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# Time TIMBERJAY

Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989

**VOL. 36, ISSUE 19** 

May 16, 2025

**\$1**50

### CITY OF TOWER

## New councilor takes the oath

by Marshall Helmberger Managing Editor

TOWER - The city council here has a new member after John VanDeVoort took the oath of office at the council meeting on Monday. The council accepted VanDeVoort's application for the position to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of council member David Wanless, who has moved out

In his application, VanDeVoort said he was interested in helping to shape the community's future and participate in policy and planning discussions as a member of the council. VanDeVoort grew up in Tower and has spent 25 years in pharmacy administration, currently working as pharmacist in charge at the Essentia clinic in Virginia. He previously spent nine years

Right: John VanDeVoort raises his hand as he recites the oath of office with Clerk-Treasurer Michael Schultz looking on.

photo by M. Helmberger

on the board of directors of the nonprofit Big Brothers/ Big Sisters of Northwestern Wisconsin, including three years as board president. He

See...COUNCIL pg. 9



### LOCAL GOVERNANCE

## **Voters back** formation of new area township

by DAVID COLBURN Cook/Orr Editor

LAKE VERMILION-Unorganized Township 63-17 won't be nameless much longer as residents voted to organize this week.

In a special election held Tuesday, voters chose to incorporate as St. Louis County's newest township, with 49 residents in favor and 31 opposed. The township, which sits tucked between Beatty and Greenwood townships in the county's northern tier, has been unorganized territory, overseen by the county, until now.

The move toward organization began a year ago when residents submitted a formal petition asking the county to authorize a special election. Supporters of the change argued that organizing provides more local control-most notably local control over tax dollars and decision-making.

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

The results are still unofficial for the moment. The county's canvassing board is scheduled to meet on Monday at 10 a.m. at the St. Louis County Courthouse in Duluth certify the vote.

The next step will be for County Auditor Nancy Nilsen to call an organizational meeting. That gathering will give residents a chance to establish their first town board, choose a township name, and officially begin local governance.



**PUBLIC SAFETY** 

# Forests in flames

Buildings destroyed, families evacuated in parts of St. Louis County but rain expected to ease fire danger

by DAVID COLBURN

EGIONAL- What began as a small wildfire in Ault Township north of Brimson exploded into a major disaster this week, becoming the largest fire in Minnesota so far this year and the central focus of a growing emergency response now encompassing air and ground crews

from across the U.S. and Canada.

By Wednesday morning, the Camp House and Jenkins Creek fires had torched more than 35,000 acres combined, destroyed over 140 structures, and forced dozens of evacua-

"This is going to be one of the most significant fires in the history of St. Louis County," Sheriff Gordon Ramsay said Tuesday. "The damage near column from the Jenkins Creek Fire as viewed from Tower on Tuesday afternoon. The fire, combined with the nearby Camp House Fire, had scorched more than 35,000 acres as of Wednesday morning. photo by M. Helmberger

Brimson reminded me a lot of the video I saw from the California fires not too long ago, where

See..FIRES pg. 10

### ST. LOUIS COUNTY JAIL

## **Partners offer** mental health assistance

by DAVID COLBURN

Cook/Orr Editor

Editor's Note: This is the third and final installment in our series on the St. Louis County jails.

REGIONAL- As the St. Louis County Jail has increasingly become the

county's default mental health service provider, correctional staff have found themselves on the front lines of a behavioral health crisis, operating in a system not designed for the roles they're now being Sheriff Ramsay asked to play.



This third installment in our series on the county jails explores how the sheriff's office is responding, not just by managing inmates in crisis, but by caring for its staff, leaning on community partnerships, and preparing for sweeping policy changes that could alter the jail's operations for years to come.

Staff support

At a facility where staff are increasingly called to manage crises far beyond the duties of traditional corrections, the well-being of employees has become a

See...JAILS pg. 9

### PUBLIC BROADCASTING

## Federal CPB cuts could be "devastating"

Some small radio and TV stations could disappear as Trump targets Corporation for Public Broadcasting

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

REGIONAL - The effect of deep cuts to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, or CPB, would ripple noticeably across the airwaves of northeastern Minnesota.

Radio stations in places like Grand Rapids, Nett Lake, and Grand Marais, as well as Duluth's PBS television affiliate WDSE, would be among the hardest hit depending on decisions made in Congress, the White House, and even the courts.

While much media attention has focused on the impact of the cuts to National Public Radio and PBS, neither national entity is as dependent on the CPB as are the small, often rural, stations that use federal funds to purchase the nationally produced programming and cover other operational expenses.

"The NPRs and PBSs are going to

See...BROADCASTERS pg. 11



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### **Community notices**

### 14th annual Ely City-wide Rummage Sale, Business Crazy Day, and Used **Equipment & Watercraft Sale on May 17**

ELY- Spring into savings at the 14th annual Ely Citywide Rummage Sale, Business Crazy Day, and Used Equipment & Watercraft Sale on Saturday, May 17 - it's a ONEday shopping extravaganza from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Explore dozens of neighborhood rummage sales brimming with clothing, household treasures, and even outdoor and sporting goods. Local businesses will join the fun with exciting in-store and sidewalk sales, and our outfitters will have deals on used equipment and watercraft (check the event map for individual business hours). Fuel the shopping spree at Ely's open restaurants, coffee shops, and bakeries. Grab an event map with all the locations and lists starting May 14 at the Chamber of Commerce office or download it at Ely.org/citywide – perfect for planning the shopping route. Maps will also be available on event day at the Ely Chamber of Commerce (open 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.) and online.

### Ladies of Kaleva Memorial Service on Thursday, May 22

VIRGINIA – Ladies of Kaleva will meet on Thursday, May 22, at 6 p.m. at Kaleva Hall for a short business meeting, followed by the annual Memorial Day Observance ceremony dedicated to remembering beloved Kaleva members who have passed to the Great Beyond. Members are asked to wear white. The public is invited, especially relatives and friends of members being remembered. Coffee an' will be served following the ceremony.

**History Happy Hour program about Civilian Conservation Corps on** Wednesday, May 21 in Ely

ELY- Join host Jess Edberg, executive director of the Dorothy Molter Museum, on Wednesday, May 21 at 5 p.m. for History Happy Hour at the Boathouse Brewpub Lookout Lounge in Ely. We will explore the hard-working history of the CCC or Civilian Conservation Corps. Established by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933, it employed unemployed young men to work on conservation projects, primarily in national and state parks and forests, to address the unemployment crisis of the Great Depression while simultaneously improving the nation's natural resources. History Happy Hour delves into the rich history of the Ely area with pint-sized stories that are informative and entertaining in less than a half an hour. This program is offered as a free, in-person, 30-minute or less presentation. History Happy Hour is supported in-kind by the Boathouse Brewpub, Ely's Heritage Preservation Commission, the Dorothy Molter Museum, Boundary Waters Connect and the Ely Folk School.

### Singers wanted for LVCC Midsummer **Festival choir**

TOWER- Do you want to sing at the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center's Midsummer Festival? We're putting together a choir for "Songs of the Journey" at the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center, led by Ryan Bajan. It's a musical trip across the Atlantic, featuring songs about immigration to Minnesota and the diverse cultures here. The music is fairly easy (mostly unison or two-part).

Practices will be held on Thursday, June 12, from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., Friday, June 13 from 2 - 3 p.m., and Saturday, June 14 from 11 a.m. to noon. The performance is set for Saturday, June 14 at 7:15 p.m. If you are interested, RSVP to larryreynolds52@gmail.com.

### Sauna Day celebration set for June 7

EMBARRASS- Join Sisu Heritage to celebrate the Finnish tradition of sauna on National Sauna Day, Saturday, June 7. The free, family-friendly event is outdoors, rain or shine, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Nelimark Homestead and Museum on Hwy. 21 in Embarrass.

Saunas will be on display and for sale, along with locally made Lamppa sauna stoves. A pulled pork meal will be available. Wendy Sweney's adorable baby goats are on display until 1 p.m. and goat cheese will be for sale. Other events include the traditional boot-throwing contest and a guided walking tour of the Nelimark log buildings. Live music will be provided by Soren Burkum from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and Roseanne Omersa from 12:30 to 2 p.m.

The Farmstead Artisans gift shop will be open, offering free coffee and selling an array of handmade and homemade goodies and crafts.

National Sauna Day is sponsored by Sisu Heritage of Embarrass and these generous local businesses: Trapline Convenience Store, Mealey's Sauna and Gift Shop, Lamppa Manufacturing, Ledgerock Landscaping, CC Winger Construction, Embarrass-Vermillion Credit Union and Fortune Bay Resort Casino.

### REFLECTIONS DANCE



These young dancers from the Acro 1 class performed during the Reflections Dance recital in Ely last week. Pictured (from left): Instructor Kristi Marshall, Charlotte Tovsen, Juniper Roller, Lena Meier, Zoe Chase, and assistant Ellie Marshall. photo by C. Clark

### NORTHERN PROGRESSIVES

### Panel discussion about Social Security on May 21 in Cook



**Brian Rohrenbach** 

COOK- "Social Security Affects Us All: What's at Risk?" is the topic of a panel discussion to be held Wednesday, May 21, 6:30 p.m. at the Cook Community Center, 510 Gopher Drive in Cook. The discussion will focus on the scope and impact of Social Security on people of all ages and how currently proposed budget decisions will affect us.

The featured speaker will be Brian Rohrenbach of the Minnesota Farmers Union. Rohrenbach is also a member of "Patriotic Chickens," which is a Minnesota political action committee that believes that "good humans make good policy" and works to encourage voters to choose good humans when casting their votes.

Other panel members in-

clude a former Society Security Disability Representative and a researcher on Social Security and Medicare.

This event is sponsored by Northern Progressives and is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Leah Rogne at 612-570-0188 or leah. rogne@gmail.com.

### **UNITED WAY**

## Veterans can connect at the Veterans Resource Fair on Thursday, May 22 in Hibbing

### Over 30 providers will be on hand to assist area veterans

HIBBING- The Beyond the Yel-Ribbon-Hibbing/Chisholm is sponsoring their 5th annual Veteran Resource Fair on Thursday, May 22, from noon to 4 p.m. at the Minnesota North Hibbing Campus Commons (Hibbing Community College).

This year we have extended the time of our event to make sure veterans have time to attend both the Benefits Seminar and talk to the various providers that will be available.

The DAV (Disabled American Veterans) National Service officers will be presenting an hour-long seminar starting at 12:30 p.m. They will explain many of the benefits veterans have earned and guide them to free accredited professional claims assistance.

Local service organizations, as well as St. Louis County and Itasca County, all offer free claims assistance with professionally educated and accredited staff and volunteers. Veterans need to be aware that attorneys advertising online and on TV are rarely necessary but always take a portion of the benefits veterans have earned.

We have also created a new partnership with the Buns to Go food truck to provide a free meal on site to all

veterans that attend and talk with providers and show proof of their veteran

Many of the BTYR-H/C board members are also veterans and are well aware of how veterans struggle to find a purpose, find people that understand the military experience, and people that are willing to accept the quirks and sometimes difficult memories we pick up during our military service. We hope to help veterans with those issues by having organizations like 23rd Veteran and United Way of Northeastern Minnesota that provide programs to help veterans to connect with other veterans in a healthy environment.

The United Way Veterans Connect program is hosting events this summer for veterans and families to get together for a guided tour boat ride along the Rainy River and tours of the Soudan Underground Mine. And they will be bringing back the "veterans only day" at the Hibbing Rifle and Pistol Range for veterans to get together, compare weapons and have a friendly competition to see who is the best shot.

Representatives will be on hand from local service groups like the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign

Wars and Disabled American Veterans including some of the sub groups like the Legion Riders (motorcycle enthusiasts) and the Cooties (VFW group that supports veterans through humor) and DAV transportation coordinators that arrange free transportation for veterans to get from the Range to VA medical appointments at the Twin Ports Clinic in Superior and the Minneapolis VA

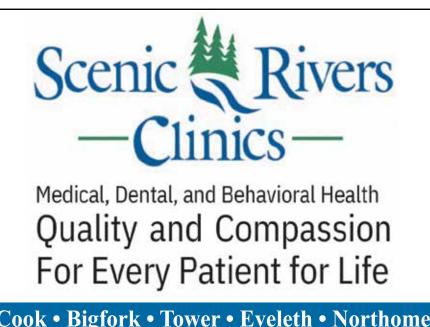
In total we have over 30 providers signed up that provide services for legal, medical, education, financial, housing, and employment needs.

This event continues to grow into a truly one stop shop event to provide veterans with benefits they earned and resources to solve problems. And if we don't have what the veteran needs, between all of these resources, someone will know how to find it!

So, look for the Vet Center RV, Suicide Awareness Racecar and Truck in the College parking lot and join us. For more information, email btyrhc@ gmail.com or call 218-969-7137.









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THE TIMBERJAY

FIRE DANGER

## Fire destroys cabin on Lake Vermilion; campfire blamed

GREENWOOD TWP-A Lake Vermilion cabin in Greenwood Township was destroyed by fire last Thursday afternoon after a campfire spread out of control.

The fire was reported shortly after 3 p.m. along Se-

renity Point Road in Greenwood Township. According to the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office, the flames quickly reached the cabin and spread into nearby woods before multiple fire crews arrived on scene. The

cabin was totally engulfed when firefighters arrived, but area departments were able to control the fire and keep it from spreading.

No injuries were report-

Responding departments included firefighters from Greenwood, Tower, Breitung Township, Cook, Fire Brigade, along with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and

the U.S. Forest Service.

Tower Ambulance provided medical standby.

The area was under a and the Lake Vermilion High Fire Danger alert at the time of the blaze — a reminder, officials said, of just how

quickly a small campfire can spark a major incident.

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**Below: The Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade** responded to the fire.

## **UPS truck catches fire on Tower's Main Street**

by JODI SUMMIT

Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- Black smoke billowed here late last Thursday afternoon when a UPS truck caught fire while driving through Tower on its return from a day of deliveries. Both the Tower and Breitung fire departments were on the scene of the Greenwood cabin fire at the time, but Breitung left that scene to respond to the call in Tower. The Cook Fire Department also responded, getting there only minutes after Breitung.

Ely Ambulance also responded to the scene in case medical care was needed, because the Tower Ambulance was on scene at the Greenwood cabin fire

"The engine and cab of the truck were fully engulfed when we got there," said Breitung Chief Trevor Banks. "We were able to get the fire out really quickly."

The truck had pulled over on Hwy. 169 right in front of Zup's Foods, attracting a crowd of onlookers wrapping up shopping for the day. A nearby parked SUV was also



The UPS truck was a total loss after catching fire on Tower's Main **St.** photo courtesy of the Tower Fire Department

damaged by the fire.

Banks said the truck driver got out safely, and said he thought the brakes had started the fire "He said he had hit the brakes and the pedal went right to the floor and then it started smoking.'

Greenwood Fire had also responded to and quickly suppressed

an unattended brush fire near County Rd. 77 on Monday (which was showing up on the Watch Duty fire app). High winds also knocked over a power line in Kugler Township, which the DNR and other local departments responded to and contained before any fire occurred.



### GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP

## Legal bills spell cash flow issues for Greenwood

by JODI SUMMIT

Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP- The Greenwood Town Board took several steps to alleviate a cash flow issue stemming from \$35,000 in legal fees incurred so far this year, most in pursuit of the dismissal of former fire chief Jeff Maus. While the township's balance sheet shows over \$412,000 in cash, with about \$393,000 is tied up in investment CDs. The township's checking account had only \$1,142 as of the end of April, plus a little over \$17,000 in four dedicated savings accounts.

'Don't think we are broke," said chair Lois Roskoski. "We just need to withdraw one of our CDs early."

These legal fees stem from the township's investigation of complaints against and then subsequent firing of Maus.

We followed the legal process for termination," said Roskoski.
"We dotted our i's and crossed our

The board voted to move money from the savings account to the checking account, noting these funds would be repaid once the CD is cashed in. The board will cash in a \$107,000 CD that was coming due on July 31, though they weren't sure how quickly this could be done. There is not a penalty for early withdrawal, though they will lose some interest. The township will also request early partial payment of the \$150,000 they expect from their township levy. Under the request, they would receive 70 percent of the funds in June with the remaining 30 percent coming during the normal July distribution.

Roskoski told the board that moving the township cash reserves into the investment CDs had been a positive move for the township.

"The CDs have been very profitable for Greenwood," she said.

In other financial matters, treasurer Tammy Mortaloni reported she had put in about 20 extra hours last month but had gotten both the clerk's and treasurer's monthly reports to match, going back to the beginning of 2022. She asked the board to continue using ADP for payroll processing, since the cost is very reasonable, at \$135 per month, and it can provide some benefits, such as direct deposit and employee access to their employment data,

that the township cannot do on their

own. The board passed a motion to

continue using ADP, and to remove payroll processing from the treasurer's job description.

Mortaloni also presented a new budget spreadsheet, which shows budget vs. actual spending, year-todate, which will be updated monthly for the board. The board also approved the updated 2025 budget, which accounts for the \$300,000 tax levy. The initial 2025 budget had projected a \$150,000 tax levy, but residents had approved a \$300,000 levy at the 2024 annual meeting.

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May 16, 2025 THE TIMBERJAY

# OPINION

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

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

r Editorial

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

## Making life harder

The Trump administration is gutting programs that help people

Through all the noise and chaos of the first 100 days of the Trump administration, a single, relatively small bit of news caught our eye last week. The administration's widely reported plan to end the Energy Star program is, perhaps more than anything, emblematic of an administration that has absolutely no interest in government that does good things for its citizens.

There is no conceivable argument against the Energy Star program, which began under the auspices of the Environmental Protection Agency in 1992 during the administration of Republican George H.W. Bush. It's a public-private partnership that was devised to promote the sale of energy-saving appliances, furnaces, and other devices to achieve multiple positive outcomes, including energy savings for consumers, lower emissions to the environment, and encouragement of business innovation by increasing demand for more energy-efficient products.

The Energy Star program cost about \$35 million annually and saved American families about \$40 BILLION a year in energy costs. That's a savings of almost \$1,200 for every one dollar invested in the program, which is one reason it has enjoyed almost universal bipartisan support in Washington from its inception. Democrats liked the benefits to consumers and the environment, while Republicans liked that it encouraged business innovation and used a free market approach (by providing consumers with useful information) to achieve what was undeniably a public good.

It is that reality alone that probably doomed the program under the Trump administration, which has seemed to target every and any program that makes life a little better for the average Amer-

This is hardly the only example. We're reporting this week on the administration's efforts to eliminate the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, which provides nearly 40 percent of families in Minnesota's Eighth Congressional District with help paying winter heating bills. If President Trump gets his way, the average low-income family in northeastern Minnesota, about half headed by seniors, will lose almost \$600 a year and face potential shutoffs of their heat and lights.

The administration's efforts to eliminate the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau is another example. Created in the aftermath of the 2008 financial collapse, the bureau has helped to hold financial institutions, debt collectors, for-profit colleges, and payday lenders accountable for tactics that are either

fraudulent or misleading. Since it's founding in 2010, the agency has returned more than \$21 billion to consumers who've been fleeced in one way of another.

The hit list just keeps on growing. Last month, just before Tax Day, the administration announced that it was eliminating the free tax filing program that the IRS had developed under the direction of the Inflation Reduction Act. It was one of many ways that that Bidenera policy offered cost savings to Americans by making it easier and free to file taxes online. Want to file your taxes online now? You'll have to pay a company for that op-

And budget cuts are only part of the picture. Remember how inflation was a huge issue in the 2024 campaign? American families complained they were hurting from the rising cost of groceries and everyday items. Trump's response? He slapped tariffs (a tax paid primarily by consumers) on everything coming into the country, including groceries and everyday household items, which is guaranteed to send prices for those goods higher and create shortages in the coming months. How does that help the average American?

