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THE BERJAY May 23

Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989

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BIG MACS NO MORE

Cook's McDonald's closing its doors

Changing consumer habits a likely factor; decision the latest blow to Cook's dining scene

by DAVID COLBURN Cook/Orr Editor

COOK - The golden arches are going dark in Cook.

The local McDonald's restaurant is set to close for good next Wednesday, May 28, according to store manager Jonah Kirkpatrick, who confirmed the decision in a brief conversation with

the *Timberjay* on Wednesday

Kirkpatrick, who lives in Hibbing, said he and the restaurant's nine other employees have been offered jobs at another location. While the shorter commute is a silver lining for him personally, he said he'll miss working in

"It's a great town," he

said. "Everybody's so nice." Ownership of the Cook

location quietly changed hands earlier this month when CLK Management, a Hibbing-based franchisee, sold the business to a new owner. But the closure, Kirkpatrick said, wasn't that owner's decision - it came from higher up. Specifically, McDonald's corporate head-

Right: The McDonald's in Cook, long a mainstay eatery along Hwy. 53, will be closing its doors permanently on May 28.

photo by D. Colburn

quarters. Kirkpatrick suggested the corporate office had been scrutinizing the Cook

See...CLOSING pg. 9



LAKE VERMILION

DNR to host open house on Moccasin **Point alterations**

by Marshall Helmberger Managing Editor

TOWER - Have questions about the planned changes at the Moccasin Point public landing on Lake Vermilion? Then you'll want to attend the open house set for Wednesday, June 18 at the Herbert Lamppa Civic Center in Tower.

The Department of Natural Resources, which owns the property, will be sharing their plans for extensive upgrades at the site and will be taking public input on the proposal from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The new access point, once reconstructed, is expected to include 98 parking spaces, a concrete pier and four docks, an

AIS cleaning station, and stormwater management. Construction on the site is slated to begin after the 2025 boating season and will continue through September 2026, which will require regular users of the landing to find an alternate access point until work is completed. Blackduck Bay is the nearest PWA, 1.3 miles to the west.

Project priorities

➤ Optimizing the parking opportunities on the site, including more clearly identifying all spaces and delineating ADA-accessible spaces for vehicle-trailer combinations and single vehicles.

See..ACCESS pg. 9

CITY OF ELY

What to do at 45 E. **Boundary Street?**

Council sets June 17 public hearing on Gillson's blighted residence

by Marshall Helmberger Managing Editor

ELY — The city council here, in a meeting on Tuesday, set a June 17 public hearing to discuss options for addressing the ongoing blight at the 45 E. Boundary St. residence owned by Jason Gillson and Mark Herman.

The property has been in disrepair for at least the past two years after Gillson attempted to burn the house after becoming upset during a domestic dispute. Subsequent inspections prompted the city to declare

the house uninhabitable and ordered Gillson to make a number of repairs. Gillson, meanwhile, was facing a myriad of charges stemming from the incident, which included a high-speed chase with police that finally ended in a field in Waasa Township.

Ely Building Official Doug Whitney told the council in a report that Gillson has failed to comply with a number of orders stemming from the fire and the efforts by the fire department to extinguish the blaze.

See...COUNCIL pg. 9



LIVING THE GOSPEL

Years of service and joy

95-year-old Pastor Art Dale honored for a lifetime of inspiration

by JODI SUMMIT Tower-Soudan Editor

OWER- A meaningful life is like a beautiful quilt, and that was the symbolism on display here last week as a sizable crowd of friends gathered at Immanuel Lutheran Church to recognize Pastor Art Dale, the recipient of the Heritage Quilt Award.

"This is the most meaningful volunteer award we give," said Pastor Kathryn Tiede, associate vice-president of philanthropy for Lutheran Social Services (LSS) of Minnesota. "It is not given out every year."

Tiede talked about Dale's lifetime of service and compared his life's work to the quilt being presented to him. "This award is not simply a token of appreciation. It is a story stitched together with threads of service, compassion, and enduring faith," she said. "It represents the selfless commitment of our volunteers, This is the most meaningful volunteer award we give.

Pastor Kathryn Tiede

who show up again and again, to live out the Gospel through acts of love, justice, and hope."

Dale, who now lives in Soudan with his wife Collette, has served as a parish pastor for 55 years, across northern Minnesota and other parts of the state. Besides his service to Lutheran congregations both here and abroad, he has focused his volunteer efforts on education and schools. He founded the nonprofit Volunteers in Education, which matches adult tutors with students in area schools on a

See...ART DALE pg. 11

Above: Retired Pastor Art Dale looks on while wrapped in the quilt presented to him last week for his decades of inspirational service.

Below: Bishop Amy Odgren prays with Dale during the award presentation.





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Contact The Timberjay

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Community notices

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.

Nelimark Homestead Museum opening on Thursday, May 29

EMBARRASS- The Nelimark Homestead Museum is opening for the 2025 season on May 29. The Nelimark will be open Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through the end of September. Join us this summer for coffee and some good visiting. Friday's are "Bread Day." The Nelimark is located on Hwy. 21 across from Timber Hall in Embarrass.

Join the Peace Circle in Ely on Mondays

ELY- Join us from noon to 12:30 p.m. every Monday at the First Presbyterian Church on Harvey Street in Ely. We sit in silence and focus on our theme or intention, "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me." Our goal is peace in the world. Everyone is welcome.

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.

Iron Range Veterans memorial pavers

VIRGINIA- The Iron Veterans Memorials still have memorial pavers for sale. Costs range from \$75 to \$500. Call 218-749-3751 or 218-744-3952 for details. Forms are also available inside Servicemen's Club on Chestnut St. The pavers are installed at the memorial park in Virginia. All checks for pavers or donations should be made to IRVM, Box 35, Virginia, MN 55792. Thank you to all who served or are currently serving.

Seeking volunteers for Iron Range **Veterans Memorial**

VIRGINIA- Are you interested in serving on the Iron Range Veterans Memorial volunteer committee or willing to help with light maintenance, taking secretarial notes, typing the paver names for public viewing, sealing of bricks, putting up posters, putting paver sales brochures in business locations, helping with trimming shrubs, and inventory of souvenirs? The committee meets infrequently with limited business in the Servicemen's Club on Chestnut St. in Virginia. Our IRVM volunteer committee has faced dwindling members. Everyone is welcome to join us. It is not necessary to have served, but always a nice component. Please call Charlene at 218-780-5425 with any questions or to vol-





PUBLIC TRANSIT

New bus route connects Ely, Tower, Embarrass, Babbitt to Virginia, expanding access across the Iron Range

ELY- Beginning Tuesday, June 24, Arrowhead Transit will launch a new weekly service connecting Ely to Virginia and beyond. The new Boundary Waters Loop will make reliable stops in Babbitt, Embarrass, and Tower before reaching Virginia, offering Ely-area residents' new access to essential services, groceries, expanded health care options, and Iron Range destinations like the Range Regional Airport and Hibbing.

"This is more than a route — it's a connection to opportunity," said Adam Roen, transit manager for St. Louis County. "It gives Ely residents access not only to hospitals and major retailers, but also to job centers, the airport, and connecting transit routes that reach across the region. It's one more way we're closing the gap for rural communities."

The new service responds directly to feedback from Ely and Babbitt residents requesting improved transportation to the Quad Cities. Riders can now plan medical appointments at Virginia's Essentia Health, pick up groceries at Super One, Target, and Walmart, or continue toward Hibbing and other Range locations through Arrowhead's broader network.



Boundary Waters Loop – Tuesday Schedule

Morning Route (to Ely and Tower): 7 a.m. – Depart Gilbert 7:15 a.m. – Virginia 8 a.m. - Embarrass 8:20 a.m. – Babbitt (Dollar Gen.)

9:30 a.m. – Tower 10:15 a.m. -Virginia (drop-offs at Essentia Health, Super One, Target, and

8:45 a.m. – Ely (MN North-Verm.)

Walmart) Afternoon Return Trip 2 p.m. - Pickups in Virginia (Walmart, Essentia, Super One, Target) 3 p.m. – Tower

3:45 p.m. – Ely (MN North-Verm.) 4:10 p.m. – Babbitt (Dollar Gen.)

4:30 p.m. – Embarrass

5:15 p.m. – Virginia 5:30 p.m. – Arrive in Gilbert

Fare is \$5 one-way. Start date is Tuesday, June 24. Reservations are required, call 1-800-862-0175 (Option 2).

"This is about giving people choices," said Brandon Nurmi, director of Arrowhead Transit. "Trying to make a specialist appointment, catch a flight, or just get your shopping done, you now have a safe and reliable ride.'

For more details or to reserve a ride, visit arrowheadtransit.com.

LAKE VERMILION CULTURAL CENTER

Midsummer 2025 to feature online silent auction fundraiser

TOWER- Join the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center on Saturday, June 14 for the annual Midsummer benefit. After a very successful Midsummer Memories benefit in 2024, it felt like the end of an era due to the retirement of Jan Kimes as writer, producer, and director of the musical program. With much consideration, the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center Board and Midsummer Committee decided to continue with the same format as previous years. The evening includes a cash bar, a silent auction, dinner and a musical program. Guests are encouraged to glam up for the gala event.

There will be a few changes this year. The writer and producer of the program, "Songs of the Journey," is LVCC board member and longtime participant in the program, Ryan Bajan. Ryan asks guests "to join us on an adventure across the Atlantic as we present songs from the immigration to Minnesota as well as unique pieces highlighting the diversity of cultural roots in our region." The show will feature regional talent such as members of The Sectionals, members of the Choralaires, the multi-talented Steve Solkela, as well as a community choir. Songs will range from popular Broadway tunes to old sea shanties centered on the immigrants' journey.



The Sectionals will be performing at the event. file photo

There is also a change in the silent auction. It was decided to hold an online silent auction this year. The advantage of an online auction is participants can view the items and make bids even if are outside the area. The auction will last for several days, beginning on June 6 at 9 a.m. CDT and ending the evening of Midsummer, June 14 at 6 p.m. We will be using the website www.32auctions. com/LVCC2025 where you can set up a safe and secure account to view and bid on our amazing auction items. Winners may pick up their items in the Halunen lobby at the LVCC after the program

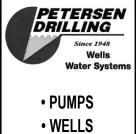
on June 14 or have them shipped. There is a social hour and a smaller in-person silent auction inside the civic center before dinner, and we have also added a cash bar.

The live auction is the they can't attend the event or same as previous years. It will be held after dinner with Steve Solkela calling the auction. Popular items that will again be offered: A seven-night stay at an alpine chalet in France with room for eight people, a one-week stay at the La Rocca bed and breakfast in the wine county of the Risotto Valley near Milan, and two Minnesota Wild tickets. Start getting your friends organized to bid on these fun items.

The Midsummer Committee is excited to host this benefit, the biggest fundraiser of the year for the LVCC, in a way that is familiar with a few changes. Find more details in the ad in today's paper. If you did not receive an invitation, you may order tickets online at vermilionculturalcenter.org. Watch this paper, the LVCC website, and the FB page for more information on the online and live auctions. We look forward to seeing you on June 14!







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

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NORTHWOODS PARTNERS

There's a lot you can do to keep your heart healthy

ELY- At the Northwoods Partners Healthy Aging Expo, held last Thursday at the Grand Ely Lodge, a room packed full of seniors learned from Abby Sirek and Tommy Teigan how to keep their heart

Sirek and Teigan both work at Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital, Sirek as a pharmacist and Teigan as director of cardiopulmonary rehabilitation. Sirek also serves on the Northwoods Partners Board of Directors.

Heart disease is the leading killer of men and women. In 2022, heart disease killed 702,880 people, one in every five deaths. Cardiovascular disease, also known as heart disease, isn't a diagnosis in itself. It's a broad term for several problems that can affect the heart, including plaque build-up in the arteries, heart attack, stroke, heart failure, irregular heartbeat and heart valve problems.

So, what can you do to keep your ticker healthy? The number one best thing you can do for your body, said Teigan, is if you use tobacco, stop. Nicotine use, in any form, is the top contributor to heart disease. Your risk of heart disease drops after just one day of quitting. After one year tobacco-free your risk drops by 50-percent. There are many resources available to help you quit smoking, reach out to your doctor to make a plan.

Exercise is the next best thing you can do, says Teigan. "This is non-negotiable," he said. The current guidelines recommend that you should get 150 minutes of moderate intensity exercise per week, which breaks down to 30 minutes a day, five times per week. Moderate inSenior expo showcases numerous senior supports available to seniors in Ely, Babbitt, Tower



tensity exercise should get your heart rate up and make you breath harder, but you should still be able to hold a conversation comfortably.

Not sure what exercise to do? Include weight-lifting two times per week. The more resistance you put on your muscles and bones, the stronger they will become, reducing your risk of osteoporosis and falls. Otherwise, Teigan says, the best exercise is one you enjoy doing. A manicured routine looks good on paper but can be hard to adhere to. It's better to do something you're naturally propelled to do, whether it be pickleball with friends, swimming in the lake, or taking your dog for a walk. Having accountability in the form of a friend or exercise class helps, so does scheduling a specific time to exercise so you don't keep putting it off.

Teigan also recommended making slow and steady changes to your diet, eating whole foods that promote feelings of fullness, decreasing portion sizes, limiting snacking, and decreasing or eliminating sweetened drinks and alcohol. He said to avoid processed foods and sugar substitutes because they can end up making you even more hungry.

Sirek said managing your blood sugar, for both diabetics and non-diabetics, can be very important. Foods with lots of simple carbohydrates, like white bread and sugar, can make your blood sugar spike. Getting light exercise, like a 5-10-minute walk after meals, can make a big difference to help your body regulate blood sugar.

Lastly, keep your stress under control. Stress can be physical, like recovering from surgery, illness, or a health episode or it can be emotional, like coping with a loved one's death, workplace stress or bad news. Basic self-care like eating healthy, getting enough exer-



Left: Northwoods Partners board members Dick Flesvig and Walk Leino greeted attendees. Above: Joanna Leino, Sarah Sullinger from Essentia Health Hospice speak with Cheryl Boyes. photos by S. Ukkola

cise, and adequate sleep can make a big difference. Social supports like meeting up with friends, meditation, and therapy can be helpful

Sirek also went over the large variety of medications available to treat heart disease. If you're on medications, one helpful free service Ely-Bloomenson Pharmacy provides for their patients is a comprehensive medication review that helps you understand how your medications work and how they help you and how you can take them appropriately and safely. Talk to your pharmacist for more infor-

The expo highlighted many other services available to seniors. Northwoods Partners has over 90 volunteers who help local seniors with friendly visits, long-distance transportation to appointments, local transportation for small errands, grocery delivery, exercise buddies, group exercise programs, caregiver support, a memory care program, and an aging mastery program. Northwoods Partners can also help connect you to other support ser-

Northwoods Partners offered thanks to sponsors of the event, including Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital, Ely-Bloomenson Community Pharmacy, Essential Health and Highland Bank.

To reach out for services or to volunteer, contact Northwoods Partners at 218-365-8019, email info@northwoodspartners.org or visit their website, www.northwoodspartners.org. Don't miss their upcoming Annual Fundraiser Dinner: Celebrating the Magic of Movies on Thursday, June 26 at 5 p.m. at the Miner's Dry House. Call 218-365-8019 to purchase your

STATE GOVERNMENT

Lawmakers miss the budget mark; need special session

Governor to call back legislature complete key spending bills, education funds, bonding

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- The Minnesota Legislature wrapped up its 2025 regular session late Monday night without completing its most essential task: passing a full two-year state budget. Lawmakers failed to finalize more than half of the necessary budget bills before the constitutional adjournment deadline, prompting the need for a special session in the coming days.

"My mouth is full of cuss words right now," said Senate Majority Leader Erin Murphy, DFL-St. Paul, on Monday. "We are waiting now for work to come over from the House of Representatives."

House Speaker Lisa Demuth, R-Cold Spring, disputed Murphy's remark and said her caucus had been prepared to work through the

"We knew it was going to be difficult. But we were ready to get to work and do that right away, and you've seen compromise all the way through," she said.

Legislative working groups made up of both House and Senate members were expected to meet through mid-week to hammer out the details of the remaining budget

bills. Gov. Tim Walz said he would only call a special session once he is confident the bills are ready to

"When the work's done and they're ready," Walz said, "I'll bring them back for a one-day special session and we'll button things

Despite a flurry of activity over the weekend and into Monday, the most closely divided Legislature in state history, with 101 Democrats, 100 Republicans, and an evenly-split House, couldn't bridge the gaps in time. Only nine of the approximately 20 budget and policy bills made it through both chambers by the midnight deadline. Major items, including bills for educa-

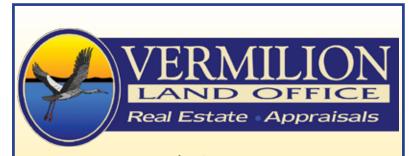
See BUDGET..pg. 5

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OPINION

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

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

rEditorial

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Climate change

Increasing numbers of forest fires affect our health and quality of life

The heavy smoke that made breathing a chore for many in northern St. Louis County this past week is just the latest reminder that our future is clouded by the changing climate.

