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the **TIMBERJAY**



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989 VOL. 37, ISSUE 16 April 24, 2026 \$2.00

WILDERNESS AREA

Senate votes to overturn ban on mining near Boundary Waters

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
 Publisher

WASHINGTON, D.C.— The U.S. Senate has voted 50-49 to overturn a ban on copper-nickel mining on about 225,000 acres of the Superior National Forest, upstream of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

The action, engineered by Eighth District Rep. Pete Stauber in coordination with the Trump White House, amounts to a major setback for efforts to protect the 1.1-million-acre wilderness area from the effects of upstream mining, but the prospects for the proposed Twin Metals copper-nickel mine remain questionable. Even if the congressional action isn't overturned in court, the mine would still need to pass muster with state regulators, where the proposal has faced considerable pushback. Polling

50-49 vote a victory for mining supporters but legal challenge is likely

has consistently shown that a large majority of Minnesotans favor protecting the BWCAW from the effects of a sulfide-based copper-nickel mine, including a sizable

See...**BAN**...pg. 9

Any copper-nickel mine upstream of the Boundary Waters would still need to go through a state regulatory process.

File photo



FINE ARTS



Above, Jayne Meyer shows a knitting technique to other guild members. Below, Amy Loiselle and Barb Luelling, who both help teach weaving at Minnesota Discovery Center, pose with a photograph of Katri Saari, whose loom and weaving are part of the permanent collection at the museum.

photos by J. Summit

Fibers and history: A celebration of 50 years

by **JODI SUMMIT**
 Tower-Soudan Editor

CHISHOLM — While the nation was celebrating its bicentennial in 1976, a group of fiber artists on the Iron Range got together and formed the Range Fiber Arts Guild.

Club founders included Carol Sperling and Ruth Koski, who both have recently passed away. They were seeking to learn and share knowledge about traditional fiber-related arts, many of which dated back before the founding of our nation, like weaving, spinning, and knitting.

The guild has been teaching, sharing, and demonstrating these arts the last 50 years, including a partnership with Minnesota Discover Center (at that time Ironworld) dating back to the opening of the history museum.



See...**FIBER** pg. 10

COURTS

Greaney search case leads to Nukala arrest

by **DAVID COLBURN**
 Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL — The man whose bizarre behavior and flight into the woods last week prompted an extensive search near Greaney is now in the St. Louis County Jail after admitting to recent methamphetamine use in violation of his probation.

Clayton Leroy Nukala Jr., 40, was booked April 17 and is being held on a felony probation violation and a bench warrant related to a gross misdemeanor driving after cancellation inimical to public safety case.

See...**ARREST** pg. 9

WATER/SEWER

Ely council approves increase to utility rates

by **ROBERT MONTEITH**
 Managing Editor

ELY — Residents will see small increases in their water, sewer, and electric bills after the city council unanimously approved rate adjustments recommended by the Ely Utilities Commission following a public hearing this week.

The increases, which city officials described as modest and intentional, reflect rising operating costs while continuing a strategy of incremental adjustments designed to avoid the kinds of dramatic rate spikes that have caught utility customers off guard in the past.

“We’re trying to keep up with our

See...**ELY** pg. 9



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Community notices

Correction

On our April 3 edition, the *Timberjay* incorrectly identified Craig Beveroth as a co-plaintiff in an ongoing lawsuit regarding mercury contamination affecting area lakes. In fact, Beveroth is a “declarant” in the lawsuit on behalf of the plaintiffs, not an actual plaintiff. And his involvement does not reflect the opinion of the Vermilion Lake Association. The *Timberjay* regrets the error.

CD8 DFL primary candidate forum on Thursday, April 30 in Biwabik

BIWABIK- Area residents are invited to a candidate forum for DFL candidates for the Eighth District House seat on Thursday, April 30 at the Biwabik Park Pavilion, 100 5th St. N. starting at 5 p.m.

Indivisible groups across the Iron Range are sponsoring the event, including Indivisible-Iron Range (Biwabik/Aurora), We Are Rising and Resisting (W.A.R.R. of Chisholm/Hibbing), Northern Progressives (Cook/Tower), Ely Indivisible (Ely/Tower), and Democracy Defenders (regional).

All nine candidates are invited to participate including Emanuel Anastos, Luke Gulbranson, Bob Helland, Jeremiah Liend, John-Paul McBride, Carrie Mitchel, Wendell Smith, Trina Swanson, and Debra Topping. The event starts at 5 p.m. with a time to meet the candidates, followed by the 6 p.m. forum. Candidates will answer questions and present their stance on the issues. For more information, contact Beth at 218-750-4885. The event is free and open to the public.

Stormwise workshop in Ely on April 29

ELY - Build confidence in your ability to respond during a weather emergency by attending this free Stormwise Minnesota class on Wednesday, April 29, from 4:40 – 6:30 p.m. at the Ely Community Center. This hands-on disaster preparedness workshop will explore risks to the St. Louis County region, such as wildfires and floods, and will walk through a crisis scenario to help you build a personalized emergency plan for your family, property, or homestead. More information at z.umn.edu/ElyPrepared, or email Seth Spencer at Pence353@umn.edu. This program is sponsored by St. Louis County and the University of Minnesota’s Climate Adaptation Partnership.

Cook’s annual Timber Days 2026 planned for June 12-14

COOK- The Timber Days committee is pleased to announce that Cook’s Annual Timber Days festival is set for June 12–14 and planning is now underway. Dozens of food and craft vendors will once again be in Cook all weekend. Favorite shows and events enjoyed during Timber Days 2025 will be on the schedule, and new entertainment is being added. The spectacular fireworks show will be on Saturday night, and Timber Days will culminate with a huge parade on Sunday. Flyers with the event schedule will be published and distributed in the coming weeks. Photos and details will also be posted on social media. Mark your calendars to attend the festival the weekend of June 12,13, and 14.

Essentia Health partners with Virginia Fire Department to offer free car seat inspections monthly through November

VIRGINIA-Essentia Health and the Virginia Fire Department are teaming up to enhance child safety by providing free car seat inspections throughout 2026.

The inspections will be offered from 4 - 6 p.m. on the following dates: May 12, June 9, July 14, Aug. 11, Sept. 8, Oct. 13, Nov. 10

Inspections will be held at the Virginia Public Safety Building, located at 1004 Second Ave. S. The car seat inspections are intended to make it easier for parents and caregivers to have their child safety seats inspected by a certified passenger technician. The technician will inspect and assist with installing the seats. The event is free and on a first-come, first-served basis. Pre-registration is not required.

St. Louis County Sheriff warns the community about scam calls and texts

REGIONAL - The St. Louis County Sheriff’s Office has become aware of several scam calls and text messages attempted in our area. Calls and texts claim to be from the St. Louis County Sheriff’s Office, in some cases, the St. Louis County jail. The scammers demand payment for various things, such as unpaid parking tickets or bail for someone in jail, threatening legal action or driver’s license suspension if not paid. These calls and texts are NOT legitimate.

The Sheriff’s Office would like to advise and remind the public that law enforcement does not call members of our community to request payment over the phone or by a text link. If you receive one of these calls or texts, do not provide any cash, credit, or gift card, or click on payment links inside a text. Any questions regarding payment of fines should be directed to the court administration. Any questions regarding bail for someone in custody can be answered by contacting the St. Louis County jail directly. If you receive one of these calls or texts and wish to file a police report, please do so by calling 911.

CAREER EXPLORATION

Minnesota North College invites students to “Test-Drive a Career” this summer

REGIONAL- Students across northern Minnesota have an exciting opportunity this summer to explore potential career paths – before even graduating high school. Career and Education Partners, in collaboration with Minnesota North College, are launching a FREE Summer Career Exploration Series designed to help students explore careers, build skills, and start their future today.

This summer, Minnesota North College will host 14 interactive career exploration events across its campuses in Hibbing, Mesabi Range, Vermilion, and Itasca, as well as at The Forge and Tech Hub in Grand Rapids. These immersive experiences are led by college faculty and local high school teachers, giving students the chance to participate in hands-on activities and real-world projects that bring career pathways to life.

- Program Highlights:
- No cost to attend (all camps are free except Nitro X Camp)
 - Lunch provided for all participants
 - Transportation available for students in need through the IRRR Career Exploration Grant
 - Designed for high school students (Nitro X Camp is available for middle school students; additional middle school programming is in development)

Career experiences include women in the trades, digital tech/computer science, graphic design, welding, emergency medical services, designer to builder, veterinary tech, and health care careers.

Students and families can



Programs include an introduction to the Vet Tech program in Ely and the welding program in Eveleth.

submitted

view the full schedule and register for events by visiting: minnesotanorth.edu/events/summer-career-experience.

Minnesota North College prepares lifelong learners and engaged citizens through inclusive, transformative ex-

periences reflecting the character and natural environment of the region. For more information about Minnesota North College, please contact Jessica Matvey at jessica.matvey@minnesotanorth.edu.

May Day Community Gathering set for Friday, May 1

VIRGINIA - On Friday, May 1, workers, students, immigrants, and families on the Iron Range will hold a community gathering, rally, and march, joining over 1,000 cities nationwide organized by May Day Strong to demand “Workers Over Billionaires.” As families are being forced to choose between rent and groceries, they’re being told to fear and blame their neighbors, while billionaires and corporations keep taking more. In response, unions and community organizations came together to participate in the “No Work, No School, No Shopping” pledge, to show unity behind an agenda that puts workers first. Tax the rich so our families, not their fortunes, come first. No ICE, no war. No private army serving authoritarian power. Expand democracy, not corporate rule. Defend free and fair elections. Locally, we encourage folks

to spend their money at small businesses rather than at big-box stores. We are also hosting a community gathering at the Kline Cuppoletti Building. The schedule of events is as follows: 5 p.m. community gathering to display art and make a banner, at the Kline Cuppoletti Building; 5:30 p.m., march to Hwy 53/12 Ave; 6 p.m. rally and sign-waving at Hwy 53/12 Ave; 6:30 p.m. march to Kline Cuppoletti Building; 7 p.m. community potluck and music.

“Democracy should work for working people, not billionaire interests. We should live in a country that puts workers over billionaires. But right now, people are fed up. Corporations and billionaires have rigged the rules, hoarded the wealth our labor creates, and reshaped the economy so working people carry the cost. This May Day, we are saying, enough is enough. Join

us for our community gathering and rally,” said Beth Peterson.

May Day actions across the country were inspired by Minnesota unions, community organizations, and workers who came together to withhold economic power in response to federal agents’ violent occupation of their city. Thousands of businesses and workers nationwide followed Minnesotans’ lead and signed on to the “No Work, No School, No Shopping” pledge to demand ICE out of our communities, billionaires to pay their fair share, and protect and expand democracy for working people. More information about the national campaign is available at <https://www.maydaystrong.org>.

Registration open for Ely’s City-Wide Rummage Sale/Business Crazy Day

ELY- The Ely Chamber of Commerce is officially inviting residents, local businesses, and outdoor enthusiasts to register for one of the most anticipated community events of the spring. The 14th Annual City-Wide Rummage Sale, Business Crazy Day, and Used Equipment and Watercraft Sale will take place on Saturday, May 16. Rummage sales run from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., while business hours will vary.

This city-wide event transforms Ely into a treasure hunter’s paradise. From traditional household rummage sales to clearance deals and

sales at local retailers, there is something for everyone. A major highlight of the day is the Used Equipment and Watercraft Sale, where local outfitters and resorts offer a wide variety of canoes, boats, camping gear and outdoor accessories just in time for the summer open water season.

To be included on the official event map and listing, participants must register by Saturday, May 9 at 4 p.m. Forms are available online at www.ely.org/citywide or can be picked up in person at the Ely Chamber of Commerce office, located at the Ely Regional Trailhead at the west

entrance of Ely. Registered sales will be featured on the official 2026 City-Wide Map, which will be available to the public starting Wednesday, May 13, at the Chamber office, and online.

Highlights of the event include dozens of private yard and garage sales located throughout the Ely area. Local retailers offer discounts, sidewalk sales, and special promotions. The Used Equipment and Watercraft Sale is a unique opportunity to purchase high-quality, used outdoor gear, and watercraft from outfitters and resorts.

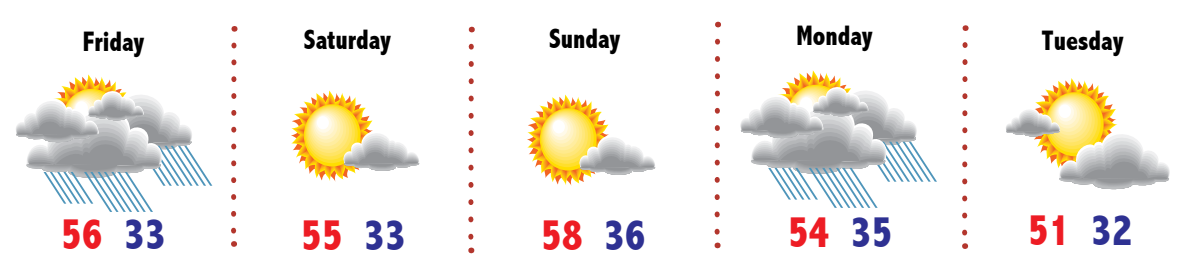
“This event is the unof-

icial kickoff to our summer season,” says Eva Sebesta, executive director of the Ely Chamber of Commerce. “It’s a fantastic way for residents to clear out their garages, for businesses to showcase new inventory, and for visitors to find incredible deals while enjoying everything Ely has to offer.”

For more information regarding registration fees or event logistics, please contact the Ely Chamber of Commerce at 218-365-6123 or visit www.ely.org.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

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	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	YTD Total
Ely	55	37	0.00	0.00	5.04 72.2"
Embarrass	60	40	0.00	0.00	4.32 64.9"
Cook	55	38	0.02	0.04	3.04 71.7"
Orr	53	39	0.01	0.02	4.05 60.3"
Tower	58	39	0.00	0.00	3.87 62.7"



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FOR THE PLANET

Earth Fest offers steps to take for a healthier community

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

VIRGINIA — It was unseasonably cold and windy, which was perfect for this year's Earth Fest, an annual indoor expo hosted and organized by the Iron Range Partnership for Sustainability.

"Last year, it was on a beautiful day," said Missy Roach, who helped organize the event, "and attendance was low."

Roach was excited to see all the people who attended the event on Saturday, and booths mostly filled up the main arena at the Iron Trail Motors Event Center.

Visitors had the chance to spend the day learning what they could do to make our future something their children and grandchildren can be proud of. Major topics for this year's event were e-waste recycling, composting, and the importance of spending time outdoors for both children and adults.

There were also collections for electronic waste, old cellphones, and lead fishing tackle.

Attendees had the chance to visit with vendors selling solar panels and other energy-efficiency improvements for homes, sign up for free energy bill consultations, purchase locally made foods and crafts, and learn about area history, climate change, gardening, recycling, area recreation, and educational opportunities. Two area scouts from Troop 4129 in Virginia, Bryce and Tanner Crotteau, were selling trees that will be planted in Superior National Forest, with the proceeds helping to sponsor their trip to the national Boy Scout Jamboree this summer.

State and county agencies had booths promoting conservation, aquatic invasive species prevention, and recycling. A large display gave visitors great ideas on how to reduce their use of single-use plastics. Children's activities included lots of hands-on fun, such as several gardening-related activities, crafts, and a chance to use an old-fashioned metal stamp to create a pendant. A full-size electric pickup truck was on display.

Large-scale composting

The day included six hour-long



Above, Eleanor and Elaina Haken show off a towel with info on invasive species on it. Below, Bryce and Tanner Crotteau sell trees to be planted in the Superior National Forest.

photos by J. Summit

talks on related topics, including one on the feasibility of starting larger-scale composting. Carson Becicka, who is a masters' degree student at the University of Minnesota, is working on a study looking at the feasibility of composting. He is working with the Iron Range Partnership for Sustainability, who received a three-year grant to study options and create an action plan.

Organic waste makes up about 31 percent of the waste stream in the area. Composting would divert the organic matter, keeping it out of landfills, and creating a usable end product: fertilizer. Studies estimate that over 16,000 tons of organic waste is generated in northern St. Louis County each year.

"Landfilling organic waste is expensive," Becicka said, and the methane produced by decaying organics in the general waste stream is creating a warmer planet. The closure of a large landfill that was serving Duluth this summer means more waste will be trucked up to the Virginia landfill, which will shorten the life of that facility.

"Composting is a solution," he said. "It supports local foods and



creates more jobs than landfilling waste."

Composting is also a way to be more self-reliant as a region, he said. "It's a feel-good activity."

While many people compost at home, composting at a larger scale would make a bigger impact, he noted.

The challenge is to understand the economic feasibility, staffing, and expertise needed, as well as

transportation costs, he said.

Another factor would be community interest, something not known at this time.

Becicka said they are looking at plans that would take advantage of empty delivery trucks on their home trip, such as the trucks delivering garbage to the Virginia landfill from Duluth, making the trip back with

See FEST...pg. 5

Recycling in St. Louis County

Top ten things to remember about St. Louis County recycling:

- Plastic recycling is limited to #1 and #2 items (check the marking on the bottom of plastic containers). Dairy is mostly in #5, not recyclable, and Styrofoam is not recyclable here.

- Clean plastic bags and plastic wrapping aren't recyclable through the county, but these items can be recycled at Super One and Target, for example. They must be clean and dry. Containers for oily or moist foods are not recyclable, like salads, chips, and candy. And black plastic bags and plastic food wrap, are not accepted.

- Almost all kinds of paper and magazines are recyclable, except for wrapping paper and packing with plastic or waxy coated interiors, like milk cartons.

- All metal cans are recyclable, including pet food cans.

- Paper and plastic labels on containers do not need to be removed.

- Almost all the time, the plastic and metal lids on recyclables are also recyclable, but they need to remain attached to the container.

- All recycled items have to be clean (at least 95 percent), and if they aren't, they have to be fished out by hand and put in regular garbage at the sorting center, so they don't contaminate the rest of the lot.

