russell of Embarrass; five grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; five great-great grandchildren; and two sisters, Alice and Martha.

She was preceded in death by her brothers, Clyde and Harvey; parents; and many beloved family and friends.

# Keep it Clean, ST. LOUIS COUNTY

## AURORA TRANSFER STATION

5910 Hwy 135 N, Aurora

Mon, Thu, Fri: 8 a.m.–4 p.m.  
Tue, Wed: 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

## EMBARRASS CANISTER SITE

7530 Koski Rd, Embarrass

Thu: 10 a.m.– 5 p.m.  
Sat: 12:30 p.m.– 4:30 p.m.

## NORTHWOODS TRANSFER STATION

9384 Hwy 21 N, Ely/Babbitt

**SUMMER HOURS**  
Mon, Thu-Sat: 8 a.m.–3 p.m.  
Tue: 9:30 a.m.–3 p.m.  
Wed: Noon–6 p.m.

## SOUDAN CANISTER SITE

5160 Hwy 169, Soudan

Mon, Wed, Sat, Sun:  
8 a.m.–5 p.m.

## REGIONAL LANDFILL

5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia

Mon-Fri: 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.  
Sat: 8 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITY

5345 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia

Tues and Sat: 8 a.m.–1 p.m.

**ST. LOUIS COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

218-471-7703 | OFFICE HOURS MON - FRI 8 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Summer hours effective April 15 - September 30

© 2024 St. Louis County, All Rights Reserved







# Outdoors

Our lives in the Northwoods

FEDERAL CUTBACKS

## Forest Service won't issue BWCAW permits in Ely

Federal budget cuts will push more of the burden to outfitters

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— With most lakes in the Boundary Waters now clearing of ice, the official paddling season is just getting underway. Yet, as canoeists begin to arrive in the North Country, the Kawishiwi Ranger District— long the busiest permitting station serving the BWCAW— will

no longer issue permits for overnight camping within the wilderness.

Forest Service spokesperson Joy Vandrie was not allowed to respond to questions regarding the rationale for the change. But outfitters who had spoken to forest service officials indicated that the change is due to budget cuts.

With the change, the burden of issuing wilderness

permits will now fall to local outfitters, known as “cooperators” in forest service parlance. Most cooperators have been issuing Boundary Waters permits for years, although in considerably fewer numbers than what they can anticipate starting this weekend, now that the overnight quota season is underway.

“It’s a little hard to know how much of an impact it will have on us,” said Drew

**BWCAW users won’t be able to pick up permits at the USFS office in Ely due to budget cuts.**

Brockett, outfitting manager at Piragis Northwoods Co. in Ely. As one of the largest and best-known outfitters in the Ely area, Piragis already issues about 1,500 permits a year, either to custom-

See PERMITS...pg. 5B



LIFE WITH CHICKENS

## The wrecking crew

My chickens love to free range, but they’re a disaster in the garden

As soon as they see me, it starts. The relentless pacing back and forth, the noisy complaints, all pressuring me to give in to their seemingly endless desire for just one thing.

My chickens live to free range. Mind you, they have a very spacious coop, dry and draft-free in winter, along with a 100 square-foot run complete with a built-in jungle gym thanks to a few log poles at odd angles I’ve installed for their entertainment. These chickens have it made, but as with most sentient creatures, there’s always a desire for more. And while chickens may have a reputation as none too bright, I’ve spent enough time around my ten ladies to know better. They know what they want and they know how to get it.

If I’m out working in the yard or the garden, they never stop working me. “Come on, you’re right there, what’s the worst that could happen?” they seem to chide me, until I finally relent. I open the

door to their run and they come charging out like a herd of buffalo, wings flapping in a mad dash to be the first one to the compost pile.

Chickens have been called feathered hogs and that’s probably fair since they seem willing to eat just about anything. And that’s part of the reason they spend more time in their run than they’d like.

We live in the middle of a very large forest that is home to predators of almost every kind, but other than losing a rooster two years ago to what I suspect was an owl, I’ve never had any issues with predators. It probably helps that I keep our dog Loki in the yard when the chickens are out. He’s good with the chickens and I figure that he’ll chase away any predator that comes around.