We know that our climate is warming – the data on that could not be clearer. The ten hottest years globally in human history have all occurred within the past ten years, a streak that no one can legitimately dismiss as coincidence. We know, as well, that the frequency and intensity of drought is increasing as a result. Add in extreme temperatures, like we experienced last week with our unprecedented early May heat wave, and you have all the makings of the conditions we recently experienced in our region with the Brimson Complex fires.

We've been here before. with increasing frequency. The biggest wildfires in Minnesota in the last century, including Pagami Creek, Ham Lake, Cavity Lake, Greenwood, and now the Brimson Complex fires, have all occurred since 2006. That's not a coincidence.

And if it isn't smoke from fires down the road, it's coming from Canada or the western U.S., which means our air quality on any given summer day depends mostly on the direction of the upper winds.

All around the world, forests are burning like never before in human history. A recent study in the prestigious scientific journal, Nature, suggests that the increasing prevalence of wildfire smoke is beginning to erode the progress we've made on air quality in the U.S. since the enactment of the Clean Air Act. This is just one of the many costs of our failure to address the threat posed by climate change.

And yet, our current political leaders aren't just ignoring the problem - they're actively and intentionally making it worse. At a time when climate change is increasing the incidence of extreme fire as well as the frequency and severity of storms and flooding events, we have an administration that is actively working to not just de-emphasize these threats, but to actually prohibit studies and even policy-level discussions on ways to address the impacts of climate change.

websites have Federal been scrubbed of information related to the changing climate. Research on the subject has been canceled and existing studies have been stuffed down

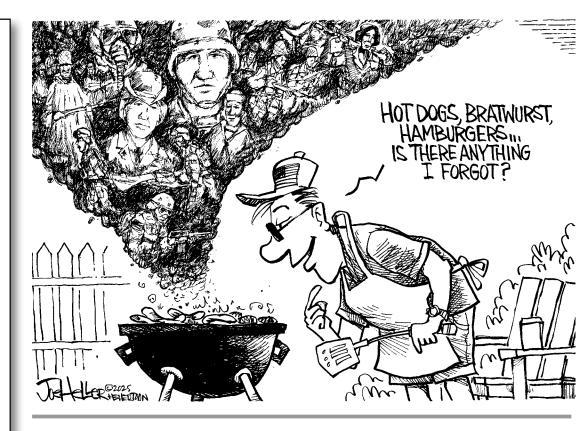
the Trump administration's memory hole. In the case of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, farmers had to sue the Trump administration to get them to agree to restore basic climate-related information, which farmers said they rely on for their decision-making on what and when to plant.

As we noted here last week, the administration has canceled the Energy Star program, which saved U.S. consumers billions of dollars annually and promoted industry innovation in energy efficiency. There is no downside to helping consumers make good choices. Intentionally gutting sound public policy is akin to vandalism, and it's become a hallmark of the current White House.

administration that claims it wants to Make America Healthy Again has a strange way of showing it. At a time when wind and solar are now the cheapest and cleanest ways to generate electricity, we have an administration that is actively promoting the greater use of coal, even though the negative health effects of coal burning are well documented.

The health effects of wildfire smoke are equally well understood. As we report this week (see page 4B), wildfire smoke produces a nasty mix of gases, but state health officials are most concerned about the prevalence of fine particulates in wildfire smoke. These fine particulates have "the ability to deeply penetrate lung tissue and even affect the heart and circulatory system," according to the Minnesota Department of Health. Children, older adults, the poor, and those suffering from respiratory or circulatory diseases are most at risk from the effects of wildfire smoke.

We all know the way to address this problem. We have to drastically reduce the burning of fossil fuels, which contribute directly to the global warming that has fueled our climate chaos and contributed to the increasing incidence of wildfire. We have to encourage political leaders who ignore the problem and directly challenge those who deny the reality of the climate chaos their destructive policies will foster. If we want to avoid a future of darkened skies and frequent outbreaks of suffocating smoke, we need to act now. The survival of the world we've known depends on



Letters from Readers

Other faces to remember on Memorial Day

I suppose as a veteran I should appreciate recognition on Memorial Day, but in our remembering, let's not forget that in the past, our military has glorified body counts, even when many of those bodies were non-combatant women and

Our facilitation of the wars in Ukraine and Gaza is an example of American government contempt for diplomacy and worship of military solutions for political problems.

As a member of Veterans for Peace, I object to the terrible military and economic warfare being waged by the Trump administra-

> **Bob Tammen** Soudan

The billionaires want it all

Be forewarned, the Republicans are our modern version of apex predators. The billionaire class is on the hunt and you, and your children's future are on the menu. They want everything. Your health care. Your retirement security. Your public lands for their exploitation and tax cuts to undermine the government's ability to function properly. The list goes on and on. The apex predators want everything and belittle those question who their plans. These are people whose fortunes were built feeding at the public trough in the form of government subsidies, tax breaks, and government grants. Never mind the biggest benefit they exploit is the fact that they have built their wealth in a country where generations of Americans have toiled and invested in infrastructure and a stable society where this kind of

wealth building is possible (And now they want a huge tax cut). But the most egregious and heinous aspect of this whole scenario is that once they have gathered obscene amounts of wealth, they turn on the society that gave them opportunities and use that wealth to steal your voice and undermine our democracy. This kind of money on the loose in our society is a toxic poison. "Citizen's United" must be overturned. Even the most casual student of history knows that this is an unsustainable path.

Tim McKenzie

Trump is damaging America's reputation

"Tornadoes, severe storms leave at least 21 dead in Missouri and Kentucky. More than 700,000 homes and businesses without power," according to CNN.

Unfortunately, these ever-recurring types of headlines do not prompt President Trump to seek scientific knowledge pertaining to climate change. He still thinks it is a hoax, despite the accumulation of research data supporting that rising world temperatures are causing disastrous climate change. Not only has he not tried to learn about climate change, he has actively belittled and destroyed efforts to deal with the causal impacts on our planet. Examples include:

- ➤ Closing or reducing weather stations which are key for timing of food crops.
- ➤ Gutting the Federal Emergency Management Agency.
- ➤ Encouraging the extraction of harmful fossil fuels.
- > Encouraging the use of and exploitation of forest products that produce photosynthesis.
- ➤ Producing food insecurity
- due to floods and drought. ➤ Reducing renewable fuel by
- blocking offshore wind turbines. ➤ Intensifying Earth's temperatures by spewing greenhouse

gases into the atmosphere.

➤ Eroding coastlines with rising oceans due to increased tem-

Meanwhile, Trump withdrew from the Paris Agreement, making the United States the only country in the world of 200 countries to withdraw from this critical climate agreement during its decade of existence, despite the fact that the U.S. is the largest contributor to climate change. He has discredited and tarnished the U.S. reputation to all the world's countries as an unreliable partner that cannot be depended upon. This damaging image has been reinforced by his destructive action in forcing tariff taxes on 150 countries. An example of Trump's lack of leadership is the loss of Canada, a longtime friend and ally that is no longer a partner, but fortunately not yet an enemy.

> Gerry Snyder Ely



Your letters

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

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

COMMENTARY

My latest adventures, or how about a wild goose chase

ment adventures. In the process, I have ended up on a couple of wild goose chases. I like to shop on Facebook's Marketplace to find good, used pieces of furniture, plus going on these junkets to pick up the pieces can be lots of fun, and also at times nerve

wracking. I had been searching for a decent couch for a while, then located one south of Cloquet in Mahtowa. So, on the beautiful morning of

Lately, I've been side- April 27, son Keaton, my tracked by furniture replace- friend, the Horse Whisperer, and I hooked up a

trailer to my Jeep and headed south with Keaton at the wheel. All I knew

about Mahtowa was that it was an exit on the way to Minneapolis after Gordy's and pre-Tobies. We arrived at the rudestination using GPS and I

was thrilled with the "goodas-new" tapestry patterned sofa that had belonged to the mother of the seller and was the traditional style I like. I also was given a full-size wooden spinning wheel that just happened to be sitting in the garage on its way to Goodwill. It reminded me of years' past when I owned an Ashford wheel and used to card my own wool, spin yarn, and knit. I figured this one to be decoration only, so we put it in the trailer and drove off to eat at the local Mahtowa Tavern, where the sellers told us we'd find great food. Not only were the burgers excellent, but the adjacent building housed the charming TJ's Country Store, where the owners make their own meat and the butcher himself owns the place. So between

the three of us, we ended up

with a tasty variety which has since proved to be worth another trip....with or without a furniture pick-up.

In early May, while again perusing Facebook Marketplace, I found a rocking chair and ottoman over in Grand Rapids, so a couple days later I motored over to pick it up. Luckily, it wouldn't fit into my Jeep, and I discouraged the male seller from trying harder as I was not really impressed with the quality. I did an "awe shucks"... and blasted off to go shopping. Instead of spending my money on the chair, I sauntered into Bender's shoes, a favorite regional store, and bought a pair of sensible leather sandals, which was just as delightful and thus prevented the trip from becoming a wild goose chase. On the way home I took my time, driving through many Iron Range towns I hadn't visited in a long while: Bovey, Coleraine, and Marble. Gosh, I thought to myself, filming crews could really find great settings for creepy suspense movies on the Range because so many of the main streets of these once-bustling communities are vacated and often so dilapidated. It is sad, but that's just the way things are I guess.

About a week later, again on FB Marketplace, fortune revealed an early Amerilots of spindles and a foot rest to match with lovely textured burgundy upholstery. I made arrangements to go pick it up in Proctor. Driving down highway 53, the seller notified me stating that she could meet me in the Duluth Mall parking lot by JC Penney to make things easier. "Eureka," I exclaimed! More time to shop! As you may recall, my last shopping adventure in the cities was usurped by pending hotel charges, so away I went on this gifted opportunity! After a short wait, the chair lady pulled up next to me. Greetings and

can-style glider rocker with

See CHASE...pg. 5

May 23, 2025 5 THE TIMBERJAY

An open letter to Sen. Hauschild

Sen. Hauschild, with all due respect: Have you lost your marbles? How else to explain your counterproductive and nonsensical actions and words of late.

First, you introduce legislation extending by decades a sales tax rebate providing millions for data center construction, making it especially attractive for mega-data centers that spend at least a quarter-billion dollars on equipment, software and electricity. Your proposal for massive handouts to some of the world's richest

corporations - think Google and Amazon, for starters – is occurring at the same time predicted budget deficits see you and other legislators taking an axe to crucial programs your constituents rely

Worse than the financial repercussions to the state budget and average taxpayers, these data centers will use staggering amounts of electricity and water. If the ten currently proposed mega-data centers are built, they alone could consume as much tax-exempt electricity as all 2.3 million homes in Minnesota combined, along with hundreds of millions of gallons of water.

Letters from Readers

And yet you fancy yourself a supporter of the state's clean energy goals? Senator, your legislation will make it impossible to meet those goals because the electric demand from the data centers would far surpass our ability to meet it with additional clean energy sources. The only way to satisfy the demand would be to build new climate-busting fossil fuel power plants like Xcel Energy's natural gas-fired power plant that the Public Utilities Commissioned recently approved in anticipation of data center-driven electricity demand. No amount of magical thinking or empty rheto-

Data mining of our personal data is one of the main reasons for building these data centers (along with enabling the financially dubious cryptocurrency industry), yet you sing the praises of the benefits that will flow to society as a result.

Then, as if saying, "oops, never mind," you publish an editorial in the May 11 Star Tribune condemning the same data mining your taxbreak legislation supports because of the harms it causes our "children, families and communities." Your remedy? Tax the very companies your data center legislation gives tax breaks. You can't

make this stuff up.

Taking your oppositional thinking (the ability to hold two directly opposite ideas in your brain simultaneously) next level, you say we need these taxes because budget cuts "will threaten the life and livelihood of millions of Minnesotans, including more than 150,000 residents in the Eighth Congressional District alone." Ironically, these budget cuts will be made worse by your give-a-billionaire-a-tax-

break legislation. What your one hand giveth, your other taketh away, Senator? This level of hypocrisy is shocking even by the standards of today's politics. Do you think we're not smart enough to catch on, or just not paying attention? Think again, Senator. It's obvious you are positioning yourself to run for higher office, but performative stunts like the Star Tribune editorial and ruinous legislation like your data center bill won't escape our attentionor that of potential primary opponents - when that election comes around. **Steve Wilson**

Isabella

BUDGET...Cont. from page 3

tion, health, human services, and transportation, remain unfinished.

Partial progress

Some smaller but still consequential measures were passed in the session's final

➤ A \$365 million veterans budget package includes additional investments in state veterans' homes and services, suicide prevention efforts, and pension credits for National Guard members deployed for state active

➤ A key element of last year's DFL agenda, paid family and medical leave, will continue to move forward. A compromise was reached to cap the payroll tax funding the program at 1.1 percent instead of 1.2 percent. The current rate is 0.88 percent. The benefit is scheduled to take effect in 2026.

➤ Pension improvements for teachers and public safety officers, including lower early retirement penalties and cost-of-living adiustments.

➤ A strengthened ignition interlock law for repeat DWI offenders.

➤ Closure of the aging Stillwater Correctional Facility, included in a broader public safety bill, though some lawmakers expressed frustration that the decision was made without full legislative involvement.

Big bills remain

The two largest pieces of the state budget, education and health, are also the most politically difficult.

The House passed its K-12 education finance bill, but the Senate had not even debated its version before the deadline. That means the two chambers must reconcile significant differences on items such as special education and student transportation. Education alone accounts for about one-third of the state's general fund budget. Some urgency

emerge around funding summer unemployment benefits for school staff. To get that piece through, lawmakers stripped \$77 million from the Northern Lights Express passenger rail project, a proposed train between Minneapolis and Duluth, and passed a standalone bill. The rail line has long been viewed as a potential boon for northeastern Minnesota travelers, particularly those without easy access to Twin Cities services or flights.

Sen. Jason Rarick, R-Pine City, unsuccessfully attempted to attach the full \$26 billion education budget to that bill as an amendment.

"We can get 40 percent of the state budget done before we get into a special session," he said.

Sen. Mary nesh, DFL-New Brighderided Rarick's ploy, calling the move "sloppy," "lazy," "irresponsible," and "banana pants." The bill also provides millions in additional funding for school districts to comply with the state's READ Act, aimed at improving Minnesota's lagging literacy out-

ric from you can change that

Immigrant health

The budget deal struck last week between Walz and legislative leaders included a controversial compromise adults who are undocumented immigrants would lose eligibility for MinnesotaCare beginning in 2026, while children would remain covered.

The issue has sparked a revolt among DFL lawmakers, some of whom have said they cannot support the health budget bill unless the provision is removed.

"I believe that undocumented folks should be, are entitled to the same access to health care that all the rest of us are," said Sen. Judy Seeberger, DFL-Afton. "So no, I do not support that at all."

Rep. Emma Greenman, DFL-Minneapolis, took to the floor Monday, saying, "We will not acquiesce to the Republicans' cruel agenda of taking things away from people."

The provision is a GOP priority, and Senate Minority Leader Mark Johnson defended its inclusion. "They're finally having to realize there are constraints on Minnesota taxpayers,'

Johnson said. "We're not an infinite state of money and the ability to pay for whatever projects they want to

Also left unresolved is the budget bill covering human services, which includes funding for elder care and services for Minnesotans with disabilities. Among the items at stake are waiver services that help people with developmental disabilities live independently and support services for seniors aging at home or in long-term care facilities. Advocates and providers have raised concerns about workforce shortages and reimbursement rates that haven't kept up with inflation.

The Legislature also failed to act on a proposed extension of unemployment insurance benefits for laidoff Iron Range miners. The House passed the bill 132-0 in the session's final hours, but the Senate adjourned without taking action. The bill would have extended benefits by 26 weeks for approximately 640 miners laid off this spring from Hibbing Taconite and the Minorca Mine in Virginia. "There's not 640 other jobs for them to go to," said Rep. Cal Warwas, R-Clinton Township.

Rep. Roger Skraba, R-Ely, said he doubted one of the mines would reopen before the end of the year, when regular benefits would run out. The extension would cost an estimated \$15 mil-

Sen. Grant Hauschild, DFL-Hermantown, who is on both the Taxes and Jobs and Labor working groups, said he would continue to advocate for the benefit, as well as additional assistance for area schools.

"From an unemployment benefit extension for laid off steelworkers to seasonal recreational tax changes that will help our rural schools, I will keep fighting for the interest of Northern Minnesota," he said. "Now, let's roll up our sleeves, and finish the job."

Bonding bill

Notably absent from the final flurry of votes was a bonding bill to fund water treatment, roads, bridges, and other public infrastructure. Local governments across the state are hoping for state assistance, but the bonding package didn't get far enough along to advance. However, support for local infrastructure projects was dwarfed by allocations for major investments in deferred maintenance of state buildings and new construc-

Senate Republicans haven't signaled whether they'll support a bonding bill during the special session, and a three-fifths majority is required for passage.