- Sorting out non-qualified items in the recycling process costs 48 percent of the county's recycling budget.

- When you put your recycling out in plastic bags, someone has to take the extra time to empty the bag and throw it away. If they miss one, it can clog the facility machinery.

- The county has the capacity to process 240 percent more recyclables than what they are currently doing (12,000 tons instead of 5,000 tons per year). More recycling generates more sales and revenue for the county and reduces the size of the landfills the county has to maintain.

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OPINION

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

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

Editorial

Congressional make-believe

Trump and his congressional lackeys resort to fiction to dismantle BWCAW protections

“Congress should follow the law.” That statement by U.S. Sen. Tina Smith following the 50-49 Senate vote last week that purportedly overturned a 20-year sulfide mining ban on about 225,000 acres of the Superior National Forest, should be self-evident.

But in the era of Donald Trump, all bets are off and any means is fine if it leads to the ends desired by the corporate interests, in this case Chilean mining giant Antofagasta, currently dominant in our nation’s capital. To be clear, last week’s vote was illegitimate, based entirely on the false premise that the 2023 sulfide mining ban, known as a mineral withdrawal, was subject to reversal by the Congressional Review Act, or CRA, even years after its enactment.

Under the CRA, the Congress has 60 days to vote by a simple majority to overturn a new federal regulation adopted by an executive agency. Once overturned, agencies cannot propose a substantially similar rule in the future.

The mineral withdrawal, however, was approved in 2023 — meaning the 60-day window had expired years before last week’s vote. And it was a federal land order, not a regulation, so the CRA didn’t apply in the first place. Congress and the president could have passed legislation overturning the withdrawal at any time, but that would have required 60 Senate votes to overcome a filibuster. Lacking those votes, supporters of a sulfide mine on the edge of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness turned to subterfuge.

The ruse: claiming that the Biden administration had somehow failed to notify Congress as required under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, or FLPMA, when the ban was enacted in January 2023.

That claim is false. The Biden Interior Department, led by former U.S. Rep. Deb Haaland, followed FLPMA’s notice requirements to the letter. That included submitting a detailed report to Congress and sending personal letters from the Secretary to the chairs and ranking members of relevant committees — and to every member of Minnesota’s congressional delegation, including Rep. Pete Stauber, who served as the chief congressional agent in advancing the scheme that culminated in last week’s vote. We have a copy of that letter.

But in order to give Congress another bite at the CRA apple, Deputy Secretary of the Interior Katharine MacGregor drafted

a letter to House Speaker Mike Johnson back in January of this year, which purported to provide notice of the sulfide mining ban for the first time. And, in doing so, MacGregor implied she was restarting the 60-day clock for congressional review under the CRA, which allowed Congress to reverse the three-year-old sulfide mining ban with a simple majority vote.

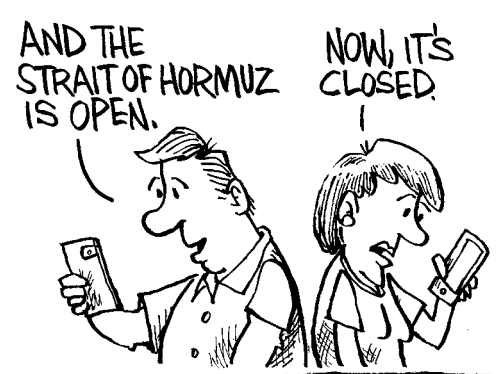
To reiterate, the mining ban was a public land order, not a rule, and was never subject to CRA review. Even if it had been, Congress was already years past the deadline to act.

None of that deterred the Trump administration or its corporate sponsors. When statutory language doesn’t align with their goals, they simply make up stories that allow them to get around the law. That willingness to fabricate legal justifications for predetermined outcomes is among the most corrosive traits of this administration and the congressional allies who enable it.

As we’ve noted before, Stauber seems fixated on this issue even as most of his constituents favor protecting the BWCAW from this universally hazardous form of mining. He has repeatedly sought ways to advance a project that would allow a foreign mining interest — Chilean conglomerate Antofagasta — to extract Minnesota’s minerals and ship them to China. In the end, he chose deception to accomplish that goal.

Last week’s action also creates serious problems for public lands policy going forward. The CRA’s timelines exist precisely to prevent chaos. If an administration and its congressional allies can reach back years or decades to reverse any decision, order, management plan, or contract through this same maneuver, there can be no certainty in public lands management — and that uncertainty harms everyone with a stake in how federal lands are managed, including those who wish to develop them.

Fortunately, this isn’t the last word. While a vote under the CRA isn’t reviewable by the courts, the legality of last week’s action certainly is, and it is likely to be tested. Meanwhile, the battle will shift to other venues. And if there’s one thing that last week’s action did for sure — it raised the ire of a broad coalition of environmental and sportsmen’s groups around the country, who witnessed an example of Washington at its worst. If anything, it has redoubled their determination to fight another day on behalf of the Boundary Waters.



Letters from Readers

Isle of Pines Bridge

There are a few things of note concerning the July 11, 2023 vote by the Greenwood Town Board to transfer \$39,166 from the Greenwood Isle of Pines Bridge Fund to the Isle of Pines Homeowners Association. That amount was left over from a \$135,000 bond that island property owners took out in 1984 for the share of the bridge that wasn’t covered by a federal grant. The last project money taken out of the fund was approved on Nov. 12, 1985, for the final payment to the engineering firm. The remaining money sat in the fund for almost 40 years. The reason the township was involved was because the federal grant required that a local government had to act as the official fiscal agent for handling the payments. Greenwood agreed to do that. The project engineering firm recommended that we bond above the estimate in case there were unforeseen costs. That turned out to be negligible. The bond was purely for construction-related costs; it wasn’t township money.

Over the following decades, St. Louis County hired contractors to make repairs to the bridge. None of the repairs were requested by the island association or the township. Neither the island association nor the township was ever billed for the repairs. At the 2023 island association annual meeting, I presented this information, and the members voted to retrieve the left-over bond money from the township.

I have to say that I really like the photo atop the *Timberjay’s* Greenwood article last week. It’s George Gruben piloting his beloved Packard powered Chris-Craft under the bridge. His wife Grayce and daughter Sally are in the boat; son Dick is on the bridge. That boat has quite a story behind it, and it was still there when I began working at the Gruben’s Marina boat dealership when I was in the seventh grade!

Lee Peterson
Greenwood Twp

We may have overlooked Emanuel Anastos

Last summer, Emanuel Anastos entered the race for the Eighth Congressional District against Pete Stauber. Since then, he hasn’t lost steam, despite not having a lot of support or monetary donations. He’s talking to people throughout the district every day, and he can have a respectful conversation with someone who doesn’t agree with him. His platform hasn’t changed, but he has gotten better at effectively communicating it.

After all, he has had a time advantage over all the other candidates in the race. Where others may have quit, Emanuel hung in there and really showed character that would make for a good leader. He’s showed us he’s consistent, he listens, and he wants to help. Emanuel is the man who will make the government serve the people again through dedication and grit.

Raquel Berget
Virginia

Many uses for a wonderful community asset

I’m writing to help clarify the situation surrounding the city of Tower’s future move to the restored historic fire hall located at 504 Main Street. “Old Fire Hall” is the official designation of the building on the National Register of Historic Places. The structure, built in 1895 as the city’s first municipal building, once housed the city hall, fire department, and police station and jail.

The Tower-Soudan Historical Society owns the building and has been restoring it since 2015. Through careful planning, strategic partnerships, and phased implementation, the society

has worked to transform a once-threatened historic structure into a vibrant community asset.

Our goal is to expand opportunities for history education and community engagement. Upon completion, which is anticipated to be this fall, the building will be named the “Tower-Soudan-Lake Vermilion History Education Center.”

The Society will occupy most of the building — the fire station’s 1,450 sq. ft. space — for exhibits, programs, and events. The city of Tower will lease the original 1895 city hall space and adjacent office for administrative use.

This shared use will provide residents of Tower, Soudan, and the Lake Vermilion area with a restored, ADA-accessible space for educational programming, community and private events, and civic meetings. The historic James Tippet fire pumper will be welcomed home and be highlighted as the center’s featured artifact. This project transforms a historic structure into an active community space that strengthens civic pride, supports downtown vitality, and connects generations to their shared heritage.

Nancy Larson, President
Tower-Soudan Historical Society

We welcome your letters

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

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

COMMENTARY

When the help you hire isn’t human anymore

When we hear the word “agent,” most of us picture a person.

A real estate agent shows houses. An insurance agent helps you choose a policy. A Hollywood agent lines up jobs for actors. In each case, it’s someone you hire to take care of something for you, to handle a job so you don’t have to manage every detail yourself.



DAVID COLBURN

needs a human to step back in.

assistant, you might say, “When someone contacts me, respond to them, give them the information they need, schedule something if necessary, and remind me when it’s coming up.”

That’s what people are talking about when they use the term “AI agent.”

It’s not a robot. It’s not something you sit down and have a conversation with like ChatGPT. It’s software that’s been set up to take on a job, carry it out step by step, and keep going until the job is done or

A human would read the message, decide what it means, respond, and follow through.

An AI agent is software set up, usually by a company or user, to do that same chain of tasks.

What makes it different from the tools we’re used to is that it doesn’t just do one thing and stop. It does something, sees what happened, and then decides what to do next. That

cycle, act, check, adjust, can repeat over and over until the job is finished.

That’s what gives these systems a feel that’s closer to a very focused kind of assistant than a simple tool.

At this point, a reasonable question is: Where do you get one of these things?

Right now, you don’t walk into a store and buy an “AI agent” the way you’d buy a computer. But you can get the same effect in two very real ways, and many people already use versions of this without realizing it.

First, you can buy software that already includes this kind of capability. Many

programs now handle entire tasks from start to finish. A customer management system might reply to inquiries, schedule appointments, send confirmations, and follow up later. You’re not hiring an agent by name, but you are putting a digital assistant to work.

Second, you can set one up yourself, without writing any code. There are tools that let you say, in plain terms, “When this happens, do this, then this, then this.” You’re essentially writing a job description and handing it to a computer that can actually carry it out.

That’s the key idea. An AI

agent isn’t a product so much as a job that has been turned into a repeatable process and handed off to software.

Once you see it that way, the rest of the conversation starts to make more sense.

We’ve had automation for years. Political campaigns have used robocalls and mass emails for a long time. Businesses send out newsletters and promotions to thousands of people with the push of a button.

But those systems all work the same way. One message goes out to many

See **HELP...** pg. 5

COMMENTARY

Pushing back on rising costs for northern Minnesotans

If you've opened your property tax statement recently, you've probably had the same reaction I've been hearing across northern Minnesota: How did it get this high?

For many families, it's not just one bill going up. It's everything at once from groceries and gas to child care and cars. And a big reason why is this: Decisions made far outside our communities are pushing costs directly onto local taxpayers.

The 'One Big Beautiful Bill' out of Washington is a prime example.

It shifts major costs onto states and counties while adding new unfunded mandates to programs that our local governments are respon-

sible for delivering. In northern Minnesota, that doesn't stay on paper. Counties don't have the ability to absorb those costs. They pass them on through big property tax increases.

That's what people are seeing right now.

At the same time, those same federal changes are putting real pressure on our rural hospitals. When coverage gets cut or harder to access, hospitals are left picking up the pieces. In small communities like ours, that can mean fewer services, longer drives, and real uncertainty about the future of our local hospital or clinic.

We also have to be honest about this. Not every challenge families are facing

is coming from Washington. Rising costs, higher demand for services, and pressure on local budgets are all playing a role. But that's exactly why our response at the state level matters so much. We can't control every decision made in Washington, but we are responsible for how we respond here in Minnesota.

That's the reality we're facing. So, the question becomes: What do we do about it?

In the State Senate, I've been focused on one thing this session: pushing back and delivering real relief for northern Minnesota.

That starts with property taxes.

I've introduced a \$100 million property tax refund plan to get direct relief out the door to homeowners this year. If costs are being pushed onto working Minnesotans, we should be pushing relief

right back.

We're also working to fix a long-standing issue for our Northland schools with my legislation for a seasonal recreation property tax replacement aid. In too many northern districts, year-round residents end up carrying a heavier burden because seasonal properties or cabins send their operating levy property taxes to the state's General Fund, rather than their local school district. This proposal helps rebalance that so local homeowners aren't footing more than their fair share.

On health care, we're putting together a targeted relief package focused on rural Minnesota in the State Senate. That includes support for uncompensated care for rural hospitals and providers under growing strain, as well as continued investment in rural EMS so ambulance ser-

vices can continue to operate in hard-to-reach areas like ours. Access to care shouldn't depend on your zip code but federal actions are making it harder for rural health care to survive.

And we're advancing a bonding and infrastructure bill that makes real investments in our region. Roads, bridges, and critical local infrastructure that not only strengthen our economy but help reduce the pressure on local property taxpayers over time.

At the same time, we're making sure taxpayer dollars are protected.

The State Senate has led on bipartisan efforts to crack down on fraud and improve oversight. That work is ongoing, and it's encouraging to see the House beginning to move in that direction as well. This should never be a partisan issue. It's about

trust, and taxpayers deserve accountability.

All of this is happening in a divided Legislature. That means we have a choice.

We can spend our time trading political talking points, or we can focus on where we agree and deliver results.

In northern Minnesota, people expect us to get things done. They want lower costs, strong schools, access to health care, and infrastructure that works.

Right now, too many decisions made far away are making life more expensive here at home.

My focus this session has been simple: push back on those pressures, work across the aisle where we can, and deliver real, practical relief for the communities I represent.

Because if we don't stand up for northern Minnesota, no one else will.



SEN. GRANT HAUSCHILD

More Letters from Readers

The Fool on the Hill

(Formerly known as Donald Trump)

The Fool climbed slowly to the top of the hill
His people gathered down below
Every day, he meets with them
Answers questions and lets them go.

He's a crazy buffoon, the whole world can see
He's a feeble old man who acts like a child
He treats his people with cruel disdain
and uses lies to drive them wild.

The first questions that day:
What about the promises that you made?
and the things you said you would do,
What about the money you said we'd save?
Is any of what you said really true?"

He exploded, "I fulfilled all my promises!
You must be deaf and blind?"

And you should build a statue
A big one of me – my favorite kind."

Where did you get your cabinet?
"I hired them all myself," the Fool replied
"I base it mostly upon their looks
But I like those that worked at Fox
And I don't care if some are crooks."

"I like those that smile and say
Whatever I want them to
My job is to make up lies
Their's is to treat them like they're true."

What about your weapons?
"I like to use people as weapons," said the Fool
"I have a goon squad, vicious, one and all
I have a court that will always side with me
I have a willing congress at my beck and call."

What about allies?
"We've had allies forever," the Fool said
"And I never liked them,

even way back then
And I swear that if they refuse to help us now
I'll make sure they never help again."

What about wars?
"Wars are great," the Fool smiled and said
"They're a game they're a lot of fun
We just keep blasting and bombing
until we're sure we're finally done."

"This war is a billion-dollar bombing
To force a nation to its knees.
Just so Bibi and I can go and do
anything that we please."

"13 dead and 300 wounded is our count so far
So what if we lose them all?
It's okay if the count goes higher
This is a war after all."

What About the Constitution?
The Fool paused and said
"About it - I would never brag
But I've never read a word in it

It's just an old and dirty rag."

"I don't need to read it. Nothing in it applies to me I can still do anything I want With absolute impunity."

And about elections?
"I won by a landslide!" shouted the Fool
"My enemies rigged them through the years
But I've learned how to make them right
So just relax and calm your fears."

What about money?
The Fool said, "I like being rich.
I like fraud and I like theft.
I like the shine of gold upon the walls
And making money, right and left."

After a moment of silence
The Fool smiled and was heard to say
"I'm tired of answering questions
And I can still play golf today."

Ray Potts
Mt. Iron
Megan Potts
Saginaw

Just 17 people destroyed our democracy

The present decline of democracy was aided by 17 people.

Five Supreme Court justices voted in the *Citizens United* case, making it possible for individuals and special interest groups to contribute unlimited amounts of money to political candidates.

► Anthony Kennedy
► Antonin Scalia
► John Roberts
► Samuel Alito
► Clarence Thomas

Twelve wealthy individuals collectively contributed more than \$1 billion to the recent Republican electoral campaign.

► Elon Musk
► Timothy Mellon
► Miriam Adelson
► Richard Uihiem

► Jeffrey Yacis
► Paul Singer
► Stephen Schwarzman
► Timothy Dunn
► Bob Bigelow
► Diane Hendricks
► John Joe Ricketts
► Shirley Ryan

Source: Google

Money can empower and influence campaigns of electoral candidates, just using the same marketing techniques that companies use to sell their products. The more money spent, the more it is likely to increase success.

The decline of democracy is the result of a president and Congress being selected by a small number of wealthy people donating large sums of money to secure a specific election outcome.

The U.S. is no longer a democratic government by the people and for the people.

Gerry Snyder
Ely/Simsbury, Conn.

FEST...Continued from page 3

an empty load, focusing on smaller community composting sites, and ways to change the economics of composting so it is economically feasible.

There are also public policy tools, such as changes to the county's waste ordi-

nances, tipping fees, and use of tax levies.

Earth Fest

Earth Fest is an annual event initiated by the Iron Range Partnership for Sustainability. It is the largest sustainability fair on

the Range, attracting over a thousand participants. Earth Fest connects people from all over the Range around topics that foster a future that our children can be proud of. What do we need to do in order to leave the Iron Range in better shape

than we found it? How can we meet our needs without compromising our grandchildren's ability to meet theirs? That's the question we address at Earth Fest. We invite you to join the larger conversation. Learn more at <https://www.irpsmn.org/>.

HELP...Continued from page 4

people. It's efficient, but it's also blunt.

What's changing now is the ability for software to carry on many separate, back-and-forth interactions at the same time.

