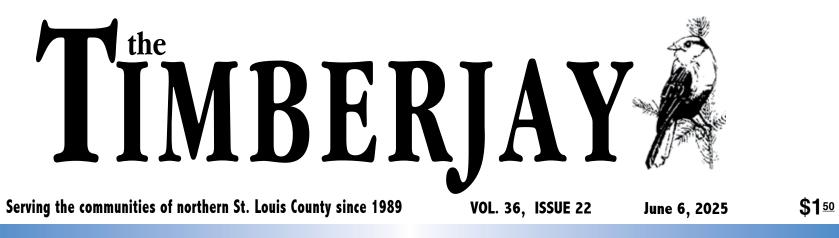


Inside: Timber Days grand marshal... See /3 More graduation pics... See /inside Spring sports... See /1B Ovenbirds... See /4B



#### YOUNG HERO RECOGNIZED

# Sixth grader steps up when bus driver suffers stroke

by DAVID COLBURN Cook/Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- For most kids, an ordinary bus ride home is just that – ordinary. But for North Woods sixth grader Eero Ruuska, one recent afternoon turned into a lesson in calm, clear-headed leadership.

When his bus driver became disoriented and con-

fused, Eero didn't freeze. He stepped up, followed instructions, and helped keep the situation under control until help arrived.

It began like any other afternoon. But somewhere along the route, veteran school bus driver Peter Mock knew something wasn't right. He was disoriented and conRight: North Woods sixth grader Eero Ruuska was honored recently for his role in bringing a concerning bus incident to a positive conclusion. Pictured with Ruuska are, from left, transportation director Kay Cornelius, bus driver Peter Mock, and North Woods Principal Kelly Engman. photo by D. Colburn

fused - he recognized the the school. town of Cook but couldn't figure out exactly where he was. Unsure what to do, Mock pulled over and called

Eero Ruuska recognized by St. Louis County School District

That call quickly reached transportation director Kay

See..HERO pg. 9



#### **CRIME**

# Suspect arrested in local spree of burglaries

#### by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

REGIONAL- The St. Louis County Sheriff's Office has announced an arrest in a series of burglaries and thefts from homes and businesses in the Tower area in recent weeks. Jeffery Allen Bingham, age 42, was in the St. Louis County Jail earlier this week following his May 30 arrest in the case. Bingham has been residing at 1346 Tibbetts Trail in Greenwood Township.

Sheriff's deputies arrested Bingham after a resident along Lake Vermilion Reservation Rd. caught Bingham on a security camera near a shed just after 4 a.m. The homeowner saw the footage as it was happening and confronted Jeffrey Bingham Bingham at the scene, who sped off in a silver Chevrolet Impala, before hitting a tree. The vehicle reportedly belongs to the brother of Bingham's girlfriend. Bingham initially told investigators that he was with his girlfriend at the time of the incident. His girlfriend confirmed that he was with her much of the night, but that he had left about 4 a.m., using her brother's vehicle. Bingham faces three separate felony counts, including third-degree burglary, theft of goods worth more than \$1,000, and theft of property without consent. True Value store owner Dan Julkowski has confirmed that Bingham is believed to



#### THE CLASS OF 2025

#### LOCAL INVESTMENT

# **IRRR** board greenlights millions in new funding

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- A major infrastructure project in Tower and a workforce housing initiative in Ely headlined nearly \$39 million in funding actions approved by the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board at a meeting on Thursday, May 29.

Tower's waterfront redevelopment project took a significant step forward with a \$566,000 grant to install permanent utilities supporting new housing and commercial growth along the East Two River and at the city's harbor. The project replaces an earlier plan for temporary infrastructure and now aims to accommodate six sustainable homes near the Marjo Motel as well as a major development at the harbor,



#### See...ARREST pg. 11

# From students to graduates

Graduation ceremonies were held throughout the area last week, marking a major milestone for the many local graduates.

Above: North Woods Class President Talen Jarshaw points to what it's all about shortly after receiving his diploma.

Right: Ely valedictorian Carena DeBeltz and salutatorian Milo McClelland after their ceremony.

Lower right: Silas Solum and his grandmother Linda Solum smile for a photo.

Below: Selena Ramos reacts with excitement to her diploma. photos by Timberjay staff







See...IRRR pg. 10

#### CITY OF ELY

# Water main break tops council agenda

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA Staff Writer

ELY- "There's a pretty cool waterfall coming down the road." Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski said that was the probably his favorite firsthand report on the city water main that burst just after the high school graduation ceremony here last week.

"The water main is a ten-inch wide line that comes from the water tower to the water plant and comes up Sheridan St. all the way to Central Ave., Langowski explained to the city council

See...COUNCIL pg. 9





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#### **Community notices**

#### Early Deadline for upcoming issue

TOWER- The Timberjay will have early deadlines for two upcoming issues in June due to mail holidays.

The deadline for the June 20 and July 4 papers will both be pushed up one day, with advertisements and articles due Tuesday of that week by 10 a.m.

#### Protect Your Lake, Restore Your Shore: Workshops in Tower and Ely area on June 7

REGIONAL- Everyone cares about their lake, but what can they do to help it? North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District is sponsoring two upcoming presentations on Saturday, June 7 from 10 to 11 a.m. at Greenwood Town Hall, and Saturday, June 7 from 2 to 3 p.m. at the South Kawishiwi River Campground Pavilion. Learn why shorelines with natural vegetation are important and the benefits they provide. Then participate in a discussion on techniques, tips, and resources for restoring your own shoreline.

#### VHHF to host Hope for Hospice 5k Walk/ Run on Friday, June 13; register soon



COOK- Virgie Hegg Hospice Foundation will host a 5k Walk/ Run in Cook on Friday, June 13. The race will start at 7 p.m. with registration beginning at 6 p.m. This year's start will be at Veteran's Riverfront Park. Participants who register and pay prior to June 10 will receive a race t-shirt and swag bag. Use this link to register: https://forms.gle/zfXWzyZEjvQdZqkG9 or find the registra-

tion form at the VHHF website at www.vhhf.org. For more information, contact Board Members Barb Hegg at 218-742-2369 or Steve Kajala at 218-750-0310. Come out to support a great cause during Cook's Timber Days.

#### PEO Chapter ER meeting on Monday, June 9

COOK- The next monthly meeting of PEO Chapter ER will be held on Monday, June 9 at 5:30 p.m. at 2437 Red Sunset Rd. in Cook. All PEO members in the area are welcome to attend

#### **Tower Farmers Market opens on June 13**

TOWER- The Tower Farmers Market will open for its 16th season on Friday, June 13, at its usual location by the train. Join our fun group of local vendors to browse for fresh and canned goods, baked products, hand-crafted items, and much more. The market will be open every Friday through the summer from 4 - 6 p.m., rain or shine. Check out our Facebook page for updated information each week

#### Sauna Day is Saturday, June 7 at Nelimark Homestead in Embarrass

EMBARRASS- National Sauna Day is the first weekend in June, with a full slate of activities planned for Saturday, June 7 at the Nelimark Homestead Museum in Embarrass. Sisu Heritage presents the events of the day with no admission charge. The Nelimark Museum will open at 9 a.m. and will serve free coffee an' all day. The artisans have been busy creating many interesting new crafts and products for the summer season.

There will be seven sauna displays from Iron Rangeand Duluth-area merchants set up on the grounds from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Lamppa Manufacturing from Tower will present a display of sauna stoves. Guests are invited to tour the displays on the grounds during the day. From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. a program of live music under the tent will be available for your listening enjoyment. Several musicians have been invited to participate. The Sisu Heritage food stand will be selling a choice of a pulled pork sandwich meal or "taco in a bag" meal starting at 11 a.m.

The annual boot-throwing contest will take place at 12:15 p.m., with a number of prizes to be won for all ages participating. The Sweneys are bringing their newest baby goats for the children to pet and love. Wendy's goat cheese will be for sale as well.

### Brodini Comedy Magic Show at area libraries in June

REGIONAL- The Arrowhead Library System is pleased to present the Brodini Comedy Magic Show at area libraries in June. The Brodini Comedy Magic Show offers fun and exciting magic tricks that are so cool you won't believe your eyes. Magician Graylyn Morris will raise spirits and test the kids' powers of concentration as he manipulates ropes, scarves, balls, and other props in a perplexing now-you-seeit, now-you-don't performance. This free program is 50 minutes long and is a family-friendly program for all ages. This program being offered at the

following locations in our area: Wednesday, June 11, 1 p.m. - Auro-

ra Public Library Wednesday, June 11, 3:30 p.m. -

**Babbitt Public Library** 

Thursday, June 12, 10 a.m. - Cook Community Center, hosted by the Cook



#### Public Library

Thursday, June 12, 3:30 p.m. - Ely

#### EQUAL PAY

#### Equal pay activism movie "Lilly" featured at Ely's State Theater

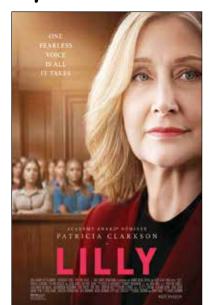
ELY- The Ely Historic State Theater will feature the movie "Lilly" every afternoon from June 6 to June 19 in the Greenstone Theater. The drama portrays the story of activist Lilly Ledbetter, a working-class mother from Alabama and the struggles and harassment she endured after she discovered that her monthly salary was glaringly less than her male co-workers.

Ledbetter made headlines in 2007 when she sued her employer, Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, for gender discrimination, resulting in a Supreme Court case. It was no easy path, as initially the Supreme Court ruled that the statute of limitations had passed. Undaunted, her activism ultimately led to the introduction of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009, which President Obama signed into law as his first piece of legislation.

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) actively supported Ledbetter's case, particularly in the Supreme Court, advocating for a change in the interpretation of anti-discrimination laws and lobbying for legislation that would address pay discrimination. AAUW continues to advocate for economic security for women and works to ensure that women are paid equally for equal work, honoring Ledbetter's legacy.

The local AAUW Ely Branch has historically promoted gender pay equity, launching an initiative in 2018 that resulted in more than 80 Ely organizations and businesses, including the City of Ely, signing an affirmation in support of equal pay. The branch has also hosted a number of "Unhappy Hours" and provided community presentations in support of fair compensation in the workplace for every individual.

On Sunday, June 8, members of the AAUW Ely Branch will be at the theater providing information about the work of our branch in support of women and girls and the continuing gender pay gap and how it affects women differently by racial group. Please check



by the Arrowhead Library System. To

learn more about Arrowhead Library

the times for the showings of "Lilly" on the Ely Historic State Theater website. https://elystatetheater.org.

#### LAKE VERMILION CULTURAL CENTER

#### LVCC online auction begins June 6, plus more live auction items

TOWER- The Lake Vermilion Cultural Center is hosting it's first online auction as part of the annual Midsummer Benefit. It begins on Friday, June 6 at 9 a.m. and will end on the night of the event, June 14 at 6 p.m. There are up to 50 items in the online auction including an exciting selection of services, activities, art, gift cards and gift baskets.

The advantage of an online auction is that participants can view the items and make bids even if they can't attend the event or are outside the area. Participants can view the auction without an account: however, an account is needed for entering bids. Set up your safe and secure account www.32auctions.com/ at LVCC2025. Online payment will be required and will speed up the check-out process. You may find the auction items at www.32auctions.com/LVCC2025. А QR code (above) is also



Bid on a seaplane ride for four, two trips available, one in the online and one in the live auction

System Events, please see our calendar Monday, June 23, 10 a.m. - Mt. at www.alslib.info or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/alslibinfo. Monday, June 23, 1 p.m. - Virginia Public Library This program tour is sponsored

Public Library Iron Public Library

#### **Rent the Tower Depot's Coach Car**

TOWER- The Tower Depot's Coach Car 81 can accommodate up to 45 people with nine small tables for seating. It is available for rental for meetings, birthday parties, family reunions, and other occasions.

The car has two serving tables with electrical outlets nearby, and is available for rent during the spring, summer, and fall. The rental fee is \$40 with a \$25 damage deposit.

Contact Linda Haugen at 612-916-1918 for more information.

#### Pickleball newbie day in Greenwood on Sunday, June 8

GREENWOOD TWP- The Lake Vermilion Pickleball Association invites you to try pickleball on Sunday, June 8 from 2 to 4 p.m. This "Pickleball Newbie" event will be held at the new courts at the Greenwood Township Recreation Area located at 3000 County Road 77, Tower.

If you're thinking about trying pickleball or have tried it but want to learn more skills, join us for a fun-filled afternoon with other newbies. Seasoned players will be available to gently coach you. Bring your pickleball paddles if you have them - or we will provide paddles and balls so you can play. Bring clean court shoes to change into and a sense of fun!

As a reminder, all pickleball players, regardless of experience, are welcome for "open play" at the courts Monday through Friday from 8 to 11 a.m. Check out our website at vermilionpickleball.org. For more information on the newbie event, contact pbvermilion@gmail.com.



available to access the website. The 32auctions website is easy to use and has an abundance of help tools and a demo to guide you along.

The final hour of the online auction will be during the social hour at the Herbert Lamppa Civic Center, where final bids can be made until 6 p.m. A help desk will be available for those who need assistance at the event. Bidders not in attendance can continue bidding during this time. A smaller in-person silent auction with 20 items will be held inside the Civic Center from 5 to 6 p.m. A

cash bar will be available for your enjoyment.

Winners may pick up their online items in the Halunen lobby at the LVCC after the Midsummer program at 8:30 p.m. on June 14. A few items will be available to be shipped at the winner's expense.

The LVCC is also pleased to announce more live auction items. As previously listed, there will be a one-week stay at a French alpine chalet, which sleeps eight people. Another oneweek stay will be offered at La Rocca, a northern Ital-

ian bed and breakfast in the wine country near Milan. The ever-popular tickets to the Minnesota Wild will be offered. New this year is a 45-minute plane ride over Lake Vermilion for four people in a classic DHC-2 de Havilland Beaver. There will also be two tickets to a Vikings game. Mealey's in Ely donated another beautiful Amish polywood rocking chair this year. The live auction will be held after dinner, with Steve Solkela leading the auction.

Start bidding today, Friday June 6 at 9 a.m., on the online items and check your bids often until June 14 at 6 p.m. And if you're attending the gala event get a group together to plan your bidding strategy.

206 1st St SW, Cook, MN



#### COOK

# Jeannie Taylor chosen as Timber Days Grand Marshal

#### by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- The Cook Annual Timber Days committee in recent years has chosen grand marshals for Sunday's parade who have been involved in many different volunteer and philanthropic groups.

This year's choice, Jeannie Taylor, breaks that mold. While expressing her enthusiastic support for all of the good being done in the city and surrounding area by volunteers, Taylor focuses primarily on one, an organization with big goals and big impact - Cook Friends of the Parks.

Taylor didn't expect to be the center of attention for Timber Days, but when the committee came calling she didn't say no – she just asked a simple question: "Are you sure you want me?"

That question alone says a lot about Taylor, who's spent most of her life doing work that matters without ever trying to stand out for it. "It's an honor," Taylor

said. "I'm just not a big fuss kind of person."

Taylor is a Cook native, the daughter of Gordon and Lillian Anderson. She was the fourth of six Anderson children.

Taylor said she first got engaged with volunteer service in high school with an organization known at the time as the American Sunday School Union. The group has gone through many name changes since its founding in 1817, and is known today as InFaith.

"It was kind of like a missionary-type thing," Taylor said. "They would go to different towns and put on Bible schools in the summer, so I volunteered for that. They had a camp on Lake Esquagama. We got \$20 for maybe four weeks of work. It was fun.'

Taylor graduated from Cook High School in 1971. "There were 71 kids in our class," she noted.

She moved on to Mesabi State Junior College, where she broke a different mold



#### Jeannie Taylor. photo by D. Colburn

at the time – by majoring in later," Taylor laughed. criminal justice.

"I thought I was going to save the world, maybe,' Taylor said.

But then, while attending the funeral of an old family friend, she reconnected with the man who's been her husband for the past 52 years, Jim Taylor. He had recently returned from a tour of duty as a Marine in Vietnam. Originally from International Falls and also part of a big family, Taylor said she didn't really remember him.

"It was kind of a bizarre thing, because I drove my mom (to the funeral)," Taylor said. "My mom didn't drive a lot of distance and she wanted to go. So that's where I actually met him, and he said he was thinking about going to Mesabi. So, when I saw him at Mesabi, I went to talk to him and we started dating, and we got married about six months later."