Working group negotiations are expected to continue through mid-week as legislators work to finalize bill language. Walz and legislative leaders hope those efforts will yield enough consensus to allow the special session to wrap up the remaining bills in a single

"Against the backdrop of the dysfunction in D.C., this is a pretty remarkable thing to see - the most closely divided Legislature in Minnesota history working together in a fiscally responsible way," Walz said.

Lawmakers hope to wrap up their work before Memorial Day weekend.

"Trying to figure out how this puzzle fits together is a big chore," Senate Minority Leader Johnson said.

MPR News and Minn-Post contributed to this ar-

CHASE...Cont. from page 4

cash were exchanged, and I loses stuff." now had the chair with spindles abounding and unblemished upholstery.

Business aside, I went on my merry way to enjoy the day with a trip into the mall. I bee-lined to Art In The Alley, which is a favorite tiny boutique with colorful, free-spirited treasures. I had a great time, and I ended up purchasing tops as well as a pair of earrings.

Upon leaving, I looked into my purse for my phone and discovered it was missing. I had just used it to check my messages, so I surmised I had set it down somewhere while caught up in the festive vibes. I went back inside and notified the kind, elderly clerk who assisted in searching high and low with no

success. I left Duluth, very dismayed, surmising that the two people who had come into the shop found it and had taken it while I was distracted and trying on clothing. I felt frustrated, then angry at the suspected thieves, and at the same time thought, "you don't know for sure that they took it, Scarlet." As I drove north, I contemplated how my day had been so fun up until the loss of the phone.

In Oprah fashion, I countered any self-pity, remaining balanced...grateful for my home and family. I was on track emotionally... except for slight accusations of thievery directed at those two blurry strangers. "It's just a thing, the loss isn't life threatening, and it's not the start of dementia...everyone

Suddenly, I couldn't remember for sure if I had phone insurance....this was more like dementia. I was agonizing over the possible expense and thought maybe I would just get a cheap Tracfone, and I also thought that not having the phone would free up so much of my time and that was a good thing.

Did the universe plan this? Why squelch all my shopping moments...I work three jobs, pay taxes, and just donated to MPR. It is an inconvenience to someone such as me, who uses all features of an iPhone for work, plus the thing had my contacts and passwords etc. Damn it.

I drove straight to AT&T in Mt. Iron and spoke with the agent who told me I needed my four-digit password for AT&T and my Apple watch in order to get into my account. So, I drove all the way back to Soudan, picked up my old Rolodex with the yellowing cards with passwords and codes, grabbed the Apple watch, gulped down a few spoonfuls of honey yogurt and buzzed back to AT&T.

Driving around without my phone made me feel insecure and I started imagining getting a flat tire and some creep pulling over to help...who'd hit me over the head with a hammer, rob me, probably skip the rape... then dump my aging hippie carcass into a swamp some-

where. How exhausting, and I didn't want to eat because

I got by on a bag of mixed nuts and that yogurt through-

When I got back to AT&T, I had my favorite agent Kris to work with, and I quickly explained my unfortunate situation. Kris was impressed to see the vintage rolodex exclaiming, "Wow, you actually still have one of these?" I said, "Yes, and at times like this you can see why everyone should." It had my AT&T four-digit passcode, and my Apple ID too, so he was able to use my Apple watch and "ping" my phone, which was still in the Duluth Mall!

Oh my, "the thieves hadn't fled...I thought." Kris, who is kind, persuasive, and had bought his wife's diamond at Helzberg, kindly asked a clerk to walk the short distance down the mall where my phone was discovered pinging on the floor under a shelf of leggings where it had fallen and tumbled out

Well, I was just delighted, so with newfound energy, I decided to drive back to Duluth and get it. By this time, I was feeling a little bit like I was in the twilight zone, and I was wondering what lessons in this definite goose chase were to be learned? I went back to Art in the Alley where shift change had occurred, and a young clerk said that a person from AT&T took the phone be-

cause it was pinging. 'What the heck?" I thought, and briskly walked to the AT&T store near-

that would make me tired so by where the store agents said they had not had any

phones turned in that day. I was getting really annoved as they sent me to another AT&T store in the central entrance location. No luck there either, so I had an agent call the rest of the Duluth locations. Nothing came up, so I had the agent there "ping" my watch and it was

still at the store in the mall. So now, the small group of us working on the project thought the store clerk may be lying....so I was ready to bring in mall security.

I drove quickly back to the mall, and with the new skill of "pinging" learned, I strode in.... shoulders squared back, chin jutted out and "pinging" the entire

As I walked past Helzberg Jewelry with a fixed gaze and a growling stomach, a jewelry clerk called out, "Is that you pinging for your phone?" Immediately I softened, pulled in my dagger, and relaxed my chin. I stopped, turned, and like a docile Tupperware lady from the 1950s, smiled with eyes wide and strode into Helz-

Inside, I felt pretty cheap having been mentally accusing people of thievery when it was not the case. I simply had lost it, and those sorts of things happen, but what a wild goose chase. I drove immediately to Chick-Fil-A, then hit Kohls for a quick blast of retail revenge therapy and got home after dark.

TIMBERJAY

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

Week of May 26

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 June 17 Greenwood Fire Dept.-Training meetings on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

Thursday

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

Vermilion Country School **Board- Meetings** posted online at vermilioncountry.org.



TSHS weekly winners

TOWER- The \$100 winner of week 36 of Charlemagne's 52 Club is Corky Eloranta of Tower.

History Tidbit: Tower Cemetery Part 2: Most of the people in the initial Tower Cemetery were employees of the sawmills and the mines. Newspaper articles described the ultimate end of some, usually due to accidents. Many children were also buried there, dying from various diseases.

W. N. Shephard, early Tower resident, wrote about the first burial in the cemetery, at noon on July 7th, 1884: "About 12 o'clock P.M. July 7th, 1884, I arrived at Tower and was informed that the first Tower funeral services were held that afternoon over the remains of a man named Brown who had been killed in the Breitung

Part 3 to be continued next week.

Babbitt Golf Association awards scholarships

BABBITT- The Babbitt Golf Association and its Men's Club has awarded \$17,500 in scholarships to seven graduates of Northeast Range High School. Each scholarship is the amount of \$2,500. The seniors awarded the scholarships are: Noah Backe, Else Bee, Joshua Burton, Zachary Poderzay, Hunter Spain, Danica Sunblad, and Maizy Sunblad.

According to scholarship chairman Jim Lassi, this is the 27th year that the golf association has been awarding scholarships. The seven awarded this year bring the total number to 138 students, and the amount to \$240,500.

The scholarship money is raised through the annual scholarship golf scramble tournament held on Labor Day weekend.

THOSE WHO SERVED

Tower-Soudan Memorial Day Tribute on Monday, May 26 TOWER- The Tower- Souwill be sung by the Tower-Soudan area-wide annual Memorial dan Area Singers under the direction of Rolf Anderson. They are Day Tribute will be held on Monday, May 26, at the Herb Lamppracticing on Mondays through

pa Civic Center from 10 a.m. to noon. This tribute will honor the military service and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform, their families at home, and those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

The names of local veterans killed in action and other deceased veterans from the Tow-

er-Soudan area will be read. A medley of patriotic songs May at 5 p.m. in the Tower-Soudan Elementary School music room. All are welcome to join.

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

The program will conclude

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

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

PUBLIC SAFETY

Tower Ambulance Service honored for work in 2024

TOWER- For the third year in a row, the Tower Area Ambulance Service has been awarded a "Certificate of Clinical Excellence" by the Minnesota Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS). In 2024, the ambulance service achieved a performance rate of 80-percent or higher on five or more of the clinical advisory performance measures.

"This means we followed the

recommended protocols," said Tower Ambulance Director Dena Suihkonen. "They reviewed all our call data."

"The award reflects the dedication of your organization, leadership, medical director, and most importantly, the exemplary care and documentation provided by your crew members," said Dylan Ferguson, OEMS Director. "Your organization should take great pride in the outstanding care it provides to the communities and citizens your serve."

Earning this award every year since 2022, when it was first enacted, is highly unusual for services in our area. Suihkonen said.

The ambulance service currently has 30 members, and this year everyone is keeping busy.

"Calls are way up from last year,"

Suihkonen asked that everyone be on the lookout for older adults with dementia wandering out on roads. "We have been seeing more and more of these in the area," she

FOURTH OF JULY

Tower's 5K/10K Vermilion Run set for July 4

TOWER- The 41st Annual Vermilion Run and Walk is set for Friday, July 4 in Tower, rain or shine at 8 a.m. There is a 5K run/walk, a 10K run, and a free Kids 1-mile fun run.

The race starts on Main St. at the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center lawn (registration will be inside the building in case of rain). Registrations accepted race day between 6:30-7:45 a.m. sharp!

10K or 5K- \$15 per person in advance- \$20 on race day. Kids 12 and are under free with paid adult.

5K family rate is \$40. The kids fun run is free and is run on a course around the football field. T-shirts can be pre-ordered by June 13 (to be sure we have your size), or a limited number will be available on race day. Previous year's race shirts will be available starting at \$5 each.

The race routes are the same as last year. The 10K route runs east on North Second St. to Soudan, where runners turn onto the paved trail that goes to McKinley Park, then around the "horn," then onto the paved trail

at Hoodoo Point and back to Tower. The finish line is on North Second St. by the old football field. The 5K is an out-and-back to Hoodoo Point. Prizes for the top three runners, male and female, for both races.

Preregister by emailing Jodi Summit at jsummit@vermilioncountry.org or stop by the Timberjay office in Tower.

For more information, contact Jodi Summit at 218-753-2950 (leave a message).

Volunteers are needed to help

with registration, help with the fun run, and to help direct runners. Volunteers are needed between 7 - 9a.m., so there will still be plenty of time to go get some pancakes at the civic center before the parade!

The race is a fundraiser for the Vermilion Country School, a grades 7-12 public charter school located in Tower. The race is sponsored by the Friends of Vermilion Country School and the Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board.

NE RANGE HIGH SCHOOL

NE Range robotics team honored at state tournament

REGIONAL- NE Range robotics team picked up two major honors at the recent Minnesota State High School League state tournament held last weekend at Concordia University, with 36 teams participating.

Northeast Range teacher Ryan Lindsay was recognized as this year's "Minnesota State Coach of the Year," and Iron Mosquitoes team member Greyson Reichensperger was recognized as one of the "Minnesota Students of the Year," for his work in robotics design. Five other students, statewide, were also honored in categories of programming, business, build team, competition, and leadership.

Pictured are Ryan Lindsay (far right) and Greyson Reichensperger (center). submitted photos





Northeast Range students raise rainbow trout to release into Miners Lake in Ely

BABBITT- Paul Zollinger's Northeast Range high school science classes this year have been raising rainbow trout from eggs in their classroom since December. The project is a partnership with the DNR and Trout Unlimited. The trout were released into Miners Lake last week.

"We intend in the future to continue being a part of this program," said Zollinger. "This has also helped out students and school to build connections

with the DNR where we are preparing to take on the challenge of studying other fish species in Minnesota, such as the walleye, muskie and more, through a future partnership in which we are hoping to have some of them in our classroom for the students to study for periods of time."

This program was made possible by a grant from the North-Service Cooperative.



TOWER CEMETERY ASSOCIATION The Tower Cemetery Association is in need of donations. Without receiving donations, the association would be in financial trouble. Thank you all for your past help. Please Send Your Donation To: Tower Cemetery Assn., PO Box 874, Tower, MN 55790 Published May 9, 23, June 6, 20, 27 & July 4, 2025

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 May 27.

Anderson-Hegg brings history

COMMUNITY NOTICES

to life with her first-person interpretation 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.

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

Free community meal at Immanuel on Wednesday, 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.

Little Church to host service on Sunday, June 1

VERMILION LAKE TWP- The Little Church will have a service on June 1 at 4 p.m. Jon Salo will be the speaker. There will also be a potluck after the service. Everyone is welcome and the group is always looking for people interested in keeping The Little Church preserved and maintained in our community. The church has a men's group that meets every Thursday at 9 a.m. for coffee and conversation. There is also a new women's group that will begin at 10:15 a.m. All are welcome. The Little Church is located in Vermilion Lake Twp. on Cty. Rd. 26/ Wahlsten Rd. Any questions, contact Len Hujanen at 218-749-2014.

ELY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Moana JR., the Musical



The fourth- and fifth-grade cast members posed for a group photo. photos by S. Ukkola

Fourth and fifth grades presented Moana JR., the musical

ELY- Ely fourth and fifth graders presented a rousing performance of Disney's Moana JR. under the direction of music teacher Mike Rouse, with help from Cathe Gucciardo, with costumes; Amiah Brandau, Sailer Marzella, Kelsie O'Neill, and Aurora Kyle-Allison on sets and props; Michael Smith on lights; Maddie Olson on sound; John Rejman as videographer; and Ronda Puzel, Kate Perkins, and Billie Rouse, with a little bit of everything! Moana JR. is based on the Disney animated Moana,

and is a celebration of rich stories of Oceania, based on the beliefs and cultures of the people of that region of the world.

Irene Hartfield, Gerry Fisher, and Mike Rouse provided the live orchestra.

Student performers included: Macy Combe, Sadie Nelson, Sammy Petersen, Gordon Smith, Kaelyn Puzzle, Annie Blomberg, Allie Vesel, Brynna Cook, Ethan Perkins, Mila Swanson, Emily Dunn, Fletcher Chop, Nola Wonsen, Raya Waldemarsen, Rune Lunn, Paige Jussila, Claire Schoonover, Bria Lamontagne, Brooke Bermel, Lyla Holthaus, and Courtney Forsberg.

Business donors included Zup's, Insula Restaurant, Blombergs, Healthy Family Chiropractic, and Alder Place Inn. The organizers would also like to thank Jill Swanson, Ethan and Cody Perkings, Crystal Chopp, Toni Zaverl, Rebekah Lunn, and Deanne Cook.



Moana, played by Sammy Peterson, sets sail, guided by the spirits of her grandmother. Front: from left, Emily Dunn, Nola Wohnsen, Raya Waldemarsen, Fletcher Chopp, Paige Jussila. Back: from left, Ethan Perkins, Sammy Petersen, Sadie Nelson, Macy Coombe, Brynna Cook, Sophia Ferrante.

MPR sponsoring music program at Minnesota North-Vermilion on May 27

ELY- Minnesota Public Radio is excited to announce that Wood N' Wind is coming to Memorial High School in Ely on May 27, from 9 until 11:30 a.m., as part of our Class Notes Concert program.

The high school concerts and residency will be followed by an evening community concert at The Vermilion Fine Arts Theater at 6 p.m.

Wood N' Wind is a talented flute and double bass duo that focuses on Western classical music and highlights connections to other genres. They connect with their audiences through a varied program that highlights the different emotions music



enjoys showcasing the sounds this unique pairing of instruments has to

students through live musical performances, these concerts help cultivate

active listening skills and allow students to experience the joy of music.

The school concerts are not open to the public. But the community concert at 6 p.m. at Vermilion Fine Arts Theater is free and open to the public but registration is requested at https://www.mprevents.org/.

The Class Notes Concert Series is made available in part by the Minnesota Legacy Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Max Cochran receives full ride scholarship

ELY- Max Cochran, a senior at Ely Memorial High School, has been awarded a large, competitive scholarship at Northern Michigan University, in Marquette. The Harden Award is a full-ride scholarship, which includes tuition and room/board, and is renewable for four years. During the scholarship application process, Cochran stayed on campus to participate in individual and group projects along with interviews. Only 15 students are awarded the scholarship.

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 **Babbitt Public Library** BABBITT- The take-

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

and-make kit for May is tis-

creating a scrapbook, while supplies last. Preschool story time is every Wednesday at 10:30

a.m. Up North Craft/Ven-

dor Expo on June 7 from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Brodini Magic Show on June 11 at 3:30 p.m. James Wedgewood Ventriloquist on June 16 at 2 p.m. All library events are at the Babbitt Public Library,

71 South Dr., unless otherwise noted.

Ely Public Library ELY- Preschool Story-

time 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- Attorney Kelly Klun will teach a free Ely Community Education class on Wednesday, May 28, on estate planning. The class

will be from 5:30-6:30 p.m.,

in the Ely Public Schools

Media Center, 600 E. Har-

vey St. Enter the campus

buildings through the center

doors ("Main Door 1"), pass through the fover and the second set of doors, and then turn right. The media center is on the right, across from the new gym.

Whiteside Park ELY- Come out to Wh-

Broadway in

iteside 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 shows.

It's the perfect way to wind down your day-grab something tasty from the

market, spread out a blan-

ket, and enjoy the sounds of Broadway right here in Ely. **Braver Angels**

ELY- Upcoming meetings and topics are: ➤ Wednesday, June 11

"Are We a Dog-Friendly

➤ Wednesday, July 23

Summer Social Event at Samz' ➤ 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 backgrounds.