Even Trump has no clear answer to that question.

Nor does he have an answer to one of the public's other big concerns, particularly among young people – the lack of decent housing in the U.S. We'd be the first to note that this is a problem that both major political parties have failed to address, yet it won't be helped by the Trump administration's efforts to eliminate major federal housing programs, including rental assistance, known as Section 8, which would leave 7,500 families in St. Louis County alone highly vulnerable to homelessness. Across the country, millions of families, including many seniors, the disabled, or parents of young children who are stuck in low-wage jobs, would be severely impacted. Trump's take? Who cares?

These actions are all part of a pattern that speaks to the priorities of this president and the oligarchs who back him - priorities that do not include making life better for most Americans. Trump is gutting cancer research, mental health funding for children, the Head Start program, and a thousand other programs that have improved the lives of millions of Americans every year.

During the campaign, Trump portrayed himself as a defender of the little guy, but he's used his authority as president to make life harder for the majority of Americans, and truly awful for far too many. And the suffering is just getting started.



## Letters from Readers

### Hauschild needs to protect the Boundary Waters

The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness is under attack by foreign mining companies and special interests. It is time for office holders like Sen. Grant Hauschild to stand up for what is right rather than hide behind the hollow rhetoric of the past.

Stating that "I follow the science and the law," is a farce. The scientific study conducted by the federal government that led to the mineral withdrawal in the watershed shows the damage that will be done in our backyard by sulfide mining. Economic studies show the devastating impact sulfide mining will have on local businesses and property values.

The senator knows that the current administration will not follow the law on this issue. It is clear that the Trump administration refuses to abide by the law on a daily basis. Despite all of this, Hauschild as much as begged Donald Trump to strip away BW-CAW protections (the mineral withdrawal) because special interests and consultants say that is the smart political thing to do.

However, the vast majority of people needed for the senator's re-election vehemently oppose mining in the BWCAW watershed. Apparently, he thinks that repeating old standard talking points to people who know that neither the science nor the law supports toxic mining in this area will earn their votes. Far from it - it is simply offensive. Nobody likes to be treated like a fool. Politics is a rough business, but sometimes the rubber hits the road and one is faced with a decision to either act wisely for the benefit of the many, or serve the short term interests of the few.

Thankfully, there is time for Sen. Hauschild to stand up and do what is right. It would be a shame for a person with much promise to

go down the road of others and be remembered only for destroying a very special place. It would not only lead to defeat locally, but an end to seeking any other office, as over 70 percent of Minnesotans support the effort to protect the Boundary Waters. Watch his position on this issue closely and let him know that you do not intend to sacrifice the BWCAW for his election or personal ambitions. Those of us who care deeply about the Boundary Waters deserve a candidate to vote for in the next state senate election who will act to protect and preserve the wilderness. If not, there is plenty of time to field an independent candidate who will do so.

Kelly Dahl **Linden Grove Township** 

### Trump's infractions are endless

Occasionally, a Congressional member, Republican or Democrat, will admit publicly that they are afraid to speak up because of fear of retaliation threats from the Trump administration. Their silence, in essence, makes them complicit. They should be replaced by persons willing to challenge the administration's disrespect for the principles of our constitution.

There are citizens willing to volunteer to fight for and risk death for our country. Surely, we can find these types of candidates for this Congress.

The are many and consequential issues to be addressed that should not be circumvented, such as disregard for the principals and adherence to our constitution. In addition, sending families to foreign prisons without due process, firing government workers without cause, nominating unqualified managers for key appointments, threating to withhold funds from Medicaid and Social Security are just additional examples. In addition, he's unilaterally broken multilateral nuclear agreements,

plus the international agreement on climate change with 195 countries, as well as our long historic relationship with Canada.

The list of "infractions' goes on and on with more than 150 lawsuits against the administration's lawless actions, but it is extremely important that Congress assert itself as a co-equal branch of government. Silence is not an option.

Gerry Snyder Ely/ Simsbury, Conn.



## We welcome your letters

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

We ask that letters be limited to 300 words.

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

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

COMMENTARY

## The fight for justice and inclusion starts close to home

society has wrestled with attitudes that exclude many peo-

ple from its promises and privileges. In the 1860s, we fought a Civil War to confront one of our most egregious exclusionary institutions, that of slavery. One hundred and sixty years later, we still struggle with discriminatory behaviors embedded in our culture.

In recent years, many of the worst aspects of racism have resurfaced. Even the president is writing executive orders that reverse much of the progress we've made.

Throughout history, our His full court press targets national policies that have promoted DEI, short for di-

versity, equity, and inclusion. His strategy is to purge language, references, and entire policies responsible for integrating and creating a more just society. DEI practices had begun to open doors for those who had previ-

**MCQUILLAN** ously been denied access to many opportunities that most Americans take for granted. He's doing this with a threat of cutting critical funding for

research and development to

**KATHLEEN** 

government agencies, universities, human resource departments, nonprofit organizations, and even private contractors. These entities conduct research and provide essential services that benefit all of us and depend on the support that only our federal government has the capacity to provide. When the funding disappears, the research and services disappear with it. And in many cases, these critical contributions available to our society will never be able to resume again. Our investments in them and those losses are immeasurable. The negative impacts of Trump's policies

not only harm the "protected

classes," they target — people discriminated against on the basis of the color of their skin, the culture of their birth, their age, gender or sexual orientation. No, not these people alone, but every American. We call ourselves a

"melting pot." But in truth, this isn't an accurate description of who we are as a nation. Some of us have always had to fight for equal rights to vote, practice our religion, be accepted into the school of our choice, land our dream job or the house we want to call home. Progress has always been slow. But Trump's campaign to scour

our historical narrative of

any reference to these struggles is an attempt to distort or erase the truth of our national identity.

Recently, I visited the VEMA Center, short for Voices for Ethnic and Multicultural Awareness, a nonprofit organization located in Chisholm. VEMA, like its name states, is dedicated to raising awareness of the diverse population that resides on the Iron Range. It also provides a safe space for people of color, and others, to meet for social and educational opportunities that highlight the valuable presence and contributions made by the black, indigenous and people of color, BIPOC members of our community. The Center was found-

ed in 2020, not long after the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis the spring of that same year. Nathaniel Coward and Seraphia Gravelle, two long-time residents of Chisholm, shared the pain and anger of grief following that awful event. They felt what other Iron Range people of color were feeling, invisible and vulnerable in their grief. The two agreed to take action and founded the VEMA Center, located on Lake Street in downtown Chisholm. It wasn't long before they were advocating

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### Commentary

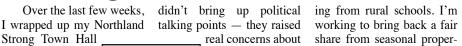
## Holding face to face conversations across the Northland

Strong Town Hall tour, holding open conversations every corner of Northeast Minnesota - from Hermantown, International Falls, and Grand Marais to Two Harbors, Ely, and Grand Rapids. Because of the

size and distinct regions of our district, I believe it's critical to show up, face-to-

face, to listen. That's why I traveled across the Northland to hear directly from working families, small business owners, seniors, farmers, and local leaders about the challenges and opportunities facing our communities.

At every stop, folks



real issues.

We talked about the rural child care shortage that's forcing too many parents to drive hours for work. We talked about the urgent need to fix an unfair policy made back in 2001, when seasonal recre-

ational properties

- like cabins and second homes - were removed from contributing to local school levies. In communities like ours, where seasonal properties make up a large portion of the tax base, this change put an unfair burden on year-round residents and took away critical fund-

SEN. GRANT

**HAUSCHILD** 

working to bring back a fair share from seasonal properties to make sure every child, no matter their zip code, has access to a strong education.

We also talked about protecting our nursing homes, defending our rural hospitals from devastating Medicaid cuts at the Federal level, and investing in outdoor recreation and environmental stewardship that strengthens our local economies and protects our beautiful outdoors for generations

Beyond the town halls, I've been working hard to stay connected with the people that make the Northland what it is. I recently visited Mark and Melinda Spinler's Maple Hill Sugarbush & Farm, where generations of Minnesotans have kept alive the outdoor traditions of maple syrup tapping. I toured the Silver Bay Veterans Home and saw firsthand the incredible work being done to give our veterans the quality of life they deserve. I met with laid-off Steelworkers in Virginia, listening to their stories and recommitting myself to fighting for good-paying union jobs on the Iron Range.

I also visited the Pulsar Helium project site outside of Babbitt, where new opportunities could help fuel the next generation of Northland jobs. And I toured Ely-Bloomenson Hospital, talking with local health care leaders about the real challenges rural hospitals are facing - and how we must do more to protect health care access in every corner of our region.

These visits remind me that leadership isn't about sitting behind a desk in St. Paul - it's about showing up, listening, and taking ac-

As we enter the final month of the legislative session, I'm proud to be an Assistant Majority Leader in the Senate, where we are focused on balancing the budget, protecting our most vulnerable, and standing up for rural communities like ours. That's a sharp contrast to what we're seeing from Speaker Lisa Demuth (R-Cold Springs) and the State House, where their budget plan leaves a \$1.3 billion deficit on the bottom line. In the Northland, families have to balance their checkbooks - and we should expect the same from state government. Instead of deficit spend-

ing, we're working to be fiscally responsible in the Senate: balancing our budget while still investing in what matters - our seniors, our young families, our rural schools, and the future of the Northland.

In every conversation, every handshake, and every town hall. I learn something new. But what holds true throughout is that the Northland expects our leaders to stay grounded, stay accessible, and stay focused on results. I'll continue to keep my head down, stay focused, and, 'Just Deliver' for the Northland — because that's what I've always promised you I would do.

### Commentary

## Finding that special spot where steam melts into light

We start the fire before the sun rises, when the sky is white. There are flurries on the wind. It's cold enough

for mittens. The fire crackles, and the clear maple sap begins to steam. If I stand close, the fire scorches my skin. A few feet away, I need to zip up my jacket and pull down my hat. It's the wind. All

around me the trees are moving. Aspens dance from their ankles to their fingertips. Pine and balsam

boughs whisper and sigh. The sap starts bubbling. Gusts blow sweet steam out through the woods to where the sun is rising over Farm

Nuthatches, pine siskins, chickadees, and purple finches chitter and flutter. Three geese honk as they clear the treetops. Bobbing at the very top of a spindly aspen, a rob-

in sings comfort to me. The trees

they can, leaning against the wind, getting tougher. Some trees have snapped. Their pale, jagged stumps dot the woods.

Others learn to

persist, even in relentless wind. On the harsh shores of Scotland and on Lake Superior's beaches, slim young trees grow strong and hard, leaning into the wind as gnarly warriors.

**JEAN** 

**GENDREAU** 

Yet even the toughest tree dies without its thin places - fine roots hiding in darkness, twigs and thin leaves bouncing high in the light. Thin membranes feed

life. Without the placenta's fine capillaries, an embryo dies. Without the lung's impossibly tender membranes, strong animals die. It's simple. There must

thin places, boundaries where one thing passes through and enters a new state. Light streams down and through thin leaves. Water wets dirt to feed thin roots and make sap.

I only want to be a crusty old warrior tree. Thick bark feels strong. Warriors stand tough against harsh force. It's too easy to shred seedlings, soft leaves and thin white roots. But these are the exact places where outside meets inside, where oth-

I cannot breathe without my thin places. I cannot stop looking up to where the finest twigs brush the sky. I need to smell the sugar as steam rolls off the boiling sap. I must hear the wind whiffling through pine boughs. I need to know that something is crossing over.

Roots stay hidden in earth. Darkness feels safe. Dirt shelters the fine threads. Some roots lie against an old boulder that holds warmth.

There's no shame in being protected by dirt. A root must be fine enough to absorb water. For life's sake, these fine membranes must take holy refuge in darkness.

Branches, twigs, and leaves are crazy brave. They are true to light and air. Even though brutal sunlight can kill, and terrible winds

can break branches, aspen leaves shimmer and dance. The sound of wind tells of heaven's vast boundaries. At dawn, a robin singing high against the sky tells me of Light calls and maple

sap rises. The clear sap in the boiling tray warms, starts to bubble, jumps into the air as steam. What's left behind is sweetness. Who knew that a lithe

dancing tree can harden into a gnarly warrior? Who believed in the magic of tiny roots and twigs?

This is what I want to tell you. Each of us must drink from the earth and feel the sun on our thin places. And without fine roots and fragile leaves, we die. Even though the trunk must toughen, somehow spirit must be able to move from rain to roots and from heaven to leaf. For me there's some-

thing even deeper than the blackness where the roots lie safe. And even if a high leaf falls, there is something higher and brighter than the very top of this tree.

The sun rises. At all the thin places, something passes through to become new. Sap boils and steam rises, drifting through the pine and balsam boughs to melt in This is why a robin calls

out to me this morning as I sit by the fire. She's high above the fray, untouchable, safe. She sings of joy and freedom on the other side. Below. all of us in the cold, windy woods look up and smile.

### **JUSTICE...**Cont. from page 4

for greater understanding and equal justice for the BI-

POC community. I first learned about VEMA in December of 2020, when I joined a small group of folks on a highway overpass in Virginia, Minn. We were there to honor the life of Estavon Eliof, who'd been shot and killed by St. Louis County deputies within months following the murder of George Floyd. Seraphia and Nathaniel had convened the rally to demand further investigation into Eliof's untimely and tragic death. Standing together on that bridge was a call for justice. We felt the loss of one of our own, again at the hands of law enforcement agents. It was a time to express the anger and pain of our grief. On that bitterly cold day, I was invited to visit the Center. From that chance meeting on the bridge, a friendship

Last week, Nathaniel and I were discussing VE-MA's upcoming activities. We commiserated over current events that were triggering bouts of insomnia and emotional exhaustion. The uncertainty and stress from the constant barrage of bad news from the White House left us feeling pummeled. Incessant reports of gutting and cutting staff and funding from key government agencies was overwhelming. We couldn't help but anticipate the negative impacts on vulnerable people who we knew relied on these at-risk government services.

"What wears me down the most," Nathaniel explained, "is their desperation and this feeling that there's

nothing we can do to ease their worries." The surge of calls were from people afraid they were losing their health insurance, housing, or food assistance. "They're worried about how to take care of their kids."

Nathaniel had been gathering information and speaking with community leaders about how they could help. I was busy organizing constituents to make phone calls to their state and federal legislators asking them to fight these cuts. We couldn't tell yet if anything we were doing would make things bet-

These community leaders weren't strangers. Nathaniel had been visiting them for years about needs in the community. He was troubled by how little progress there seemed in their level of awareness. "It's like they don't care or can't hear the truth in what I'm describing. They're in denial that these barriers even exist for people in the BIPOC community. Whether with landlords, in schools, or on their streets with neighbors, or law enforcement. People don't feel heard."

"I try to explain these things over and over - different story, different places, different faces, same issues. But they just can't seem to accept that it's real. And that they have any power to help change it." With this, his voice grew weary. "And after, I have to fight my own feelings of hopelessness. That drains my energy, too!"

"People just don't like to hear the truth. They want to believe that nothing's ever gonna change. Maybe if that's true then they won't have to feel guilty about not doing anything to make it different. If they won't go there, then of course, nothing is ever going to change. And now it's going to get even harder."

What is it that blocks a shift toward a different direction? We drew the same conclusion. For a long time, the combination of denial, fear, and cynicism has been a curse on American society. Nathaniel took a long sigh, closed his eyes, and let his head rest on the back of the couch. I waited. And then. almost as quickly as he'd drifted off, he returned, suddenly opening his eyes, turning his gaze to me, and sighing again. He then uttered,

"It's all okay." I'd seen him do this before, always thinking it was emotional fatigue. This time, I wondered how he could keep doing this work. When I asked him, he said, "The work wards off the despair. There isn't a day goes by that I don't feel thanks for what I do, the people I meet. We don't need a key that's going to unlock it all at once." 'So," I asked, "What do we do next?"

"Resources are in short supply" he began. "We need more people. To staff the center and do more outreach. There's so much mistrust out there. It's rampant throughout the whole community. We've gotta figure out how to address that mistrust we have for one another." We both knew how difficult and complex a problem that is.

"We've gotta keep talking with each other. And listening better. The fears and indignities we've experienced in our past keeps messing with us in the present and casts a shadow on the future. We need safe spaces where we can explore that together. Where we can be brave enough to risk telling our stories." I knew doing so would be so worth it. But I also knew that it's impossible to ensure that. We agreed we would never know if we quit trying.

We stopped there and both sighed, and smiled, agreeing to sit for a few minutes and imagine a world where we could really feel cared for by our community, knowing that we really belonged. Imagine life if we found more joy in creating things together versus tearing them apart. How different it would be. These thoughts are about building something new and lasting. A goal that's uplifting and worth something, but so far

away.
"You think this is even possible?" I asked. Nathaniel answered. "Hope is what keeps us going. But I know we can't sustain it alone." It hit me. This is what Nathaniel devotes his life to. It's what he invited me to join into that day on the bridge five years ago.

This conversation brought me home. We don't have to turn the tide. We just have to attend to our own boat. Change is made one person, one community at a time. And giving up is not an option.



## TIMBERJAY

Copyright © 2025 by *The Timberjay*. The Timberjay (PN 16025) is published weekly on Fridays, 51 weeks per year, by The Timberjay Inc., PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Busi-

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

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

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

**Publisher** General Manager Cook/Orr Editor Staff Writer Office Manager Graphics/Ad Sales Ad Sales/Sports

Marshall Helmberger Jodi Summit David Colburn Stephanie Ukkola Michelle Toutloff Scarlet Lynn Stone Jay Greeney

Official Newspaper:

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

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

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### Week of May 19

### Monday

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

### Tuesday

Tower Area Food Shelf-Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5 p.m. New location in the old St. James Church 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.

Breitung Town Board- regular meeting at 6 p.m. with public hearing at 5:30 p.m. on May

Thursday

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



### TSHS weekly winners

TOWER- The \$250 winner of week 35 of the Charlemagne's 52 Club is Dave Desannov of Tower.

History Tidbit: Tower Cemetery Part 1: Before the Tower Cemetery Association was created and the Lakeview Cemetery was cleared and built, Tower had a cemetery on the south side of the East Two River, in a swampy area slightly uphill of the river. This was one of the few places around the area that wasn't immediately thought to have gold or iron, and wasn't suitable for farming, so was instead used to bury

the dead. This first Tower cemetery, if such it might be called, was located across the river from the Minnesota Iron Company's saw mill. At first, and for a considerable time, there was no bridge across the river leading to the cemetery, and when there was a funeral, if there were a sufficient number of logs in the saw mill's boom, boards were laid across them to make a temporary bridge for the use of the funeral procession. If there were not enough logs in the boom to permit this, folks made a temporary raft by fastening a sufficient number of logs together and they used pike poles to propel the raft. The raft carried the casket, the casket bearers, and, if there happened to be an officiating minister, he was included. Next they took over the mourners, and then any friends of the deceased who were not afraid to risk themselves on the raft.

Part 2 to be continued next week

### **Free community** meal at Immanuel on May 28

TOWER-Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower is hosting a free community meal on Wednesday, May 28 from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m., or until the food is gone. The meal this month is chicken tetrazzini. Eat-in or take-out is available. All are welcome.

### TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY



The Tower-Soudan Elementary spring concert is set for Thursday, May 22 at 1:30 p.m. The public is invited to hear a mini-musical all about going away to summer camp, plus performances from the elementary band and younger elementary students. photo by J. Summit

### LAKE VERMILION CULTURAL CENTER

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

TOWER- The Lake Vermilion Cultural Center is hosting storyteller Gloria Anderson-Hegg on Wednesday, May 28, at 6 p.m. in St. Mary's Hall. Her presentation will focus on the immigrant stories of those who landed on the Iron Range. The evening will start at 6 p.m. with a pasty feed followed by Gloria's program at 6:30 p.m. Admission for the program and pasty supper (Zup's pasty, beverage, and dessert) will be \$15 at the door. Admission for just the program is \$5. Please RSVP for the pasty supper by calling or texting Shelby at 320-282-2488 or emailing her at shelby.vaske@gmail.com by

Anderson-Hegg brings history to life with her first-person in-



Gloria Anderson-Hegg.

terpretation of characters from the past. A native of Bear River, Anderson-Hegg draws on her own ethnic roots as she portrays "Hanna," a Scandinavian immigrant pioneer woman based on her maternal grandmother.

Among her many accomplishments, she worked for many years as a first-person interpreter and educational instructor at the Ironworld Discovery Center in Chisholm. She portrayed an immigrant woman living in Glen Location, a 1915-era mining community situated at the edge of an open pit mine. Her stories are based on oral histories she conducted with elderly persons who once lived in the now defunct com-

An active folklorist, Anderoson-Hegg has served on the board of the Oral History Association of Minnesota and has given presentations at a number of OHAM annual meetings. She has also presented Oral History workshops. She is a member of the National Storytelling Network. As a free-lance storyteller, Gloria travels and delights audiences of all ages at schools, churches and community events throughout the Midwest with her folk tales and historically insightful presentations.

The Lake Vermilion Cultural Center looks forward to hosting this fun and interesting event. The LVCC is located at 705 Main St. in Tower.

### 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-

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

### The Lunch Bunch hosting a salad **luncheon on May 20**

GREENWOOD TWP-The Lunch Bunch will be hosting a salad luncheon on Tuesday, May 20, at 12:30 p.m. at the home of Linda Haugen. Note this is the cor-

rect date. Please call Linda at 612-916-1916 to RSVP and get directions. Everyone is welcomed to join the group for lunch and conver-

### **Spring Warm Clothing Drive** during the month

of May REĞIONAL-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

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 Loca-

- ➤ 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 -



Boone Broten had a good opening day of fishing, netting three walleyes plus a trip to the floating hot dog stand, Lake Vermilion Wiener Cruiser, with his grandparents Joan and Dave Broten. Submitted

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 Sing-

The names of local vet-

A medley of patriotic

for our country.

will be read.

2279 Grant McMahon Blvd.

➤ 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.

### **Tower-Soudan Memorial Day Tribute on May 26**

Memorial Day Tribute to be

TOWER- Plans are being finalized for the Towerwelcome to join. If you know the name of Soudan area-wide annual

ers under the direction of Rolf Anderson. They are practicing on Mondays through May at 5 p.m. in the Tower-Soudan Elementary School music room. All are

a recently deceased veteran

encouraged to attend this heartwarming event.

whose name should be add-

ed 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

clude with a traditional Me-

morial Day wreath placed

on a symbolic Tomb of the

Unknown Soldier in a cere-

mony to be held outside the

by the Tower-Soudan Civic

Club will be served before

and following the tribute.

Everyone is invited and

Refreshments provided

civic center.

The program will con-

bngpeyla@gmail.com.

### THANK YOU

We would like to thank the following sponsors for the "Life Jacket Loaner Station" that was set up at the McKinley Park Campground:

Dena Suihkonen, Tower Ambulance Service • Rebekah Littler, Babbitt Ambulance Service • Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital • Alder Place • Babbitt Golf Course • Pohaki Lumber • Tower Firemen's Relief • Ely-Winton Rod & Gun Club • Northeast Range School • Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd • Jay Foltz Contracting • K & M Industrial

We appreciate your efforts in keeping everyone SAFE out on the water!

Jerry & Susie Chiabotti McKinley Park Campground ELY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## **Eighth graders visit the state capitol**



Ely eighth graders celebrated their continuation by taking a very memorable overnight field trip to the Twin Cities. They toured the Minnesota State Capitol, learning about the legislative process and meeting Representative Roger Skraba and Senator Grant Hauschild. They attended a St. Paul Saints game, and also visited the Minneapolis Art Institute and Como Zoo. Photo courtesy of H. Cavalier

## 2025 Memorial High School Senior Awards Day was held on May 7

The following seniors were honored during the the awards day ceremony at Ely Memorial High School. Over \$98,050 in local scholarships were awarded plus over \$43,000 in region-

The Alworth Scholarship: Rena Johnston

American Legion Merit Award: Maija Mattson

Bertha Bjorkman Scholarship: Sylvia Shock

Bertha Bjorkman Scholarship: Kennedy Zupancich

Bill Braun and John Braun Cour-

age Memorial Scholarship:

Cleveland-Cliffs Sons and Daughters Scholarship: Maija Mattson Ely AAUW Women in the Trades Scholarship: Carena DeBeltz

Ely Alumni Hockey Association

Scholarship: Jace Huntbatch Ely Area Credit Union: Blake

Schaller

Ely Mattson

**Ely Education Association:** 

Noah Anderson **Ely Educational Foundation:** 

Carena DeBeltz

Ely Educational Foundation: Derek & Dana Banovetz Alumni Scholar-

ship: Caid Chittum **Ely Educational Foundation: Daniel** 

J. Erzar Memorial Scholarship: Eli

Ely Educational Foundation: Ely **Fire Department Relief Association** Scholarship: Madelyn Moen and Henry Zgonc Ely Educational Foundation: Dale

and Florence Forsman Memorial Scholarship: Jace Huntbatch

Ely Educational Foundation: Leona Janezich "Good Soul" Scholarship: Carena DeBeltz Ely Educational Foundation: Rudy

and Dorothy Marolt Memorial Scholarship: Clare Thomas Ely Educational Foundation: Ray

Marsnik Elementary Education Scholarship: Noah Anderson **Ely Educational Foundation: James** 

A. and Albert F. Musich Family Scholarship: Carena DeBeltz Ely Educational Foundation: Anna

Rojakovich Scholarship: Carena De-Beltz Ely Educational Foundation: Anne

Rozman Scholarship: Eli Olson Ely Educational Foundation: The Sherpa Scholarships: Sylvia Shock,

Thomas, Caid Chittum, and Eli Olson **Elv Educational Foundation:** 

John Skantz Memorial Scholarship: Garrett Rohr **Ely Football Club Scholarship:** 

Garrett Rohr Ely Hoop Club Scholarship: Caid

Chittum and Maija Mattson Ely Nordic Wolves/Ely Nordic Ski & Bike Club Scholarship: Milo Mc-

Clelland and Eli Olson Ely Rotary Scholarship: Carena Debeltz and Maija Mattson

ian Scholarship: Dylan Durkin **Employees of the Kawishiwi Ranger** District Scholarship: Milo McClel-

EMPOWER Baccalaureate Schol**arship**: Rena Johnston Jake Forsman Memorial Scholar-

Ely Rotary Club Gil Vo-Tech Rotar-

ship: Alex Merriman, Jace Huntbatch, Tory Hughley, Blake Schaller, Kohner Baltich, Joshua Janeksela, Jonathan Schlosser, and Peyton Gregory

Frandsen Bank and Trust: Orlo A. Balcer Memorial Scholarship: Clare Thomas Frandsen Foundation Scholarships:

Dylan Durkin, Tory Hughley, Alex Merriman, Blake Schaller, Jace Huntbatch, Jonathon Schlosser, Joshua Janeksela, Owen Brecke, Brady Eaton, Madelyn Moen, and Devin Rocklin, Mishaben Goswami, Peyton Gregory, Bennett Leeson, Jaydon Paul, Trenton Bishop, Kohner Baltich, and Rowan

Claus/Svea Hammerstrom Scholarship: Tory Hughley John Huntbatch Memorial Scholar-

ship: Alex Merriman and Garrett Rohr **Industrial Education Scholarship:** Tory Hughley **Joey Ivancich Memorial** 

Scholarship: Carena DeBeltz **Johnson Brothers Trade** Scholarship: Jace Huntbatch Killen Scholarship: Clare Thomas, Janae Murphy, Rena Johnston, Milo McClelland, Senja Lepisto, Carena

DeBeltz, Wyatt Mattson, and Maija

Kiwanis Club of Ely Scholarship: Carena DeBeltz and Carmen Nelson Lahtonen Scholarship in Memory of **Eugene and Mary Joan Lahtonen:** Senja Lepisto, Maija Mattson, Clare Lake Country Power Les Beach Me-

morial Scholarship: Carena DeBeltz Mary Lassi Scholarship: Mishaben Goswami Renee Lassi Memorial Scholarship:

Senja Lepisto Sylvester J. and Christine A. Log-

ar Memorial Scholarship: Joshua Merle Lunceford Memorial Scholarship: Eli Olson

**Zachary Scott Matschiner Scholar**ship: Jace Huntbatch

Bob "NISKY" Niskala Military Scholarship: Anna Dunn Frank Sr. & Josephine Osaben

Scholarship: Eli Olson Pass Education On Scholarship: Maija Mattson

Jim & Betty Povhe Scholarship: Bennett Leeson, Tory Hughley Blake Schaller VFW Post 2717 Scholarship: Carena

DeBeltz and Lillian Rechichi

and Clare Thomas.

Seniors Graduating with Honors, GPA of 3.5 or higher: Noah Anderson, Caid Chittum, Max Cochran, Carena DeBeltz, Anna Dunn, Mishaben Goswami, Presley Hudson, Tory Hughley, Rena Johnston, Maija Mattson, Wyatt Mattson, Milo McClelland, Janae Murphy, Lillian Rechichi, Lauren Rehbein, CloyAnn Ridings, Garret Rohr, Ava Sundell,

## In Brief

### **Tuesday Group** schedule

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

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

Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

➤ May 20: Northern Lights Music Festival featuring Veda Zupancich.

➤ May 27: Mining Minnesota with Julie Lucas.

➤ June 3: Meet new Ely-

### Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2025



sudden increase in the temps

bulbs push up beauty

### <u>Libraries</u>

Ely library Hours: Monday-Friday,

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

**Babbitt library** 

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

### 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 WOMEN'S OPEN** AA - Monday at noon at

Ledgerock Church, 1515 E. Camp St., Ely. BABBITT AA - 7 p.m. Thursdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church.

8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely. **BABBITT AL-ANON -**Thursdays, 7 p.m., at Woodland Presbyterian

AL-ANON - Sundays

**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 **Babbitt Public Library** how to recycle old jigsaw the campus buildings through

**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- The takeand-make kit for May is tis-

sue 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

creating a scrapbook, while 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 Accidental Ensemble will be performing on Wednesday, May 21 from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Come listento the sweet sounds of this local chamber group as they perform music from a variety

of composers. The Get Crafty group for adults will meet on Tuesday,

May 20, at 1:30 p.m. to learn

puzzles into wall art. Please register in advance for this event so the library can have enough supplies on hand for event attendees. Storytime Preschool

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 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. Broadway in

### **Whiteside Park** ELY- Come out to Whiteside Park every Tuesday

starting June 3 for a free, live concert from the Broadway in the Boundary Waters 2025 company. Enjoy an upbeat hour of music featuring fan-favorite hits, timeless classics, and a preview of songs from this summer's It's the perfect way to

wind down your day-grab something tasty from the market, spread out a blanket, and enjoy the sounds of Broadway right here in Ely.

back: Disney, divas, Christ-

backgrounds. Some of the favorite themes of the concerts are

### ELY- Upcoming meetings and topics are:

mas in July, and more!

**Braver Angels** 

➤ Wednesday, June 11 "Are We a Dog-Friendly

Town? ➤ Wednesday, July 23 Summer Social Event at

➤ Tuesday, Aug. 12 -Discussion of Cannabis

During our meetings, we will respectfully share our individual perspectives as we also listen to the stories of oth-ers with whom we may disagree.

As usual, we will share social time with others in our community and of course, cookies! Please come and make

new friends while entering into conversation with people who come from different ORR CITY COUNCIL

## Orr Council banking on Trump's good will for TIC support

## Voyageurs National Park working on renewing annual contract for staff help

by DAVID COLBURN

ORR- The best news the Orr City Council heard on Monday from Voyageurs National Park Superintendent Bob DeGross is that the park is working on an agreement to continue paying the city for the time and effort city staff put into providing park visitors with information when they visit the combination City Hall/Tourist Information Center south of town.

With the aura of the Trump administration's ongoing cuts to federal contract and grants looming unspoken in the background, De-Gross indicated he was moving forward with the request for another four-year agreement that would put \$4,000 a year in the city's coffers.

"Before Angela (Fabish) came in, we talked about rather than a four-year contract period where we pay the city annually \$4,000, we were going to go to a yearby-year payment process as

itor Center online," DeGross said. "We wanted to work with you to determine if you wanted us, the Park Service, to provide staffing for the weekends at the visitor center here, or do you want to continue the annual payment. Through conversations with Angela, through email and everything, I understand that you prefer to keep the annual payment going. So we're starting that process again." In response to a question

from council member John Jirik, DeGross clarified that there are no requirements for a designated number of hours of work for city employees with the agreement the two parties merely have an understanding that the time workers deal with park visitors is something for which the city should receive some remuneration.

"Our contracting processes are really slow,' DeGross continued, "just because of a variety of different things that are taking place with administration changes and everything like that. So we hope to move this forward and re-establish the contract period for \$4,000 a

Given delays in the process, it's possible DeGross may not be around to see the agreement finalized, as he noted he's retiring from the Park Service effective May 30. However, acting superintendent Brian Harmon, the park's current program manager for natural and cultural resources, will provide the continuity to see the agreement to the finish line, if necessary.

DeGross provided the council with more updates about the park, including:

➤The process for a frozen surfaces management plan proposed two years ago has been terminated, and the park will manage winter ice roads and snowmobile trails as they have in the past. Anyone using any type of vehicle beyond the established roads will be responsible for ensuring the safety of the ice they plan to traverse, and snowmobile trails may not be damaged. Land portages are also off limits.

➤The Park Service has initiated the process to find a new operator for the Kettle Falls complex, as the current contract expires in 2026. De-Gross noted that the current operator is operating on a temporary contract extension, as the last attempt to seek a new contractor drew no applications. A new contract would take effect in 2027.

### **Water rates**

Orr water customers can expect to see a five-percent hike in their bills this year, but that's a compromise the council settled on for Veolia's recommendation that there be three consecutive vears of five-percent increases to build up reserve funds for maintenance issues. At it's last meeting the council had extensive discussion about the matter, and was learning toward the one-year increase and evaluate the city's financial position on an annual basis. There was little discussion at all Monday, with the council unanimously approving the onevear increase.

### Other business

In other business, the

➤ Heard reports from Orr Muni manager Nicole VanOs and Ambulance Director Donna Hoffer.

➤ Heard an update on the Orr Bay channel signs from Tom Richardson. "We took the all the signs off, brought new boards up, stained them, made it look a little nicer, and then hung the new sign there, Richardson said. "And we also put another sign next to the dock that just says North Bay Channel keep to the right." The council had approved \$300 for the work. Richardson said they'd spent

➤ Heard a report from Richardson and Rebecca Keller about the pickleball conversion proposed for the

town's tennis courts. Keller will be leading the fundraising efforts and expressed confidence that once that campaign begins it will be as successful as similar ones in North Country towns and townships. It was suggested that planners consider keeping one of the tennis courts for those people who still like to play tennis.

➤ Approved the annual payment of \$1,000 to the Leiding Cemetery Associa-

>Approved a cooperative agreement with the Department of Natural Resources to have DNR reimburse the city in the amount of \$11,000 for the cost of designing the cribbing for the fishing pier.

➤ Approved prizes of \$100, \$75, and \$25 for the top three spots in the Dolly Parton karaoke contest at the Orr Muni on May 17.

➤ Approved revised policies for the ambulance ser-

### Community events

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

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 guide-Registration forms are avail-

able at the gallery at 210 S. River St. and online at www.nwfamn.org. Completed forms are due by Friday, May 23, 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.

### 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. Early registration is recommended. You can sign up by phone at 218-666-2153, or in person at the gallery at 210 S River St. Sample offerings include:

➤Saturday, May 24, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Pottery - Glazing with Lyn Reed. Part 2 of the pottery class. Applying glazes.

➤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.

### NORTH WOODS CLASS OF 2025 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Rory Bundy received a \$500 scholarship from the Cook Volunteer Fire Department.



Susan Alderman received a \$1,000 scholarship from the Cook Healthcare Auxiliary.



Ryder Gibson recieved \$300 from **SLC Federation of** Teachers.

ni, \$600: Sierra Schuster

ni, \$250: Mya Kinsey

of the Year:

poci, Lydia Trip

Aidan Hartway

ni \$500: Sheyenne Schuster

-Upward Bound Alum-

-Upward Bound Alum-

-Upward Bound Senior

➤ Daniel E. Morrison Sr.

➤DeDe Desannoy Tuuri

➤ Janice Johnson Huse-

➤ Lake Country Power

-Michigan Tech Alumni

Memorial, \$1,000: Kalvyn

Kaml (DDTK), \$5,000 each:

Aidan Hartway, Amber So-

by Memorial, \$1,000: Ella

Les Beach Memorial, \$4,000

each (\$1,000 per year for

4 years): Alex Burckhardt,



New to the scholarships awards this year was one honoring the late Jerry Storm, a popular former teacher and Lions Club member. From left. Louie Panichi, Vincent Kajala, Aidan Hartway, Addison Burckhardt, and Amber Sopoci received their \$1,000 awards from Elizabeth Storm. D. Colburn photos

hardt, Alex Burckhardt

Aidan Hartway

hardt

Lydia Trip

Mya Kinsey

Ella Cornelius

\$600: Amber Sopoci

➤Cook Volunteer Fire

➤ Cook Zups, \$1,000:

➤Ed Borowiec Memori-

➤Frank Fortun Memo-

Founda-

Department, \$500 each:

Rory Bundy, Jaida Lambert

al, \$1,000: Vincent Kajala

**➤**Genfinity

rial, \$500: Addison Burck-

tion, \$8,000 each: Sheyenne

Schuster, Sierra Schuster,

side Martin Memorial, \$500:

al, \$1,500: Ryder Gibson

➤Grace Ellen White-

➤ Joel Kantola Memori-

➤ JosH Rutar Memorial,

➤ Larry Baker Music,

➤ Memorial Blood Cen-

\$2,000 each: Rory Bundy,

## North Woods recognizes scholarship winners at school assembly

Kinsey

ia Trip

Amber Sopoci

Lydia Trip

United

Burckhardt

Burckhardt

FIELD TWP- North Woods School celebrated the 2025 Senior Class college scholarhip recipients on Tuesday with a public assembly to recognize their accomplishments. Other student awards were presented as well, including a new set of Student of the Year awards for each academic depeartment at the school.

Counselor Jill Stark reported that the Class of 2025 earned \$156,281 in local and regional scholarships, which was close to the highest amount ever in North Wood's history.

That doesn't include institutional scholarships from colleges and universities, which totalled around three quarters of a million dollars, Stark said.