That marriage, and the children that came with it, eventually changed the course of Taylor's life. Their first son, Travis, was born in her final year at Mesabi.

"He was born, and I went back to school ten days

Then they moved to Bemidji, where she studied at Bemidji State College. The Taylors moved to Cook in 1976. Along came son Jesse, and later daughter Kristina, but no job in criminal justice - too many other applicants for the few positions available, Taylor said. So, she worked stints at the local coop and at Ketola's Department Store in Virginia before getting a job at the school as a playground aide when Kristina was about four.

"Somewhere along the way, I got really involved with PTO - all the playground equipment that's left at the old school, we did all the fundraising for that."

Then somewhere around 1992, Taylor said, she became the leader of the community education program, a position she held until her retirement in 2011. And in her retirement, she's broken the mold yet again, this time as a cancer survivor.

"I retired because I was going through my cancer thing, and the prognosis was less than five years," Taylor said. "I did three years of treatment and then it came back, and I took a few

#### Timber Days runs June 13, 14, and 15 in Cook

Friday events: Vendors on River St., Burger Night, 5K run/walk, bean bags, Firefighter's challenge, dunk tank, and live music

Saturday events: Pancake Breakfast, Cook Hospital Health Fair, golf scramble, arts/crafts vendors, food vendors, classic car show, pet show, children's games and activities, magic show, dunk tank, pony rides, live music, robotics team demontrations, Matt's BBQ Ribs, Elvis show with free admission, and fireworks.

Sunday event: Arts/crafts vendors, food booths, lawnmower races, church service.

See full schedule with event times and locations on page 9.

months off for surgery and stuff, and Jim said, 'Why are you going to go back? Let's just enjoy our life.' So then we started traveling, and that's what we've done, and miraculously I'm still here."

But between cruises that have taken them all over the world, there's been Cook Friends of the Parks. Taylor, the group's current president, said it's been a good fit with what she did with community education, as well as with the parks and recreation board that she served on for 25 years.

"It's kind of like a puzzle you put together, you figure this out, you figure that out," she said.

The most visible and vital of the projects she's worked on is the Cook Community Center, which at its inception was intended to be a youth center, but as more people got engaged, the focus shifted.

The next big project was creating Veterans Riverfront Park, on the north end of River St. on the banks of the Little Fork River. And for the past year, Friends of the Parks has been working hard to bring pickleball to Cook through the transformation of the old ice skating rink at the community center. Originally intended to be a dual-use surface, plans have changed over time so that now there will be a smaller ice rink and separate pickleball courts. The projects they've tackled are large ones, costing hundreds of thousands of dollars they've had to raise, but Taylor is rightfully proud of the contributions Friends of the Parks has made to the community "We're just a small

group – I think there's seven of us now, but we just say this is our goal, let's do it," Taylor said. "Sometimes it takes longer than we anticipated, and raising more money, but we do it. I think my goal is to make this community appealing to new families."

And Taylor has some ready consultants for what might be appealing to families. Sons Travis and Jesse live here, and daughter Tina lives in Silver Bay, and Taylor said that she has six grandchildren, each kid with two.

"And three great-grandchildren," Taylor said, smil-

Taylor expressed sincere gratitude for all of the relationships she's made through her work with Friends of the Parks and the overwhelming community support they've received. She hopes people will help boost them over the

ing big.

final hurdles of fundraising for the pickleball courts by participating in raffles and upcoming events. And when it comes to volunteering, Taylor noted that one doesn't have to do large projects to make a difference.

"You don't have to do something big, you just have to show up," she said.

**COOK LIONS CLUB** Timber Days Burgers **City Park behind Library** Friday, June 13 10 am - 6 pm Saturday, June 14 10 am - 6 pm Sunday, June 15 11 am - 4 pm Hamburgers or Cheeseburgers \$8.00 Come out and support the Cook Lions

Advance order lunch burgers (minimum order of 5) to be delivered in Cook. Lunch deliveries are only available 11 to 1 on Friday, June 13. All lunch orders must be submitted by noon Wednesday, June 11. Contact Colette by text or call 612-213-7603.

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# OPINION

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

# r**Editorial Our smoky future**

Out-of-touch politicians can't stand in the way of our transition to climate-friendly energy

Here we go again?

That's the very real concern as the area experienced several days with unhealthy levels of wildfire smoke this past week. Already this year, the North Country has experienced several days with high levels of fine particulates in the air, due either from local wildfires or from fires north of the border.

Canadian meteorologists are forecasting a hotter and drier summer than usual across western Canada, which they expect to lead to another bad wildfire season. With the prevailing westerly to northwesterly air flow here in the North Country, that means we can expect to see many more smoky days this year, conditions reminiscent of 2023, during which Canada experienced its worst fire season in history. Here in northern Minnesota, we experienced air quality alerts from that Canadian smoke nearly one out of every five days during the 2023 fire season. This year is starting out nearly as bad, with large fires raging in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, which have repeatedly sent smoke into our region.

We wish we could say it will get better, but the reality is that it won't. In fact, all the science points to a future increasingly dominated by fire and its impacts on global ecosystems and human health. We are facing a future increasingly dominated by oppressive levels of heat and wildfire smoke.

And while our political leaders in Washington, D.C. would like to ban the very term and any discussion of its implications, the unpleasant reality we find ourselves experiencing today and the even more dire future ahead is directly connected to climate change. Denying this reality will not change the facts or clear our skies of the smoke generated by the ever-increasing number of fires.

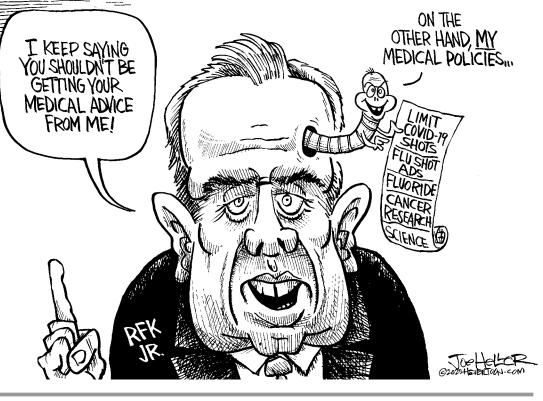
Researchers at NASA have documented the increase in wildfires as well as the sharp increase in extreme fire behavior over the past two decades. Most of that increase has been seen in the western U.S., and the boreal forests of Canada and Russia. We've experienced the same trend here in northeastern Minnesota, as warmer temperatures are extending the danger of fire throughout the summer. In June, for example, our average temperature in the Rainy River headwaters region has increased by just over 2.5 degrees F since 2000. Wildfires in June were once unthinkable here in the North Country as well as in Canada, but those days are now gone. Welcome to cli-

mate change. It's here and we're going to be living with it for the rest of our lives.

It can seem overwhelming, even hopeless, particularly as climate change denial seems to be the policy direction currently being pursued in Washington. Yet there are some hopeful signs. Yes, our current president denies the link between the burning of fossil fuels and the warming of the planet and even promotes the burning of more dirty coal, a key contributor to climate change. But that's just rhetoric. It doesn't change the fact that no one is going to install new coal plants in the U.S., because the economics of energy production have changed dramatically over the past two decades. A new solar installation can now produce electricity for about \$24 per megawatt, whereas it costs about \$36 to produce the same amount of power at the most efficient coal plant. Costs at older coal plants can run far higher. Building new coal plants or continuing to operate old ones is bad for electric ratepayers and for utility shareholders alike. Utilities make decisions based on the bottom line, not retrograde political ideology.

The reality is that solar and wind are no longer "alternative energy." They represent about 90 percent of all new power production installed worldwide, including here in the U.S., and nearly three-quarters of that is coming from solar. Solar installations are now increasingly paired with large-capacity battery systems that keep the lights on and the appliances running throughout the nighttime hours as well.

The renewable energy revolution isn't some futuristic environmentalist pipe dream- it's already here. And contrary to the claims of some out-of-touch politicians, the cost of producing energy is actually declining thanks to renewable energy. While the cost of distributing that power is continuing to rise, that would be the case regardless of how the power is produced. The fact is, replacing coal plants with cleaner, cheaper renewable sources of energy is helping to keep our power bills from rising as quickly as they otherwise would. It's the altered economics of alternative energy that provide the most hope for addressing climate change and all of its repercussions. The switch to solar and wind is now inevitable and that will hopefully help keep the skies of the future a little less smoky.



# Letters from Readers

#### Stauber's end run around the law

To function as a society, we establish rules that allow us to live in reasonable safety and with an understanding of boundaries: traffic laws, building safety codes, regulations for food and medicine, environmental laws, and so forth. A bedrock principle is that the rules apply equally to everyone.

Some professional athletes have a history of severe traffic law violations - DUIs and driving on public highways at ridiculously high speeds. Suppose a legislator introduced a bill to exempt all present and former pro ball players from traffic laws? Congressman Pete Stauber has committed the equivalent of that bizarre move.

Stauber has inserted provisions in the House budget reconciliation bill that would override four federal statutes and numerous agency rules for a single foreign mining company. He did that because the only way this company (Antofagasta, owned by Chilean billionaires) would be allowed to dig a copper-nickel mine in the headwaters of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness is if the rules don't apply to it.

Since 1950, federal law has vided that no mining project in the Superior National Forest will be permitted unless it first receives the consent of the U.S. Forest Service. In 2016, the Forest Service denied consent to sulfide-ore copper mining in the Boundary Waters headwaters in the Superior. It has consistently held this position across the last three presidential administrations. On the basis of careful scientific analysis of the impact such mining would have if it were to occur upstream of this great water-rich wilderness, the Forest Service found a risk of severe harm that could not be fixed or mitigated. Stauber's legislation would override the consent requirement. The requirement of Forest Service

COMMENTARY

consent to any mining in the Superior was imposed even though the types of mining contemplated in 1950 were small granite quarries, gravel pits, and traditional hematite iron ore mining, all of which are far less harmful than a giant copper mining complex.

Rules under the National Environmental Policy Act require that before issuing mineral leases, the government must first consider the likely environmental impact. Stauber would gut this law for Antofagasta and allow the issuance of federal mineral leases without environmental review or public input. This includes two leases that were found to be unlawfully issued in 2019 and two others that have never been presented to the public. Regulations governing federal mineral leases, including standard term limits and limited rights of renewal? Gone. Antofagasta would be granted perpetual rights to mine on federal public lands in the headwaters of the Boundary Waters. Who else gets a gift like that? No one.

Further, Stauber would prohibit you, me, or any other person from suing to demand judicial review of this blatant giveaway. But he would reserve, to Antofagasta, the right to sue to challenge any lease terms it didn't like. Heads,

unchallengeable "rights" to exploit public lands and minerals. The current thriving, sustainable economy and the vibrant community it supports would suffer a crippling blow.

Please inform Senators Klobuchar and Smith that you adamantly oppose Stauber's end run around the law.

#### Becky Rom Ely

#### More debt, more parades, less health care

The recent legislation bill passed by the Republicans reduces taxes for the wealthy and increases funding for the military and immigration enforcement. The tax bill decreases funding for Americans' health, nutrition, education, and clean energy programs, all without a single Democratic vote. The Congressional Budget forecasts that the legislation would result in more than 8.6 million Americans being uninsured. The legislation is estimated to increase the U.S. debt by \$3.2 to \$4 trillion.

Trump stated that any Republican to vote against the bill would be "the ultimate betrayal." This threat has been interpreted that Trump would provide financing for a Republican candidate in the mid-term elections to oppose those who vote "no" on the proposed legislation. In the meantime, the stock and bond markets have declined along with the downgrading of U.S. Treasury securities by Moody's, a top credit rating agency. These markets are considered better barometers than political polls of American reaction to the proposed legislation. It would be appropriate if Trump would donate the \$45 million in taxpayer money being spent on "his" military parade for his 79th birthday.

Antofagasta wins. Tails, the public and the Boundary Waters lose.

Under the rules that exist now, it is obvious that no copper mine would be permitted in the headwaters of the Boundary Waters. Antofagasta's handmaiden Pete Stauber sees that the only way forward for the proposed mine is to exile the rules to a world where they apply to everyone except Antofagasta.

Stauber's proposal would operate to the enormous detriment of Ely and the surrounding area. Outfitters, resorts, camps, homeowners, and the businesses that support all of them would find planning nearly impossible because of the cloud of Antofagasta's perpetual,

#### **Gerry Snyder** Elv

# It's time to unmask ourselves and get real

window at school, daydreaming, startled by the teacher's suggestion that perhaps they should be paying attention, as if it was an unexpected request? There was always one of or two of them, and somethe times whole class. Maybe it was you.

People would observe, "Bob (or Susie) is just in a world of their own." We know adults like that, too: "Earth to Bob, Earth to Susie." As their minds wan-

You know that kid who der, maybe they're writing was always looking out the a poem or inventing a way



to keep the garden hose from crimping, maybe they are just tired of the inane conversations around them. They're actually not odd-

ty, a mask. They either don't or

balls, just a bit out of the loop of social niceties, for each of us does live in our

own little universe of which we are the epicenter. The Bobs and Susies of this world are just more obvious, less hypocritical; they're not as good at putting on "the

know how or don't want to wear the mask that covers up their thoughts or feelings. In my mid-20s, I had the good fortune to take an art education class with an excellent professor. I stayed after class one day to share my appreciation of her creative

face" that seems to be pay-

ing attention but is, in reali-

and enthusiastic approach, which gave us the opportunity to work playfully with a variety of artistic media while learning teaching strategies. She told me that she was thinking of returning to teach in elementary school, and I wondered why. She said, "It's just really hard to

look out at all those fish faces every day." I knew exactly what she meant: my oh-soyoung classmates hadn't a clue that they were privileged to have such an excellent, dynamic teacher. "This is so lame," they would say of the required class. "Why doesn't she just tell us what to do?" It did not bode well for their future success teaching youngsters eager to try new things.

That ennui has to be learned. Newborns slide out from their watery home into a new, startling environment. They may appear stunned or just unfocused initially, but very soon they will be noticing and mirroring those faces and sounds around them,

which, hopefully, are warm and caring, loving them up. When they're hungry or wet or have a diaper pin sticking into them, their faces twist up in tears or rage, and they bawl. No masks there. When a toddler is learning how to navigate the world and wanting more control than she has, she may shout,"Me do it!" stomping her foot, with her whole body showing her frustration. No mask there.

The mask has to be learned; when, how, and to what degree that happens depends on the family, the circumstances, and the culture that the child has landed in. Are the children loved and supported, accepted as the unique beings they are, or are they controlled, criticized, and shamed? Are they respected and encouraged to explore and express themselves or punished for speaking up or making mistakes? Are the adults in their sphere mature and balanced, or are they masking-up a lot of the time, models of emotional hypocrisy, which children, even babies, can sense and distrust

Individuation begins at six to seven months. Babies start to figure out that those arms and feet waving around actually belong to them; that they are their own little per-

#### See MASK...pg. 5

#### Why Trump targets the universities

When asked how fascism begins, Bertrand Russell had a simplistic but truthful answer.

First, they fascinate the fools. Then they silence the intelligent. Mission accomplished.

#### **Barry Tungseth** Elv

#### Let's do something about tansy

I recently spoke to a member of the St. Louis County Environmental Services about the dreaded imposter, tansy, the toxic invasive plant that has taken over our trails, highways, and forest edges.

The county spokesperson suggested many different ways to cut down on tansy but some were too time-consuming or too expensive but one seemed relatively easy and inexpensive. He told me to take a large black plastic bag to hold the tansy and place the bag in the afternoon sun where the tansy will be composted. The only problem with this method is that you must keep the bag in place all summer! If you're fussy about your lot's appearance this might not be for you.

If you're interested in helping to eradicate tansy, remember it is toxic so wear a long-sleeved shirt, long pants and heavy gloves when you come in contact with this weed. Pulling it by the roots, of course, is best, but even removing the flower heads will help. I will repeat my favorite adage: We can do nothing or we can do something. Let's do something.

