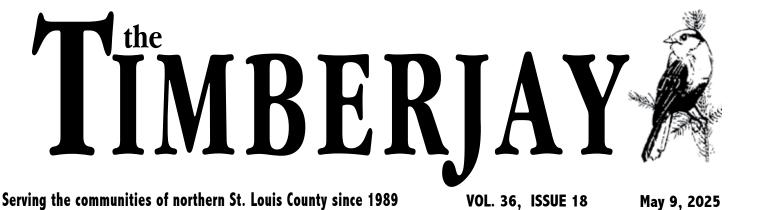


Inside: Dancing with the Stars... See /12 Spring sports... See /1B Fishing opener preview... See /1B



VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK

Park service drops unpopular frozen lake use plan



by DAVID COLBURN Cook/Orr Editor

VOYAGEURS N.P.-Officials here have scrapped a controversial plan that would have restricted winter vehicle access on the park's frozen lakes, ending a two-year process that

Left: Rules that would have sharply constrained some kinds of travel on frozen lake surfaces in Voyageurs have been withdrawn.

drew sharp criticism from local residents, business owners, and state officials.

The decision, formally announced Tuesday, came with the termination of an environmental assessment tied to the Frozen Lake Surface Use Plan. According to a press release, the proposal was no longer necessary after staff concluded that winter vehicle use posed no greater environmental risk than summer motorboat activity. That finding

made further federal review under the National Environmental Policy Act unnecessary.

The plan, first introduced in 2023 and revised in 2024, aimed to bring the park into compliance with federal regulations that restrict off-road vehicle use. But it would have significantly changed how people access Rainy Lake and Lake Kabetogama in the winter, limiting trucks, ATVs, and UTVs to plowed ice roads, and requiring snowmobiles or non-motorized

transport for anything beyond. An access fee was also floated as part of the original proposal, raising additional concerns among locals.

\$150

Community response to the plan was overwhelmingly critical. At packed town halls in Kabetogama and International Falls, as well as in virtual forums, attendees questioned why a plan was needed at all for practices that had worked for decades. Park

See...FROZEN pg. 11



\$550,000 donation to Ely Fire Dept.

CITY OF ELY

Donation made from Louis Gornick Trust

by CATIE CLARK Ely Editor

ELY- The Louis J. Gornick Trust made a \$550,000 donation to the Ely Fire Department on Tuesday at the Ely City Council meeting.

Bernie Palcher, trustee, gave a short presentation on Gornick, who passed away on August 27, 2024, and his service to the fire department.

Gornick was born and Anthony's Catholic Church. raised in Ely. He attended Gornick was still a minor Ely Memorial High School when he served his first stint and Vermilion Community with the Ely FD during WWII, College. He served in the when Ely's teenagers helped U.S. Navy in WWII and the to fight fires while older Korean War. After his military service, he became the business manager for the Ely See..DONATION pg. 9

Public Schools for 37 years. Gornick was a civic-minded citizen and served his community as a member of the Ely Kiwanis Club and the Ely Fire

Department He was a m e m b e r o f t h e American Legion No. 248, VFW Post No.



2717, and St. Louis Gornick

WATER SAFETY **Mission: Reduce drowning risks** Community effort providing life preservers at area beaches

by JODI SUMMIT Tower-Soudan Editor

REGIONAL-Drowning is the leading cause of injury-related death among children ages one to four. And for two area emergency service providers and their families, this is more than a statistic. Childhood family tragedies pushed both Rebekah Littler and Dena Suihkonen into training as emergency responders, but it also served as the impetus to try to make such tragedies less common for area families.

This week, ambulance and campground volunteers, coordinated by Littler and Suihkonen, finished installing five life preserver lending kiosks at public beaches in Babbitt, Tower-Soudan, and Ely. Each kiosk stocks life preservers in sizes from infant to large adult, and are available to use and return, free-of-charge, for anyone needing one. The project was an outgrowth of other safety education programs that Littler has been working on, and she recruited Suihkonen, as well as Dusty Moravitz from the Ely Ambulance Service, to help

See..KIOSKS pg. 10

Above: Dena Suihkonen and her husband Tom get help from Hoodoo Point Campground Manager Randy Pratt in unloading the new life jacket kiosk installed near the campground beach this week.

photo by J. Summit

ST. LOUIS COUNTY JAILS

Built for misfits, now a misfit itself

A closer look at how mental illness is reshaping life at the county jail

by DAVID COLBURN Cook/Orr Editor

Editor's Note: This is a second part in a series on the St. Louis County jails.

REGIONAL-Theofficer approached the cell door with

a lunch tray in hand. "John, time to eat." Inside, the inmate was twitching with nervous energy, sleepless now for two days. He stood motionless for a beat, then turned slowly toward the officer, eyes wide

and wild.

"You think I'm stupid?" he hissed. "You think I don't see the cameras in the sandwich?"

"It's just food, man," the officer replied calmly."Same tray everyone else gets."

John laughed, a sudden, sharp bark. Then, without

warning, he kicked the door with full force. The clang echoed across the pod.

"Back off or I'll bash my head in and make you watch!" The officer stepped back

See...JAIL pg. 9

"Back off!" he shouted.

WATER QUALITY

MPCA seeks to ease exemptions from sulfate discharge rule

See related

OPINION

Don't weaken

sulfate rules

pg. 4

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

REGIONAL-Officials with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency are facing skepticism over a proposal

to make it easier to issue companies variances for sulfate discharges, which are known to negatively impact wild rice.

The state has

the nation's stiffest sulfate limit, enacted in the 1970s to protect the nutritious wild grain, which grows more abundantly in Minnesota than anywhere else in the world.

But the standard was never enforced until the past decade, when the agency came under pressure from tribes and the federal Environmental Protection Agency to do so.

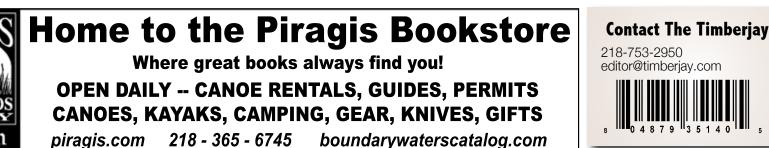
"The MPCA is committed to enforcing the 10 milligram per liter standard," said

Paul Pestano, one of several MPCA officials who spoke during a webinar last week on the agency's plan to use a "multiple dis-

charger variance" to more easily allow companies to exceed that standard. Abut

See...SULFATE pg. 10





Community notices

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.

Immigrant Stories and Pasties at the LVCC on Wednesday, May 28

TOWER- The Lake Vermilion Cultural Center will host storyteller and song leader Gloria Anderson Hegg in St. Mary's Hall at 6 p.m on Wednesday, May 28. Her presentation will focus on the immigrant stories of those who landed on the Iron Range. Gloria entertained people for years at Ironworld (now Minnesota Discovery Center) in Chisholm. Admission details will be available next week in the local papers and on the LVCC website and Facebook page.

Ely Climate Group to hold community discussion on threats from wildfire and wildfire smoke on Wednesday, May 14

ELY- Ely residents faced the threats of wildfire and heat during the summer of 2023 and wildfire smoke in both 2023 and 2024. Two groups — one local, one regional — will hold an open community discussion on how to protect yourself from these climate-driven hazards.

The Minneapolis-based Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate will join the Ely Climate Group on Wednesday, May 14, at the Grand Ely Lodge, from 4 to 6 p.m., to lead a discussion with community members and local health care workers about the health effects of heat and wildfire smoke. Area residents are invited to describe their experiences, tell stories, and ask questions about health concerns from climate related conditions. The program will also be available by zoom. The Zoom link is at elyminnesota.com/ elyclimate.

The event is open to the public and will feature a complimentary light dinner, including the Grand Ely Lodge's famous and tasty chicken and wild rice soup.

Walleye Widow Weekend event in Tower on May 9 and 10

TOWER- Several area businesses are hosting special events and sales on Friday and Saturday, May 9 and 10. Organizers are also hoping to have vendors set up on Main Street.

Nelimark Museum getting ready for opening on Thursday, May 29

EMBARRASS- Nelimark Museum will be opening on Thursday, May 29 for the summer season. The museum, which features the history of the Embarrass area, along with fresh bakery items and hand-crafted and ethnic goods, is located in the white house across Highway 21 from Timber Hall in Embarrass.

The Nelimark is operated by an ambitious group of local volunteers three days per week from June through September. Volunteer artisans welcome visitors to Embarrass weekly on Thursday, Friday and Saturday (closed on the July 4), serving free fresh coffee and homemade goodies. This year, the popular gathering place will be open three days per week from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Note the time change from last year.

Artisans prepare and proudly display creations and crafts they have been working on over the long winter. On several Thursdays, the Nelimark will have special themes. Farmer's Market with local produce will take place per schedule. Watch for signs out front. Fridays will be "bread day." Fresh out-of-the-oven baked goods will fill the kitchen with that old- fashioned aroma you love. And the antique kitchen range will likely be overloaded with loaves of pulla (Finnish biscuit) and other home-baked breads. Just smell those cinnamon rolls. As you reluctantly leave the kitchen, you'll notice a shelf on the left, stocked to the top with jams

NORTHWOODS PARTNERS

Healthy Aging Expo on May 15 at Grand Ely Lodge

ELY- Northwoods Partners will be hosting its annual Healthy Aging Expo on Thursday, May 15 from 9 a.m. -3p.m. at the Grand Ely Lodge. This is an event dedicated to older adults' healthy lifestyles. This is a fantastic opportunity to get education, tips, and resources to help you age well in your community. Doors open at 9 a.m. for vendor table viewing and connecting with a variety of health care organizations and professionals. Speakers begin at 10 a.m. sharp.

This year's expo has a wonderful slate of presenters including Abby Sirek and Tommy Tegan from Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital presenting Prevention and Protection: A Road Map for Vascular Health. There will also be a panel of therapists from EBCH sharing information and answering questions on how they can help keep you moving well through the years. Other presenters include Dr. Joe Bianco from Essentia Health, giving an objective view on the current state of health care and how it is affecting our community and our health. Helen Tome and Peggy Stolley from the Community Health Center will provide information on increasing access to health care and removing barriers. Northwoods Partners staff Heidi Vanderbeek and Lisa Porthan will share the wide variety of options to be active and engaged in your community.

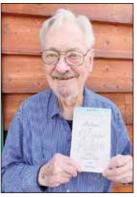
Other topics include Dementia 101, presented by Wendy Norcross and

Edie Renner. Brenda Shafer-Pellinen from ARDC will also share info on an upcoming class called Getting Your Ducks in a Row that will be held at Northwoods Partners this summer.

A light lunch will be provided. This event is free to the public. This event is made possible by our generous sponsors: the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital, Highland Bank, and Essentia Health. Northwoods Partners hopes you will join us and support its efforts to make Ely a wonderful place to age. For questions, please contact the NP office at 218-365-8019 or check out our website at www.northwoodspartners.org.

VOLUNTEERISM

Area Pastor to receive award from LSS on May 15



Pastor Art Dale

TOWER- Pastor Art Dale will receive the Heritage Quilt Award from Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota in a special ceremony on Thursday, May 15 at 9 a.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower.

This is an award that is given only occasionally, in recognition of many years of service to LSS and to neighbors. Pastor Art has been selected for this because of his decades of faithful advocacy

on behalf of neighbors of every kind, and his willingness to serve with a joyful heart.

Pastor Art has been a volunteer for LSS for decades, advocating for those served through LSS during his active pastorate, and in retirement as a member of the "LSS Visiting Team," serving as a guest preacher and presenter for congregations, pastors' conferences, and a myriad other gatherings. All are invited to celebrate this honor for Pastor Art. Pastor Kathryn Tiede, LSS Associate Vice President of Philanthropy, will provide treats and coffee. The event begins at 9 a.m., with a brief presentation at 9:15 a.m., followed by a short reception, during which Pastor Art will be interviewed by an LSS staff member about his lifetime of service. All are welcome.

Sign up today for the Northwoods Kids Fishing Derby set for Saturday, June 21

OUTDOORS

ELY- Excitement is building for the third annual Northwoods Kids Fishing Derby, promising a day of fun, learning, and community spirit. The event is scheduled for Saturday, June 21 at Veterans on the Lake Resort. Because of its popularity and to ensure a quality experience for all participants, preregistration is absolutely required, and spaces are limited to just 60 young anglers between the ages of 6 and 11.

This year brings a significant and heartwarming change: the Ely Chamber of Commerce, the event's organizer, is thrilled to announce the transfer of ownership to the Ely Community Resource (ECR). This means that every single dollar raised will directly benefit ECR and its crucial programs that empower the youth of the community.

Beyond the thrill of the catch, young participants will immerse themselves in a variety of engaging and educational learning stations. These hands-on experiences will cover fascinating topics like local ecology, the importance of addressing invasive species, essential water safety skills, fundamental fishing techniques, and even a creative exploration of fish through art. Flyers containing registration information will be sent home with students in grades 1-5 at both the Ely and Babbitt schools. For home-school families and those residing outside the immediate area, all the necessary angler registration details can be found at Ely. org/fishingderby. Registration cost is \$10.



The day includes plenty of land and water activities. Photo courtesy of Les Conrad

est gratitude to the incredible sponsors uals with a passion for working with who are making this event possible. A children are invited to be part of a fun and rewarding day. The event planners massive thank you is extended to Twin Metals Minnesota, the prestigious are seeking six to eight enthusiastic Lunker sponsor, for their incredibly volunteers to assist with the various generous donation of \$3,000. The wonactivities and ensure a smooth and enderful support of the Ely-Winton Rod joyable event for everyone. Those interested in registering a & Gun Club is also acknowledged, as they have joined as a Deep Diver sponchild for a day of fishing fun, volunsor with their generous contribution of teering time to support local youth, or \$1,000. The coveted trophy sponsorbecoming a valued sponsor can visship opportunity is still available, and it Ely.org/fishingderby for complete contributions of any size are welcomed information and registration forms. Any questions can be directed to Eva - every bit helps create a memorable experience for the young participants. at 218-365-6123 or via email at director@ely.org. The success of the Northwoods Kids Fishing Derby relies heavily on the dedication of volunteers. Individ-

and jellies of every color and flavor.

There are eight rooms in the house displaying various items and products for purchase. The book room will have a variety of ethnic books available along with some new Embarrass-themed caps, t-shirts and other wearables for you to try. The main gathering room features real Scandinavian glassware and additional handmade local creations, always a surprise or two. Climb the stairs to the second floor and you will find several rooms with woven rag rugs, candles, towels, and blankets to check out. The sauna supplies room, with its aromatic soaps, draws you in for a visit. Historic displays decorate the walls of several of these rooms and the collectibles room in the far corner is worth your time to explore — it may take some of your time.

Saturday, June 7 is National Sauna Day. It will be a great opportunity to stop in and visit with old friends and make some new ones. An open-air music concert, several visiting saunas to see (and consider for purchase) and a home-cooked meal for all to enjoy at noon will be featured.

On Saturday July 19, the Nelimark will host a new event for the Embarrass community. "Hay Days" is a midsummer festival that celebrates putting up the farm's hay for the season. You can spend a sunny afternoon with friends, picnic with the family, and have a cuppa coffee with someone you haven't seen for awhile. Maybe some music, farm produce, demonstrations or special foods to be shared? Hay You are invited to call 218-984-2302 and make your special request known. Volunteers are always welcome at the Neli. Spend a few hours over coffee an' at the Nelimark Museum on Thursday, Friday, or Saturday starting on May 29. The organizers extend their deep-





by Marshall Helmberger Managing Editor

REGIONAL-The U.S. House Natural Resources Committee advanced its portion of the congressional budget reconciliation effort this week, complete with major changes designed to benefit Antofagasta, the Chilean-based mining company that has proposed a copper-nickel mine near Ely.

If ultimately included in a final reconciliation package that moves through both the House and Senate, the measure would end the prohibition on mineral leasing in the upper reaches of the Rainy River watershed and would give Antofagasta perpetual rights to two longstanding mineral leases as well as issue new leases for prospecting permit holders without requiring a public process or environmental review.

The measure would also override a longstanding law that gives the U.S. Forest Service the right to deny consent to mining projects on the Superior National Forest. At the same time, the provision prohibits courts from reviewing any of the actions outlined in the measure, except for cases brought by the mining companies involved.

The changes, initiated by

Eighth District Congressman Pete Stauber, would seem to clear the way for Antofagasta to advance its Twin Metals project, despite its potential impact to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, located directly downstream of the proposed mining operation. The U.S. Forest Service previously denied consent for the proposed mine, citing the high risk of impacts to water quality in the wilderness and the difficulty of mitigating such pollution should it occur.

The ore bodies in question are sulfide-based, and such ore inevitably generates acid drainage when exposed to air and water. Containing that runoff has proven to be a difficult engineering task at similar mines around the world, including in the U.S.

Supporters of the mine argue that the risks are worth taking for the several hundred jobs the mine could create. Opponents of the mine cite a Harvard study that determined that the mine would cost jobs and income to the area because of its negative effect on the outdoor recreation economy that has developed in the area.

The Twin Metals proposal has been a political ping pong ball for the past decade, as both the Obama and Biden administrations took executive actions to protect the BWCAW from the proposed mine, which were subsequently overruled by actions of the Trump administration. The new legislation, promoting and protecting Antofagasta's interests in law, will make a future change in direction more difficult to achieve.

Ingrid Lyons, executive director of Save the Boundary Waters, called the measure a "reckless giveaway" for the benefit of a foreign mining company and a handful of special interests.

Shifts focus to state regulators

With the battle in Washington, D.C. potentially resolved in Antofagasta's favor, at least for now, the debate over the future of the Twin Metals mine is likely to shift to St. Paul, where the decision over the mine's future will ultimately be made. It's already been one of the state's longest and most contentious environmental debates in decades, and that could well intensify now that the mine's future could hinge on the decisions of state government.

While the Twin Metals mine would be located primarily on federal land, it's the state of Minnesota that would issue key permits, including the all-important Permit to Mine, as well as the mine's NPDES [water discharge] permit.

Antofagasta submitted a mine plan to state and federal regulators back in 2019 but pulled the plan from consideration after the Biden administration rescinded its mineral leases. Whether the proposed mine is economically viable is unclear since Antofagasta has never released financial projections for the project.

While state officials have generally been favorable toward development of the NorthMet deposit, now controlled by NewRange Copper Nickel, there has long been considerable skepticism by state politicians and agency officials about the risks associated with the Twin Metals project. In a Star Tribune interview in late April, Gov. Tim Walz again cast doubt on the project. "I just think you have to take it into the context of how special the place is," Walz told the Star Tribune, referring to the proposed mine's proximity to the Boundary Waters. "Is the technology able to do it? I don't think it is at this point in time."