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 27: Mining Minnesota with Julie Lucas.
- ➤ June 3: Meet new Ely-
- ➤ June 10: Kandace Creel Falcón.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2025



sun traded for cold water assisting with fire

smoke relief as well

Libraries

Ely library

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

Babbitt library Mondav 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. AL-ANON - Sundays 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely. **BABBITT AL-ANON -**Thursdays, 7 p.m., at Woodland Presbyterian **CO-DEPENDENTS'** 12-step support group, 4:00 p.m. Tuesdays, hosted by Well Being Development, Ely. This meeting is suspended temporarily. **CAREGIVER SUPPORT** GROUPS: Babbitt: 3rd

Monday of Month: 6-7:30 p.m. at Carefree Living. Ely: 4th Monday of

Month: 10-11:30 a.m. at Ely-Bloomenson Hospital. Conference Room B. ADULT BASIC

Study materials and pre-test available. Call 218-365-3359, or

EDUCATION GED

1-800-662-5711.

CAREER EDUCATION

Grizzlies leave school to work with professional tools

Ryan's Rustic Railings partners with school for industry career experience

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- Thanks to a collaboration between North Woods Industrial Arts teacher Bruce Black and Ryan's Rustic Railings of Orr, the school has two new beautiful natural wood benches made by Black's students this

past semester. With an extremely limited materials budget, Black is always on the lookout for grant opportunities to enhance his students' education, and he found one last fall through the Northeast Service Cooperative, an eight-county, 32-district organization devoted to promoting career-technical education. The \$5,000 grant required that the school have an industry partner for it's proposal, so Black reached out to Ryan Holman at Ryan's Rustic Railings, who was more than happy to

Black was notified in January that he was to receive the award, which was used to fund purchase of materials and supplies, field trips to Ryan's Rustic Railings in February and March, and tools for the installation of the benches at the school.

On their field trips, students learned about Ryan's Rustic Railings and shop operations, observed skilled woodcrafters in action, and received guidance and supervision in using industry-standard equipment to craft their benches, equipment not available to them in a school shop setting.

The experience was designed to give students hands-on experience in one of Minnesota's high-demand industries, that of carpentry and wood trades. Carpenters in northeastern Minnesota opment. Career-technical earn an average of \$29.13 an



Tim Cornelius demonstrates the use of a power tool for Cash Rutchasky.

hour, with a project employment growth of 3.2 percent by 2032, according to the MN Department of Employment and Economic Develcareers are gaining in pop-



Cash Rutchasky, Jack Anderson, Caleb Rutchasky, Eli Lindgren, Nathan Ploof, Sydney Krecklau, Donny Villebrun, and Abbey Dargontina pose with the benches they made at Ryan's Rustic Railings. submitted

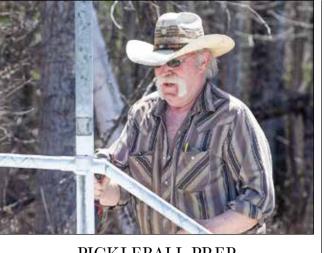
ularity for their high wages and training programs that provide apprenticeships and education tracks that allow students to join the workforce more quickly than traditional four-year college de-

gree programs. Careers like carpentry often pay better than entry-level white collar jobs requiring a bachelor's

"The kids loved it and did a great job of working

and seeing a local value-added forest/timber industry at work," Black said.





PICKLEBALL PREP

The physical work of converting the ice rink at Cook Community Center to a pickleball/ice skating complex got underway the first weekend in May, when Jeff Anderson, above, joined a cadre of volunteers to dismantle the ice rink boards and fence. Anderson was back recently with a skid steer to pick up all of the leftovers in preparation for the work necessary to prepare the pad for pickleball courts and a smaller, more easily maintained ice rink. The courts and ice rink upgrade are a project of Cook Friends of the Parks.

NWFA Gallery will feature special hours on Saturday

- If you're COOK strolling downtown Cook's annual Spring Into Summer Shop Hop this Saturday, be sure to swing by the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery. They'll be open from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on May 24, welcoming visitors with light refreshments, local art, and a chance to win a door prize. The gallery, located at

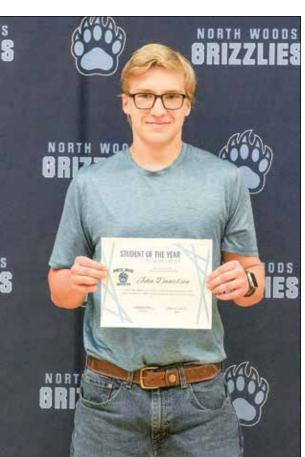
210 S. River Street, is featuring a brand-new exhibit titled Beyond the Classroom: Color and Clay, showcasing the creative talents of former teachers Ron Maki, Lyn Reed, and Mark Reed. Expect vivid paintings, eye-catching pottery, handcrafted fishing flies, and other striking pieces.

And while the May 24 event kicks off summer for NWFA, it's just the beginning. Visitors can also pick up tickets for the annual Spring Art Expo, including \$2 basket raffles, a 50/50 cash drawing, and the big June 28 concert featuring Monroe Crossing — a crowd favorite in the bluegrass world. "The NWFA Gallery is home to work by more than 40 artists, with regular hours Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. For the shop hop, they're keeping the doors open all day.

A full list of 2025 classes for kids and adults is available at www.nwfamn.org.

Excellence in academics is honored at North Woods assembly





SOTY, Sr. High Language Arts - John Danielson



SOTY, Sr. High Science - Kaycee Zupancich

FIELD TWP- North Woods School recognized high academic performance at assemblies on May 13.

A new award, Student of the Year, was introduced for each academic discipline and chosen by those instructors.

Student of the Year awards

➤Art Jr. High -- Laurin Glass & Tessa Burnett ➤Art Senior High -

Cody Kirkman & Selena Ra-

➤ Language Arts High-Katherine Hanson

➤ Language Arts High- John Danielson

➤Spanish -Andrew Hartway

Chosa & Joaquin Lambert

➤Anishinaabe - Colt

➤ Math Jr. High - Lila Kajala ➤ Math Sr. High - Victo-

ria Mathys ➤ Science Jr. High - Re-

ece Whitney ➤Science Sr. High -Kaycee Zupancich

➤ Social Studies Jr. High - Cooper Long

➤ Social Studies Sr. High - Nevada Gauthier &

Rogelio Noyes ➤Industrial Tech Jr.

High - 1st semester 7th grade shop the entire class

➤Industrial Tech Sr. High - Esha Mohamed

➤ Health/PE Jr. High -Laurin Glass ➤ Health/PE Sr. High -

Carson Johnson ➤Music Jr. High -Brayden

Amundson

Michaela Brunner

➤ Music Sr. High - Tysen ➤Indian Ed Students of

the Year -Gr. 7- Lanara Guenthner

Gr. 8- James Ryan Gr. 9- Donelle Villebrun Gr. 10- Donny Villebrun

Gr. 11- August Peltier Gr. 12- Nia Gaskell

President's Awards 2024-25

erage over last 3 years. 12th grade: Addison Burckhardt

Alex Burckhardt John Carlson Aidan Hartway Ryder Gibson

Amber Sopoci

Richard Swinson Lydia Trip Ronald White

9th grade: Gage Aune

Sophia Bangs Zoey Burckhardt Carsyn Burnett Sawyer Glass Cyrus Johnson Rebecca Koch Joshua Long Evangelina Mathys Aubrey Olson-Stoltenberg Vincent Pascuzzi Alice Sopoci

*Must maintain 3.5 av-

Sierra Schuster

Award for Academic Excellence

3.667+ GPA for first three quarters 12th Grade John Carlson

Amber Sopoci

Richard Swinson 11th Grade

Lincoln Antikainen Lauren Burnett Josephine Carlson John Danielson Brittin Lappi Sadie Spears

10th Grade

Gage Aune

Zoey Burckhardt

Carsyn Burnett

Sawyer Glass

Cyrus Johnson

Alethea Bangs Corralyn Brodeen Emarie Gibson Andrew Hartway Carson Johnson Ella Kruse Sophia Mathys Aiyeshia Mohamed Kaycee Zupancich 9th Grade

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

Aubrey Olson-Stoltenberg

Vincent Pascuzzi

Anelise Brodeen

Tessa Burnett

Laurin Glass

Cooper Long

Lila Kajala

7th Grade

Michaela Brunner

Olivia Baumgartner

William Flores-Leander

Alice Sopoci

8th Grade

LAKE VERMILION

New county floodplain rules may aid Vermilion property owners

by DAVID COLBURN

Cook/Orr Editor

LAKE VERMILION-Some Lake Vermilion property owners could see fewer flood-related restrictions, and possibly lower insurance costs and improved property values, thanks to a newly adopted St. Louis County floodplain ordinance.

The ordinance, officially known as Floodplain Ordinance 69, was approved by the county board this past winter following a recommendation from the St. Louis County Planning Commission. The update was necessary to keep the county in compliance with National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) standards, a requirement both for issuing local permits in flood-prone areas and for keeping property owners eligible for federally

backed flood insurance.

The updated ordinance regulates how and where new construction can occur within mapped flood hazard zones. It aims to ensure that future development doesn't increase flooding risks elsewhere, and that new buildings are protected from high-water events.

But one change in particular, one most likely to benefit homeowners, relates to Lake Vermilion.

In December 2024, the Department of Natural Resources completed a statistical analysis of the lake's flood history, which resulted in a 1.5-foot reduction in the Base Flood Elevation (BFE). The BFE is the level that floodwaters are expected to reach during a so-called 100-year flood. It's a key benchmark used to draw floodplain maps and determine whether a property is considered high-risk.

That lower BFE could bring real-world benefits for many lakeshore owners. Properties that were previously within a designated flood zone might now fall outside of it, depending on elevation.

While the county land use office can't render an opinion on possible effects for property values or insurance rates, a review of national data and floodplain policies reveals several ways that a lowered BFE could benefit shoreline property owners:

➤ Cheaper flood insurance - FEMA's FloodSmart program notes that just one foot of elevation above the BFE can cut premiums by up to 30 percent. So, with the flood level lowered by a foot and a half, some homeowners may see real savings.

➤ Easier to sell a prop-

erty - Being mapped out of a high-risk flood zone can make a property more appealing to buyers, especially those working with lenders. The Flood Insurance Guru, a national advisory source, points out that a change in flood designation often improves both buyer interest and financing terms.

➤ Higher property valuations - A study in the Journal of Risk and Financial Management found that homes in designated flood hazard areas tend to be valued lower than comparable homes outside the zone. With the flood risk reassessed downward, some Vermilion properties could gain ground on the appraisal front.

➤ More flexibility for building or remodeling -FEMA's homeowner guidance makes clear that homes outside the flood zone, or situated above the new BFE, often aren't subject to the same elevation or floodproofing requirements. That could ease the process for new construction or additions along the lake.

County Land Use Manager Donald Rigney was able to confirm a portion of this information for the Timberjay. "We can confirm that the

lowering of the BFE may result in existing structures that were previously in the floodplain to fall outside the floodplain based on elevation," Rigney said in an email. "The lowering of the BFE may also result in fewer permitting restrictions involving floodplain management for new construction. Shoreline setbacks and other zoning requirements were not affected by the adoption of the floodplain ordinance."

The potential benefits described above are based on general guidance from FEMA and other sources. Actual impacts can vary depending on your specific property, insurance provider, and local permitting rules. Homeowners are encouraged to check with their insurer, realtor, or contractor to understand how the updated floodplain maps may affect them directly.

More information. including updated flood zone maps and guidance for homeowners and builders, is available through the St. Louis County Planning and Zoning Department's Land Use Division, https://www. stlouiscountymn.gov/departments-a-z/planning-zoning/ land-use.

ACCESS...Continued from page 1

➤ Managing stormwater and stabilizing the shoreline to protect water quality.

➤ Adding facilities for watercraft inspection to reduce the spread of aquatic invasive species.

➤ Adding new, redesigned boat ramps and boarding docks to improve traffic flow and safety. ➤ Adding a barge-loading

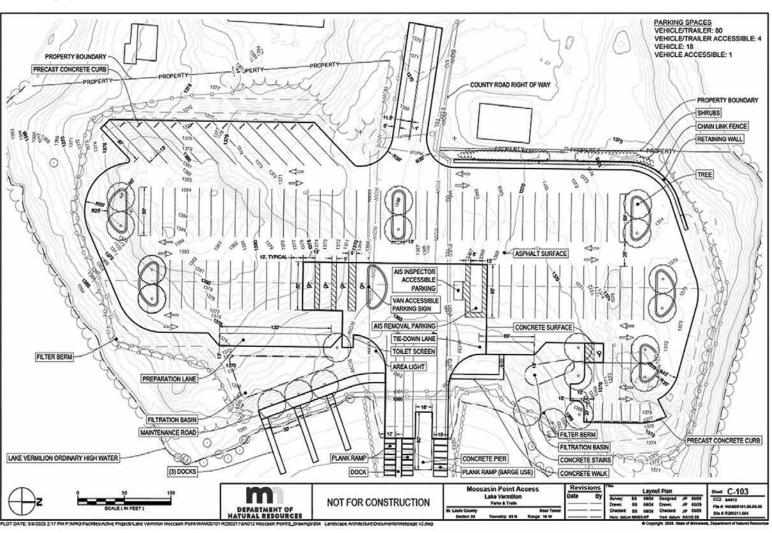
ramp and space for transferring equipment and materials to and from barges. ➤ Replacing the concrete

loading pier for transferring supplies and equipment from vehicles to boats. ➤ Adding mooring docks

for short-term boat parking. ➤ Adding a canoe/kayak

Barge operations, shortterm boat mooring and overnight parking will continue to be allowed at the upgraded access, to the extent these activities are consistent with Minnesota rules and statutes.

The project is funded by Get Out MORE (Modernize Outdoor Recreation Experiences), a historic, one-time investment of \$150 million to help ensure Minnesotans of all abilities and interests enjoy a world-class recreation system, whichever outdoor experience they choose.



A long-term plan

The DNR acquired the former resort property in 2008 to maintain the existing public

water access and provide no-fee parking at this important mid-lake access. In June 2013, several buildings were removed to facilitate future

site development. Site design has proceeded intermittently since 2014, but funding for development was not available until the Get Out MORE

To see the draft site plan, get more information, and stay up-to-date on the project's progress, visit the construction

updates webpage (mndnr.gov/ moccasin-point-pwa).

> Heard that Mayor

COUNCIL...Continued from page 1 –

While he has pulled permits for a new propane furnace, along with plumbing and electrical repairs, Whitney said the owners have failed to request inspections and that it appears that the work was never completed.

"At some point, we have to encourage the owners to do something with the property," said Whitney. Mayor Heidi Omerza agreed. "It's been two years, we need to get this going somewhere," she said.

The hearing on the matter was set for 5 p.m. at city hall.

Harvey Street project

In other business, clerk-treasurer Harold Langowski updated the council on the scheduling for the upcoming reconstruction on Harvey Street. "There will be a lot of work happening in short order," said Langowski. Equipment mobilization is scheduled for June 2, with milling expected to begin on June 4 between Central and

4th Ave E. Work is generally expected to move west-toeast along Harvey Street and will include rock blasting, new water main, and sanitary sewer. The project is expected to be completed by Sept. 26.

Lodging tax

Paul Kess reported to the council on Lake County's apparent reluctance to release lodging tax dollars collected in the Lake County portion of the lodging tax district. He said it appeared that county officials were reluctant to release the funds, which are supposed to be collected by resorts and short-term rentals operating in the northern part of Lake County, mostly in Fall Lake Township. Kess noted that Stony River Township opted to pull out of the lodging tax

Kess also suggested that the city may want to request funding from the lodging tax board for possible staffing at the new visitors center under construction at the city's west entrance. "Whether that's for staff or operational costs or whatever that certainly, in my mind, would be a legitimate ask of the lodging tax board."

Kess also noted that ongoing lack of communication between the city's chamber of commerce and the city's tourism bureau was being addressed through mediation. "You might remember that the lodging tax was sort of monitored and overseen by the chamber of commerce for 30 years or so," said Kess."It's only in the last few years that there's been sort of a tussle between them." According to Kess, the mediation seemed to improve the situation, allowing for more communication and the possibility that they may be able to make a joint request for funding in the

In other business, the council:

➤ At the recommenda-

tion of the Parks and Rec Board, approved adding the canoe sculpture dedication at Whiteside Park, set for 2 p.m., July 1, at Whiteside Park, to

the city calendar. ➤ At the recommendation of the Parks and Rec Board, approved moving forward with the development of a bog walk starting at the new west end visitors center, to be built in conjunction with the North

Country Trail Association. ➤ Approved a recommendation from the budget committee to designate the recent \$550,000 donation to the fire department to the equipment replacement fund.

➤ Heard a report from Fire Chief Dave Marshall on the ongoing fire danger in the region and Ely's assistance in battling the Brimson Complex fires. He also explained the fire alert system, known as Ready Set Go, that St. Louis County has been using to alert the public during the latest fires. Ready is the lowest level of alert, signified on maps in yellow, meaning people should ready themselves and family to evacuate. Set, signified by orange on maps, means residents should be set to leave at a moment's notice, and Go, signified on maps in red, means to evacuate now.