#### Pat Helmberger Tower

#### What country is this, again?

Yesterday was a great day! We went to a scheduled appointment with the Social Security Administration local office to inquire about entering the system,

#### MASK...Cont. from page 4

son, separate from their care- is what makes us feel good in the lives, the minds, ing, breathing planet we live givers and those other peo- about ourselves and gives psyches, and hearts of those on that they deny the dample floating in and out. They our life meaning, isn't it also who seem to be completely age incurred and encourage gradually begin to develop their definition and understanding of who they are, and what they need and want, a lifelong pursuit. Given a consistent, loving, supportive environment, a few good genes, and some luck, the child will learn self-confidence, compassion and empathy along the way. She will gain perspective that others view and value things differently. He will learn how to cooperate and get along with others. Still, as humans, we remain self-centered, me-centric, as we develop our internal universe from our own unique perspective. Perhaps that's part of our ancient wiring for survival purposes. You might be thinking, "Wait a minute! I know people who are good to the bone, selflessly giving boundless energy to their friends, family, and community." Yes, we all know people like that, and most of us can feel empathetic and supportive at times, responding with generosity. If that

a system that despite some faults is a lifeline to millions of workers nationwide, and aside from political rumors, is healthy and working as it should for everyone.

We were amazed at the breadth of knowledge from our counselor at the Social Security office. She was concise, pleasant and extremely helpful, and we thanked her for the years of service to our country.

Then, we were astonished to read an article in Politico, "Trump administration to prioritize patriotic Americans for federal jobs." I encourage everyone to take a few minutes to read this. Federal employees serve the American people and the Constitution of the United States. All federal employees swear an oath to that effect. Nowhere in that oath does an employee swear fealty to the President or his or her executive orders. These new requirements harken back to Mao's little red book.

The federal hiring system works just fine. It does not need an essay written to show an individual's acceptance of a current political party or their ideology. Having worked for the federal government in my earlier life, seeing my spouse complete a long dedicated career with federal service, and having the pleasure to know many government employees, my hat is off to them, their dedication, intelligence, and attention to detail. They work every day to address goals of the agencies they work for, issues that arise and do so under any and all Presidents to make this country run as it should. Many of us don't see the daily workings of the government, only the headlines we see daily. Many of which demean them.

Which brings me back to that helpful Social Security employee. She had quite a few years in service that gave her knowledge that is not easily replaced. If she were to have recently transferred to another position, even if it were a promotion, she would have been summarily fired by Elon Musk's DOGE and we would have

lost an investment. Her career is an investment in our country by our country and for all of us.

We must not let an administration bent on destroying our government workforce dictate through loyalty to any specific political party or indoctrination. These employees are the backbone of our country. They serve us all at one point or another with dedication and allegiance to our constitution.

> **Dean Graber** Babbitt

#### Our economy is run by the few and for the few

Economics is very difficult to understand, particularly if you listen to someone who purports to be an economist, claiming it as science through a blizzard of unintelligible calculations, slick charts, academic jargon and abstruse elaboration. Usually economics is described in abstract, concrete, or dehumanizing terms, whichever suits the situation. Whatever the case, the listener is confused, bewildered, and perplexed.

Beginning with abstraction being the thesis; the concrete in opposition, the antithesis; a third force, called synthesis, begins with economics in understandable human terms. Let's call this alternative a human relations approach. Economics, derives from Greek "oikos" referring to household, home or family as a basic unit of economics embedded in earthly ecology. Human beings make house, a home for family well-being.

Think about home, family, health, and human well-being in community as central to economic purpose. Basic elements of American economic organization begin with employer and employee, both being persons as consumers who convert natural resources (material and human) into goods and services. Nature produces the resources, humans only convert those resources to satisfy human wants and needs for family and community.

Economics is a human-driven enterprise, yet modern day economists have virtually distanced or erased humanity from its very core. Abstracted or dehumanized beyond measure makes economics, masquerading as science, far more ideology (belief system) serving the narrow interests of oligarchy. Obscuring and obfuscating economic activity is academ-

More Letters from Readers

ic dishonesty favoring quantifiable wealth accumulation for oligarchs while ignoring quality of life for everyone else.

When we speak of jobs, inflation, supply and demand, or free market, we too often do so without recognizing that an authoritarian oligarchic system of the few, by the few and for the few, dominate our economy. Power, positioning, rules and property rights, motive, class interests, and economic organization operate in favor of and to the advantage of rapacity and predation.

> Harold Honkola Stillwater

#### Sulfide-ore mining a lose-lose for Minnesota

In April, U.S. Sen. Tina Smith introduced a bill to protect the Boundary Waters wilderness, building on years of advocacy by U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum and support from Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Sportsmen for the Boundary Waters, Minnesota Trout Unlimited, and others.

The historic legislation would forever safeguard the Rainy River watershed and Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness from proposed sulfide-ore copper mining (i.e., Antofagasta's Twin Metals mine), preserving world-class hunting, fishing, and paddling opportunities for generations to come.

The copper deposits beneath the lakes and forests of Northeastern Minnesota are encased in sulfide ore. When that ore is exposed to air and water in the mining process, it produces sulfuric acid. Lakes, rivers, and entire watersheds can become so polluted and poisoned that wildlife, like ducks and geese, can die just from drinking the water.

Hunters and anglers have long advocated for safeguarding this watershed, which flows into the Boundary Waters and Voyageurs National Park. A sulfide-ore mine here is the wrong mine in the wrong place. In February, Minnesota Backcountry Hunters and Anglers posted a position statement on protecting the Boundary Waters.

"Proposed mining activities - specifically those related to sulfide-ore copper mining - pose an immediate and severe threat," the statement reads. "Long-term risks associated with this type of mining in this area, such as acid mine drainage and contamination of surrounding water sources, would result in irreversible damage to the wilderness, the wildlife that calls it home, and the outdoor recreationists who depend on its pristine waters."

In 2018, Minnesota Backcountry Hunters and Anglers posted its "Top 10 Reasons To Stop Twin Metal's Sulfide Mining Proposal." A year earlier, the chapter had posted a related report, "100-Plus Reasons To Protect Northern Minnesota's Waterways, Watersheds and Wildlife From Proposed Sulfide-Ore Mining.'

"Since ... 2010, Minnesota (Backcountry Hunters and Anglers) has successfully fought for ... the Boundary Waters watershed and we will continue to fight for permanent protections through Congress," the position statement read.

Back in January 2023, the Department of the Interior announced a 20-year moratorium on all mining in the Rainy River Watershed. Unfortunately, U.S. Rep. Pete Stauber is pushing legislation aimed at reversing the mineral withdrawal and reinstating foreign mining leases, putting the Boundary Waters – and the communities that depend on its clean waters and intact habitat -



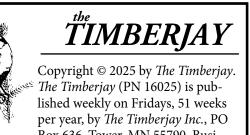
"Stauber attacked the Boundary Waters by proposing legislation seeking to ... force a rapid approval of a flawed mine plan - all for the benefit of Antofagasta, a foreign mining company," Becky Rom, chair of the nonprofit Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters, wrote in a November op-ed in the Duluth News Tribune. "In his first term, when the Trump administration was finally compelled to release its own draft environmental review of the proposed mining ban, ... it delivered a cover page followed by 59 blacked-out pages. Its entire review was hidden from the public. The Trump administration followed this with issuance of federal mineral leases that were later determined to violate federal law and were canceled - a result Stauber seeks to reverse."

Rep. Stauber calls proposed sulfide-ore mining a win-win for Minnesota.' It may be a win for the executives of foreign-owned mining companies, allowing them line their pockets at our expense, but it promises to be a lose-lose for state and local taxpayers who are likely to be left with polluted watersheds and associated cleanup costs, as I explained in an October op-ed in the Duluth News Tribune.

To be clear, mining has a place in North America, but it must be done carefully and with restraint. Mining should not take place in water-worlds like the BWCAW watershed, places that could be irreparably harmed -"nuked" may be the more appropriate word - by watershed-ruining sulfide-ore mines.

#### David A. Lien

Colorado Springs, Colo., formerly of Grand Rapids, is the founder and former chair of the Minnesota Backcountry Hunters and Anglers ( backcountryhunters.org).



self-serving? Donald Trump,

Elon Musk, and their cadre

astating vacuum drives their

voracious greed for money

and power, never to feel they

have enough? How can they

be so detached from the liv-

more, refusing to protect the ecosystems that are essential for the survival of their own progeny? How deplorable it would be to live in their universes. Come join your friends and neighbors and millions across the country on Saturday, June 14 for NO KINGS Day to let them know that they need to change direction, to say ENOUGH! Demonstrations will be happening in Ely (11:00-1:00, Whiteside Park), Virginia, Chisholm, Cloquet, Brainerd, Bemidji, Grand Rapids, Two Harbors, Duluth, Superior (Wis.) and many more. Go to mobilize.us for details and more events.

an ego-satisfying behavior? I would say 'yes,' but certainly preferred to the seeming lack of connection to other humans that is being exhibited in our world and our government these days.

Some ancient survival strategies may be thinly veiled under of layers of socalled sophistication, ready to explode when disturbed. Territoriality, protecting resources, and defending space, family, and tribe can surface pretty quickly...just let the neighbor put up an ugly fence on a questionable property line or insult our children.

However, cooperation and mutual support are also survival techniques. If you couldn't help and get along with others, you might just get kicked out of the cave and the clan, not very wellequipped to fend off saber-toothed tigers on your own.

As I wonder how we evolve as individuals and as a species, I must ask what has gone so severely wrong

of sycophants do not appear to have one drop of humanity in their universe. What has occurred in their genetics and experiences that would deaden their souls, leaving them willing to suck the lifeblood out of our democracy, to steal from the American citizenry and target the most vulnerable in the nation? What emptiness would allow them to feel it's okay to deny health care to anyone while they themselves have premium coverage? What dev-

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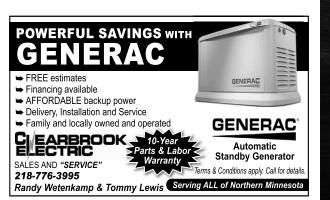
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#### Week of June 9

#### Monday

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

Tower City Council- 5:30 p.m. on June 9.

#### 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. Greenwood Town Board-6:30 p.m. on June 10

#### Thursday

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



#### TSHS weekly winners TOWER- The \$100 winner of week 38 Charlemagne's 52 Club is Kameryn

Peyla of Orinda, CA. History Tidbit: Tower Cemetery Part 4: The initial Tower cemetery is located on lands now occupied near the Marina Road and the City of Tower (previously the County garage) and stretches to the east toward the river, near what was the old Highway 1 route coming into Tower from the southwest. The powerlines now follow this route. According to the record, no formal layout was adopted and no system of plots was created, so people generally were buried wherever they wanted to be, with the typical separation of groups of people into their own areas.

Part 5 to be continued next week.

#### **Heather Anderson** named to Dean's List at UW-Superior

SUPERIOR- The University of Wisconsin-Superior has named Heather Anderson, of Soudan, to the Dean's List for academic achievement during the Spring 2025 semester. To be named to the Dean's List, students must have completed 12 degree-seeking semester credits and achieved at least a 3.50 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale). Founded in 1893 as a teacher's college, UW-Superior offers more than 50 program offerings, select graduate and online programs, Division III athletics, and community-focused research and continuing education.



**Tower-Soudan Elementary held** graduation celebrations for the sixth grade and kindergarten students on May 28. Pictured (from left) are sixth graders Shenzee Chavez, Mark Rettke, Dylan Crego, Harley Banks, and Clementine O'Brien.

Below: Kindergarten students (from left) Noelle Goodsky, Isaiah Polk, Chloe Troop, Otto Gornick, Adalaide Flatten, Emma Purkat, Branson Norcia, Parker Salmela, Kalila Boshkaykin, and Estella Linn. Not pictured: Jeremiah Taylor.

photos by S. Ukkola



#### Нарру 102 years to Louise James



TOWER- Louise James celebrated her 102nd birthday on May 29, at Vermilion Senior Living, where she has lived since last fall. Residents were treated to cake, angel food with berries and whip cream, which is her favorite. But they couldn't light the candles since some of the other residents at the assisted living use oxygen.

sisted, but she uses a cane.

Louise lost her husband many years ago, when he was in his early 60s. Louise and her husband ran a restaurant/bar in the Seven Corners neighborhood of St. Paul that was open 24 hours a day.

"She was a cook and waitress," said Frazee, "and we lived upstairs." The restaurant, Jack's Chicken Shack, was known for its fried chicken, steaks, ribs, as well as its lunchtime buffet. Before fast food, like McDonalds, opened up, the restaurant was a very popular spot, Frazee said, but once fast food moved in, business slowed down.

#### TOWER-SOUDAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

#### First Train Tales storytelling will take place on Coach Car 81 on June 11

More storytelling on July 2, 23, and Aug. 13



TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Historical Society's popular Train Tales will begin at 3 p.m. and will precede the 3:45 p.m. arrival of the Arrowhead Library System Bookmobile in the Civic Center parking lot. The storytelling events continue through the summer, on the same dates as the bookmobile visit.

Kids of all ages (including adults) can come to Train Tales, but children younger than Kindergarten must be accompanied by a caretaker. Everyone who attends Train Tales will be treated to a delicious snack, and all the children will be able to select a book to take home. There is no charge for the events. Karel Winkelaar is the reader on June 11. Karel will recognize many of our local children who ride the school bus he drives every day during the school year! This popular Train Tales storyteller will be our kick-off reader. He will come dressed as a miner and talk about mining and miners: how they arrived from many places in the world to work in the mines, started families and built our local communities. It took hard work and the use of dynamite. Be careful! Karel may demonstrate how that worked.

If there is time, Karel will read "The Little Engine That Could," showcasing determination and perseverance which is reflected in the lives of those immigrants who came to settle in a new land in our Iron Range communities. Refreshments of Sulu's cookies and lemonade will be provided by Brenda Winkelaar. Each child will be given a book of their choice from over 100 to choose from at the end of the session.

The Bookmobile will be waiting for the children in the Civic Center parking lot after Train Tales.

#### Children's books are needed

The Tower-Soudan Historical So-

#### **TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY**



Louise was born in 1933 in Iowa, but spent most of her life in the Twin Cities, until moving up to Tower when she was 96 to live with her daughter, Karen Frazee.

"My mom is very with it," said Frazee, but she has hearing loss and suffers from macular degeneration, which makes it celebrated with visits with her harder for her to move around safely. She still can walk unas-

Later in the day, Louise granddaughter, Pam Frazee, and her great-grandchildren.

ciety is always collecting gently-used children's books for every age-level. These books will then be given away to the children after each Train Tales session. Please ask your friends and family for donations and leave them in the Depot or give them to one of the TSHS board members. Thank you! Future storytelling includes Barb Soderberg on July 2, Cheryl Lamppa on July 23, and Marge McPeak and Richard Hanson on Aug. 13.

#### Lunch Bunch to meet June 19

TOWER- The Lunch Bunch will meet Thursday. June 19 at The Benchwarmer's Grille at 12:30 p.m. RSVP to Kathy 218-753-2530. Everyone is welcome to join the group for lunch and conversation.

# TOWERSTON TOWERSTON TOWERSTON TOWERSTON The Tower Cemetery Association is in need of donations. Without receiving donations, the associa-tion 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 

#### LVCC to host three events in June

season is starting with a fun line-up of events at the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center.

On Saturday, June 14, the Midsummer benefit "Songs of the Journey" will be held at the Herbert Lamppa Civic Center and St. Mary's Hall. The event begins at 5 p.m. at the Civic Center with a dinner, speaker, and auctions followed by a musical program across the street in St. Mary's Hall. There are a few tickets left for this gala evening.

On Saturday, June 21, Irene Hartfleld, popular Ely singer, songwriter and keyboardist will return to St. Mary's Hall for a concert at 7 p.m. The auditorium was full last summer for her birthday concert. Admission will be "pay what you can" with a suggested ticket price of \$10. Tickets may be purchased at the door or in advance on the LVCC website.

On Thursday, June 26, "Mandalas and Margaritas"

at the Vermilion Park Inn, in Soudan. A mandala rock TOWER- The summer painting class will be led by Di's Dots (Diana Magner).

Supplies, snacks, margaritas, and other beverages will be provided. Tickets are \$40 and must be purchased in advance on the LVCC website. Ages 12 and older may attend. However, youth need to be accompanied by a paid adult. A photo of the mandalas may be found on the LVCC website and Facebook page.

will be held in the classroom

Mark your calendars now for these events and watch this paper, the LVCC Facebook page and the LVCC website for more information as the dates approach. To purchase tickets, go to vermilionculturalcenter.org. The LVCC is located at 705 Main Street in Tower.

#### 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 7-9 a.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.

#### ELY HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2025



Caps flew up as the graduates left the auditorium to the cheers of family and friends. photo by S. Ukkola

#### ELY-BLOOMENSON

# Ely-Bloomenson staff recognized by MN Hospital Association

ELY- Several staff members at Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital were recognized by the Minnesota Hospital Association at their 2025 Spring Innovation Forum.