Instead of sending one recorded message to 10,000 people, an AI agent can handle thousands of individual conversations. It can respond, adjust, follow up, and tailor what it's doing based on how each person reacts.

That's not just more reach. That's a different kind of reach.

If you hire one assistant, you get one person's worth of work. If you could copy that assistant a hundred times, each one handling its own set of tasks, you'd have something entirely different. That's the kind of scale this technology makes possible.

That same capability is already starting to show up in areas like political cam-

paing. What once required a room full of volunteers can now be coordinated by software working around the clock, drafting messages, responding to people, and adjusting strategy as it goes.

The goal hasn't changed. The tools have.

The same kind of agent-driven systems can also be used on the less welcome side of things.

Scams, for example, have always relied on reaching a lot of people and hoping a few respond.

With systems like these, those messages can become more personal, more convincing, and more persistent. Instead of a one-time email, you might be dealing with something that answers your questions and follows up if you hesitate.

Misinformation can take on a similar shape. It's one thing to read a questionable post. It's another to interact

with something that responds to you, reinforces certain ideas, and creates the impression that there are many voices behind it.

That ability to create the appearance of scale, many interactions happening at once, is one of the more important things to understand.

None of this means the software has intentions of its own.

People still decide what these systems are supposed to do. They set them up, define the goals, and put them in motion. But once they're running, they can carry out that work at a speed and scale that changes what one person or one organization can realistically accomplish.

In the end, AI agents aren't something you need to fear or fully understand at a technical level. They're a new way of organizing work.

Instead of doing every

step yourself, or handing it off to another person, you can now hand certain jobs to software that can carry them out on its own.

For most people, that will show up in small ways at first. Fewer routine tasks. Less back-and-forth. Systems that take care of details in the background.

But the larger shift is already underway.

When you hear the term "AI agent," it's not just a smarter computer program. It's the idea that some of the work we've always done ourselves, or hired others to do, can now be handled by systems that don't just respond, but act.

And that's a change worth keeping an eye on.



the TIMBERJAY

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Week of April 27

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

Tuesday
Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5 p.m. New location in the old St. James Church building. Next food shelf day is May 19.
Greenwood Fire Dept.- Training meetings on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

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

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



TSHS weekly winners
TOWER- The \$250 cash prize winner of week 32 of the Charlemagne's 52 Club is Carol Dyhr of Tucson, Ariz.

History Tidbit: In the spring of 1967, the city of Tower assumed administrative responsibility for the projects and established the City of Tower Tourism and Development Commission. A special election was held in July 1967, during which city voters approved the issuance of revenue bonds totaling up to \$335,000 to finance the city's share of the projects. Construction began in June 1968, but progress was slowed by weather conditions and other challenges. Congressman John A. Blatnik was instrumental in securing federal funding for the city.

Vermilion Lake Township cemetery cleanup on April 25

VERMILION LAKE TWP- Volunteers are needed to help with the annual cemetery cleanup at the Vermilion Lake Township cemetery on Saturday, April 25 at 1 p.m. (pending weather). Please bring a shovel/wheel barrow.

Vermilion Lake Bookmobile

VERMILION LAKE TWP- The Arrowhead Bookmobile is now making a stop at the Vermilion Lake Town Hall as part of the bookmobile's Week A schedule.
The Vermilion Lake stop is from 4:15 – 5 p.m. on Wednesdays: April 29; May 20; June 10.

Defensive driving course offered in Virginia on May 8

VIRGINIA- The Mike Dahl Insurance Agency is offering a defensive driving class for ages 55-plus. Once the course is completed, participants are given a certificate for their insurance agency. Seniors should be able to obtain a discount on their auto insurance after completion of the class.

The class is set for Friday, May 8 from 9 a.m. – 12 noon at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1111 Eighth St. S, Virginia. The cost is \$15 with checks payable to MTD Agency. Refreshments and a snack will be served.

For more information, or to reserve your spot, call or text Mike Dahl, State Farm Insurance, at 218-666-5504 or Karen Tokarczyk at 218-780-2175.

VERMILION COUNTRY SCHOOL

Getting outfitted for adulthood...



TOWER- Vermilion Country School students Remy McDonough and Nick Contreras-Pieratos show off their finished briefcases.

The two built these heirloom pieces from "scratch," cutting the pieces from hardwoods, learning how to join them evenly, making sure the tops and bottoms fit snugly, and then adding the finishing touches.

Teacher Bobby Ridings said the students not

only learned how to safely operate power tools, but also the importance of measuring twice and cutting once! The project also required precision cutting and joinery, sanding techniques for a smooth finish, and applying stain, plus installing the hardware.

Ridings said he did a similar project in college, and now one of his daughters, now in college, uses the briefcase to store her sheet music. submitted

St. Louis County to use taconite tailings to repave some roads in Greenwood Township

HERMANTOWN- The St. Louis County Board met in Hermantown on Tuesday, approving resolutions on a range of topics. Here is a recap of three notable actions:

The board approved a \$955,000 contract with Gee Asphalt Systems, Inc., out of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, for bituminous seal coat projects on several county roads this summer. While seal coat projects are routinely used by St. Louis County Public Works to preserve road quality, this contract is unique because the company uses a taconite tailings by-product, crushed down and combined with oil as the seal. The taconite tailings by-product comes from Optimal Aggregates, Inc. of Gilbert.

The projects will begin in June at three locations: 4.5 miles of Maple Grove Road between Hwy. 2 and Canosia Road; and four miles of St. Louis River Road between Canosia Road and Midway Road. Additionally, in Greenwood Township, work will be done on 5.5 miles of County State Aid Hwy. 77 and County Road 929, from County Road 115 to the end of Moccasin Point.

The County Board also approved joining another nationwide agreement

related to opioid settlement funds. The settlement involves six remaining defendants and will result in \$36,000 for St. Louis County. The funds will be used for further opioid remediation efforts in the county.

Commissioners also discussed the need for further conversation regarding updating the county's zoning Ordinance 62. Last week, the board voted to send the ordinance back to the planning commission for further review after residents expressed concerns with two portions related to storage of inoperable vehicles and the classification of data centers.

Today, the board requested that an amended resolution be put on the agenda for the May 5 meeting. The amended resolution removes any changes related to inoperable vehicles. It also directs the Planning Commission to develop a comprehensive Data Center Zoning Ordinance Amendment. This would allow the board to vote on the remaining recommended updates, which had been written to provide better clarity on issues the planning and zoning department often receive questions about.

SPRING CLEANING

Get your Pet Duty Station at Tower City Hall



TOWER- Several Pet "Duty" Stations have been donated to the city of Tower, for installation in public spaces, on residential streets, and on Main Street. Anyone interested in obtaining one can stop by Tower City Hall. They include a dispenser for dog waste pickup bags as well as treats. Anyone deciding to install one of these stations would be expected to keep it stocked with dog waste pickup bags and treats, and to empty the dog waste can as needed.

Everyone is urged to do their "duty" to tidy up Tower.

MOVIE NIGHT

The best movies you've (probably) never seen

by NICK GERRITSEN
Contributing Writer

Stop me if this sounds familiar: you're scrolling through the same, seemingly endless, menu screens on your tiresome streaming service and you see a movie that makes you stop, but only momentarily, and then continue scrolling. What makes you stop? And what makes you disregard it? Is it the runtime, the genre, the title, the cast, the thumbnail? I can't tell you how many times I've disregarded a movie for no readily apparent reason, and how quickly. If you're like me, you'll welcome these wonderful movies you've probably disregarded more times than you can count. Break the cycle, and prepare to get your mind blown.

Netflix



The Kindergarten Teacher (Rated R): Starring Maggie Gyllenhaal in one of her most meticulously layered roles, this one revolves around a kindergarten teacher whose teacher

grows convinced is an artistic genius. When the teacher attempts to go above and beyond her responsibilities to cultivate the child's creativity, she meets resistance from parents, colleagues, and family. As her attempts become increasingly inappropriate, the suspense builds to nearly unbearable levels. I particularly appreciate the questions the filmmaker, Sara Colangelo, explores, which still linger in my mind. This should be required viewing for anyone who has, or works with, or is about to work with, children. And Gyllenhaal made me cry, which doesn't happen very often. Verdict 5/5

The Paperboy (Rated R): I love this freaking movie. The talented filmmaker, Lee Daniels, whose career has been underwhelming ever since, takes risks that few ever do,



and his actors, who you will recognize, willingly jump on the roller coaster with him. One (one of many) consequence of the recent cancel culture has led to a lack of risk-taking in the film industry, and this is one movie that most assuredly would never get green-lit in today's culture. But, thank goodness, to all of you movie lovers out there, this movie was made before all that nonsense. Matthew McConaughey, Nicole Kidman, John Cusack, and David Oyelowo are having so much fun here, and you know what, even Zac Efron is good. You don't need to know the plot, just know it's fantastic chaos, and every scene is stunning, and every twist is shocking, and every performance is embraced with reckless abandon. Verdict 4.5/5

- Honorable Mentions*
Free Fire (4.5/5)
Pig (4.5/5)
Colossal (4.5/5)
The Mustang (5/5)
The Rover (4.5/5)



Amazon Prime
I Origins (Rated R): Rumor has it Michael Pitt is a very difficult actor to work with, but boy can he act. It's unfortunate, though understandable, that productions, casts, filmmakers, and crews tend to prefer convenience over genius, and safety over ambition, which might be why we don't get to see Pitt very often on screen. Be honest, have you even heard of him? Can you name one other movie he's in? I digress. This is one of the rare sci-fi movies that actually make you wonder about the nature of the universe. I wasn't even sure it WAS a sci-fi movie, it was so convincing I

had to do some research afterwards. It also contains a powerfully moving love story. Watch it, you won't regret it. Verdict 5/5



Saint Maud (Rated R): Morfydd Clark (no that's not a typo) gives easily one of the best performances in the history of cinema (that's right, I said it) in this small, independent, and

terrifying, movie about a nurse who transitions from devoutly religious to burning psychopath. I've mentioned before that the best horror movies are the ones that could actually happen, or you can imagine happening, in real life. If a person like Clark's character could exist, who else is out there? I can't help wondering how many people on this earth share her beliefs, and share her unshakeable willingness to pursue those beliefs to not only the edge of the cliff, but well beyond it. If you believed God spoke to you, and He told you to walk off that cliff, would you? What if He told you to lie, murder, steal? Is anything morally wrong, if God told you to do it? Verdict 5/5

- Honorable Mentions*
Short Term 12 (5/5)
Bernie (4/5)
Beast (4.5/5)
Hummingbird Project (4.5/5)
Monsters (4.5/5)

Hulu



Tangerine (Rated R): Sean Baker is one of my favorite filmmakers, who I want to call a young up-and-comer, but that isn't really accurate, it just feels like it. He's been making movies for 26 years, and he's yet to make a bad one, or even mediocre. That's a hot streak that

not even Scorsese can match. I'm sure most have seen his Oscar winner "Anora," one of the few recent Best Picture Winners that actually deserved the accolade, but before that, he made a number of equally wonderful movies, often with very low budgets. "Tangerine" is one of his absolute best, that he shot entirely on an iPhone 5 (believe it or not), and cast as the lead an actor who has never acted before or since, and completed the whole movie in about three weeks. And it's flipping fantastic. One thing I really appreciate about Baker is his ability to see the optimism and the joy in the ugly and the profane. I always leave his movies, despite some of their depressing subject matter, happy and proud to be alive. Verdict 5/5



Sweet Virginia (Rated R): Violence looms like a heavy fog in Sweet Virginia. I don't know how, but you just know the characters are capable of horrific things, even when they're sitting drinking coffee and joking around. The filmmaker, who I've never heard of and who's only made one other movie in his career, shows tremendous patience and masterful talent in how he shoots this movie. Every frame is purposeful and tantalizing. I'd recommend you watch this movie in total blackness with headphones on, and I promise you'll lose yourself in it. The performances are top notch (Jon Bernthal is a wonder), the plot is engrossing, and the climax will leave you breathless. Verdict 4.5/5

- Honorable Mentions*
Martha Marcy May Marlene (5/5)
Aporia (5/5)
Enemy (4.5/5)
Last Days on Mars (4.5/5)
No One Will Save You (5/5)

WAX MUSEUM



History comes to life at Ely school's library

by ROBERT MONTEITH
Managing Editor

ELY — The school library felt a little different last week. Both fourth-grade classes showed off their research on historical figures. Tucked between the shelves, fourth graders stood at attention in costume, ready to become history.

Ms. Faulkner's and Ms. Omerza's classes hosted their annual Wax Museum, transforming the school library into an interactive hall of historical figures featuring names such as Malala Yousafzai, Neil Armstrong, Abraham Lincoln, and Jacques Cousteau. Each student claimed their own corner of the room, some at tables, others posted along the walls, a placard in front of them, research booklet at the ready.

Visitors were handed a flyer at the door listing every figure and the student portraying them.

Each station featured two buttons. Press one, and the student launched into a prepared speech delivered from memory, covering the historical figure's early life, major accomplishments, and, in most cases, death. Press the other, and visitors could ask

their own questions, with the student answering in character.

The speeches ran about a minute each, but the impression they left was longer. Watching a nine-year-old in a Brooklyn Dodgers uniform explain Jackie Robinson's place in American history, or a classmate draped in white cloth describe Alexander the Great's campaigns, had a way of making the history feel immediate.

The costumes ranged from a blue NASA jumpsuit (Sawyer as Neil Armstrong) to a period dress and pearl necklace (Sydney as Eleanor Roosevelt) to a stovepipe hat (Hugo as Abraham Lincoln). A student playing Benedict Arnold wore a red coat. Another, as Leonardo da Vinci, managed to look appropriately Renaissance about the whole thing.

Every student also had a research booklet on display, the written work behind the performance, visible evidence that the speeches weren't just memorized but earned.

There was something quietly impressive about the whole affair. The library, usually a place for quiet reading, hummed with conversation as parents and younger siblings moved from station to station, pressing buttons, listening, asking questions.



Fourth graders Hugo, Sydney, and Sawyer portray Abraham Lincoln, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Neil Armstrong.

photos by E. Monteith

PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION

Ely's Take Back Drug Day is this Saturday at City Hall

by ROBERT MONTEITH
Managing Editor

ELY — Residents will have the opportunity to safely dispose of unused and expired medications this Saturday as part of the national Drug Take Back Day, Ely Police Chief Chad Houde announced at a recent city council meeting.

City Hall will accept medications

from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 25. Residents can drop off prescription or over-the-counter drugs in the secure disposal box located in the entrance.

Houde encouraged residents not to wait for special collection events, noting that the drop box is available year-round. "We do have that here 365 days a year," he said.

The chief outlined several reasons residents might have medications to

dispose of, including leftover prescriptions after surgery, drugs no longer being taken, or medications belonging to a deceased family member.

Houde also stressed the public safety risks of letting old medications accumulate at home, particularly the danger posed to children who might not recognize pills outside their original containers. Improper disposal also poses risks to the water supply, he noted.

One important limitation is that syringes and needles are not accepted at the City Hall drop box. Those items must be brought to a hazardous waste collection site. Houde said Virginia is currently the nearest such facility, and a countywide hazardous waste collection day is also coming up.

Residents who feel uncomfortable transporting medications on their own can call the Ely Police Department for assistance.

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Babbitt Public Library

BABBITT — The library is open on Fridays.

On Friday, April 24 at 1 p.m. is Kid's Bingo.

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

Ely 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.

Blind Date with a Book is on April 24. It starts at noon. Stop by to pick up a book covered in brown paper. Hints about the book will be written on the cover.

Move and Groove for preschoolers with an adult will be at 10:30 a.m. on April 28. Get some of those wiggles

out to the dance beat as Jessie leads kids in simple dances and stretches.

Get Crafty: Dreamcatchers will be at 2 p.m. on April 29. We supply all project materials, which include feathers, beads, and strings. The finished dreamcatcher can be taken home and attractively displayed above the bed or by a window to catch any bad dreams before they interrupt the peaceful sleep of a nighttime dreamer. Registration is required.

A poetry and printmaking legacy program starts at 3:30 p.m. on May 1. Join Shelley Getten for poetry and printmaking art as she shares the challenges and joys of growing up on a central Minnesota farm. As Getten reads from her book, "Of Cows and Crows," she will discuss the creative writing process. Getten will also demonstrate block art printmaking so attendees can learn about making original relief art, as showcased in her book. Bookmarks will be shared

with audience members to take home.

Spring Community Cleanup

ELY — Volunteers needed! Help clean up Ely after a long winter and mulch trees for Arbor Day. Ely is celebrating 12 years as a Tree City USA at 9 a.m. on April 25. In Whiteside Park, join Friends of the Trees of Ely for a brief training on proper tree mulching, then help mulch Ely city trees and pick up trash. At the Trezona Trailhead, meet the Ely Climate Group for a trash cleanup along the trail. At the Ely softball fields, join members of the Incredible Ely Team to help clean up the area. Mulching volunteers will meet at Whiteside Park for a brief lesson, while cleanup volunteers can meet at the Trezona Trailhead or the softball fields, where bags will be provided. Bring your own gloves if

you have them.

Dance Showcase

ELY — The Reflections Dance Company will present its spring showcase, "Fire," from 7-11 a.m. at the Vermilion Fine Arts Theater. Tickets are pay what you can. Dancers of all ages will share works-in-progress for the upcoming summer show in August. This event is a fundraiser for the dance company, and will feature performances in the styles of acro, ballet, contemporary, jazz, and tap.

List your event

Do you have an upcoming Babbitt, Ely, Morse, Fall Lake, or Winton event? Email event details, location, time, place, and event cost, and contact person to timberjaynews@gmail.com by Tuesday evening the week before the event happens for a free notice.

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 speakers:

➤ April 28: Rainy Headwaters & Vermilion Watershed Plan with the North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2026



deer everywhere
appear to be residents

patrolling the streets

Libraries

Ely library

Hours: Monday–Friday,
9 a.m.-6:30 p.m.
Closed on Saturday,
Sunday, and holidays

Phone: 218-365-5140

Babbitt library

Monday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Tuesday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Wednesday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Thursday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Friday 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Phone: 218-827-3345

Support groups

AA - Alcoholics

Anonymous

OPEN AA - 7:30

p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, in-person, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St., Ely.