➤ Virginia Elks Lodge #1003, \$1,000 each: Aidan Hartway, Amber Sopoci **≻**Range Engineering

STEM All Star: Addison Burckhardt, Alex Burckhardt ➤St. Louis County Fed-

eration of Teachers, \$300 each: Ryder Gibson, Aidan Hartway

➤ Courage To Grow,

\$300: Amber Sopoci

➤Watering Can Garden Shop, \$500 each: Aidan Hartway, Amber Sopoci

➤ Alworth Memorial, \$24,000: Aidan Hartway ➤Cook Area Health-

care Auxiliary, \$1,000 each: Susan Aderman, Addison Burckhardt **≻**Cook Chamber Of

Commerce, \$500: Vincent Kajala

**➤**North Credit Union -NSCU Internship

Scholarship, \$1,000: Addison Burckhardt -NSCU North Woods

Scholarship, \$500: Aidan Hartway

-NSCU Field of Membership Scholarship, \$500: Lydia Trip

➤ Cook Lions Club Jerry Storm Memorial, \$1,000 each: Addison Burckhardt,

Aidan Hartway, Vincent Kajala, Louie Panichi, Amber

➤ Cook Timber Days Service, \$500: Aidan Hartway, Amber Sopoci

➤Cook VFW, \$1,000 each: Ryder Gibson, Amber Sopoci

**CSS** Upward Bound

-Upward Bound Alum-

Scholarship: \$1500 -MTU Nationals Schol-

➤ Michigan Tech

ars Program, \$17,000 per year/4years: Alex Burck-

Distinguished Finalist

Award, \$4,500 per year/4 years: Alex Burckhardt -MTU Douglas and

Mary Lindgren Endowed, \$7,850: Alex Burckhardt ➤Oakes Family, \$250

➤Breckenridge Charitable Trust, \$5621.33: Aidan -MTU Leading Schol-Hartway

➤ Cook Area Friends of Aviation Ray Hill Memorial, \$1,000: Ryder Gibson

➤ Cook News Herald, \$200: Lydia Trip

\$500 each: Addison Burck-

➤ Cook Timberwolves,

each: Aidan Hartway, Mya

rial, \$1,500 each per year for

4 years: Amber Sopoci, Lyd-

➤ Paul Anderson Memo-

➤ P.E.O. Star, \$2,500:

➤P.E.O., \$500 each:

➤Tony Cornelius Me-

➤ United Way of North-

➤ Virgie Hegg Hospice

➤ Alfred & Ethel Stone

Essay Contest,

Rory Bundy, Amber Sopoci,

morial, \$1,000 each: Nick

Abramson, Rory Bundy, Ella

Cornelius, Nia Gaskell, Vin-

eastern Minnesota's Youth

Foundation, \$1,000: Addison

Memorial, \$1,000 (renew-

able up to 4 years): Addison

\$1,750: Amber Sopoci

cent Kajala, Louie Panichi

**➤**Northwoods

Trip; Amber Sopoci, \$210 Tackle, \$500 each: Rory Bundy, Louie Panichi

\$500: Rory Bundy

hardt, Aidan Hartway, Lydia ➤Northwoods Bait &

➤Orr American Le-

gion, \$1,000 eaxh: Nick

\$200 each: Addison Burck-

ters Blood Drive, \$810 total,

Abramson, Addison Burckhardt. Nia Gaskell ➤Orr Lions Club/Lou-

ise Wolff, \$1,000 each: Rory Bundy, Addison Burckhardt, Alex Burckhardt ➤Paul Bunyan Giga-

zone, \$500 each: Vincent Kajala, Lydia Trip

➤Sean Michael Sarazine Memorial, \$500 each: Addison Burckhardt, Amber

➤Burger King, \$1,000: Aidan Hartway ➤Sons of Norway

Haarfager Lodge, \$500: Vincent Kajala

➤ Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation -Duluth Builders Ex-

change Legacy, \$3,000: Aidan Hartway

-Richard "Rick" Roy Washburn Memorial, \$2,000: Aidan Hartway

➤ Voice Of Democracy

Essay Contest, \$1,550: Amber Sopoci

and his wife Darcy, who also grew up in Tower, recently returned to the community, residing on N. Third St.

In his application, VanDeVoort suggested updating a community needs assessment with broad public input. He said the council could use community feedback to help drive planning and priorities.

VanDeVoort took his seat immediately after taking the oath. His term will expire at the November 2026 general

In other business, the council approved the conditional use permit for the planned development at the city's harbor, which will include 7,500 square feet of commercial space, 14 upstairs apartments, and 14 town homes. The developers, Pine City-based Eagle Ridge Construction, expect to begin

work at the site later this June 2024 flooding event.

In other action, the council:

➤ Heard that the city has begun receiving funds from Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation for the water treatment facility. "The money is starting to flow," said Clerk-Treasurer Michael Schultz, who noted that it is allowing the city to catch up on previous pay estimates from Lakehead Constructors, which are building the facility.

The water may start flowing as well by July. Schultz said, but there will be extensive testing to be done before it goes fully on line. "Right now, everything is looking good," he said.

➤ Heard that the city has finally received reimbursement from FEMA for expenses incurred during the

➤ Appointed Aaron Kania and council member Bob Anderson to the Gundersen Endowment Fund committee, which will be in charge of reviewing applications for funding from proceeds of the fund, which is now managed by the Duluth-Superior Area Community Foundation. Three-quarters of the proceeds from the fund go to the city of Tower for general operations, while the remaining 25 percent will be allocated by the committee. In 2025, the committee will have \$13,675 to allocate for community requests. The city is still looking for three more committee members, who do not have to be residents of

> Approved a motion to hire Daniel Fischer as a new member of the Tower Fire Department contingent on completing the required certifications. The council also approved the cooperative fire protection agreement with the Department of Natural Resources, which will allow the city to be reimbursed for the use of fire apparatus and firefighters in response to wildland fires. Schultz also reported on the recent rash of fire calls affecting the department, including backto-back fires last Thursday of a cabin in Greenwood and a UPS truck in Tower. The council also considered new fire department policies that restrict posting photographs or other recordings from fire

➤ Heard that the ambulance service is considering shifting to a new billing service due to problems with the existing service provider.

scenes to social media.

➤ Approved a motion to hire Grant Cassavant as the city's new seasonal worker. He will be paid \$17 an hour, mostly for mowing.

➤ Heard that the repairs to N. Second St., which will reinstall the heaved culverts, is scheduled to be completed by the end of June. The work is likely to start in late June since the project will only take 1-2 days to complete.

➤ Authorized seeking state grant funding to pay for 70 percent of the cost of upgrading the airport ordinance as required.

➤ Renewed annual permits for the sale of liquor and cigarettes.

➤ Took no action pending more information and discussion of issues raised by public works. Supervisor Ben Velcheff has indicated the maintenance staff are facing inconvenience from the installation of a significant number of small signs advertising area businesses and their services. Council member Joe Morin will discuss the issue with Velcheff and come back to the council.

➤ Called a special meeting for next Thursday, May 22, at 4 p.m., at city hall to discuss city priorities for capital projects for state bonding.

> Approved the first reading of a new ordinance regulating cannabis businesses in the city.

➤ Approved moving forward in cooperation with the DNR to replace concrete slabs at the Hoodoo Point public landing. The DNR will be taking the lead on the project, with the city offering

### **JAILS...**Continued from page 1

All sheriff's office employees, including corrections personnel, are now required to complete a yearly wellness check through Northland Psychological Services, a Hermantownbased provider specializing in first responder care.

"We do offer additional visits for free for the employee if they choose to continue," said Jail Administrator Jessica Pete. "They also provide crisis response, debriefings and such for critical incidents for all divisions."

The wellness initiative includes resiliency training to help staff manage the stress and trauma that can accumulate from working in a facility now described by Sheriff Gordon Ramsay as "one of the largest mental health providers in the county." More in-depth support is also available to employees who need it.

"With more resources for staff that have a higher need for some additional supports we can do more for them," Pete said.

The jail is also building up its internal peer support network, giving employees one-on-one access to coworkers trained to help them navigate emotional strain.

"Our staff can go one to one with somebody with lived experience who works within the sheriff's office," Pete said.

These supports don't come without cost.

"That is coming directout of our budget," said Division Commander Jon Skelton. "So, when we do stuff like that, it's taking away from somewhere else. But we feel it's just an important avenue that we need to cover.'

That investment appears to be paying off.

"We have cut (staff turnover) down to about 15 percent, 20 percent maybe, if that," Pete said. "In pre-COVID times, it was about a 60 percent turnover rate, especially with new staff."

Pete credits aggressive hiring efforts, added benefits including the support systems, and culture change across the department.

Pete said the department has made a concerted effort to improve morale and leadership so that staff feel supported and want to stay.



the Timberjay!

Ramsay has pushed to break down silos between divisions and create a unified workplace culture. "The best teams provide the best service," he said. "The longer I've been in leadership, the more I realize that team building is crucial."

Skelton sees a visible shift, saying that the changes have helped unify the department with a shared sense of direction that staff have found

### **Community supports**

The jail doesn't operate in a vacuum, nor could it, given the number of inmates with complex mental health and substance use challenges. A growing network of community partners is stepping in to help meet those needs, both behind bars and after release.

Pete said the shift from an integrated approach utilizing outside resources has made a meaningful difference.

"Corrections used to be so siloed from public health, from all these other things, and we've actually blended it," she said. "So, I have embedded people here from probation. I have social workers who are regularly up here now. I have treatment providers that are coming in to do programming, volunteers from the schools coming in to give education, public defenders we partner with on a lot of initiatives."

The jail also contracts with CHUM, a Duluth-based faith organization, to provide religious programming for inmates who want to participate. Through that agreement, a chaplain is on-site 24 hours a week to coordinate services for all denominations. Volunteers from the community supplement the chaplaincy, helping to provide services throughout the week.

A key partner helping inmates transition out of jail and back into society is Recovery Alliance Duluth (RAD).

RAD is helping inmates take a first step toward sobriety-and a second chance. The group pairs those struggling with addiction with peer recovery specialists, people who've walked the same road and now offer guidance,

support, and a plan for what comes next. The program also helps bridge the gap from jail to community, working with public health and other partners to make sure people leaving custody aren't left to figure it out alone.

It doesn't stop at planning. Thanks to a partnership with the Steve Rummler HOPE Network, inmates leaving the jail can get Naloxone kits - an effort to reduce the risk of overdose in the critical days after release. RAD also supports medication-assisted treatment through St. Luke's and helps lead broader community efforts to reduce stigma and strengthen support for recovery.

Pete noted how this supported re-entry transition is essential, especially when inmates leave with few supports in place.

"RAD helps me with that warm handoff for those with opioid disorders and getting them the peer support they need when they get out of here," she said.

But RAD is just one part of a broader effort. St. Luke's Hospital assists with securing placements for the jail's highest-risk individuals, Pete said. Range Mental Health provides evaluation and treatment services, while the county works with the Northeast Regional Corrections Center to move eligible inmates into lower-security work farm programs with expanded services. CJ's House, a boarding facility in Virginia, is one of several options the jail taps for tran-

sitional housing. The long list of partners speaks to the scope of the need—and to the jail's evolving role in a system not built to catch people falling through the cracks. Despite all the collaboration, Pete said the most basic barrier remains: a shortage of places that can actually take people in.

"We've got all that help out there," she said. "We got people who want to be a part of the solution. We don't have a place for these people to go."

Reform vs. reality As Minnesota considers sweeping changes to how jails operate, particularly

around mental health issues, Ramsay, Pete, and Skelton are all watching closely, preparing for the impact of rules that could reshape their day-to-day

At the heart of the conversation is a proposed rewrite of Minnesota Rule 2911, the regulatory framework that sets minimum standards for county jails. The draft revision, still under state review, calls for more frequent wellness checks (as often as every 15 minutes), expanded mental health assessments, stronger reentry planning, and restrictions on placing mentally ill inmates in segregation.

While many of these proposed reforms align with best practices, Pete said they go well beyond what counties were led to expect. She said the Legislature called for the Department of Corrections to develop minimum standards across 17 categories, but instead of writing baseline rules, DOC proposed "gold standards" that go far beyond what counties were expecting.

Implementing those standards, she said, would pose serious logistical and financial challenges. "What they're looking at is one, more frequent checks to be moved all to 15 minutes, which puts more burden on staff to be moving and watching people," she said. "Even five minutes can be a big deal."

Some proposals would also limit the jail's ability to make security-based housing decisions for certain classifications of inmates.

"They're saying 'you need to put them in general population.' And I'm like... even if it violates security?" Pete said. "There's all these different things that they're asking of us.'

The greatest frustration, she said, is being asked to meet high standards with no corresponding funding or infrastructure.

"It's what you'd want to have happen if you could have the ideal," Pete said. "But... you're not going to give me any funds to do it, yet you're going to hold me to a standard that I don't have the people or the facility to be able to accommodate.'

Skelton said the potential impact on the county's smaller jails in Hibbing and Virginia is especially concerning. Staffing at those sites is minimal, and there's no onsite medical care.

"Some of the DOC regulations and rules that are changing will really affect the Range facilities," he said.

Still, Pete said, the jail is working to interpret the draft rules and prepare for what's

"We have a really, really good relationship with the DOC and our inspector and how we interact and ask questions and problem solve and how we can make our facility fit the rules," she said.

It's all part of the bigger picture of adapting to the demands of an inmate population where one out of three have identified mental health concerns, and while adaptation is necessary, Ramsay believes that shifting responsibilities to jails for mental health issues detracts from the real issue of addressing the underlying issues in the community before so many of these people end up in the the justice system.

Ramsay said the jail will continue to do what it must to keep people safe, but lasting change won't come from within its walls. Real progress, he said, depends on rebuilding the community supports that once stood between people in crisis and a jail cell. Until mental health is treated where it belongs - in clinics, homes, and neighborhoods - jails like his will keep struggling to fill a role they were never meant to play.







The City of Tower will be **FLUSHING HYDRANTS** 

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 21** Starting at 10 AM

Residents should expect discolored water.

## **Supporting Our Hometown Heroes**

No-cost physical and emotional health resources, trainings and support for Minnesota firefighters



## Ely City-Wide Sales

Rummage, Business, and Used **Equipment & Gear Sales** 

DATE: Saturday, May 17, 2025

RUMMAGE SALES: 8 A.M.—4 P.M.

**BUSINESS SALES:** Hours vary based on location MAPS AVAILABLE: Starting May 14 at Chamber

office or Ely.org/Citywide



1600 E. Sheridan Street, Ely MN 218-365-6123 - director@ely.org

### ELY SCHOOLS

## Board offers resounding thanks to Ely Community Resource

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA

Staff Writer

ELY- At their meeting here on Monday, Ely School Board Chair Rochelle Sjoberg offered a heaping helping of thanks for Ely Community Resource and the work they do to support Ely Schools.

"I wanted to extend a super large thank you to ECR for the support they provide to this district. They do just a fantastic job of supporting the school and we want to let them know how much we appreciate

their efforts.

Some of the many activities included connecting families with support for basic needs, recreational activities like skating, skiing, building snow sculptures, and dog sledding. They also teach outdoor skills like orienteering, shelter building, participating in regional bird counts; offering academic supports like in-school tutoring, reading and mentorship programs. ECR also oversees Key Club and other special interest clubs

and after-school and weekend programming.

In other business, the

➤ Approved schedules for the 2025-2026 school year.

➤ Approved April receipts of \$804,745 and disbursements of \$275,032.

➤ Accepted the resigna-

tion of Nancy Preblich from

her fourth-grade teaching

position.

➤ Accepted the resignation of Kathy Champa from her school nurse position

effective May 29.

➤ Heard that Phase II of the reconstruction project was wrapping up and had gone well.

➤ Heard that the restrooms at the baseball field were getting an update.

➤ Set the salary for LEGO League Robotics at \$750 and Robotics at \$1,500.

➤ Placed Suzanne Zobitz on 0.20 FTE unrequested leave from (1.0 FTE to 0.80 FTE) and put Nicole Roy on 0.40 FTE unrequested leave from (1.0 FTE to 0.60 FTE) as part of the district's plan to cut costs for the upcoming school year.

Accepted Indigenous Education Annual Compliance Overview report for 2024 and 2025. The school was found compliant with state statutes by the American Indian Parent Advisory Committee.

➤ Accepted a donation of an exercise bike for the weight room from Jayne Dusich.

➤ Reviewed enrollment numbers. Washington

Elementary (K-5) had 185 students, of which 156 were residents and 30 were open enrollment. Memorial High School (6-12) had 326 students, of which 270 were residents, 59 open enrollments including 36 enrolled from St. Louis County School District, and 23 enrolled from Lake Superior School District. 28 students were PSEO, 3 students were part time.

### **FIRES...**Continued from page 1 —

there's nothing left but chimneys and cinder blocks and metal."

The Camp House Fire was first reported Sunday, May 11, around 1:15 p.m. just north of Brimson near the Lake County line. Fueled by dry conditions, dead timber, and high winds, the fire quickly mushroomed from 1,200 acres Monday afternoon to nearly 15,000 acres by Tuesday night, according to the Watch Duty fire app, which has been tracking the fire.

Authorities reported widespread destruction in the area surrounding County Hwy. 44. As of Tuesday evening, the fire was still zero percent contained.

The second blaze, known as the Jenkins Creek Fire, was first reported around 11 a.m. Monday about 14 miles southeast of Hoyt Lakes, near the intersection of County Roads 110 and 16. That fire exploded on Tuesday, fueled by hot temperatures and high winds, and was estimated at just 20,500 acres as of Wednesday morning, according to Watch Duty. The small community of Skibo in Bassett Township was evacuated ahead of the blaze and residents as far north as Embarrass and Waasa were advised to be prepared for a possible evacuation. Hoyt Lakes and Babbitt are also potentially in the path of the fire, depending on wind direction.

A third fire, known as the Munger Shaw Fire, started Monday afternoon northeast of Canyon. It had burned roughly 1,600 acres as of Tuesday and was slowly moving north. Though significant, it remained a secondary concern to the more volatile Camp House and Jenkins Creek fires.

### Fire behavior

Officials described the conditions as among the most dangerous they've seen in years.

"Any one of these fires would tax our system, but the fact we have three is very, very challenging," Ramsay said.

Dry vegetation, low humidity, and high winds contributed to what state offi-



A Chinook helicopter makes a water drop Tuesday on the Jenkins Creek Fire, which was estimated at 20,500 acres as of Wednesday morning.

photo by C. Skustad/USFS

cials described as "extreme" fire behavior, including rapid spread, crowning in conifer stands, and wind-driven spot fires. Huge columns of smoke, most likely from the Jenkins Creek Fire, were clearly visible Tuesday afternoon across much of northern St. Louis County.

Ryan Williams, the Minnesota Incident Command System (MNICS) commander trainee for the Camp House Fire, said that the fires were being fueled by large stands of dead spruce and balsam fir killed by the recent spruce budworm infestation—providing ideal tinder in the hot, dry, windy conditions. He said spot fires were especially problematic, popping up unpredictably and complicating containment efforts.

"It's turned into a bit of

a whack-a-mole situation," Williams said. "Crews are doing their best to stay ahead of it, but this terrain and fuel load make that extremely difficult."

williams said around 80 personnel were actively fighting the Camp House Fire, with more on the way. On Wednesday morning, MNICS handed over management (MNICS) commander (MNICS) commander for the Camp House said that the fires were ag fueled by large stands lead spruce and balsam illed by the recent spruce in the Williams said around 80 personnel were actively fighting the Camp House Fire, with more on the way. On Wednesday morning, MNICS handed over management of the two largest fires to an Eastern Area Complex Incident Management Team, and Camp House Fire and Jenkins Creek fire were operationally redefined as the

Brimson Complex Fire.
Gov. Tim Walz authorized the deployment of the Minnesota National Guard on Monday and spoke during a press conference Tuesday to urge residents to cooperate with evacuation orders.

"I know these are difficult decisions to make," Walz said. "It's not only for your own safety, it's for the firefighters' safety, because protecting these buildings and lives puts them at risk."