"Health care professionals make an impact on the lives of individuals and the wellbeing of our communities every day," said MHA President and CEO Rahul Koranne. "We're grateful for this opportunity to celebrate the talented teams and individuals leading this work."

Jodi Martin won the Communicator of the Year Award. Jodi is Ely-Bloomenson's one-person marketing and fundraising dynamo responsible for rebranding the facility, creating marketing toolkits for team leaders, coordinating events and com-



munications, and managing important hospital committees. Jodi's commitment to Ely-Bloomenson's mission makes her a perineal stand-

The human resourcteam, including Rochelle es Sjoberg and Anne Schroeder who accepted the awards,

won the Retention and Resiliency Award. Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital's HR Team has worked tirelessly to create a culture that values and supports the entire hospital workforce by implementing projects that benefit employees and the communities they serve. A new daycare for the children of their employees, a decompression room, and a cafeteria overhaul are a few successful examples of their commitment to employee satisfaction.

Abigail Sirek and Beth Hartshorn won the Antibiotic Stewardship Award. Abby and Beth have led initiatives in antimicrobial stewardship, improving patient safety through provider education, evidence-based prescribing, and collaborative practice

agreements. Their commitment to excellence is demonstrated through their leadership in antibiotic tracking, stewardship planning, and their upcoming presentations at the 2025 Minnesota Antibiotic Stewardship Conference

Tiffany Zemke and John Kannas won the Workplace Violence Prevention Award. The Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital workplace violence prevention team have set a new standard for safety and preparedness. Through proactive training and strategic collaboration, their efforts are a testament to their commitment, teamwork, and innovation in fostering a culture of security and resilience in health care.

#### In Brief

#### **Tuesday Group** schedule

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

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

Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

► June 10: Kandace Creel Falcón.

> June 17: Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters update with Ingrid Lyons.

► June 24: Breeding Birds of Minnesota with Gerald J. Niemi, PhD.

**Breathing Out** 

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#### Ely library

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

#### **Babbitt library**

Monday	9 a.m5 p.m.
Tuesday	9 a.m5 p.m.
Wednesday	9 a.m5 p.m.
Thursday	9 a.m5 p.m.
Friday	10 a.m6 p.m.
Phone: 218-8	327-3345

#### Max Cochran selected as one of 15 scholarship recipients out of a field of 500 incoming students



ELY- Max Cochran, a senior at ly apply for the scholarship, but that scholars had one-on-one interviews. Ely Memorial High School, has been all prospective students with a 3.5 or "To me and my family being

awarded a large, competitive scholar- higher GPA are invited to compete for awarded the full ride is huge as I'm

ship 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, out of the 500 interviewed, were awarded the scholarship.

Max intends on studying fisheries and wildlife management at NMU. Max said he didn't specificalthe "presidential scholars" award.

"The first day we were there, they had us all meet up, and they told us about the honors program and some other benefits to the school," he said. "They broke everyone up into groups of around 10 and you went to an area with two proctors. They gave the group questions to talk through together and they were watching how we problem solved and how we interacted with others. It lasted for two hours."

The next day, the prospective

sure it is for anyone," he said. "It allows me to focus on my education and not have to worry about how I'm going to pay for tuition or other expenses. It also allows me to enjoy myself and take fun classes that I might not take if I had to pay for the extra credits."

Max said he is exceedingly thankful for this opportunity and hopes it leads to a successful career in fisheries management.

#### Support arou

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous **OPEN AA - 7:30** p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, in-person, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St., Ely. AA FRIDAYS - 7 p.m. Fridays, First Presbyterian Church, 262 E. Harvey St., Ely. **ELY WOMEN'S OPEN** 

AA - Monday at noon at Ledgerock Church, 1515 E. Camp St., Ely. BABBITT AA - 7 p.m. Thursdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church. AL-ANON - Sundays 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely. **BABBITT AL-ANON -**Thursdays, 7 p.m., at Woodland Presbyterian **CO-DEPENDENTS'** 12-step support group, 4:00 p.m. Tuesdays, hosted by Well Being Development, Ely. This meeting is suspended temporarily. **CAREGIVER SUPPORT** GROUPS: Babbitt: 3rd Monday of Month: 6-7:30 p.m. at Carefree Living. Ely: 4th Monday of Month: 10-11:30 a.m. at Ely-Bloomenson Hospital. Conference Room B. ADULT BASIC **EDUCATION GED** Study materials and pre-test available. Call 218-365-3359, or 1-800-662-5711.

#### COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

#### Be prepared for an emergency or wildfire

ELY- The Ely Climate Group invites everyone to their meeting on "Ely Area Emergency Preparedness" on Monday, June 9 at 4 p.m. at the Ely Senior Center. Local experts Aaron Kania (USFS), Brad Roy (Ely Emergency Manager), Gloria Erickson (Firewise), and Mike Ostlund (Eagles Nest Director of Emergency Management) will tell us how to be better prepared and where to find information. Attendees will take home a list of useful resources.

The program will also be available by zoom. You can find the link at elyminnesota.com/elyclimate.

#### Ely for Ely Monthly Gathering on June 10

ELY- The Ely for Ely monthly gathering will focus on Creative Solutions to Funding Challenges with

speaker Kandace Creel Falcón, PhD. The talk will be on Tuesday, June 10 from 7:30 - 8:45 a.m. at Semer's Park Pavilion, 476 Shagawa Rd. N. The program is free and open to all, and includes coffee and a light breakfast.

More info: www.boundarywatersconnect.com/elyforely.

This session will encourage participants to spark creative approaches to funding beyond simply asking for cash. By thinking about what shapes our knowledge of funding in our current 21st century reality, and through exploring traditional and new funding approaches, we hope participants will come away empowered to engage creative solutions to funding challenges.

## 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.

#### **Babbitt Public Library**

BABBITT- Preschool story time is every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. Up North Craft/Vendor Expo on June 7 from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Brodini Magic Show on June 11 at 3:30 p.m., and James Wedgewood Ventriloquist on June 16 at 2 p.m.

Elementary Explore Time is one Wednesdays at 1 p.m. when children ages 6 - 12 will explore games that encourage reading and learning.

Programming for teenagers is held on Wednesdays from 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. on June 18, July 9, and July 23.

All library events are at the Babbitt Public Library, 71 South Dr., unless otherwise noted.

#### **Elv Public Library**

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

#### Broadway in Whiteside Park

ELY- Come out to Whiteside Park, every Tuesday starting June 3, for a free, live concert from the Broadway in the Boundary Waters 2025 company. Enjoy an upbeat hour of music featuring fan-favorite hits, timeless classics, and a preview of songs from this summer's shows.

#### **Braver Angels**

ELY- Upcoming meetings and topics are:

▶ Wednesday, June 11 "Are We a Dog-Friendly Town?" The topic this week will be "Do you think Ely is a dog friendly town?" Members of the community have strong feelings about the topic, dog owners and non-owners alike.

In a small group discussion format, we will share our feelings about questions such as:

"What makes a town dog-friendly?" "How do you respond when you see a stray dog?" "What benefit do you think a dog park brings to the community?"

We will also learn something about Ely ordinances regarding dog ownership.

#### SPREADING SERVICE

# **Cook Lions spark new service club in Tower area**

COOK- The Cook Lions Club has seen a quiet but significant transformation in recent years, recruiting new, younger members, increasing participation, and now they're going to be expanding their reach by helping launch a new club in Tower.

Club president Steve Kajala credits flexibility, fun, and a low-pressure approach for revitalizing the Cook club and building a model that could thrive in a new location.

"We don't have meeting attendance requirements," he said. "We understand people's lives are busy. What's important is the service, showing up to help serve burgers or brats or pick up the town or tie the blankets or whatever."

Now, instead of a few familiar faces, the Cook Lions include members from ages 18 to 87, many of them working professionals or young parents.

"We have a lot of different projects that appeal to different people," Kajala said. "And we try to make things fun, because obviously, doing things that aren't fun isn't fun - and people aren't going to come back for that.'

The success of that approach sparked a natural question: could it work elsewhere?

"We looked at the footprint of our members and realized we didn't really have anyone from the Tower end of Vermilion," Kajala said. "We had a couple people with Tower addresses, but when you looked at the map, there was a hard line, like at Moccasin Point, where we just didn't have anyone."

Many residents on the Tower side of the lake do their shopping and socializing in that area and hadn't had much contact with Cook's community networks. Recognizing a service gap, Kajala and others began reaching out.

"We met a few people from Tower through networking, and they've been the ones to really spearhead this," he said.

A full, independent club requires 20 members. A club branch, essentially a subgroup of an existing club, needs only five.

"We already had five people interested, so we figured we'd go the club branch route," Kajala said. "That way we could get things started, rather than waiting to hit that 20 mark."

With official approval now in hand from Lions International, the new branch has a name: the Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Lions Club.

"They'll be known as that right away, even as a branch," Kajala said. Once the group grows to

20 or more members, it will

become a standalone club, independent of Cook.

The Tower branch will begin by likely borrowing a few successful ideas from Cook while staying open to tailoring projects to local needs.

"We'll kind of springboard off the things that have worked well in Cook," Kajala said. "But as new members join, they can take it in whatever direction they want. That's what's great about Lions, we're open architecture. Whether it's pancakes, trash pickup, environmental work, or bratwurst, it's whatever the members want to do."

The Tower club is still in its early stages, but Kajala said members are already discussing ways they can begin making a visible difference in the community this summer.

"Tower has a number of community meeting areas that are easier to get to," Kajala said.

For those curious about joining, the commitment is minimal but meaningful.

"The biggest thing is, we're not a big obligation," Kajala said. "We ask people to show up to two events a year, whether it's picking up trash or flipping pancakes for a couple hours. That's the ask.'

Anyone interested in learning more is encouraged to reach out to Kajala directly at 218-750-0310.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT NINJAS?



The Cook Fire Department had the chance to scout for future members when they paid for Ninja Anywhere to come to North Woods School on May 22. The mix of inflatables and gymnastics-type portable playground is geared to get kids having fun while promoting physical activity. Here, Lanara Guenthner and Ellie Sherman show how much fun the inflatables were. photo by D. Colburn



On Thursday, May 29, North Woods School honored two students, Jay Mattson and Austin Mattson, for their leadership and bravery helping out with a bus accident earlier in the year. The pair sprang into action to ensure that all





#### **GRIZZLIES GRADUATION**

North Woods School gymnasium was packed on Friday for commencement

students were safe and evacuated, staying calm throughout the process. When told they would be given an award, Jay was very humble and said that any one of his friends would have done the same. Pictured with the pair are Principal Kelly Engman, left, and assistant principal Crystal Poppler. submitted

Matthew Goggleye, who died last July from injuries sustained in a car accident seven months prior. Top: Graduate Kayla Boutto holds a future graduate following the traditional cap toss. Bottom: Tatum Barto, left, gives graduate Mya Kinsey a huge hug outdoors after the ceremony.

#### Calendar

#### **Cook health care** round table is June 18

COOK- On Wednesday June 18, starting at 6:30 p.m., a health care roundtable will be held at the Cook Community Center. Members of the community can hear directly from Teresa Debevec, the CEO of the Cook Hospital, Keith Harvey, the executive director of Scenic Rivers Health Services, Liz Dahl, the chair of the Cook Hospital Board, and the hospital board legislative committee chair John Stegmeir about what the future may look like if the present legislation becomes law.

The Center for Healthcare Quality and Payment Reform's report found that 742 rural hospitals, one-third of all rural hospitals in the country, are at risk of closing in the near future, with over 300 of those being classified as being at "immediate risk." Will the Cook Area Hospital be one of those 742?

In the February 14 edition of the Timberjay, the headline read, "Federal fund freeze sends chill thru Scenic Rivers" because of the federal Medicaid reimbursement freeze that had been implemented. Now with the House of Representatives voting in favor of very large Medicaid and Medicare cuts, the Cook

Area Health Care system faces an even more uncertain future. This event is free and open to all.

#### **Church hosts Timber Days worship, Bible** readathon

COOK-Cook Covenant Church is heading outdoors for Timber Days, with worship and scripture reading open to all.

Instead of its regular service on Sunday, June 15, the church's worship team will lead a special 11 a.m. service at the gazebo in Cook. The offering that morning will help send one area youth to Covenant Park Bible Camp near Mahtowa. A drawing at the church booth will determine the lucky camper, with the winner announced Monday, June 16, pending parent approval.

At the church's Timber Days booth, volunteers will also host a three-day New Testament Readathon, beginning Friday at noon and continuing through Sunday afternoon. Participants will take 15-minute turns reading aloud from the Bible, starting with the Gospel of Matthew. A poster will track their progress, and anyone-adult or child-can sign up for a slot. Light refreshments and seating will be available for

readers.

Alongside the Readathon, the booth will offer information on protecting children, preventing abuse and Friends of the Arts will host trafficking, and supporting survivors

#### **Cook VFW asking for** help with roof repair

COOK-Cook's VFW Post 1757 has supported veterans and the community since 1939-hosting parades, school events, community dinners, and more.

Now the building that's long served others needs help of its own. The roof is in urgent need of replacement, and the post doesn't have the funds to cover it.

"We nearly had to close two years ago," post leaders said. "Thanks to community support, we're still here-but this is a big lift."

How to help:

Drop off: VFW Post 1757, 206 1st St. SW, Cook

Mail to: VFW Post 1757. P.O. Box 242, Cook, MN 55723

Bank deposit: At any North Star Credit Union to the VFW Post 1757 Roof Account

All donations are tax-deductible.

Questions? Call 218-666-0500 or 218-750-3474.

#### **NWFA** spring art expo opens June 6

COOK-Northwoods an opening reception for its 15th Annual Spring Art Expo on Friday, June 6, from 5-7 p.m. at the NWFA Gallery, 210 S. River Street. The show features work by over

**\|**▶]:

**BBQ RIBS DINNER** 

1/2 RACK-\$20

FULL RACK-\$30

bread stick, dessert

40 local artists.

٨

LETS PUT

4-7 PM

218-666-0500

**The Veterans Need Your Help!** 

\*\*\*\*\*

Kids' art activities will be offered during Timber Days in City Park: June 13 (1-4 p.m.) and June 14 (9 Annual Meeting is June 17 at 5 p.m., with guest speaker Dan Pellinen at 6 p.m.

A 50/50 raffle and fundraising concert are set for

June 28 at the Cook Community Center, featuring Eric Pederson and Monroe Crossing. Tickets (\$25) and raffle entries available at the Gala.m.-4 p.m.). The NWFA lery or by emailing nwfamn. org@gmail.com.



Cook, MN 24 Hours A Day

#### WATER TESTING

# Testing shows high copper levels in some Tower water

#### by JODI SUMMIT Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- Recent testing of the public water supply in selected homes in Tower showed elevated levels of copper, with three of ten locations sampled having levels above the Safe Drinking Water Act action level of 1,300 parts per billion, or ppb. All the homes tested below the safe limit for lead.

"The copper is coming from copper plumbing fixtures inside homes, not our well water or the water treatment plant," said wastewater plant supervisor Matt Tuchel. Testing of the water directly from the wells shows very low levels of copper, just 6 ppb. One of the home's water test results in Tower showed a level of 1,552 ppb.

Tuchel said they are

Levels due to corrosion from copper water lines conducting testing every six months, until the levels drop back to normal.

The new filtration plant is also undergoing some testing to find the best mix of corrosion control inhibitors that will help prevent the corrosion of copper from household plumbing.

According to Tuchel, the testing for copper has not been recently done for Soudan's water supply but is scheduled for next year. Tuchel said the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency implemented stricter testing protocols two years ago, which upped the testing timetable as well as the number of sites to be sampled. Copper is a metal that

occurs naturally in the rocks in the region. Copper is also used

pipe was replaced Monday,

near the trail that goes down

to Semer's Park Beach along

West Shagawa Rd. It is all

back up and operational now.

"Hopefully the money will

come through, the congressio-

nal directed spending money

we requested through our

in parts for plumbing systems. Copper is an essential nutrient but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time can experience gastrointestinal distress, generally from levels over 3,000 ppb. Over many years, people can suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease and some infants are more sensitive to copper since they are not able to get rid of excess copper easily.

Copper can also leach into drinking water as the water passes through copper plumbing systems. Over time, water lines typically build up a natural coating that keeps water from absorbing copper from the plumbing. Water may have more copper if your plumbing is less than three years old, you are using warm or hot water which absorbs more copper from the plumbing system, or if you have a water softener, which can mean there is not as much of a protective coating built up on the inside of your pipes. Settings on a water softener can be adjusted to make this less likely.