AA FRIDAYS - 7 p.m.

Fridays, First Presbyterian Church, 262 E. Harvey St., Ely.

ELY WOMEN'S OPEN

AA - Monday at noon at Ledgerock Church, 1515 E. Camp St., Ely.

BABBITT AA - 7 p.m.

Thursdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church.

AL-ANON - Sundays

8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely.

BABBITT AL-ANON -

Thursdays, 7 p.m., at

Woodland Presbyterian

CO-DEPENDENTS'

12-step support group,

4:00 p.m. Tuesdays,

hosted by

Well Being Development,

Ely. *This meeting is suspended temporarily.*

CAREGIVER SUPPORT

GROUPS: Babbitt: 3rd

Monday of Month: 6-7:30

p.m. at Carefree Living.

Ely: 4th Monday of

Month: 10-11:30 a.m. at

Ely-Blomenson Hospital.

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BOIS FORTE BAND

Walking for healing and those not forgotten

Bois Forte events blend remembrance, awareness, and community

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

NETT LAKE- The Bois Forte Band will host two community walks on May 5 as part of the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives, an effort to raise awareness, honor victims, and promote healing in the wake of ongoing violence that disproportionately affects Native communities.

The observance comes amid sobering context. Native women face murder rates more than 10 times the national average, a statistic that underscores the urgency behind events like those planned at Nett Lake and Vermilion.

For Bois Forte Victim Services Advocate Charity Warrington, that urgency is not abstract.

“When I came back home here to Bois Forte, I found out a lot of people that I care about have passed on from suicide or homicide, and it made me so sad that some of these people are gone now,” Warrington said. “I still have that heartbreak feeling about it when I talk about it.”

Warrington said the May 5 observance holds added personal meaning, as it also marks her daughter’s birthday.

“My daughter’s birthday is May 5th. I would not want to be worried about her being missing, murdered somewhere, and I can’t imagine what it’s like for others that have been through that,” she said.

The events, scheduled from 10 a.m. to noon in both Nett Lake and Vermilion, are designed to bring people together in a shared space for reflection, support, and healing.

“The day of walking and remembrance is important because the community is able to grieve in that way together,” Warrington said.

At Nett Lake, participants will gather at the RTC building for an opening prayer, followed by speakers and a walk around the lake to the Bois Forte Health and Human Services building. The opening prayer will be led by Vern Adams.

In Vermilion, participants will gather at the Vermilion Social Center and walk to Fortune Bay and back. Remarks by Kim Dahl, the mother of Amanda Boshey, will be livestreamed from Nett Lake to the Vermilion location.

Featured speakers include Dahl, along with two representatives from the MMIW 218 Bemidji office, with one speaking at each location. Warrington said



the Bemidji-based speakers will share information about advocacy efforts, support services, and ongoing awareness work.

The recent conviction in the hit-and-run death of Amanda Boshey has brought renewed local attention to the issue. Warrington said the case has resonated deeply within the community.

“Amanda Boshey was my friend, and whenever I drive past that picture, I want to cry,” Warrington said. “I was happy about seeing that conviction. I was happy that the family is able to process that into some type of closure, or at least some type of at ease feeling that they haven’t felt before.”

Warrington emphasized

that while cases like Boshey’s draw attention, the broader goal of the MMIWR movement is to address systemic gaps in awareness, response, and prevention.

“You have to have tribal awareness campaigns in this area of justice when it comes to MMIWR issues,” she said. “The community is able to come together, grieve together, support one another and survive the situation in the best communal way.”

She noted that such gatherings can be both emotionally difficult and necessary.

“These walks, these events, could trigger, but they’re also healing,” Warrington said.

Beyond remembrance, Warrington said she hopes

the events help build greater understanding among those unfamiliar with the issue, including how cases are reported and responded to.

“It goes unrecognized so much that it’s sad to see, and we have to really holler and scream to get that recognition,” she said.

Warrington said the events are open to anyone seeking to support the cause or connect with others.

“I think across the board, it’s going to capture those people that do care, want to support not only MMIWR issues, but also the ones that in general have wrongful deaths,” she said.

She also encouraged participation from allies outside the Native community.

“I definitely want to hold it open for anybody that wants to come and be supportive, because allies are special. They’re important,” Warrington said.

Warrington said that organizing the events has been both challenging and meaningful.

“It is my first time organizing these types of events,” she said. “This walk really is helping me to heal. I definitely need to help myself in that grieving process as well.”

Warrington credited others in the community for helping bring the events together, including Toni Wakemup, whom she described as a key contributor to the planning.

Looking ahead, Warrington said she hopes to expand awareness efforts through education and outreach, particularly among young people.

“If I have to keep doing it, I’ll keep hollering and screaming about it forever,” she said.

At its core, she said, the goal is simple.

“When we can all come together, that’s so satisfying. It’s great to see how our community can support each other and heal.”

Triple-threat combo speech team scores well at sectionals



CHERRY- The Northeast Range speech team turned in a strong showing at the Section 7A speech tournament last Friday at Cherry, finishing in a tie for third place while advancing five students to the state competition.

The program, which includes students from Northeast Range, North Woods, and Ely through a cooperative agreement, saw all of its competitors place in the top 10 of their respective categories.

Leading the way in storytelling, Eva Morgan of Northeast Range claimed first place, while Alice Sopoci of North Woods took third. In serious prose interpretation, Addison Orcutt of Ely finished second.

Makenzie Little of Northeast Range earned third in extemporaneous reading, while Alison Poppler of Ely placed third in creative expression. Trevor Zaitz of Northeast Range took fourth in informative speaking, and Brody Lindquist of Northeast Range placed ninth in serious dramatic interpretation.

The top three finishers in each category advance to the state speech tournament, which is set for April 25 at Park Center High School in Brooklyn Park.

The team is coached by Jennifer Kaufenberg, with assistance from Morgan Zollinger and Kristi Sopoci.

The Nighthawks speech team includes Alison Poppler, Addison Orcutt, Eva Morgan, Alice Sopoci, Makenzie Little, Trevor Zaitz, and Brody Lindquist.

courtesy photo

Community news

DeVries exhibit is April highlight at NWFA gallery

COOK- An exhibit featuring the work of local artist Jim DeVries is nearing the end of its run at Northwoods Friends of the Arts.

The show, which will wrap up on April 30, includes a mix of acrylics, watercolors, and pen-and-ink pieces inspired by the Northwoods landscape.

Northwoods Friends of the Arts, located at 210 S. River St. in Cook, is open Wednesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Bois Forte will host April 25 powwow at Virginia event center

VIRGINIA- The Bois Forte Band of Chippewa will host the Zoondide’ewin Powwow on Saturday, April 25 at the Iron Trail Motors Event Center in Virginia.

Grand entries are scheduled for 1 p.m. and 6 p.m., with a dinner break at 4 p.m. Registration for dancers and participants will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

and again from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Jeremy Wilson will serve as spiritual advisor, with Terry Goodsky as emcee and Lance Kingbird as arena director. Host drum will be Lake Vermilion, with Hillside serving as co-host drum. Invited drums include Circle of Nations and Burnside Lake. Head female dancer will be Abbi Zapata and head male dancer will be Curt Moon.

Vendors may contact Toni Wakemup at 218-404-8377 for more information. Organizers note that drums and singers must be registered prior to grand entry.

The event is supported in part by the Minnesota Department of Health through an American Indian health and tribal relations grant.

Pizza and politics to feature Kania in Cook on May 6

COOK- The Cook area directors of the St. Louis County 03 DFL will host a “Pizza and Politics” event on Wednesday, May 6, at the Cook Community Center.

The session will run from 4 to 6:30 p.m. and will

feature Aaron Kania, who is running for the Minnesota House in District 3A.

Organizers say the event is intended to provide a casual, small-group setting where community members can meet the candidate, ask questions, and discuss issues relevant to the area.

Pizza and beverages will be provided, with voluntary donations accepted. The event is free and open to the public.

The Cook Community Center is located at 510 Gopher Dr.

For more information, contact George Pliml by email at L1ittle68@proton.me or by text at 218-410-1248.

Rewind to the 80s at Julie’s Dance spring showcase Saturday

FIELD TWP- Break out the leg warmers and crank up the cassette deck, Julie’s Dance is taking audiences on a high-energy trip back in time with its annual spring performance, “Rewind to the 80s,” set for this Saturday, April 25 at North Woods School.

The show begins at 2

p.m. and will feature dancers of all ages performing routines inspired by the music, style, and unmistakable flair of the 1980s. From big hair to bold moves, the production promises a colorful mix of nostalgia and youthful energy.

Admission is \$10, with free entry for children ages four and under.

Organizers say the event is designed to be a fun, family-friendly showcase of the studio’s dancers while celebrating one of pop culture’s most iconic decades.

Voyageur Country ATV Club to host spring ride May 2

REGIONAL- The Voyageur Country ATV Club will host its annual spring ride on Saturday, May 2, with participants traveling from multiple area locations before gathering for a midday event near Buyck.

Guided rides will depart that morning from several locations across the region, including Cabins on Crane at 9 a.m., Boondocks at 8:30 a.m., Melgeorge’s at 9:30 a.m., The Dam in Orr at 9 a.m., and the Vermilion Riv-

er Tavern at 9 a.m.

Riders will converge at the Gold Mine Pit near Buyck, where lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event will also include raffles, along with the sale of hats and other apparel.

Organizers say the ride offers an opportunity for area ATV enthusiasts to enjoy local trails while connecting with others in the riding community.

North Woods prom grand march set for Friday evening

FIELD TWP- The North Woods School gym will once again fill with family, friends, and community members on Friday, April 24, as students take part in the annual prom grand march.

The grand march is set for 6 p.m. and offers the public a chance to see students dressed in their formal best as they are introduced and walk the floor, a tradition that typically draws a large and appreciative crowd.

This year’s prom theme is “Masquerade Ball,” with decorations and festivities continuing later in the evening for students, including dinner at 7 p.m. and a dance from 8 to 11 p.m. Prom activities are organized and hosted by the North Woods Class of 2027.

Organizers encourage community members to attend the grand march and share in the celebration of one of the school year’s most anticipated events.

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BOUNDARY WATERS

Bois Forte Band 'gravely concerned' over mining ban termination

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Publisher

NETT LAKE — The Bois Forte Band is expressing “profound disappointment” in the wake of last week’s U.S. Senate vote to terminate a 20-year ban on mining and mineral exploration affective 225,000 acres of federal land within the Superior National Forest.

The land in question is located in the Upper Rainy River watershed and drains into the 1.1-million-acre Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

In a statement posted to Facebook, dated Tuesday, April 21, Bois Forte Tribal Chairman Carlos Hernandez said the action represents a significant setback to efforts to protect the BWCAW as

well as the Bois Forte Band’s rights to resources under the 1854 Treaty.

“We are gravely concerned about the passage of H.J. Resolution 140 and the risks it presents to our ancestral homelands,” stated Hernandez.

According to the statement, Bois Forte band members have depended upon the lands and waters

of the region to sustain their way of life. “In this sense, the 1854 Treaty is not a relic of the past— it is a living, binding agreement that guarantees band members’ right to hunt, fish, and gather,” it states. “Our treaty rights are inseparable from the health of the natural resources that sustain them,” Hernandez added. “Without clean waters, abundant wild-

life, and thriving ecosystems, those rights cannot be meaningfully exercised.”

Hernandez said any mining within the 1854 ceded territory must “at a minimum be truly safe, responsible, and guided by strong environmental protections and meaningful tribal consultation. H.J. Resolution 140 does not embrace these values and instead places our most vital

and irreplaceable resources at risk.”

The resolution, pushed by Eighth District Rep. Pete Stauber, purports to overturn a 20-year mining ban in a major watershed just upstream of the BWCAW. The ban was enacted in 2023 by the Biden administration. The legality of Stauber’s resolution is expected to be challenged in court.

BAN...Continued from page 1

majority within the Eighth Congressional District.

DFL senators Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith, and every other Democratic senator voted against the measure. They were joined by Republicans Thom Tillis, of North Carolina, and Susan Collins, of Maine. The vote, held late morning on April 16, came after several hours of debate the night before.

The vote was a major victory for supporters of the proposed mine, who argue that it will create badly needed jobs on the Iron Range, where 600 taconite workers have been out of work for nearly a year. Rep. Stauber called Thursday’s Senate vote a “major victory for America and Minnesota’s 8th Congressional District.

Mining is our past, our present, and our future — and the future looks bright!”

Opponents of the mine argue that the mine will cost more jobs in the outdoor amenity economy that has built up around the Boundary Waters than it will create.

Legal challenge?

But the legality of the maneuver is likely to face scrutiny by the courts. Sen. Tina Smith, who took media questions immediately after the vote, predicted a legal challenge. “I think that Congress should follow the law,” she said. “That’s not what happened here.”

At issue is the use of the Congressional Review Act, or CRA, which gives Congress 60 session days

after receiving notice of newly adopted federal regulations to vote to overturn them. Both Sens. Klobuchar and Smith argued during debate that the CRA only applies to federal regulations, not final public land orders and they predicted the attempt to misuse the CRA would open a Pandora’s box of threats to public lands across the country.

In addition, Smith noted during debate that the Biden administration had provided notice to Congress of the mining ban, known as a mineral withdrawal, three years ago, well beyond the 60-day limit required for action under the CRA.

“I think the courts will be important,” predicted Ingrid Lyons, executive director of

Save the Boundary Waters, a group that’s been leading much of the opposition to the proposed mine.

While opponents expressed disappointment in the Senate action, any potential Twin Metals mine remains years away. The Trump administration will still need to issue new mineral leases, an action that is sure to be closely scrutinized by opponents. Trump administration decisions have frequently come under fire in the courts, often on procedural grounds.

New leases would allow Twin Metals, and its parent company, Chilean-based mining giant Antofagasta, to begin the environmental review process. Based on past experience, the

state of Minnesota would likely conduct its own separate environmental review, which could well add to the timeline. The environmental review for the former Polymet (now NewRange Copper) proposal took a full decade. That mine was eventually permitted in 2018, but several of the permits were later thrown out in the courts and the mine has yet to open eight years later.

Political football

The Senate’s action was just the latest twist in a decade long seesaw of conflicting decisions, reflecting the degree to which politics has long governed management of the Boundary Waters and the Superior National Forest. Leases for a proposed

copper-nickel mine at the site were originally issued in 1966, as a political response by the Johnson administration to the closure of Ely’s last iron mine.

The original leaseholder, the International Nickel Company, or INCO, never developed a mine at the site, nor have companies that have subsequently controlled later versions of the leases. In 2017, the Obama administration canceled the mineral leases, but they were reinstated in 2018 by the Trump administration. The Biden administration later determined that the reinstatement was illegal and reimposed the mining ban on the affected acres in 2023. The final word on the leases likely remains to be written.

ARREST...Continued from page 1

Authorities were first called to the 12000 block of South Willow River Road around 5 p.m. on April 11 on a report of an unwanted male. Deputies identified the man as Nukala, who fled into the woods when they arrived and could not be located.

Deputies were called back to the scene at about 10:30 a.m. the following day after Nukala again showed up, this time reportedly acting strangely. He was last seen wearing a white bathrobe and walking back toward the woods.

A multi-agency search

followed, involving the St. Louis County Rescue Squad, sheriff’s deputies, and Orr Ambulance.

With wet, cool conditions at the time, authorities said hypothermia was a major concern. Nukala was not wanted on any criminal charges during the search, and officials said their focus was on locating him safely.

He was found later that evening on April 15 by a family member walking along a road near Greaney and was taken to a hospital for evaluation. Authorities said

he appeared to be in good condition.

Earlier that day, Nukala had been scheduled to appear for a court hearing in a separate case. After he failed to show, a judge issued a bench warrant for his arrest.

Two days later, Nukala was in custody.

His April 17 arrest was likely tied to that warrant. He was also held on a probation violation stemming from a December 2024 felony conviction for fleeing a peace officer in a motor vehicle.

As a condition of that pro-

bation, Nukala was required to refrain from using alcohol or other mood-altering substances. According to a probation violation warrant filed April 17, Nukala admitted to using methamphetamine within the previous week, a time period that overlaps with the days he was reported missing and behaving erratically.

Nukala had also been convicted just weeks earlier, on March 30, of fifth-degree controlled substance possession, a felony. In that case, he was sentenced to 19 months in prison, with the sentence

stayed for three years of probation.

The fleeing conviction that placed Nukala on probation stems from an October 2024 incident in which he led deputies on a pursuit through and east of Gheen before stopping on a gravel roadway, where his vehicle was found burning both inside and out. A chainsaw lying nearby was also on fire, with its fuel cap off.

When ordered to stop, Nukala fled on foot, prompting a search involving additional officers, a K9 unit, and a drone.

He was eventually located about 20 feet up in a tree and fell to the ground while climbing down before being taken into custody.

Court records indicate Nukala Jr. has a criminal history in Minnesota dating back to at least 2005, including multiple convictions for drug offenses, impaired driving, fleeing law enforcement, and driving after cancellation. He has also faced charges involving assault and property damage.

Nukala remains in custody pending further proceedings.

ELY...Continued from page 1

costs, trying to keep our system maintained to an adequate level,” said Harold Langowski, the city’s clerk/treasurer, who presented the EUC’s recommendations to the council. “Same program. Just little small rate increases.”

What ratepayers will see

For water, the approved increase amounts to \$1 per month on the fixed charge plus an additional 5 cents per 100 cubic feet of usage. The fixed monthly fee moves from \$22.50 to \$23.50, with the usage rate rising from \$4.05 to \$4.10 per 100 cubic feet. For the average residential customer — defined by the Public Facilities Authority as someone using 550 cubic feet per month — that works out to about \$1.26 more per month, a 2.8-percent increase.