While the Trump administration is moving to sharply curtail the environmental review process for many projects on federal land,



May 9, 2025 3

it's unlikely that state regulatory agencies will follow suit, and that means a lengthy state environmental review process would be undertaken if and when Antofagasta submits a new mine proposal. State regulators are likely to be particularly cautious given that several previous permits they issued for the proposed NorthMet mine were invalidated by state courts.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY First Minnesota legal cannabis lottery set for June 5

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Minnesota is taking its next big step toward launching a legal cannabis industry, with license lotteries set for June 5 for key business roles in the emerging market.

The state's Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) announced on Monday that lotteries will be held for both social equity and general applicants seeking licenses to operate as cannabis cultivators, manufacturers, or mezzobusinesses. The lotteries for the two groups of applicants will be held separately.

General applicants for retail licenses, along with any social equity applicants not selected in the first round, will have a shot in a second lottery to be scheduled later this summer.

"The office has prioritized the review of applications for the license types necessary to successfully stage the market," said OCM Interim Director Eric Taubel. "Today's announcement reflects the office's goal to license the supply chain from the starting points in order to foster an equitable cannabis market that prioritizes public health and safety, consumer confidence, and market integrity."

The June 5 lotteries mark a major milestone in the state's slowbut-steady rollout of adult-use cannabis, a market officials say will take several years to fully develop.

Before any name makes it into the hopper, applications go through a rigorous review process to ensure

they meet legal and operational standards.

Still ahead are reviews for wholesaler, transporter, and delivery service licenses, all part of the downstream market. Applications for cannabis event organizers and lower-potency hemp edible makers and sellers will be considered later this year.

"In the coming weeks, more and more applicants will be notified that they are advancing to the application lotteries. They will soon join the hundreds of qualified

social equity applicants who are already deep in the process of completing application requirements," said Jess Jackson, OCM's director of social equity.

The June 5 lotteries will be livestreamed on OCM's YouTube channel at youtube.com/@MN-CannabisManagement, and results will be posted on the agency's website afterward.

More information is available at mn.gov/ocm.



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OPINION

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

[Editorial Sulfate regulations

MPCA shouldn't let politics loosen rules that keep our waters safe for wild rice

There is justified public skepticism over the specifics and the timing of a proposal by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to create what is known as a multi-discharger variance, or MDV, in order to streamline the process for exempting companies from the state's sulfate limit for wild rice waters.

Sulfate discharges are a major issue in Minnesota, which has the strictest sulfate limits in the nation, limits that were enacted in the 1970s in order to protect wild rice.

The MPCA has a checkered history when it comes to enforcing this pollution standard and only began to do so after tribal nations began pressuring state regulators about 15 years ago to enforce its own rules. Users of wild rice, both tribal and non-tribal, had become increasingly concerned about the apparent decline in the extent and abundance of wild rice in the state and understandably wanted every step that could possibly be taken to stem the decline. Wild rice, or manoomin, is an exceptional food, tasty and highly nutritious, that can be easily stored for years once processed. For the Ojibwe people, it has long been a mainstay and is foundational to their culture.

Sulfate isn't the only threat to wild rice, of course. Climate change is probably an even greater threat in the longer term. But addressing sulfate discharges is a step that Minnesota can take on its own to help protect this unique resource.

Addressing the problem by making it easier to obtain a variance isn't an auspicious start. A variance is, in effect, a permit that allows a discharger to exceed a pollution standard. Typically, variances are granted to single dischargers, and only in cases where current technology can't control the discharge or doing so would not be economically viable. An MDV would make it much easier to grant variances to a large number of dischargers. There are certainly some instances where such a variance is justified, but MPCA officials were cagey in a web presentation last week when asked whether the MDV process might encompass the state's taconite industry, which has been discharging high levels of sulfate into wild rice waters for decades. The industry would undoubtedly argue that it is not economically feasible to address its sulfate problem because the only fully proven technology-reverse osmosis-would be far too costly at the scale that would be necessary.

cost-effective methods to substantially reduce sulfate levels in water that have been developed in our region, but the taconite industry appears loath to pursue such alternatives. They may be banking on a variance instead.

There is much at stake on this issue. Unlike some parts of the state, where water is naturally higher in sulfate (and wild rice is largely absent), waters in northeastern Minnesota that are unimpacted by mining are exceptionally low in sulfate, typically no more than 1-2 mg/l, which is one reason that wild rice thrives in our region's waters. But high sulfate discharges (exceeding 1,000 mg/l in some cases) from taconite operations, such as U.S. Steel's Minntac plant, appear to have impacted downstream wild rice lakes. Those discharges may also be contributing to increased methylation of mercury in downstream waters, such as Lake Vermilion, where sulfate levels in Pike Bay are as much as five times higher than background levels due to inflow of mining discharge from the Pike River. That discharge of sulfate from the Minntac tailings basin has been traced through water testing all the way to Crane Lake.

To date, the state of Minnesota has mostly dragged its feet when it comes to cleaning up the Minntac facility. If not for pressure from tribes, with backing from the federal Environmental Protection Agency, it's likely the MPCA would have taken its cues from the Legislature - and done nothing to address the issue.

Unfortunately, that pressure from federal regulators is now all but vanished, as the Trump administration is undertaking a virtual dismantlement of the EPA. That makes the timing of the MPCA's push to develop a blanket variance process particularly troubling.

If the MPCA is planning to use this variance process to address its ongoing regulatory headache over the mining industry, the only pushback is likely to come from the public, including tribes, wild rice users, anglers concerned about mercury, and environmentalists



Letters from Readers

Time is running out, Pete

This is a final plea to our missing-in-action Eighth District congressman, Pete Stauber. The assaults on our democracy continue, almost on a daily basis. In fact, where does one even begin to list the worst of them: the insanity of President Trump's tariffs (which every mainstream economist insists was a colossally stupid idea), threatening Social Security, dissolving the Department of Education, ignoring due process, ignoring the Supreme Court, arresting judges, gutting the V.A., allowing Elon Musk's ignorant stooges to run rampant through every corner of the federal government, etc., etc

So, tell us, Pete, you're okay with all of this? Do you really think this is why you were elected, to be a party to this? As a former Republican, and as a veteran, there was a time when I thought you were a stand-up guy, until you chose to side with the far-right crazies who've hijacked your party and sworn allegiance to a wouldbe dictator.

A hundred years from now, historians will look back on this insane era with shock and amazement that such a thoroughly unfit man could have been elected twice! And they'll be equally shocked over the fact that one of the two major parties hitched their wagon to him and allowed this to happen. Every Republican, either actively involved with this ongoing disaster, or equally guilty by their deafening silence, will be tainted for life, their legacies forever ruined by the stench of Trump.

pathetic 'canned' reply I got in response to an email notwithstanding) tells me one of two things: you're either as delusional and corrupt as Trump, or you're afraid of him. There are no other possibilities. Just in case it's necessary to remind you (which it shouldn't be), you owe your allegiance to Minnesota's Eighth District, and to the people of the United States, NOT to the pretend-leader in the White House. It's still not too late to step up to the plate, Pete, but the 11th hour is approaching.

Lynn Scott Soudan

The rank smell of GOP hypocrisy

How dare Representative Angie Craig hold town halls in Republican districts - places where GOP congressmen haven't faced their own constituents and clearly have no intention of doing so.

Now Pete Stauber, joined by Brad Finstad, Tom Emmer, and Michelle Fischbach, have their panties in a twist, accusing Craig of violating a House rule that bans using official resources to promote political events. According to reports, the matter is being brought before the House Ethics and Administration Committees. Craig's hawks his own meme coin from the Oval Office like a two-bit crypto bro?

Why no comment when Trump turns the White House lawn into a Tesla commercial?

And has anyone crunched the cost of Trump's constant Mar-a-Lago weekends - where taxpayers foot the bill while he profits from housing the Secret Service and his entourage?

Not one of these congressmen has said a word about the emoluments clause or what it means when a president uses his office to enrich himself.

Until they find the courage to call out the fiscal disaster in their own party, they should probably sit down and zip it - especially when "ethics" only seems to matter if your name isn't Trump.

> **Karen Maverick** Ely and Scandia



As we have previously reported, it appears there are

There will be opportunities for public comment on this proposal and residents of the North Country who care about clean water should be paying attention and speaking out.

The political influence of the mining industry in our region can seem overpowering at times, but sustained public pressure can make a difference. Without it, nothing will change.

This means you, Pete – there was a time when I was naïve enough to think you were someone we could count on. These days, I question how you could possibly have any mirrors in your home. Your continued silence (the

campaign, for the record, says no public funds are being used.

But since these congressmen are suddenly all about rules and fiscal responsibility - sure, let's go there

Where do they stand on the president unilaterally enacting global tariffs - something that's Congress's job? Crickets.

Why the silence as Trump lets Elon Musk's "DOGE" initiative take a metaphorical chainsaw to federal jobs and programs - gutting services people rely on, with no clue what's being cut while bragging about eliminating "waste, fraud, and abuse?"

Where's the outrage as Trump

Your letters

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

We ask that letters be limited to 300 words.

Letters are subject to editing, primarily for length and clarity.

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

COMMENTARY

Fishing, drunk driving, and divorce in Minnesota: Is it related?

The first English book on fishing is Prioress Julianna Berners' volume "A Trea-

tyse of Fysshynge wyth an Angle.' Published posthumously in 1496, the book is a manual on fishing with a hook and attached line. Recreational fishing is found throughout classical literature starting with Homer. Pliny the Elder included a chapter

on fishing in his famous encyclopedia; and the Assyrian king Tiglath-Pilesar the First gave us the first written "the one that got away" story in his account of the whale or ents' marriage was destroyed "narwarwhal" that slipped his line.

Those of us with the fishing addiction often laugh over the clichés, but serious statistical evidence shows that fishing is not the benign passtime that many think it is. CATIE Much like alco-CLARK hol, fishing is a silent but prov-

en destroyer of families. In fact, part of the inspiration for this commentary is the real-world experience of a Timberjay editor whose parby one spouse's fishing addiction.

While divorcing one's husband or wife because of fishing is anecdotal, data backs up the correlation between fishing and divorce. On the assumption that the number of Minnesota's lakes are a valid proxy for fishing opportunities, we compared the number of lakes in Minnesota (source: USGS) with the number of divorces at the county level (source: Census Bureau). While we wanted to compare fishing as a cause of divorce with other marital stresses, that data doesn't exist. Minnesota has not tracked the reasons for

divorce since 1974, when it passed its no-fault divorce law

Despite the scarcity of divorce data, the connection between divorce and fishing is clearly evident when comparing the number of lakes with the number of divorces.

Divorce is a complex issue with more than just fishing as a cause. Other factors can contribute, explained Professor of Geograph Dee Quale at Piscis State University. After studying the low divorce levels in Minnesota counties in the south and northwest, Quale remarked that physical geography plays a role here. "In the southern and northwestern

parts of the state, the rural population faces other challenges, like proximity to boring, endless fields of corn, small grains, or sugar beets. That's enough to worsen any number of societal ills, like marital discord, elevated divorce rates, and an increase in memberships to the Flat Earth Society.'

Divorce is not the only social ill promoted by fishing. The Timberjay examined multiple datasets, including alcohol usage, violent crime, and homicide rates one day after fishing opener (source: Assoc. Minn. Counties). Alcohol abuse and the availability of fishing opportunities appear to be correlated.

Violent crimes also showed a relationship, though again, the data suggest more is going on in the northwest and southern parts of the state than just fishing.

"I do not find that surprising," remarked Quale, 'especially Blue Earth County. We can't blame it all on fishing. I call it the corn field effect. Have you ever been to Blue Earth? When you get up on that little bluff south of town overlooking the Blue Earth River, all you can see are corn fields all the way to the Iowa and South Dakota borders. It's not surprising when you consider that there

See FISHING....pg. 5

Talk to your legislator about plastic

The *Timberjay's* editorial, "The Plastic Within Us" is a horrifying read. According to scientific studies, our brains are being filled with microplastics, caused by the water we drink and the food we consume. We're in a plastic world and we are being brain damaged by it!

Ninety-one countries and twelve American states have banned or restricted plastic bag usage. Unfortunately, Minnesota is not one of them. Many rural legislators voted against a bill that would have banned them in our state. In fact, in 2017, legislation was passed prohibiting Minnesota cities from banning single-use plastic bags. What were they thinking? It was, no doubt, about money for their campaigns. The plastic companies are very generous with their donations to keep the plastic pollution coming. They are terrified that Americans will learn the truth about their deadly product. Texas and Louisiana produce the most plastic in the U.S. and we thoughtlessly use their bags for 12-20 minutes while they last for up to a thousand years, silently infusing our brains with their pollution.

Please think about these facts when you shop. Please take your reusable bags with you and make a small but vital step in reducing plastic pollution. And ask your legislator, when he or she comes knocking at your door, "how did you vote on the plastic bag ban?" Their answer will tell you if they really care about our health or whether their election matters more.

Pat Helmberger Tower

How Trump is undermining

America

This letter comprises excerpts and paraphrases from the lengthy *New York Times's* article, "100 Days. That's all it Took to Sever America from the World," published April 30 and written by Ben Rhodes.

Trump is systematically severing America from the globe. The U.S. has withdrawn from international agreements on fundamental issues like health and climate change. A nation of immigrants now deports people without due process, bans refugees and is trying to end birthright citizenship. The State Department is downsizing. The administration has the very universities and exchange programs that took in refugees and educated countless world leaders under seige. The draining of democratic values from our national identity will leave America defined by its size, power and quixotic lust for profit: a place, not an idea. Trump's cuts to U.S.A.I.D. have certainly al-

ready caused more civilian deaths than Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Letters from Readers

Already, a Gaza ceasefire has unraveled, and Russia continues its war with Ukraine. Europe is turning away from America, Canadians are boycotting our goods, and travel to U.S. is down 12-percent, and could cost up to \$90 billion this year. Meanwhile, Trump profits from crypto schemes, undermines the rule of law upon which commerce depends, while China is establishing long-term trading relationships with former U.S. trade partners as it accelerates a movement away from the dollar as the world's reserve currency.

As a multiracial nation connected to the world and committed to a set of freedoms core to our identity, we could never afford to follow the foolish path of America First – a slogan that amounted to capitulation to fascism.

Gerry Snyder

Ely/Simsbury, Conn.

Make time to visit the We Are Water MN exhibit

Thank you to everyone who joined the Ely Folk School at the HUB last Thursday for the opening ceremony of our exhibit, We Are Water MN. Seventy-five people joined us for the opening.

We Are Water MN is a statewide program of the Minnesota Humanities Center that examines water issues statewide and in local communities through personal stories, histories, and scientific information. We are honored to have the exhibit at the Ely Area Community Hub and to be working with the Ely Area Community Foundation and all the hub tenants.

This exhibit is open to the public from 9-5, Monday-Saturday. The community room is down the hall from the main entrance – you'll pass Functional Fitness, Northwoods Partners, and Wellbeing Development on your way in and enter just before the door to Happy Days Daycare. All these organizations are worth getting to know.

As you make your way through the exhibit, you'll find stories and images that are likely familiar to you. We hope that the entwining of stories from people you recognize in Zup's, photos and history of local landmarks, and state-researched data creates the space for understanding and knowledge that our lived experiences are as crucial to our advocacy for and relationship with water as are the facts and science told to us by larger agencies and institutions.

The featured stories talk about how we relate with water in our work, our homes, and our hobbies. From making sure contractors from elsewhere are prioritizing our water to keeping our drinking water, safe and clean, to hauling water

from the lake to a dry cabin; from watching kids experience the joy of teaching each other the best tricks for catching frogs, to swimming, snowmobiling, and fishing for recreation, we recognize that we all have daily interactions, responsibilities, and appreciation for water.

Since 2015, EFS has been operating under the guiding principle that education is most effective when it's connected to your daily life, when you are able to create a relationship with your instructor and fellow students. And that's why we were so excited about the opportunity to bring We Are Water MN here to Ely.

Now through June 16, find some time to explore the exhibit on your own or to schedule a guided tour with us - come with a friend or with the Northwoods Partners Men's Memories and Movement group, or with your staff team during the summer season training. Learn from the neighbors who've generously shared their stories for this exhibit, from previous visitors who pin their own stories to the map, and from the conversations you have in this space.

Lucy Soderstrom Ely Folk School, Executive Director

Elbows up for Hockey Hall of Fame

On April 26, I traveled to Eveleth to support keep-

ing the Hockey Hall of Fame in that Iron Range community. While I traveled quite a distance, I was a wimp compared to Sen. Karin Housley, who traveled about six hours round trip just so she could insult another senator in his home district.

"Senator Hauschild looked like a complete fool...knows nothing about hockey," said Sen. Housley. While she may spell her name with an "i" she is a perfect "Karen."

First, her husband (Phil) was a great hockey player. And she is a successful businesswoman. They have earned their \$20 million-plus net worth. Kudos to them. But that does not entitle her to slum up north and insult us rural people and Rangers. Living in her "Uptown World" getting \$1,000 donations from Wilf family members, I am surprised she did not suggest "Let them eat cake."

Karen (spelling intentional), we invite you to a fundraiser, during which we plan to serve "Karin Kake." Oh, and we will be channeling possibly the greatest hockey player of all time, Gordie Howe. "The cake eaters are coming for our dignity, livelihood and way of life. Never ever give up. And remember, elbows up. ELBOWS UP!!" Bring it on Karen.

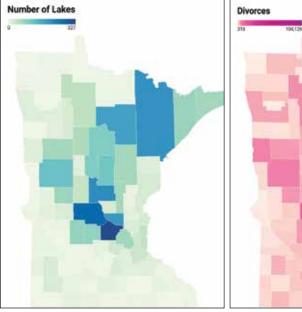
C.T. Marhula Bemidji

FISHING...Cont. from page 4

aren't any lakes for fishing. With families falling apart and divorce rampant, there's little to do for entertainment other than the internet and painting the toenails on the statue of the Green Giant outside of town. Now that they put the fence up around the pea packing plant, people can't even do that anymore."

Regarding the crime, drinking, and divorce statistics in the northwest corner of the state, Quale offered a different explanation.