The U.S. Forest Service deployed additional helicopters, planes, and personnel, as the blaze is currently the largest wildfire burning in the U.S. Crews from as far away as Michigan, Wisconsin, North Dakota, Colorado, and Ontario arrived to support local and state responders.

### **Closures and evacuations**

With the fires still active and uncontained, emergency closures were put into effect. On Tuesday, the Superior National Forest announced the closure of a large section of the Laurentian Ranger District, affecting campsites, trails, roads, lakes, and recreation areas. The order will remain in place until conditions improve.

Forest Supervisor Tom Hall issued the closure to ensure public safety.

"These emergency restrictions are necessary due to wildland fires in the vicinity of the affected lands, roads, waters, trails, and all recreation sites," the Forest Service said in a press release.

Highways 44,16, and portions of Forest Hwy. 11 were closed due to fire activity. Law enforcement emphasized that roadblocks were not optional.

"We've had a number of people getting in the way of firefighting just to look at the fire," Ramsay said. "If you go around one of those signs, be prepared to get a ticket. These crews need space to work safely."

Lake County officials issued pre-evacuation notices Tuesday for residents near Kane Lake, Marble Lake, and Thomas Lake, urging them to be ready to leave at a moment's notice. For the Munger Shaw fire, as

of Tuesday evening, several roads were closed and evacuations had begun in the Pioneer Lake and Morley Beach Road areas.

### North Country impacts

Wildfire smoke also triggered hazardous air quality levels across parts of the North Country. In Ely, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's air quality index reached a peak of 282 on Monday afternoon, the upper tier of the "hazardous" category and more than ten times worse than readings from late Monday morning. Although conditions briefly improved overnight, levels shot back up Tuesday into the "unhealthy" range at 160 before trending downward again. MPCA issued an air quality alert for Wednesday indicating the smoke was of concern to sensitive groups.

The primary health concern is fine particulate matter in the smoke – microscopic particles that can enter the lungs and bloodstream, potentially triggering respiratory symptoms, chest pain, or worsening conditions like asthma or heart disease. Officials advised children, older adults, and those with underlying health conditions to limit outdoor activity.

In response to Wednesday's MPCA air quality alert, Northeast Range School in Babbitt announced it would close for the day and canceled all after-school activities.

### A worsening trend

orsening trena
The wildfires are part of

a concerning statewide trend. As of mid-May, Minnesota had already logged 970 wild-fires this year, nearly four times the number reported at this point in 2022. Those fires have burned over 37,000 acres to date.

"This is usually our busiest time of year for fires, in April and May," said Patty Thielen, forestry director at the Department of Natural Resources. "So, it's not an unusual season, but it's been a really tough year. In my nearly 30 years with the DNR, the conditions we've seen in the last few days are unprecedented."

been reported as of Tuesday night, officials said they were still trying to locate some residents who may not have evacuated and whose homes were lost.

"We're hoping they left on their own." Ramsay said.

Though no injuries had

on their own," Ramsay said.
"But this is a new phase of the incident, where we're working to determine where people are and if they're safe."

As of Wednesday

morning, firefighters were pinning hopes on forecasted rain later in the week to slow the spread and allow crews to gain ground. Until then, the focus remained on protecting life and property in the path of the flames.

MPR News contributed to this report





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### **BROADCASTERS...**Continued from page 1 -

be fine," said Sarah Bignell, station manager for KAXE/ KBXE, one of the flagship community-based public broadcasters in Minnesota. "It's the cuts to the small rural stations that could be devastating."

That includes stations like Bois Forte's KBFT, where CPB funds in various forms can make up 40-50 percent of a station's budget. "We could lose many of these stations," said Bignell, who called them "lifelines" for the residents they serve. "We are the last true independent media outlets that exist," she said.

While the CPB has faced threats of funding cuts during previous Republican administrations, the latest is coming at a time when the bipartisan basis of support for public broadcasting appears to be breaking down. "The stakes are really high and the risks are very real," said Katie Belanger, development director at WTIP radio in Grand Marais.

Public broadcasters face three potential threats, including the May 1 executive order by President Trump in which he directs the CPB to end funding to both NPR and PBS for news reporting he claims is ideologically biased.

CPB officials have, so far, ignored the president's order, arguing that he lacks authority to direct the independent organization how its funding should be spent. While publicly funded, the CPB is governed by an independent board of directors, appointed by the president and confirmed by the U.S. Senate to six-year terms of office. The entity was established in that way precisely to protect it from the kind of political manipulation and pressure that President Trump is seeking to apply to the CPB.

While Trump's order may have little impact in the end, the CPB faces more serious threats from efforts in Congress to slash or eliminate funding that's already been approved. That includes a proposal to rescind previously approved and allocated funds as well as eliminating future funding for public broadcasting through a reconciliation process.

Congress typically provides CPB its funding in advance, in two-year cycles, and the corporation is currently fully funded through Sept. 30, 2027, at about \$535 million annually.

The impact of the proposed cuts would be negligible to NPR, which receives about one percent of its budget directly from the government. But it could lose funding it currently receives from member stations for its national news programming, like "All Things Considered" and "Morning Edition," along with music offerings such as "The World Café" and "Mountain Stage."

would feel the effects of a major cut or the elimination of CPB funding altogether, some would be hit harder than others. KAXE, founded back in the 1970s, would face challenges but would likely remain on the air. The station is now well-established and enjoys a broad base of revenue streams, including considerable member and business support and major grants from the Blandin Foundation as well as state sources. Over the last three years, Bignell said the station has managed to reduce its reliance on CPB funding from 25 percent of its budget three years ago, to 12 percent today, helping to insulate the station from the current situation in Washington.

tion, not the rule.



fiscal year." That amounts to a 25 percent cut. "We could probably remain open but things would have to change,"

said Belanger. The station, founded in 1998, could eliminate its national offerings, but it isn't clear if filling that

Heidi Holtan behind the microphone at the KAXE studios in Grand Rapids. The public station serves a huge swath of northern Minnesota.

photo courtesy KAXE

airtime with other locally produced programming would be possible or provide a cost savings. While the station does rely on volunteers for about 40 hours of music programming weekly, the station also employs professional staff that cover the news in and around Cook County. The station covers local government meetings, reports on important local issues, conducts interviews with local officials and candidates, and provides emergency alerts. It's become an information mainstay on the North Shore.

"Right now, we're trying

**EMPLOYEE PRICING AT FORD OF HIBBING** 

to figure out how to keep the doors open and people employed if this all happens," Belanger said. That includes looking at alternative fundraising options and urging listeners to let their voices be heard with members of Congress.

### **PBS in the North Country**

Public radio stations are the only broadcasters following the developments in Washington with grim interest. "We know that federal support is vital," said Patty Mester, president and general manager at WDSE in Duluth. "Without it, public media's footprint could shrink dramatically.'

Mester said she plans a detailed sit down interview with Julie Zellner, who recently retired from WDSE's Almanac North, to discuss the

impact of the potential cuts to WDSE and its programming. That interview is scheduled to air on May 21.

May 16, 2025 11

Mester, in her interview with the Timberjay, did take issue with the claims of bias leveled by President Trump. "If you look at our public affairs programming, it operates under a strict code of conduct. We have long given

voice to all sides," she said.

And she noted that much of the programming that airs on WDSE is educational, aimed at children. The PBS Kids programming, in particular, is aimed at young children, many of whom live in rural areas, who don't have the benefit of preschool. "Children who engage with PBS Kids test 8-10 points higher than those who don't," said Mester. "Where is the bias in that?"



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**70K MI** 

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#8568 \$21,412

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**2019 COMPASS** 

**LATITUDE** 

\$17,681

53K MI

100K MI

**62K MI** 



**2020 ESCAPE SE** 

**84K MI** 

\$23,984

While all public stations

But KAXE is the excep-

At WTIP, Belanger said

the proposals currently under consideration in Congress would be "devastating" to the station's operations. "Based on the recission package we're hearing about, we would stand to lose approximately \$170,000 from our 2025 budget and \$238,000 for next



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### Solo canoeist found dead in Boundary Waters

THE BOUNDARY WA-TERS— A 62-year-old St. Louis Park man was found deceased here on Saturday afternoon after his canoe was discovered capsized on Iron Lake, north of Ely.

According to the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office, U.S. Forest Service employees spotted the overturned canoe around 2:17 p.m. and notified 911. Further investigation led to the discovery of the man's body and his gear floating nearby. He was wearing a life jacket at the time.

Authorities believe the man, identified as Robert Sydney James, was on a solo canoe trip into the wilderness. A Forest Service Beaver floatplane was dispatched to recover his body.

The incident remains under investigation by the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office and the Midwest Medical Examiner's Office.

### HIGHER EDUCATION

### New programs at Minnesota North meet growing regional employment demands

REGIONAL – Minnesota North College will launch five new career programs this fall to meet regional employment demands in northeastern Minnesota. These programs build student skills and place graduates directly into good-paying jobs that are available now.

"Economic uncertainty spurs our community and technical colleges to do our best work," said Mike Raich, President of Minnesota North. "Our students come to us wanting jobs and a better life. We connect them with regional employers who need them. That means our programs must grow and adapt to change."

That commitment to growth and innovation is now taking shape through five new programs launching in fall 2025:

The Arboriculture and Urban Forestry Certificate will be offered at the Vermilion campus. An arborist, a tree caretaker, offers services like tree trimming, disease control, and emergency tree care. This 9-month certificate is built into the existing Natural Resource Technology program at the Vermilion Campus but can also be taken on its own for those looking to add another certification to their resume.

The Addiction Studies program has added the Tribal Alcohol and Drug Counselor I (ADC I) Certificate, offered at the Mesabi Range Virginia campus or online. This nine-month certificate was designed to support behavioral health units on tribal reservations in Minnesota. Students will meet the classroom educational and internship requirements to obtain the Upper Midwest Indian Council on Addictive Disorders (UMICAD) Alcohol and Drug Counselor I certification. Graduates can choose to continue to pursue a two-year degree in Addiction Studies, which will lead to LADC certification that allows access to more opportunities throughout the state.

A new Mental Health Practitioner Certificate is starting Fall 2025 on the Itasca Campus. This nine-month certificate is designed to prepare students for immediate employment in the growing field of mental health services and to support communities across Minnesota. With rising awareness around mental health and an increased demand for qualified professionals, the certificate provides a focused and accessible pathway into the field. The program emphasizes practical skills, cultural competence, and a deep understanding of mental health care practices. Graduates will be able to work as entry-level mental health practitioners and could continue into their 2-year Applied Psychology/ Human Services degree.

The Pre-Social Work Transfer Pathway, offered at all campuses or online, provides an opportunity for students to complete an Associate of Science that transfers seamlessly into any Minnesota State University. Greater Minnesota is seeing an increasing demand for social workers, with demand exceeding the number of providers available. In this program, students learn key concepts in psychology, human development, and social welfare.

Water Operations is a new ninemonth diploma offered at the Vermilion campus. There are flexible learning options for the first semester, with courses in person or online. For spring semester, classes are in-person and hands-on with an opportunity for living lakeside in Ely for an immersive experience. Diploma completion with an applicable internship makes students eligible to take the Class D Water/Wastewater Operator's license exam. Water treatment facilities and other water operations jobs are well paid and in high demand.

Minnesota North also is adding new locations for two existing programs: The Graphic Design and Visual Communications program is now available on all campuses, and the IT Networking and Security program is now offered at the Hibbing and Itasca campuses.

For more information about Minnesota North College, please contact Annika Freiburger at annika.freiburger@minnesotanorth.edu.

### GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP

## Greenwood to hire a medical director to oversee first responders

Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP-The Greenwood Town Board approved hiring the MJM Medical Director Group to provide oversight for the township's first responders, who are part of the township's fire department and not associated with the Tower Ambulance Service. These emergency medical responders are often first on the scene and can help stabilize a patient until the ambulance

The cost is expected to be around \$500 a year. MJM is the same group used by other area ambulance services including Tower and Hibbing.

Erik Jankila, Hibbing Fire Chief, has been working with a township fire department committee to develop new guidelines and policies for the fire department. The hiring of a medical director was the top priority of the committee. Jankila, who is also a township property owner, has a consulting group, Minnesota Public Safety Group, that the township hired to work on fire department policies.

Jankila said working under a medical director will reduce liability concerns and is the first step for the township to become a registered first responder entity with the state.

"The department hasn't been doing anything wrong," he said. "But the medical director will help establish best practices, maintain state mandates, and update protocols as needed."

This will also enable the department's first responders to get variances to provide higher levels of care. Some of the department's first responders are EMTs, with additional medical training.

Dr. Julie Houle, who works with the Tower Ambulance Service, lives in Ely, and would be working with the department, Jankila said, and can provide assistance and oversight in person and via Zoom.

In other fire department news, the board approved adding Dean Dowden as a firefighter. Dowden was already working as a first responder and has completed his required firefighter training. They also heard that another new fire department member had started their required training.

The board approved hiring department member Eric Milbridge as interim fire captain at \$300 a month.

Interim fire chief Brian Trancheff sent a letter to be read at the meeting, thanking all the area departments for their assistance in recent fire events, and also thanking the Vermilion Club for providing food and beverages for those working on the recent cabin fire.

"We are truly grateful," he wrote. "It was amazing to watch everyone working together.'

Roskoski noted the department was able to respond to that fire fast enough to save a nearby garage.

### New locks

The board accepted the low quote from Arrowhead Locksmith Services for \$11,055 to have electronic locks installed at the town hall and fire hall using a key fob system. This will allow the township to monitor access and allows each fob to be programmed only to access certain doors, for example, so fire department members get access to the fire hall but not the clerk's office. The system also allows the township to monitor who gained access to a specific door if unauthorized access was suspected and allows the township to revoke access if

The township expects to have the work done in June.

### Roof project quotes

The township received four quotes for reroofing three of the buildings at the town hall. Costs ranged from \$56,460 to \$107,500 to do all three roofs, with breakout alternate bids for each individual roof. Former supervisor Mike Ralston volunteered to help review the bids to make sure they meet the specifications the township request-

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ed, and the board will hold a special meeting on Monday. May 19 to award a bid. The board was pleased with the bids, with three of the four coming in much lower than they expected.

Supervisor Craig Gilbert noted the township will also need to look at replacing some of the windows in the town hall meeting room this year, which have rotted sills and frames.

### Road vacation

The board, in their only split vote of the evening, approved going to mediation with property owners who are asking to vacate a platted road on their property on Birch Point Extension. The owners, the Hendricks, want to vacate the platted road up to the edge of the paved road. The township wants to maintain a right-of-way of 18 feet from the roadway.

Neighbors of the Hendricks attended the meeting to voice their support for the Hendricks' request, noting several other property owners in the area had similar road vacation requests granted in the past.

The issue stems from initial maps made of developments, which specify a road route, but when the road is actually built, it does not follow the platted route, usually due to landscape variations. Property owners often want to use land adjacent to their property which is technically designated for a road.

Andrea Hendricks, who attended the meeting, said they have been personally maintaining this area, clearing brush and gravel as needed. She said they don't plan to develop the vacated road area, but since they are maintaining it, would like ownership. She noted that their side of the road has an embankment, and that plowed snow is usually banked on the other side of the road, which is more level. She said they felt a precedent had been set by the road vacations granted previously to their neighbors without any issues raised by the town board.

Board members did note that in previous years, the road was not recognized as a township road. Concerns raised about granting the road vacation to the edge of the road included road maintenance like plowing and brushing, along with possible utility issues such as installation of broadband fiber or moving utility poles.

The vote to approve going to mediation, which had been suggested by the township attorney, was 3-2, with Bassing and Paul Skubic voting against.

"I am sure we can come up with a compromise," said Roskoski, who will serve with Gilbert on the mediation committee.

### Pickleball

The new pickleball courts are ready for action and already attracting new players, Paul Thompson told the board, with about 30 people showing up for play on Tuesday. The recreation committee is planning two upcoming events, an introduction to pickleball on Sunday, June 8 from 2-4 p.m., and a community potluck picnic on Saturday, June 28 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., with activities for all ages and pickleball lessons. The committee will be grilling brats and hot dogs and asking others to bring side dishes to

Thompson said there had been an issue with someone letting their dogs loose in the fenced-in court area. He said they will be installing signs specifying this is not permitted. The committee is also installing a pet waste station so people can clean up after their dogs.

### Other business

In other business, the

board: > Heard that the filtration media in the arsenic removal system (Brassmaster) had been changed, and the township would be testing

& SEED

the water this week to see how the arsenic levels are impacted. The township will post testing results by the outdoor water faucet.

> Gave permission to Dale Horihan to remove brush and dead trees from township land behind the town hall and adjacent to Birch Point Rd. The board will investigate if they need a signed liability waiver, and also said they would reimburse him for any canister site fees to dispose of the brush. Horihan said he would arrange to give away any of the wood that would be suitable for campfires.

➤ Denied a request from former deputy clerk JoAnn Bassing for six hours of back pay for work done in March, and instead agreed to pay for one hour of work doing payroll. Roskoski said the only paperwork they received from her at the meeting was a copy of the bank statement and disputed she had spent that much time doing the work. Supervisor John Bassing left the room during this discussion and did not vote.

➤ Approved the low quote from Vermilion Outdoor Services for lawn mowing at the town hall, at a cost

of \$250 per cut.

➤ Heard that a new broadband map was available that showed the project starting on the east end of the township in June, but also showed some downsizing, leaving out areas beyond the public landing on Birch Point Rd., and well as some areas around Gruben's Marina.

"We are going to have to look at options for adding those back in," said Bassing. ➤ Approved a \$200

donation to the joint powers recreation board, which funds youth activities for Tower-Soudan youth, with the option of making an additional donation later in the year. The joint powers had requested a donation of \$500. The township also approved an additional \$100 donation to the W.C. Heiam Medical Foundation for a sterilizer purchase. The township, prior to this meeting, has spent \$300 of its \$1,000 budget for donations so far this year.

> The board held their board of audit following the regular meeting.



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May 16, 2025 1B THE TIMBERJAY



# SPORTS

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BASEBALL



# Cook native's big league pitch had home written all over it

Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- As a two-time national finalist for the annual GRAMMY Music Educator Award, Cook native Trevor Nicholas is acquainted with soaring in rarefied air, but even

Left: Cook native Trevor Nicholas throws out the first pitch in honor of Teacher **Appreciation Night at** Wrigley Field in Chicago.

submitted photo

for him when his phone rang one day this past March.

Nicholas has been the choral director at Senn High School in the Chicago metro area since 2016, and among the many connections he's forged for his students is one with the Chicago Cubs major league baseball team. The choir has been a frequent participant in the club's Wrigleyville Tree Lighting Ceremony for the past eight years, and in 2018 was

the national anthem before a Cubs' win.

When he ran into the club owner last year, he was told the Cubs would like the choir to come back again, and in February, at the same time Nicholas was named a finalist for the 2025 Golden Apple Excellence in Teaching Award, he submitted the necessary paperwork to the Cubs' field entertainment office.

So, when the Cubs called

on Wrigley Field to perform in March, Nicholas expected to be getting an invitation for his choir to sing, but he was in for a different surprise.

"They said, 'We're calling to congratulate you on being a finalist for the Golden Apple award,""Nicholas said."We have our annual Teacher Appreciation Night on May 5, and we would like to honor you by having you throw the first pitch."

Nicholas was flattered but

See NICHOLAS...pg. 2B

**SOFTBALL** 

## Wolves sweep Rangers

by Marshall Helmberger Managing Editor

ELY-The Timber wolvessoftball team improved to 9-4 on the season after sweeping the Rangers in a Monday afternoon doubleheader here.