Sewer rates follow a nearly identical pattern. A \$1 increase will be added to the fixed monthly fee, bringing it from \$20.20 to \$21.20, and a 5-cent bump on the usage charge, from \$7.35 to \$7.40 per 100 cubic feet. The average residential customer will pay

about \$1.28 more per month, representing a 2.27-percent increase.

Electric customers will see no change to their fixed monthly charge, which stays at \$10.50, but will pay more per kilowatt hour. The change comes through the Energy Cost Adjustment, a mechanism adopted as part of a 2024 rate study. The 2026 ECA is set at 0.95 cents per kilowatt hour, up from 0.35 cents in 2025, reflecting higher projected wholesale power costs from Minnesota Power. For a typical residential customer using 700 kilowatt hours per month, that translates to roughly \$4.20 more per month, or a 4.7-percent increase.

Keeping the lights on and the pipes flowing

The rate recommendations emerged from the EUC’s Budget and Rates Committee, which completed its annual review of the water, sewer, and electric enterprise funds earlier this year. The commission met March 19 and for-

warded its recommendations to the council.

Langowski said the EUC’s guiding principle has been to keep each enterprise fund at a cash-positive position at year’s end while maintaining adequate reserves for capital improvements and positioning the city to qualify for favorable loan rates on larger projects.

“One of the strategic goals of the EUC over the past several years has been to ensure the operating fund balances are enough to avoid major rate increases and allow the EUC to plan long term,” the commission wrote in its memo to the council.

That strategy appears to be working. A cash balance chart presented to the council showed the water, sewer, and electric funds have remained relatively stable since 2018, with the funds showing steady growth to over \$5 million.

Last year’s larger water increase set the stage

Ratepayers who noticed a steeper increase in their water bills last year weren’t imag-

ining it. The 2025 water rate increase was about 18 percent, a deliberate move to meet revenue requirements set by the Public Facilities Authority in connection with a potential low-interest loan for a major water system improvement project.

“Last year was a more sizable increase,” Langowski said. “This year, much smaller at 2.8 percent, more of a typical increase.”

The water system project centers on replacing a deteriorating supply line from Burntside Lake, with the scope recently expanded to include water main replacement on Sheridan Street. Langowski said the city currently carries no water utility debt other than a lease on the county garage, which is set to expire in 2027. The next expected debt payment would come from the Burntside Lake pipeline project, which the city hopes to have underway this year.

The electric picture

The electric utility’s rate structure has undergone the most significant changes in recent years. In 2021, the

EUC joined the Northeastern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency to collaborate with other Iron Range municipalities in negotiating wholesale power rates with Minnesota Power. The resulting contract, which runs through 2029, eliminated a volatile fuel-adjustment charge that had previously caused rates to swing sharply from month to month.

In its place, the EUC adopted an Energy Cost Adjustment formula following the 2024 Berg Consulting rate study. The ECA is set each January based on Minnesota Power’s annual cost projections, providing more predictability for both the utility and its customers.

The 2026 ECA reflects an estimated base power cost of 8.1 cents per kilowatt hour against a contract base rate of 7.15 cents, producing the 0.95-cent adjustment. Langowski said the estimate has tracked closely with actual costs in prior years and expects the same this year.

Commercial customers will see similar ECA increases across rate classes, including demand customers and dual-fuel customers with load-managed heat. The city has also established a time-of-use rate for electric vehicle charging with on-peak rates of 17 cents per kilowatt hour plus ECA and off-peak rates

of 5.5 cents plus ECA, though Langowski noted no customers have signed up for it yet.

The customer base challenge

Langowski acknowledged that the long-term health of the utility system is tied not just to rates but to the customer base itself. A review of data going back to 2007 shows a gradual decline in the number of customers and total water consumption, a trend that puts pressure on fixed-cost recovery.

“The customer loss and the amount of less usage, less water pumped and sold ... it’s a big number,” he said.

New housing development, however, could help reverse that trend. Langowski noted that a planned multi-unit housing project would add individual electric meters for each unit, expanding the customer base and spreading fixed costs more broadly across ratepayers.

Increased conservation, while beneficial environmentally, also plays a role in reduced revenues. “Conservation benefits the utility. You don’t want to see people wasting resources,” Langowski said, “but when we see a reduction in customer count, those base charges are what covers most of the fixed costs.”

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COURTS

Britt man sentenced to 24 years in child sexual abuse case

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL — A 39-year-old Britt man was sentenced to 24 years in prison last week after pleading guilty to sexually abusing a child over a period of several years.

Judge Robert C. Friday sentenced Matthew Steven Tourigny to 288 months in prison after his February plea to first-degree criminal sexual conduct. The sentence is double the presumptive guideline sentence of 144 months and reflects the court's finding of

aggravating factors in the case.

In exchange for his guilty plea and agreement to the enhanced sentence, prosecutors dismissed six additional charges that had been filed against him.

Tourigny admitted to sexually abusing a boy under the age of 14 between October 2021 and December 2024. Court records indicate the abuse involved multiple incidents over time.

Authorities said the case came to light in December 2024 after a cyber tip to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children flagged

activity on Snapchat involving suspected child sexual abuse material. Investigators with the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office, working with federal agents from Homeland Security, traced the account to Tourigny.

Law enforcement executed a search warrant at his residence later that month, seizing several electronic devices. According to the criminal complaint, Tourigny acknowledged taking and sharing images of the victim and communicating with others online.

Tourigny had been required to register as a predatory offender since 2003, according to court records.

He received credit for 484 days already served in custody since his arrest in December 2024.

"We hope this significant sentence will bring the victim and his family closure and healing," St. Louis County Attorney Kim Maki said in a statement. "It sends a clear message that child sexual abuse has no place and will not be tolerated in our county."

Maki's office also credited the victim for reporting the abuse and thanked the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office and Homeland Security for their work on the case.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant County Attorney Aaron P. Welch.

Tourigny's name surfaced locally in 2024 in a separate incident in Tower.

According to prior *Timberjay* reporting, Tourigny was the victim of an assault in July 2024 after four juveniles allegedly lured him to the area

under the pretense of meeting another individual. The youths then attacked him and posted video of the incident online, during which they accused him of being a sexual predator.

Tourigny told the youths at the time that he believed he was meeting a 24-year-old.

The assault was interrupted by Tower emergency responder Steven Freshour, who drove the attackers from the scene. The juveniles involved were later identified, arrested, and charged in connection with that incident.

FIBER...Continued from page 1

That partnership is being recognized with a pop-up exhibit on the main floor of the museum, as well as a permanent display of two 100-plus year-old weaving looms, being kept alive by guild members who host regular demonstrations and classes on weaving and spinning each summer.

On April 16, guild members, former members, and guests held a 50th anniversary open house and dinner at MDC, which gave members a chance to visit the new exhibit, and show off what the guild has been up to the past 50 years.

Members sat and visited, many with knitting projects on their lap, others carefully sewing finishing touches on projects. Many had brought in finished projects, as well as tools and fiber samples, books, and intricate charts used to create patterns. Guild scrapbooks detailed activities dating back 50 years, with newspaper clippings, photographs, and club newsletters.

I joined the guild shortly after moving up to Tower in the mid-1980s. I showed up at a meeting with my current knitting obsession, which was a far cry from what would be considered traditional knitting. I'd knit my first sweater when I was about 18 years old, one

color of hand-dyed wool, with a simple boxy design. My second sweater had about ten colors and was a mash-up of colorwork and texture, based on knitting designs coming out of a wool collective in Uruguay. My idea of knitting was the more colors the better. I would sketch out a design, color it in, add some yarn swatches, and then start knitting.

I brought some of my knitting to the first guild meeting I attended and shyly put them out. I was in my 20s, and my knitting was mostly self-taught with some help from my mother. I had recently started using patterns from the British designer Kaffe Fassett. Before I had a chance to say no, I was offering a colorwork knitting class with a half a dozen women planning to attend. The class was set for an evening in January or February, I can't quite remember. What I do remember is that day the temperatures didn't creep above zero and by evening were well below -20F. I wasn't sure how many would take the drive up to Tower, but everyone showed up, along with a few extras. Our cabin was rustic, with a wood stove and propane gas lights. I didn't even have enough chairs for everyone to sit on, and some graciously sat on the floor as I



At left, Kathy Rensinky Lesar shows a traditional weaving pattern. Above, Jayne Meyer was doing finishing work on this patterned cardigan.

photos by J. Summit

taught colorwork, techniques for handling multiple strands of yarn, and design rules.

I hadn't thought about that class in a long time, but at the guild's 50th gathering, several members remembered driving up and learning to knit their multi-colored woolen hat. Others remembered another class I taught on a Kaffe Fassett sweater design, and one of these still proudly owned by a guild member who had recently been modeled at a guild fashion show.

The guild has continued its tradition of sharing and teaching. Guild member Barb Luelling helps run a weaving studio set up at Old School Lives in Cotton, which features 12 looms which are used by community members January through May. In the summer, she, along with other guild members, keep the Minnesota Discovery Center looms active.

The Katri Saari loom was carved from a spruce tree root and is affectionately called the tree loom. The root's natural curves were just the right height to form the base of the loom.

The loom was owned by a group of five families, who each contributed two dollars to the loom's construction, 114 years ago. The loom would be

housed at one of the families' homes for a couple of months, and then would be moved to the next. Katri Saari inherited a share of the loom, and then became its sole owner as the other original families either moved or passed away.

Katri Saari, who lived in Idington, was a master weaver, producing both functional items and works of art. Her knowledge of Finnish folklore and traditions was impressive, and she worked to keep alive traditional Finnish patterns and designs. She taught several of the current guild members in her later years. She died at the age of 91 in 1984. Her loom then became part of the permanent collection at the museum: but it is a living part of the museum and is still used to weave fabrics and rugs. And now new generations are getting introduced to the art and craft of weaving.

"I consider myself a winner because I get to weave on this loom," said Barb Luelling when interviewed by MDC. "I've passed along that tradition to other people as much as I can."

Some of the weavings on display in the loom room at MDC were created by guild

members. Luelling has a rag rug in the exhibit which she made from her large assortment of the many colors of U.S. Forest Service uniform pants she had worn over the years, once she retired.

While the large wooden looms were usually used to weave clothing scraps into functional rugs, they can also be used for more intricate weaving designs for finer fabrics.

Guild member Kristy Balder, of Goodland, is a weaver who has taken the art from the ground up, literally. Balder started growing flax from seed, and then learned how to process the plants into fibers that could be spun into linen yarn, which she then dyed using natural plants like indigo, and then wove into a fabric which she sewed into a one-of-a-kind tunic, which she proudly wore to the guild's gathering. Lakeland PBS did a program on Balder's project, and the exhibit has a link to the video. MDC also has produced a video showing guild member's weaving on the historic looms.

Others showed up in ethnic clothing, homemade of course, because most of the guild members are also accomplished sewers. Women shared their creations, both old and new, and talked about methods, patterns, and techniques.

Jayne Meyer was patiently sewing a ribbon into the lining of a multi-colored wool cardigan's button band.

"This sweater was supposed to be two colors, but I had a half a dozen more colors of that wool," she said, so she adjusted the pattern, pointing to the fair isle style design that featured contrasting two-colored rows. She did run into a

problem when the sweater was almost done, realizing she was a few ounces short of the wool she would need to finish the sleeves so they would perfectly match the body of the sweater, but luckily she was able to order more wool in the right colors.

Ellen Pierce, of Embarrass, who raises her own wool, which she then spins and dyes, had yarn on display. Allana Majjala, one of the younger guild members (been a member only 20 years) had crochet, beadwork, and jewelry to show. She said she had been learning new skills from guild classes.

And while many in the guild might be considered experts in their own field, they all are lifetime learners, trying out new types of fiber arts and techniques.

The guild

The Range Fiber Arts Guild is open to all, and all ages, and meets monthly September through May on the first Thursday at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Virginia at 6:30 p.m. The group currently has almost 50 members. Meetings include a program, with members or outside speakers talking and demonstrating a specific skill or craft, and a time for show and tell, where members bring their most recent projects, finished or in-progress. The group also currently has three study groups that meet monthly: weaving, knitting/crocheting, and spinning. The guild also hosts a multi-day retreat each year in January. The group has an active Facebook page to keep track of events and projects.

"We all really like to share our knowledge," said Loiselle.



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ELECTIONS

Reality TV personality Luke Gulbranson launches bid for Congress

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL — Luke Gulbranson, an Eveleth native and reality television personality, announced this week that he is running as a Democrat for Congress in Minnesota's Eighth District, challenging four-term Republican Rep. Pete Stauber.

Gulbranson, who has appeared on reality TV series including "Summer House" and "Selling the OC," enters the race just weeks before the Eighth District DFL endorsing convention and told the

Minneapolis Star Tribune last week that he plans to run in a primary if he does not secure the party's endorsement.

He joins several other Democrats already seeking the nomination in a district that has trended Republican in recent years.

In a press release announcing his candidacy, Gulbranson said his campaign will focus on lowering costs for working families, protecting social programs, and expanding access to affordable health care, shaped by his upbringing on the Iron Range.

"Hockey, family, and

community shaped who I am," Gulbranson said. "I know what it's like to worry about putting food on the table or paying the electric bill. I've lived the challenges so many families in this district are facing right now."

Raised in a working-class family, Gulbranson said his household at times relied on food assistance, Medicaid, and Medicare.

After leaving Minnesota for a career in acting, modeling, and more recently luxury real estate, Gulbranson said he returned to Eveleth during the COVID-19 pandemic, where

he built a home in the woods. He splits his time between Minnesota, Los Angeles, and New York.

Gulbranson also owns a maple syrup company that is expected to launch in Target stores.

He said his decision to run was driven in part by concerns over federal policy, including impacts on rural health care access and debates over mining near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

"I'm very much for mining responsibly, following the rules and regulations,"

Gulbranson said in the *Star Tribune* interview. "But this bill that Stauber's trying to pass, I don't agree with it."

Gulbranson said he believes his background as a political outsider with roots in the district will resonate with voters and pointed to his social media following as an advantage.

"I would love to have the DFL endorsement," he said. "But the reality is, I am getting in late. We're going to put our best foot forward and work our tails off to win the primary."

His campaign has

already drawn support from Eveleth native and U.S. Olympic curling coach Phill Drobnick.

"Luke knows what it's like to grow up in a household where every dollar matters. He's seen firsthand how rising costs and an uneven economy hurt families on the Iron Range," Drobnick said. "In my experience coaching at the Olympic level, success comes down to discipline, trust, and putting the team first. Luke brings that same mindset, and northern Minnesota needs that kind of leadership in Congress."

CAMPAIGN

Website critical of Gulbranson appears, then disappears

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL — A website sharply critical of congressional candidate Luke Gulbranson appeared shortly after his campaign announcement and was taken offline almost as quickly, leaving behind questions about its origins and intent.

A WHOIS search shows the domain notourluke.com was registered April 18 through Namecheap, with ownership masked by a privacy service. However, Google search results indicated the content may have been online as early as April 15, suggesting it may have first been published at another web address before the domain was registered.

After it was taken offline, the site returned a GitHub Pages error message, indicating it had likely been hosted through a service that allows users to quickly publish and remove websites.

The site described itself as "a nonpartisan research project" and urged readers to

"judge the evidence for themselves." It also included a direct appeal to party insiders, stating that "DFL delegates, primary voters, and general-election voters in MN-08 deserve a candidate whose record was built in the district — not on Peacock. Share this page with someone who needs to see it."

Organized as a "research brief," the site grouped its criticism into broad categories, including Gulbranson's campaign launch, residency, business ventures, public

conduct, sources of support, and policy positions.

As of Tuesday morning, the site returned a GitHub Pages error message and was no longer accessible. It had also disappeared from Google search results after being indexed for roughly six days. No explanation for its removal has been found, and the *Timberjay* has not identified any individual or group responsible for creating the site.

The *Timberjay* reached out to the Gulbranson campaign

for reaction and received this response from senior advisor Tracy Mayfield:

"Luke's not a politician who is going to engage in political games. He continues to focus on the issues making life harder for people doing their best to get by -- like lowering gas prices, restoring health care coverage to Northern Minnesotans and reversing the tax breaks handed out to billionaires and corporations that don't need them."

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ASSISTED LIVING

New ownership, management at Carefree Living making big changes

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

REGIONAL — When Oxford Living bought Carefree Living last year, residents in Babbitt and Ely noticed some changes. The biggest was new Executive Director Demetrius Bray.

“We always want to seek out individuals that show the combination of compassion and competency,” said Greg Fortier, national director of operations for Oxford Living. “Demetrius exemplified both qualities since we have met him. He has brought a fresh perspective and people-first leadership. Staff and residents make up the focal point of his leadership, and we feel that is the perfect representation on our company values.”

Bray is no stranger to working with the elderly.

“I’ve been doing this for 15 years,” he said. “I just love the older population, and I love serving them. Every day is something new. We learn so much from them.”

Spending time with residents is a part of the job that Bray really enjoys.

“I’ve formed great relationships with residents,” he said. “I love learning from them about the history of this area.”

The relationship goes both ways, said Janice Stellmach, a life-long Babbitt resident who now lives at the facility, acknowledging Demetrius is one of her favorite people. She said she wasn’t quite sure about him when he started, a large man with a booming deep voice, and not someone she thought she’d be friends with. “But now I feel like we are best friends. He always makes me smile.”

Residents in Ely share that fondness.

“He’s a good man and cares about the residents,” said Rick. “I love the daily activities and they keep us all busy. The food is great as well.”

Florence, who has lived at the Ely facility for 10 years, said, “I really like the new management team. They all come and see me daily, which I really enjoy.”

Niisa, a member of the life enrichment team in Babbitt, said she



Left: Demetrius Bray visits with a resident in Babbitt. Bray tries to check in with all the residents in each location when he is on site. Above: Dietary aide Ashley Rankin serves lunch to residents in Babbitt. Right: The Easter Bunny made a visit to residents in Ely. Below left: School-age students from the ECR program often visit residents in Ely.

photos by J. Summit and submitted by Carefree Living



loves being a part of the residents’ everyday life and being able to engage in activities with them.