"It's North Dakota. Northwest Minnesota is in the same geomorphological and bioreme zone as eastern North Dakota. As anyone who has driven U.S. 2 from Bemidji to Minot can tell you, it's flat and monotonous. Stare at it too long and it induces abnormal mental states. This was first observed in Nebraska with the completion of Interstate 80. These long Midwestern routes have no variations of scenery. It makes people psychotic eventually. Ever wonder why all those truck drivers became serial killers on I-80, I-90, and I-94? That's why. It isn't just the lack of lakes. It's the rest of the Midwest, which frankly, is nowhere near as nice as living on the Iron Range.' Quale had advice about fishing and divorce. "Don't marry someone addicted to fishing unless you're already addicted yourself." Regarding fishing opener and the correlation between fishing and drunk driving, Quale said, "It's as bad as amateur drinking night on New Year's Eve. For myself, I try to get home

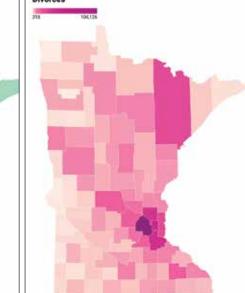


Number of lakes

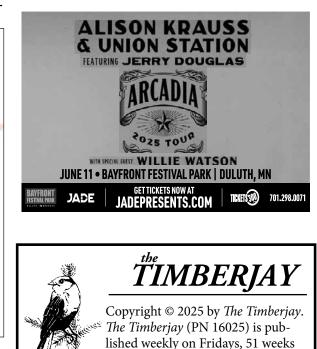
DWI arrests

DWI arrests

lock my doors."



Divorces



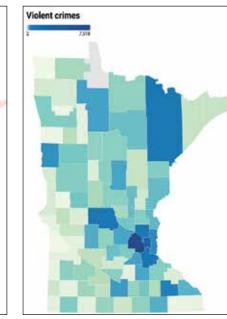
REGIONAL- Stages of the Range Players (SRP) is looking for people interested in acting in radio plays this summer. The community theater group travels to area nursing homes and performs radio plays that bring back many memories of years gone by.

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

well before sundown and

Anyone who loves the idea of bringing a bit of theater to folks in a residential community like a nursing home, is welcome to get involved.

For more information, contact SRP by email at s.r.p.theater@gmail.com or find the sign-up form on the Stages of the Range Players Facebook page.



Violent crimes



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

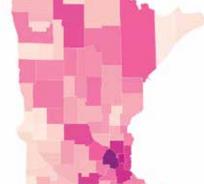
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St. Louis County: \$54 year Elsewhere: \$68 year. We accept VISA/Mastercard/Discover/ AmEx. NOTE: Changes of address must be sent or called in to the Tower office. Out-of-state delivery may take 2-3 weeks. For prompt out-of-state delivery try the First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

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

Radio play actors needed



PATRIOTISM

Tower-Soudan Memorial Day Tribute on Monday, May 26

Week of May 12

Monday

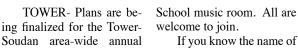
Embarrass Al-Anon Family Group- Hope Lutheran Church, 5088 Hwy. 21, 6 p.m. Tower City Council- 5:30 p.m. on May 12

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 bulding. Next food shelf day is May 20. Greenwood Fire Dept.-Training meetings on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. Greenwood Town Board-6:30 p.m. on May 13

Thursday

AA Meeting- Lake Vermilion 12x12 (Open) 6:30 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Tower. Use the rear side door entrance.



Memorial Day Tribute to be

held on Monday, May 26,

at the Herb Lamppa Civ-

ic Center from 10 a.m. to

noon. This tribute will honor

the military service and sac-

rifice of our men and women

in uniform, their families at

home, and those who have made the ultimate sacrifice

erans killed in action and

other deceased veterans

from the Tower-Soudan area

songs will be sung by the

Tower-Soudan Area Singers under the direction of

Rolf Anderson. They are

practicing on Mondays

through May at 5 p.m. in the

Tower-Soudan Elementary

The names of local vet-

A medley of patriotic

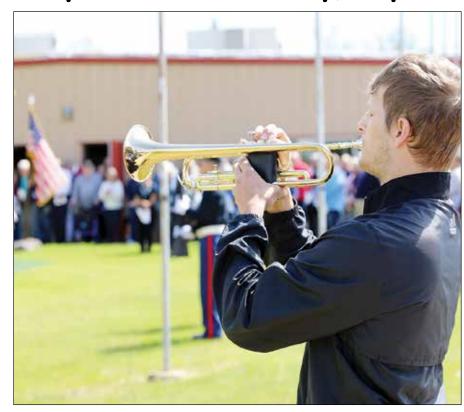
for our country.

will be read.

If you know the name of a recently deceased veteran whose name should be added to our roll call or need to make a change to last year's list of veterans, contact Barb Peyla. Call or text 218-410-7883 or send an email to bngpeyla@gmail.com.

The program will conclude with a traditional Memorial Day wreath placed on a symbolic Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in a ceremony to be held outside the civic center.

Refreshments provided by the Tower-Soudan Civic Club will be served before and following the tribute. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend this heartwarming event.



MINING HISTORY

Soudan Mine Miners Memorial Project almost completed

TOWER-SOUDAN- Volunteers from the Tower-Soudan Historical Society are almost finished with their research on the 143 men who died in or near the Soudan Underground Mine from 1884 to 1957. Andy Larson, former president of the Tower-Soudan Historical Society and retired Soudan Mine tour guide of 27 years, created the original list of those who died. In recent years, volunteers have found death records, newspaper articles, cemetery records, and documentation from books on mining accidents for most of the men. Family members have also sent photos, obituaries, and stories that are being used in the exhibit. A detailed spreadsheet was compiled by historical society volunteer Mary Shedd, listing each man along with their date of death, marital status, age, nationality, cause of death (when available), and a key to the source of information. This information is now available on the TSHS website (towersoudanhistory. com). An introduction, summary of the data, and the full spreadsheet can be found. Scroll down to Explore Our History/View All Stories, Soudan Mine Miners Memorial.

This project started a few years ago as a collaboration between the Tower-Soudan Historical Society and the Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park. The goal was to have the information on the men who died available to the public at the visitors center at the park and at the Train Depot Museum

Country	#	%
Austria	34	34.0%
Canada (French)	1	1.0%
England	6	6.0%
Finland ¹	51	51.0%
Germany	1	1.0%
Ireland	1	1.0%
Italy ²	4	4.0%
Norway	2	2.0%
Scotland	1	1.0%
Sweden	24	24.0%
United States ³	13	13.0%
Unknown	5	5.0%
Total 11	143	

in Tower. Nine large binders have been compiled containing three sets of information. Each binder contains introductory material, the project spreadsheet, a summary of the spreadsheets and one page or more for every miner with any information collected, from basic facts to newspaper articles to family photos and stories. Two sets will be presented to the park this summer (one for the visitors center and one for their archives). The other set will be available at the Train Depot Museum, beginning on Memorial Day Weekend.

There are a few things left to complete. Stories are being written on topics such as why miners had many names, women, multiple deaths, freak or unusual accidents, and how safety improved over the years. The stories will be compiled in a smaller binder to go with each set of larger binders.

Also, there is still one miner for whom there is no corroborating information: William H. Brown who died on July 7, 1884. He is believed



Above: Miners in 1898. Above left: A chart showing the nationalities of the miners who died. Below: A sample of the information now available. submitted photo and graphics

fear	Date	Last Name	First Name	Marital Status	Act	Nationality	Cause	((Lobbe) (flan/or albits); G (Find-a Grave); H (Herospaper)
1894	Jan 29	Anderson	Alex	Single	27	Finland	Falling ground in mine	D1.C
1893	Feb 23 (C); 28 (D & C)	Anderson	Chas (0) Carl (C)	Married	25	Sweden	Killed - Montana (A)	D1, C, A
1891	Aug 7	Anderson	William	Single	32	Sweden	Killed at #8 (J. Turk also killed #8 same day)	D1. C
1945	May 14	Avikainen	Matt	Married	55	Finland	Falling ore -barring	D1, N3, B11, F
1892	Jan	Bates	John	Married	,	,	Injured in fall 1891, died in operation in 1892	NJ
1916	Jun 20	Beland	Treffic "Tom"	Married	58	Canada (French)	Fell 25" off trestle on head	D1. 82, 814, N2
1893	Feb 10	Belich	loe	>	>	Austria	Accident	01
1893	Mar 11	Berg	Chas.	Single	18	USA	Killed - Alaska	D1
1895	Jun 26	Berger	Mike	2	21	Austria	Killed in mine	C,G
1891	Mar 17 (D); 18 (C)	Bergquist	Gustaf	Married	54(0) 50(C)	Sweden	Killed in #6	D1. C
1940	Apr 16	Branwall	Swan Harold	Married	37	USA MN Breitung	Fell down Alaska Shaft, 32th level 50-foot raise	D1. N2. 89. F
1884	Jul 7	BIONN	William H.	2	2	1 ?	Cave-in Breitung pit (A)	A
1888	Dec 18	Brown	William J	Married	23	USAMI	fell from air pipe	D1
1923	Nov 20	Carlson	Edward Gustal	Married	37	Finland	Killed by blast	D1. 84, 814, N2
1897	Nov 28	Carlson	Frank	>	24	Finland	Fall of dirt Alaska shaft	C, N1
1891	Jun 26	Carlson	Oscar	Single	23	Finland	Runover - #8 stockpile	D1, C
		4 1143					and have been a second build be a second be a second build be a se	

to be the first person who died. Andy If you have any information on this Larson listed his cause of death as a miner's death, please call the historcave-in at the Breitung Pit. The volunteers have been unable to find ad- an email to towersoudanhs@gmail. ditional documentation on his death. com.

ical society at 218-750-7514 or send

1 O 11/1 Charlemagne's 52 Club

TSHS weekly winners

TOWER- The \$100 winner of Week 34 of Charlemagne's 52 Club is Daryl Lamppa of Tower.

History Tidbit: Part Settler's Cabin: Mike Smulter, a loner, happily lived on this property on Smarts Bay for many years, trapping, hunting, fishing and making fine furniture which he sold in Tower to tourists. He eventually left the area and his cabin, which sat vacant for many years. In 1965 the Tower-Soudan Historical Society started a search for a Finnish homesteader's cabin that could be moved to the Tower City Park. Bob Olson, Frank Franson and "Chub" Shoberg knew where Mike's abandoned cabin was located. It had been vacant for many years.

In 1968, the Historical Society took ownership of the cabin. It was moved during the winter over the ice to Moccasin Point and then by road into Tower to its new home in the Tower City Park. The original tin roof was replaced with wood shingles, windows were replaced, and some of Mike's tools were put on display. In 2023, TSHS volunteers Joe Morin and Bob Anderson replaced the wood fence around the cabin. In 2024, they restored the roof to its original appearance with tin. Joe and Bob have plans to clean and restore in the cabin's interior in 2025.

Joint Power Rec Board meets May 13

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Joint Powers Recreation Board will neet on Tuesday, May 13 at 8:30 a.m. at Good Ol' Days. Requests for funding should be submitted in writing, in advance, to Tower City Hall, PO Box 576, Tower, MN 55790, or dropped off at city hall.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Junior League baseball signup underway

SOUDAN-Junior League baseball season will be starting soon, and interested players should sign up by calling coach Greg "Dusty" Dostert at 218-248-0648.

This team is for players, both boys and girls, that are too old for Little League and who don't turn 15 until after May 1. The Vermilion Range Panthers will be practicing in Soudan on

TOWER CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

The Tower Cemetery Association is in need of donations. Without receiving donations, the association would be in financial trouble.

Thank you all for your past help. **Please Send Your Donation To: Tower Cemetery Assn., PO Box** 874, Tower, MN 55790

Published May 9, 23, June 6, 20, 27 & July 4, 2025

Sundays. Team players are from Tower-Soudan, Cook, Babbitt, Embarrass, and surrounding areas. Summer residents welcome.

Help do spring cleanup at the Tower Cemetery

TOWER-Community members will be doing a spring cleanup at Tower's Lakeview Cemetery on Thursday, May 15 at 4 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come help out, don't need to work the entire time, just help as long as you are able. Please bring a leaf rake and work gloves.

Afterwards, the cleanup crew will meet for a taco dinner and ice cream at St. Martin's Catholic Church Social Hall at 6 p.m. Rain date Friday, May 16.

The Lunch Bunch hosting a salad luncheon on May 21

GREENWOOD TWP-The Lunch Bunch will be hosting a salad luncheon on Wednesday, May 21 at 12:30 p.m. at the home of Linda Haugen. Please call Linda at 612-916-1916 to RSVP and get directions. Everyone is welcomed to join the group for lunch and conversation.

Spring Warm Clothing Drive during the month of May

REGIONAL-Spring is the perfect time to go through those closets and clean out any gently-used warm clothing you no longer need – and now you've got the perfect place to share them.

This May, local churches, businesses, and community members are helping to collect gently used clothing for men and women being released from the St. Louis County Jail. Many are in need of proper gear to face our unpredictable Minnesota weather - some may enter in summer and be released in the dead of winter, unprepared for the cold. You can help make their fresh start a little warmer and a lot more hopeful.

Items needed include: coats, sweatshirts, jeans, pants, long-sleeve shirts, hats, gloves, boots, warm shoes. Please make sure items are clean, in good repair, and pockets are emptied. All sizes welcome - larger sizes especially appreciated!

Current Drop-off Locations:

▶ Tower Café – 411 Main Street, Tower

> St. Martin's Catholic Church - 108 N 2nd St., Tower (drop off at the social hall entrance)

► Lakeview Lodge -2279 Grant McMahon Blvd. Ely

► Earth Elements Acupuncture & Wellness 136 N 1st Ave. E, Ely

Want to help more?

We're looking for businesses, churches, and organizations willing to host a simple drop-off box.

There's no commitment beyond offering a space for donations-we'll coordinate pickup and provide support to make it easy. Let's work together to spread warmth, kindness, and dignity this spring.

NOTE: If you're looking to support Operation Santa for our local kids, a separate drive for new clothing will be held later this fall.

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.

ELY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Ely Memorial High School prom







Scenes from the high school prom on May 3

May 3. Upper left: Coral Mattidon (left) and Presley Hudson (right). Hudson's dress was by far the most spectacular of the evening. photo by C. Clark Upper right: The prom goers took their grand march to the residents of Ely Carefree Living. From left-to-right: Ava Sundell, Henry Zgonc, and Dylan Durkin. Sundell and Durkin raised a lot of smiles with their schtick of

wearing shades to the grand march and prom. photo by F. Zobitz Center left: The students formed a police-escorted convoy from the Chamber of Commerce offices through town to the Miners Dry Building, the site of the dinner and prom. The last vehicle in line was a pickup truck with David Weisinger (left), Hunter Kirkeby (center), and Colt Kvistad riding in the back in their prom finery. photo by C. Clark Below: The prom itself was at the Miners Dry Building belonging to the Ely Arts and Heritage Center. photo by F. Zobitz



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 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.

➤ May 27: Mining Minnesota with Julie Lucas.



that bright globe up there shining down bringing warm air

finally it's spring

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
 227

Ely high school student wins \$24,000 scholarship

ELY- Rena Johnson, a student at Ely Memorial High School, has won the prestigious Marshall H. and Nellie Alworth Scholarship, worth \$24,000. She will receive \$6,000 every school year for the next four years.

The scholarship program is the main endeavor of the

Alworth Memorial Fund, now in its 76th year. Alworth Scholarships are available to students in 60 high schools, plus those who are homeschooled, in 10 northern Minnesota counties: Aitkin, Beltrami, Carlton, Cass, Cook, Crow Wing, Lake, Itasca, Koochiching and St Louis.

The scholarships are for students pursuing mathematics, engineering, science, and medicine.

In 2025, the fund awarded 91 \$24,000 scholarships to high school seniors and six \$12,000 scholarships to community college sophomores to complete bachelor's degrees at a four-year school. Since the Fund's founding in 1949, it has awarded \$58.9 million to 5,491 motivated young people.

"For 76 years, the Alworth Memorial Fund has realized there's no better investment than in northern Minnesota young people with a passion for pursuing careers in math and science-related fields," said Patty Salo Downs, Executive Director of the Fund. "The 2025 scholarship class is no exception. We can't wait to see what new discoveries they make in the coming years to make the world a better place."

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.

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Minnesota North College

ELY- Commencement for the Vermilion campus of Minnesota North will be on May 14 staring at 7 p.m. in the college gymnasium. Doors open at 6 p.m. Attendees will be treated a slide show and live music by Marissa Ronnie, a 2025 graduate, between 6 and 7 p.m. A reception to honor the graduates will follow immediately after the ceremony in the cafeteria.

Ely City Band

ELY- the 136th season of the Ely City Band is right around the corner. The band is open to all who want to play. Rehearsals will be on Monday evenings at the Ely High School band room, with concerts at Whiteside Park on Tuesday evenings in July. The band will squeeze in a few additional rehearsals in June to get fingers, brains, and chops back into shape before the band's opening concert on July 4.

The first rehearsal will be on Monday, June 9, at 6 p.m. Anyone interested in joining the band for its summer season can contact Karl Kubiak at karlkubiak1@ gmail.com for more details and complete schedule. Existing band members should have received an email with the schedule. Contact Karl by email if you did not get a copy.

Babbitt Public Library

BABBITT- The library will hold more of its popular bingo sessions on Monday, May 12, and Monday, May 19. Both bingo events will start at 1 p.m.

The take-and-make kit for May is tissue paper art. The kit is now available for pick-up at the library while supplies last.

The library also has "Take and Make" kits for

hape creating a scrapbook, while ning supplies last.

> Preschool story time is every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. All library events are at the Babbitt Public Library, 71 South Dr., unless otherwise noted.

Ely Public Library

ELY- The Friends of the Library Book Club will meet on Monday, May 12, from 3-4 p.m. The book for discussion is "Apples Never Fall" by Liane Moriarity. The Friends of the Library monthly board meeting will be on Tuesday, May 13, from 1-2 p.m.

On Wednesday, May 14, at 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- Ely Community Education will host 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 both at 5:30-6:30 p.m., in the Ely Public Schools Media Cen-

ter, 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.

Ely for Ely

ELY-The Ely for Ely program will host Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital CEO Patti Banks on Tuesday, May 13, from 7:30 to 8:45 a.m., at the Community Hub, 760 Miners Drive. Her presentation will be: "Board Not Bored - Demystifying the Nonprofit Board Experience." Her talk will cover reasons to volunteer, liabilities and responsibilities, best practices of onboarding, and the composition of a vibrant board. A question-and-answer session will follow the presentation. The event is free and open to all; it includes coffee and a light breakfast.

COOK/ORR LOCAL

LOCAL RESILIENCE

Things getting back on track at the Comet Theater Boutique and coffee shop up and running, limted theater likely in summer

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- Nearly a year after floodwaters silenced the projectors and shuttered the doors of the historic Comet Theater, signs of life are returning to the heart of downtown Cook. On Friday, May 2, the boutique and coffee shop attached to the Comet officially reopened-marking the first major step in a long road to recovery following the devastating June 2024 flood.