These days, I’m much less afraid of predators than I am of the damage that chickens can do, mostly to my garden, where I’ve already started some early planting in my raised beds. As I’ve learned the hard way, chickens can rip up a garden bed in minutes if left to

**Top: The chickens pour out of their outdoor run, eager to free range in the yard.**

**Below: The chickens go through their paces as they plead to be let out, where they can lay waste to my gardening efforts.**



their own devices, so you really can’t turn your back on them.

Somewhere, before I had chickens of my own, I had read a story suggesting that chickens were the perfect complement to gardeners everywhere as they would carefully glean through your garden plants, picking out the worms from the broccoli and cabbages and the slugs from the lettuce, while leaving your plants in

near-perfect condition. It sounded idyllic and I imagined my chickens and I working the homestead together in near perfect harmony. What bollocks! They’ll eat the cabbage worms all right and leave shredded or uprooted stalks of anything else that gets in their way. Give them half an hour and they’ll have the garden looking like a war zone.

See CHICKENS...pg. 5B

PIKE RIVER

## Hatchery egg take wraps up in just five days

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

PIKE RIVER HATCHERY— A late start usually means a quick end to the walleye egg harvest and that was certainly the case this year as DNR fisheries staff here wrapped up their work in just five days.

The cool April weather made for persistent ice and slowed the increase in water temperatures that typically spur the spring walleye run. As the fisheries staff grew tired of waiting, they had to break and cut ice with a chain saw last week to get the nets in place. “We dropped the nets on April 21 and started taking eggs that Wednesday,” said Brent Flaten, hatchery manager.

Sunny and warm temperatures last Saturday helped push water temperatures to 46 degrees, said Flaten, and that seemed to spark quicker ripening of the walleye eggs. The longer daylength likely also contributed to the walleye run.

Hatchery staff collected nearly 600 quarts of eggs during the five days, slightly above their quota of 550 quarts. The vast majority of those eggs will be hatched into fry, at which point they’ll be used for stocking dozens of lakes within the Hudson Bay drainage. The largest percentage will be returned to Lake Vermilion.

A few fry will be directed to rearing ponds in southern Minnesota for stocking in lakes that see better success with fingerlings.

### Outdoors briefly

#### May 2 is last day to apply for bear permit lottery

REGIONAL— If you were planning to enter the lottery for a bear permit for this fall’s hunt, you’d better get to it. You have until the end of today, Friday, May 2, to apply for a DNR permit for the 2025 season.

You can submit your application online, at any license agent or by telephone at 888-665-4236.

A total of 4,605 licenses are available across the 15 quota areas where licenses are limited for the 2025 season, which opens Monday, Sept. 1, and closes Sunday, Oct. 12. Lottery winners will be notified by Sunday, June 1. The deadline to purchase bear hunting licenses awarded by lottery is Friday, Aug. 1. Any remaining unpurchased licenses will be available over the counter starting at noon on Wednesday, Aug. 6.

An unlimited number of bear licenses will be sold over the counter for the no-quota area that includes east-central and far northwestern Minnesota. No-quota licenses are valid only in the no-quota area.

Complete instructions about how to apply for a bear hunting license, maps of permit areas and a listing of permit availability for each area are available on the Minnesota DNR website (mndnr.gov/hunting/bear).



MARSHALL HELMBERGER



PERMITS...Continued from page 4B

ers being outfitted or other Boundary Waters users who are looking for an alternative pick-up location. Brockett said those looking to get an early start often prefer the 6 a.m. opening at Piragis over the 8 a.m. start at the Kawishiwi District office.

He said he doesn't view the change as a major hassle, but notes that Piragis will likely need to train more employees in the permit issuing process, which takes about 20 minutes to complete since permit holders are required to watch a video about reducing their wilderness impact among other steps. "It's for sure going to be a burden, but how much of a burden is TBD," said Brockett.

Considering that the Kawishiwi office anticipated issuing about 3,800 permits this summer, that's more than

1,250 hours of staff time that Ely area outfitters will now need to absorb, some a lot more than others. While the cooperators are allowed to charge \$2 for each permit they issue, Jason Zabokrtsky of the Ely Outfitting Co. said most don't charge since the time it takes to collect the modest fee isn't worth it. Zabokrtsky said his company has typically issued permits solely for his outfitting customers so the sudden decision will require some quick adjustments.

Zabokrtsky said outfitters would have benefitted from more notice of the change. Most were informed April 23, with just a week to go until the start of the season. While the forest service had discussed the possibility of ending permit issuing on weekends, Zabokrtsky said this was the first he had heard

that they were going to end issuing permits altogether. He said forest service staff made it clear that the decision was not something that had been in the works but was the result "of recent events."