“I love listening to their stories about their lives and building deeper connections with them. It is very important that every resident feels seen, heard, and valued,” Niisa said.

Both facilities offer a range of in-house activities almost every day, including exercises, crafts, Bible study, and many types of games.

“My favorite is the Bible study we do every Wednesday,” said Bonnie, a resident in Babbitt, who added the workers show a lot of dedication to their job and “you can tell that they truly care.”

Bray may also be familiar to folks in Tower-Soudan, having helped manage Vermilion Senior Living for a while.

“The biggest change with the

company is that we got positions filled with the right people, and we’ve had a consistent nursing staff,” he said.

But there’s another reason for the changes at the assisted living centers, and that has to do with the support received from the wider community.

“We get so much support from local businesses and churches,” he said. “They help at holidays and with birthday celebrations.”

The activities calendars at both locations are busy, and they do their best to get residents out in the community.

“We go out to movies in Ely and go out to eat at Grand Ely Lodge,” said Bray. “We also have karaoke, bingo, and card games. Residents really enjoy it when the community comes in and gets involved.”

Bray said they also do their best to get residents moving outdoors.

“I’ve never worked with groups that are this active,” he said. “They love doing things and love getting outdoors for walks.”

The food service is “as close to home cooking as you can get,” Bray said. Last Saturday, residents sat down for meatloaf, mashed potatoes, and gravy at lunchtime, a favorite according to residents. The kitchen also provides meals for those on special diets, and residents can order a different meal if they do not like what is on the menu.

Both locations have active Facebook pages, which highlight visits from community groups and special activities. Ely Community Resource often brings students over

for special afterschool activities, and college students also volunteer with residents.

Carefree Living is planning a community barbecue in both Ely and Babbitt. In Babbitt, “The Great Grill-Out” BBQ will be June 19 from 12 noon - 2 p.m., and in Ely, “Through the Time Capsule: Decades Drive-In” BBQ will be June 26 from 12 noon - 2 p.m.

Community members are invited to stop by for lunch, tour the facility, and meet the staff, Bray said.

Both the Babbitt and Ely locations have multiple room openings right now. Residents pay a lease on a monthly basis that covers room and three meals a day, plus nurses are on staff to help with whatever special health needs residents require. Rooms range from smaller studio apartments to larger double rooms. While assisted living is costly, fees do vary depending on the level of support required, and many residents qualify for financial assistance.

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NORTH WOODS SOFTBALL

Grizzlies pick up two wins against LBF, Chisholm

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP — North Woods showed both patience and production at the plate last Friday, turning a close early game into an 11-1 rout of Littlefork-Big Falls after unplayable field conditions forced the Grizzlies to move a scheduled home game to

Littlefork.

Trailing 1-0 after two innings, the Grizzlies flipped the game in a hurry, using a five-run third inning to seize control. From there, they never let up, adding three more runs in the fourth and three again in the sixth.

The third inning set the tone for everything that followed. With one out, Brynn

Chosa reached on a single and Evalyn Thiel followed with a walk to get things started. After Emarie Gibson singled to load the bases, Josie Gibson was hit by a pitch to force in the tying run.

North Woods then turned up the pressure on the bases. Chosa and J. Gibson each came home on steals, and a dropped third strike allowed another

run to score as the Grizzlies quickly seized control. Thiel added an RBI single later in the inning to cap a five-run surge that turned a 1-0 deficit into a 5-1 lead.

That pressure never really let up.

North Woods drew 11 walks in the game and consistently forced Littlefork-Big Falls to play from the stretch,

creating long innings and constant traffic on the bases. The Grizzlies paired that patience with aggressive baserunning, swiping bases throughout the lineup, with Lauren Burnett and Zoey Burckhardt each stealing three bases.

At the plate, Chosa led the way with three hits, while E. Gibson and Burnett each scored twice. Thiel drove in

two runs and reached base three times, and Anelise Brodeen added a triple as part of the team's 10-hit effort.

On the mound, Burckhardt was in control throughout. The right-hander scattered five hits, allowed one earned run, and struck out eight while issuing just one walk over six innings.

See **WINS...** pg. 2B

TRACK



North Woods' Kahlil Lightfeather-Spears laps the field during the 1,600-meter event.

photo by D. Colburn

Lightfeather-Spears leads Grizzlies

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP — The North Woods track teams competed in two meets this past week, getting standout performances from Kahlil

Lightfeather-Spears and Leah Las.

At the War Eagle Invitational At Deer River on Tuesday, the North Woods girls placed third with 73 points in a small-field meet, while the boys finished fourth.

With smaller rosters, the Grizzlies are often limited in how

many events they can contest, which caps their team scoring potential. At Deer River, North Woods entered just nine of 17 events on the girls' side and six of 18 on the boys' side, placing a greater emphasis on individual performances.

That individual strength was

most evident in the boys distance races, where Kahlil Lightfeather-Spears and Lincoln Antikainen continued the form they showed during the cross-country season. Lightfeather-Spears won both the

See **GRIZZLIES...** pg. 2B

ELY SOFTBALL

Wolves drop road game to Cherry

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

CHERRY — Ely dug an early hole and couldn't climb out Thursday, falling 9-3 to Cherry on the road.

Cherry jumped on the Timberwolves right out of the gate Thursday, scoring three in the first, adding one in the second, and pushing across four more in the third to build an 8-0 lead. By the time Ely settled in, the damage was done, and the Wolves were unable to recover.

That first stretch set the tone. Cherry used a mix of contact hitting and Ely miscues to scratch across three runs in the first, added another in the second, then really broke things open in the third with a string of singles that just kept finding grass. It wasn't one big hit, just steady pressure that kept producing runs.

To Ely's credit, they didn't fold.

The fourth inning finally gave the Wolves some life, and it came in a hurry. Julia Zgonc got things started with a single, Lucy Oelke followed with another, and suddenly the lineup had a pulse. Peyton Huntington drove in a run with a hit, then Makenzi Huntington came through with a two-run single to cut the deficit to 8-3.

That was as close as it got.

Cherry tacked on another run in the fifth, helped along by an error, and from there the game settled into a quieter rhythm. Ely had chances, putting runners on in the fifth, but couldn't come up with the hit to extend the rally.

Zoe MacKenzie went the distance in the circle for Ely, striking out five.

See **WOLVES...** pg. 2B

INVATIONALS

Ely girls take crown at track meet in Two Harbors

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

ELY — The Ely Timberwolves girls turned in a pair of strong team performances last week, highlighted by a meet win in Esko, while the boys added several top-three finishes across both competitions.

At the Two Harbors Invite in Esko on Tuesday, the Ely girls claimed the team title with 170.5 points, fueled by first-, second-, and third-place finishes across the track and in the field.

Violet Udovich led the way with a three-win day, taking first in the 100 meters in 12.31 seconds, the 200 in

25.85, and the 400 in 55.83. Annika Eastham added a win in the 100-meter hurdles in 18.48, while Mattie Lindsay won the 300 hurdles in 52.26 and Isabella Macho followed in second at 52.91.

In the distance events, Katy Brophy placed second in the 1600 meters in 6:12.35, with Elsa Ellerbroek third at

6:15.41. The 4x800 relay team of Lindsay, Ellerbroek, Macho, and Molly Brophy finished second in 10:56.94, while the 4x100 team of June Nelson, Stella Koivisto, Eastham, and Miriam Messerschmidt took third in 57.58.

Ely also scored in the field events. Lydia Shultz won both the high jump at 5-2 and the

long jump at 15-9.75, while Addison Forsman placed second in the long jump at 14-7.75. In discus, Kaylin Visser placed second at 111-2.

For the boys, Ely's top finish came in the 4x800 relay, where Oliver Hohenstein, Brooks Brenny, Wyatt Devine, and Otto Devine won in 8:51.79. Hohenstein

also placed third in the 800 meters in 2:12.40, while Blake Houde placed third in the 1600 in 4:54.77.

Grand Rapids Invite

At Grand Rapids last Thursday, the Ely girls again posted several top-three fin-

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

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CONFERENCE INVITATIONAL

North Woods, Northeast Range/Ely start golf season

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL — The North Woods boys golf team opened its season with a fourth-place finish Monday at the GNK East Range

Conference invitational at Swan Lake Country Club in Pengilly, carding a team score of 178 in the seven-team field.

Brayden Amundson paced the Grizzlies with a 43, good for a tie for ninth, while Jordan Herdman

followed close behind with a 44 to tie for 12th. Gage Aune shot a 45 to place 16th, and Sawyer Glass rounded out the scoring four with a 46, tying for 17th.

With four golfers finishing in the top 20, the Grizzlies showed

early signs of the depth needed to stay competitive in the conference this season.

Northeast Range/Ely finished seventh with a team total of 250. Jayden Zemke led the Nighthawks with a 54, tying for 37th. Rhett

Johnson added a 60, while Tyler Fritsch shot a 63 and Mason Spate-Kurnava completed the team scoring with a 73.

International Falls won the meet with a team score of 164, while Paxton Sivonen earned medalist honors with a one-over-par 37.

GRIZZLIES...Continued from page 1B



Above, members of the North Woods track team compete in the 400-meter race, Aubrey Olson-Stoltenberg (left) and Rylie Gibson (right). At right, a North Woods Leah Las jumps over a hurdle.

photo by D. Colburn

1,600 meters in 5:04.7 and the 3,200 meters in 11:30.0, while Antikainen finished second in both races, clocking 5:07.9 in the 1,600 and 12:06.8 in the 3,200.

On the girls side, Leah Las led the way with wins in the 200 meters in 30.2 and the 400 meters in 1:08.0 and added a third-place finish in the 100-meter hurdles in 20.4. Corra Brodeen added a third-place finish in the 200 meters in 30.3, while the 4x200 relay team of Carsyn Burnett, Brittan Koskela, Josie Pascuzzi, and Kady Scofield placed second in 2:16.7. Las also added a second-place finish in the long jump at 13-7.

At the Mesabi East Early Bird in Aurora last Thursday, the Grizzlies recorded several top-three finishes.

Lightfeather-Spears won both the 1,600 meters in 5:02.79 and the 3,200 meters in 11:16.01, while Antikainen placed second in the 1,600 in 5:10.32 and third in the 3,200 in 12:04.41.

For the girls, Las turned in a first-place finish in the 400 meters in 1:09.80, while Corra Brodeen added a third-place finish in the 200 meters in 30.95.

War Eagle results

Girls – Top 10 placers

100 meters: Josie Pascuzzi, 4th, 14.9; Corra Brodeen, 7th, 15.7; Kady Scofield, 8th, 16.2; Rylie Gibson, 8th, 16.2; Carsyn Burnett, 10th, 16.5
200 meters: Leah Las, 1st, 30.2; Brodeen, 3rd, 30.3; Scofield, 6th, 32.4; Gibson, 8th, 32.9
400 meters: Las, 1st, 1:08.0; Aubrey Olson-Stoltenberg, 2nd, 1:10.2; Burnett, 6th, 1:20.4
1600 meters: Brittan Koskela, 4th, 7:11.6
100m hurdles: Las, 3rd, 20.4; Pascuzzi, 7th, 22.2



4x200 relay: North Woods A, 2nd, 2:16.7, Burnett, Koskela, Pascuzzi, Scofield
Long jump: Las, 2nd, 13' 7"; Brodeen, 4th, 11' 6"; Pascuzzi, 5th, 11' 2.5"; Burnett, 10th, 10' 1"

Boys – Top 10 placers

100 meters: Vinny Pascuzzi, 7th, 12.7
200 meters: Sydney Olson-Stoltenberg, 8th, 30.8
400 meters: Kahlil Lightfeather-Spears, 5th, 1:01.3; Pascuzzi, 7th, 1:03.2
1600 meters: Lightfeather-Spears, 1st, 5:04.7; Lincoln Antikainen, 2nd, 5:07.9
3200 meters: Lightfeather-Spears, 1st, 11:30.0; Antikainen, 2nd, 12:06.8
Long jump: Antikainen, 5th, 15' 6"; Pascuzzi, 8th, 14' 8.5"

Mesabi East results

Girls – Top 10 placers

200 meters: Corra Brodeen, 3rd, 30.95; Leah Las, 4th, 31.05
400 meters: Las, 1st, 1:09.80; Aubrey Olson-Stoltenberg, 3rd, 1:12.33; Brodeen, 5th, 1:12.70; Rylie Gibson, 9th, 1:15.13
100m hurdles: Las, 5th, 20.85
Long jump: Las, 5th, 13-06.50; Brodeen, 7th, 13-00.50
Boys – Top 10 placers
100 meters: Andrew Hartway, 8th, 13.12
200 meters: Hartway, 8th, 26.31
400 meters: Kahlil Lightfeather-Spears, 8th, 1:01.53
1600 meters: Lightfeather-Spears, 1st, 5:02.79; Lincoln Antikainen, 2nd, 5:10.32
3200 meters: Lightfeather-Spears, 1st, 11:16.01; Antikainen, 3rd, 12:04.41
Long jump: Hartway, 6th, 16-08.50; Antikainen, 7th, 15-07.50; Vinny Pascuzzi, 9th, 15-05.50

WOLVES...Continued from page 1B

Cherry finished with 10 hits, while the Timberwolves collected seven of their own,

but couldn't string together enough of them outside that fourth inning burst.

Zgonc led the way at the plate with two hits, while Peyton Huntington,

Makenzi Huntington, Oelke, and Grace Flynn each added one. The Huntington sisters

accounted for all three RBIs. A scheduled home contest against Mesabi East

on Monday was postponed due to unfavorable field conditions.

ELY...Continued from page 1B

ishes. Udovich won the 100 meters in 12.52, while Lucy Dunn placed third in the 3200 in 16:10.48. The 4x400 relay team of Lydia Shultz, Lindsay, Addison Forsman, and Messerschmidt placed third in 4:24.67.

Ely dominated the discus, where Kaylin Visser won at 101-11 and Alyssa Ice finished second at 93-2. Shultz also won the long jump at 15-4.5, while she and Udovich tied for first in the high jump at 5-2.

For the boys, Hohenstein placed third in the 800 meters in 2:14.34, and the 4x800 relay team of Hohenstein, Brenny, Grady Anderson, and Otto Devine finished second in 9:11.44.

Two Harbors results

Girls – Top 10 placers

100 meters: Violet Udovich, 1st, 12.31; Lydia Shultz, 4th, 13.53; Miriam Messerschmidt, 7th, 14.10
200 meters: Udovich, 1st, 25.85
400 meters: Udovich, 1st, 55.83
800 meters: Addison Kannas, 7th, 2:53.26
1600 meters: Katy Brophy, 2nd, 6:12.35; Elsa Ellerbroek, 3rd, 6:15.41; Ivy Ohlhauser, 7th, 6:39.99
3200 meters: Lucy Dunn, 9th, 15:56.85; Molly Lindsay, 10th, 17:26.63
100m hurdles: Annika Eastham, 1st, 18.48; Lillie O'Neill, 4th, 19.54
300m hurdles: Mattie Lindsay, 1st, 52.26; Isabella Macho, 2nd, 52.91; Eastham, 5th, 58.16; O'Neill, 8th, 1:00.16
4x100 relay: Ely A, 3rd, 57.58, June Nelson, Stella Koivisto, Eastham, Messerschmidt
4x200 relay: Ely A, 5th, 2:11.03, Lizzy Merriman, Chantel Ridings, O'Neill, Kaija Shultz
4x800 relay: Ely A, 2nd, 10:56.94, M. Lindsay, Ellerbroek, Macho, Molly Brophy; Ely B, 4th, 11:33.57,

Kannas, Maddie Johnson, Ohlhauser, Katy Brophy
Shot put: Kylie Moser, 5th, 26' 1.5"; Maddie Tome, 8th, 24' 10.5"; Ivy Wickoren, 10th, 23' 3.5"
Discus: Kaylin Visser, 2nd, 111' 2"; Alyssa Ice, 5th, 84' 5"; Addison Forsman, 6th, 81' 4"; Moser, 8th, 74' 10"; Ellerbroek, 10th, 69' 0"
High jump: L. Shultz, 1st, 5' 2"; K. Shultz, 5th, 4' 4"; Macho, 10th, 4' 2"
Long jump: L. Shultz, 1st, 15' 9.75"; Forsman, 2nd, 14' 7.75"; M. Lindsay, 8th, 13' 3.25"
Triple jump: Forsman, 4th, 30' 2.5"; Eastham, 6th, 28' 8.5"
Boys – Top 10 placers
400 meters: Brooks Brenny, 10th, 57.74
800 meters: Oliver Hohenstein, 3rd, 2:12.40; Wyatt Devine, 4th, 2:15.21
1600 meters: Blake Houde, 3rd, 4:54.77; Oren Solum, 4th, 5:10.89; Grady Anderson, 5th, 5:14.82
110m hurdles: Toivo

Forsman, 5th, 20.56; Elliot Eastham, 6th, 22.01
300m hurdles: Forsman, 7th, 52.77; Eastham, 9th, 56.10
4x100 relay: Ely A, 8th, 52.55, Jack Rintala, John Schiltz, Noah Axlesson, Summit Smith
4x200 relay: Ely A, 8th, 1:59.71, Liam Kurnava, Chase Kvistad, Avery Ellerbroek, Jackson Ridings
4x400 relay: Ely A, 5th, 3:58.30, Hohenstein, Otto Devine, Brenny, Schiltz
4x800 relay: Ely A, 1st, 8:51.79, Hohenstein, Brenny, W. Devine, O. Devine
High jump: Aksel Skustad, 6th, 4' 10"

Grand Rapids results

Girls – Top 10 placers

100 meters: Violet Udovich, 1st, 12.52
200 meters: Miriam Messerschmidt, 8th, 29.49
400 meters: Lizzy Merriman, 8th, 1:13.29
3200 meters: Lucy Dunn, 3rd, 16:10.48

100m hurdles: Annika Eastham, 6th, 19.33; Lillie O'Neill, 10th, 20.17
300m hurdles: Isabella Macho, 4th, 53.07; Mattie Lindsay, 5th, 53.37; Eastham, 10th, 59.19
4x100 relay: Ely B, 7th, 59.85, June Nelson, Merriman, Eastham, Kaija Shultz; Ely A, 8th, 1:00.69, O'Neill, Chantel Ridings, Stella Koivisto, Sydney Cooley
4x200 relay: Ely A, 5th, 2:04.80, Messerschmidt, Shultz, Koivisto, Cooley
4x400 relay: Ely A, 3rd, 4:24.67, Lydia Shultz, Lindsay, Addison Forsman, Messerschmidt
4x800 relay: Ely A, 5th, 10:54.26, Lindsay, Elsa Ellerbroek, Macho, Molly Brophy; Ely B, 6th, 11:30.05, Addison Kannas, Payson Kundinger, Ivy Ohlhauser, Katy Brophy
Shot put: Kylie Moser, 7th, 26' 7"
Discus: Kaylin Visser, 1st, 101' 11"; Alyssa Ice, 2nd, 93' 2"; Forsman, 7th, 86' 10";

Moser, 9th, 81' 1"
High jump: L. Shultz, 1st, 5' 2"; Udovich, 1st, 5' 2"; Macho, 7th, 4' 6"
Long jump: L. Shultz, 1st, 15' 4.5"; Forsman, 7th, 13' 9"
Triple jump: Forsman, 6th, 29' 5.5"
Boys – Top 10 placers
800 meters: Oliver Hohenstein, 3rd, 2:14.34
1600 meters: Blake Houde, 10th, 5:09.18
110m hurdles: Toivo Forsman, 7th, 21.27; Elliot Eastham, 10th, 22.59
4x100 relay: Ely A, 7th, 53.94, Jack Rintala, John Schiltz, Noah Axlesson, Summit Smith
4x200 relay: Ely A, 7th, 2:00.26, Liam Kurnava, Avery Ellerbroek, Jackson Ridings, Chase Kvistad
4x400 relay: Ely A, 7th, 3:58.56, Hohenstein, Otto Devine, Brooks Brenny, Schiltz
4x800 relay: Ely A, 2nd, 9:11.44, Hohenstein, Brenny, Grady Anderson, Devine

WINS...Continued from page 1B

Chisholm

North Woods had to work a little harder Tuesday, overcoming an early deficit to earn a 9-5 win over Chisholm.