In the opener, the Wolves rallied for eight runs in the final three innings to dump Mt. Iron-Buhl 10-3. Zoe MacKenzie notched the win from the mound, as she allowed eight hits and fanned three, allowing iust one earned run.

Maija Mattson had a big day at the plate with two hits, two RBIs, and a run scored. Clare Thomas scored twice and batted a run in on two hits, while Lindi Zemke notched two RBIs and scored once on a hit. MacKenzie and Peyton Huntington each scored twice on a hit.

MacKenzie was back with another strong pitching performance as the Wolves took the nightcap 6-3. MacKenzie allowed just seven hits and struck out four, allowing no earned runs in seven full. The game went scoreless during the first run through the batting order. Both teams put a point on the board in the third but Ely kept the momentum going, adding two runs in the fourth, another in the fifth, and two more in the sixth. The Rangers' fifth inning rally attempt fell

The Wolves shared the joy as four players, Huntington, Mattson, Zemke, and MacKenzie each notched an RBI. Huntington had two hits and two runs scored, while Amelia Penke and Julia Zgonc each notched two hits and a run scored as the Wolves racked up nine hits in six innings at the plate.

"The girls made some big plays defensively in these games that changed the momentum," said Ely Head Coach Jeff MacKenzie. "I'm very happy with how things are coming

See ELY GIRLS...pg. 2B



**SOFTBALL** 

# Wolves edge Grizzlies

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- It was the nightcap for both the North Woods and Ely softball teams as they took to the field here late Friday afternoon, with each having dropped games to South Ridge earlier in the day on the North Woods diamond.

The Wolves had just a tad bit more gas in the tank at the end of the day, as they edged the Grizzlies 4-3.

Unlike their come-frombehind win against the Grizzlies on May 1, the Wolves got on the board first in this one. Peyton Huntington drew a lead-off walk, then stole second. With the runner in scoring position, Clare Thomas slapped an RBI single for a 1-0 lead.

Huntington came through for the Wolves again in the third, reaching base on an error, stealing second, then taking third on a passed ball. Thomas brought her home on a fielder's choice to pitcher Zoey Burckhardt for a 2-0 edge.

To say that Huntington had a big impact on the game would be an understatement. She came to the plate with the bases loaded and two out in the top of the

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Below: Ely catcher Peyton Huntington figured prominently in three of the four runs the Wolves scored against



BASEBALL

## Nobody's **PERFECT!**

After ten straight wins, Ely hits midseason slump

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER

Managing Editor

ELY – After dominating opponents through the first several weeks of the high school baseball season, the Timberwolves are in the midst of a three-game slump that has tested the club's depth and resilience and dropped their season's record to 10-3.

The team's ten-game winning streak came to a sudden end this past Saturday as Ely dropped a pair of games in a doubleheader. In game one, Red Lake County's Will Gieseke silenced the Wolves' bats, tossing a one-hit shutout with seven strikeouts in a 4-0 win. Caid Chittum's first-inning double was the lone Ely hit, and the Wolves never threatened offensively.

Game two against Blackduck was marred by defensive struggles. Ely committed four errors and issued six walks, giving the Drakes the 7-2 victory. The Wolves jumped out early with back-to-back doubles from Chittum and Owen Marolt, followed by an RBI single from Evan Leeson, but the offense stalled from there. Marolt took the loss on the mound, surrendering five hits and five walks while striking out three.

The losing streak stretched to three games on Tuesday, as Ely fell 2-1 to Greenway-

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SOFTBALL

## Grizzlies drop five in a row

by DAVID COLBURN

Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- The North Woods Grizzlies softball team hit a rough patch this past week, dropping games against Littlefork-Big Falls, Cherry, South Ridge, Ely, and Greenway-Nashwauk-Keewatin.

Monday's home matchup against the Titans of GNK was the biggest beatdown of them all, a 20-4 pasting that was capped by a nine-run Titans' seventh inning.

GNK got out to a fast start with a pair of first-inning doubles and four runs off Grizzlies starter Zoey Burckhardt. They added two runs in the second and third

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## North Woods tops Rangers on Senior Night

by DAVID COLBURN

Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- The Grizzlies saw their winning streak come to an end on Friday with a nailbiting 3-2 loss to South Ridge, but got back on the winning track on Monday with a 6-4 home win over Mt. Iron-Buhl.

The Grizzlies came into the MIB contest with added confidence from their 13-0 April 30 shutout of the Rangers, a no-hitter for hurler Louie Panichi. This time it was Talen Jarshaw who took the mound for the Grizzlies.

MIB immediately set out to write a new script for this one, capitalizing on a pair



of first-inning errors by the Grizzlies to go up 2-0.

But leading off the bottom

of the inning, John Warren put the Rangers on notice that North Woods would not be

over the outfield wall for a home run to pull North Woods Left: North Woods seniors, from left, Alex Burckhardt, Talen Jarshaw, Vincent Kajala, Louie Panichi, and Jase Swan were honored before the start of Monday's game against Mt. Iron-Buhl.

photo by D. Colburn

to within one.

The Grizzlies struck again in the fifth, sending ten batters to the plate, producing a five-run avalanche that had Alex Burckhardt, Panichi, Jarshaw, Cedar Holman, and Levi Chaulklin collect hits and cross the plate.

While Jarshaw surrendered two runs in the seventh, including a home run, North Woods closed out the game

with Jarshaw claiming the 6-4 win.

It was a fitting outcome on a day the Grizzles honored their seniors — Burckhardt, Panichi, Jarshaw, Vincent Kajala and Jase Swan. The seniors were escorted to the field by family and friends who then all threw ceremonial first-pitches, some more successful than others, to the delight of the crowd.

The Grizzlies were scheduled to be back on the diamond on Thursday at Cook County, followed by a home tilt on Tuesday against Deer River.

### f NICHOLAS...Continued from page 1B -

felt somewhat unprepared to be the center of attention on the pitching mound at Wrigley Field, as he'd only played teeball as a youngster.

"I thought I was going to go on the field and use my master's degree to lead a very public performance of the anthem, and instead, I was using my zero experience to do a very public thing for which I was not qualified, which is in the world of baseball," Nicholas said.

For a crash course in pitching, he turned to the members of the Senn High baseball team.

"They graciously let me sit in on practice, and kind of built it around helping me build my throw," Nicholas said. "They were super encouraging, and it was really fun. They kind of surrounded me and joyfully booed me, tossing creative insults lovingly at me to try and distract me to mimic the distractions of the stadium."

And it turned out, the kids knew what they were doing.

"When I got (on the field at Wrigley) another guy

threw a first pitch as well, and he threw it in the dirt, and the whole stadium booed," Nicholas said. "I definitely didn't want to do that and be booed by tens of thousands of people."

And while he wasn't given any chance to warm up, his practice time had him well prepared for the occasion.

"From the audiences'

view, it looks like I threw a strike," Nicholas said. "I'd say it might have been a little far to the right, but it was above the knees and below the shoulders. I just wanted it to be in the air and catchable." Cheering from the stands were about 90 family and friends, including his parents, Shirley and Chuck Nicholas, who came down from Cook for the special event. After joining a friend's high school choir to sing the National Anthem for the crowd, Nicholas said he spent most of the game going around thanking each person for coming to support him.

That pitch represents a transition of sorts for Nicholas, one of his last acts as choral

director at Senn High School. He's leaving the position at the end of the school year to embark upon a new direction, a five-year doctoral program at Northwestern University, where he'll be researching and teaching a passion that's infused his entire career — the interface between music and wellness.

"The last several years, I've had this deep desire to go deeper in the research on healing and the arts and music," Nicholas said. I don't have the time to be a full-time high school teacher and make the larger impact that I feel is my next step. It feels like the timing is right. It's five years full time at Northwestern," Nicholas said. "In that time, I will have lots of opportunities to help mentor the student teachers at Northwestern. North Park University has reached out to me and asked me if I would teach some classes there, as time allows. By years three and four of the PhD program, I will be deciding my own courses to run in the music department

and education department at Northwestern. So, while I'm stepping away from this particular classroom and set up, I will be consistently still teaching, just on a different level, in a different place."

Nicholas's passion for music and wellness comes from his own personal experience as a member of the Cook community. It was music that helped him cope with the trials of rheumatoid arthritis as a youth in Cook, and he discovered that his music was also therapeutic for others. Music became even more essential for his own healing in in 2004 when his Cook High School classmate Patrick Wilenius died in a car accident and was amplified to a greater extent in 2005 when another car accident claimed the lives of Cook High classmates and friends Dan Swanson and Lindi Fogelberg, Lindi's mother Nancy, and Paige Bergman. Since then, those people have never been far from Nicholas's mind as he has worked to use music to help heal the trauma others

experience in their lives.

And, in fact, they were all with him in spirit on the mound at Wrigley Field. The Cubs gave Nicholas a jersey to wear, and Nicholas didn't have to think much at all about the number he wanted on the back.

"I did play some basketball (in school), and Dan Swanson, I believe he was like 45 and I was 43 – I forget over time, but I wanted to pick a number in the 40s," Nicholas said. "And one of my favorite Bible verses is Philippians 4:6. And so I picked the number 46 both to honor Dan and the other classmates that we lost, and then also to represent gratitude, because I'm in a season in life of just gratitude for so many things. I wanted to walk on that field just exuding gratefulness. And so, Philippians 4:6, in all things with thankfulness, presenting requests to God. So awesome. That's why I picked the number 46."

And Nicholas wonders if it might have been people in the Cubs' organization recognizing the qualities he's

carried with him from his youth in Cook that caused them to pick him instead of someone else to throw out the first pitch.

'I learned through my upbringing up north to treat everybody well and to constantly look for creative solutions to problems, whether it be wilderness survival or putting on a community show, Nicholas said. "Always being a helper, not just taking but contributing, leaving things better than you found them. I would like to think that those qualities that were instilled in me, and at my best I live by, is probably why they chose me, because they had a deep trust in me that I wouldn't abuse the opportunity and that I would be grateful and add some value. I wanted in this moment on that ballfield to never forget where I came from and why I have been allowed to do all these amazing things.'

### **NW GIRLS...**Continued from page 1B

innings to go up 8-0 before North Woods finally got on the board in the third. Rory Bundy rapped a single to right and was replaced by pinch runner Josie Gibson. Gibson came around to score on a big triple by Burckhardt. After the Titans scored

three in the top of the fourth, including the first of two home runs by Ava Johnson, double to bring Gibson in to score. Then Bundy connected on her second single of the

the Grizzlies got back to work on the basepads. Evalyn Thiel got on board with a one-out single and Gibson came on again as a pinch runner. Addie Burckhardt took a base after being hit by a pitch, putting runners at first and second for Brynn Chosa, who stroked a double to bring Gibson in to score. Then Bundy connected on her second single of the game, scoring Burckhardt. The inning ended with the score 11-3.

North Woods got two strong defensive innings, holding the Titans scoreless in the fifth and sixth, but everything fell apart in the top of the seventh. Aided by seven Grizzlies' errors, the Titans brought 13 players to the plate and scored nine runs. Kayla Dougherty tripled and scored for North Woods in the Grizzlies' final at bat to account for the 20-4 final.

The only close game of the bunch was Friday's contest against Ely, 4-3. The report of that game can be found elsewhere in the Timberjay sports section.

Timberwolves was the second

loss of the day for North Woods, as the Grizzlies had an early afternoon game against South Ridge, which the Panthers won 10-3. Hosting Cherry on Thursday, the Grizzlies fell 12-3, and Wednesday's road trip to Littlefork-Big Falls resulted in a 17-7 loss.

Dee Ann Sandberg noted that

prone during the losing streak, and that while they were getting runners on base they weren't stringing together the hits they needed to score. North Woods will play at

the Grizzlies had been error-

Cook County on Thursday and wind down the regular season on Friday at home against International Falls.

### WOLVES...Continued from page 1B

Nashwauk-Keewatin. Despite another strong pitching performance from Halbakken—who allowed just four hits and struck out six—the Wolves couldn't muster enough offense to support his effort. GNK's Austin Anderson was dominant, going the distance while giving up six hits and striking out seven.

Leeson and Chittum each had two hits for Ely, but run production continued to be an issue.

"Despite our current three-game losing streak, we've continued to pitch and play defense at a high level," said Ely Head Coach Frank Ivancich. "The exception was the Blackduck game—we just gave up too many free bases with errors and walks."

The Wolves continued to look impressive leading up to their slump. On Friday, the Wolves faced their toughest test of the season against a strong South Ridge squad.

Ely rose to the challenge, rallying for a 5-3 win behind another impressive outing from Halbakken, who earned his sixth win in as many starts. He gave up just five hits and was backed by a stout defense that turned four double plays.

Down 2-0 in the fourth, the Wolves clawed back as Drew Johnson led off with a double, later scoring on a sacrifice fly from Chittum. With the bases loaded, Evan Leeson delivered a clutch infield single to drive in two more, giving Ely a 3-2 lead. After South Ridge tied it in the fifth, Ely responded in the sixth when Halbakken and Johnson crossed the plate on another timely single from Chittum.

Playing at Chisholm last Thursday, the Wolves notched a commanding 13-2 win over the Bluestreaks. Jack Davies was sharp on the mound, giving up just two runs over 6-2/3 innings while striking out nine batters. The junior scattered four hits and helped his team to its eighth straight win

Ely was already leading comfortably when they exploded for six runs in the top of the seventh, with Hunter Halbakken, Drew Johnson, and Caid Chittum all delivering key RBI hits. Chittum finished the day with three hits and three RBIs, while Owen Marolt added two hits and two RBIs to lead the offensive

attack.

The Wolves hope to draw on their experience and depth to get back on track as the regular season enters its final stretch. "We'd rather be struggling now than in two weeks when the playoffs start," said Ivancich. "Our guys are facing pressure situations at the plate and learning from them. Caid continues to deliver, but we need the rest of the lineup to find their rhythm."

### **SOFTBALL...**Continued from page 1B

fourth and drilled an infield hit that led to a Grizzlies error, bringing Julia Zgonc across the plate for a 3-0 lead.

Elyhurler Zoe MacKenzie had held North Woods scoreless through three, but the Grizzlies manufactured a run in the fourth. Addison Burckhardt beat out an infield hit for a single, stole second, and then took third when the attempted pick-off throw sailed into the outfield. Rory

Bundy got a single up the middle for the RBI that cut the deficit to 3-1.

After a scoreless fifth and sixth, the Wolves were looking for some insurance, and they found it in the bat of Maija Mattson. Thomas hit a rocket that was too hot to handle for shortstop Addison Burckhardt, then moved to second on a passed ball. She advanced to third on a single to left by Ella Perish. That

brought Mattson to the plate, and she connected on a blast that slipped through the center

field fence, scoring Thomas.

North Woods got a rally going in the bottom of the inning. Zoey Burckhardt and Ella Kruse got one-out singles to put runners at the corners. Emarie Gibson hit a ball to MacKenzie who went to first for the out, allowing Burckhardt to score. Thiel then hit a single to center,

scoring Kruse. Addison Burckhardt singled, and the runners advanced to second and third, putting the winning run in scoring position. But the rally fell short when Brynn Chosa grounded out to end the game with Ely holding on for the 4-3 win.

MacKenzie picked up the W for Ely, while Zoey Burckhardt took the loss for North Woods.

"Zoe pitched pretty well,"

said Ely coach Cory Lassi following the game. "This was her second game today, so she's pretty tired at this point, but she pitched well when we needed it. We made a few mistakes that made it a little closer than I wanted at the end, but we got the hits when we needed them. I think we could do a little better hitting, but we did what we needed to to win."

For Grizzlies Head Coach

Dee Ann Sandberg, this was a game of opportunities missed.

"Our girls have got to be

able to hit more," Sandberg said. "But we were down and we came back, and that's a win for us. We've just got to be able to hit the ball more and run the bases."

### ELY GIRLS...Continued from page 1B

together right before playoffs.

The Wolves suffered one of their only recent losses last Wednesday as a fifth-inning

rally fell short in a 7-6 loss in Ely. The Silver Bay 0 Mariners put two on the board in both the first and second innings and

led 7-1 midway through the fifth. That's when the Wolves put five on the board to close the gap. But they couldn't

muster any more offense in the final two innings.

Penke had a big day offensively with two RBIs and

a run scored on two hits. Ella Perish added two RBIs on a hit, while Thomas scored twice and drove in a run on two hits.

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### Obituaries and Death Notices



Mary J. Morse

Mary J. Morse, 66, of Grand Rapids, passed away surrounded by family on Sunday, May 4, 2025, at her home. A gathering of family and friends to celebrate her life will be held on Saturday, May 17 from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Loyal Order of Moose Club in Grand Rapids. Arrangements are with Rowe Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Grand Rap-

Mary was born in 1959 to Orrie "Dean" and Marlyce "Dolly" Morlan in International Falls. She graduated from high school in International Falls in 1977. On April 14, 1984, Mary was united in marriage to Terry Morse in Tower. While living in Tower, Mary was involved with her kids' activities which included being a Cub Scout leader and soccer coach; she made many lifelong friends from her time spent there. In 1997, Mary and Terry moved to Grand Rapids. Mary was employed as the secretary at Rowe Funeral Home for 20 years before retiring in 2019. Mary's motto always

seemed to be "Choose Joy." She had a kind, generous, gentle spirit which was present in all aspects of her life whether it was spending time with family and friends, or helping a grieving family while working at the funeral home. She loved all animals including dogs, cats and wild

Mary was a talented cook who was known for making special recipes from her soup-making drawer, tacos, baking cookies with the kids, and making people happy at parties she would host. Mary enjoyed spending time around a campfire, fishing trips to Lac Suel in Ontario, Canada, with her husband Terry, and fishing with her

Mary is survived by her husband, Terry; sons, Lucas (Megan Bartell) Morse of Cohasset and Zachary (Kara) Morse of Grand Rapids; two sisters, Sandy (Mark) Gorrill of Embarrass and Georgia Shaff of Eveleth; seven grandchildren, Mariah, Drake, Lexi, Tenley, Maisey, Ricky and Jace; one great-grandchild, Bryley; and many nieces and neph-

She was preceded in death by her parents; son,



Andy Morse; and three siblings, Beth "Buffy" Woolridge, Lenora Loney and Randy Morlan.

### Theresa J. Burandt

Theresa JoAnn Burandt, 75, of Ely and formerly of Prior Lake, Minneapolis and Bemidji, died peacefully on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at her home with family at her side. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. until the 11 a.m. Memorial Mass on Saturday, May 17 at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely. Fr. Charles Friebohle will be the celebrant. Private inurnment will be at a later date. Family services are provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Vir-

Theresa was born on Nov. 19, 1949, in Minneapolis, the daughter of John and Joanne Rogers Elms. She was a graduate of Minneapolis South High School. Theresa was united in marriage to Thomas Allan Burandt on Aug. 19, 1967, in Minneapolis. Theresa worked as a homemaker. She loved spending time with her children and grandchildren. She was a member of St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely, and also attended St. Martin's Catholic Church in

Theresa is survived by her husband, Thomas of Ely; sons, Joseph of Ely, Daniel (Greta) of Tower, and Thomas Burandt of Savage; siblings, John Elms (Cheryl Bolen) of Minneapolis, Timothy (Valerie) Elms of Shoreview, and Mark (Lisa) Elms of Circle Pines; eight grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and numerous extended family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; siblings, Daniel Elms, Colleen Nygaard, and Mathew Elms; and brother-in-law, Dale Nygaard.