He said some outfitters may have to put on extra staff to make sure that permit issuing doesn't conflict with their service to their outfitting clients.

Zabokrtsky said some of the outfitters that have large retail operations in addition to outfitting could benefit from the change, as it might bring more foot traffic into their stores.

"We hope they'll come into the store," agreed Brockett, since Piragis operates a large retail facility at the corner of Sheridan St. and Central Ave. But he notes that the outfitting portion of the

business is located outside in back of the store, so it's unclear how many of those customers will come into the store once they're loaded up and ready to go.

Perhaps surprisingly, the change doesn't affect every ranger district on the Superior. Wilderness users will still be able to pick up BWCAW overnight permits at the LaCroix office in Cook and the Laurentian district office in Aurora. They can also pick up their permit at either the Superior headquarters in Duluth or at the district office in Tofte. Those communities don't have outfitters or other cooperators that can provide the alternative pick-up location.

**A hassle for users**

The sudden change will require those who had planned to pick up permits at the

Kawishiwi or Gunflint district offices to go back to recreation.gov and select a new permit pick-up location. The forest service was supposed to be sending out emails ahead of May 1 to those who had indicated plans to pick up permits at the two district offices, notifying them of the need to select a new location.

"It's a lot of impacted groups," said Zabokrtsky.

**More changes ahead?**

The decision to end BWCAW permit issuing on the Superior's busiest two ranger districts caught some outfitters by surprise and left them wondering what might be next. "Managing and issuing Boundary Waters permits has always been a core function of the forest service," said Zabokrtsky. "Delegating that core function seems really significant, makes me wonder

what other core functions could change in the future."

Zabokrtsky noted that the forest service doesn't have many opportunities to engage face-to-face with wilderness users, except for when a wilderness user comes to pick up a permit. "It's a significant change to no longer have that opportunity," he said.

The experience of Boundary Waters users could also change. Forest service officials have told outfitters that their focus of their efforts in the wilderness this year would be on "health and safety" rather than on portage clearing and campsite protection. How that change in focus will impact the wilderness experience remains to be seen.

Outdoors in brief

New name, same mission for Volunteer Connection

REGIONAL — Northwoods Volunteer Connection is excited to announce that it is now Friends of the Superior National Forest, a name that better reflects its mission to support, protect, and enhance the region's national forest through volunteer stewardship and partnerships.

For years, Northwoods Volunteer Connection has engaged volunteers and partners in trail maintenance, conservation projects, and outdoor stewardship. As the organization grows, the new name, Friends of the Superior National Forest, will help clarify its mission and strengthen its connection to the land and community.

This change comes at a critical time. Recent budget cuts and mass layoffs within the U.S. Forest Service have drastically reduced resources for trail maintenance and conservation efforts, placing an even greater burden on volunteers and partner organizations. Friends of the Superior National Forest will play a key role in bridging the gap, ensuring that the forest remains accessible and well cared for despite these challenges.

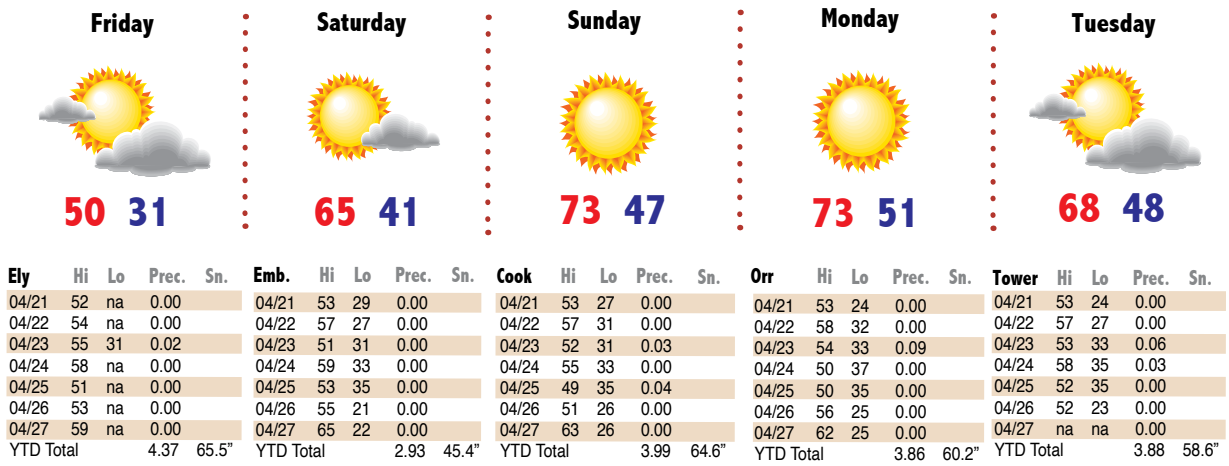
To learn more, get involved, or sign up for volunteer opportunities, visit [friendssnf.org](http://friendssnf.org) and be part of this new chapter in stewarding the Superior National Forest.