The Bluestreaks jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the second inning, taking advantage of a pair of North Woods errors and timely hitting to put the Grizzlies on their heels.

North Woods answered in the third. After putting runners aboard, Burckhardt delivered the key swing of the inning, driving a triple into the outfield that brought home three runs and evened the score at 3-3.

The teams traded momentum from there. North Woods took a 4-3 lead in the fifth when Chosa stole home, but

Chisholm answered with a solo home run to tie the game again at 4-4.

The Grizzlies regained control in the sixth, using a string of hits and aggressive baserunning to push across two runs and take a 6-4 lead. North Woods continued to apply pressure on the bases throughout the game, repeat-

edly taking extra bases and forcing Chisholm into hurried defensive plays.

North Woods added insurance in the seventh. Burnett started the rally with a double, and Burckhardt followed with another triple that drove in a run. Ella Kruse added an RBI single later in the inning, and the Grizzlies con-

tinued to pressure the defense, with Kruse eventually coming home on a steal to extend the lead to 9-4.

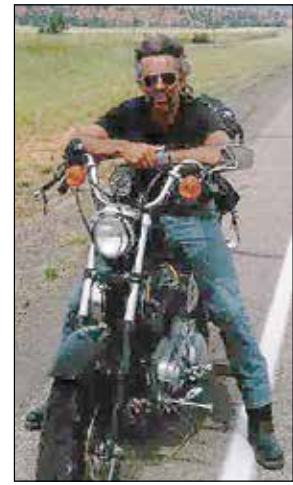
Chisholm scored once in the bottom of the seventh, but the Grizzlies closed it out without further damage.

At the plate, North Woods pounded out 15 hits. J. Gibson led the way with

three hits, while Chosa and E. Gibson each added two. Burckhardt helped her own cause with two hits, including a pair of triples, and three runs batted in.

On the mound, Burckhardt went the distance, allowing five runs, two earned, on nine hits while striking out nine and walking two.

Obituaries and Death Notices

**Timothy L. Kotzian**

Timothy Lee Kotzian, 77, of Tower, died peacefully on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, at Essentia Medical Center in Virginia. A memorial service is planned for Saturday, June 13, starting at 12:30 p.m. at the Lamppa Civic Center in Tower. At his request, Tim's remains will be interred in his favorite Arco coffee can. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home of Virginia.

Tim was born in Virginia on Jan. 31, 1949, and was raised in Tower by his parents, Edward Kotzian and Regina "Tootsie" Chibotti Kotzian. He was a graduate of Tower-Soudan High School, where he met his high school sweetheart, prom date and future wife, Nancy Eidelbes.

Following graduation, he went on to earn a BA in Education from Bemidji State University. Tim worked in mining during the summers of his college years, but became a teacher following his graduation, initially working in Marshfield, Wis., for three years before returning to Tower, where he spent the rest of his life.

Tim worked construction for a time before securing a teaching position at the Tower-Soudan School. When a round of layoffs came, he made a career switch that proved significant, initially working as the manager of the Tower municipal liquor store before assuming the position of the city's clerk-treasurer in the early 1980s. Tim

was well-suited to the position and he devoted himself to the city's success for the nearly three decades that he served in the role. He was successful in bringing millions of dollars in funding to the city to replace and expand infrastructure and he was instrumental in advancing the vision of restoring the harbor.

Tim kept his hand in education, however, even as he worked for the city. He served several terms on the Tower-Soudan School Board, including as board chair. During his tenure, he helped engineer the consolidation of the struggling district with the St. Louis County schools. Tim also saw the potential of the city's former fire hall. He bought the building in the 1980s with Charles Cathcart and spent hundreds of hours stabilizing the foundation and renovating portions of the building, effectively saving it from demolition. His efforts have been credited with saving the historic building for the more extensive renovations undertaken by the Tower-Soudan Historical Society.

Throughout his adult years, Tim loved spending time with his family, particularly time in the outdoors with his three boys, Jeb, Luke and Jordan. They built two log cabins on Lake Vermilion and a hunting shack near Buyck, and Tim was always at his happiest when spending time there. He enjoyed fishing and carrying a rifle while "deer hunting" though he preferred to leave the shooting to others, taking on the roles of camp cook and sauna tender instead.

Tim suffered a massive stroke in 2011, and it forced him to retire from the city and left him with many months of rehabilitation to learn even the basics of living again. But Tim persevered and regained most of his former abilities even though some health issues remained. As his health conditions worsened over the years, Nancy devoted her life to caring for him at home

until his final hours.

Tim is survived by his wife, Nancy; siblings, Keith (Sue) Kotzian, Bruce (Annette) Kotzian, Corrinne (Dan) Hill and Rochelle (Steve) Bradow; sons, Jeb, Luke and Jordan; daughters-in-law, Bobbi and Darcy; and grandchildren, Nick, Jake, Adria, Joe, Zahven and Viggo.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and a young son, Aaron.

**Kathryn M. Vogh**

Kathryn Marie Vogh, 82, of Lake Vermilion-Tower, passed away peacefully on Friday, April 17, 2026, at Essentia Health-St. Mary's Hospital in Duluth. A funeral service will be held at 3 p.m. on Friday, April 24 at Kerntz Funeral Home in Ely. Visitation will take place one hour prior to the service. A celebration of life will follow at the Vermilion Club on Lake Vermilion in Tower. Funeral arrangements are entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

Kathy was born on Dec. 5, 1943, in Pipestone, to Gerald and Ruth Evans, one of thirteen children in a close-knit family. Kathy graduated from Pipestone High School before moving to Minneapolis to attend business college, where she formed friendships that would last a lifetime. A small-town girl embracing city life, she carried her warmth and spirit wherever she went. On Jan. 13, 1968, she married Victor Vogh, beginning a lifelong

partnership built on love and shared dreams. Together, they made their home in Eagan before eventually settling on Lake Vermilion in Tower in 1976, a place close to their hearts and one they had long dreamed of calling home to raise a family there.

Kathy and Vic welcomed their son, Craig Alan, in May 1968, and their daughter, Lynn Marie, in May 1970. Kathy devoted herself to her family as a homemaker, taking great joy in being present for her children's lives. She was actively involved in school activities and helped lead a local 4-H club, always taking a genuine and loving interest in the lives of her children and their friends. She also devoted many years of service to the Greenwood Township Auxiliary, serving as treasurer and contributing to the meaningful impact the organization and its members made within the community.

Kathy had a giving nature and quietly helped others when she could, including assisting with home cleaning. She found her greatest happiness in time spent with family and friends, whether enjoying summers on the lake, winter snowmobile rides, attending concerts, sewing, baking or traveling with her daughter. She cherished her large and loving family, including her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, siblings, nieces, nephews, and dear friends who became like family. Kathy's kindness was constant and sincere, and those who knew her will remember the warmth and love she shared so freely.

Kathy is lovingly remembered by her children, Craig (Sheri Hendricks) Vogh of Tower and Lynn (Terry) Kerntz of Ely; grandchildren, Tyler (Nicole) Vogh, Ashley (Tyler) Lund, Travis (Nissa Honkola) Vogh, Patrick (MacKenzie) Kerntz and Steven Kerntz; cherished great-grandchildren, Blake Pineo-Vogh, Brynneley Lund, Liam Autio, Meleeah Autio, Jay Vogh, Jonah Vogh, Kaiya Kerntz and

Carson Kerntz, with another great-grandson expected in June 2026. She is also survived by her siblings, Raymond (Ginny) Evans, Lucille (James) Klein, Barbara (Gary) Jopp, Bonnie Sexton, Mary (Gary) Anderson, Gloria Evans, Jim (Mary) Evans, Janelle (Randy) Gorter, Dennis (Jennifer) Evans, Joyce Crawford and Jerry (Ruth) Evans; sisters-in-law, Karen Vogh, Ginny Klinger, and Velma Rierson; and many beloved nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews and other extended family. She is also fondly remembered by Marcy Vogh, mother to three of her grandchildren; and many dear friends who were like family to her.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Victor "Vic" Vogh in 2002; parents, Gerald and Ruth Evans; father- and mother-in-law, Charles and Lucille Vogh; sister, Geri Raatz; brother, Ron Evans; and brothers- and sisters-in-law, Brian Crawford, Steve Sexton, Ron Raatz, Vern Vogh and Vi Hildebrandt.

Carole E. Engel

Carole Elizabeth Engel, 81, of Crane Lake, passed away on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, in Rapid City, S.D., after a courageous battle with failing lungs. A celebration of life will be held in Crane Lake in June, with a second gathering in Rapid City in November. Details will be shared with family and friends as they are finalized. Carole's faith carried her through life's journey, and we take comfort in knowing she now rests in the Lord's eternal peace. E Ho'omaha Me Ka Maluhia. Rest in peace, Carole.

Carole was born on Aug. 5, 1944, in Rochester. She lived a life that was rich with adventure, love, and a stubborn determination that anyone who knew her would recognize in an instant.

Carole graduated from John Marshall High School in Rochester in 1962 and on June 9 of that same year, she

married the love of her life, Gary Engel, which kicked off what can only be described as a full-value life. Together, Carole and Gary built a world of adventure, from piloting float plane trips into the Canadian wilderness to traveling the globe. They made a home on a lake in Linwood, kept a cabin in Togo, and eventually turned a cabin on Kingfisher Island on Sandpoint Lake in Ontario, Canada, into their full-time residence. When winter rolled around, you could find Carole and Gary soaking up the warmth on Molokai, embracing the island life they loved so dearly. When traveling to Hawaii was too difficult, Carole and Gary wintered in Rapid City, S.D.

Carole had a creative streak and spent many happy hours painting Santa Claus statues, a hobby that brought joy to everyone who received one. She was also an active member of her community, serving as the gambling manager for the local snowmobile club. And for those wondering, yes, she did change her name from Carol to Carole, because that was just the kind of woman she was. When she decided something, that was that.

Carole is remembered by her family and loved ones. She is survived by her devoted husband, Gary Engel; daughter, Wendy (Greg) Mercil; son, Jeff Engel; five grandchildren, Megan (Casey) Iossi, Andrea (Robert) Sokoloski, Sam (Jennifer) Engel, Rachel (Zach) Lindsey and Sara Engel; and five great-grandchildren, Wesley, Ryleigh, Mason, Liam and Cooper.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Elizabeth Burch; father, Orrin Seeverts; father-in-law, Everett Engel; mother-in-law, Lois Engel; sister, Donna (Keith) Mathews; brother, Bill Seeverts; stepbrother, Terry Kopperud; and stepsister, Sandy Kopperud.

Eunice A. Przybylski

Eunice Arlene Dietrich Przybylski, 92, formerly of Ely and Babbitt, found peace on the morning of Tuesday, April 14, 2026, after a courageous battle with dementia. She passed away at Monroe Manor Assisted Living in Barron, Wis. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 2 at First Lutheran Church in Ely, with visitation beginning at 10 a.m.

She is survived by her son, Vance Przybylski; daughter, Susan Colvin; grandchildren, Brent Ackerman, Chandra Colvin and Isabelle Przybylski; great-granddaughter, Brooke Ackerman; sisters, Laura May and Judy Hendrickson; sisters-in-law, Donna Przybylski and Susie Przybylski; extended family, the Camerons; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Robert A. Kallio

Robert Allan "Bob" Kallio, 84, of Aurora and Embarrass, passed away on Sunday, April 19, 2026, at home under hospice care. Funeral services will be held

at 11 a.m. on Friday, April 24, with visitation at 10 a.m., at Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Aurora with Pastor Greg Anderson officiating. Interment will be at the Waasa Cemetery in Embarrass. In lieu of flowers, donations can be given to Sisu Heritage, Inc., Box 71, Embarrass, MN 55732, the Our Saviors Quilters, or a charity of choice. A big thank you to the Moments Hospice Team especially Susan, Maddie and Katie for the wonderful care and compassion they gave him.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Lorna Haberman Kallio; sons, Kevin (Trish) of Embarrass, David (Jen) of Wynne Lake-Aurora and Curt (Teresa) of Chaska; brothers, Eugene of Lincoln, Calif., Kenneth (Barb) of Embarrass, Fred (Nancy) of Two Harbors and Dumer (Steph) of Cloquet; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews; and many special friends.

THANK YOU

21ST ANNUAL SPRING AUCTION & BANQUET RECOGNITION

We want to express our heartfelt thanks to our generous donors and bidders for making our 2026 auction and banquet successful. We are continually astounded by the support from our community, from both businesses and individuals. Ely Young Life would truly not exist without you. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for supporting the youth of our community with your endless generosity.

ELY.YOUNGLIFE.ORG

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AJ's Fast Lube Andrea & Neil Lepisto Anna Thompson Ardle Swanson Arrowhead Outdoors Autumn Cole Bloomers Floral and Gift Blue Loon Boutique Boat Club Restaurant Boathouse Brewpub & Restaurant BoB-a-Q Bob Kaiser Boundary Waters Rockscape Boundary Waters Septic Brainstorm Bakery Brandenburg Gallery Brenda Olson Britton's CABI - Anne Hunter Canoe Country Outfitters Carly Curtiss Carrie-Mels - Carrie Kottke Carol Stahl Chris Koivisto Char Colarich Chuck Wick Cindy Bina Claire High Cove Point Lodge Custom Crafts by Candace D & D Accounting Dairy Queen Dale's on Lake of the Woods Dan MacCoy Chimney Sweeps Dan's Garage Dave Today Dawn Anderson Debbie Erzar Dennis Kaetterhenry Dick's Welding Dirty Dog Manufacturing Dock on Wheels Domino's Pizza Dutchman Tree Service Ely Auto Ely Chiropractic Clinic Ely Family Dental Ely Fire Department Ely Flower & Seed Ely Golf Club Ely License Bureau Ely Memorial High School Ely Mercantile Co. Ely Surplus Ely Veterinary Clinic Ely Vision Center Ely's Historic State Theater 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engen Family Eric Sherman Images Erika Bagge Erin Moravitz Étoile du Nord Evan Faltesek Evergreen Cottage Fisher Maps Five Pines Candles Forest Concrete Fortune Bay Resort Gator's Emporium Gene Hicks Gourmet Coffee Gracie's Plant Works Grand Ely Lodge Great Lakes Aquarium Greg Dannenbring Gunflint Lodge Healthy Family Chiropractic Insula International Wolf Center Janet Dunnom Jan Rue Jeff Kelley Jessie Brooks Massage Jim Schwartz Jo Holen Joe and Mary Blanco Joe's Marine Justin Olson Kris Kidd KTIS Northwestern L & M Supply - Virginia LaTourell's Resort Life 97.3 Log Cabin Coffee Low Impact Excavating Lucky 7 Store - Ely Margie Nesteroff Mealey's Gift & Sauna Merhar's Ace Hardware Mike Nielsen Logging NAPA Auto Parts North American Bear Center Northern Expressions Northern Lights Salon Northern Tier North Shore Camping Company Orcutt Guide Service Paulette Gilbert Piragis Northwoods Co. Portage North Randy Greiner Range LP Gas Raven Words Press 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Razor Edge Systems, Inc. Rusty Nail Woodcraft Sharon Svatos Sheridan Street Deli Smith's Piano Tuning Spirit of the Wilderness Stan & Joyce Passananti Stan Skelton Stephen Lee Steve Kleist St Paul Saints Studio North Sue Chernak Sue Mischke Sue Pasmick Sundell Eye Associates Susan Laine Swanson Excavating Tara Kay Photography The Cabin Thomas Erickson Three Jewels Pottery Tim's Auto Thomas Erickson Tom Wetzel & Larry Mischke Tupperware - Peggy Erzar Vermillion Veterinary Clinic Wade Pharr Pottery Waschke Family Chrysler Wellness Consulting Wilderness Wood Fire Pizza Woffland Computers & Hobby Young Life Students Zup's Food Market - Ely Zup's Food Market - Babbitt
<p>A special thank you to the following for making our Spring Banquet a success:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boundary Waters Catering Ely Area Community Foundation - The Hub Ely Echo & Chris Ellerbroek Ely Shopper Larry Reedy - Auctioneer Max Garritt - Guest Speaker Northwoods Partners Timberjay Newspapers <p>Financial Contributions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brian Berrini Agency Ely Area Credit Union Frandsen Bank OJS HVAC and Refrigeration INC Matt & Sherry Penke RMS - Virginia Trembath Welding 		

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EMPLOYMENT

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Stop in and apply or call 218-365-6210 to schedule an interview. 4/24

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- Must have clean driving record
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- Must be able to walk on uneven ground
- Must be self-motivated

5/8

JOB OPENING – CITY OF ORR Visitor Information Specialist/ Office Assistant (PT, seasonal)

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

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

Published in the Timberjay, April 17 & 24, 2026

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PUBLIC NOTICE

EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP
Important Information Regarding Assessment and Classification of Property
This may affect your 2027 property tax payments.