For co-owners Ryan and Steph Horner, it's the kind of reopening that feels like both a comeback and a clean slate.

"We just been rushing," Ryan said. "The last couple months have been really hectic, trying to get all the cupboards in and the countertops and finish up the painting and put out the merchandise and figure out all the stuff that we missed."

The Horners purchased the Comet in 2023 and were just hitting their stride when the flood forced everything to a halt. But instead of simply restoring what was lost, they used the downtime to reimagine the space.

"It gave us opportunity to just start everything from scratch," Ryan said. "New paint, new walls, new ideas, to just try to make it ours."

They've reconfigured the layout to reflect that vision.

"We're getting rid of that movie counter," Ryan said. "All of our movie stuff is gonna be up front." The new setup allows all retail,

concessions, and ticketing to run through one modernized counter space, making things more efficient for both customers and staff. Customers will now be able to easily use a credit card for their movie-related purchases.

The boutique is stocked with a mix of fashion items, lake-themed gifts, books, stickers, and snack items.

"We got some lake-type stuff, and we still have popcorn like we make for the theater. And lots of different gift type stuff," Ryan said. "Some fancy stickers and books and stuff like that. If you like to have a cocktail every now and then, we have some cocktail accessories." Merchandise had been moved out before the flood got too high, which proved to be a saving grace."We didn't lose any merchandise whatsoever," he said. "If we had to rebuy all that stuff we probably would have been sunk."

Community support has played a big role in the rebuilding process. Former owners John Metza and Carol Carlson came back to help repaint, redo the floors, and organize the shop for reopening.

"That was huge," Ryan said.

Nicholas Contractor Bender tackled the structural and technical repairs.

"He basically did all the stuff that I didn't know how to do," Ryan said. "Once we tore everything apart, we'd say 'Boy, this isn't very good in here.' It was all just kind of like patched together and a little sketchy."

Ryan also expressed the Horners' thanks to all of the people who volunteered during the flood, clean-up, and renovations. He said they were even grateful of people who stopped by to offer words of support or merely peek through the windows to see how it was coming along.

The theater itself is still under renovation, but progress is coming. Plans include laying down epoxy flooring and reinstalling the center section of seats, about 63 of them, Ryan said.

"I'm hoping that we can get those seats installed and maybe do limited movies this summer," Ryan said. "We've still got to do the whole theater part, but we're starting to work on that here in the next couple days."

Special events like live music or fashion shows may return in the fall once the space is fully functional.

"We definitely want to do some different events," Ryan said. "But we need to have a space, and I don't want to just throw something together here and not have it be the best event that it can be.'

The Horners are also considering bringing on parttime help if movies resume this summer.

phone calls. If people want to Comet Theater's boutique. time summer job," Ryan said, summer. photos by D. Colburn 'we might have something."

took a heavy toll.

open and start having a little the year." bit of income again," Ryan Still,



We're taking some Top: Merchandise from fancy and casual attire to movie popcorn await in the

call and look for a little part- Bottom: There's still much left to do in the theatre, but shows may be back this

said. "Because it's a huge Financially, the closure loss, you know, not being open through our three big-We just want to get gest, you know, months of

bright signal of hope and determination. The Com-

opened boutique offers a ty willing to lend a hand, it's already shining again.

et Theater may not be fully back yet, but thanks to cre-Still, the newly reativity, grit, and a communi-



IN THE LIONS ZONE Sopoci compets at state speech

FIELD TWP- North Woods senior Amber Sopoci took on something recently many people fear - public speaking - by participating in the Minnesota State High School League State Speech tournament at Shakopee High School on Friday, April 25.

Sopoci competed in serious poetry reading this season on a cooperative team with the Northeast Range Nighthawks and qualified for state by taking first at the Section 7A tournament.

by Samantha Menard, "A Letter from your Disease" by Siera, and "Dear Addiction" by Zeb Edington. Sopoci said that Jennifer Kaufenberg, the team's coach, was the most instrumental person in helping her prepare.

Sopoci was one of two dozen poetry competitors at state, and they squared off in three preliminary small group sessions, with a judge rating each performance.

"I enjoyed watchin

Sopoci placed 15th, not high enough to qualify for the finals but still good enough for her.

"I was satisfied with my performance," Sopoci said. "I competed in three different rounds for the same speech. In all three rounds, I felt proud of the way I performed. In my second round, I got first in my room. However, there were some tough competitors in my last round. I was honored to be the section champion and advance to state speech for the second year. Speech is a wonderful experience, and I encourage anyone to join it."

Volunteer hair stylists at the Cook Hospital and Care Center show off three brand new hair dryers for the Busy Bee Beauty Shop provided by the Cook Lions Club. The beauty shop in the care center nursing home is a free, once-a-week service for residents every Thursday morning. Cook Lions Judith Ulseth, Julie Hippe, and Barb Boutto are Busy Bee volunteers. submitted

She prepared three selections for the competition: "Relapse, Contemplation, Aftermath, and Cleansing"

my competitors," Sopoci said. "Seeing everyone else's poetry pieces and how they say it is so cool." When the scores from the preliminaries were added up,

<u>Community events</u>

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.

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. Completed forms are due by Friday, May 13, and may be submitted by email to nwfamn.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 by June 3.

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

Retired teachers show reception is Friday

COOK-The walls of the Norhwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery are coming alive with color, texture, and imagination this May, thanks to a new exhibit featuring the work of three familiar names from area schools.

The gallery will host a public reception on Friday, May 9, from 5 to 7 p.m. to celebrate Beyond the Classroom: Color and Clay, a

month-long exhibit showcasing the creative talents of Lyn Reed, Mark Reed, and Ron Maki. All three are retired teachers who spent their careers in local classrooms-Lyn and Ron as art instructors, and Mark as a science teacher. Their careers included time at schools in Floodwood, Orr, Cook, and North Woods.

The show features an engaging mix of paintings, pottery, and other works that reflect the artists' passions both in and out of the classroom

The exhibit will remain on display through May 30 in the Wolfe Den classroom space at the NWFA Gallery, located at 210 S River St. Regular gallery hours are Wednesday through Friday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and Saturday from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Learn more at www.nwfamn. org or follow NWFA on Facebook and Instagram.

Care to stop by and see what your former teachers have been up to? You might just be surprised.

Plenty of creative opportunities at NWFA in May and June

COOK – Whether you're a kid just getting started or a grownup ready to try something new, Northwoods Friends of the Arts has a full slate of classes lined up for May and June. Most sessions are held at the NWFA Gallery in Cook,

and spots tend to fill up quickly, so early registration is recommended. You can sign up online at www. nwfamn.org, by email at nwfamn. org@gmail.com, by phone at 218-666-2153, or in person at the gallery at 210 S River St. Regular hours are Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., with extended hours on May 24 and June 14 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Upcoming Art Classes at NWFA Gallery

► Thursday, May 15, 1–4 p.m.

Intro to Personal Poetry with Cecilia Rolando. Discover your voice through narrative poetry. Max 10 students.

► Saturday, May 17, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Pottery - Handbuilding with Lyn Reed. Create a vessel or sculpture using slab or coil clay techniques. Part 1 of 2.

► Saturday, May 24, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Pottery – Glazing with Lyn Reed. Part 2 of the pottery class. Apply glazes to your handbuilt creations.

►Thursday, June 5, 12–2 p.m. Watercolor Play for Kids with .Kris Musto..A fun, hands-on class introducing kids to watercolor techniques. Free. Max 10 students.

► Thursday, June 12, 1–4 p.m. Gelli Plate Prints with Cecilia Rolando. Learn gelli plate printing and introductory paper fabric making. Max 8 students.

≻Thursday, June 19, 12–2 p.m. Watercolor Play for Kids with Kris Musto. A second offering of the June 5 class for those who missed the first session. Free. Max 10 students.

► Saturday, June 21, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Beginning Drawing with Lyn Reed. Covers contour, shading, value, perspective, and drawing tools. Max 10 students.

► Monday, June 23, 12–2 p.m. Curious and Creative Kids with Lvn Reed. A free hands-on session exploring printing with a variety of objects. Max 10 students.

►Tuesday, June 24, 5–8 p.m. Block Print with Lyn Reed. Design, carve, and print your own block. All materials provided. Max 10 students.

► Saturday, June 28, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Drawing - Trompe L'Oeil with Lyn Reed. Learn this optical illusion technique that tricks the eye into seeing 3D on a flat surface. Max 10 students.

Read It HERE

DONATION...Continued from page 1

members of the department were serving in the miliary. He joined the department as an adult in 1950.

David Marshall, Ely's current fire chief, remarked, "So here we are, 75 years after he joined the fire department, and he is continuing to make a tremendous impact. This kind of gift is a game changer for any fire department, but particularly a volunteer fire department in a small town."

Gornick wanted the money dedicated for equipment and firefighter training. To fulfill Gornick's wishes, the city council passed a motion that the donation would be used exclusively for the fire department.

Former fire chiefs Gary Klun and Tom Urchull and Ely's firefighters attended the meeting for the presentation of the check.

In other matters, the council:

➤ Voted to lift calendar parking rules on Saturday, May 17.

➤ Heard the report of city council member Angela Campbell that the Ely Heritage Preservation Commission has a new brochure for the Ely walking tour featuring 60 sites around town.

➤ Approved the conversion of Ely's utility billing software to a package from Civic Systems. The new billing software will be compatible with the Civic Systems software already used at city hall. The cost for the new software is \$24,100 plus \$3,270 for annual support.

 Approved the purchase of Civic Systems software for building permits and billing with direct pay for \$54,350 plus \$9,230 for annual support.
 Approved a \$31,100

payment to AE2S for the Facility Plan Amendment study and report phase at

the Wastewater Treatment Facility.

➤ Approved a \$19,947 payment to AE2S for an inflow and infiltration study of the city's wastewater collection system. Council member Al Forsman explained why the study is needed: "Storm water should not be making it down into the sanitary sewer. Yet it does. It's the intent of the city to constantly try to bring (the amount of storm water) down. So that is what this study is all about.

Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski added that the city has already eliminated several places where storm water infiltrates into the sewer lines, but based on the flows into the wastewater treatment facility, some crossover between storm water and wastewater still occurs.

"I'm hoping we can find some smoking guns of areas where we're getting storm water into the sewer flows," Langowski said. "When we get a big rainstorm, it somehow short circuits into a sanitary sewer line somewhere within the city."

➤ Approved a \$27,900 payment to ON2 Solutions for 18 additional decorative lights to complete Sheridan Street and the trailhead building.

Approved a \$1,899.10 payment to Ferguson Waterworks for the purchase of two sling harnesses for confined space entry.

➤ Approved a \$4,740 payment to Minnesota Pump Works for the purchase of a lift station pump.

➤ Approved \$17,012 payment to T and R Electric for the purchase of a pad mount transformer for the new hotel. The transformer will be paid for by the developer.

➤ Approved a \$2,250 payment to the Dept. of Natural Resources for the

permit fee for the Burntside Water Project.

➤ Approved a \$500 payment to Mick Shusta for March A Operator Services at the water treatment plant and the wastewater treatment facility.

➤ Approved the low bid of \$344,488 from Low Impact Excavators for the excavation and disposal of contaminated soils at the railroad depot redevelopment project. The city acts as the fiscal agent for the project's clean-up grant from the Dept.of Employment and Economic Development. The developer is responsible for any costs not covered by the grant. No city moneys are used for this project.

➤ Approved a quit claim deed for Isaac and Sonya Olson for Lot 1, in Block 1 of the East Spaulding First Addition. This action releases the city's right to recall the purchase of the lot if the owners do not build on the lot. The release is a requirement by the Olsons' mortgage company, which is providing the loan so they can build a house on the property.

➤ Approved Ely and Ely Utility Commission claims for payment through May 6 for \$645,419.

➤ Approved the transfer of Federal Aviation Agency entitlements from the Ely Municipal Airport to the Little Falls Airport of \$150,000 for the federal fiscal year 2024 and \$100,000 for 2025.

➤ Approved a \$10,000 residential rehab loan application for Thomas Teigen at 245 E. Pattison St. to reside the house and garage.

➤ Approved a \$5,000 residential rehab loan application for Louis Champa at 1237 E. Sheridan St. to replace shingles on a leaking roof and to repair to the water line.

JAIL...Continued from page 1

instinctively and keyed his radio. "I need another set of eyes on pod three. We've got escalation."

Inside the cell, John pounded the wall with his fists, muttering something about wires in his skin.

The officer didn't press further, trying to de-escalate the situation.

Scenes like this one, though fictionalized, mirror what corrections officers at the St. Louis County Jail face routinely. Nearly 1,400 inmates annually, or about 35 percent of total bookings, are flagged for mental health concerns. Those experiencing severe mental illness may misinterpret basic commands, perceive threats that don't exist, and react with confusion, fear, or sudden aggression. Even routine interactions like delivering meals or issuing lockdown orders can escalate rapidly when inmates can't distinguish reality from delusion.

Methamphetamineinduced psychosis only magnifies the risk. Its tendency to spark paranoia, delusions, and aggression has made inmate management not just more complex, but more dangerous. According to Jail Administrator Jessica Pete, assaults on corrections officers have risen significantly since she began working at the jail in 2003. Inmate-on-inmate violence is also climbing, with ten serious assaults reported in 2024, up from just three in 2019. Today's inmate population is a serious mismatch for a facility opened in 1995 with a layout rooted in a very different philosophy for a very different inmate population. At the time, a direct supervision, communal model was considered progressive- a way to build rapport, defuse tension, and reduce isolation. Three large dormitory-style pods with commons areas, two holding 60 men each and a third for 31 women, were intended to foster interaction and reduce tension through constant visibility and contact. Cells had wooden doors with slit windows, not bars. Officers were placed in pods, not behind glass, to interact with inmates. The thinking was, if you treat people with a degree of normalcy, many will respond in kind.



One of the inmate pods at the St. Louis County Jail as seen from the observation window of a control roomage courtesy of FOX 21

stable behavior. It assumed that most inmates would be able to interact within a shared commons area, follow instructions, and self-regulate with a single officer present and a second monitoring from a second-story control center.

But today, with one in three inmates experiencing untreated or poorly managed mental illness, often complicated by substance-induced psychosis, those assumptions no longer hold. The same openness that once helped officers build rapport now creates more exposure, more volatility, and limits their ability to isolate or stabilize people in crisis.

standards," especially during high-traffic periods when multiple transports arrive back-to-back.

To keep up, the jail has improvised – two telephone rooms in the intake area have been converted into makeshift holding cells.

Once processed, inmates exchange their street clothes for jail-issued orange. They are searched for contraband, which can include a scan by a full-body scanner purchased with COVID-related funding. A new pilot program using a trained canine adds another layer of security aimed at keeping drugs and other banned items out of the facility. partnership with St. Luke's Hospital comes in. The on-site medical clinic is compact but well equipped. Staffed by physician assistants, nurses, and overseen by a medical director, the clinic provides services many county jails can't. They run electrocardiograms, ultrasounds, pulmonary tests, and lab work right inside the facility.

Medications are distributed by clinic staff rather than correctional officers, ensuring continuity and proper oversight. The clinic also has two negative-pressure cells available to safely house inmates with contagious respiratory conditions inmates in this pod have out of their cells is significantly reduced to provide out-ofcell time for each group. DOC inspectors have noted that while this practice meets standards, it's a short-term fix for a long-term facility issue in need of being addressed.

On the Iron Range

The challenges at the Duluth jail are surely relevant to the Iron Range and northern St. Louis County, as 40-45 percent of the inmates there are from communities in the northern half of the county. Most begin their incarceration at the Virginia and Hibbing satellite jails. Hibbing can accommodate eight inmates, while Virginia can hold 12, larger because there are more local police forces that use the Virginia facility. Captain Robert Pennington oversees both jails, which are used for holds of up to 72 hours. Pennington said that an inmate might be there longer than that when the district court branches in those locations are closed for Monday holidays and initial court appearances are delayed, but all with extended jail time are transported to Duluth. Perhaps the biggest challenge for the satellite jails, Pennington noted, is that they are typically staffed with only one corrections officer. That places the burden for doing everything from intake to dispensing medications and meals as well as required checks on inmates on that one person. Pennington said he can bring in another officer if there are special circumstances that warrant it, but usually a single officer is sufficient, even with the multiple roles they take on. Both facilities have something Duluth doesn't have a video system to monitor inmates in their cells, as well as all other areas in the jails. Cameras are carefully placed to provide privacy for toileting, and the system cannot be used to replace the required periodic physical inmate checks, but the system does provide closer monitoring for inmates who need it, such as those who may be having some kind of crisis. And for another layer of security, the corrections officer in Hibbing can access the video system in Virginia right from their desktop computer, and vice versa. Pennington noted that it would be extremely expensive to retrofit the Duluth facility with such a system. The Virginia and Hibbing facilities don't have in-jail access to the supportive services available at the Duluth jail. The psychologist in Duluth is accessible through teleconferencing, but other health services would require outside providers.

Challenging, too, Pennington said, is what happens when inmates are released back to their communities. Whether it's directly from a 72-hour lockup or an extended stay in Duluth, the problem remains the same: the northern half of the county has far fewer resources for social services to help inmates re-enter society with better odds they won't soon be back in custody.

An expensive fix

The three jails have consistently scored at the top of DOC inspection checklists for both mandatory requirements and "essential" ones such as access to educational opportunities, religious services, and more. Those high marks, however, mask a harsher reality - the Duluth jail is due for an extreme, and likely costly, makeover.

'The St. Louis County Jail was constructed in 1995. The National Institute of Corrections estimates the life expectancy of a jail operating 24 hours a day 7 days a week to be between 25 and 30 years, depending on facility usage," the 2024 inspection report notes. "It is recommended that St. Louis County continue to study the long-term correctional needs of the community and their current facility. Any future planning for additional bed space should include a review of the core functions of the facility including intake areas, kitchen, laundry, storage, and inmate programming to ensure they can support the addition." It's hard to grasp that a facility so attractive from the outside and so well-maintained inside could be at the end of its useful life, but understanding the challenges presented by a new and more problematic generation of inmates with mental health issues leads to an obvious conclusion-accommodations are necessary for the jail to continue to serve its purpose effectively for the community into the future, as well as to provide for the mental health needs of inmates. In the third part of this series, we'll look at ways corrections officers are supported in their work, how community resources interface with the jail, and how policy changes may affect jail operations.

That design philosophy, which took root in the 1980s and gained momentum in the early '90s, worked well for a facility housing mostly pretrial detainees or low-level offenders with relatively

Intake process

The door clangs shut behind the squad car, sealing off the sally port from the outside world. This is where confinement begins.