READ

the Timberjay!

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather



CHICKENS...Continued from page 4B

I've learned to watch them closely when they're out on a rampage, but sometimes even that isn't enough. The other evening, I was planting some lettuce that had grown too big for the six-pack tray I'd started it in back in late March. The chickens had convinced me to let them out a half hour earlier and I was already beginning to regret it as I had to chase them out of one raised bed after another. Chickens love to dig for their supper (hog tendencies, again) and left alone they would quickly excavate all the dirt from my 11 raised beds into the nice wood-chip-lined paths that surround them. I knew if they found the freshly planted lettuce, they'd be

all over it like piranha.

I chased them all well away to other parts of the yard when I had to step away for a moment. I have portable mini-hoophouses that I can move from bed-to-bed to provide extra protection in the very early season, and I had the structure already in place but needed a section of cloth row cover to put over it. I had stuffed the row covers from last year in a big bin in the garage so I walked quickly into the garage to grab one the right size.

It took a minute or so, but I figured the chickens were occupied elsewhere.

I was so wrong. I walked out of the garage to the sight of four chickens

very excitedly devouring all my freshly planted lettuce. I yelled but they couldn't have cared less. By the time I made it over there, I was steaming, ready to drop kick one of them, but they knew I was gunning for them and all darted away in different directions when I got within punting range. I surveyed the damage and it was total devastation, every plant save one was gnawed right to the ground.

I was mad, but I also knew it had been my own fault. Chickens aren't going to be anything other than chickens, and I should have known better. I spent the next night running a chicken wire fence around my entire garden. I hope they take it personally.

CLEAN.DRAIN.DRY.

CLEAN

Boats, trailers, and gear

Remove all weeds, mud, and hitchhiking contaminants from axles, wheels, undercarriage, motor, prop, nets, and gear before leaving boat landing

DRAIN

Water from boat, bilge, motor, and live well

Remove drain plug and open all water draining devices

Trash unused bait

DRY

Everything at least five days before going to other waters

(Or) Decontaminate with high pressure water (120°F or warmer)

STOP INVASIVE SPECIES!

LEARN MORE AT [CLEANDRAIN.DRY.ORG](http://CLEANDRAIN.DRY.ORG)



EMPLOYMENT

Arrowhead Library System  
Bookmobile Driver (Part-time)

The Arrowhead Library System Bookmobile operates on a three-week rotating schedule visiting stops in St. Louis, Carlton, Itasca, and Koochiching Counties. The part-time driver will be scheduled to work one-two days per week (up to 14 hours per shift). The 2025 starting pay rate is \$19.13/hr.

To apply, go to alslib.info then click on ABOUT US (on the blue bar) then click on Employment Opportunities on the left menu list for the job description and application form. Send application, resume and cover letter to: Mollie Stanford, Executive Director, Arrowhead Library System, 5528 Emerald Ave., Mt. Iron, MN 55768, phone 218-741-3840, email: als@alslib.info. Open until filled. EEOA. 5/9

NORTH AMERICAN  
BEAR  
CENTER  
BOOKKEEPER

The North American Bear Center is currently seeking a Bookkeeper to join our team! We have a great opportunity for a bookkeeper looking to work year round. Hours will be weekdays/dayshift. This position requires someone that has strong attention to detail, accounting software knowledge, and communication skills. Come be a part of our team and join our friendly and exciting work environment!