#### **Reducing your exposure**

Homeowners can reduce the level of copper in their drinking water by letting their water run 30 - 60 seconds before using it for drinking or cooking. If you have lead service lines, you should let your water run longer, 3 - 5minutes. To reduce wasting water, you can do tasks like

dishwashing, collecting tap water for cleaning or watering plants, or showering, before using water for drinking and cooking. People can keep a container of drinking water in their refrigerator to reduce how often you need to let water run.

People should use cold water for drinking, preparing food, or making baby formula. Hot water releases more copper from pipes than cold water.

In most cases, letting the water run and using cold water for drinking and cooking should keep copper levels low in your drinking water. If you are concerned, you can get your water tested. Search for accredited laboratories at eldo.web.health.state. mn.us/public/accreditedlabs/ labsearch.seam. Two accredited labs located in Virginia

are RMB Environmental Laboratories and Pace Analytical Services. Be sure to check with both because testing costs may vary widely. If your tap water tests over 1,300 ppb after running it for 30-60 seconds, you may want to consider water treatment options. Water softeners and reverse osmosis can remove copper from drinking water. There are also water pitchers and under-sink filters that remove copper from drinking water, but they do require filter replacement on a regular schedule, depending on the number of gallons filtered.

Any resident with questions about the issue of elevated levels of copper in their water can call Tower City Hall at 218-753-4070.

#### **COUNCIL**...Continued from page 1 –

here on Tuesday. "That night they were able to find and isolate the leak so there was no service disruption for residents."

"It just shows the importance of the water line project that we have been promoting and pushing on for a few years now. This is part of that project," Langowski added. "We have had a couple breaks on that line in the last six months, this being by far the most major."

A seven-foot piece of the

senators' and congressman's office. I'm real hopeful that comes through and we'll be going out for bids on it yet this year and starting the work hopefully the beginning of next year." Langowski added a big thank you to the city employees who came to Mayor Heidi the rescue. Omerza offered her own gratitude,"A huge thank you to the crew, some of which got called from their kid's graduation to help out with that."

"It could have been a pretty serious situation, the quick actions of city staff got it taken care of," said Langowski.

In other news, the council: ► Shared reminders that drivers should drive slowly to accommodate increased summer traffic

► Hired two new summer utility workers, Jesse Oelke

and Jason Kalar. ≻Heard that the library's stained glass windows were taken down and stored temporarily after a recommendation from a surveying crew for the Harvey St. project. The library staff was told that vibrations from blasting during the project could damage the windows.

≻Heard that Household

Hazardous Waste Collection will take place at the Northwoods Transfer Station on June 12 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

► Approved payment of \$266,401 for city and EUC claims

► Approved payment of \$129,954 for trailhead site rebid to Mesabi Bituminous. ► Approved payment

of \$548,743 for Harvey St. project to St. Louis County.

► Approved payments eleven and twelve of \$62,810

and \$23,556 to Max Gray Construction for the Ely Regional Trailhead Building.

► Approved raffle permits for Ely Arts and Heritage Center and Sportsmen for the Boundary Waters.

► Approved a request from Ely Young Life for in-kind services from the city for their Fourth of July activities in Whiteside Park.

#### **HERO**...Continued from page 1<sup>-</sup>

Cornelius. Though Mock sounded fine at first, it became clear he was struggling with short-term memory loss. He couldn't recall more than a few seconds at a time. Cornelius asked if he had a responsible high school student onboard who could help, but he said he didn't. So, she asked if there was someone he could trust, and he said yes. That someone was sixth grader Eero Ruuska.

Eero took the phone, and Cornelius calmly gave him instructions: make sure the bus stayed turned off, don't let Peter drive, and keep the

other kids quiet.

"I said to Eero, 'You're now in control. You're the boss. You're going to do what I tell you, and you're going to tell Peter what to do,' Cornelius said.

The bus was loud and tense. Eero stood up and told everyone to sit down and be quiet. He spoke with authority, relaying information between Cornelius and emergency responders. When asked where the bus was, Eero didn't have a street name, but he identified a nearby house. That was enough for Cornelius

to pinpoint the location.

Meanwhile, Peter's condition was deteriorating.

"I was there," Peter said. "I don't remember, but I was. The only memory I have, visual memory, and I've heard this happens with having a stroke, is you kind of get a tunnel vision. And that's the only memory I have of anything - Eero standing there with my phone and just kind of a dark cloud around him."

Peter was eventually loaded into an ambulance as Cornelius arrived on scene to drive the bus. Eero remained calm through the entire ordeal. Even then, he was comforting his younger sister and other shaken students, Cornelius said.

At a school gathering honoring Eero recently, Cornelius became emotional as she presented him with a certificate.

"Eero is a true example. There were older students on the bus, but Eero is 12 years old, sixth grade. He was the leader of the pack that day," Cornelius said."Today is Eero Ruuska's day. He gets the whole day, and he's my hero."

Eero, typically a quiet

kid, was visibly surprised by the attention.

"I'm just kind of shocked that all of this came from just me helping my bus driver," he said. "Just a reminder to always be calm and you'll get through things."

His parents, Jeannine and Seth Ruuska, said they only pieced together what had happened after the kids got home late.

"In that moment, we were, you know, super proud and relieved that he did the mature thing and was able to stay calm and do what he needed to do,"

Jeannine said.

"We didn't realize how serious it was until we talked to Peter after the fact," Seth added. "We're really proud that he stepped up in a moment of need and didn't falter and did the right thing."

Mock, who's still recovering, knows things could have ended much differently.

"I was fortunate that it was mild," he said, "But I'm thankful for Eero, because the only memory I have is Eero standing there with my phone."





#### FUN-FILLED DAYS FOR YOU

#### **READ THE TIMBERJAY!**

#### **FRIDAY JUNE 13**

Arts/Crafts/Food/Beverage Vendors Face Painting **Dunk Tank** "Burger Night" and More **Firefighters Challenge** Bean Bag Tournament 5K Run & Walk, sponsored by VHHF Live Music: the Six 9s

#### **SATURDAY JUNE 14**

Pancake Breakfast **Cook Hospital Health Fair** 18-hole GOLF SCRAMBLE Arts/Crafts/Food/Beverage Vendors **Face Painting Dunk Tank Kids Games** CLASSIC CAR SHOW REGISTRATION CLASSIC CAR SHOW Pet Show REGISTRATION Pet Show **Barrel Train** Magic Show Pony Rides Matt's BBQ Ribs & Sides Feast Live Music: Doug Ellis & Friends "Bear Bots" Robotics Team Demo **ELVIS SHOW - free admission** Live Music: ScotFree \*\*\*FIREWORKS\*\*\*

#### **SUNDAY JUNE 15**

Arts/Crafts/Food/Beverage Vendors Church Service, officiant Linda Freeman **Face Painting** Lawnmower Races REGISTRATION Lawnmower Races Lineup for Parade Drum & Bugle Corps performance PARADE

Live Music: Eric & Friends Friends of the Parks Raffle Prize Drawing Flag Retirement ceremony

Downtown on River Street Downtown on River Street Downtown on River Street VFW Post #1757, 206 1st St SW Downtown on River Street the Old Muni patio Veterans Riverfront Park the Old Muni

**Cook Fire Department Hall Cook Hospital** Vermilion Fairways **Downtown on River Street Downtown on River Street Downtown on River Street** TG Creative Collections, 2nd Ave SE enter North River Street **Downtown on River Street** Gazebo in City Park Gazebo in City Park **Downtown on River Street** Gazebo in City Park B.I.C. parking lot @ 2nd Ave. SW VFW Post #1757, 206 1st St SW the Old Muni Downtown on River Street Gazebo in City Park the Old Muni Doug Johnson Park

**Downtown on River Street** Gazebo in City Park **Downtown on River Street Downtown on River Street Downtown on River Street** North River Street Gazebo in City Park Downtown on River Street Grand Marshal: Jeannie Taylor the old Muni Gazebo in City Park VFW Post #1757, 206 1st St SW

AND YOUR FAMILY JUNE 13, 14, 15, 2025

> Noon - 6:00 pm Noon - 6:00 pm 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm 4:30 pm - 7:00 pm 5:00 pm 6:00 pm Signup 6pm/Start 7pm 8pm - midnight

8:00 am - 11:00 am 9:00 am - noon 9:00 am "shotgun start" 10:00 am - 6:00 pm 10:00 am - 6:00 pm 10:00 am - 6:00 pm 10:00 am - 2:00 pm 10:30 am Noon - 4:00 pm 10:30 am 11:00 am 11:00 am - 3:00 pm Noon Noon - 6:00 pm 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm after the Car Show 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm 6:00 pm 8pm - midnight 10:15 pm

10:00 am - 4:00 pm 11:30 am Noon - 4:00 pm 11:30 am 12:30 pm 1:45pm 2:00 pm - 2:30 pm 3:00 pm

after Parade after Parade after Parade

>>> Don't Miss MUSIC IN THE PARK, by Robert Walker and Friends, ALL THREE DAYS <<<

#### THE ECONOMY

# Effects of tariffs vary widely with area retailers

#### by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

June 6, 2025

10

REGIONAL- While the fate of President Trump's tariffs are currently stuck in legal limbo for now, it remains to be seen how those assessments will impact retailers here in the North Country.

Whether its clothing, gifts, or home furnishings, many of the products on display in area shops are manufactured outside the United States, and that means most, if not all, are potentially subject to a wide range of import taxes, at least for goods brought into the country after the tariffs went into effect.

For most retailers who agreed to speak to the Timberjay, the effects of tariffs remain an open question. Most are just beginning their busy season and many ordered their products months in advance, prior to implementation of tariffs. Others are finding ways to adjust their business models to compensate for the changed circumstances.

That's the case with Alvin Goeser, at Ely Bike and Kick Sled, who said he's focusing more on service than sales right now as some of the product he used to sell is tougher to find from suppliers. He said he currently has just four new bikes in stock, but said he can typically order bikes from Surly or Salsa for



Mealeys Gift and Sauna Shop is among area retailers trying to adjust to the new tariffs on imported products. photo by M. Helmberger

customers and get them next day.Fornow,he's just keeping a lot less inventory on hand 'and spends his time on the service side of the business, which is keeping him plenty busy, thanks in part to the arrival of the Mesabi Trail in Ely last year.

While Goeser's approach is working well for him right now, shops that rely more heavily on product sales are finding the current circumstances more challenging. "It's definitely had an effect," said Terry Murphy, who co-operates Mealey's Gift and Sauna Shop in Ely. The impact goes beyond the cost of the tariffs, which she said is now showing up on some of the recent orders she's received

from suppliers, in some cases even on products she ordered back in January. "And some of our usual products aren't even available because some people decided not to even bring product in," she said.

At the same time, the threat of tariffs prompted her to order more product than usual, hoping to avoid the need to restock with the tariffs in place."That means we bought more than we really wanted," she said. "It's been very challenging as a small business in a seasonal market.'

Like most small retailers, Murphy said she has no choice but to pass the cost of the tariffs onto her customers. Whether that will impact sales this year remains an open question given that the summer season is just getting underway.

But tariffs aren't the only challenge for many small retailers in the area. Murphy said she remains short-staffed, which meant they couldn't be open on the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend, typically one of their busiest weekends of the year.

While the impact of tariffs can be quite modest on some smaller, low-cost items, the impact can be considerably more onerous for big ticket items, like home furnishings. That's been the experience at Nordic Home North, in Tower, where owner Marit Kringstad had struggled in recent months to determine the total price for customers buying any of their high-end Norwegian-designed chairs and recliners, which had been in high demand until the tariffs hit.

"We hadn't gotten any orders since because we couldn't tell customers what the price would be," said Kringstad. That's because the chairs are manufactured in one of two countries, Thailand and Vietnam, which are subject to differing tariffs. And with tariff rates changing on an almost daily basis, she said she'd been reluctant to quote prices, since a wrong guess could wipe out any profit on the sale, or even cost her money.

In response to the sit-

uation, Kringstad said her supplier recently arranged to provide their retailers with a set price that will include the tariff at the time of the order, to allow them to quote a firm price to customers.

The tariffs on the store's handwoven rugs from Nepal, which Kringstad imports directly from the manufacturer, remains uncertain.

While tariffs are impacting some shops directly, they're having a more indirect effect on others. Nancy Imhof, who owns Mason's on Main, an apparel shop in International Falls, said the drop in cross-border traffic has been her biggest challenge in recent months. "We're just not seeing the volumes of Canadian customers we're used to seeing," she said. Canadians were upset by the stiff tariffs placed on their exported products as well as the general disrespect toward the country exhibited by President Trump.

A weak Canadian dollar isn't helping, either, said Imhof, nor is the fact that Canadian customs is now doing more enforcement of import duties on American goods that Canadian shoppers are bringing back home, another bit of indirect fallout from the tariff situation.

Imhof has largely avoided the impact of direct tariffs, at least so far. She said her current stock of product was largely ordered before the tariffs took effect. "It remains to be seen what happens later on," she said. "My next marketing will be towards the end of the summer. I'll know more at that time. I'm not sure what I'll do, but I might have to shop around a little more. I don't feel prices can get much higher for our local economy."

#### Making the best of it

While the tariffs have meant some products are no longer available for local retailers and that prices of imported goods are higher, there have been some surprises. Kringstad said she had avoided ordering a brand of scrubber made in Canada to avoid tariffs. But she recently discovered that the products aren't covered by the tariffs so she plans to order a new supply.

Kringstad said wholesale suppliers have been studying various options since the tariffs took effect and are finding products that won't be hit with the import tax. She's also been surprised to learn that many of the products she's used to ordering are made in the U.S. and so aren't affected by the tariffs. If nothing else, it is making retailers more aware of the source of many of the products they sell.

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

including 14 townhomes, 12 condo-style apartments, and 7,500 square feet of commercial space.

The additional funding brings IRRR's total commitment to the project to just over \$1 million. Officials say the expanded scope will help ensure long-term viability

for the riverfront and harbor, which has been a focal point of Tower's economic development efforts.

In Ely, the board approved a \$3.7 million increase to a prior grant to fully close the funding gap on a 37-unit market-rate apartment complex designed for the area's work-

force. The project is now expected to begin site preparation this fall, with construction slated for summer 2026.

The funding boost brings IRRR's total investment to nearly \$4.6 million. The project team continues to pursue additional support from the Minnesota Housing



contributors to round out the development's \$9.7 million price tag.

Babbitt secured two grants for community enhancements. A \$1.5 million allocation will allow the city to move forward with long-needed renovations to its ice arena, while a separate \$60,000 public works grant will fund extensions of water and sewer lines to support an existing business, The Hideaway, with potential to serve future residential expansion.

Giants Ridge also featured prominently in the funding slate. The board approved a \$7.6 million investment for major upgrades at the popular recreation area, including replacement or upgrades to chair lifts and irrigation systems, and the complete design and construction of a new Nordic and welcome center. The projects are aimed at improving guest experiences and strengthening year-round tourism offerings.

\$300,000 will support four trail-related improvements, including a walking bridge, new mountain biking and hiking trails, and expansion of the existing beginners' skills park.

Other grants approved by the board included:

connect multiple trail segments, including two river crossings, with ties to state parks and neighboring communities. ► Voyageur Country ATV Club - \$225,000, for

construction of 1.2 miles of new trail near the Koochiching County line, with added culverts, gravel surfacing, and gates

► Cook Public Library - \$85,000, for roof, HVAC, and interior repairs following water damage from the June 2024 flood.

▶ Minnesota North College, Vermilion -\$157,000, to improve the Veterinary Technician Program through facility updates and new equip-

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▶ Prospector ATV Club-\$1.2 million, to build and

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#### THE LEGISLATURE

# Lawmakers rush to finish state budget

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- With just weeks left to avoid a state government shutdown, Minnesota lawmakers are still trying to wrap up work on a new twoyear budget that was supposed to be done weeks ago. The regular session ended May 19 without passing most of the state's \$66 billion spending plan, and despite repeated assurances from legislative leaders, key bills remain in limbo.

Gov. Tim Walz has said he'll call a one-day special session once all the bills are finalized and ready for a vote. But that hasn't happened yet, and time is growing short.

#### Not there yet

Working groups have agreed in principle to most major budget areas. Final spreadsheets have been posted, giving a broad look at spending levels and policy priorities. But agreeing to numbers on paper isn't the same as having a bill in hand, and much of the actual language still hasn't been drafted by the nonpartisan revisors' office.