➤ Marshall also noted that a wildfire had been reported on Tuesday on the Cloquet Line, near Cedar Lake. As of Wednesday morning, the fire was reported at 2.8 acres, according to the Watch Duty

➤ Agreed to repost an open officer position in the Ely Police Department after the final candidate in the previous round had opted to accept a position elsewhere.

➤ Approved a residential rehab loan to Louis Champa, contingent on his using a portion of the funds to pay an outstanding assessment of \$2.021.80.

Omerza had sent a letter to Sen. Grant Hauschild requesting his opposition to a proposed 3.1 percent cut in Local Government Aid. The letter prompted some pushback from council member Emily Roose, who questioned if the full council should have approved the submission of a letter. Langowski said it's long been standard practice for the mayor to sign such letters during the legislative session, when issues may come up suddenly and require a quick response. He said maintaining LGA has long been a top priority for the city of Ely as well as the League of Minnesota Cities.

➤ Approved a new lease between city and Ely Little League.

➤ Authorized sending a thank you letter to Bud Ahren for his several years of service on the Parks and Rec Board.

CLOSURE...Continued from page 1

store for "several years."

That's not unusual. While most McDonald's restaurants are independently operated, the corporate office has the authority to shut down underperforming stores or locations that no longer meet franchise standards. Closures also happen during company-wide restructuring - and signs point to that playing a role here.

It's been a tough stretch for the fast-food giant. The first quarter of 2025 was McDonald's worst in five years, with same-store sales down 3.6 percent in the U.S. and 1 percent globally. That followed a 1.4 percent decline in the fourth quarter of 2024. While menu and pricing adjustments have long been a McDonald's strategy to attract and retain customers,

the company also appears to be using significant expansions and targeted reductions of stores to increase its market

A report by CTOL Digital Solutions placed much of the blame on falling foot traffic from low- and middle-income households - once core McDonald's customers - who are increasingly skipping fast food altogether. Restaurant industry leaders say rising prices have pushed burgers and fries into "luxury" territory for many families. The trend has only deepened as economic uncertainty and declining consumer confidence under the Trump administration continue to weigh on spending.

News of the closure hit hard on social media, where community members

expressed everything from

disbelief to weary acceptance. "It's a tough blow for our

little town," one person wrote.

"How does a McDonald's close? They should be printing

shut its doors after last year's

money," said another. Some noted the Cook location's demise in the context of other recent dining losses, with the Crescent Bar and Grill having closed, and the Montana Café forced to

"This town needs family

dining," one commenter said. Whether that call is

answered remains to be seen. For now, Cook will say goodbye to its Big Macs - and one more piece of its dining **10** May 23, 2025 THE TIMBERJAY

ELY MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL





ELY- The Ely Memorial High School's music department held its spring concert on Tuesday, with performances by the high school choir, sixth-grade band, junior high symphonic band, and high school wind symphony. Teachers Mike Rouse and Karl Kubiak led their students through selections of music, both new and old.

Clockwise from top left: Chor members Violet Franciskovich, Lindsay Israel, and Chezene Nickolson. Trumpet players in the jr. high band. Kubiak conducting the high school band. Kubiak spoke fondly of his students and the fun times they've had during class. photos by J. Summit





FIRE DANGER

Local departments staying busy Firefighters from Greenwood, and Tower responded to a sma sparked by a downed powerling to the sparked by a downed powerling to the stay of th

Firefighters from Greenwood, Breitung and Tower responded to a small fire sparked by a downed powerline at the intersection of Echo Point Rd. and Eagle Pt. Rd. on the Vermilion reservation late Tuesday afternoon. The fire was quickly extinguished before Lake Country Power arrived to restore the line. photo by D. Colburn

Right: Tower and Breitung departments responded to a downed powerline in Tower on May 15. No fire was reported, but traffic was detoured while the line was repaired. photo by J. Summit





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May 23, 2025 THE TIMBERJAY

Briefly

Pine City woman injured in ATV rollover near **Elephant Lake**

ELEPHANT LAKE- A Pine City woman was hospitalized Saturday evening after the ATV she was riding in flipped on a trail southeast of Elephant Lake, about ten miles northeast of Orr.

The crash was reported at 8:27 p.m. and involved a sideby-side style ATV. According to the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office, the vehicle rolled while navigating trail conditions. The woman, who was a passenger, sustained multiple injuries and was transported by ambulance to a nearby hospital. Her condition was not released.

Both the driver and passenger were in the area on vacation.

The sheriff's osffice issued a reminder to ATV riders to wear appropriate safety gear and to operate machines within their capabilities, noting the risks associated with trail riding.

Emergency responders included the Bois Forte Police Department, Orr Ambulance Service, and Virginia Ambulance Service

WTIP radio wins Edward R. **Murrow awards**

REGIONAL-A Grand Marais public radio station that serves a large area of Lake and Cook counties, has won two Edward R. Murrow awards in two different categories. WTIP, North Shore Community Radio, won in the Breaking News Coverage category for its reporting on the fire that destroyed the historic Lutsen Lodge by Kirsten Wisniewski and Kalli Hawkins. The station won in the Writing for Broadcast category for the feature story "Owls' Silent Flight," written by Chel Anderson for the station's North Woods Naturalist segment.

The Edward R. Murrow Awards, sponsored by the Radio Television Digital News Association, are among

the most prestigious in broadcast and digital news.

"We are immensely proud of our news team for their live coverage of this devastating fire, and Chel Anderson for her outstanding piece," said WTIP **Executive Director Matthew** Brown. "Our team of staff and volunteers consistently create outstanding content that is vital for our listeners on so many levels.'

The Radio Television Digital News Association has been honoring outstanding achievements in electronic journalism with the Edward R. Murrow Awards since 1971. Award recipients demonstrate the spirit of excellence that Murrow set as a standard for the profession of broadcast and digital journalism.

Regional winners automatically advance to the national round of the competition. National winners will be announced in August and celebrated at the Edward R. Murrow Awards Gala in New York City on Oct. 13.

WTIP is broadcast at 90.7 FM and can be heard across much of the Arrowhead. It can be streamed anywhere at

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ART DALE...Continued from page 1

long-term basis. He also founded Operation Bootstrap Tanzania, strengthening education in that African country.

Dale is also a potter, poet, author, musician and composer, playwright, and teacher. He also brews beer and crafts homemade wines.

'Art just doesn't live life," Tiede said. "He creates it, shapes it, and pours joy into every corner he touches."

'Whether visiting a church on behalf of LSS, supporting the most vulnerable among us, or quietly mentoring the next generation of leaders, Art reminds us what the Gospel looks like when it's lived fully: inclusive, joyful, just, and deeply human," she

Now 95 years old, Dale is battling cancer, but was clearly moved by the ceremony and the reminders of the joy he has brought into the lives of those in his community, both near and far.

The Immanuel choir, of which Dale has been a member since moving to Soudan, presented a special song, "Come and Build a Church," during the presentation. Choir pianist MaryBeth Relier noted that Dale was the group's favorite tenor. They noted the song was perfect for the occasion, since Dale had been the important part of so many church congregations over the years.

Dr. Fred Ness also performed a traditional Dakota healing song.

Former Immanuel Pastor Liz Cheney thanked Dale for the countless people his life had touched over the years. Dale became a member of Immanuel at the same time that she started her own journey as a pastor at the church. "You are in inspiration," she

Pastor Andy Berry joked that his two congregations near Littlefork were probably the only in the synod that Dale hadn't pastored for. He quoted from Numbers, about retiring from one's duties at the age of 50, which obviously had never occurred to Dale, and then from Matthew, noting that Dale was a good and trustworthy servant.

Pastor Chuck Barnes, from Hoyt Lakes, first met Dale 29 years ago, right after Barnes was ordained. Dale, he noted, was ordained 68 years ago.

"Art is a bridge builder," Barnes said. "He introduces new people to new ideas. Art likes to become a partner with people. It is an honor to call Art my friend and mentor."

Liede also spoke about Dale's commitment to living a Christian life. "Through this intricate, intentional tapestry of experiences," she said, "you remind us that our call as Christians is not just to believe in the Gospel, but to live it out, every day, with joy, courage, and compassion."

"Thank you for your lifetime of vision and action," Tiede continued. "Thank you for believing that even in a complicated world, joy and peace are still possible and worth fighting for."

Bishop Amy Odgren echoed Tiede's words.

'Our Lord was leading you," she told Dale "You are a faithful servant of the Lord. You express joy and compassion. You have excitement for what the spirit will and

After the presentation, Dale visited with longtime friends, neighbors, and congregation members who had traveled to Tower for the

Cecilia Rolando, of Ely, met Dale well over 30 years ago when he was part of a performance troop from Orr called the Orr Pine Town Players. She arranged for them to do some performances in Ely for the Northern Lakes Arts Association, where she was the director. "I am honored to know him," she said. "This friendship, like many of Dale's, came from his outreach and work in the community, not just in the church."





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(received her certification
through PSEO), and
planning on continuing her
nursing studies



Avery Ramponi

Avery is attending University of Minnesota-Duluth



Ethan Howard

Ethan is entering a construction trades technical program



Oliver Beise
Oliver is attending University
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Bailey Pratt

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SPORTS

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ARCHERY

Bailey's bullseye year

Fifth-grade North Woods archer heads to NASP championships after dominant season

by DAVID COLBURN

Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- The medals hang in neat rows on a rack on the bedroom wall, a bright trail of victories stacked two deep from just the past two seasons, but Bailey Brunner doesn't dwell on them long.

"I had to double them up, otherwise it would be fully filled," she said. Bailey, a fifth grader at North

Left: Bailey Brunner stands with her bow in front of a target.

photo by D. Colburn

Woods School and member of the Grizzlies archery team, had a season for the ages this year. She dominated the National Archery in the Schools regional competition meets, winning every elementary girls division bullseye and 3D target competition she entered except one, where she finished second. Her state championships in both formats in March earned her a trip to the NASP Western Nationals in Utah in late April, where she again was a double champion.

And now she's taking aim at an

See BAILEY BRUNNER...pg. 2B



North Woods' Laurin Glass hits a shot from the fairway during Monday action at Vermilion Fairways in Cook.

photo by D. Colburn

GOLF

Grizzlies girls place fourth at home meet

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- The North Woods girls golf team hosted five other schools for a golf tournament at Vermilion Fairways in Cook on Monday and finished fourth in the event.

The Grizzlies were again led by eighth-grader Laurin Glass, who posted a round of 60, placing eighth in the 32-person field. Sophia Huffman wasn't far behind in a tie for 13th with a score of 64. Kiley Kopatz came in with a round of 71 for 20th, and Khloe Holland rounded out the team total with a 73, finishing 22nd. Kate Cheney and River Deatherage also competed for the Grizzlies.

Rock Ridge

On Thursday, May 15, North Woods traveled to Virginia to play in the nine-school Rock Ridge Invitational. The Grizzlies placed sixth, with Glass finishing ninth among 41 entered with a score of 97 for 18 holes. The rest of the Grizzlies were well down the leaderboard, with Hoffman placing 30th with a round of 121, Cheney landing in 38th with a 134, and Deatherage carded a 135, finishing 39th. Kopatz and Holland also teed it up for North Woods.

The North Woods boys also competed in Virginia, placing ninth in the eleven-team field. Gage Aune turned in the best round of the day with an 84 to place 31st. Sawyer Glass and Ryder Gibson tied for 47th with 88s. Peyton Swanson wrapped up the team scoring, stroking an 89 and finishing 51st. Elijan Lindgren and James Yernatich also competed for North Woods.

NER-Ely girls take first at North Woods

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- The Northeast Range/Ely girls golf team is rounding into form to make a statement at next week's sectional tournament, with a trio of Nighthawks topping the field at Monday's East Range Conference meet hosted by North Woods at Vermilion Fairways in Cook.

On a lightly overcast, breezy day, the Nighthawks topped runner-up Two Harbors by 36 strokes, 208-244. The other four schools in the competition

See NER-ELY GIRLS...pg. 2B

SOFTBALL

Grizzlies surprise **Cardinals**

Still alive after loss to Cherry

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- The North Woods softball team pulled off a big first-round upset in the Section 7A tournament on Tuesday, as the tenth-seeded Grizzlies defeated the seventh-seeded Cromwell-Wright Cardinals 11-9 at Cherry.

North Woods took the lead in the second inning when Emarie Gibson and Addison Burckhardt both reached base on C-W errors and scored for a 2-0 advantage. The Cardinals responded with a run in the bottom half of the inning, but North Woods plated Gibson and Evalyn Thiel in the top of the third to go up 4-1. After a pair of Cardinals' runs, North Woods went up 5-3 in the top of the fourth when Kayla Dougherty singled and scored.

But the Cardinals flipped the game upside down in the bottom of the fifth, sending ten batters to the plate in a six-run onslaught that chased Grizzlies' starter Gibson from the mound and put C-W ahead

North Woods, however, would fight back, tying the score at 9-9 in the top of the drawing walks and capitalizing on a Cardinals error to bring Nevada Gauthier, Ella Kruse, Gibson and Burckhardt home for scores. Coming on in relief of Gibson, Burckhardt struck out the side in the bottom half of the inning.

The Grizzlies went ahead 11-9 in the top of the seventh thanks to keen eyes at the plate by Dougherty and Gauthier, who both drew walks and scored. Burkhardt again figured in all three Cardinals outs in their last at-bat, catching a popper and ringing up the last two batters on strike outs to send the Grizzlies into the second round of the tournament against the sec-

See SOFTBALL...pg. 2B



SOFTBALL

Wolves hanging on

Crush Cromwell-Wright but fall to South Ridge in playoff openers

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER

Managing Editor

ELY- In an afternoon marked by gale force winds, the fourth-seeded Timberwolves advanced in their first matchup in the Section 7A softball playoffs here on Tuesday, topping Cook County 16-0 to extend their winning streak to eight games. But the streak came to a disappointing end later in the day

as the Wolves fell 6-2 to South Above: Maija Mattson takes bracket in the double-elimination tournament at 2 p.m. on Thursday.

The high winds did little to slow Ely's bats, as they pounded 13th-seeded Cook County 16-0 in an opener mercifully called after just three and a half innings

of play. The Wolves jumped out to a 1-0 lead in the first inning, but they hit their stride over the next

Ridge, to head to the elimination a big swing connecting on a second-inning home run in Tuesday's contest with Cook County. photo by D. Colburn

> two frames, notching eight runs in the second and seven in the third. Meanwhile, Ely's ace hurler Zoe MacKenzie pitched a one-hitter

See WOLVES...pg. 2B

BASEBALL

Ely's weekend momentum hits snag

Right: Ely pitcher Evan Leeson eyes the plate as he winds to deliver a pitch during Tuesday's contest with South Ridge.

photo by D. Colburn



by Marshall Helmberger

Managing Editor

ELY—The Timberwolves capped a busy week, starting strong with backto-back wins at the Veterans Memorial Showcase over the weekend here before falling in a key Section 7A matchup on Tuesday.

'Getting two wins was huge for us as it snapped our three-game losing streak," said Head coach Frank Ivancich. "We pounded out 20 hits over the weekend. Despite our five errors against Blackduck, our offense carried us through. Saturday was one of our most complete games 13 defensive assists against a good

See ELY BASEBALL...pg. 2B

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TRACK

Ely tracksters place fourth at Rock Ridge meet

by DAVID COLBURN

Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- The Ely Timberwolves boys and girls track and field teams were at Rock Ridge High School on Saturday for the Steve Kerzie Invitational, with both teams placing fourth in the six-team competition.

Violet Udovich continued her season-long gold medal haul with first place finishes in the 200 and 400 meters, and teamed with Lydia Shultz, Mattie Lindsay, Miriam Messerschmidt to take first in the 4x400 relay. Shultz also won the high jump.

The boys 4x800 relay team of Eli Olson, Otto Devine, Aksel Skustad, Wyatt Devine, Oliver Hohenstein took first as well.

Top 20 finishers Boys

100 meters- Milo McClelland, 15th, 12.41

200m- Dylan Durkin, 3rd, 23.84; Noah Anderson, 20th, 28.51 400m- Aksel Skustad,

11th, 1:05.22; Noah Axelsson, 13th, 1:09.27; Brian Cook, 14th, 1:11.97 800m- Silas Solum, 6th,

2:11.79; Wyatt Devine, 7th, 2:12.98; Brooks Brenny, 15th, Oliver 1600 m -

Hohenstein, 4th, 5:03.85; Mason Kurnava, 10th, 5:39.39; Oren Solum, 11th, 5:39.97

3200m- Blake Houde, 2nd, 11:22.72

300m hurdles- Otto Devine, 9th, 51.67

4x100 relay- Noah Anderson, Wyatt Mattson, Aksel Skustad, Jack Rintala,

4x200 relay- Dylan Durkin, Milo McClelland, Wyatt Mattson, Aksel Skustad, 4th, 1:41.86

4x400 relay- Eli Olson, Oliver Hohenstein, Milo McClelland, Silas Solum, 4th,

4x800 relay- Eli Olson, Otto Devine, Aksel Skustad, Wyatt Devine, Oliver Hohenstein, 1st, 9:01:49

Shot put- Wyatt Mattson, 6th, 37'8 Discus- Wyatt Mattson,

17th, 86'2.5"; Max Cochran, 19th, 82'11" Long jump- Dylan Durkin, 8th, 18'5"; Eli Olson,

5th, 109'4"; Milo McClelland,

12th, 17'2.75" Triple jump- Eli Olson, 2nd, 36'3.5"; Silas Solum,

6th, 35'1"; Mason Kurnava,

11th, 30'8.25"

100m-Lydia Shultz, 3rd, 13.4; Alyssa Ice, 17th, 14.93; Kaija Shultz, 18th, 14.99; Maddie Johnson, 20th, 15.82.