Arresting officers lead the newly arrested through a second set of doors into the intake area, along, rectangular room anchored by an ovalshaped booking counter. It's the jail's central funnel and can get crowded fast. Around the perimeter, holding cells line the walls, often full, as medical screenings, paperwork, and classification evaluations stack up.

But the room wasn't built to handle this many people.

Nearly 4,000 individuals come through the Duluth jail each year. The Minnesota Department of Corrections has repeatedly flagged the intake area as too small to meet demand, warning that it fails to meet inmate separation standards and doesn't have adequate space to store inmates' property. One inspection noted that the space "does not allow for the required separation requirements under Chapter 2911

For additional security, even mail gets screened - but not at the jail. All personal correspondence must now be sent to a Maryland-based processing center run by a company called TextBehind. There, letters and photos are scanned after being screened for prohibited content, then electronically transmitted to the jail for printing and delivery to the inmates. The jail no longer accepts direct personal mail; anything sent to the facility is returned to sender. The change is part of an effort to reduce the smuggling of drug-laced paper and other prohibited materials.

Health care

Mental health care often starts with something more fundamental: access to basic health care. For inmates entering the jail in the middle of a mental health crisis – hallucinating, confused, or severely dysregulated – stabilization depends as much on clinical support as it does on supervision. Without that, there's no clear path toward treatment, just containment.

That's where the jail's

Juggling challenging inmates

Inmates are classified based on a mix of factors: gender, age, criminal history, behavioral risk, and mental health needs. But the number of available cells doesn't always match the range of classifications.

The jail's smaller isolation and special management pods, designed to house people who need separation for safety or psychiatric reasons, can only hold a few inmates at a time. And while each has a small commons area, only a limited number of inmates can access it at a time, sometimes only one if their classification is particularly severe. And while the special pods are necessary, being placed there can heighten an inmate's sense of isolation and contribute to a possible escalation of mental health symptoms. Because the space is limited, the routine of one of the men's general population pods has been modified, Pete said. The pod houses different classifications of inmates, and since they can't be mixed, the time



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SULFATE...Continued from page 1 -

180 people attended the virtual meeting and many offered skeptical comments and questions following a presentation of the proposal by MPCA staff.

According to the MPCA, about 600 dischargers in the state are located upstream of wild rice waters, which means they could be subject to the standard."There will be a large number of [water discharge] permit holders upstream of wild rice waters that likely will have limits," Pestano said. "We've had variance requests already and we expect more.'

Pestano noted that variances aren't permanent. They're issued for a limit of five years, although they can be renewed. The standards set in the variances would vary by discharger and would be based primarily on the ability of the discharger, either technically or financially, to reduce its pollution.

The MPCA's Kaity Taylor said such a variance is a regulatory tool typically used when "there is no clear path to meeting a permit limit." As part of the variance request, companies need to agree to

accept a discharge limit that reflects the highest attainable pollution reduction with the current technology, essentially "locking in" an agreed-upon number. Currently, the available technology for reducing sulfate is reverse osmosis, a highly expensive process that comes with its own environmental issues.

5-year variance term

similar circumstances

stream, and discharge

Reductions from overland flow

possible (within reason)

Facilities need to request coverage under the

May be renewed after 5-years under

Reduce sulfate levels to the highest extent

Reduce sulfate in the influent, waste

Consider other methods of protecting wild rice where it is or may be in the watershed

What remains unclear is how the MPCA's proposal

would impact ongoing efforts to bring the state's taconite industry-among the state's largest dischargers of sulfate into wild rice waters- into compliance. During a question-and-answer period following the web presentation, the MPCA declined to address questions related to the taconite industry.

Sulfate discharges from taconite processing opera-

raised sulfate levels in water bodies like Lake Vermilion and Birch Lake, both of which are located downstream of discharges from taconite mines. Public wastewater treat-

tions on the Iron Range have

ment plants can be another significant generator of sulfate, although that is often more dependent on sulfate levels in the source water being treated by such facilities. Sulfate not

only contributes to the decline of wild rice, it is known to facilitate the methylation of mercury, allowing it to accumulate within the aquatic food chain.

Members of the public attending the webinar expressed doubts that the agency can better enforce a standard by simplifying the process for exceeding it."Why create legal loopholes?" asked one participant. "Won't this make it harder to enforce wild rice standard?"

Others questioned the MPCA's commitment to addressing the sulfate issue. "Isn't it true that MPCA has never brought an enforcement action against a violation of this standard?" asked another participant, although MPCA officials opted not to answer.

'Would mining companies be allowed to apply for this variance?" asked another participant.

"Any facility can request coverage," said Taylor, "but they have to qualify based on criteria."

Others questioned whether the proposal wasn't simply about kicking the can down the road. "This could take years to set up," said Paula Maccabee, who noted that Minnesota has never done a multiple discharger variance. "Meanwhile, it would waste tribal, community, and staff time that could have been better used developing individual variances. Or better yet, said Maccabee, "we'd like to see, plain and simple, enforcement of the standard."

Public process

While the MPCA is pursuing the multiple discharger variance, it is also seeking input from the public, and last week's webinar was an initial part of that outreach. "There will be a public notice and comment period," noted Pestano. MPCA officials offered no timeline on when the new process would actually be established and how long it might take to determine which facilities might qualify for a variance and what the parameters on any variance might be.

KIOSKS...Continued from page 1

spearhead the project.

Suihkonen's oldest brother, Brian Tekautz, drowned in Lake Vermilion when he was three years old.

'My mother had three kids under the age of three at the time," she said. "They were staying at a resort and Brian said he was going to find his grandfather, and he wandered off." He was later found in the lake, and back then, Suihkonen said, medical responders didn't know there was a chance of a child surviving a drowning in cold water. The tragedy led her father to become an EMT and CPR instructor, skills that Suihkonen has also made her career, as ambulance director for the city of Tower. Several of Suihkonen's daughters have also trained and worked as emergency responders, carrying on the family tradition.

Littler's younger brother, Drew, drowned in Birch

Light

ncluded

Lake, but was resuscitated after being transported by the Babbitt Ambulance to Ely-Bloomenson Hospital, and then life-flighted to Duluth. Littler and a friend were canoeing, with young Drew in the canoe with them, when their boat capsized. Drew is now grown, but he has life-impacting brain trauma from his time without oxygen. He is a graduate of Ely High School and Minnesota North-Vermilion.

'Drew is enjoying everything that comes his way," said Littler. "He loves to learn."

Littler originally found the idea for life preserver kiosks from a group called Safe Kids Worldwide, which she had worked with to solicit donations of bike helmets for area children. The idea wasn't a current focus of that organization, but she worked to update their idea and tailor it for the local area, with help

from the three area ambulance services, forming an ersatz group called BETAS, for Babbitt, Ely, Tower Ambulance Safety.

The first step was raising money and donations of materials, and they quickly found plenty of support for their project. The initial plan called for three kiosks, one for each community, and they secured donations of treated lumber from Pohaki Lumber and a commitment to purchase life jackets from Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital. But soon they realized that five kiosks were needed, and both of these major sponsors quickly agreed to increase their support.

"We got a lot of help from all over," Littler said.

Ryan Lindsay, a teacher at Northeast Range, had his students help build two of the kiosks with help from Littler's husband Matt, and Jay Foltz

Contracting built the rest. Cash donations helped purchase the needed signage, materials and hardware, and cover other expenses.

Littler said one of the goals of the project was to connect kids to their communities.

"The kids who built the boxes hopefully will make sure the community takes care of them," she said. "This is hands-on engagement."

Public safety is a priority for all three of the ambulance departments involved.

"Even if we can help one person," said Suihkonen, "it's all worth it."

The brightly-painted kiosks are sturdy, with a latching front door, and a shingled roof to keep them dry. Signs on the front and back of the kiosks show how to make sure the correct size of life jacket is used and correctly worn.

Julie Kranz and Randy

Pratt, who manage Hoodoo Point Campground in Tower, were excited to have the kiosk installed on Tuesday. They said they often get requests to borrow life jackets, and would lend them out if possible, but this now means there will always be that extra layer of safety at the lake.

Littler said the first kiosk at the Birch Lake beach in Babbitt was installed last summer, and that all the life jackets were returned, something they had been a little concerned about.

Suihkonen would like to work on some other community safety projects, including bike helmet giveaways and doing more education on UTV safety.

Littler said outreach is also a passion of hers, and she hopes to work on similar projects in the future. She's looking, in particular, for projects that show students what

careers are available in EMS. "We need to tie kids into their communities," she said.

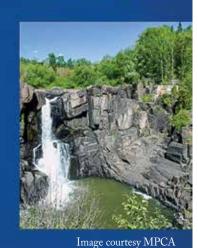
The kiosks, located at HoodooPoint,McKinleyPark, Birch Lake, and two public beaches in Ely, should all be installed by this weekend.

The project was funded with help from many area businesses, organizations, and individuals: Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital, Pohaki Lumber, Tower Firemen's Relief Association, Winton Rod and Gun Club, Alder Place, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Babbitt Golf Association, K & M Industrial, Dirty Dog Manufacturing, Jay Folz Contracting, Matt Littler, and Northeast Range High School shop students and Ryan Lindsay.

"When we can all work together, look at what we can get done," said Suihkonen.



Heidi A. Samantha B. • Morgan B. • Angela B. • Nicole C. • Nichole C. • Rani E. • Emily F. • Martha G. Karla G. • Erica H. • Jill H. • Elaine H. • Victoria J. Margarita J. • Rebecca J. • Kellsie K. • Samantha L. Jillian L. • Hannah L. • Sydney L. • Cherall M-S. Jennette M. • Amy M. • Harlee M. • Mackenna O. Mackenzie K. • Michelle P. • Kimberly R.B. Elizabeth R. • Al S. • Melissa S. • Emily S. Kendra S.
 Brandi S.
 Stacy S. • Sara T. • Aurora T. • Anna U. • Lori W. • Karen W. • Colin Y. • Tiffany Z. Thank you, Nurses! In celebration of **National Nurses Week** we honor the passion, skill, and dedication of Ely-Bloomenson our wonderful nurses. Community Hospital HYDRANT FLUSHING The Town of Soudan will be flushing hydrants on Tuesday, May 20 starting at 7:30 a.m. **Residents should expect** discolored water and



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CRIME

Virginia man faces second charge for theft at Timber Bay Lodge

by CATIE CLARK Elv Editor

BABBITT- A Virginia man employed at Timber Bay Lodge is facing new felony charges for what may have been an earlier theft from his employers. As the *Timberjay* recently reported, Ronald Eugene Childs was charged in



while they were out of **Ronald Childs**

But Childs now faces new

felony charges, including third degree burglary, for offenses allegedly committed on or before March 23. After being out of town, his employers returned home on that earlier date to find that cash and jewelry valued at \$20,000 were missing. They did not find any indication of forced entry into their house. The couple reported the theft to the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office. They also installed security cameras in their home. These were the same cameras that alerted the couple to an intruder inside their residence on the morning of April 19.

After Childs' first arrest, the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office ran his name through the Leads Online program, which traced two sales of jewelry by Childs to The Gold Guys business in Duluth one on March 7 and one on March 20. The couple have identified the jewelry Childs sold as belonging to them.

In addition to the April 19 offenses, Childs has now been

charged with third-degree burglary, felony theft, and felony receiving stolen property for the alleged March thefts from his former employers' home. His first appearance in court for the new charges is scheduled for May 30.

SUMMER'S ON ITS WAY

Voyageurs National Park sets summer hours for visitors centers

VOYAGEURS N.P.-Voyageurs National Park has released the summer hours of operation for the park's four visitor centers, Rainy Lake, Kabetogama Lake, Ash River, and, for the first time, the newly opened Crane Lake Visitor Center. The Rainy Lake center will have a special weekend opening this Saturday, May 10 and Sunday, May 11 to coincide with the Minnesota fishing opener and Mother's Day. Hours for the weekend will be 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Starting Saturday, May

24, all four visitor centers will begin regular operations. They will be open seven days a week from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. throughout the summer season. Two special events are planned for June:

► A grand opening ceremony for the Crane Lake Visitor Center will take place on Friday, June 6 at 1:30 p.m. ➤The Rainy Lake Visitor

Center will host a celebration of VNP's 50th birthday from noon-4 p.m. on Saturday, June 14.

For the most up-todate list of park programs, visit www.nps.gov/voya . To reserve a spot on ranger-led boat tours, which will begin on June 15, visit www.recreation. gov. For all other ranger-led programs, please inquire at the visitor centers.

Starting May 24, the following visitor center numbers will be available:

► Rainy Lake Visitor Center: 218-286-5258.

Kabetogama Lake
 VisitorCenter: 218-875-2111.
 Ash River Visitor
 Center: 218-374-3221.

FROZEN...Continued from page 1 -

Superintendent Bob DeGross emphasized the Park Service's obligation to follow federal rules, but that did little to calm frustrations. Residents said the proposal ignored the park's unique character and the way northern Minnesotans have safely and responsibly used frozen lakes for generations.

Public comments submitted across two rounds of review underscored four major concerns. First, many objected to what they saw as a misapplication of federal law, a regulation written for land-based roads that they said doesn't account for the reality of frozen water surfaces, and DeGross was taken to task for not adequately advocating for the uniqueness of the park with his superiors.

Second, people worried that restricting vehicle use beyond ice roads would severely limit traditional winter access, affecting not only recreation, but also privacy, safety, and the basic ability to reach fishing spots or remote areas. Third, the idea of charging access fees for use of frozen lakes drew sharp rebukes. Some questioned the legality of such fees on public waters, while others simply felt it was wrong to pay for something that had never cost money before.

Finally, residents took issue with the process itself. Many felt that the Park Service hadn't adequately listened to local voices or reflected the realities of small-town life along the park's boundaries. While the revised 2024 plan reflected feedback by rolling back some of the original restrictions, such as expanding plowed ice road mileage and loosening rules on unoccupied shelters, many believed the changes didn't go far enough. As one commenter put it at last year's Kabetogama meeting, "I kind of do believe you are on our side... but I think you're put in a really bad position right now. And you didn't hear us, or your superiors didn't hear us."

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources submitted its own objections, challenging not just the specifics of the plan, but the federal government's authority to implement it. In a strongly worded letter to park officials, DNR Northeast Region Director Shelly Patton said the state of Minnesota never ceded ownership of its public waters, or the beds beneath them, when Voyageurs was established as a national park. According to the state, frozen lake surfaces remain legally classified as water, not land, and are governed by Minnesota law.

Patton argued that treating frozen lakes as extensions of the land in order to apply road regulations was legally flawed and could infringe on the rights of both the state and riparian landowners. She also pushed back on several practical issues, including a proposal that would have required people to occupy their ice shelters overnight in certain zones. Under Minnesota law, shelters may be left unoccupied for days at a time, provided they follow registration rules.

The DNR also flagged accessibility concerns, arguing that the plan failed to account for individuals with disabilities who may rely on enclosed vehicles other than snowmobiles to access the ice. And the department took issue with how the Park Service categorized rented ice shelters, warning that treating them as commercial fishing operations subject to federal permits went against state definitions and precedent.

Ultimately, the DNR called for the withdrawal of any provisions that would restrict access to state-owned public waters within the park, a stance that closely aligned with local sentiment voiced throughout the process.

Sen. Grant Hauschild, DFL-Hermantown, was a strong critic of the frozen lake surface plan and rallied opposition at both the state and federal levels. After meeting with resort owners and houseboat operators in early 2023, he began pressing the U.S. Department of the Interior and NPS to reconsider, warning that the proposed restrictions threatened to upend winter tourism, local jobs, and generational access traditions.

"This is a huge victory for northern Minnesota," Hauschild said in response to the plan's termination. "From day one, I've said this plan was federal overreach that would devastate winter access and disrupt local businesses that have responsibly used these frozen lakes for generations. I'm proud to say our efforts paid off, and the voices of our communities were heard loud and clear."

With the plan now off the table, park officials say they'll return to their longstanding winter management practices.

Superintendent Bob DeGross said the park will continue to plow ice roads on Rainy and Kabetogama as conditions allow. Anglers may also plow spur roads up to 300 feet from those routes for shelter placement. Vehicles heading off the roads must evaluate ice safety themselves, following state DNR guidance. Snowmobile trails and undeveloped portages remain closed to vehicles, with the Mukooda Truck Portage available by special permit.

DeGross said public comments gathered throughout the process will remain available online and will help inform future decisions.







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NORTHERN LAKES ARTS

"Dancing with the Ely Stars" raises over \$7,000 for NLAA youth programs

by CATIE CLARK Ely Editor

ELY- The third annual "Dancing with the Ely Stars" once again sold out last Thursday for an evening of great dancing and buckets of humor.

Abby Sirek was the MC for the event. Sirek attempted to usurp the attention of the audience with her insistence that she was the real event. She even put out her own box to collect votes for her "performance." Some people even voted for her.

This year's judges included Andrea Strom back for a second year of judging after winning first place in the first "Dancing with the Ely Stars." The role of the Russian judge was taken by Molly Roske, who never gave a score above six. Her average score was below four. Ryan Stewart was the third judge who maintained an ongoing riff with a Scottish accent while comparing everything to shrimp to great humorous effect.

The line of competitors included:

► Elijah Olson and Lucy Soderstrom with their hilarious aerobic exercise dance number.

➤ Jessie and Emily Dunn with the first mother-daughter dance routine at a "Dancing with the Ely Stars" event.

▶ Megan Wind and Aidan Bremer with a jazzy swing number

➤ The polished Eva Peterson paired with the new-to-performance Ozzie Reif with a contemporary ballet piece.

► Megan Sisson and SunShine Gardner with a swing-oriented routine that included the athleticism people have come to expect for any dance involving Gardner.

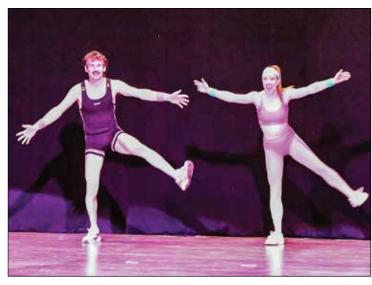
This year, the event included a judges' favorite award that was given to Megan Wind and Aidan Bremer. Second place went to Elijah Olson and Lucy Soderstrom, who displayed entirely too much energy. Olson took home his second "Dancing with the Ely Stars" award. He previous won first place in 2023 along with Andrea Strom.

Megan Sisson and SunShine Gardner took first place. This is the second award that Gardner has taken home from this event. He won second place last year with Megan Olson as his partner.