Some bills are close to the finish line. Others are still stuck behind closed doors.

Here's where things stand: ► Transportation – A completed agreement is in place. The bill trims about \$115 million over the next two years and includes a new surcharge for electric vehicle owners based on car value and age – \$150 for fully electric vehicles and \$75 for plug-in hybrids. The goal, backers say, is to fill the gap in gas tax contributions. Rep. Erin Koegel, DFL-Spring Lake Park, who co-chaired the working group, said the final product reflects tough compromises after weeks of tense negotiations.

► Education – A framework has been agreed to and spreadsheets have been posted, but the bill language hasn't been finalized. The proposal increases per-student funding, boosts literacy efforts, and creates a task force to examine ways to slow the rise in special education costs. It also includes a new mandate for schools to develop cardiac emergency response plans by 2026. Still, some lawmakers have criticized how the deal was struck behind closed doors and say the lack of transparency has made it harder to fully

► Health and Human Services-The largest remaining hurdle, the HHS budget accounts for nearly 28 percent of state spending, and while a general agreement exists, one particular issue is threatening toblowitopen: MinnesotaCare coverage for undocumented immigrants. Legislative leaders and the governor agreed to end coverage for undocumented adults while maintaining it for children, a concession to Republicans that sparked strong pushback from progressive Democrats.

Senate Majority Leader Erin Murphy, DFL–St. Paul, has said she supports passing the rollback as a separate bill to help preserve votes for the larger HHS package. House Speaker Lisa Demuth, R–Cold Spring, disagrees, saying that option was never part of the original plan. With no consensus on how to proceed, the HHS bill remains unfinished, and without it, no special session can be called.

#### The stakes

If lawmakers don't act by June 30, the state will begin a partial shutdown on July 1 – the first since 2011. Under union contracts, the state is required to provide advance notice of potential layoffs. Nurses received the first of those notices last week. Broader layoff warnings will go out to state workers on June 9 if a budget deal isn't reached.

Walz and legislative leaders have tried to reassure workers that progress is being made.

"We are working to make sure that as they are receiving those (layoff) notices," said DFL House Speaker Emeritus Melissa Hortman, "they can point to a date on the calendar when the special session will happen and point to bills that have been posted that will fund all these agencies."

But that date remains elusive.

A side from the MinnesotaCare disagreement, another source of delay is the sheer logistics of bill writing. Even after budget spreadsheets are approved, revisors need time to convert them into legal language. The HHS bill, in particular, is a heavy lift – often running hundreds of pages.

Legislative leaders had aimed for a special session this week, specifically, has quietly slipped, and Capitol activity has slowed. A leadership meeting scheduled for Tuesday was postponed, then apparently canceled. Instead, Walz held a round of private conversations with unnamed stakeholders. There's been no formal update from leaders since last Thursday.

Political math isn't making things any easier. The MinnesotaHouseissplitevenly at 67-67 between Democrats and Republicans, meaning every single vote matters. In the Senate, Democrats hold a narrow 34-33 edge.

That dynamic leaves little room for disagreement. And it's added pressure on leaders to make sure the final bills can actually pass once the special session is called.

"It was a very hard process," Koegel said of the negotiations. "It was uncomfortable and it was tense. And I'm hoping that maybe some lessons were learned this year, and we can go forward in a little bit more of a civil manner."

#### Fading hopes

Aside from the budget, two significant measures appear likely to be left behind: a tax bill and an infrastructure bonding package.

Unlike the budget bill, neither requires passage to avoid a government shutdown. But their absence means stalled funding for local development projects, tax credits, and major infrastructure improvements.

A pared-down, 12-page tax bill drew immediate criticism from both sides of the aisle. The proposal included just a few agreed-upon items – raising the cannabis sales tax from 10 percent to 15 percent, and ending a tax break for electricity used by large data centers.

"I rejected it right off the bat," said Senate Taxes Chair Ann Rest, DFL–New Hope. "As soon as I saw it, I told them I couldn't vote for that and neither could half a dozen other Senate Democrats."

Republicans shared her view.

"We put five months of thought into something they put five minutes of thought into," said Rep. Greg Davids, R–Preston. "I don't think it would pass (the) House or the Senate."

Meanwhile, hopes for a bonding bill – used to fund

dollars – have also dimmed. Gov. Tim Walz proposed

an \$800 million bonding package for projects such as university building repairs, a new State Patrol headquarters, and Rapidan Dam improvements. But as with last year, negotiations stalled before the May 19 adjournment.

"It appears my Republican colleagues are not interested in bonding at all," said Murphy.

Hortman accused Senate Minority Leader Mark Johnson of making unreasonable demands.

"I think Senator Mark Johnson has a price that includes lots and lots of things far outside the bonding bill," she said. "I think he's going to overplay his hand exactly as he did in 2024."

Johnson fired back: "Democrats are the only ones unwilling to work together to pass a bonding bill and are playing political blame games to appease their activist base."

Demuth said House Republicans remain open to passing a \$700 million bonding bill and "are quite interested."

For now, both bills remain stuck – leaving infrastructure, tax credits, and economic development initiatives in limbo for another year.

*MPRNews* contributed to this article.



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#### **ARREST**...Continued from page 1

have been involved in the theft of tools and other material from the True Value store in Tower as well as a number of other residences in Vermilion Lake and Greenwood townships.

Due to the number of

reported burglaries and thefts in the case, law enforcement officials are continuing their investigation as it is likely that others were involved.

#### Shoplifting charge

Bingham is also facing a shoplifting charge for a sepa-

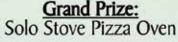
rate incident on May 18, at the Walmart in Mt. Iron. Bingham allegedly failed to pay for \$117.32 worth of goods that he concealed from store staff.

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#### GRADUATION

#### Small but mighty: Vermilion Country School graduates are ready to enter adulthood

#### by JODI SUMMIT

Tower-Soudan Editorw

TOWER- The Vermilion Country School's Class of 2025 is special for many reasons, and the staff who spoke at this year's graduation ceremony had no trouble pointing out what made this small group of graduates so unique.

The group has faced many challenges in their lives outside of school. But all five are leaving high school with solid plans for their future: three to University of Minnesota- Duluth, one to a construction trades program, and one to a fulltime job as a certified nursing assistant, after completing her studies and passing her state certification as a PSEO student.

"These are challenges that no young person should have to face," said teacher Sam Magnuson, who went on to compare them to oak trees, who create deep and connected root systems to keep them standing when other trees get knocked down.

Magnuson, who taught science at VCS this year straight after completing his college education, noted that he graduated from high school only four short years before.

He gave the graduates some tips, both humorous and serious.

a meal," he said. "You need real, sustaining food."

He told the teens that their social life was going to change, and that it might be hard to make new friends.

"You will feel alone," he said. "But everyone is going through this."

"Join a club, become involved in an activity, and try something new," he said.

And his final piece of advice, which solicited grins from the parents in the audience, was to remember that if someone in their life would be happy to hear from them, give them a call, not a text, and talk.

Graduates then had the chance to thank those in the audience. Ethan Howard thanked everyone who had pushed him to graduate. Bailey Pratt thanked her teachers who kept pushing her to reach her goals. Grads then each handed out white roses to their special people in the audience, along with school staff.

Amy Heglund, a school paraprofessional and bus driver, and the informal school mom, said she was surprised when the students chose her to be a guest speaker.

"I was your bus driver," she

"Monster Energy Drink is not said. "I am the person who made eal," he said. "You need real, you guys come here."

> Heglund spoke of each students' strengths and highlights of their time at VCS. She also gave one last piece of advice.

"You are now the drivers of your own bus," she said. "Be nice to the driver, because it's a long walk home."

After the ceremony, students were each presented with their own graduation cake, which was then shared with family and friends.

From left: Aaylah Meyers, Ethan Howard, Oliver Beise, Bailey Pratt, and Avery Ramponi. photos by J. Summit





Left: Bailey Pratt spoke. Below: Ethan Howard posed for a photograph with some of his family members.



# Ely Memorial Class of 2025 graduates 49

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA Staff Writer

ELY- Forty-nine seniors from Ely Memorial High School walked on the stage here as students and left as graduates, soon to be heading in many different directions. Ely's Class of 2025 was a remarkable one, boasting 17 students with a GPA of 3.5 or higher along with many more notable achievements in athletics, fine arts, robotics and student government.

Tom Coombe, athletic director and commencement speaker, lauded the efforts of both the students, and the strong Ely community that supports the school. "Don't ever forget where you came from," said Coombe. "Ely is unique and special and committed to its young people and education. Many, many people have supported your journey. Now you have joined the ranks of alumni and when you get the opportunity, remember to pay it forward and give back."

Class speaker Carena DeBeltz told her classmates, as they go their separate ways, to cherish the friendships and memories and to take pride in themselves. "We are the future of society. We have a chance to make change, to make an impact. Even if it is as small as a smile from a distance."





Above: Sarah Hughley, Tory Hughley, Carena DeBeltz, Via DeBeltz , and Sabrah Hart pose for a selfie. photo by F. Zobitz

Left: Presley Hudson poses with school para





North Woods senior Aiden Hartway gets a hug from his mother Beth Wilenius. Louie Panichi showcased his love of baseball with his decorated cap.

photo by S. Ukkola



photos by D. Colburn

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#### SECTION 7A TRACK

# Udovich shines as three Ely girls punch tickets to state

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

Sprinter sets two 7A records as Ely finishes fourth at 7A finals

**REGIONAL-** Violet Udovich set the track on fire at the Section 7A girls track and field meet last Wednesday, May 28, in Duluth, turning in two electrifying sprint performances that etched her name into the record books

and secured her spot at state. The Ely speedster blazed to victories in both the 200and 400-meter dashes at Griggs Field at James S. Malosky Stadium at UMD, breaking the Section 7A records in both events in the process. Her winning time of

25.00 seconds in the 200 and 56.25 seconds in the 400 made her untouchable, even in a high-profile showdown with Two Harbors standout Trinity Giddings, who qualified for state in four events.

Udovich wasn't the only Timberwolf punching a ticket to the state meet, set for June 10-11 at St. Michael-Albertville. Lydia Shultz claimed the high jump title with a leap of 5 feet, 2 inches, and Kaylin Visser earned a second-place finish in the discus with a personal-best throw of 114 feet. All three will

represent Ely on Minnesota's biggest high school track stage

State berths eluded the boys, who finished well down in the pack in the 24-team field. The 4x800 relay team of Eli Olson, Otto Devine, Wyatt Devine, and Oliver Hohenstein that took first at the subsectional in Aurora was without the services of Otto Devine at the sectional, subbing in Brooks Brenny as they placed fourth in a time of 8:43.49. Dylan Durkin had the top individual finish for the Ely boys, placing sixth in the 200 with a time of 23.85.

See TRACK.pg. 2B

#### SECTION 7A BASEBALL



# SECTION 7A BASEBALL TOURNAMENT Ely heads to finals by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

Bunts beat Cherry for South Ridge rematch for section title



Hoping to make a big play, outfielder Vince Kajala grimaces as he lunges for the ball during last Thursday's game against Chisholm.

# **Panthers end** North Woods' playoff hopes

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- After making a splash in the opening rounds of the Section 7A baseball tournament, the North Woods Grizzles saw their season come to an end last Thursday with losses to two higher seeds at South Ridge.

Winners of their first two tourney games, the No. 5 Grizzlies drew the stiffest challenge they could face in Thursday morning's winner's bracket game, No. 1-seeded South Ridge, ranked third in the state in Class A in the Quality Ratings Formula used to seed tournament play. The Grizzlies pinned their hopes for an upset on a razor-thin home loss to the Panthers in May, 3-2, in a game that might have fallen the Grizzlies' way if not for a couple of plays. North Woods took the early lead in their first at bat, with Louie Panichi reaching base when he was hit by a pitch and then came home to score on a hit by Talen Jarshaw. But this one would be no cliffhanger like their first game, as the Panthers obliterated the Grizzlies' 1-0 advantage in the bottom of the first, bringing 11 batters to the plate and scoring six runs. The Grizzlies were shackled by South Ridge pitching until the sixth inning, when Panichi laced a triple to right and scored on a Cedar Holman single, making the score 10-2 at that point. South Ridge scored another run in the bottom of the inning, then retired three Grizzlies batters on strikes in the seventh for the 11-2 win. That dropped North Woods into the afternoon elimination bracket against No.4 Chisholm, a team they upset in the second round, 5-4, just two days earlier. There would be no repeat, as the Bluestreaks stymied the North Woods offense. Chisholm took a 1-0 lead in the first, then knocked starter Panichi off the mound with a five-run third inning.

ELY- The Ely Timberwolves played small ball to perfection on Tuesday in a four-run sixth inning against Cherry that propelled them to a 7-4 win and a berth in the 7A sectional tournament championship game.

It was do or die against the Tigers after a 7-2 loss earlier in the day to No. 1 South Ridge dropped the Wolves into the elimination bracket, and No. 2 Cherry was on the prowl for revenge after being upset by No. 3 Ely 4-3 in the third round.

The Tigers broke on top early with a pair of runs in the bottom of the first off of Ely starter Owen Marolt, taking advantage of a walk, a throwing error, and a single.

But the Wolves answered back in the top of the second. Sean Merriman led off and ripped a shot down the third base line, and Jace Huntbatch slipped another hit past first to put runners at the corners. Ely got on the board when Cherry catcher Mason Heitzman made an errant throw to third on a pick play, allowing Merriman to score. Huntbatch advanced to third on the play and came home on a liner to right by Drew Johnson to even the score 2-2.

We needed to execute and get some bunts down, and we did.

#### Ely Head Coach Frank Ivancich

The Wolves drew blood again in the top of the third when Caid Chittum slapped a hot shot to short and reached on a throwing error, ending up at second on the play. A ground-out by Marolt moved Chittum to third, and he came across the plate on a sacrifice fly by Evan Leeson.

Trailing 3-2, the Tigers struck back in the bottom half of the inning, with Isaiah Asuma and Noah Asuma crossing the plate for scores and a 4-3 advantage.

Both teams squandered opportunities in the fourth and fifth innings, and the Wolves still trailed as they came to bat in the top of the decisive sixth inning.

See BASEBALL...pg. 2B

Above: Ely's Caid Chittum watches a play develop as he races for third base during action against South Ridge on Tuesday.

Right: Ely's Owen Marolt throws a pitch against Cherry on Tuesday. photos by D. Colburn



See GRIZZLIES...pg. 2B



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#### GOLF

# North Woods' Aune headed to state, team narrowly misses

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

**REGIONAL-** The North Woods boys golf team gave the field a run for its money at the 7A sectional tournament, held May 27 in McGregor, with state-tourney qualifier Gage Aune pacing the team to third

in the eight-team competition. in the second round, ending up Walker-Hackensack-Akeley breezed to the team title with a score of 624, but the Grizzlies and Deer River had a heated battle for second. The Warriors' tally of 359 edged North Woods by a single stroke after the first round, but the Warriors fared better

at 716 to 747 for the Grizzlies. Aune fired a pair of 88s to claim ninth place, and with W-H-A slipping five golfers in the top seven, that handed the final qualifying individual spot in the tournamnet to Aune. Sawyer Glass had a strong outing for the Grizzlies,

carding an 85 and 92 for a 177 total and a tie for tenth. Peyton Swanson ended round one in a three-way tie for ninth with an 88, but slid to a 97 for a 185 total and a tie for 18th. Brayden Amundson rounded out the team scoring with a 209, placing 31st.

#### Girls

Laurin Glass was the sole North Woods entry in the girls tournament, and finished in a three-way tie for ninth with a 111 after the first round. A second-round 117 dropped her to 12th for the tourney. Conference honors Freshman Gage Aune was

named to the East Range Conference all-conference team as one of the top eight golfersintheleaguethisseason.

Editor's note: The print edition of this article was incorrectly based on only first round results. The Timberjay regrets the error.

#### **GRIZZLIES...**Continued from page 1B-

John Warren came on in relief and did a solid job of holding the Bluestreaks in check the rest of the way. But the North Woods bats were stagnant, as Panichi had the only official hit of the game, a fourth-inning double that ended up in a score after a Holman sacrifice grounder.

The 6-1 loss was the end to the Grizzlies' first season under Head Coach Steve Baker, an 11-8 season that was a huge turnaround from the 3-12 campaign in 2024.