### Adam John Burgess

Adam John Burgess, of Tower, passed away on May 3, 2025. He was born on May 21, 1983. An obituary is not available at this time. Family services being provided by Bauman Family Funeral

### Amy L. Johnson

Amy Lynn Igo Johnson, 40, of Virginia, passed away unexpectedly in a car accident on Monday, May 5, 2025. Please join us to celebrate Amy's life and legacy on Friday, May 16 at Range Funeral Home. Visitation begins at 1 p.m. with a service at 2 p.m. In her honor, feel free to come as you are; no need for formal attire. Camo, fishing gear or anything that reminds you of her is more than welcome. A gathering of friends and family will follow the service at the Virginia Elks Club. Arrangements are with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her beloved husband, Chuck; her parents, Mike Igo and his wife Maude, Janet Swanson and her husband Mike: brothers, Ryan Igo, Mike Buck, and Jerrod Buck; sisters, Sarah Kapella, Heidi Harfield, and Bobbie Jo Cook; nieces, Joey Kapella, Alyvia Fields and Ryitt Igo; nephews, Chase Kapella, Hayden Igo, and Kyler Tuura; and great-niece, Charlotte Kapella.

Amy is also deeply missed by a large extended family of aunts, uncles, cousins and countless lifelong friends who were more like family. She had a rare and beautiful way of turning connection into kinship, and her circle of love stretches far and wide.

### Ray J. Hiltunen

Ray James Hiltunen, 80, of Duluth, formerly of Virginia and Minneapolis, died peacefully at Aspirus St. Luke's Hospital on Nov. 4, 2024, with Finnish music serenading his transition. A memorial service will be held in Tower later in May. Arrangements are with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

The family sends special thanks to the staff and friends at Lakeside Manor in Duluth where Ray enjoyed living for 16 years. Finally, the family cannot thank the doctors, nurses and staff at Aspirus St. Luke's Hospital enough for their loving care of Ray during the last days of his life. Memorials may be sent to World Vision, www.worldvision.org, or the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center.

Ray was born on Feb. 9, 1944, in Minneapolis. His mother, Ingrid Kainula Hiltunen, was living there awaiting the return of her husband from WWII. Sadly, Ray's father, 1st Lieutenant Ray Jacob Hiltunen, originally from Vermilion Lake Township, was shot down in a glider over the Netherlands in September 1944 and died. Ray never met his father. His mother later met and married Oscar Sooger of Virginia in 1950, so Ray was raised there, graduating from Roosevelt High School in 1962. He attended Bemidji State College and went on to graduate from the Minnesota School of Business in Minneapolis.

Ray married Mary Jorenby on Dec. 31, 1966. They settled in Minneapolis and raised their son, Don. Ray had several jobs over the years, like selling fancy suits at Dayton's in downtown Minneapolis and working for the Model Cities project. His favorite job was bus driver for the Minneapolis Public Schools. He always had a corny joke for his students.

Ray was a proud Finn. His mother, father, and stepfather were all Finns. He could speak Finnish, which was appreciated by his younger family members. Things Ray loved during his life were summers as a child at the family cabin on Bass

Lake (the one near Gilbert and Biwabik) and family camping trips at Lake Kabetogama. He had fond memories of the annual reunion picnics at the Hiltunen Farm. In the 80's he made cassette tapes of loon calls and sold them at craft fairs with his wife Mary. He made recordings of the Sooger family oral history, for which his family is grateful. Ray was honored to be part of the Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church Choir, especially when they sang Handel's Messiah at Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis. For many years, he looked forward to his annual canoe trip in the Boundary Waters with his AA group. His other favorite places were the former Little Sweden Resort at the Cook end of Lake Vermilion and the former Cliff 'n Shores Resort on Lake Superior, where owner Anna Mae was a friend. Later in his life he enjoyed time at his sister's home on Lake Vermilion.

Ray is survived by his son, Don Hiltunen (Jen) of Eagan; grandchildren, Maia Cross (Thomas) of Maple Grove, and Alex Hiltunen of Minneapolis; sister, Elaine Sooger McGillivray (Peter) of Lake Vermilion-Tower; niece, Erin McGillivray of Minneapolis; nephew, Joe McGillivray (Christine) of Brooklyn Park; cousins; great-nieces; and longtime friend, Roger Anderson of Two Harbors, who was there for Ray so often over the

He was preceded in death by his father, Ray Jacob Hiltunen; mother, Ingrid Kainula Hiltunen Sooger; stepfather, Oscar Sooger; and wife, Mary Hiltunen.

### **Herbert O. Cornwell**

Herbert "Herb" Orville Cornwell, 84, of Ely, passed away peacefully on Saturday, May 3, 2025, in Duluth, surrounded by the love of his family. A celebration of life will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, June 22 at the Winton Community Center. In lieu of flowers, the family encourages you to raise a beer in his honor, share a story, and enjoy the simple pleasures, just as he would have wanted. Arrangements are with Kerntz Funeral Home

He is survived by his beloved wife and best friend of 55 years, Deb Cornwell; daughters, Pamela Berens (Paul) and Kristy Johnson (Chad); daughters from a previous marriage, Rebecca Kitzler and Roxanne Tulla (Bill); grandchildren, Fawna Berger (Sam), Deven Tulla, Desiree Brink (Travis), Rachael Thom (Nate), Lucas Eggebraaten (Amanda), Austin Berens (Jolee), Kelsey Johnson, Madelene Larson (Josh), and Savannah Tyndall (Preston); 13 great-grandchildren; mother-in-law, Lucille Scott; brother-in-law, Richard Havercamp (Kay); siblings, Leland Cornwell (Ruth), Phyllis Mabie, and Lois Hartshorn; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and dear friends.

### Dolores M. Cederholm

Dolores Marie Bialke Cederholm, 95, longtime resident of Babbitt, passed away peacefully on Saturday, April 26, 2025, at Carefree Living in Babbitt. Many thanks to the wonderful, caring and compassionate staff at Carefree Living who became her second family. The family would also like to thank Essentia Hospice for their support, their kind, gentle care and for making her final days very peaceful. A Funeral Mass will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 24 at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Babbitt, with a luncheon to follow after the service. In lieu of flowers, if you wish to donate, please consider Friends of the Library or the Babbitt Golf Course. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia. She is survived by her children, Bob (Kim) Cederholm, Judy (Brian) Thomas, and Janet (Allen) Priolo; grandchildren, Scott Thomas, Lisa (Zack) Anderson, Ross (Tara) Priolo, and (Jace) Jaclyn Romano; great-granddaughters, Lettie Anderson and Piper Priolo; sister, Corrine Schedlbauer; brother, Tim (Bev) Bialke; and nephews, Don, Rick and Steve Schedlbauer.

### Bonita Altobelli

Bonita "Bonnie" Hendrickson Altobelli, 67, of Virginia, passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family at the Essentia Virginia Hospital on Friday, May 9,

2025. Services were held on Tuesday, May 13 at Range Funeral Home in Virginia, led by Pastor Bruce Dissell.

She is survived by her husband, James Altobelli of Virginia; sons, Keith (Sara) of Mt. Iron and Scott (Gina) of Virginia; six grandchildren; sister, Brenda Laveck of Ashland, Va.; brother, Bruce (Linda) Hendrickson of Phoenix; brothers-in-law, Frank Glavan of Hibbing, Altobelli of John (Cindy) Tower, and Joe Whalen of St. Cloud; sister-in-law, Patty (Tom) Kallio of New Brighton; many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Harry D. Porter III
Harry "Butch" Dean Porter III, 64, originally of Nett Lake, passed away on Sunday, May 11, 2025, in Burnsville. A wake was held on Thursday, May 15 at 5 p.m. and Traditional Services will be held at 10 a.m. on Friday, May 16, both at the Bois Forte Tribal Government Building. Casket bearers are Bryce Chosa, Darius Googleye, Angelo Kingbird, David "Squidg" Morrison, Lance Kingbird, Charles Gonier, Devon Porter, and Bryan Porter. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home

He is survived by his son, Jamison of Cloquet; mother, Mary Porter of Nett Lake; brother, Gerald "Turk" (Janeal) Googleye of Nett Lake; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.



### arlan E. Broten

Harlan Edward Broten, age 92, of Tower, died Monday, May 12, 2025, while working at the job he loved. Visitation will be from 12:00 noon until the 1:00 p.m. Celebration of Life on Saturday, May 17, 2025, at St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower. Fr. Beau Braun will be the Celebrant.

Family services are provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home, in Tower. To express condolences online please www.baumanfuneralhome.com.

1932, in Fox, Minn., the son of Henry and Edna (Fugelberg) Broten. He was a 1952 graduate of Roseau High School where he played both hockey and football - earning athletic scholarships to Nebraska State University and the University of North

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Dakota. A veteran of the United States Army, Harlan served during the Korean War and earned the Rank of Sergeant. Harlan was united in marriage to Adeline Gust on Jan. 26, 1956, in Greenbush, Minn.

Harlan worked as a locomotive engineer for LTV Steel and Erie Mining Co. He was the founder of Broten Construction Company in 1958 which is still being operated today by his son, David. Harlan was a dedicated husband, brother, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He and Adeline spent many hours with their grandchildren and great-grandchildren, playing and cooking and eating pancakes. He took pride in his work and wanted that to be a part of his legacy - working until the Lord called him. He was a dedicated community member donating concrete work for many projects. He was a member of St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower.

Harlan is survived by his

wife of 69 years: Adeline; daughters: Lori (Jeff) Schulze, Lisa (Gordon) Dunkeld, and Yvonne Broten: son: David (Joan) Broten; daughter-in-law: Brenda Broten; grandchildren: Savannah Schulze, Alexandra (Alex) Prieve, Laura (John) Schulze, Cody (Kara) Schulze, Raichle (Ben) Dunkeld, Alec Dunkeld, Dean (Brianna) Broten, Barbara (Zachary) Broten-Lundstrom, Brianna Soby, Katrina (Kelly) Blocker, and Anthony (Tristan) Broten; great-grandchildren: Boone Broten, Hux Broten, Forrest Prieve, Stella Lundstrom, Harlan Lundstrom, Leona Broten, and Rosie Broten; close family friend: Greg Pishler; and numerous extended family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents: Edna and Henry; brother,0 Milo; infant son, Timothy; and son,

## **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 irregular water pressure.

**Subscribe Today** Call (218) 753-2950 or online at timberjay.com

May 16, 2025 4B THE TIMBERJAY



WEIRD WEATHER

## Records crushed in Mother's Day heat wave

by Marshall Helmberger Managing Editor

REGIONAL - An unprecedented heat wave sent thermometers soaring across northern Minnesota earlier this week, crushing previous high temperature records by double digits in some cases.

It was the hottest Mother's Day on record in International Falls this past Sunday as the border city long known as "Frostbite Falls," hit 96 degrees, crushing the previous

**G**Getting to 96 in the Falls in early May is just bonkers."

> Kenny Blumenfeld State climatologist

daily record high of 83 degrees. "Basically, everything north of Rochester in Minnesota broke daily

records," said state climatologist Kenny Blumenfeld. But in an unusual break from the typical weather pattern in the state, northern Minnesota weather stations, which were closer to the high-pressure ridge that brought on the early spring heat wave, were consistently warmer than in southern Minnesota.

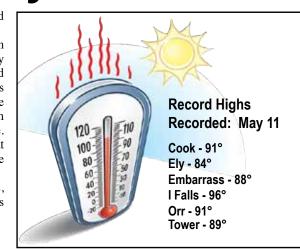
Indeed, it was the most northerly communities that recorded some of the highest temperatures. Matching International Falls, Warroad

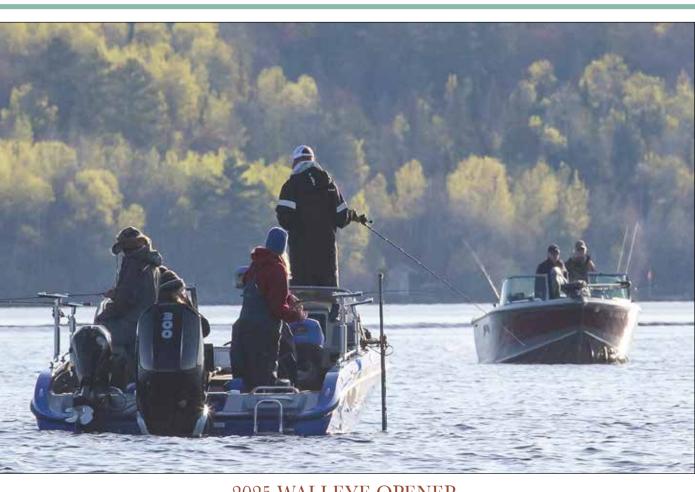
hit 96 degrees as did Grand

"Getting to 96 in International Falls in early May is just bonkers," said Blumenfeld, who noted it was by far the earliest date that the border city had reached such an extraordinary temperature. June 4 was the earliest date that the city had seen a 96-degree reading prior to last Sunday.

The high temperatures, combined with gusty winds

See HEAT...pg. 5B





2025 WALLEYE OPENER

# Couldn't be nicer

Mixed reports but most anglers caught fish and everyone enjoyed the weather

by Marshall Helmberger Managing Editor

EGIONAL— Many people caught fish but just about everyone caught a sunburn during this past weekend's 2025 fishing opener. It was the second year in a row that the weather gods smiled on the Minnesota opener, and this year was even warmer as temperatures pushed well into the 80s by

"Everybody enjoyed the Florida weather," said Jerry Pohlman, at Nelson's Resort on Crane Lake.

The nice weather, particularly with the light winds on Saturday, brought out big numbers of anglers, who were eager to wet a line and just enjoy the pleasant early spring weather.

"We were slammed," said Steve Renneberg at Arrowhead Outdoors bait shop in Ely. "It was just too nice for anyone to stay home. While Sunday brought even

warmer temperatures, with highs pushing well into the 80s, strong and gusty south winds kept anglers mostly in protected locations. The warm air contrasted with the

cold water. Much of Lake Vermilion's Big Bay still had ice cover as of May 5 and water temperatures were still in the mid-40s on Saturday morning. "The water's too cold," was a familiar refrain from anglers working the usual early season hot spots along the edges of Big Bay, but who found the action was a little on the slow side.

That sent many anglers into the warmer, shallower waters of Pike Bay, where huge numbers of boats had gathered looking for hungry postspawn walleves.

It was a similar story in the Ely area, said Renneberg, although he said



Top: Anglers ply the waters off Birch Point on Lake Vermilion.

typical Vermilion walleye.

Right: An eater-sized walleye elicits a smile from a fellow angler.

photos by M. Helmberger

he heard no complaints. "It was an excellent opener even if fishing was a little on the slow side." Anglers reported catching mostly smaller males, in areas near traditional spawning waters. "The spawn had just wrapped up," noted Renneberg, "so it was kind of tough timing."

See OPENER.pg. 5B



### Wildflower Watch



This week's featured flower **MARSH MARIGOLD** 

The Marsh Marigold, Caltha palustris, is among our earliest spring wildflowers and certainly the most showy. Their five-petaled, bright golden yellow blossoms practically glow this time of year amidst the drab brown grasses and sedges found in the early spring wetlands where this plant

is found. It's heart-shaped leaves are another good identifying field mark for this common native Minnesota wildflower. But look quickly- like many spring wildflowers, the marsh marigold's beauty fades too fast.

It's a member of the Buttercup

### **Fishing report**

### Ely area

The walleye opener was on the slow side for walleyes over 20 inches. Most anglers reported catching mostly small males.

As of Monday night, reports of walleves over 20" started coming in, so it seems the big females are recovering from the spawn and are looking to put some weight back on. Anglers catching these big walleyes are saying a 1/4oz jig, tipped with big rainbows, pike suckers or lite northerns, is getting it done for them. River mouths and right off the dock have been productive. White, pink and gold were the colors to have, in about 10-15ft.

Pike anglers reported some good fishing this last weekend. Large suckers, fished under a large bobber, was the ticket for catching some huge pike. Traditional spring pike locations like river mouths, large shallow bays and right off the end of the dock were all excellent places to catch big pike.

With a week's worth of bright sun and calm winds, the crappie action is heating up. Anglers have been finding nice crappies back in shallow bays, in the pencil reeds, during the evening hours. Warm water has been the key to catching crappies, so the shallow lakes in the area have been producing best. Hair jigs or small tubes, fished under a bobber have been the ticket here.

Stream trout reports were limited this last weekend as many angler's focused on walleyes. The few stream trout reports we got were all on the positive side. Anglers mainly caught rainbows while fishing with a slip bobber and a night crawler suspended about 5 ft under the surface. A small

See REPORT...pg. 5B

May 16, 2025 **5B** THE TIMBERJAY

### **OPENER...**Continued from page 4B —

While anglers in most areas were dealing with cold water, there was lingering ice cover yet on Namakan Lake and parts of Rainy Lake. On Lake Kabetogama, strong winds cleared remaining ice the day before opener, which was good news for resorts on the lake, which filled up with anglers who had been waiting nervously as the ice had hung on through most of the week.

Not surprisingly, action on Kab was a bit slower than a typical opener. "The lake is a little behind," said Mike Daurio, who owns and operates Arrowhead Lodge with his wife Becky. "It seems the fish were just starting to spawn. People still caught fish, it just wasn't the lights out opener we typically have," he added.

While the fishing was slow for many, others reported real success. "It was one of the best openers in the last ten years," said Steve Krasaway, a Lake Vermilion guide who was out with family on opening weekend. "It went from a banner morning of walleye fishing to catching a bunch of nice slab crappie by lunch time. My ten-year-old son Leo hooked into a nice 17-inch walleye on his first cast of opening morning," he said.

Longtime guide Cliff Wagenbach reported his party netted 42 walleye opening day, all smaller males in the 13-15-inch range. Wagenbach said his party caught all their fish in about 28-33 feet of water and all on lindy rigs, which he relies on in cold water conditions.

As usual, Wagenbach avoided the crowds in Pike Bay, although he said he heard good reports from anglers who did brave the traffic.

Matt Hennen, the DNR's large lake specialist based in Tower, said he heard that anglers did well in Pike Bay and on the south side of islands, where the south wind seemed to focus bait fish and bring the walleyes in.

Pohlman reported a lot of success on Crane Lake as well. "Everybody staying here caught limits of fish and had a fish fry," he said. According to Pohlman, the usual early season locations seemed to provide the most success, with anglers working the shallows near current by casting jigs toward shore and slowly working them back to the boat.

Friday

The action at Crane Lake got a little extra attention this year, as Nelson's Resort played host to Star Tribune outdoors writer Dennis Anderson, who reported on the scene from the Vermilion Gorge as he and a couple fishing buddies filled out with walleye sized appropriately below the lake's 18-26-inch protected slot.

The other, unofficial outdoor writers were out in force on local social media, with photos and fish stories about their own exploits. There will undoubtedly be more to come. As the water warms, expect the fishing to only get better.

Right: An angler spares the net and loses the walleye, as his golden retriever gives the whole scene a sideways glance.



### **HEAT...**Continued from page 4B -

and exceptionally low humidity, also led to dangerous wildfire conditions, prompting several days with red flag or critical fire weather warnings. Several major wildfires were burning in the region as of Wednesday.

According to Ketzel Levens, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Duluth, the unseasonable heat and dry air was funneled into the area from a large ridge of high pressure that sat for a week over the Great Plains. It pumped warm air up from Texas and Oklahoma for several days, a pattern that continued right on through Wednesday of this week, although most areas saw the highest temperatures on Sunday. In Minnesota, the hottest temperatures during the stretch were in the northwestern part of the state and some of that heat bled into the

Rainy River valley all the way to the Falls.

Across the North Country, the west-to-east pattern bore out as both Cook and Orr topped out at 91 degrees, while Ely mustered only a relatively mild high temperature of 84 degrees.