While the judges counted the votes, the audience was treated to three numbers by the Reflections Dance Company. The dances included a solo by Ella Rue, a ballet trio of Charlotte Hegman, Ellie Marshall, and Presly Marzella; and an ensemble number with Jessie Dunn, Molly Olson, Crystal Pop-

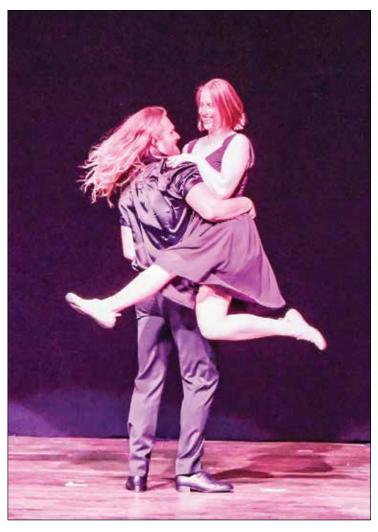


Magan Sisson and SunShine Gardner receive the trophy for first place, with the rest of the dancers watching on.





the Northern Lakes Arts Associa- more tickets to vote for their favortion. The show raised over \$7,000 ites. The NLAA uses the funds to expand its youth programs and to award scholarships to NLAA youth activities for kids who would otherwise not be able to attend.



Above: Megan Sisson and SunShine Gardner thrilled the audience with their swing-inspired dance routine.

Above left: Lucy Soderstrom and Elijah Olson

pler, AmberBeth VanNingen, and Megan Wind.

The event was a fundraiser for

by the end of the show. Each member of the audience received three tickets to use for voting for the winners. People could also buy

Left: Megan Wind and Aidan Bremner

photos by C. Clark

In summer 2023 high temperatures, wildfire smoke, and reduced air quality impacted our well-being. How can we prepare together this summer? Join a casual community conversation! Wednesday, May 14 from 4-6 p.m.

Grand Ely Lodge - Sunrise Room 400 N. Pioneer Rd., Ely, MN All are welcome & a light dinner will be provided!

Explore what we can do as a community to prepare for future high heat, poor air quality, and wildfire smoke to keep ourselves, loved ones, and neighbors safe.

Meet your neighbors and share thoughts with invited representatives from Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital and Essentia Health Clinic.

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Award funding for this project was provided in part by Stratis Health's Building Healthier Communities Award, supporting efforts to build a culture of quality in health care.

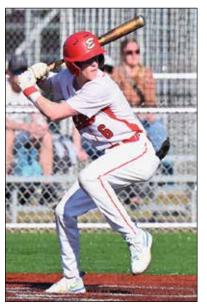




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BASEBALL



Wolves show they have what it takes

Win big and win small to improve to 8-1

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

A U R O R A — Th e Timberwolves improved to 8-1 on the baseball season this week with back-to-back wins over Mt. Iron-Buhl and Mesabi East.

In Aurora on Monday, Ely demonstrated patience and execution in a 3-1 win. Tied 1-1 heading

Left: Caid Chittum tips to his back foot as he prepares to swing at a Mesabi East pitch during Monday's contest in Aurora. photo by F. Zobitz into the top of the sixth, Ely manufactured two critical runs. A Ben Leeson single was followed by a Caid Chittum walk, and a perfectly executed sacrifice bunt by Owen Marolt moved the runners into scoring position. Stig Majerus delivered the go-ahead blow with a sharp RBI single, giving Ely the edge they needed.

Hunter Halbakken collected his fifth win of the season from the mound in a classic pitchers' duel in which the two team's hurlers combined for 16 strikeouts. Halbakken allowed just three hits on the afternoon. The Wolves managed just four hits against Mesabi East pitcher Zacary Norberg, but made them count.

In Saturday's contest with the Rangers, Halbakken was nearly untouchable, firing a two-hit shutout while striking out nine Raiders batters. Ely's defense backed him up in a big way, turning three double plays to snuff out any potential scoring threats.

"Hunter continues to control the strike zone and keep opposing hitters off guard," said Ely Head Coach Frank Ivancich. "We played two excellent defensive games over the past few days. The one run we surrendered was scored on a miscommunication on a cutoff throw from the outfield. Turning four double plays in the past two games has most certainly been key to keeping opposing teams off the

See WOLVES...pg. 2B

SOFTBALL

Ely tallies sixth win in a row

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

CHISHOLM — The Timberwolves notched their sixth straight win here on Tuesday as they routed the Bluestreaks 16-3 in six innings to improve to 7-2 on the season.

Senior Maija Mattson was nearly perfect at the plate, knocking in four runs on four hits and scoring twice, while junior Ella Parish tallied three RBIs on three hits.

The game was tight in the early going. Ely scored three in the first inning but went scoreless during the next two frames. Meanwhile, Chisholm added three in the third to knot the score. But that's when the Wolves blew the game wide open with six unanswered runs in the fourth, three more in the fifth and four more for insurance

See ELY GIRLS...pg. 2B

1. \sim



North Woods' Aidan Hartway competed in the 100-meter dash this week in Mesabi East. photo by F. Zobitz

TRACK

Visser, Udovich top Ely track at Hibbing meet

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

HIBBING- The Ely track team taught the schools at the 69th Annual Doc Savage Invitational in Hibbing on Saturday a thing or two about talent and determination, as numerous Ely athletes turned in a strong performance in a large meet filled with larger schools and hundreds of competitors. There were 13 schools competing on the boys side and a dozen on the girls', and the Wolves placed seventh in both divisions. But two Timberwolves claimed meet championships. Kaylin Visser is a threat any time she steps into the discus ring, no matter the competition, and she came away with first place with a toss of 109'10". Speedster Violet Udovich burned it up on the track, winning the 400m in 58.57 seconds and also finishing third in the 100m with a time of 12.99. The 4x800m relay team of Brooks Brenny, Oliver Hohenstein, Wyatt Devine, and Eli Olson had the top finish for the boys, placing third with a time of 9:06.77. The top boys' individual finish was Wyatt Devine placing fourth in the 800m with a time of 2:13.89. Top 20 finishes for the Wolves included:



by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- The North Woods softball team bounced back from a tough 17-4 loss to Mt. Iron-Buhl on Monday to crush Deer River on Tuesday, 18-0.

The Grizzlies got off to a hot start when Zoey Burckhardt got on board and came home on a triple by Ella Kruse. Evalyn Thiel picked up an RBI on a single for a 2-0 lead.

Rory Bundy, Nevada Gauthier, Burckhardt and Kruse crossed the plate in the second for a 6-0 lead, but the best was yet to come for North Woods.

The Grizzlies batted around the order in the third, scoring eight runs. Kruse blasted her

See NW GIRLS...pg. 2B

Panichi hurls no-hitter

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

his eighth punchout of the game.

FIELD TWP- It's been a good roll for the North Woods baseball team, starting out with a stellar no-hitter by senior pitcher Louie Panichi and following up with three more wins.

Panichi was a beast against Mt. Iron-Buhl last Wednesday, turning in a five-inning no-hitter and driving in four runs to lead the Grizzlies to a 13-0 win.

Panichi retired the Rangers in order through the first three innings and worked around two walks in the fourth, striking out two to keep the no-hit bid alive. He sealed it in the fifth with a strikeout, a flyout to center, and At the plate, he opened the scoring with an RBI double and later added a two-run single and an RBI hit-by-pitch. Talen Jarshaw followed Panichi's second-inning plate appearance with a bases-loaded triple to push the lead to 7-0.

North Woods piled on five more runs in the third, with John Warren, Panichi, and Jarshaw all driving in runs. The Grizzlies tacked on their final score in the fifth after a Warren single and a Mt. Iron-Buhl error.

Panichi finished with four RBIs, two hits, and eight strikeouts in a hitless, five-inning The Grizzlies' Louie Panichi, pictured here in Tuesday action against Littlefork-Big Falls, pitched a no-hitter last week against Mt. Iron-Buhl. photo by D. Colburn

photo by D. Col

outing.

Grizzlies take four straight in busy week

"It was beautiful," Grizzlies Head Coach Steve Baker said. "He had a no-no going until he gave up a couple of walks, but he was able to bear down and get the last guys out. And there were four really nice plays on defense behind him. The defense was playing well."

See GRIZZLIES...pg. 2B

Boys

800m– Wyatt Devine, 4th, 2:13.89; Blake Houde, 10th, 2:21.33; Brooks Brenny, 11th, 2:23.39; Grady Anderson, 19th, 2:37.64

1600m- Blake Houde, 5th, 5:01.60;

See TRACK...pg. 2B

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TRACK

Grizzlies show promise at Hibbing invitational

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

HIBBING- The North Woods Grizzlies track team competed in the 69th Annual Doc Savage Invitational Meet in Hibbing on Saturday, with numerous athletes competing well in a crowded 13-team

The 4x100m relay team of Talen Jarshaw, Aidan Hartway, Andrew Hartway, and Carson Johnson had the team's top performance of the day, notching fifth with a time of 50.45 seconds. Sixth-place finishes went to Aidan Hartway in the 200m

with a time of 23.8 and Alex Burckhardt in the 1600m with a time of 5:10.20.

Other top 25 finishes for the Grizzlies included:

Boys

100m - Aidan Hartway, 11th, 12.07.

200m-Andrew Hartway, 18th, 25.8; Carson Johnson, 24th, 26.6; Vinny Pascuzzi, 25th, 27.0. 400m - Vinny Pascuzzi,

21st, 1:03.80. 800m-Alex Burckhardt, 9th, 2:20.75.

1600m -Lincoln Antikainen, 8th, 5:21.90; Kahlil Lightfeather Spears, 19th, 6:26.20

3200m – Lincoln Antikainen, 8th, 11:46.69; Kahlil Lightfeather Spears, 10th, 11:54.16

4x100m relay - Talen Jarshaw, Aidan Hartway, Andrew Hartway, Carson Johnson, 5th, 50.45

Girls 400m - Aubrey Olson-

Stoltenberg, 15th, 1:13.24; Grace Bundy, 22nd, 1:21.52; Carsyn Burnett, 24th, 1:23.33 4x200m relay - Carsyn

Burnett, Tessa Burnett, Amber Sopoci, Aubrey Olson-Stoltenberg, 11th, 2:15.43 Shot Put-Amber Sopoci,

14th, 25'5"; Tessa Burnett, 23rd, 23'0"

Aune notches best round for Grizzlies at Two Harbors meet

GOLF

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- The North Woods boys golf team hit the links last Thursday for a tournament at the Lakeview National Golf Course in Two Harbors, placing third among

four schools.

Gage Aune led the way for the Grizzlies with a score of 50 for a three-way tie for 11th.Peyton Swanson finished in a three-way tie for 16th with a 55. Ryder Gibson and Sawyer Glass each shot 59 to tie for 20th and round out the team scoring for North

Woods. Other Grizzlies in the competition included Collin Grahn, 60, James Yernatich, 60, Brady Swanson, 68, and Elijah Lindgren, 69.

The boys were back on the course again on Monday, this time for the 18-hole Mesabi East Invitational at Giants Ridge. North Woods finished

last among the seven schools competing for the team title. However, Aune made some noise, shooting an 86, tying him for sixth. Glass tied for 20th with a 95, while Gibson and Yernatich were well down the leaderboard in 35th and 36th place.

Girls The girls team finished fifth out of six at the Greenway-Nashwauk-Keewatin Invitational in Coleraine last week. Team ace Laurin Glass topped the North Woods entries with a 57,

finishing 14th. Kiley Kopatz

shot a 69 while Kate Cheney, River Deatherage, and Khloe Holland all shot in the mid-70s. Glass was the only North Woods golfer to compete in Monday's Mesabi East Invitational at Giants Ridge. She shot 111, finishing in 17th place.

NER/Ely girls golf team showing real promise in Class A

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Class 2A Rock Ridge appears to be the area's dominant force in girls' golf this season, having claimed the top eight spots in last week's Greenway-Nashwauk-Keewatin meet in Coleraine, but the NER/ Ely Nighthawks are shaping up well for another run at the Class A state tourney.

The Nighthawks finished second in the tournament, with three golfers taking the ninth through eleventh spots. Carena Debeltz carded the team's low score with a round

of 50, followed by Danica Sunblad with a 53 and Maizy Sunblad with a 54. Anna Maria Mancini rounded out the top four for the 'Hawks with a 65. Cylvia Debeltz shot a 67.

In Monday's ten-team Mesabi East Invitational at Giants Ridge, Rock Ridge again ran away from the field,

by 52 strokes in the 18-hole event. NER/Ely topped the Class A schools entered. placing fourth overall. Danica Sunblad cracked the top ten, placing seventh with a round of 103. Maizy Sunblad finished in a tie for tenth with a 106. Carena Debeltz shot

winning the team competition a 114, good enough for a three-way tie for 19th. Cylvia Debeltz carded a 142 for 39th place.

Boys

The NER/Ely boys hit the links at Giants Ridge as well, though with only two entrants in the tournament. Alex Merriman and Jayden

Zemke shot identical scores of 91 to tie for 13th place.

The pair could be making ties a habit, as they also tied for 11th place at a tournament in Two Harbors, with a score of 50.

NW GIRLS...Continued from page 1B

second three-bagger in the inning, and Thiel crushed another. Brynn Chosa hit for a double and Bundy stroked a single as the Grizzlies went up 13-0.

North Woods made their last at-bat count as well, picking up five more runs on scores by Addison Burckhardt, Josie Gibson, Chosa, Bundy, and Gauthier.

Head Coach Dee Ann Sandberg said she was pleased to see the Grizzlies' bats get hot after the loss to MIB. "The girls really came out and played today," Sandberg said.



Left: North Woods base against Deer River on Tuesday.

MIB wins

The Grizzlies briefly seized the lead in Monday's road game against MIB, but a late surge by the Rangers proved to be too much.

Trailing 3-0 in the third, North Woods came alive. An error brought the first run home before Ella Kruse smacked an RBI single, and then a two-run single from Emarie Gibson gave the Grizzlies a 4-3 lead.

It was a short-lived advantage, as MIB broke the game open with six runs in the fourth, including an insidethe-park grand slam, and added eight more in the fifth.

Gibson led the Grizzlies at the plate, going 1-for-2 with two RBIs. Kruse, Nevada Gauthier, and Evalyn Thiel also collected hits in the effort. Addison Burckhardt started in the circle for North Woods, striking out five over five innings of work.

GRIZZLIES...Continued from page 1B

Hill City

On Thursday, North Woods hosted Hill City/ Northland, and this time it

and the weekend break worked magic on the Grizzlies' bats, as they pounded the Vikings in five-inning wipeouts, 11-1 and 16-5.



Left: The Grizzlies' **Carson Johnson slides** safely under a leaping third-baseman during the first game of fuesday's

shortstop Emarie Gibson preps for a throw to first

photo by D. Colburn

was the Grizzlies who went hitless. But they squeezed out a 3-0 win anyway, capitalizing on errors, wild pitches and stolen bases.

North Woods took a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the fourth when Panichi reached base on an error and came around to score, but Hill City came back in the top of the fifth to take a 2-1 lead. The game went right down to the wire, with Cedar Holman and Levi Chaulklin scoring the tying and winning runs with one out in the bottom of the seventh.

Littlefork-Big Falls

The Grizzlies hosted Littlefork-Big Falls for a double-header on Tuesday,

WOLVES...Continued from page 1B

scoreboard."

Offensively, Caid Chittum and Tyde Brecke led the way in Saturday's contest as each

ELY GIRLS...Continued from page 1B

to victory.

in the sixth.

The Wolves' bats were on fire as the team picked up 18 hits, but they had help from seven Chisholm errors. Julia Zgonc went 4-4 at the plate, scoring three times, while

TRACK...Continued from page 1B

9:06.77 Oliver Hohenstein, 6th, 5:10.20 Girls

3200m-Mason Kurnava, 7th, 11:31.26

300m hurdles-Eli Olson, 14th, 50.48

4x800m relay- Brooks Brenny, Oliver Hohenstein, Wyatt Devine, Eli Olson, 3rd,

After taking a 3-0 lead in the third inning of the opener, the Grizzlies went wild in the fourth, batting around the order and scoring eight runs. The Grizzlies got singles from Panichi, Jarshaw, Holman and Chaulklin sandwiched around a host of errors and passed balls to round up all the runs they needed, as the Vikings could only muster a single run in the top of the fifth. The North Woods onslaught continued in their next at bat, sending 12 batters to the plate in the first inning of the second game, including four who drew walks and another who was hit by a pitch. Before the inning was over, the Vikings

collected two hits, while Owen

Marolt added an RBI double

that helped pace the Wolves

Amelia Penke notched two

hits and drove in two runs.

Makenzie Huntington added

Archer was red hot as she

notched the win on the mound,

Freshman hurler Naomi

100m- Violet Udovich,

400m- Violet Udovich,

3rd, 12.99; Miriam

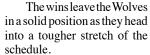
1st, 58.57; Maddy Johnson,

17th, 1:15.77; Siiri Nelson,

20th, 1:19.60

Messerschmidt, 18th, 14.01

two RBIs on a hit.



turned the ball over to a new

pitcher, but North Woods

scored eight runs in the frame,

getting hits from Jarshaw and

A hit batter and two more

Holman.

allowing just two earned runs on three hits while striking out five.

Tuesday's rout came on the heels of Monday's hard-fought 4-3 victory over International Falls. Both teams put three on the board in the third, but the Wolves added one more in the sixth to make the difference. The Wolves notched ten hits,

walks in the bottom of the third

turned into three more runs

for North Woods, making the

score 11-1. Two LBF runs in

the top of the fourth gave the

Vikings hope that they might

"Starting Friday with

South Ridge, our schedule

earning all four of their runs.

notched two RBIs and Perish drove in two more on a hit. Clare Thomas tallied two hits and scored once.

fantasy to rest in their half of

petitive opponents." Before

that, the Wolves were set to

be in Chisholm on Thursday.

MacKenzie earned the win from the mound, allowing six hits and striking out seven

"The guys really found their bats after about midway through the (first) game, and their base running was phenomenal," Baker said.

He said it's good to see the team starting to play up to its potential as the work to develop additional pitching heading toward the postseason.

doubleheader with the Vikings. photo by D. Colburn

a two-run double by Alex Burckhardt, as North Woods closed out the abbreviated contest with the 16-5 win.

Baker is pleased with how his team is rounding into shape.

avoid the ten-run rule and get seven innings out of this one, but the Grizzlies put that

the inning. North Woods got a five-run outburst keyed by respond to some more com-

They'll take part in the Blackduck Invitational tournament on Saturday.

and walking four batters.

The Wolves travel to North Woods on Friday to take on the Grizzlies, with a 4 p.m varsity start.