Skills & Duties

Knowledge of payables, budgeting and accounting • Experience in Excel and Quickbooks • Strong organizational skills and attention to detail • Meeting deadlines and prioritizing tasks • Reconciling bank statements • Overseeing daily reports • End of Day reporting • Monitor cash control • Communication skills

Qualifications

High School Diploma/GED • Valid Driver's License • Accounting Software Proficiency • Strong Math and Data Entry Skills

If interested, please apply in person Mon-Fri 8am-3pm or email your resume to mhietala@bear.org. 5/9

JOB OPENING – CITY OF ORR  
Visitor Center Info Specialist/Office Asst.

The City of Orr is seeking a customer service and team-oriented individual for the position of Visitor Information Specialist/Office Assistant. This is a part-time, seasonal position May-August. Primary duties include greeting and assisting visitors, ordering and stocking brochures, maintaining facility cleanliness and general office duties. Successful candidates will have knowledge of the area and possess the ability to work with the public. Must pass drug test, background and credit checks. The City of Orr is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

To obtain an application, contact the Orr City Hall, 4429 Hwy 53, PO Box 237, Orr, MN 55771 at 218-757-3288; or email: orrmn@centurytel.net Position will remain open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, May 2 & 9, 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

Greenwood  
Township MN  
Re-Roofing  
of Township  
Community Building  
/ Fire Hall  
ADVERTISEMENT  
FOR BID

The Greenwood Township MN Board of Supervisors is requesting bids for re-roofing of the Township Buildings. Bids will be received until 12:00 Noon May 13, 2025 at the Township Hall located at 3000 County Road 77, Tower MN 55790. Bids will be opened and read at the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors scheduled for 6:30 P.M. on May 13, 2025. Bids shall be addressed to Clerk Greenwood Township 3000 County Road 77 Tower MN 55790 The Township will review the bids for conformity and

act at the Regular Township Board meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 13, 2025 @ 6:30.

The Township reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to Waive any informalities in the bidding and to award the contract in the best interest of the Township.

Bidding Documents may be obtained from the Township Clerk by calling 218-753-2231 Debby Spicer, Greenwood Township Clerk

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

Official Publication  
St. Louis County Schools  
ISD# 2142  
1701 North 9th Avenue  
Virginia, MN 55792  
ADVERTISEMENT FOR  
PROPOSALS

The Board of Education, St. Louis County Schools ISD 2142, will receive digital proposals on the following:

Prime Vendor, Grocery until 10 am 5/23/2025, at justinolson@isd2142.k12.mn.us

Copies of the Request for Proposal are available free of charge. Please contact Justin Olson via email at justinolson@isd2142.k12.mn.us to request the proposal. Instruction on how to

submit a response is contained in the RFP materials.

No Vendor may withdraw his/her proposal within thirty (30) days after date of opening proposals without the consent of the Board of Education.

ISD 2142 reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive informalities in bidding of advertisement. ISD 2142 reserves the right to select the proposal that best meets the needs of the ISD 2142 schools pursuant to M.S. 471.6161.

Published in the Timberjay, May 2 & 9, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

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?

- O Yes
- O 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  
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 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Saturday, May 10, 2025 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Monday, May 12, 2025 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Polling Places:

Virginia Government Services Center  
201 South 3rd Avenue West  
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

GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP

Reminder: Greenwood Township shall hold a Board of Audit Meeting on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, immediately following the Regular Board Meeting that begins at 6:30 pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to examine and audit the Township accounts.

The Public is welcome to attend and observe.

Answers

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

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 German sausage
- 6 Hoops great Curry
- 11 More minus-cule
- 12 Succeed
- 14 Ridiculous
- 15 Eventually
- 16 Bygone bird
- 17 Valleys
- 19 Pensioned (Abbr.)
- 20 Taking action
- 22 Label
- 23 Corrida bull
- 24 Tennis star Rafael
- 26 Dessert that jiggles
- 28 Violin tuner
- 30 Novelist Deighton
- 31 "The Peasant Dance" painter
- 35 Everglades wader
- 39 Give temporarily
- 40 Lumber unit
- 42 Wrestling style
- 43 "Nasty!"
- 44 Thread holder
- 46 Damage
- 47 South Carolina river

	1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	
11							12					13
14							15					
16					17		18				19	
20				21		22				23		
24					25		26		27			
				28		29		30				
31	32	33				34		35		36	37	38
39					40		41		42			
43					44			45		46		
47				48				49		50		
51								52				
	53							54				