"It's hard not to be happy with the outcome of the season, and we played a lot of great games," Baker said.

#### "When we talked earlier in the year, it was these little parts of the game needing to come together, and they did. We went on a couple of runs and had some really good games. We just ran out of gas today, we just didn't have our stuff."

Baker praised Warren's performance on the mound,

out in the sixth, but got their

noting that he had to recover from a midseason injury.

"John dove into first base and dislocated a couple of fingers, so it slowed down his pitching," Baker said. "He missed a lot of innings because of that, and now he's come back this strong after that. It was a beautiful performance

today - he just doesn't quit. Which is what we love about all the guys on this team. They don't quit. They're just they fight, fight, fight, and they became a family this season." Baker said that he plans to be back at the helm next season, one he already has high hopes for.

"We're losing great talent with this group of seniors, but we still have great talent coming up and great talent returning," he said. "So yeah, as hard as it is today, we're already looking forward to next year. We're excited."

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

Huntbatch got things started by slapping a single past the second baseman, then stole second. Tyde Brecke laid down a perfect bunt, with Huntbatch advancing to third. Jack Davies tapped another bunt and the Tigers had no play, with Huntbatch scoring for the 4-4 tie. The Tigers pulled Noah Asuma from the mound and replaced him with fireballer Noah Sundquist. Johnson was up next, squared to bunt, and Sundquist's pitch got past the catcher and

allowed the runners to advance to second and third. Then Johnson ripped a single to score Brecke. With runners at the corners, Leeson put down another bunt, scoring Davies from third for a 6-4 advantage. Chittum drew a walk to load the bases for Marolt, who struck out for the first out of the inning. Leeson came up to bat and resorted to the effective formula again, putting down a sacrifice bunt to score Johnson and give Ely a 7-4 lead.

56.25

2:41.39

6:24.76

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

Wyatt Devine ran a 2:10.78 in the 800 to place seventh, and Blake Houde also nabbed a seventh-place finish in the 1600 with a time of 4:58.99.

#### Girls results

100 meters- Lydia Shultz, 6th, 13.34

200m-Violet Udovich, 1st, 25.0; Miriam Messerschmidt, 10th, 28.38

The Tigers went three and hits in the game and got good

400m- Violet Udovich, 1st,

800m- Isabella Macho, 11th,

1600m- Katy Brophy, 10th,

Discus-Kaylin Visser, 2nd, 114';

High Jump- Lydia Shultz, 1st,

6:04:02; Elsa Ellerbroek, 14th,

Addison Forsman, 14th, 75'3"

leadoff batter on board in the seventh. Marolt caught an infield popper for the first out, then first baseman Johnson snagged a grounder and flipped to Leeson at second to erase the lead runner. Isaiah Asuma stepped to the plate and whacked a towering shot to deep center, but Merriman made the running catch to end the game and give the complete game win to Marolt. The Wolves collected 11

5'2"; Isabella Macho, 4'8"

Udovich, 4th, 4:19.57

4x400 relay- Lydia Shultz,

4x800 relay- Mattie Lindsay,

Mattie Lindsay, Molly Brophy, Violet

Elsa Ellerbroek, Isabella Macho,

Molly Brophy, 4th, 10:28.78

12th, 28'10.5'

production across the lineup. With just two strike-outs, Marolt benefitted from strong defensive play behind him, giving up only four hits.

Ely Head Coach Frank Ivancich praised the Wolves' play after the game.

"We needed to execute and get some bunts down, and we did," he said. "Tyde and Jack set the stage there with some excellent bunts, and then we knew we were just going to be squeezing and squeezing. We just knew that's what we

were going to keep on doing until they could get an out, and some things went our way."

But the success with the small ball didn't happen by luck.

"We've been working on this for a couple of days now," Ivancich said."Just putting the machine out and having each guy get up there and just bunt. bunt, bunt, bunt, bunt, and if finally kind of paid off for us."

The win took some of the sting off of the earlier loss to the Panthers, which was a

more closely contested game than the 7-2 final suggested, Ivancich said. South Ridge led just 3-2 going into the sixth on the strength of a two-run homer. Chittum and Leeson scored for the Wolves in that game.

Ely would have to win twice on Thursday to claim the sectional title in the double-elimination tourney. Results will be posted on the Timberjay website and Facebook page.

**Boys results** Triple Jump-Addison Forsman, 200- Dylan Durkin, 6th, 23.85 800-Wyatt Devine, 7th, 2:10.78

1600-BlakeHaude,7th,4:58.99; Oliver Hohenstein, 8th, 4:59.44 Discus- Wyatt Mattson, 12th,

106'1' High Jump-Dylan Durkin, 5'6"

Long Jump- Eli Olson, 17'9" Shot Put- Wyatt Mattson, 9th,

#### 38'11"

Triple Jump- Eli Olson, 37'2.5" 4x400 relay- Eli Olson, Oliver Hohenstein, Milo McClelland, Dylan Durkin, 3:49.83

4x800 relay- Eli Olson, Brooks Brenny, Wyatt Devine, Oliver Hohenstein, 4th, 8:43.49



#### **ASH RIVER TRAIL CANISTER SITE**

11391 Ash River Trail

#### **COOK TRANSFER** STATION

2134 S. Beatty Rd. Cook

SUMMER HOURS

Wed: 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. **Sat:** 2:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

**Mon:** 10 a.m.–6 p.m. Tues thru Sat: 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

#### **COUNTY 77 CANISTER SITE**

2038 County Rd. 77 Greenwood Twp

#### **KABETOGAMA LAKE CANISTER SITE**

10150 Gamma Rd

#### **ORR CANISTER SITE**

4038 Hwy 53

#### **PORTAGE CANISTER SITE**

6992 Crane Lake Rd, Buyck

**REGIONAL LANDFILL** 5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia

SUMMER HOURS

Tue: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m. Thu: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Sat: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sun: Noon-6 p.m.

SUMMER HOURS Mon, Wed: 9 a.m. - Noon

**Sat:** 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

#### SUMMER HOURS

Tue: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. **Thu:** 2 p.m.— 7 p.m. Sat: 8 a.m.-noon **Sun:** 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

SUMMER HOURS

Tue: 2 p.m. - 6 p.m. **Thu**: 10 a.m.— 1 p.m. Sat: 1 p.m.—5 p.m. Sun: 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.

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

#### **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITIES**

5345 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Tues and Sat: 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

3994 Landfill Rd, Hibbing **Sat:** 8 a.m.-1 p.m.



#### ST. LOUIS COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT 218-471-7703 | OFFICE HOURS MON - FRI 8 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Summer hours effective April 15 - September 30

#### VERMILION COUNTRY SCHOOL

# Arts, music, science, and the environment

by JODI SUMMIT Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- Vermilion Country School's environmental education focus this year is on water quality, and while students in science class have been exploring the science of water and the environmental impacts of pollution and mining, they also just spent two days exploring art, poetry, and music, and its relationship to water.

Fire in the Village outreach artists Annie Humphrey and Shanai Matteson worked with students earlier this month, doing art projects and making music about our relationship to water.

Students learned to make dyes using plants found in area bogs, dying fabrics with tamarack, birch, and swamp marigold. They carved linoleum-style blocks into shapes from nature like flowers and insects, and they printed the dyed fabrics, as well as making small notebooks.

Singer-songwriter Humphrey said she does a lot of work with students.

"Schools want more art," she said, noting that many schools have cut the arts from their curriculum. "It's messy and fun and kids love it."

Teacher Rebeca Gawboy, who helps run the Stronger Connections



grant program at the school, was impressed at how many students were completely immersed in the projects with Humphrey and Matteson.

"Some of these kids don't usually want to do art projects." she said. The same happened with the music time, with students who don't already play an instrument, stepping up and getting introductory lessons.

"We had a lot of great group work." Gawboy said.

Some of the student's artwork became part of their year-end environmental expo projects, which were on display on May 23.

Besides block printing, students learned how to print fabric using leaves and flowers.

Students learned about plants from the water-rich bog environments that can be used as natural dyes. They learned about how the pH of the water affects the dyeing process, and watched as yellows, tans, browns, purples, and pinks came to life in the fabric patches.

Students then used the images they created on the ink blocks to create patterns on fabric, and then the patches were sewn onto jackets and bags. They also created haiku po-



Two-day residency at VCS teaches students how art is important for science and the environment

Left: Annie Humphrey sews a printed patch onto a shirt. Above: A student carving a linoleum block. **RightL Kai Contreres-**Pieratos shows off a backpack he printed. Below: Shanai Matteson shows off a printed booklet. photos by J. Summit

ems, using prompts of colors, taken from paint chip samples.

Humphrey also worked with students interested in music, teaching how to play a flute, and working on songs with other students. She also performed a concert.

The program was funded by the school's Stronger Connections and Northland Foundation grants. Gawboy said the school hopes to get the two artists back again next year, to work with students, as well as possibly doing a workshop for school staff.





#### **Obituaries and Death Notices**

#### Carol J. McCue

Carol J. Aune McCue, 85, of Cook, passed away at the home of her son and daughter-in-law in North Carolina on Sunday, May 25, 2025. A celebration of life will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 28 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Cook. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

She is survived by her sons, Mike (Shona) and Bob (Fran); son-in-law, Dale; grandkids, Mike (Jo Ann), Nick, Cathy (Seth), Erica,

Louie (Nancy), Joe (Nina), Phil (Angela), Jessie (Chris), Rochelle (Zach), Jeff (Tanya) and Stacey; great-grandkids, Tristan, Zach, Isabelle, Gabe, Becca, Harlan, Carmen, Lacey, Ellie, Nash, Zona, Brian, Athena, Maverick, Mataya, Courtney, Aiden, Ava and Hunter; sisters-in-law, Barb Seopa and Karen McCue; and many nieces, nephews and friends.

#### Susan R. Miller

Susan R. "Sue" Hein Mitchell Miller, 82, of Ely, passed away peacefully on Sunday, March 23, 2025,

#### Phone and Internet Discounts Available to CenturyLink Customers

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission designated CenturyLink as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier within its service area for universal service purposes. CenturyLink's basic local service rates for residential voice lines are \$20.96-\$26.00 per and business services are month \$28.25-\$48.25 per month. Specific rates will be provided upon request. CenturyLink participates in the Lifeline program, which makes residential telephone or qualifying broadband service more affordable to eligible low-income individuals and families. Eligible customers may qualify for Lifeline discounts of \$5.25/month for voice or bundled voice service or \$9.25/month for qualifying broadband or broadband bundles. Residents who live on federally recognized Tribal Lands may qualify for additional Tribal benefits if they participate in certain additional federal eligibility programs. The Lifeline discount is available for only one telephone or qualifying broadband service per household, which can be either a wireline or wireless service. Broadband speeds must be at least 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload to qualify.

surrounded by family. In the week preceding her death, her home was filled with most of her grown children, their spouses, and several grandchildren as they came to surround her with love, say goodbye, and ease her journey. Join us for a celebration of Sue's life at 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 28 at the Ely Gospel Church, followed by cake, coffee and storytelling at Semer's Park Pavilion in Ely.

She is survived by her children, David Mitchell (Becky), Meg Svensson (Mike), Lori Boes (Phil), Lisa Wagenbach (Cliff), Jody Miller (Nora) and Jeff Miller; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; sister, Karen Hein; nephews; and many others who knew and loved her.

David J. Bowser David John Bowser, 76, of Cook, passed away on Saturday, May 31, 2025. A private interment will be held at a later date. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

#### Judy L. Metzger

Judy Lynne Shields Metzger, 77, passed away on Friday, May 23, 2025. A private interment will be held at a later date. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.



A household is defined as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Services are not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in these programs. Consumers who willfully make false statements to obtain these discounts can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from these programs.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, visit https://www.centurylink.com/aboutus/comm unity/community-development/lifeline.html for additional information about applying for these programs or call 1-800-201-4099 with questions.

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TRANSFER STATION

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

5910 Hwy 135 N, Aurora

AURORA



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

7530 Koski Rd, Embarrass

#### NORTHWOODS TRANSFER STATION

9384 Hwy 21 N, Ely/Babbitt

SUMMER HOURS

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

#### SOUDAN **CANISTER SITE**

Mon, Wed, Sat, Sun: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

5160 Hwy 169, Soudan

#### **REGIONAL LANDFILL**

5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia

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

#### HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITY

Tues and Sat: 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

5345 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia

# ST. LOUIS COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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

Summer hours effective April 15 - September 30





#### **CLIMATE**

# A very dry May contributed to fire risks

Horse River Fire continues to smolder in the BWCAW

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

REGIONAL-It appears the North Country is heading back into drought status after one of the driest months of May in several years, a pattern that appears to be continuing at least for the first half of June. And that is likely to continue to raise the fire danger at a time of year when wildfires have traditionally been rare

to non-existent.

As of this week, firefighters remained at work on the Horse River Fire, a lightning strike blaze first reported on May 22. It's been a slow-moving, smoldering fire in a remote portion of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, normally the kind of fire that the U.S. Forest Service will allow to play its natural role.

But with the memories

of the Pagami Creek Fire, which smoldered in a bog for weeks before exploding into a massive wildfire, still fairly fresh, the forest service isn't taking any chances. According to the team currently managing the fire, a total of 23 personnel are deployed on the fire, although it remained at zero-percent containment as of Tuesday. The fire remains quite small, now estimated at about 13 acres. The fire did Right: Fire danger was rated extreme earlier in the week as high winds and low humidity ahead of a cold front raised the risk level. Fire danger was rated as high later in the week. photo by M. Helmberger

receive a quarter inch of rain on Monday evening, which is likely to continue to slow the fire's growth.

A very dry May Historically, the North

See VERY DRY...pg. 5B





# SOUNDS OF SPRING Teacher, teacher, teacher!

The Ovenbird is a common summer

Above: An ovenbird comes to check out the sound of an

#### Wildflower Watch



This week's featured flower BLUE BEAD LILY (or Clintonia)

The Blue Bead Lily, or Clintonia, Clintonia borealis, is a common and distinctive late spring wildflower here in the North Country.

Look for the glossy, lily-like leaves, which grow at the base of the plant, typically three or leaves per flower stalk. The stalks themselves are leafless but are adorned at the top by a small cluster of pale greenish-yellow flowers, typically two-to-six blossoms per stem. Those flowers will turn into deep blue berries later in the summer.

Look for it in just about anyshady location in the North Country.

# warbler and they don't let you forget it

In my experience, it's a warm usually hear them singing from our morning in mid-May when one of our largest warblers announces it is back here in the North Country,

with its explosive "teacher-teacher-teacher!'

It's Seirus aurocapilla, otherwise known as the ovenbird.one of the most common warbler species in our region and one that is never shy about announcing its presence. The ovenbird is widely distributed

in North America

front yard on the ridge overlooking the Lost Lake Swamp, they rarely ever show up within sight of the

yard. But walk into the woods a couple hundred feet and you'll enter the ovenbird's realm.

Like most warblers, ovenbirds are more easily heard than seen. With its loud "teacher-teacher" call, you might think these birds would be easy to spot, but like most ground-dwelling birds, the ovenbird is well camouflaged, with an olivebrown back, dark spots on a white belly, and with

MARSHALL HELMBERGER

during the summer months but is most abundant near the western half of Lake Superior where it thrives in our vast areas of mixed forest. Indeed, recent breeding surveys have found that the ovenbird is the most common bird in summer within the Superior National Forest.

While most warblers live relatively high in the trees, the ovenbird has a different strategy. It's a ground gleaner that hunts for insects and arthropods amid the leaf litter on the forest floor. Even their nests are on the ground, typically tucked well-hidden amid a pile of dead branches or other forest debris. Their nests are unusual, built like a dome with a side entrance, much like an old-fashioned earthen ovena creation that inspired this bird's common name.

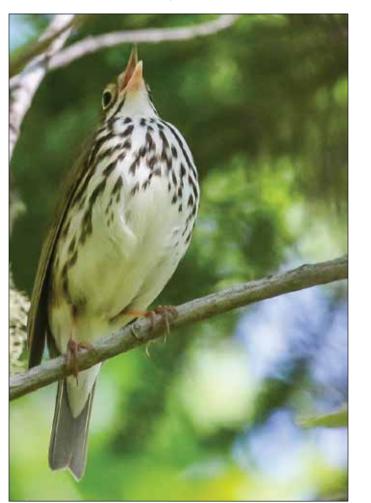
These are birds of the deep woods, that typically aren't found along open edges. While I can

a distinctive pale orange stripe running front to back along the top of its head. Many times, I've stood and searched in vain for a male ovenbird calling from close-by in a perch somewhere in the understory. Unless they move, they can seem nearly invisible at times.