800m- Maddie Lindsay,

8th, 2:40.00; Ivy Ohlhauser, 18th, 2:54.86; Addison Kannas, 19th, 2:56.10

1600m- Molly Brophy, 14th, 6:00.71; Katy Brophy, 18th, 6:28.16; Elsa Ellerbroek, 20th, 6:32.07

3200m-Lucy Dunn, 11th,

15:07.96

300m hurdles- Anna Ziegenmeier, 14th, 1:08.82 4x400m relay- Anna Dunn, Miriam Messerschmidt, Addison Forsman, Moxie Lindsay, 8th, 4:52.77

4x800m relay- Maddie Lindsay, Elsa Ellerbroek,

Anna Ziegenmeier, Molly Brophy, 4th, 11:12.68; Ivy Ohlhauser, Moxie Lindsay, Addison Kannas, Katy Brophy, 6th, 11:34.39 Shot Put- Kaylin Visser,

12th, 25'8.5" Discus- Kaylin Visser, 1st, 109'10"; Addison

Forsman, 9th, 77'10"; Elsa Ellerbroek, 15th, 70'10" High Jump- Violet

Udovich, 8th, 4'6"

Long Jump- Addison Forsman, 15th, 13'7"

Triple Jump- Addison Forsman, 17th, 28'6"

Zoe MacKenzie went 3-4 and

does get tougher," Ivancich said. "We'll see how we

BUSINESS ZONING

Babbitt holds hearing on a cannabis cultivation business

by CATIE CLARK Ely Editor

BABBITT- Residents here packed the city council chambers last Thursday morning for a two-hour planning commission public hearing on a proposal to create an organic cannabis cultivation and manufacturing facility. The facility is proposed for three lots on Commerce Road, in the empty space between the Cenex station and Babbitt Road.

The Green Mining Company, the start-up wanting to build the facility, is locally owned and received its license from the Minnesota Office of Cannabis Management on April 23. Green Mining needs a conditional use permit to site the facility in the light industrial zone on Commerce Road. The planning commission held the public hearing as part of the permitting process. Now that the hearing has been held, the commission has 45 days to make a recommendation to the Babbitt City Council.

Anyone who has been following the "What's Up Babbitt" Facebook group already knows that the project has generated plenty of controversy in Babbitt. The comments at the hearing echoed many of the remarks and controversy on social media regarding the facility.

Green Mining wants to build four greenhouses for growing marijuana and a manufacturing building to process the plants. The products grown in Babbitt will then be sold in the firm's dispensary in Ely. Green Mining bought the old Ely Bowling Alley for the site of their future retail outlet.

The business is keen to break ground this summer to stake out its place in the market before the tribal cannabis businesses can move into the area. Rich Stewart, one of the three partners who own Green Mining, told the Timberjay that the tribal cannabis businesses in Minnesota are allowed by state law to expand outside of the reservations and are aggressive about capturing all the market share they can.

"We will be competing against the sovereign nations if we don't get this up and running sooner than later," Stewart said.

Testimony

Despite a 9 a.m. start for the hearing, 17 Babbitt-area residents and business owners testified, with some in favor, others opposed, while still others objected to the lo-

cation.

Fran Ortel was representative of those opposed. Ortel worked for the police department and EMS in Silver Bay for over three decades. "You don't want more trouble in this town and this will bring it here. You have such a beautiful town here ... You don't want to be known as a druggy town," she said, noting that in her experience, marijuana is a gateway drug that can ruin lives.

JoAnn Briggs predicted that having the Green Mining Company in town would increase the drug usage by Babbitt's youth: "We're going to need detox and counseling centers and drug rehabilitation centers for those kids," she added.

Those in favor saw the economic opportunity that Green Mining would bring to Babbitt. Karen Applequist, who used medical marijuana, told the commission, "We need these jobs. Why do we drive businesses out of town?" Nick Allen echoed Applequist in his brief and succinct testimony: "I'm for it. It will bring jobs and revenue."

Rob Palkovich had a slightly different perspective. "I'm worried about our town image, but people



come here on their snowmobiles and side-by-sides to drink. So, what's the difference? If it was a craft brewery, would we really be having this much of a conversation when it comes to alcohol versus weed ... I say, why not give this a chance? It's not as if it will make the town any worse."

Local business owner Jim Zupancich was opposed to the proposed location for Green Mining's facility. "Please don't do this to our town. We have 105 square miles of land (in Babbitt). So, why put this downtown? Can't we find a better place? It's close to churches, a playground, and three blocks from the school ... do we

testified at the Babbitt Planning Commission public hearing on the proposed cannabis growing business looking to build a facility in the city's business district. Photo by C. Clark

really want to be known as the pot capital of the Iron Range?'

Eight of the testifiers argued that the proposed location was inappropriate. The facility would be visible from the shopping district, from the school buses on Babbitt Road going to Northeast Range School, and from Hwy. 70.

"I dislike that our school kids would have exposure to this business twice a day. Inside city limits is not the right location," commented Babbitt resident Richard Pierce. His comments were echoed by Shawn Cersine. "It's a gateway drug and that's an issue. Our children need to be protected ... So, a different spot would be better for this business."

"It's legalized so the cannabis businesses will be here one way or another,' commented Tony Chamberlin. "(Green Mining) is not a retail business. There is no availability to an end user in this community. What it does bring is an influx of cash ... and it provides jobs and revenue to the city. But I'm not sure about the location. The city should study the location."

Tabled

The planning commission tabled a vote on the conditional use permit until June 5. "We have buffer zone questions for the city lawyer," commissioner Dave Sherman pointed out. The newly enacted laws regulating cannabis do not allow the sale or use of cannabis products near schools, parks, day cares, recovery centers, and public lands.

The commissioners also determined that tabling a vote would give Green Mining and its realtor time to scout other prospective properties in Babbitt that would be less conspicuous than the heart of the shopping district.

ELECTRIC

Lake Country Power annual meeting brings co-op community together in Grand Rapids

GRAND RAPIDS- A community of cooperative members gathered at the Reif Center in Grand Rapids for the annual membership meeting on Thursday evening, April 24. More than 350 members and guests gathered to hear about the challenges facing the electric industry and the innovative actions Lake Country Power is taking to overcome obstacles.

Mark Bakk, Lake Country Power general manager. reported about his advocacy work to keep electric service affordable and reliable. Bakk spends a lot of time working with Great River Energy, LCP's wholesale power supplier, and advocating with state and federal legislators for policies that align with providing safe, reliable and affordable energy services for co-op members.

"I was in St. Paul earlier this month and I will be in Washington, D.C., next week," said Bakk. "We take affordability and reliability of your electric service very seriously and will continue to advocate for you, our members, at both the state and federal levels."

Bakk also reported about the aggressive construction of transmission infrastructure that's needed to carry mandated carbon-free energy from where it is generated to end users. These costs will have a significant impact on electric rates. Great River Energy estimates it will invest more than \$2 billion in the new transmission line buildout as part of a larger collaboration among other regional utilities, which has a total price tag estimated at \$30 billion. Transmission costs are about 21 percent of Great River Energy's wholesale power costs to Lake Country Power and are expected to double in the next 10 years.

Bakk addressed material costs and supply chain issues, which have somewhat

stabilized, but prices are not expected to normalize to pre-COVID pandemic numbers. He also spoke about the decision to hire additional crews whose primary task is working on large-scale construction projects and age-related line replacements normally done by contractors. In today's workforce, contractor availability is scarce and costly, so moving this body of work in-house is productive and saving money.

Bakk concluded with remarks about LCP's rightof-way management plan, which he said is the biggest contributor to improving re-

liability and hopes members are noticing fewer blinks and outages. Bakk gave thanks to members for their understanding and support over another challenging year as the co-op strives for excellence in providing affordable and reliable electric service.

Tracy Peterson Wirtanen, LCP chief financial officer, provided an overview of the co-op's 2024 financial results, including how the increasing cost of purchased power led to a rate increase in 2025.

Director election results were announced in districts 2, 4 and 8, to fill three-year terms. All candidates ran unopposed.

District 2: Mike Forsman, Ely, 624 votes

District 4: Jeff Sheldon, Cohasset, 353 votes

District 8: Brian Napstad, McGregor, 443 votes

Immediately following the adjournment of the annual meeting, the board of directors held a re-organizational meeting. Board officers are: Craig Olson from District 7, President; Daniel Kingsley from District 6. Vice President; Mike Forsman from District 2, Secretary: and Jeff Sheldon from District 4, Treasurer.

Obituaries and Death Notices

Marie L. Zavodnik

Marie Louise Zavodnik, 79, longtime resident of Soudan, died on Saturday, May 3, 2025, at Boundary Waters Care Center in Ely. A private graveside service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 17 at Lakeview Cemetery in Tower. Following the burial, there will be a luncheon for family and friends at 11:30 a.m. at St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower. Family services are provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.

She is survived by her brother, Anthony (Kathleen) Zavodnik of Soudan; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Frank J. Lietz

Frank Joseph Lietz, 101, of Cook, went to be with the Lord on Thursday, May 1, 2025, at Carefree Living in Cook. A celebration of life will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 17 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook with Pastor Ron Anderson officiating. Visitation will be at 2 p.m. Family and friends are invited to pay their respects and share their memories.

He is survived by his children, Jim (Wanda) Lietz, Donald (Virginia) Lietz, Kathleen (James) Manwaring, Patty (Kirk) Forsline and Frank J. Lietz Jr.; eight grandchildren; twenty great-grandchildren; and eight great-great-grandchildren.

Millicent M. Holter

Millicent Marie Prince Holter, 88, passed away on Friday, May 2, 2025.

A private family burial will occur at a later date. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook.

Nancy M. Menelli

Nancy Mae Joki Menelli, 95, a longtime resident of Mt. Iron and originally of Soudan, passed away at Waterview Pines in Virginia on Sunday, Feb. 16, 2025. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 10 at Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia. Visitation will be for one hour prior to the service. Burial was in Calvary Cemetery in Virginia.

She is survived by her children, JoAnne (Dan) Santelli and Steven (Gail) Menelli; brother, David (Gayle) Joki; grandsons, Ray (Lisa) Santelli, Tony and Cory (Amy) Santelli; great-grandson, Anthony Santelli; and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Theresa Burandt

Theresa Burandt, 75, of Eagles Nest, passed away on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, surrounded by family. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 17 at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely. Visitation will be from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the church. Arrangements are pending with Bauman's Vermilion Funeral Home in Tower.

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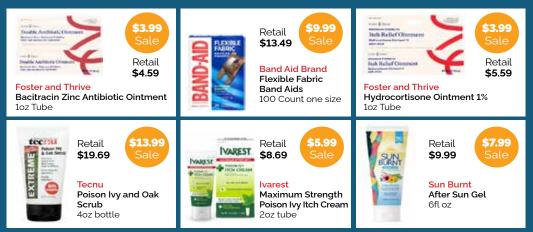
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PUBLIC HEALTH

Warmer weather increases deer tick activity

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

REGIONAL - With the recent bout of pleasant spring weather, folks in the North Country are understandably eager to spend time in the outdoors. And while we're still a couple weeks away from the explosion of mosquitoes and biting flies, another more dangerous pest is already stalking us when we're in the woods, or even in our own backyards.

Black-legged ticks, commonly known as deer ticks, are typically active once temperatures begin

Easy steps can help reduce your risk experienced in the past week. Some, however, can be active in even chillier temperatures, as Ely veterinarian Chip Hanson noted in a recent post on the Ely Field Naturalists list serve. "We have been diagnosing tick diseases in dogs since late February," Hanson noted. "We are also seeing a significantly increased percentage of those cases test positive for both Lyme disease and Anaplasmosis."

Anaplasmosis is caused by a deer-tick-borne bacteria which

to reach into the 60s, as we've causes fever, headaches, chills, muscle aches, and fatigue typically 7-14 days after infection.

According to Hanson, research has demonstrated that ticks carrying Lyme disease actually live longer and are more resistant to freezing temperatures, meaning they can be a threat even earlier in the spring (and later in the fall) than we typically expect, and that those ticks that bite us during colder times of the year are more likely to be car-

See TICKS...pg. 5B



Above: A tick comparison (I-r) a Common Dog Tick, a Lone Star Tick, and a Black-legged Tick, commonly known as a deer tick.



2025 WALLEYE OPENER

Picture perfect? Ideal weather forecasted for Saturday; Now, it's up to the walleyes

Outdoors briefly

May 5 is the ice-out date for Vermilion

REGIONAL- Plentiful sunshine and summer-like temperatures over the past several days helped melt lingering ice on most North Country lakes just ahead of Saturday's fishing opener, although anglers could still find some lingering ice on a handful of lakes, particularly to the east of Ely.

Lake Vermilion officially cleared of ice on May 5, six days later than the lake's average April 30 ice-out date. As of the end of a cooler-than-average April, it had appeared doubtful that the lake would clear in time for the May 10 opener. But days of sunshine and temperatures that reached the upper 70s, helped melt the last of winter's ice.

To the north, Pelican Lake cleared of ice on May 4. Other available ice out dates include Moose Lake (east of Ely, May 3), Fall Lake (May 2), Garden Lake (May 1), Clear Lake (May 1), Farm Lake (April 29), and Bear Head (April 29). For the latest ice-out information from the state Climatology Office, go to https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ice_out/ index.html.

DNR urges steps to prevent spread of AIS

REGIONAL-The approach-

EGIONAL – Aweek of spring-like temperatures and plenty of sunshine has left area lakes free of ice for Saturday's fishing opener, and just in the nick of time. That mild weather and sunshine is expected to continue right on into opening weekend,

offering up pleasant conditions for anglers. Now, it's just up to the walleyes.

While the weather appears cooperative for anglers, the walleyes are more likely to be affected by the continued cold water temperatures, and that can keep anglers guessing.

"Opener is always so iffy because of the water temperature,'

said Dave Swenson, a longtime fishing guide on Lake Vermilion. Swenson has one rule for opener and that's to avoid the crowds that often develop in some of the traditional early season hot spots. "That means you won't find me in Pike Bay," he said.

Pike Bay is likely to be crowded, but not without good reason. "I think Pike Bay will be pretty good," said Rob Bryers, another longtime Vermilion guide. This year's slightly later-than-usual spring spawning run should leave plenty of walleyes still in the bay. The shallow, dark waters of the bay help temperatures warm more quickly than in other parts of a big lake like Vermilion, which means walleye and the smaller fish they feed on should be more active than in other parts of the lake. Other shallow bays, like Black Bay and Greenwood Bay.

For those looking to avoid the madding crowds of Pike Bay, deeper water is your best bet. Swenson said he'll be



hanging around in the post-spawn period. With the cold water tempera-

The ice out on the

later than usual, and

that can mean plenty

of walleyes will still be

tures and the late spawn, Bryers predicts dock fishing will be productive for the next couple weeks at least.

While opener always attracts plenty of anglers to Lake Vermilion, Bryers predicts the best fishing this month will come later, probably around Memorial Day, when the water has had a chance to warm.

According to DNR fisheries, strong 2018 and 2021 year classes should drive most of the catch for opener. While the overall walleye numbers are down slightly from last year, the overall size has improved with another year

Top: With the ideal forecast, anglers will have no excuse to miss out on this year's opener.

Below: Grab a few walleyes for your supper during opening weekend. Timberjay file photos



of growth for the two strongest year classes. Walleye numbers are pretty consistent east-to-west on the lake, which is a change from several years ago, when the strongest numbers were found in the lake's eastern basin.

Don't forget, there's a protected slot limit on Vermilion from 20-26 inches and a four fish bag limit.

Ely area

Ice conditions and weather will be similar in the Ely area and that means the usual tactics should apply. "We do a lot of jigging this time of year," said Rob Nelson, owner of the Ely Fishing Guide Company. "Jigs and minnows, preferably in current is tough to beat for opener," he said.

Most of the larger lakes in the Ely area cleared of ice just this week, so the fish might still be sluggish, as is often the case for opener. That means a slower presentation, giving the fish a little time to think about it, will generally hook you more walleyes.

For those heading toward the border, Lake Kabetogama is a good bet on opener. It's shallower than Rainy Lake, the border country's other big walleye producer, so it warms faster. With a shoreline that's mostly ideal for walleye

See OPENER.pg. 5B

ing walleye fishing season comes with a reminder from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to always follow state laws to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Most anglers and boaters in Minnesota take the clean, drain, dry steps for invasive species prevention every time they leave a lake or river. DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen said prevention takes action by anglers and boaters, watercraft inspectors and enforcement, and partnerships with governments and organizations.

"Minnesota is nationally recognized for its AIS prevention successes and that's due in large part to the powerful partnership model we have in place in the state," said Commissioner Sarah Strommen. "We're grateful for the partnerships with nonprofits, local governments, the University of Minnesota, and lake associations that are essential to helping prevent the spread of AIS and keeping our lakes clean and healthy."

Whether or not a lake has any invasive species, Minnesota law requires people to:

► Clean watercraft, trailers, and gear to remove aquatic plants and prohibited invasive species.

► Drain all water and leave drain plugs out during transport.

Dispose of unused bait in the trash. Never release bait, plants or aquarium pets into Minnesota waters.

► Dry docks, lifts and rafts for 21 days before moving them from one water body to another.

These additional steps reduce the risk of spreading aquatic invasive species:

Decontaminate watercraft, trailers, and gear - find free stations on the courtesy decontamination webpage of the DNR website (mndnr.gov/decon).

▶ Spray watercraft, trailers, and gear with high-pressure water or rinse with water.

>Dry watercraft, trailers, and gear for at least five days before using in another water body.



TICKS...Continued from page 4B -

rying the pathogen that causes Lyme.

That's the bad news. The good news is that health care providers have gotten better at treating for Lyme, which can be a quick dose of the antibiotic doxycycline when caught early. If unaddressed for too long, Lyme can become chronic and sometimes debilitating, so take deer tick bites seriously. The other common tick in our region, the dog tick, is not generally known to be a common carrier of diseases affecting humans.

Cut your risk

You can also do a lot to reduce your risk of tick bites by taking simple prevention steps whenever you're going to be spending time outdoors. Jon Oliver, associate professor with the University of Minnesota School of Public Health, recommends using insect repellents that contain DEET. If you're going to spend a lot of time in tick habitat, Oliver recommends treating a change of clothes with permethrin, a repellent and insecticide that is particularly effective on ticks. "Tucking pants legs into your socks can help keep ticks on the outside of your clothes making them easier to spot," he said.

Oliver notes that the bacteria that causes Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases usually take hours to enter your body after a tick attaches to feed. Daily tick checks will greatly reduce your chance of getting Lyme disease even if you are bitten.

If you find a tick biting you: Use tweezers to grab the tick by its mouthparts where

they enter your skin. Pull the tick straight off.

Avoid crushing its body. After a tick bite, be mindful of your body's health. If you

develop a rash or flu-like symptoms, visit your doctor about the tick bite.

So don't be afraid to spend time in the outdoors. But be aware of the risks and take the easy steps necessary to protect yourself.