200m- Violet Udovich, 1st, 25.91; Miriam Messerschmidt, 10th, 29.47; Sydney Cooley, 16th, 31.75; Kaija Shultz, 17th, 32.21

400m- Violet Udovich. 1st, 58.83; Payson Kundinger, 14th, 1:21.48; Siiri Nelson, 15th, 1:22.97

800m- Isabella Macho,

8th, 2:51.99; Ivy Ohlhauser, 9th, 2:55.12; Addison Kannas, 10th, 2:55.47; Lucy Dunn, 18th, 3:15.21 1600m- Elsa Ellerbroek,

6th, 6:21.05; Anna Ziegenmeyer, 8th, 6:43.61; Siiri Nelson, 11th, 6:58.73

3200m- Anna Dunn, 5th, 12:13.69

O'Neill, 9th, 20.59

300m hurdles- Lillie O'Neill, 8th, 1:00.61; Anna Ziegenmeyer, 12th, 1:05.13

4x100 relay- Maddie Johnson, Chantel Ridings, Miriam Messerschmidt, Kaija Shultz, 6th, 1:02.74; Stella Koivisto, Payson Kundinger, Sydney Cooley, Lizzy Merriman, 7th, 1:02.79

4x200 relay- Stella Koivisto, Chantel Ridings, Sydney Cooley, Lizzy Merriman, 6th, 2:12.89 4x400 relay- Lydia

Shultz, Mattie Lindsay, Miriam Messerschmidt, Violet Udovich, 1st, 4:19.24 4x800 relay- Mattie

Lindsay, Isabella Macho, Ivy Ohlhauser, Elsa Ellerbroek, 3rd, 11:10.21; Anna Dunn, Anna Ziegenmeyer, Lucy Dunn, Addison Kannas, 6th,

Shot put- Kaylin Visser,

17th, 64'8'

12th, 23'9'

Discus- Kaylin Visser, 2nd, 95'7"; Alyssa Ice, 3rd, 91'8"; Addison Forsman, 7th, 75'6"; Elsa Ellerbroek,

High jump-Lydia Shultz,

1st, 4'10"; Isabella Macho, 8th, 4'2"; Sydney Cooley, 9th, 4'0"; Kaija Shultz, 11th, 3'10' Long jump- Addison

Forsman, 4th, 14'2.25": Alyssa Ice, 7th, 12'9.25" Anna Dunn, 11th, 12'3.5" Lillie O'Neill, 17th, 11'5"

Triple jump- Addison Forsman, 3rd, 27'3.5"; Alyssa Ice, 4th, 25'11"; Anna Dunn, 6th, 25'4"

BAILEY BRUNNER...Continued from page 1B -

even bigger prize, the NASP Championships in Myrtle Beach, S.C. the first week in June.

That's mighty fine shooting for someone who's only been competing for two years.

"I don't know how to really explain it. I've just worked really hard at it," Bailey said. "This my third year actually shooting, second year in competition. But I've had a lot of people help me and, like, guide me through it. And obviously my parents have been a really big help because they were my coaches."

Her dad Jesse Brunner, an experienced archer and bowhunter, coaches the North Woods team alongside her mom Jen, who's been an archer for two decades, along with several others. Both girls in the Brunner family shoot, and Bailey credits her eighthgrade sister Michaela, also a top competitor, with helping spark her early interest.

"Michaela, she won state in fifth grade and also went to nationals in Utah," Jesse said, looking at Bailey and smiling. "I remember you said that you wanted to be there shooting,

Growing into it

Bailey's average scores rank her sixth nationally in bullseye and first or second in 3D among all elementary girls,

Jesse said, but one unexpected challenge nearly knocked her off target before the season I was so mad that it wasn't a even began.

"She grew like six inches over the summer," Jesse laughed. "So, when you grow that much, your aim point and everything is totally different."

That meant re-tuning her bow - adjusting the knock point, tweaking draw weight, and dialing in her anchor point. "I adjusted the knock

point a little bit lower and got that bow right," Jesse said. "Then she was shooting 50s. It makes a big difference." Form is everything in

NASP, where all archers shoot with a standard 20-pound Genesis compound bow – no sights, no stabilizers. And for Bailey, that consistency starts before the arrow ever flies. "Every time I pull back on my bow, I put my fingers down

one at a time. I normally only go to three, and then I release," she said. "Because if you shoot too quick, then it can mess up your arrow because you jerk on the bow." Jesse said Bailey hit her peak scores at the Mt. Iron-

tinued with first place finishes in both 3D and bullseye at regionals, state, and Western

At home, Bailey's been

Buhl regionals, and from

there, her winning streak con-

chasing a personal benchmark.

"I got a 289 in the garage. 290," she said, grinning. "I dropped 11 points. I was really mad. I was close."

Archery is as much mental as it is mechanical, and Bailey's ability to stay composed under pressure has become one of her defining traits, but she's not immune to experiencing some nerves now and then.

"Especially when I'm getting high scores, I get scared that I'm gonna mess up," she said. "But I just have to stay calm and collect myself for a few minutes and just focus on getting my form right and all that stuff."

Sibling rivalry

Bailey is quick to credit others, and just as quick to size up the competition. Including her sister Michaela.

"There's a ton of competition with her because... I'm not trying to be mean here, but she got into a funk this year and started shooting lower than me," Bailey said. "I tried to help her, because I want her to be better and that makes me strive to be better. If I beat her, that gives me a feeling of greatness because I've always wanted to beat my big sister."

Bailey doesn't stop with just family benchmarks. She looks up to elite regional shooters like ninth-grader Masen Chambers of Greenway and national competitors like a top-scoring girl from Wisconsin.

"I look up to all the guys that are better than me. All the people," she said. "I look up to Mason Chambers because he shoots so good. I've always wanted to shoot with him. He shot a 299 at regionals."

Calm in the chaos

For a young student-athlete juggling track, volleyball, and basketball, archery offers Bailey a different kind of "I mean, it's quiet and I

like it being quiet. I like being loud, but sometimes the loudness can get to be too much," she said. "And I just like to be calm for a second and be able to, like, think about stuff in that moment and not have so many things going on in your head."

That mental stillness gets tested in high-pressure moments. Bailey vividly recalled a fourth grade meet in Hibbing where she encountered target panic - a flinching, disorienting reflex that even elite shooters experience.

"I was shooting on the turkey, and I missed - I don't know what happened. It just felt, like, weird," she said. "And I kept doing that for,

like, three more arrows."

She finally regained her composure and zeroed in for her final shot. 'On my last arrow, I

finally got out of it and got a nine," she said. "But then on that round, I only got a nine, so, that was kind of devastating for me." With help from coaches

and family, Bailey learned to work through those mental

"A lot of people just helped me and said just calm down and shoot your best," she said. "Because it doesn't matter where you get on the target. It matters pretty much about your form."

A sport for life

At home and at school, the Brunners see archery as more than a seasonal sport - it's a lifetime pursuit.

"It's a sport that will last forever," Jesse said. "You can shoot school NASP, you can go on the 3D tournament, or you can go on the bullseye tournaments, or you can go to the Olympics. And you can hunt.

Bailey already bow hunts grouse and got her first deer

"I personally like to shoot grouse. It's like, I love it every time. I've been wanting it to be grouse season for so long," she said. "That's one of the things I'm beating my sister at

again. She doesn't like hunting that much." And she has another goal

she's yet to fulfill.

"I've always wanted to try shooting off my horse," she added.

Myrtle Beach next month

with her family, and also

Looking ahead Bailey will travel to

teammates Cooper and Brock Long, middle-schoolers who shot qualifying scores to earn the right to go to the championship. Bailey is ready to hit the road now. "Yeah, I'm excited," she

said, "because I've never been there before. As the Grizzlies look

to rebuild their elementary roster, Bailey's success may be the spark others need. Jesse said the team lacked enough shooters this year to qualify for team competition, largely due to overlap with basketball and misunderstandings about scheduling flexibility.

Bailey hopes more kids give it a shot.

"We did actually have nine, but not all of them, like, would shoot," she said.

Until then, Bailey's already looking forward to next year, when she'll step up to the middle school division.

'I wish I was still in ele-

mentary next year," she said, half-joking, half-not.

WOLVES...Continued from page 1B

in four innings of work. Ely blistered Cook

County pitchers, racking up 14 hits in just three innings. Maija Mattson led the way, notching two hits in two at-bats, including a two-run homer to right in the second inning. She went on to score once more and added another RBI on a triple in the third. Makenzie Huntington went 3-3, scoring twice and adding an RBI, while Zoe MacKenzie drove in three runs on a hit. Amelia Penke rapped a triple

in the third, and Ella Perish and Riley Larsen each drove in two runs.

The Wolves played errorfree ball, while Cook County posted four errors in the contest.

After their impressive offensive performance in their opener, the Wolves bats went suddenly quiet against South Ridge pitching. Maya Vanderscheuren earned the win for the Panthers, holding the Wolves to just five hits, while fanning five. Ely's

MacKenzie, who had been overpowering against the Cardinals earlier in the day, struggled a bit in the nightcap, allowing ten hits, while striking out four. Errors also hurt Ely's cause as only two of the Panther's runs were earned. Senior Clare Thomas had a hit and an RBI for the Wolves, while Peyton Huntington had two hits in four at-bats and stole two bases in the losing

Regular season wrap-up The Ely girls wrapped

up their regular season last Saturday with a 15-0 rout over Floodwood to extend their regular season winning streak to six games. MacKenzie notched another win from the mound, allowing just two hits in four innings pitched, while striking out three. Peyton Huntington had a huge day at the plate, notching four runs and four RBIs on a hit and three walks. "Clare Thomas was outstanding at the plate as well," said Head Coach Jeff MacKenzie. "She has been

our leading hitter all year and continues her game-to-game consistency."Thomas notched two hits, scored once, and drove in a run.

The Wolves notched a 4-2 win over Hill City on Friday. "This was a huge win for us," said MacKenzie. "Their pitcher was the best we've faced this year and to hit as well as we did shows we can be very competitive going into playoffs. Zoe pitched her best game of the year, keeping their hitters off balance with

her rise ball and change-up. MacKenzie allowed just one earned run, while striking out eight Hill City batters. Peyton Huntington drove in two of Ely's runs on a hit while Larsen scored one and drove in the other two runs on a hit.

In an earlier game last Friday, the Wolves had little trouble with Two Harbors, polishing off the Agates 15-5.

In a match last Wednesday, the Wolves beat Littlefork-Big

Falls 6-4.

ELY BASEBALL...Continued from page 1B

hitting team."

Cherry 5, Ely 2

Ely's weekend momentum hit a snag Tuesday afternoon as the Wolves fell 5-2 to the Cherry Tigers in a pivotal Section 7A contest. Cherry starter Mason Heitzman went the distance, scattering six hits while striking out five. The 10-5 Tigers capitalized early, scoring in the first inning and then breaking the game open with a three-run sixth.

Ely rallied late as Caid Chittum rapped a triple, then

scored on a wild pitch. The Wolves mounted another threat in the seventh, scoring once and leaving the bases loaded, but couldn't complete the comeback. Owen Marolt took the loss, allowing five runs on nine hits while striking out five. Drew Johnson had three hits to lead Ely, while Hunter Halbakken added two

Ely 6, West Marshall Fusion 2 Ely looked sharp Saturday

in a 6-2 win over West Marshall Fusion, putting together one of their most complete performances of the season. The Wolves pounced early with five runs in the first two innings, including a two-run single from Evan Leeson in the opening frame.

Caid Chittum, Sean Merriman, Drew Johnson, and Owen Marolt all chipped in hits during a three-run second. On the mound, Hunter Halbakken delivered his sixth complete game of the season, scattering nine hits while striking out five to earn his seventh win. Ben Leeson, Chittum, and

Marolt each had two hits, powering Ely's nine-hit attack. Ely 12, Blackduck 7

Ely opened the weekend tournament with a 12-7 victory

over Blackduck on a misty Friday afternoon. The Wolves erupted early, scoring 10 runs in the first three innings. Evan Leeson drove in two with a single in the first, Owen Marolt launched a three-run triple in the second, and Caid Chittum added a two-run single in the third to build a commanding 10-3 lead.

Jack Davies started and worked 3 1/3 innings, allowing six runs on four hits. Marolt closed out the final 3 2/3 innings, giving up two runs on three hits to secure the win.

Sean Merriman led the offense with three hits and a run scored, while Leeson and Chittum each had two hits. Leeson and Marolt both drove in four runs apiece to pace Ely's 12-hit outburst. Looking ahead to next

week's playoffs, Ivancich said Ely has potential to make its marks, noting solid pitching from Halbakken, Marolt, and Davies. "Defensively, we are very solid. If we can start to hit more consistently we can make a good run in the section tournament.

SOFTBALL...Continued from page 1B -

ond-seeded Cherry Tigers. The Tigers have been

getting votes in the Minnesota Fastpitch Coaches Association weekly polls, and rated sixth in the state in the Quality

Ratings Factor used to seed tournament play, they presented a formidable challenge for North Woods. The Grizzlies' bats have

been both hot and cold this

season. They picked up a 12-2 win at Chisholm and a 17-5 win at Cook County last week, but also fell 12-1 to International Falls in their last regular season game on

Against one of the state's best nines, cold wasn't what North Woods needed, but that's what they got in an 11-0 loss. Zoey Burckhardt

got on base with a walk in the fourth inning, and Rory Bundy connected for the team's only hit, a single in the fifth. The win against C-W,

however, put the Grizzlies in

a position to keep playing as they dropped into the tournament's elimination bracket, where they were scheduled to face Mt. Iron-Buhl on Thursday.

NER-ELY GIRLS...Continued from page 1B included International Falls, Carena DeBeltz walked

North Woods, Mesabi East, and Greenway-Nashwauk-Keewatin.

away with the tourney championship, firing a 10-over-par 47 to finish five strokes clear

of the field. Maizy Sunblad took second with a round of 52, Danica Sunblad placed third with a 53, Cylvia DeBeltz

fell one stroke short of having the entire NER foursome top the leaderboard, finishing fifth with a 56.

The Nighthawks had a final meet scheduled for Thursday at Two Harbors before heading to the

Minnesota National Golf Course in McGregor for the two-day sectional on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 27-28.

May 23, 2025 3B THE TIMBERJAY

Obituaries and Death Notices



Paul Jay Roy

Paul Jay Roy, 65, lifelong resident of Soudan, died of cancer on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at home, with his family by his side. A Memorial Mass was held on Thursday, May 22 at St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower. Reverend Father Beau Braun was the celebrant. Inurnment was in the Lakeview Cemetery in Tower. Memorials are preferred and may be directed to Essentia East Range Hospice Team. Family services were provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.

Paul was born on Oct. 4, 1959, in Soudan, the son of Jay and Donna (Causin) Roy. He was a graduate of Tower-Soudan High School. He married Lynn "Toody" Meehan on June 4, 1984. He started working for Vermilion Golden Rule Lumber in 1977 and later purchased the business. Paul was also employed by ISD 2142 as a bus driver, working in that capacity for 35 years.

Paul was a member of St. Martin's Catholic Church, where he plowed snow, served on the Parish Council, and was an usher. Paul was an avid snowmobiler, fisherman, four-wheeler rider and hunter. He enjoyed ricing and processing, making maple syrup, and going on adventures.

Paul is survived by his wife, Toody; daughters, Patricia Roy of South Carolina and Ashley (Scott) Clausen of North Dakota; son, Bradley (Clara) Roy of Soudan; siblings, Pam Hill of Soudan and Mark (Sue) Roy of Georgia; grandson, Easton Clausen; niece, Samantha (Andrew) Roy; and extended family and friends.

He was preceded in death by a daughter in infancy, Christina Roy; mother, Donna Roy; nephew, Daniel Roy; and brother-in-law, Jim



Mary Beth Shepard

Mary Beth Klobuchar Shepard, 74, of Ely, died on Thursday, May 15, 2025, at her home. A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, May 31 at the Grand Ely Lodge. Arrangements are with Ziemer-Moeglein-Shatava Funeral Home of Gilbert.