As of Wednesday, the forecast called for a dramatic change, with significant rainfall and much cooler temperatures for the weekend, when highs aren't expected to top the high-40s both Saturday and Sunday, with clouds and scattered showers with a few wet snowflakes possibly mixed in, especially Saturday morning. Levens said no accumulation is expected. "This would be conversational snow at best," she said.

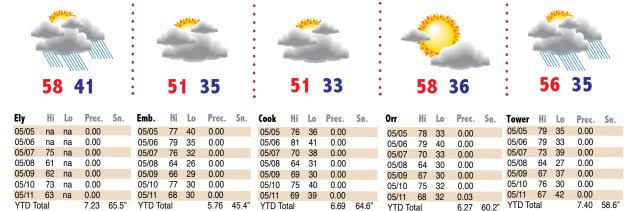
As is so often said in Minnesota, if you don't like the weather...

### LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Tuesday

**Monday** 



Sunday

### **REPORT...**Continued from page 4B —

handful of anglers targeted brook trout with small silver and blue spoons, casting along shorelines with good success.

Lake trout reports were even more limited than stream

trout. Few reports were from

### anglers that had limited success trolling deep diving crankbaits in 20-40 feet of water over deep mudflats.

inviting people to share their thoughts on a draft update of the state's long-range plan for muskie. "Public input, stakeholder discussions and conversations with our tribal partners have been critical in shaping

REGIONAL- The Minnesota

Department of Natural Resources is

**Outdoors briefly** 

the draft plan," said Leslie George, northeast region fisheries manager. "Before finalizing the plan for muskie management moving forward, we want to ensure that we consider the perspectives and opportunities desired by our constituents."

The draft plan will be used to guide muskie management in Minnesota for the next 15 years. It includes management goals, objectives and strategies centered on improving existing muskie populations, shifting approaches in the production of muskies to be stocked, and broadening research and education efforts. Although there was interest in adding new waters to the statewide muskie stocking program, public input focused on first improving existing lakes, especially the key muskie fisheries of Mille Lacs Lake, Lake Vermilion, and Lake Minnetonka.

DNR invites public comment on state muskie plan update

### **Public review and comment** opportunities

Anyone can obtain a digital copy of the draft plan on the Minnesota DNR's muskie page. Minnesota DNR staff

will host an evening online webinar to provide an overview of the plan and its purpose, answer questions, and collect public input. The online webinar is scheduled for 6-7 p.m. Wednesday, May 28, and a link to the webinar is available on the Minnesota DNR's muskie page. Registration is not required for the event.

Comments are due June 12 and may also be submitted by:

➤ Emailing mnmuskieplan2025@

➤ Using the online survey available

on the Minnesota DNR's muskie page ➤ Writing to Kelly Wilder, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - FAW, 500 Lafayette Road,

St. Paul, MN 55155

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### **EMPLOYMENT**

### **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

### **FARMERS MARKET PROGRAM** SUPPORT IN COOK AND TOWER

COOK: Individual needed as a Program Support to work the Farmers Market in Cook, MN. Position would be Saturdays 30 am to 12:30 pm (set up and cleanup time included) from Mid-June to October dependent on weather. Wage: \$20.39/hr. Application open until May 28, 2025. For more information please go to www.aeoa. org; Careers Tab. AA/EOE.

TOWER: Individual needed as a Program Support to work the Farmers Market in Tower, MN. Position would be Fridays from 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm (set up and cleanup time included) from Mid-June to October dependent on weather. Wage: \$20.39/hr. Application open until May 28, 2025. For more information please go to www.aeoa. org; Careers Tab. AA/EOE. 5/16

### STEGER MUKLUKS **RETAIL STORE!**

Now hiring full-time and part-time for retail sales! Apply for Manager or Sales Personnel.

> Stop in at the factory 100 Miners Dr E across from Trezona Trail to apply!



### REPORTER/ **PHOTOGRAPHER**

The Timberjay is seeking a part-time writer/photographer to report on the Ely area: local government, community events, arts organizations, youth activities, etc. To learn more about this opportunity, call 218-753-2950 and talk to Jodi or Marshall.

### **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 weekends 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 man-
- ner 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, 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

### Get Results!



**Advertise** in the Timberjay!

### CryptoQuote

I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book. - Groucho Marx

### CryptoQuip

Name given to a cellphone service corporation located in Birmingham's state: Mobile Alabama.

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION Court File No:

Melvin Robert Mattson, aka Melvin R. Mattson.

69VI-PR-25-81

Estate of

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 Decedent died more than three years ago 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

ing. If proper, and no objections are filed or raised, the Petition may be granted. IT IS ORDERED and Notice is further given, that the Petition will be heard remotely via Zoom on June 2, 2025 at 9:30 AM by this Court at 300 5th Av. S., Virginia MN

prior to or raised at the hear-

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 Angela E. Sipila Sipila Law Office LLC 412 1st St. S. Virginia, MN, 55792 Attorney License Telephone: (218) 741-5000 FAX: (218) 741-5000 Email: ange@sipilaw.com

Published in the Timberjay, May 9 & 16, 2025

### STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT

PROBATE DIVISION Court File No: 69DU-PR-25-73

Richard Scott Cuillierrier.

NOTICE OF INFORMAL A P P O I N T M E N T OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS (INTESTATE)

Notice is given that an application for informal appoint-ment of personal representative has been filed with the Registrar. No will has been presented for probate. The application has been grant-Notice is also given that

the Registrar has informally appointed Sara Cuillierrier, whose address is 852 Acorn Metter, Georgia, 30439, as personal representative of the Estate of the Decedent. Any heir or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as personal representative or may object to the appointment of the personal representative. Unless objections are filed with the Court (pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-607) and the Court otherwise orders, the

personal representative has full power to administer the Estate including, after 30 days from the date of issuance of letters, the power to sell, encumber, lease or distribute real estate.

Any objections appointment of the Persona Representative must be filed with this Court and will be heard by the Court after the filing of an appropriate peti tion and proper notice of

hearing. 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 the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred. Judge of District Court

Court Administrator Janet Riegle, Deputy

Attorney for Personal Representative Lisa A. Haster Metropolitan Law Group LLC , 5775 Wayzata Blvd. St. Louis Park, MN, 55401 Attorney License 310979 Telephone: (952) 900-6241 Email: lisa@metropolitan-

Published in the Timberjay,

May 16 & 23, 2025

### Proceedings of St. Louis County Schools, ISD 2142 MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chris Koivisto, Jarrett Bundy, Kristin Zorn, Linsey Larson, Lynn Hilde, Mallory Manick. Ron Marinaro MEMBERS ABSENT: ALSO PRESENT

Dr. Reggie Engebritson, Kim Johnson, Jeanne Sopp

Regular Meeting of the School Board held at the District Office March 25, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance

Approved agenda Superintendent's Report. Approved Consent Agenda.

First reading of revised pol-Approved updated policies 2025-2028 Approved Achievement and Integration Plan.

Approved Response to

### **LEGAL NOTICE** City of Tower Publishing of Ordinance 39C

1st Reading April 14, 2025 2nd Reading May 12, 2025 Given length of Ordinance, please review at https:// cityoftower.com/city-ordi-

Published in the Timberjay, May 16, 2025

Recommendations. Approved 4-day school week for 2025-2026 Approved 4-day school week 2025-2026 school cal-

of Nonconcurrence and

Vote

AIPAC 2024-2025

Hired teaching, support, and coaching staff.
Accepted retirements and resignations

Rescinded hire of coach. Adopted resolution proposing placement of teachers on ULA

Eliminated Transportation Assistant position due to budget cuts and, as a result terminated employment of Transportation Assistant. FTE Reduced

Superintendent's Admin Assistant position due to budget cuts and, as a result, reduced employment of Superintendent's Admin

Meeting adjourned 5:54 p.m.

this meeting is available on the district's website or may be obtained from the District

A full text of the minutes of

Published in the Timberjay, May 16, 2025

### Proceedings of St. Louis County Schools, ISD 2142

Chris Koivisto, Jarrett Bundy, Kristin Zorn, Linsey Larson, Lynn Hilde, Mallory Manick, Ron Marinaro MEMBERS ABSENT: ALSO PRESENT:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Reggie Engebritson, Kim Johnson, Jeanne Sopp

Regular Meeting of the School Board held at the District Office Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance.

Approved agenda

Report. Comments from Visitors Approved Consent Agenda. Second Reading of revised

policies.

tracts.

Approved FY 2023-2024 Audit Report Approved continuation of Q Comp for 2025-2026 with plan changes. Approved application for

4-day school week beginning 2025-2026. Hired teaching and support

Accepted retirements and resignations.
Rescinded hire of substitute bus driver. Placed teachers on ULA. Non-renewed teaching con-

Meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

Published in the Timberjay, May 16, 2025

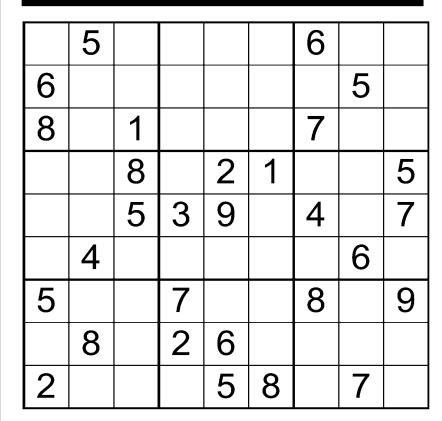
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### **Notice of Public Hearing** City of Tower - Planning and **Zoning Commission**

The City of Tower Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, at 5:00 PM at the Tower Civic Center to consider Zoning Ordinance amendments related to the regulation of the cannabis business. Written comments may also be submitted to City Hall prior to the hearing.

Published in the Timberjay, May 16, 2025

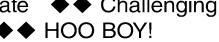
## Weekly SUDOKU



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

## DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ••





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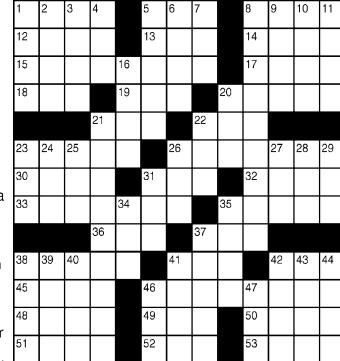
## **ACROSS**

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# King Crossword



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We'll buy old Seligas in Good Shape. Turn your classic canoe into cash. Call Steve at

**GARAGE SALE** 

HUGE MULTI-FAMILY SALE-

Fri. & Sat. May 16 & 17, 8AM – 4PM. Nice Home Décor

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 dishes, Kitchen and bedding!

Location: 2000 Hwy. 169 in a large tan pole building. (just south of the Bear Center in

Ely). Signs and balloons mark the spot! YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS SALE!!

Saturday, May 24 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at 7 Gordon St.,

AND STAND-

**GIGANTIC GARAGE SALE** 

Saturday, May 17

8am-until sold out

The annual Empower Gigantic Garage Sale Fundraiser will be on Saturday, May 17 at 8 am until sold out. 144

May 17 at 8 am until sold out. 144 E White St., Ely. All proceeds benefit Ely Senior Girls scholarships. Camping and outdoor gear, furniture,

tools, kitchen and home decor, linens

jewelry, Christmas decorations, small

electronics, games and puzzles, gar-

den stuff, mirrors, and much more. Bake table and free coffee. Don't miss

by Japheth Light

There are 13 black hexagons in the

puzzle. Place the numbers 1 - 6

around each of them. No number can

be repeated in any partial hexagon

shape along the border of the puzzle.

3

YARD SALE LEMONADE

Soudan, 5/23nc

5/16V



## TIMBERIAY CLASSIFIEDS

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

### **AUTOMOTIVE**

Langevin Auto & Truck Repair Full Service

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

### **SUPPORT GROUPS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OPEN MEETING-Church, Acacia Blvd. and Central Drive in Babbitt.

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

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

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

### King Crossword answers from the May 9 paper

- **King** Crossword *—* **Answers** 

Solution time: 22 mins.



### King Crossword answers from the May 16 paper

- **King** Crossword — Answers Solution time: 23 mins.



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### **CryptoQuote**

is LONGFELLOW

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

HYSI ABXBTYMYCS TBVD BIWQUAYSK. BTBVD AYZB

MCZBGCID AWVSM CS ANB

MBA, Y KC YSAC ANB

CANBV VCCZ USI VBUI U

GCCJ. - KVCWQNC ZUVP

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41 "SOS" band

46 Born, on a

**50** Lively frolic

52 Oklahoma

e.g.

city

53 Self-help

55 Go off script

56 Old Valerie

57 "Mazel —!"

58 III-mannered

59 Up until now

Woman"

singer Helen

61 Mined metals

**62** Supermodel

63 Minstrel poet

64 Social insect

67 In time past

Wek

autos

68 Gather in

69 Depend on

60 "I Am

Harper role

writer LeShan

51 Sousaphone,

society page

42 Tyro

**ROUGH JOURNEY** 

AHEAD

80 Comic Foxx

83 Salty Greek

cheese

84 Neighbor of

Yemen

85 Boils a little

86 Wild West

sheriff's

badge

87 Med. plan

Mayall

89 Minister's

study: Abbr.

second gear,

90 "Love Story"

novelist

Segal

91 Switch to

maybe 92 Chi preceder

93 Speechifies

94 Buff up

99 Steal

**107** Wows

108 Stare

66 Some antique 100 John of lawn

70 Mo. in spring 109 Stared at

75 Unlace, e.g. 112 Lock go-with

95 Chat with

tractors

105 Fruit drinks

111 Ex-Giant Mel

88 Comic actor

## **Super** Crossword

### 5 Thermal or 96 JFK posting

parental care

97 Deprived of

98 It's east of

Croatan

**101** "The devil —

the details"

(panaceas)

103 Alabama-to-

Illinois dir.

video-sharing

Sound

102 Cure- —

104 Per unit

110 Popular

**118** Villa

**121** "Get —"

(John

122 Chooses

service

113 Apt thing to

Croatia 7 Pakistan's

largest city **14** Rajiv or Indira

1 Neighbor of

**ACROSS** 

20 For only the price of production

21 Rarely used golf club

22 Aleve rival

23 Spectators' loud cheers

25 Sizable sofas

26 Angled

27 Southeast Kansas city

28 River islet 30 Beginner's

painting class

**31** Sousaphone, e.g.

33 Loaf flavored with a certain fragrant herb

39 Incorporates

gradually 43 Hitter Griffey

44 Having a knowledge of

arithmetic **45** "The Wild

Wild West" actor

**47** São —

74

81

98

102

110

118

121

94 95

(largest of the Cape Verdes)

data

89 Site-to-site

transfer of

93 "Glass half full" attitude

part

1 Fishhook

member

3 Read hastily 4 The Rhine

2 Siouan tribe

flows into it

72

99

89

96

114 | 115 | 116

75 76

82

103

113

119

122

88

111 112

86 87

### 14 Gallivant 15 Darth Vader,

pekoe

lateral lead-in

6 Initially

7 Germany's

8 Lend — (pay

(community

attention)

9 — center

facility)

10 Make public

**11** — -Magnon

supposed

to know?"

13 Darjeeling or

**12** "— |

Helmut

drive on while pondering in boyhood this puzzle's **16** CNN political theme?

commentator Ana

17 U.S. capital's

vicinity 18 Allude to

19 Not alfresco

Travolta film) 24 Drink mixer 29 Fact

32 Atop, to poets

34 Gumbo

vegetable 35 Fasten shut

36 Terminus 37 Vocalist

Sumac

73

97

90

101

120

123

77

100

104 105

**76** Having vulgar interests

71 Exist

Damone **77** To and — **115** Here, 78 Imminently

in Arles

116 Fizzling thing 117 Miracle-

16 17 18

### 21 20 23 25 24 26 28 31 32 34 33 35 36 37 40 41 42 43 44 47 45 46 48 49 50 54 56 59 62 64 63 65

## Answer

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:

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◆ ◆ Medium ◆ ◆ ◆ Difficult

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

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

### 48 Actress Jessica

49 parmigiana **50** Hi- — image

51 Golfer's peg 54 Vote in favor 55 Clarinetist Shaw

58 Wander 62 Temporary, as a

committee **63** Creator of Oz **106** Pound pen 65 Neighbor of

Croatia 66 Acquiesce, figuratively

71 Virgil epic 72 Noted Deco master 73 Paper opinion

pieces **74** Many a song **119** Fine-food fan by Journey or 120 Turn to ice

Chicago 77 Eight x five

78 Knight's title 81 Suffix with journal

123 Hurled 82 Alley-83 Flatware item DOWN

**85** Ho-hum thing

10

38 Ask earnestly 40 Golf target

39 Ask earnestly 11 12

**79** "Dies —" (hymn) 14 15

22

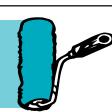
52 53

106 | 107 | 108 | 109

**8B** May 16, 2025 THE TIMBERJAY



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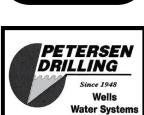


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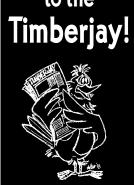


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- WELLS
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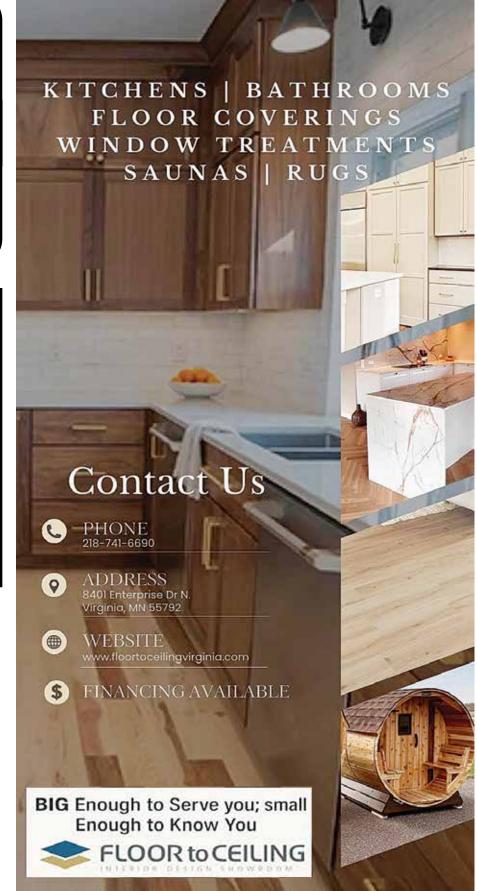
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SHORTY



### **Super** Crossword

Answers G A N D H I A N A C I N KARACHI BOSNIA A T C O S T ONEIRON ROAROFTHECROWD DIVANS BENTIOLA HORNEROSEMARYBREAD HASESIN KENNUMERATE OBERTONRAD TIAGO ROBERTCONRAD V E A L R E S ROAMAROUND E A A R T I E R O L L O V E R A N D P L A Y D E A D A E N E I D E R T E O P E D S

R O C K B A L L A D F O R T Y S I R

E S E O O P F O R K B O R E

T H R O W R E M O T E U P L O A D

O P T I M I S M E T A O R P H A N E D R O A N O K E I S L A N D I I S I N A L L S N N W E E A C H C EACHCAGE

T I K T O K D I V I D E D H I G H W A Y E S T A T E E P I C U R E F R E E Z E

DECIDES

F R E E Z E T O S S E D

## **CryptoQuip**

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

Clue: F equals B

SLWY IXCYS AT L BYKKQJTSY

UYOCXBY BTOQTOLAXTS

KTBLAYG XS FXOWXSIJLW'U

UALAY: WTFXKY LKLFLWL.

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