- 49 La Brea attraction
- 51 Oral
- 52 Moving vehicles?
- 53 Ceases
- 54 Garlic crusher
- 7 Catches some rays
- 8 Tolkien creature
- 9 Christie sleuth
- 10 Arm bones
- 11 Shakespeare's " — of Athens"
- 13 Rockies range
- 18 Trail the pack
- 21 Recorded
- 23 Zesty flavors
- 25 Pants part
- 27 Director Spike
- 29 Smooth writing imple-ments
- 31 Ecstasy
- 32 Summaries
- 33 Detangle
- 34 Brit's restroom
- 36 Ado
- 37 Inbox fillers
- 38 Civil wrongs
- 41 Arose
- 44 Ooze
- 45 Cowardly Lion
- 48 Ring decision
- 50 Arctic explorer John

© 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

Weekly SUDOKU

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

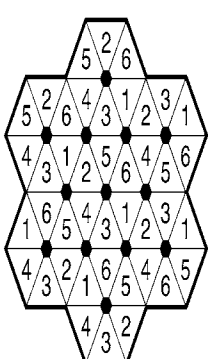
Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

© 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

SNOWFLAKES  
solution



CryptoQuote  
answer

Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need, but not every man's greed.  
- Gandhi

CryptoQuip  
answer

If Russian spacewalkers need to tie off ropes, what do you think they will make? Cosmo-knots.

Word Spiral  
Answer  
UNBUCKLES

Get  
Results!



Advertise  
in the  
Timberjay!





# TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

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

## AUTOMOTIVE

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

## SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## HAIR CARE

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

## PET CREMATION

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

## WANTED

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

## GARAGE SALE

ELY'S CITY-WIDE RUMMAGE, BUSINESS CRAZY DAY and Used Equipment & Watercraft Sale on Saturday, May 17, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Many rummage sales and special deals at local retailers. Maps available on May 14 at the Ely Chamber of Commerce, 1600 E Sheridan St and at Ely.org/citywide. 5/9

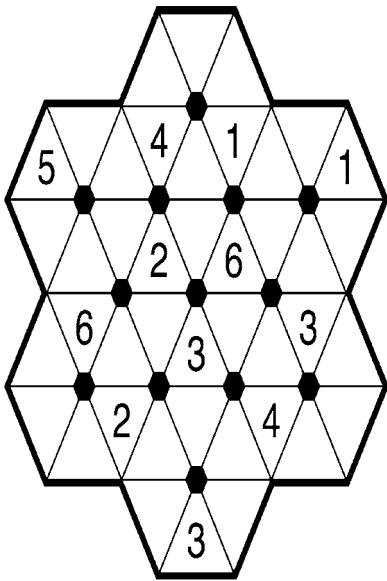
## MARINE

HARBORMASTER 3,000 LB. ALUMINUM cantilever boat lift. \$1,500 OBO. Lake Vermilion. 218-750-4646 5/9p

**WANTED**  
**OLD CEMENT MIXER**  
Junker is OK  
**Call 218-666-2750** 5/2p

**SNOWFLAKES**  
by Japheth Light

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



**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ♦

♦ Easy ♦♦ Medium ♦♦♦ Difficult

© 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

## CryptoQuip

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

Clue: R equals S

UV ZNRUXM RHXTYEXKBYZR  
MYYG LQ LUY QVV ZQHYR,  
EDXL GQ OQN LDUMB LDYO  
EUKK CXBY? TQRCQ-BMQLR.

©2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

## Answer

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

## Try out the Timberjay classifieds

Line classifieds cost 30¢/word, \$6.00 minimum. Classified ads can be run a second time at half price (private parties only).

We now accept payment by Visa, Mastercard, AmEx, and Discover.

Call your ad in to 218-753-2950. Display (boxed) classifieds are billed by the "inch"- please call for prices and information on discounts.

Call Today – 218-753-2950

## MARINE

### MOCCASIN POINT MARINE

4655 Moccasin Point Rd  
Lake Vermilion  
**218-753-3319**

Storage, Boat Rentals,  
Service/Repairs/Sales  
Mechanic on Duty

moccasinpointmarine.com



### MERCURY OUTBOARDS

Frank's Marine  
Sales & Service

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

**ARONSON BOAT WORKS**  
LAKE VERMILION, TOWER  
Located two miles southwest  
of Tower on Hwy. 169  
Winter Hours Start Nov. 1:  
Mon-Fri: 9 AM-5 PM  
Sat & Sun: Closed  
MERCURY LUND HARBORMASTER  
Storage • Complete Service • Sales

Since 1926  
**Handberg's MARINA**  
& GENERAL STORE  
Boat Sales, Service  
& Storage  
YAMAHA MERCURY  
218-993-2214 • handbergs.com  
Crane Lake, MN

Your local source for news,  
music and entertainment!