Born in Biwabik on Nov. 27, 1950, she was the middle child of three children. Mary Beth graduated from Gilbert High School in 1968 and paid her way through college at St. Cloud State University, earning a degree in teaching.

She met her husband of 47 years, Brooks Shepard, in May 1978, and they married in October of the same year. They had three sons, Zachary, Jacob "Silas" and Jesse. Mary Beth stayed home to raise her boys until 1990. She then worked as a substitute teacher for local schools in the winter and at the Soudan Underground Mine in the summer. She found her full-time career of 25 years

with the Minnesota Department of Revenue, retiring in

Mary Beth loved to travel and was always the first to encourage her friends and family to stay active. She took up golf in retirement and was known to have scored a birdie or two. She also loved to do water aerobics, watch movies at the local theatre, and watch live music at the Tiki deck. She was very active with her friends, either golfing, attending concerts and plays, or traveling in the countryside, and sometimes out of the country. When her grandchildren were born, the offspring of Jesse and Holly Bondensteiner Shepard, she did everything she could to see them, buy them gifts, and fill her phone with pictures. Bodie and John were the grandkids that she had wanted for so long. She was so very proud of her three

She is survived by her husband, Brooks; three sons, Zach Shepard, J. Silas (Amy) Shepard and Jesse (Holly) Shepard; grandchildren, Bodie and John; sister, Becky (Denny) Bone; sister-in-law, Gloria; nephews, Garret (Morgan) Bone and Joe (Sarah) Berry; and nieces, Mallory Bone (Paul) Skalko and Lauren and Shelby Klobuchar.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Jack and Elizabeth "Liz" Klobuchar; and older brother, Mark Klobuchar.

Rosemary Vesel

Rosemary Vesel, 92, of Ely, passed away on Thursday, May 15, 2025, at Carefree Living in Ely. Funeral services are planned for the end of June. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

Deborah Deyak

Deborah Deyak, 75, of Ely, passed away on Sunday,

May 18, 2025, at Carefree Living in Ely. At her request, no services will be held. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.



Adam J. Burgess

Adam John Burgess, 41, of Tower, passed away on Sunday, May 4, 2025, from complications of CKD and Type 1 diabetes. He will be deeply missed and fondly remembered for his dedication, kindness, and the countless things he built with both his hands and his heart. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Family services are provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home

Born on May 21, 1983, Adam was known for his strong work ethic, creative spirit, and his constant drive to stay busy with a project. Adam had a passion for building and fixing things, whether it was woodworking, home remodeling, crafting model cars, or rebuilding vehicles. He also enjoyed fishing, target practice, snowmobiling, watching sports, and spending quality time with his family and friends.

Adam is survived by his mother, Robin; brother, Daniel; grandmother, Penny; daughter, Mariah Mitchell; many beloved aunts, uncles and cousins; canine companion, Paco; and several lifelong friends who were like family and shared deeply in his life and memories.

He was preceded in death by his father, Gary Burgess; grandfather, Orvis Sunsdahl; and grandparents, Lorraine and Linden Bur-

Albert J. Harvat

Albert "Al" James Harvat, 94, of Tower, passed away on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at the Virginia Regional Medical Center. A memorial service will be held on Friday, May 30 at St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower. Visitation will begin at 10 a.m. with the funeral service to follow at 11 a.m. Lunch will be served in the church basement following the funeral.

Al was born on Feb. 7, 1931, in Ely, to John and Mary Harvat. He graduated from Ely Memorial High School in 1949. Al worked for Reserve Mining Company for 31 years and was known for his strong work ethic, dependability, and hard work. After retiring from Reserve, Al continued working during the summers for about 10 years, operating a gravel truck for Dave Desannoy. He enjoyed staying active and being involved in local projects.

Al was an active member of St. Martin's Catholic Church and enjoyed spending time outdoors, especially fishing and relaxing at the lake. In later years, he developed a strong interest in home improvement and took pride in working on projects around the house well into

He is survived by his life partner, Gwenn Lilya; six of his children, Merrie Trembath, Polly Beadu, Joan (JoJo) Harvat, Alberta Havig, Liesl (Peter) Provoznik and John Harvat; 24 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; honorary grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Mary Harvat; and daughters, Teresa Beaudry and Ka-



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Matthew P. Whitmore

Matthew Paul Whitmore, 42, of South St. Paul, passed away in his sleep on Thursday, May 8, 2025, at his home. A Funeral Mass will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 21 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Cook. A lunch and reception will follow. If you would like, please wear a "plain white tee" to the reception. We want to honor Matt and his love of music, especially '90s music, and fun. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Matt was born in Roseau to Charles and Kelly Whitmore. He lived in Warroad until 1987, when his family moved to Bemidji. After living there briefly and beginning Kindergarten, Matt moved to Cook to finish out the school year. His sweet, funny nature earned him lifelong friends instantly, and he graduated from Cook High School in 2001. While in Cook, Matt worked for the Cook Building Center and the Youth Conservation Corps. He was still telling stories about those jobs.

Matt attended Itasca Community College in Grand Rapids before transferring to the University of

Minnesota. There he completed a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry in 2006, as well as a degree in Business a year later from the U of M's Carlton School of Business. Throughout his career, Matt worked primarily as a data analyst for the MN Department of Health and Human Services. He was an extremely hard worker all the way up until his death, despite health problems. He was very proud of his current job and enjoyed it, and he always spoke highly of the coworkers and bosses he'd had in various positions over the years. He had recently been recognized for 15 years of service to the state of Min-

There were so many things Matt enjoyed. He was involved in every sport and gave his all, but he excelled in, and truly loved, baseball. Starting with tee-ball, Matt played all the way through the grades, until he was pitching for the Cook Little Gophers high school team. When he wasn't playing the sports anymore, he was watching them - any Minnesota sports team.

Matt also very much loved the outdoors. He was an avid hunter and fisherman most of his life, and he will go down in history (in his family, at least) as the one who bagged the elusive "Mr. Big" buck in 2003. As soon as Matt bought his beloved house in 2021, Mr. Big was there. So were his huge walleye from Mille Lacs Lake, his Super Nintendo, every note and card he'd ever received, and so many framed pictures of the people he

Some of Matt's favorite places included the family cabin near Mille Lacs Lake, Colorado, Florida, the North Shore of Minnesota, the "secret" lakes he fished, and grounds he hunted with his dad and other family members, and St. Paul. Despite his small town-minded family members and their dismay that he wanted to live in "the big city," he loved South St. Paul. He loved walking around his neighborhood, winding down closer to the Mississippi River. He loved having so many friends nearby, and though he wasn't in close touch with them at the end like he always had been,

he treasured them so much. A dear friend recently said of Matt, "He was kind to everyone, no matter where they came from." He absolutely was. And he was the best son, brother, grandson, nephew, cousin, uncle, brother-in-law and friend one could ever hope to have. He was the #1, as he always put in his cards to his loved ones, along with detailed drawings, like of his dad shooting a turkey and the feathers flying everywhere.

Matt is survived by his parents, Charles "Chuck" and Kelly Whitmore of Cook; sister, Laura (Adam) Bjerk of Bemidji; nephew, Lewis Bjerk and niece, Marilyn Bjerk, both of Bemidji; numerous aunts, uncles and cousins; his cat, Emma, and many, many friends.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents; maternal grandparents; a great-aunt; and too many classmates, especially his dear friend Joel Kantola.





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May 23, 2025 4B THE TIMBERJAY



THE CHANGING CLIMATE

Learning to live with heat and wildfire smoke

by Marshall Helmberger

Managing Editor

ELY— When it comes to messaging, timing is key— and it couldn't have been better for the Ely Climate Group's presentation here last Wednesday on the human health impacts of extreme heat and wildfire smoke.

Ely and surrounding communities were in the midst of an unprecedented early May heat wave combined with suffocating smoke from the Brimson Complex fires burning 50 miles to the south. Ely

Climate Group president Barbara Jones noted that the event had been planned a month ago, so the immediacy of the topic to current condi-

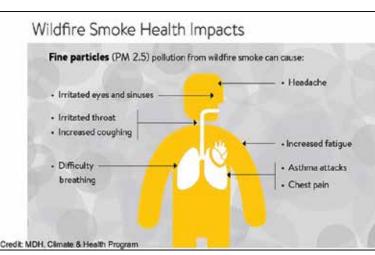


tions was simply coincidence. Still, it likely contributed to the solid turnout as about 40 Ely area residents turned out at the Grand Ely Lodge, with a handful more attending via Zoom.

While discussions around climate change frequently focus on the impacts to wildlife, oceans, and the polar regions, Kathleen Schuler, policy director with the group Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate, or HPHC, told those in attendance that both rising temperatures and the related increase in wildfire smoke globally have serious implications for human

Schuler, now retired, has a master's in public health and

See EFFECTS...pg. 5B





GEARING UP

New digs, same great bait

Cook's Northwoods Bait expands with new store and much larger inventory

by DAVID COLBURN

Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- The old Northwoods Bait and Tackle served its purpose. But for Paula and Dave Dundas, it was never going to be big enough to hold their dreams.

"Well, that's for dang sure. We've moved way up and we've upgraded, obviously," said Paula with a laugh, reflecting on the grand opening of their new shop in Cook during Minnesota's fishing opener weekend.

Our bait

guys have been

out in the

woods busting

their butts."

longtime bait store two years ago and quickly realized the original building, while familiar and functional, wasn't going to support their long-term vision for the business.

"The biggest thing was being able to run year-

round, and the other building just wasn't capable of it," Dundas said. "So, we investigated remodeling that building or adding on, and after talking with a couple different contractors, it just wasn't possible." Low ceilings in the old shop

even made it difficult to stock longer fishing rods. "You couldn't have a fishing

rod over six feet long in there because the ceiling was so low," she said. "We just wanted this to

be a destination for people." That destination now stands proudly along Hwy. 53, a stone's throw from the original location.

It's bright, spacious, and stocked

Top: Paula, Dave, and Willa Dundas were all smiles as they readied for the 2025 fishing season, now underway.

Right: The new retail store and bait shop is located right on Hwy. 53 in Cook.

submitted photos

not only with an expanded inventory, but with a commitment to making sure what's offered is exactly what works on the water.

To decide what gear to carry, Dundas doesn't guess - she talks to the people who know best. The couple purchased the Local fishing guides regularly

share what tactics and equipment are working, and she uses that insight to shape her orders. If a guide is outfitting clients with specific rods or lures, Dundas wants to have those items on hand, or ones of equal quality, "so when people

are having success

Paula Dundas

with the guide, they can come in here and they can get the equipment to replicate that," she said.

The shop features a mix of nationally recognized fishing brands and gear sourced from regional manufacturers. Dundas said she and Dave take pride in seeking out high-quality products made in Minnesota and northern Wisconsin, items like bump boards from Sauk Rapids and rods from a family-run maker in Farmington. While some of those names are gaining wider recognition in the fishing world, they remain rooted in the same small-business ethos

that Northwoods Bait and Tackle



embodies.

Despite the upgrades and expanded inventory, one thing hasn't changed - the bait. It's still the same carefully maintained, high-quality live bait that's earned Northwoods its reputation.

"That's the heart and soul of this place," Dundas said. "All that happened is their tanks got a little bit bigger, but otherwise the minnows are the same, the water is the same."

That consistency has been supported by a reliable group of suppliers working hard this spring to keep the tanks full.

"Our bait guys have been out in the woods busting their butts, keeping us in minnows and they've been doing a really great job," she said. "At the end of the day catching minnows is still fishing, you know."

And through the opener into the early part of the week, Dundas has heard solid reports from the lake and described what appeared

to be working. 'You've got to get out early and you've got to hit a shoreline that's getting hit by the sun, because right now the water temp is

still cold," she said. "The walleyes

are searching for warmer temps.

A lot of people are fishing early

morning in like three to six feet

She recommends trying a leech and slip bobber if a jig and minnow combo isn't getting results. And when it comes to bait, she says rainbow chubs have been in big demand as a reliable early-season staple.

They've got their big stripes and they're really colorful and really flashy," she said. Fathead chubs are running big right now as well, and for anglers looking to change it up, she suggests creek chubs. "They're a great alternative. They're really aggressive. They're a very hardy minnow."

With warmer air temperatures, the leech bite is already picking up, Dundas added.

Though the new building might turn heads, it's the people behind the counter who keep customers coming back. Paula and Dave have assembled a knowledgeable and tight-knit staff, many of whom are family or feel like it. Longtime employee Connor Doble is almost always on the job when he's not out fishing. Dundas's nieces, Rory Bundy and River Cheney, bring both hometown familiarity and enthusiasm for

See BAIT...pg. 5B

Wildflower Watch



This week's featured flower **WOOD ANEMONE**

The Wood Anemone, Anemone cinquefolia, is among our earliest spring wildflowers, erupting from the leaf and needle litter soon after the snow leaves. It's recognized by its white flowers, typically with five petals (although that can vary) and its deeply cut, compound leaves. It is most easily confused this time of year with wild strawberry, so check the leaves. Strawberry leaves are compound, but the leaflets are simply toothed, not cleft like the wood anemone. Strawberry flowers also typically bloom in loose bunches, while wood anemone tends to have a single flower.

It spreads mostly through rhizomes, which helps it form small patches where it becomes established.

Fishing report

Ely area

Walleye

The much-feared cold snap did little to slow down the walleye bite. Anglers that braved the cold found walleyes still snapping in around 15 feet of water. Here a simple quarter-oz jig, tipped with a pike sucker, got the hardest hits. There were a few reports of leeches, soft plastics and crankbaits starting to work in the shallows, right off the dock in 2-8 ft of water. Anglers should still be focused on areas with current, large shallow flats and right off their docks for walleyes. Pink, white and gold continue to be the hot colors.

Cold, cloudy weather had the pike fishing hot, hot, hot! Many pike anglers reported excellent fishing this last week. Bobber fishing with medium to large suckers or large creek chubs were very hot. Shallow bays, current areas and, again, right off the dock were the best places to tie into a giant pike.

Trout

Rainbow trout and Brook trout didn't have any issue with the cold snap, either. Anglers fishing from shore reported catching some nice trout while fishing with a night crawler under a bobber about 5-10 feet down. Brook trout anglers did well casting small silver and blue spoons, white twisters and floating a crawler off the bottom.

Lake trout reports remain elusive. High winds are likely the main reason. Not very much fun trolling/jigging in a boat or canoe in whitecaps. The few reports we have gotten have been from trolling spoons or deep diving crankbaits in 20-30 ft of water, over deep mud flats.

Courtesy of Arrowhead Outdoors. See more at Arrowhead OutdoorsElyMN.com.

May 23, 2025 **5B** THE TIMBERJAY

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

Plenty of camping options, even without a reservation

by Marshall Helmberger Managing Editor

REGIONAL-With the weather forecast looking prime for the Memorial Day weekend, you may be thinking about a last-minute reservation at a public campground in the area. It's probably too late to get a reservation at most state parks, but there may well be opportunities for camping at state forest campgrounds, which are often overlooked by campers because they aren't as well-known.

These campgrounds may not offer all the amenities of state park facilities, but they are often quieter and less crowded than state park campgrounds. They typically provide a open, level area for tents, a fire ring, picnic table, drinking water, garbage cans and a vault toilet.

Many are near lakes and may offer nearby hiking and ATV trails or public access to lakes or rivers. These campgrounds don't take reservations and sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more on state forest campgrounds, including a map showing locations of these facilities, go to www. dnr.state.mn.us/state_forests/ camping.html.

Camping on the Superior

The Superior National Forest offers a wide range

of camping opportunities, without reservations. The opportunities range from free dispersed camping, where you can camp anywhere on federal land, to fee campgrounds which provide more amenities than other camping options on the forest. Reservations can be made at some federal campgrounds on the Superior

through recreation.gov, although most are available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more on camping opportunities on the Superior National Forest, go to www. fs.usda.gov/r09/superior/recreation/camping-cabins.

EFFECTS...Continued from page 4B –

spent her career working in the field with both the state of Minnesota as well as the nonprofit sector.

Schuler reiterated the data on the warming climate, noting that temperatures are not only rising but are rising faster (now about 0.5 degrees per decade) than ever before.

Dew points are also on the rise, she said, which makes it harder for our bodies to cool. "Hot and humid means more health impacts," she said.

Those impacts include heat stress, heat stroke, and even organ failure in death, depending on the circumstances and the health status of those exposed to such conditions.

Schuler said several factors can increase an individual's risks associated with heat, including lack of air conditioning, which is common here in the North Country, and lack of financial resources. Being bedridden, living in the topmost floor of a residence, living alone, prolonged

exposure to the sun, outdoor exercise, and drinking alcohol can all increase one's risk of serious health consequences from heat.

At the same time, Schuler notes that the frequency of major wildfires in Minnesota is on the rise, with its own set of health complications for humans. Those can range from the merely irritating, such as scratchy eyes and throats, to more serious impacts like severe asthma attacks, exacerbation of COPD, greater risk of respiratory infections, and a decrease in the number of immune cells in children.