Two white pelicans swam along the Pike River near the DNR fish hatchery last week, part of a flock of nearly to dozen that were taking advantage of the open water in the river to feed. Most of Lake Vermilion was still ice covered at the time.

OPENER...Continued from page 4B

spawning, the fish are widely distributed. Last fall's fish survey found average numbers of walleye in the 13-16 inch range, which should provide decent numbers of harvestable fish, according to the DNR. The survey also found above-average numbers of walleye in the 18-25 inch range, although those fish would be in the protected 18-26 inch slot. Even so, who wouldn't mind catching one of those even if it did have to go back in the water? Both Kab and Rainy also have a four-fish bag limit.

If walleye fishing isn't for you, most larger lakes in the area also offer opportunities for northern pike. Shallow bays, near weed lines, or rocky points, are good possibilities for this hard-fighting fish. Anglers in northeastern Minnesota have a two pike bag limit, with only one over 40 inches and none between 30-40 inches.

Many area lakes also provide opportunities for stream trout, including brookies, rainbow, browns, and splake. A trout stamp is required to fish on designated trout lakes. Tofte Lake and Miner's Pit, both in the Ely area are more accessible trout lakes, as are Cub and Norberg lakes, in Bear Head Lake State Park.

No matter what you're fishing for, the best advice guides will give you is this: Don't be afraid to try something else if what you're doing isn't working. Swenson said he'll start in deeper water and slowly move shallower if they aren't biting in the deep. If jigs or lindy's aren't working, try pulling crankbaits instead. Swenson said he often finds success with crankbaits on opening weekend, working about ten feet deep along the weed lines, particularly in cabbage.

"If that doesn't work, try

a slip bobber with a minnow over shallower rock humps," he said. "I had good luck with that last year."

Swenson said you can't legitimately say the fishing was lousy until you've really put in the effort. "I have to at least be able to say I tried everything," he said.

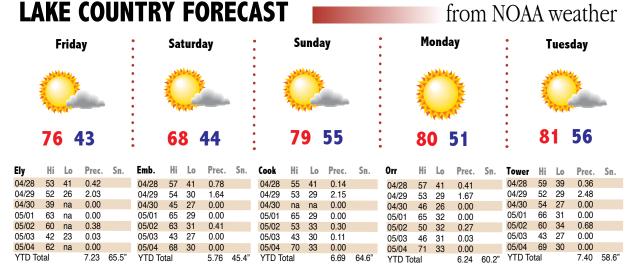
Outdoors briefly

DNR urges public to leave fawns be

REGIONAL — The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is asking the public to avoid disturbing or touching deer fawns, which are born between mid-May and mid-June. Fawns do not attempt to evade predators during their first few weeks of life. Instead, they remain still to avoid being seen. During these times, fawns are learning critical survival skills from their mothers but are often left on their own while their

mothers forage watchfully nearby.

Be assured deer fawns are likely fine even if they look abandoned or fragile. Moving a fawn can be detrimental to the animal and increase the risk of disease spread. For more information about what to do when people find fawns or other species of young wild animals, visit the Minnesota DNR website (mndnr.gov/ eco/nongame/rehabilitation/ orphaned-wildlife.html).





CLEAN

🕑 Boats, PWCs, trailers, and gear

Remove all weeds, mud, and hitchhiking contaminants from axles, wheels, undercarriage, motor, prop, skis, wakeboards, ropes, and life jackets before leaving

DRAIN

 Water from boat, bilge, motor, ballast tanks, and bladders.
 PWCs - run motor for 10 seconds to blow water out of jet drive

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 CLEANDRAINDRY.ORG

Breitung Township, St. Louis County

NOTICE OF A SPECIAL

TOWN MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a special town meeting of the Breitung Township electors will be held on May 20th 2025, at 5:30

PM, at the Breitung Community Center, 33 First Avenue, Soudan MN 55782 for

the following purpose(s):

An Ordinance Establishing Sewer Use

Regulations has been proposed by the board; according to Minn Stat. SS 365.10,

subd. 17, it is necessary for the board to

receive authorization to adopt the amend-

ment to the ordinance and regulate sewer

A vote by Breitung Township electors to

approve or deny authorization for the Breitung Township Board to adopt ordi-

nance 90-03A, with or without adjustments.

An amendment to Ordinance 91-04-An

Ordinance Regulating Animal Control in the Township of Breitung has been proposed

by the board; according to Minn Stat. 55

365.10, subd. 17, it is necessary for the

board to receive authorization to adopt the

amendment to the ordinance and regulate

A vote by Breitung Township electors to

approve or deny authorization for the Breitung Township Board to adopt ordi-

nance 91-04A, with or without adjustments.

All interested parties are encouraged to

attend, but only town electors are autho-

rized to vote at the meeting. Given under my hand this 8th day of May, 2025.

Published in the Timberjay, May 9, 2025

amendment to Ordinance 90-03-

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

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, maintain-ing 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

CAMP VOYAGEUR HIRING FOR SUMMER

Cook, Kitchen Assistant & Assistant to the Manager

Join our team and work on Farm Lake where no two days are the same, flexible hours and fun! Contact deb@campvoyageur.com for details 5/30

WEARE

Customer Service-minded

Minimum 18+

POSITION OPENING Elv Public Schools Head Hockey Coach

Ely Public Schools is accepting applica-tions for a Head Hockey Coach for the 2025-2026 season. Background check required.

Required Qualifications:

Bachelor's Degree;

Coaching licensure or ability to obtain (certification required to be an MSHSL head coach prior to the start of the 2025-2026 season):

Previous coaching experience;

> Must be available for several practices/games per week from mid-November through early March, including some week-ends and during school break periods.

Candidate must have the ability to:

 Provide effective leadership for the program, including development of practice and participation plans and oversight of assistant coaches.

> Demonstrate knowledge in all aspects of the sport and convey knowledge at an appropriate level to the athletes involved, running well organized and effective prac-Work effectively with other programs and

personnel, including effective communication with players, parents, administrators, faculty and school staff and the media.

 Work in support of the department's and school's mission.

> Represent the school in a positive manner among alumni, supporters and external agencies.

Maintain compliance with MSHSL requirements.

Manage budget effectively and manage administrative affairs in a timely fashion. > Enforce and model proper standards of sportsmanship.

Application available at:

www.ely.k12.mn.us

A complete application must include the following: ➤ District Application

➤ Resume

> Copy of credentials declaring appropriate License (per M.S. 122A.22)

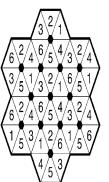
Submit Application to: Ely Public Schools, Attn: Superintendent, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731 or by email, lwestrick@ely.k12.mn.us

Stipend: \$5,600

Deadline to apply: May 27, 2025; open until filled

Published in the Timberjay, May 9 & 16, 2025

solution



CryptoQuip

PUBLIC NOTICE

An

usade.

animal control.

STATE OF MINNESOTA is further given, that the COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS Petition will be heard remote-SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION Court File No: 69VI-PR-25-81

Estate of Melvin Robert Mattson, aka Melvin R. Mattson, Decedent AND ORDER NOTICE FOR HEARING ON PETITION FOR DESCENT PROPERTY

A Petition for Determination of Descent has been filed with this Court. The Petition represents that the Decedent died more than three years and leaving property in Minnesota and requests the probate of Decedent's last Will (if any), and the descent of such property be determined and assigned by this Court to the persons entitled to the property. Any objections to the Petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper, and no objections are filed or raised, the Petition may be granted. IT IS ORDERED and Notice

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Louis County intends to use federal St. funds made available under Title III of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000. These funds can only be spent for certain purposes set forth in 16 U.S.C. 7142. The County proposes to use the funds until they expire

For any questions, please contact St. Louis County Emergency Management at brinkmanj@stlouiscountymn.gov.

NANCY J. NILSEN COUNTY AUDITOR-TREASURER By: Phil Chapman, Deputy Auditor/Clerk of County Board

Published in the Timberjay, May 9, 2025

Legal notices are online each week at timberjay.com and at https://www.mnpublicnotice.com/

ly via Zoom on June 2, 2025 at 9:30 AM by this Court at 300 5th Av. S., Virginia MN 55792, Minnesota. 1. Notice shall be given to all interested persons (MINN. STAT. § 524.1-401) and persons who have filed a demand for notice pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-204 2. Notice shall be given by publishing this Notice and Order as provided by law and by: Mailing a copy of this Notice and Order at least 14 days prior to the hearing

BY THE COURT Michelle Anderson Judge of District Court Jennifer Miller Court Administrator Janet Riegle, Deputy

Attorney for Petitioner License No Telephone: (218) 741-5000 FAX: (218) 741-5000

Published in the Timberjay,

submit a response is con-tained in the RFP materials. No Vendor may withdraw his/her proposal within thir-ty (30) days after date of opening proposals without the consent of the Board of

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 to select the proposal best meets the needs of the ISD 2142 schools pursuant

SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION Court File No: 69VI-

> Estate of Jerry Lee Neari, Decedent

STATE OF MINNESOTA

COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS

Amber Zak, Town Clerk

OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

is given that on June 2nd, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., a hear-ing will be held in this Court at 300 South 5th Avenue Virginia, Minnesota, for for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of heirship of the Decedent, and for the appointment of Julie M. Neari, whose address is 8789 Hwy. 37, Iron, MN 55751, as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED admin istration. Any objections to the petition must be filed raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Persona Representative will be appointed with full power to sell real and personal property, and do all necessary acts for the Estate

Notice is also given that (subject to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice of the claims will be barred.

Andrew Peterson Judge of District Court Miller, Jennifer Administrator Bailee Warburton Deputy

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

Published in the Timberjay, May 2 & 9, 2025

with the Court prior to or

BY THE COURT Court

Education.

mn.us

Copies of the Request for

to M.S. 471.6161.

Published in the Timberjay May 2 & 9, 2025

PR-25-30

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION OF INTESTACY

DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP, APPOINTMENT

It is Ordered and Notice

King Crossword

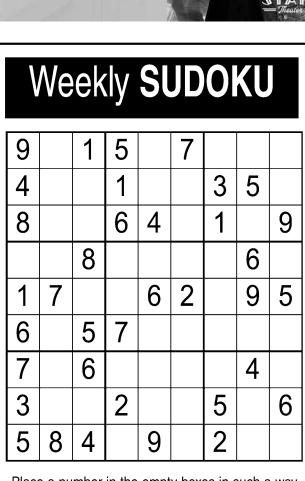
Send your resume and cover letter to manager@elystatetheater.org



SNOMELUHE(

date.

Angela E. Sipila Sipila Law Office LLC 412 1st St. S. Virginia, MN, 55792 Attorney 024501x Email: ange@sipilaw.com



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: • •



Name of an orthodontic procedure performed when molars are too close together: Teeth widening.

CryptoQuote

We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children. - Native American proverb

Even Exchange

1.	Remove, Remote	6.	Sprain, Strain
2.	Plato, Pluto	7.	Amber, Ember
3.	Timer, Tamer	8.	Recipe, Recite
4.	Mortar, Mortal	9.	Copper, Coop
5,	Wendy, Windy	10.	Thick, Think



Get **Results! Advertise** in the Timberjay!

ACROSS

- Completely
- 4 Playwright Levin
- 7 Done with
- 11 Secular 13 Collection
- 14 Water carrier
- 15 Airline to Tel
- Aviv
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- 18 Ersatz choco-
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7B May 9, 2025 **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

MEETINGS- in person meetings, Wednesdays &

First Lutheran Church, 915 E

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

ORR AA meets Tuesdays at

8 p.m. at Holy Cross Catholic

TOPS- Meetings every Monday at 4:45 p.m. at Our

Savior's Lutheran Church.

Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.

Camp St., Ely.

218-827-8327.

Church, Orr.

Virginia.

AA OPEN GROUP

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.

Shape.

365-6745. tfn

at

WANTED

GARAGE SALE ELY'S RUMMAGE, 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 HUGE MULTI-FAMILY SALE-Fri. & Sat. May 16 & 17, 8AM – 4PM. Nice Home Décor

BABBITT AL-ANON- meets Thursdays at 7 p.m. in the upstairs of Woodland Presbyterian Church. 4 PM. Nice Hollie Decor Items! 2 Kirby vacuum clean-ers! Log high-top table & 4 chairs! Hunting clothes! Mat cutter! Cross Country skis! 4 nice bar stools! Tons of diabase (Kirban add haddiag) AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP-Are you troubled by some-one's drinking? Al-Anon dishes, Kitchen and bedding! Location: 2000 Hwy. 169 in a large tan pole building. (just south of the Bear Center in Family Group is a community-based mutual support program for the friends and fam-Ely). Signs and balloons mark the spot! YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS SALE!! 5/16V

2

ilies of alcoholics. It is confidential and open to anyone affected by someone else's drinking. Hope Lutheran Church in Embarrass hosts an Al-Anon group on Monday evenings at 6 p.m. 218-984-

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

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

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

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

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



HIV/AIDS? For confidential compassionate local support call the Rural AIDS Action Network, toll-free 1-888-647- RAAN(7226). A L C O H O L I C S ANONYMOUS- East Range meetings and information, call 218-749-3387 or www. district8online.org.		47 Ear: Prefix	84 Pub potable 85 2019 animated musical film set in Pride Rock 88 NBC show since '75	telling) 3 Attach, as a coat lining 4 Dosage qtys. 5 Gad about 6 Craft	abbr. 37 Ocean motions 38 Goes fast, old-style 39 Zip, in Spain 40 Brand of rodenticide	71 Theater part 72 Writer's tool 74 Fine sweet wine 75 Swarm 76 Marked with comments 77 Suckers	109 In re 112 Purpose 113 "Norma —" 114 "Butter" K-pop group 115 The, in Arles 116 Arthur of "Maude"
AA FRIDAYS- 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 262 E Harvey St., Ely. Meets in the basement.	DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ Easy ◆ ◆ ◆ Medium ◆ ◆ ◆ Difficult	1 2 3 4 20	5 6 7	8 9 10	11 12 13	14 15 16	17 18 19 22
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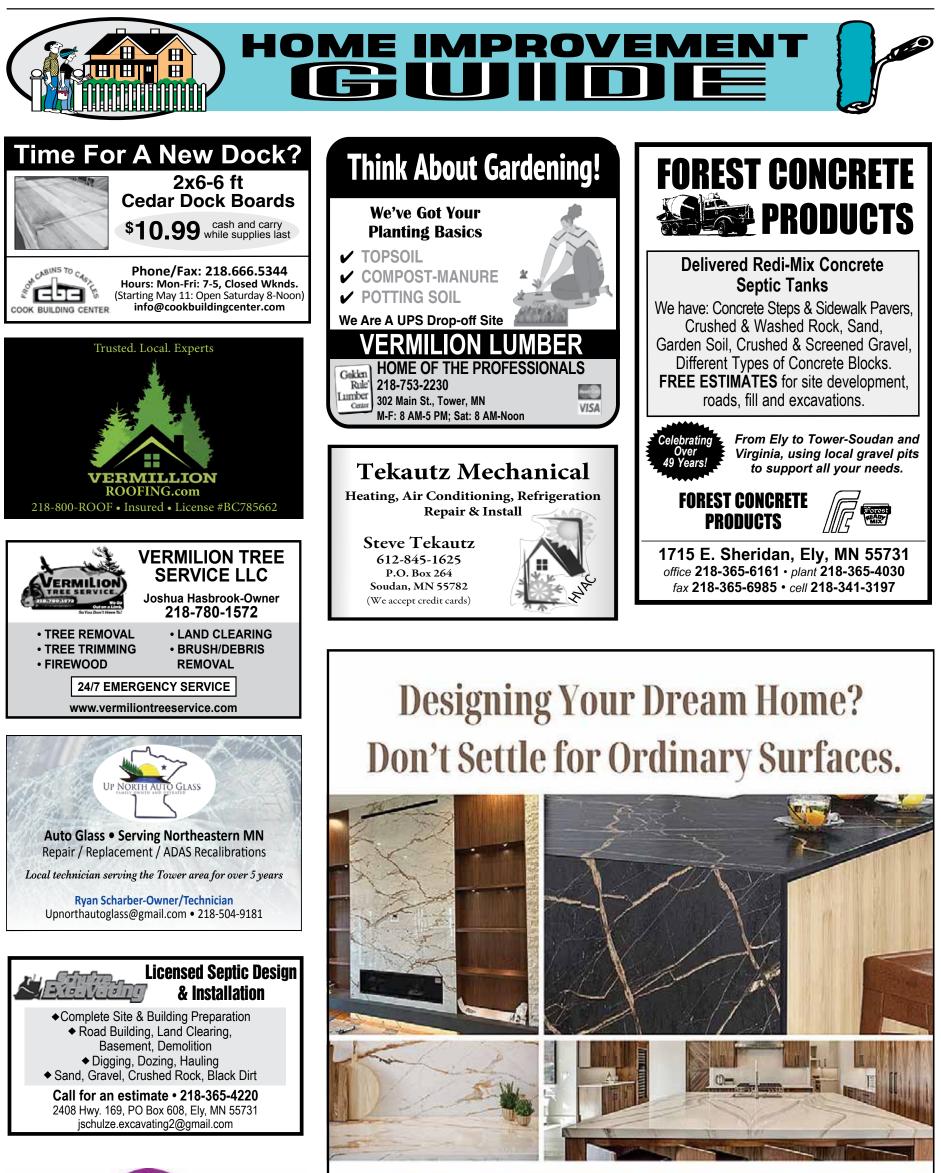
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TOWER-SOUDAN GARAGE SALES

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



Super Crossword -

Answers

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Whether you're building new or remodeling, your countertops, fireplace, and backsplash deserve something as hardworking as they are good-looking.

At Floor to Ceiling in Virginia, MN, you'll find a curated selection of highperformance surfaces—granite, quartz, Dekton, and more—built for beauty, durability, and everyday living.

From rustic lake retreat to modern cabin style, our team helps you choose the right material for your lifestyle and look.

Stop in-we make the process simple, stress-free, and even a little fun.

FLOOR to CEILING

8401 Enterprise Dr N, Virginia, MN (218)741-6690 www.floortoceilingvirginia.com

Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

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

1. Do away with	$_$ $_$ $_$ $_$ V $_$ Isolated and distant	T _
2. Greek philosopher	A Mickey Mouse's pet	U
3. Stopwatch	I Circus performer	A
4. Bonding cement	R Corporeal	L
5. Peter Pan's friend	E Breezy	I
6. Twist one's ankle	P Run through a sieve	_ T
7. Fossil resin	A Leftover charcoal	E
8. Culinary instructions	P Read out loud	T
9. Penny metal	P James Fenimore	0
10. Dense	C Ponder	N
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