91.7fm KAXE  
90.5fm KBXE  
Northern Community Radio

**91.7fm - Grand Rapids**  
**90.5fm - Bemidji**  
**89.9fm - Brainerd**  
**kaxe.org**

## We Buy Houses For Cash!

Liz Buys Houses Connects Home Sellers  
with Legitimate Cash Buyers Nationwide!  
**No Repairs. No Fuss.**



- Fair Cash Offer
- No House Repairs
- Quick Closing
- Simple Home Sale
- No Realtor Fees
- Convenient Closing Date

**Call (844) 978-0683**

## 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.

ATPIM QPLYSHAG AULEDM IL

GTISGRX AYAPX JTU'G UAAH,

FEI ULI AYAPX JTU'G DPAAH.

- DTUHMS

©2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

# Super Crossword

## TRIPLE-E PLAY

### ACROSS

1 Degrade

6 Sandler of

10 Adverse fate

14 Birch's cousin

19 Bob of

20 It uses poses

called asanas

21 "Waterloo"

group

22 Wife of

Gorbachev

23 Paper version

of an online

publication,

informally

26 Cairo's home

27 1989 Series

champs

28 Share the

same view

30 Region of

northern

France

33 That man's

35 The "P"

of S&P

36 Assessment

of a worker's

performance

42 Moon

goddess

43 Dernier —

(latest thing)

44 Patronage:

Var.

45 Befuddled

49 Give rise to

50 Hearty

brunch

dishes

54 People with

clout

55 That woman

56 NBC TV inits.

57 The "S" of

RSVP

58 Pi follower

59 Port in Italia

62 Moore of the

Brat Pack

65 San —

(certain

Californian)

67 Christmas

carol whose

titular flower

symbolizes

Mary

72 Hindu god

incarnate

73 — bene

74 Brainpower

75 TV's Turner

76 Q followers

78 Curve part

80 Geller of

psychic acts

81 Just out

84 Portrayer

of Rainbow

Johnson on

"Black-ish"

89 Clan

91 Kett of

comics

92 Bona fide

93 Lamb nurser

94 Israeli money

95 "Sixteen

Tons"

hitmaker of

1955

100 See

123-Across

102 Hi-fi discs

103 Sets off to

the right of

the margin

104 Fish also

called "unagi"

109 Fury

110 Root in

perfumery

111 R.E.M.'s

debut single

117 Garlic

mayonnaise

118 Old overlord

119 Pub projectile

120 Rapids craft

121 Jam-packed

122 "Don't

look —!"

123 With

100-Across,

sailor's

greeting

124 Flee to marry

### DOWN

1 Tack on

2 "Later!"

3 Styled like

4 Sob stories

5 Make a king

6 Sailor's

positive reply

7 Performs

8 Era

9 Furious

10 Itinerary info

11 Big Apple

stage award

12 Wind quintet

instrument

13 Lots of

14 Playground

retort

15 Like a

shallow bay

in an atoll

16 Handy sort

17 Some sports

awards

18 Per-unit cost

24 Color again,

as hair

25 Rae of

"Insecure"

29 Start for

glottis or Pen

30 Joe of "Home

Alone"

31 "To clarify ..."

32 Grade just

above

average

33 Man,

in Berlin

34 Wall-climbing

plants

37 Level of

rank

38 Actress

Sobieski

39 Fleece-lined

boot brand

40 Insurance co.

bailed out

in 2008

41 General —

chicken

46 1994 French

Open winner

Bruguera

47 Actor Hawke

48 "I feel —

coming on!"

50 Thunder god

51 Makes

lovable

52 Olympic

skater Ito

53 "The Waste

Land" poet

55 Scanty

59 "Fat chance!"