Schuler said the fine particulates produced from the burning of forests and fossil fuels are able to enter deep into human bodies, where they impact our brains, lungs, heart, kidneys, and reproductive systems. Globally, she said such pollution leads to the premature deaths of an estimated seven million people annually, and about 2,000-4,000 people a vear here in Minnesota.

While Schuler had come to provide information, Kelley Skumautz, executive director of HPHC, was there to gather input from Ely residents about the ways that rising heat and wildfire smoke were impacting their lives today. She heard plenty from those in attendance, most of whom were in their 60s or 70s.

Celia Domich noted that Ely's population is particularly vulnerable to the health impacts of heat and smoke because of its older population and its aging housing stock, most without air conditioning.

Bill Tefft said he had always believed that air conditioning wasn't necessary in Ely because it always cooled off at night, but acknowledged that that's changing. "Maybe we need a new idea of home design," he said.

Barbara Jones noted the quandary that the combination of heat and smoke can create for homeowners. "Is it better to have the window open at night (letting in smoky air) or close the window and be too hot?" she asked.

Doug Lande, who had come from Isabella, noted that he had recently hired three workers to help with fire hazard reduction around his home. "One ended up with heat stroke, one left to work on the fires, and the other decided he didn't want to do the work anymore," said Lande.

Frederica Musgrave said the recent conditions had limited her ability to work in her garden, an activity that normally provides her some emotional release. "I can tell the difference in my mood," she said.

In response to one of

seven key questions posed by Skumautz, several in attendance noted concerns about impacts to the area's tourism economy. Bill Kuttler said concerns about smoke and heat could impact visitation in the Boundary Waters with spillover effects to the economy. Hudson Kingston noted that mountain bike races scheduled for Fridays in Ely could be impacted by either excess heat or smoke. Another participant noted that a bike ride scheduled by Ely Community Resource earlier in the week had been canceled due to the heat and poor air quality in Ely, which was listed as hazardous for all persons at

times during the week. Kingston wondered how many of those who work in the outdoors, such as wilderness guides, loggers, and miners, were being affected by the heat

and smoke. "You can't wear an N95 mask outdoors when it's that hot," he said.

The recent fire activity in the region did have an impact on the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital, noted Jodi Martin, communications and marketing director for the hospital. While the recent smoke and heat outbreak didn't increase the number of patients in the emergency room, Martin said the hospital did see "lots of phone calls with questions about what to do." She said that was particularly true from residents with pre-existing breathing problems.

Skumautz said her group hopes to take the input heard from Ely to help develop support for policy changes to address the issues of climate change and protecting human

Tuesday

from NOAA weather

BAIT...Continued from page 4B -

lots of options between where

.the outdoors. And this season, they've added Ryan Dall, a childhood friend of Dave's who grew up fishing these same waters. Dundas said the group works hard, knows their stuff, and makes the shop feel like family.

"We're just very, very thankful for everybody,' Dundas said. "And we'd like to express that appreciation. We just appreciate everybody coming in because there's

her gratitude for the support they've received from the Cook business community, which has been highly enthusiastic in their response.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST



Sunday

Monday

Tower Hi Lo Prec. 05/12 89 42 0.00 05/13 87 55 0.00 05/14 87 54 87 05/15 55 0.00

Outdoors briefly

Bass season

REGIONAL-For those anglers looking for a change of pace from their hunt for the elusive walleye, bass fishing

opens this Saturday, May 25. Spring is a great time to cast a line for these fun-toto fish webpage (mndnr.gov/ gofishing/how-catch-fish. html).

opens Saturday

catch fish. Largemouth and smallmouth bass can be easier to catch in spring and early summer when they spend more time in shallow water. Later, as water temperatures rise, many bass move to deeper water in search of sunken points, rocky humps and aquatic plant edges that offer protection from larger fish and hiding places for prey. Learn more about how to fish for bass and other species at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resource's learn



Everyone Welcome! HAPPY HOUR: 3:30-6:30

> THURS: 4:30-6:30 WEEKLY SPECIALS

BINGO: 6:30 Progressive Prizes

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

Take-Out 666-0500

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they come from and Lake Vermilion." Dundas also expressed

And now, more than ever, there's a reason to stop in Cook and make Northwoods Bait and Tackle a part of the Lake Vermilion fishing tradition.

Hi Lo Emb. Hi Lo Prec. Hi Lo Prec. Cook Prec. 0rr Hi Lo Prec. Sn. 84 na 05/12 0.00 05/12 88 47 0.00 05/12 91 45 0.00 91 05/12 49 05/13 79 na 0.00 05/13 86 0.00 88 59 05/13 0.00 86 62 0.00 84 na 0.00 05/14 87 56 0.00 05/14 89 56 0.00 82 na 05/15 0.12 85 05/15 0.00 85 05/15 55 0.01 05/15 85 57 0.00 75 na 05/16 0.25 79 05/16 80 0.18 0.16 78 48 05/16 50 0.44 05/16 80 51 0.63 0.10 44 0.22 0.25 52 51 53 44 05/17 05/17 44 05/17 43 0.16 05/18 44 05/18 45 33 0.06 05/18 na 0.00 05/18 46 35 05/18 0.04 YTD Total YTD Total YTD Total YTD Total



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FAMILY FUN

Under the Sea: CHAIR and MIB Speech and Drama present "The Little Mermaid"

MT. IRON- Cultures, Humanities, and Arts on the Iron Range (CHAIR) and Mt. Iron-Buhl Speech and Drama are presenting the Broadway version of Disney's "The Little Mermaid" on May 29, 30, and 31 at 7 p.m. and at 1 p.m. on June 1 at Merritt Auditorium at MIB Public Schools. The Saturday, May 31 performance will feature American Sign Language interpretation for the deaf and hard-of-hearing community.

The underwater production features over 70 local actors and backstage crew in grades 3-12 from 10 different

"After the success of our production of "Frozen Jr." last fall, we knew that we were in for a large group of kids this spring," said CHAIR executive director Paul M. Gregersen. "The popularity of our youth theatre program is a testament to the need and benefits of arts education programs for area youth." "Our participants and

their families are amazing. We wouldn't be where we are today without all the kids, moms, dads, grandparents, and friends who make these programs possible," Gregersen said. "It's such a privilege to watch our kids grow as artists, improve every day, and find excitement and a love for a collective effort that we build together. This production is especially important for our kids because it is a



full-length, two-hour show, with an intermission. Not a condensed junior version."

Advance tickets are suggested and are available at chair-mn.org, but will also be available at the door prior to each performance. Cultures, Humanities, and Arts on the Iron Range (CHAIR) is a

501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide opportunities pertaining to humanities, cultures, arts and education to people

of all ages across the Iron Range. For more information and for a calendar of events, visit chair-mn.org.

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Salary Range: \$25.57 - \$29.49/hourly Posting closes 06/10/2025

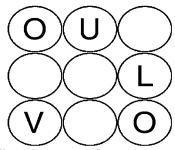
For more information call 218-300-7842 or To apply visit: https://mn.gov/careers/ 5/30

Timberjay /

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.

WORD SPIRAL



Fill in the missing letters to reveal the nine-letter word that starts at one of the four corners and moves clockwise around the perimeter before ending in the center. ©2025 King Features Syndicate

PUBLIC NOTICE

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 APPOINTMENT PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS (INTESTATE)

Notice is given that an application for informal appoint-

tative 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

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

Any objections to the appointment of the Personal Representative must be filed with this Court and will be heard by the Court after the filing of an appropriate petition 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 to the Court Administrator months after the date of this

Notice or the claims will be barred. Judge of District Court

Jennifer Miller Court Administrator

Janet Riegle, Deputy

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

Published in the Timberjay, May 16 & 23, 2025

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

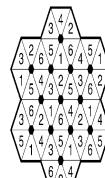
CryptoQuote

The body is an instrument, the mind its function, the witness and reward of its operation.

George Santayana

CryptoQuip Hoping it would be lucky

enough to be planted by a Dakota tribe member, the seed



Super Crossword

King Crossword

Veekly SUDOKI

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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

- 1 Eve's man 5 Aqt.'s take
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- 12 C&W artist
- McEntire 13 Geological
- period
- 14 Linguist
- Chomsky
- 15 Magnificence
- 17 Leslie Caron
- role
- 18 Next in line 19 Business goal
- 21 Poetic con-
- traction
- 22 Feudal labor-
- 23 Rx writers
- 26 Actor McKellen
- 28 Cardioboxing rou-
- tine 31 Nest egg

choices

- 33 Vat
- 35 Foolproof
- 36 Picture puzzle 59 "Shoo!" 38 Diner order
- 40 "Awesome,

DOWN

1 Golden

Laura

idea"

4 "Olympia"

painter

Edouard

Fleece ship

- dude!"
- 41 Muscat's land 43 Summer mo.
- 45 Spud
- 47 Scan again
- 51 Help a hood
- 52 French title 54 Go sightsee-

ing

- 12 15
 - 13 14 16 18 19 20 21 22 24 25 26 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 38 39 40 37 41 42 43 44 47 46 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59
 - 55 "- you 5 Views slyly 6 French vinesleeping?" 56 Mrs. Nick yard Charles 7 Infield covers
 - 57 Antitoxins 8 Long-haired 58 Susan of cats "L.A. Law"
 - 9 Hairdresser 10 Creche trio 11 Send forth
 - 16 Roman 602 20 Pensioned
 - (Abbr.) 2 "Wild" actress 23 Soviet space
 - station 3 "That's not — 24 Dad on
 - "Black-ish" 25 1942

thriller

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- Hitchcock
- 49 Mystique 50 "Phooey!"

ment

27 Gist

29 Bikini half

30 British ref.

32 Java neighbor

work

34 Total non-

sense

37 Perched

39 Calendar

abbr.

42 Wanderer

44 Big smiles

45 Bits of butter

46 Reed instru-

48 Fair-hiring org.

- 53 Mine material



TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

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

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SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





Even Exchange 6. Meddle Middl

Word Spiral Answer **OBVIOUSLY**

King Crossword — Answers Solution time: 24 mins.



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

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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

SMY AHQG LR PO

LORSDXKYOS, SMY KLOQ

LSR NXOFSLHO, SMY

BLSOYRR POQ DYBPDQ HN

LSR HTYDPSLHO.

JYHDJY RPOSPGPOP

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Kazan

desire

say

I'm saying?"

62 Atlanta-to-

65 Suffix with

pent-

67 Chitchat

69 Apple or

pear

71 Permit

72 Sphere

70 Offer a view

73 Mafia bigwig

74 Hazy air stuff

75 Mister, in

Münster

76 "Lonely Boy"

Akron dir.

DISCRETE

CHARACTERS

95 Verb before

perhaps

99 Words after

sergeant

101 With, to Luc

Ryan

sound

104 Novarro of

silent films

105 H.S. science

class for

106 Roster of

107 "Eleni"

director

disposal"

to sack a QB

chocolatier

Peter

108 "- your

college credit

least-sought-

after celebs

103 Metallic

speaker after

102 House

man or

"thou,"

FINERY SALE PERRAULT'S IN VIRGINIA

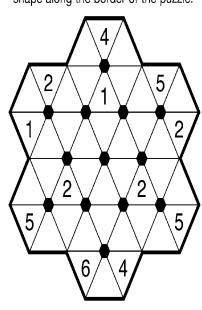
June 4, 5, 6 & 7 • 7:30 – 5 • 304 4th St. S (2 blocks south of Virginia Bowling Gardens)

Lotza purses, plus-size clothing, furniture, huge jewelry collection, bric-a-brac, new stuff (lots). See you there! 5/30

NOMLIUME(

by Japheth Light

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



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:









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CryptoQuip

for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error Clue: T equals X

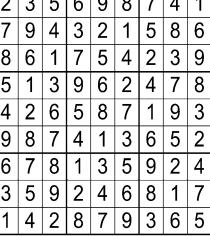
ONAESV EZ HNGFC LB FGUQD

BSNGVO ZN LB AFXSZBC LD X

CXQNZX ZPELB JBJLBP, ZOB RBBC

BTUFXEJBC "RENGT RNH JB!"

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Super Crossword 51 Film director

1 Broken stone for paving

ACROSS

- 8 Big petroleum company of the past
- 15 Actress Talia 20 Erstwhile
- empress of Russia 21 Very narrow,
- as a road 22 Got the
- lead out? 23 Decision to award Eris'
- apple to Aphrodite 25 Blah feeling
- 26 NHLer Bobby 27 Upset infant's
- sound 28 "Look, mice!"
- 29 Least severe 31 Stein drinks **34** Original
- lion-logo
- film studio
- 38 Arriver's declaration
- **40** buco
- 41 A Nixon daughter
- 44 City northeast of
- Toronto **48** To wit
- red ash are
- members of it

20

23

26

31

59

63

74

82

90

94

115

120

127

130

75 76

- consoles
 - 100 Snazzily dressed
- **54** Cascara and **103** 2011 Steve Carell

32 33

38

69 70

104 105 106 107

42 43

- rom-com 58 Deem worthy 111 Sphere

- - 7 Take care of 8 Oozy gunk 9 Lacking in

nourishment

2 Sky-blue hue 3 Corps core 4 Uru. neighbor

> 10 11

- leaflets 47 Stevie
 - Cherie —"

 - 49 "Stop!," asea

12

36

40

67

78

93

124

85

109 110

37

61

86

100 |101 |102

117

129

132

- Wonder's "My

29

57

68

187

97

118

125 126

88 89

- 92 Pick- -(refresher)
- 122 Go quickly
 - 125 In favor of

22 25

Answer

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

10 Skunk Pepé **Buenos Aires** of cartoons

- 59 Poet Rich or 115 Port near actress Barbeau
- 60 "Yang Yang" singer Yoko 61 Painting in
- 63 San Luis **64** Doc bloc **66** Shoveled
- 68 Boots out 69 Hardware pieces for attaching
- shelves to walls 74 Wrinkly-faced
- dog 77 Wallach or Manning
- 78 Outlaw 79 Similar to 82 Diner offering 132 Phrase with
- 84 Ancient 86 Sits to appear on the cover
- of, say 90 Pest control
- company 91 Hovel
- 94 Shredded, as DOWN Parmesan 96 Takes care of
- **97** 1980s game
- 98 Honolulu site
- 5 Not well lit 6 Over again

21

35

65

77

92

83

96

121 | 122 | 123

128

131

45

60

84

108

46 47

66

24

34

55 | 56

64

91

95

98 99

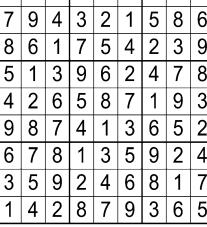
39

- **46** Advertising
- - **50** Stags, e.g.
- entree) 85 Sleuth: Abbr 87 Purse part 88 Nitrate, e.g. **89** Ration
- singer Paul 109 Group trying 79 At a distance 80 Sets of **110** Swiss points, in math **112** Like — in 81 Torah holders – pork (Chinese
 - headlights **113** Ton of, informally **114** Bette Midler's
 - "Divine" stage persona
 - **118** Alibis, e.g. 123 Divs. of eras
 - 124 Propane, e.g. 126 Knee's place

79

80 81

112 113



116 "Louisville 11 Like crumbly 52 Intense Lip" of boxing piecrusts 117 Jeff Lynne's **12** Rowing blade 53 "For" votes rock gp. 13 Reggae's -55 Doing Atkins, the Louvre 119 "Is that true Kamoze 56 Do-fa linkup 14 Best Musical about me?" 120 Scope of before 57 "Get what

influence

and "BB" of

an AABB

scheme

128 "Hamilton"

composer

Lin-Manuel

130 Lace snarls

sonnets

no repeated

letters (like

each of this

puzzle's

answers)

1 Dead-end

131 Ends of

127 Din

121 The "AA"

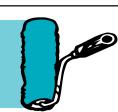
- "Phantom" **15** Silvery fish 16 Dharma follower
- 17 Private 18 Recycle
- **19** Fixes up text
- 24 Son of Odin 30 Holy relic **129** City grid parts
 - 32 Lake of TV talk 33 Hit hard,
 - biblical-style 35 Novelist Uris
 - **36** "— get it!" ("Oh, makes
 - sense!") 37 Sacred song seven longest **39** Violinist
 - Hilary 41 Kind of ski lift
 - 42 Very impolite 43 2012 hit for work position
 - Flo Rida 45 Calif. air hub
- **93** Bygone bird
- 15

|16 |17 |18

8B May 23, 2025 THE TIMBERJAY



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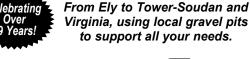


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10. Fasten

Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

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

218-741-6690

f

1. Make amends	_ T	Solitary	_ L
2. Narrow one's eyes	N _	Use a water pistol	R_
3. Cake maker	_ A	Chopper dude	_ '
4. Necklace ornament	L	Spaceship	R
5. Very pale	H	Colorado tree	P
6. Interfere	_ E	Center	_ '
7. Cook lightly	T _	Gravy	c
8. Take it easy	X	Certain running race	Y
9. Shrink	w	Blanket	v

H Invade

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