One way to get them to move is with a recording. Over the years, while out photographing, I've occasionally used bird recordings to bring birds within better range of my lens. And I know of no bird that will react as readily and as dramatically as an ovenbird. The slightest hint of another male of the species in their territory is guaranteed to irritate and it sends them into a high-speed response, complete with harsh calls and short bursts of flight in varying directions while trying to spot the unholy interloper.

Ovenbirds, as with most warblers, spend winters in Central apparent interloper.

Below: The bird sings its Teacher, Teacher, Teacher! call in response to the intrusion. photo by M. Helmberger



America, but make the journey to our region each spring to take advantage of our region's renowned insect explosion to feed their young. Nestling birds grow incredibly quickly, which is key to their survival. They are the equivalent of "sitting ducks" while confined to their nests, so the faster they can grow, the sooner they'll be out of the nest and better able to avoid predators. The ovenbird will typically lay 4-6 eggs and once hatched, it takes the nestlings just over a week to fledge. But that incredibly rapid growth requires an enormous amount of calories and the forests of the North Country

#### See OVENBIRDS...pg. 5B

#### Fishing report

#### **Ely area**

Thanks to another heat wave, walleyes are starting to behave a little more normal for this time of the year. While minnows continue to reign supreme, the slip bobber and leech bite has finally started. Anglers have been pitching jigs and minnows, paddle tail and minnow baits. Basically, anything that looks like a minnow, fished in 3-7 feet of the water. That's because minnows are looking to spawn now.

Areas with current remain a good start, but large boulder flats and rocky shorelines have been the best areas to fish. In the evenings, a slip bobber and a juicy leech have been the most effective. Right off the dock and back to shore or right off your campsite after dinner has been where anglers are catching walleyes under a slip bobber. Gold, pink and fire tiger have been the most popular colors this last week.

#### Smallmouth bass

With water temps finally getting up in the 60s, smallmouth bass have begun to move up on their beds to spawn. Anglers who fish love to fish with Ned rigs, now is your time. Other anglers have been having incredible fishing with pink mepps, wacky worms, topwater jerk baits. Large rocky flats, pretty much anywhere on the lake, as long as it's in 4-8 feet of water, are the key places to fish. Pink, green pumpkin, and orange craw are successful colors.

#### Pike

While anglers fishing for pike cooled off this last week, anglers flashing pictures of big pike in the shop didn't. Big pike remain in the shallow bays in 4-7 feet of water. Fishing with a large sucker remains the best way to go if you want a fish of a lifetime, but more and more we are hearing

#### See FISH REPORT...pg. 5B



The air across the North Country was filled with various levels of smoke for several days this week, as this view from Jasper Peak, overlooking Soudan, attests. Massive wildfires burning in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and northwestern Ontario have been responsible for the smoky skies, which pushed the air quality index into the Very Unhealthy range at some points during the week. While some parts of the area saw a little rain Monday night, it's unlikely to impact the fires north of the border so smoky conditions are likely to come and go over the next few weeks. Canadian meteorologists are predicting a high, dry summer in Canada this year.

#### photo by M. Helmberger

#### **Outdoors briefly**

#### **Crane Lake Visitors Center** grand opening set for Friday

CRANE LAKE- The public is invited to attend the grand opening of the Crane Lake Visitor Center, set for this Friday, June 6, from 1:30-5:30 p.m. The event will include a variety of family-friendly activities, including refreshments and live music and the chance to paddle aboard a North Canoe with rangers from Voyageurs National Park.

The event is sponsored by the National Park Service, the Voyageurs Conservancy,

#### and the Crane Lake community and is part of the park's ongoing 50th anniversary celebration in 2025.

The official ribbon-cutting is set for 1:30 p.m., with remarks from key partners and community leaders.

The Crane Lake Visitor Center is the result of a unique partnership between the National Park Service, Voyageurs Conservancy, and CraneLakeTownship.Funded in part by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, the center serves as the eastern gateway to the park's interconnected waterways and offers educational exhibits on dark skies, Indigenous history, and regional ecology.

#### LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST from NOAA weather Monday Friday Saturday Sunday Tuesday 48 51 Emb Hi Lo Prec. Sn. Hi Lo Ely Hi Lo Prec. Sn. Cook Prec. 0rr Hi Lo Prec. Sn. Tower Hi Lo Sn. Prec. 0.00 05/26 05/26 68 32 05/26 67 na 68 40 0.00 0.00 05/26 67 37 0.00 05/26 68 31 0.00 05/27 71 45 0.00 05/27 70 na 0.00 05/27 71 45 0.00 05/27 72 42 0.00 05/27 71 36 0.00 05/28 68 41 70 na 0.00 05/28 0.00 05/28 70 37 0.00 05/28 72 46 0.01 69 43 05/28 0.08 05/29 72 na 72 05/29 71 0.00 0.00 05/29 71 35 0.00 05/29 47 0.00 05/29 71 42 0.00 44 78 na 05/30 79 43 05/30 0.00 0.00 05/30 77 35 0.00 05/30 78 53 0.00 05/30 78 45 0.00 79 46 73 42 79 37 0.00 05/31 77 na 0.00 0.00 05/31 05/31 77 39 05/31 0.00 05/31 77 42 0.00 72 na 0.00 72 35 0.00 06/01 73 36 0.00 06/01 06/01 06/01 0.00 06/01 73 37 0.00 YTD Total 7.75 YTD Total YTD Total 6.48 YTD Total 7.46 7.98 YTD Total 7.26

#### VERY DRY...Continued from page 4B -

Country receives about two-thirds of its annual rainfall from May to September, an average of about an inch a week. But most reporting stations in the North Country reported less than two inches for the month and some, like International Falls, saw less than an inch.

While some parts of the North Country saw forecasted rain Monday evening, most parts of the area missed out entirely, capping another week with little or no rainfall for much of the region.

The extended forecast does offer a glimmer of hope for some rain by the

weekend, which could help reduce fire danger and provide a much-needed drink for what looks to be a promising blueberry crop. The 6-10 and 8-14 day outlooks both point to a trend for slightly above-average precipitation.

FISH REPORT...Continued from page 4B

that spoons, spinners and buzzbaits are catching good numbers of pike with some big pike sprinkled in.

#### Panfish

Crappies have wrapped up spawning on some lakes or just started on others. Either way, anglers should be looking for crappies in the shallow pencil reeds where they find the sand bottoms they need for spawning. Small hair jigs, tube jigs, or crappie minnow, all fished under a bobber, have been very effective.

#### Stream trout

Rainbows have been very ve this last week. Angle fishing from shore have been reporting great fishing mainly during the evening hours, right off the dock. Small red and gold kastmasters have been super effective, but the triedand-true nightcrawler, fished 5-10 feet under a bobber has been effective, too.

deep water (same depth) with smaller spoons, tube jigs or bucktails. Wonderbread, blue jeans and bloody nose have

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

can (and do) easily provide that energy source. That's the reason our region attracts a greater diversity of birds in spring and summer than almost any other

**OVENBIRDS...**Continued from page 4B

place in North America. To modify that old Arby's catch phrase: "We've got THE BUGS!"

So, the next time you're out in the

woods, listen for the ovenbird's distinc-

tive call. And don't forget the bug spray.



been popular colors for lakers.

#### Lake trout

Reports continue to trickle in as more anglers start looking for lakers. Anglers targeting lakers have been trolling with down riggers in 40-80 feet of water with large trolling spoons. Anglers fishing from a canoe have been trolling or jigging over





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# CLEAN

🕑 Boats, trailers, and gear

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

# DRAIN

🌝 Water from boat, bilge, motor, and live well

Remove drain plug and open all water draining devices

Trash unused bait

Everything at least five days

before going to other waters (Or) Decontaminate with high pressure water

(120°F or warmer)

#### STOP INVASIVE SPECIES!









#### **EMPLOYMENT**

#### **POSITION OPENING Ely Public Schools Health Coordinator**

Ely Public School District is seeking a Health Coordinator for the 2025-2026 school year. We are an EC-Grade 12 district seeking an energetic, self-starting, personable, and highly motivated individual. A background check is required.

#### **Required Qualifications:**

- Valid RN License Experience working in school health services
- Satisfactory background check Experience working with school-age
- children Strong communication skills

**Benefits Include:** > Paid sick leave, personal days, and vacation

PERA retirement

Rate of Pay: \$32.62/hour Hours: 5 hours/day, student contact days

#### Application available at:

www.elv.k12.mn.us complete application must include the

following: District application

- Resume
- **College Transcripts**
- 2 letters of recommendation

Return materials to: Ely Public Schools, Attn: Superintendent, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731 or email lwestrick@ ely.12.mn.us

Deadline to apply: June 10, 2025; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, May 30 & June 6, 2025



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

12

15

# King Crossv

13

Science room 4 Novelist Waugh

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

**IMBERJAY** 

**REPORTER** and/or

PHOTOGRAPHER

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

#### NOTICE OF FIRST **ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING** CONGRESSIONAL **TOWNSHIP 63-17**

Notice is hereby given that the first orga-nizational meeting of the new town to be organized in congressional township 63-17 convene at 6:30 p.m. on June 10, 2025, at the Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade, 8025 Oak Narrows Road, Cook, Minnesota 55723.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ST. LOUIS COUNTY MINNESOTA

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

Published in the Timberjay, June 6, 2025

SHOMELTURE?

solution

3, 6/

3,

3

6

3

#### CryptoQuip answer

I heard that actor Mark was buying a New York hockey team and calling them the Ruffalo Sabres.

#### CryptoQuote answer

All of us learn to ٦đ o on

> 10 11

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### PROPANE BIDS

St. Louis County Schools, Independent School District No. 2142, will receive quotations up to 2:00 p.m., Monday, June 16, 2025, for the following Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG) needs:

<u>School</u> South Ridge School 8162 Swan Lake Rd. Culver, MN 55779	Approximate Usage 45,000 gallons	Equipment Requirements Include one – 1,000 gallon tank with dispenser
North Woods School 10248 Olson Rd. East Cook, MN 55723	65,000 gallons	Include one – 1,000 gallon tank with dispenser
Cherry School 3943 Tamminen Road Iron, MN 55751	40,000 gallons	Include one – 1,000 gallon tank with dispenser
Mt Iron Buhl School 8659 Unity Drive Mt Iron, MN 55768	35,000 gallons	Include one – 1,000 gallon tank with dispenser

LPG to be delivered as needed to the schools throughout the 2025-2026 school year.

MUST email, kcornelius@isd2142.k12.mn.us for full LPG specification sheet. The quote will include LPG fuel equipment including new tank, fuel management, digital dispenser, fuel filter, and euro nozzle.

Quotes if mailed should be in a sealed envelope and plainly marked "QUOTES FOR PROPANE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR." Quotes may also be emailed to Transportation Director, Kay Conrnelius at kcornelius@isd2142.k12.mn.us.

St. Louis County Schools, Independent School District No. 2142, reserves the right to reject any or all quotes and to waive technicalities

RON MARINARO, CLERK, ST. LOUIS COUNTY SCHOOLS NDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 214

Published in the Timberjay, June 6 & 13, 2025

#### PROPANE BIDS

St. Louis County Schools, Independent School District No. 2142, will receive quotations up to 2:00 p.m., Monday, June 16, 2025, for the following propane building fuel needs:

School Tower-Soudan School 415 North Second St. Tower, MN 55790	Approximate Usage 33,000	<u>Tank Size</u> 6,400 gallons
South Ridge School 8162 Swan Lake Rd. Culver, MN 55779	65,000	18,000 gallons
North Woods School 10248 Olson Rd. East Cook, MN 55723	65,000	18,000 gallons
Cherry School 3943 Tamminen Road Iron, MN 55751	42,000	18,000 gallons
Northeast Range School 30 South Drive Babbitt, MN 55706	100,000	18,000 gallons

Propane to be delivered as needed to the schools throughout the 2025-2026 school

Quotes if mailed should be in a sealed envelope and plainly marked "QUOTES FOR PROPANE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR." Quotes may also be emailed to Finance Director, Kim Johnson at kjohnson@isd2142.k12.mn.us

St. Louis County Schools, Independent School District No. 2142, reserves the right to reject any or all quotes and to waive technicalities

RON MARINARO, CLERK, ST. LOUIS COUNTY SCHOOLS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2142

Published in the Timberjay, June 6 & 13, 2025



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

COURT PROBATE DIVISION Court File No.

#### 69VI-PR-25-56

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR SUMMARY ASSIGNMENT OR OR DISTRIBUTION AND FOR FORMAL PROBATE OF WILL EXEMPT ESTATE

Estate of MARSHA ANN MAKI, aka Marsha Maki, Decedent

Notice is given that a petition has been filed requesting that the Estate assets be summarily assigned

Any objections to the peti-tion must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper, and if no objections or claims are filed or raised, the Court may issue a decree distributing or assigning the Estate's assets.

It is Ordered and Notice is now given that the Petition will be heard on July 21, 2025 via Zoom at 9:30 a.m. by this Court at 300 5th Avenue S., Virginia MN 55792. Minnesota.

Notice is further 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 Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

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

Attorney for Petitioner Angela E. Sipila Sipila Law Office LLC 412 1st St. S. Virginia, MN. 55792 Attorney License 024501x Telephone: (218) 741-5000 FAX: (218) 741-5000 Email: ange@sipilaw.co

Published in the Timberjay June 6 & 13, 2025

STATE OF MINNESOTA DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS Court File No. 69VI-PR-25-70 SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE BIRTH OF VINCENTINE MARGARET GIOVANGNOLI, Birth Record Name Salvatori, Also Andrea knowr as Vincenza Margaret Giovangnoli, Also known as Vincenza Giovangnoli, Also later married and , known as Vincentine M. Montoni Decedent.

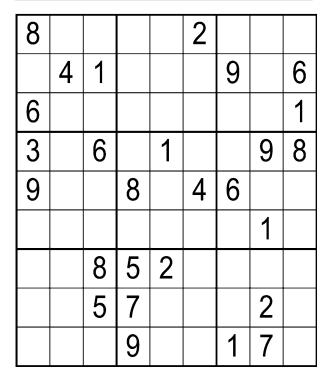
ORDER FOR HEARING ON PETITION FOR DECLARATORY RECORD OF BIRTH

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# Weekly SUDOKU



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# **DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦ ♦ ♦**

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IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that notice is given that on the 21st day of July, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. via ZOOM, or as soon thereafter as counse can be heard. a hearing wil be held in the above-named Court in the Courthouse at 300 Fifth Avenue South Virginia Minnesota 55792 on the Petition of Lisa Kay Young, of for the determi-nation to AMEND the birth record of Decedent above named. That the Court, if satisfied by the evidence adduced at the hearing in support of the allegation the original birth record is inac curate and that all diligent searches have been made shall enter an Order estab lishing as a matter of law the birth record be amended as to the names and as to the date thereof.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that notice of said hearing be served by mail on all parties of interest and by publication once a week for three consecutive weeks in the Timberjay Newspaper and that proof of mailings and publication be filed herein

BY THE COURT: Andrew Peterson Judge of District Court Jennifer Miller, Court Administrator Courtney Thieling, Deputy

Prepared by: ANGELA E. SIPILA Attorney for Petitione Attorney Id. No. 024501X Sipila Law Office, LLC 412 First Street South Virginia, MN 55792 (218) 741-5000 ange@sipilaw.com

Published in the Timberjay, June 6, 13, & 20, 2025



**7B** June 6, 2025 TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

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

#### **AUTOMOTIVE**

Langevin Auto

& Truck Repair

Full Service Auto Repair & Garage

**SUPPORT** 

#### HAIR CARE

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

PET CREMATION

#### Hours: 8 AM-5 PM M-F 2 Miles South of Tower **218-749-0751** Go online to VermilionPetCremation.com or call 218-780-8069 for pet cremation details and rates.

6/6

GROUPS AA OPEN GROUP

MEETINGS- in person meetings, Wednesdays & Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. at First Lutheran Church, 915 E 365-6745. tfn Camp St., Ely.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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compassionate local sup call the Rural AIDS A Network, toll-free 1-888-RAAN(7226).

A L C O H O L I O ANONYMOUS- East Ra meetings and informa call 218-749-3387 or v district8online.org

AA FRIDAYS- 7 p.m., Presbyterian Church, 26 Harvey St., Ely. Meets in basement.



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