60 Enlightened

61 Kin of "equi—"

63 Wifely title

64 Early PC op-

erator, often

66 Gp. activated

by a 911 call

67 Espresso

with hot milk

68 Undisguised

69 Attacked

70 Sells online

71 Metallica

drummer

Ulrich

77 Beach bird

79 Inch along

81 Pentax rival





# HOME IMPROVEMENT GUIDE



## Time For A New Dock?



**2x6-6 ft Cedar Dock Boards**

**\$10.99** cash and carry while supplies last



FROM CABINS TO CASTLES  
COOK BUILDING CENTER

**Phone/Fax: 218.666.5344**  
Hours: Mon-Fri: 7-5, Closed Wknds.  
(Starting May 11: Open Saturday 8-Noon)  
info@cookbuildingcenter.com

Trusted. Local. Experts



**VERMILLION ROOFING.com**

218-800-ROOF • Insured • License #BC785662

## CSI Construction

Building Movers & Recyclers  
Moving & Leveling  
Foundations & Demolition



Structures  
Buy-Sell-Move  
Cabins - Garages - Homes  
Sheds & Other Structures

218-348-8209 | cichservices@gmail.com



**VERMILLION TREE SERVICE LLC**

Joshua Hasbrook-Owner  
218-780-1572

- TREE REMOVAL
- TREE TRIMMING
- FIREWOOD
- LAND CLEARING
- BRUSH/DEBRIS REMOVAL

**24/7 EMERGENCY SERVICE**

www.vermiliontreeservice.com



**UP NORTH AUTO GLASS**  
FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED

**Auto Glass • Serving Northeastern MN**  
Repair / Replacement / ADAS Recalibrations

*Local technician serving the Tower area for over 5 years*

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

For all your  
**HEATING, PLUMBING**  
and  
**AIR CONDITIONING** needs...



**We're the Professionals!**

**Heisel Bros.** HOURS: M-F 8 AM-5 PM  
PLUMBING & HEATING  
Northgate Plaza • Virginia  
218-741-8381 • www.heiselbros.com

Master Plumber  
PC644131



# WORD SPIRAL

C		L
		E
B		U

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

©2025 King Features Syndicate

## Think About Gardening!

**We've Got Your Planting Basics**

- ✓ TOPSOIL
- ✓ COMPOST-MANURE
- ✓ POTTING SOIL

We Are A UPS Drop-off Site



**VERMILION LUMBER**

HOME OF THE PROFESSIONALS  
218-753-2230  
302 Main St., Tower, MN  
M-F: 8 AM-5 PM; Sat: 8 AM-Noon



## Tekautz Mechanical

Heating, Air Conditioning, Refrigeration  
Repair & Install



**Steve Tekautz**  
612-845-1625  
P.O. Box 264  
Soudan, MN 55782  
(We accept credit cards)

## FOREST CONCRETE PRODUCTS



**Delivered Redi-Mix Concrete Septic Tanks**

We have: Concrete Steps & Sidewalk Pavers, Crushed & Washed Rock, Sand, Garden Soil, Crushed & Screened Gravel, Different Types of Concrete Blocks.

**FREE ESTIMATES** for site development, roads, fill and excavations.

**Celebrating Over 49 Years!**

*From Ely to Tower-Soudan and Virginia, using local gravel pits to support all your needs.*

**FOREST CONCRETE PRODUCTS**



**1715 E. Sheridan, Ely, MN 55731**  
office 218-365-6161 • plant 218-365-4030  
fax 218-365-6985 • cell 218-341-3197



**KUUMA**  
Smokeless Wood Furnaces and Fantastic Sauna Stoves!

**Call about the 30% tax credit!**

**WORLD'S #1**  
HOT AIR WOODBURNING FURNACE!

.45 gr/hr. emissions  
99.4% comb efficiency  
99% smokeless burns

**833-660-1064**

lampmfg@gmail.com • lamppakuuma.com  
9501 Hwy. 135, Tower MN 55792

## RANGE L.P. GAS


Call Us For All Your LP Gas Needs!

Hoover Rd, Virginia  
741-7393  
1613 E. Camp St., Ely  
365-8888

**24 Hour Emergency Service**


• Toll Free •  
**1-800-862-8628**

# Contemporary New Styles



beautiful tile for bathrooms

• Providing Design Help For Your Unique Style •



**FLOOR to CEILING**  
INTERIOR DESIGN SHOWROOM

floortoceiling.com/virginia

8401 Enterprise Drive N, Virginia/Mt. Iron • 218-741-6690 • HOURS 8-5:30 M-F

**Subscribe • 218-753-2950**