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeal and Equalization of the Township of Eagles Nest shall meet on Friday, May 8, 10 AM at 1552 Bear Head State Park Road Ely, MN 55731 The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether taxable property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor, and also to determine whether corrections need to be made.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you are still not satisfied with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the local board of appeal and equalization. The board shall review the valuation, classification, or both if necessary, and shall correct it as needed. Generally, an appearance before your local board of appeal and equalization is required by law before an appeal can be taken to your county board of appeal and equalization.

Keely Drange, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, April 24, 2026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Eagles Nest Township,,
County of St. Louis

Notice is hereby given that the Eagles Nest Township Board of Supervisors will hold a Public Hearing on a proposed Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 01-26-01 Establishing an OHV Overlay District on May 5, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. at Eagles Nest Town Hall located at 1552 Bear Head State Park Road, Ely, MN.

By Keely Drange, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, April 24, 2026

CALL FOR BIDS
CONCRETE CONTRACTORS

Please call Greg Dostert at 218-248-0648 for site inspection and job specs.

The owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

To pour basement slab at the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center. Bids to be opened on Friday, May 1 at 1 p.m. at the LVCC.

Published in the Timberjay, April 24, 2026

Legal notices are online each week timberjay.com and on www.mnpublicnotice.com/

PUBLIC NOTICE

Advertisement for Bids
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186608

1-872-242-7640
375662019# United States, Chicago
Phone conference ID: 375 662 019#

Any person monitoring the meeting remotely may be responsible for any documented costs. Message and data rates may apply.

Notice is hereby given that Online Bids will be received by the City of Tower until 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, April 28, 2026, via QuestCDN for the furnishing of all labor and material for the Ranch Hangar Construction.

The Bidding Documents may be viewed for no cost at <http://www.sehinc.com> by selecting the Project Bid Information link at the bottom of the page and the View Plans option from the menu at the top of the selected project page.

The bid opening will be conducted via Microsoft Teams, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud:

2026 RANCH HANGAR CONSTRUCTION Bid Opening
APRIL 28, 2026 AT 11:00 A.M. (CDT)

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone: <https://bit.ly/4cddtS8>

Or call in (audio only)

Digital image copies of the Bidding Documents are available at <http://www.sehinc.com> for a fee of \$30. These documents may be downloaded by selecting this project from the "Project Bid Information" link and by entering eBidDocTM

Number 10150765 on the SEARCH PROJECTS page. For assistance and free membership registration, contact QuestCDN at 952.233.1632 or info@questcdn.com.

For this project, bids will ONLY be received electronically. Contractors submitting an electronic bid will be charged an additional \$42 at the time of bid submission via the online electronic bid service QuestCDN.com. To access the electronic Bid Worksheet, download the project document and click the online bidding button at the top of the advertisement. Prospective bidders must be on the plan holders list through QuestCDN for bids to be accepted. Bids shall be completed according to the Bidding Requirements prepared by SEH dated April 11, 2024.

A pre-Bid conference will not be held for this project.

Bid security in the amount of 5 percent of the Bid must accompany each Bid in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

This Work shall be subject to minimum wages and labor standards in accordance with U.S. Department of Labor and the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry.

The City of Tower reserves the right to reject any and all Bids, to waive irregularities and informalities therein and to award the Contract in the best interests of the City of Tower.

Tammy Mortaloni
City Administrator
Tower, Minnesota

Published in the Timberjay, April 10, 17 & 24, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE LOCAL BOARD OF APPEAL AND EQUALIZATION FOR OWENS TOWNSHIP
Will meet Monday, May 4, 2026, from 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
At the Cook Community Center, 510 E Johnson Rd., Cook, MN

The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether taxable property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect please contact the St. Louis County Assessor's Office to discuss your concerns. Often issues can be resolved at this level.

If you disagree with the valuation or classification after discussing with your assessor, you may file an appeal with your Local Board of Appeal and Equalization.

If you intend to appeal, mail your appeal and supporting documentation to arrive prior to the meeting to:
Rick Deatherage, Owens Township Clerk, PO Box 95, Cook, MN 55723.

Published in the Timberjay, April 24, 2026

GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP
LAWN MOWING AT GREENWOOD TOWN HALL COMPLEX

The Greenwood Township Board is accepting quotes for the lawn mowing at the Town Hall for the 2026-2027 season. The quote should state the cost of mowing and trimming all areas of the Town Hall complex at 3000 Hwy 77, Tower MN 55790. The contractor must provide a certificate of insurance as to general liability insurance coverage. Successful candidates must carry equipment and general liability insurance for no less than \$1,000,000.00 for personal injury and property damage.

Quotes are to be sent or delivered by May 6, 2026, to Township Clerk at 3000 Hwy 77, Tower MN 55790, or clerk@greenwoodtownshipmn.com

The township reserves the right to reject any or all quotes, to waive any irregularities and to accept any quote deemed most advantageous to the Township.

Theresa Martinson, Greenwood Township Clerk, 218-753-2231

Published in the Timberjay, April 24, 2026

ALANGO TOWNSHIP BIDS FOR CEMETERY CARE

The Alango Township board is taking bids for summer 2026 Alango cemetery care. Mowing to begin in May and end in September. Must have liability insurance, own your own lawn mower and trimmer and must be over the age of 18.

For more information and a complete job description contact by phone or text 218-780-1182. Bids MUST be received by May 10. Bids will be open at the next board meeting May 12, 2026.

Published in the Timberjay, April 24 & May 1, 2026

Read It Here

Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

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

1. Veranda	___ R ___	Kangaroo's sack	___ U ___
2. Calvary sword	___ A ___	Not drunk	___ O ___
3. Navigate	___ T ___	Translucent	___ H ___
4. Clothes room	___ T ___	Late-inning pitcher	___ R ___
5. Agile	___ I ___	Wood planks	___ U ___
6. Tote	___ C ___	Take to the altar	___ M ___
7. Run down hut	___ C ___	Mako or tiger	___ R ___
8. Catchy ad tune	___ J ___	Socialize	___ M ___
9. Place a bet	___ G ___	Irrigate	___ T ___
10. Dean or Short	___ T ___	Hemingway's fish	___ L ___

NOTICE OF VACANCY ST. LOUIS COUNTY CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

The St. Louis County Board of Commissioners will be appointing on alternate member to a six-year term on the St. Louis County Civil Service Commission. The Civil Service Commission oversees the administration of the County's merit system of employment by approving and enforcing rules, hearing appeals and complaints. Applicants cannot hold or be a candidate for public office, may not hold any public employment, or hold a position in a political party within two years immediately preceding appointment, and must be a resident of St. Louis County. There are usually two (2) meetings scheduled per month (1:30 pm - 2:00 pm on Mondays). At least four meetings per year are scheduled in range cities. Periodic hearings may be significantly longer. For additional information, please contact James R. Gottschald, Deputy County Administrator - Human Resources, Administration & Governance for St. Louis County at 218-725-5066 or gottschaldj@stlouiscountymn.gov.

Persons interested in serving on this commission should submit an application to: Phil Chapman, Deputy County Auditor, St. Louis County Courthouse, Room 214, 100 North 5th Avenue West, Duluth, MN 55802. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. To apply online, go to www.stlouiscountymn.gov/clerk and click "Application for Citizen Advisory Committee."

Applications are also available in the County Auditor's Office in the Duluth Courthouse and the Government Services Center in Virginia, and in the Ely Government Services Building, or by emailing chapmanp@stlouiscountymn.gov or calling 218-726-2385.

NANCY J. NILSEN, COUNTY AUDITOR-TREASURER
By: Phil Chapman, Deputy Auditor

Published in the Timberjay, April 17 & 24, 2026

GENERAL NOTICE TO CONTROL OR ERADICATE NOXIOUS WEEDS

Notice is hereby given this day of April 22, 2026 pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 18.83, Subdivision 1 (2015), that all persons in St. Louis County, Minnesota, shall control or eradicate all noxious weeds on land they occupy or are required to maintain. Control or eradication may be accomplished by any lawful method, but the method(s) applied may need to be repeated in order to prevent the spread of viable noxious weed seeds and other propagating parts to other lands. Failure to comply with the general notice may mean that an individual notice, Minnesota Statutes, Section 18.83, Subdivision 2 (2015), will be issued. An individual notice may be appealed within two working days of receipt to the appeal committee in the county where the land is located. Failure to comply with an individual notice will mean that the inspector having jurisdiction may either hire the work done or seek a misdemeanor charge against the person(s) who failed to comply. If the work hired is done by the inspector, the cost can be placed as a tax upon the land and collected as other real estate taxes are collected. You may obtain a list of the plants that are designated as noxious weeds and the members of the appeal committee from your County Agricultural Inspector or County Designated Employee. You can also obtain this information from your Local Weed Inspectors. Local Weed Inspectors include the township supervisors, city mayors or their appointed assistants.

More information regarding the statewide listed noxious weeds, the MN Noxious Weed law and a list of County Agricultural Inspectors and County Designated Employees can be obtained from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Web Site by visiting:
www.mda.state.mn.us/plants-insects/noxious-and-invasive-weed-program

Ada Tse and Paul Butler
County Agricultural Inspectors
Planning and Zoning Department
320 West 2nd St, Ste 301
218.725.5009 and 218.725.5003
tsea@stlouiscountymn.gov and butlerp@stlouiscountymn.gov

Published in the Timberjay, April 24, 2026

@timberjay.com

ALANGO TOWNSHIP Important information Regarding Assessment and Classification of Property in Alango Township

LOCAL BOARD OF APPEAL AND EQUALIZATION
Will meet April 28 2026 from 5:00 P.M.- 6:00 P.M. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 9808 Highway 22, Angora, MN
This may affect your 2027 property taxes.

The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether taxable property in the Alango jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor, and also to determine whether corrections need to be made.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns at 218-471-7705. If you are still not satisfied with the valuation or classification after discussing with your assessor, you may appear before the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization. The board will review the valuation, classification or both if necessary and will make corrections if needed. Generally, an appearance before your Local Board of Appeal and Equalization is required by law before an appeal can be taken to the County Board of Appeal and Equalization.

Margaret Rinne, Clerk, 218-780-1182

Published in the Timberjay, April 17 & 24, 2026

MORCOM TOWNSHIP Important Information Regarding Assessment and Classification of Property. This may affect your 2027 property tax payments.

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeal and Equalization of the Township of Morcom shall meet on Wednesday, May 6, 2026, starting at 5:00 p.m., at the Bear River School/Community Center, 12512 Hwy 22, Cook, MN 55723.

The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether taxable property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor, and also to determine whether corrections need to be made. If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you are still not satisfied with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the local board of appeal and equalization. The board shall review the valuation, classification, or both if necessary, and shall correct it as needed. Generally, an appearance before your local board of appeal and equalization is required by law before an appeal can be taken to your county board of appeal and equalization.

If you are planning to attend, please send written notice to the clerk, Sasha Lehto, PO Box 240, Side Lake, MN 55781, or email morcomtownshipmn@gmail.com. Please call if you have questions, Sasha Lehto, Clerk, at 218-969-5812.

Published in the Timberjay, April 17 & 24, 2026

Up For Bids

2019 Jeep Cherokee 157,498 miles
➤ 2.0L i4 DOHC DI Turbo engine
➤ Factory Tow Package
➤ Full sunroof with power front and fixed rear

Bids will be accepted until May 1, 2026, Bids opened May 4. Vehicle can be viewed at Embarrass Vermillion FCU, 600 W 3rd Ave N, Aurora, MN M-F 8-4 pm

We reserve the right to accept or reject any and all bids. Item is being sold "as-is" with no warranty expressed or implied.

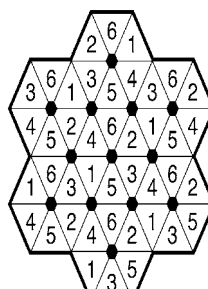
Bids can be submitted to any of our four branches in Aurora, Embarrass, Tower or Nett Lake. 4/24

CryptoQuip
answer

Anchor of a longtime cable news broadcast who moonlights as a police officer:
Anderson Copper.

CryptoQuote
answer

My philosophy is it's none of my business what people say of me and think of me.
— Anthony Hopkins





TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

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

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SUPPORT GROUPS

For a list of all area AA groups, visit www.eastrange-dist8.com and www.area35.org.

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

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

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

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

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

AA MEETING IN COOK- Sunday Night Big Book Group meets at Trinity Lutheran Church, 231 2nd St. NE, Cook, at 7:00 pm Sunday. For information call 218-753-2094, 218-235-0958, and 256-343-6665.

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

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

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

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

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

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

AA MEN'S PRIMARY PURPOSE meeting, Tuesdays at 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 226 E Harvey St., Ely, 218-235-38191

ELY MIRACLE ON CAMP STREET (Open)- Monday 7 p.m. First Lutheran Church 915 E. Camp St., Ely

PIKE SANDY (Closed)- Monday 7 p.m. Pike Town Hall, 6862 Co Hwy 68, Embarrass

BABBITT TUESDAY NIGHT (Open) Tuesday 7 p.m. Woodland Presbyterian Church, Babbitt

ELY MEN'S PRIMARY PURPOSE (Closed), Tuesday 7 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 226 E. Harvey St., Ely

ELY THURSDAY NOON BIG BOOK (Open) Thursday 12 Noon. St. Anthony's Catholic Church, 231 E. Camp St., Ely

ALANGO FRIDAY (Closed) Friday 7 p.m. St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 9808 Hwy 22, Alango

Even Exchange answers

- 1. Porch Pouch 6. Carry, Merry
- 2. Sabre, Sober 7. Shack, Shark
- 3. Steer, Sheer 8. Jingle, Mingle
- 4. Closet, Closer 9. Wager, Water
- 5. Limber, Lumber 10. Martin, Marlin

Subscribe to the TIMBERJAY! Call 218-753-2950



HAIR CARE

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

PET CREMATION

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

WANTED

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

THRIFT SHOP

Thrift Shop in Cook is open for shopping on Thursdays, Fridays, and the second and fourth Saturday of each month. Shopping hours are 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Donations are accepted during these hours. Donations are also accepted on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8 a.m. - noon. Follow us at Cook Thrift Shop on Facebook. tfn

CITYWIDE SALE

Ely City-wide Rummage, Business Crazy Day, and Used Equipment & Watercraft Sale on Saturday, May 16, from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. \$10 registration fee. Receive a listing on the map and advertising. Registration deadline Saturday, May 9, at 4 pm. Stop at the Ely Chamber of Commerce, Ely Regional Trailhead, 15 S 4th Ave W, or visit Ely.org/citywide for a registration form and details. 4/24

AA 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.

Garage Sale

INDOOR GARAGE SALE 824 3rd Street South, Virginia, Sat. and Sun., April 25 and 26, 9am to 3 pm: Women's clothes, Men's 2 and 3 XLT clothes and size 12-13 dress, casual, and work shoes, Suits and sportcoats, Work clothes, Incredible Book Selection, Medical Equipment, Tapes and CDs, Home and Garden Goods, Graphite tennis racquets (1980 - 2010), Vintage toys (1970s -1990s), Luggage, bags, hats, and more. 4/24v

SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆◆◆

◆ Easy ◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆◆ Difficult

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CryptoQuip

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

Clue: B equals C

C M B G J T J P C S J M X V H U O
B C D S O M O L F D T J C E B C F V
L G J U J J M S H X G V F C F C
I J S H B O J P P H B O T :
C M E O T F J M B J I I O T .

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

Try out the Timberjay classifieds

Line classifieds cost 30¢/word, \$6.00 minimum. Classified ads can be run a second time at half price (private parties only). We now accept payment by Visa, Mastercard, AmEx, and Discover. Call your ad in to 218-753-2950. Display (boxed) classifieds are billed by the "inch"- please call for prices and information on discounts. Call Today - 218-753-2950

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GARAGE SALE

INDOOR GARAGE SALE 824 3rd Street South, Virginia, Sat. and Sun., April 25 and 26, 9am to 3 pm: Women's clothes, Men's 2 and 3 XLT clothes and size 12-13 dress, casual, and work shoes, Suits and sportcoats, Work clothes, Incredible Book Selection, Medical Equipment, Tapes and CDs, Home and Garden Goods, Graphite tennis racquets (1980 - 2010), Vintage toys (1970s -1990s), Luggage, bags, hats, and more. 4/24v

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CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

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

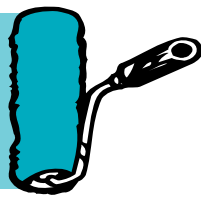
SJ FAZQYOYFAJ ZO ZB'O
MYMX YL SJ KDOZMXOO UARB
FXFYQX ORJ YL SX RMI
BAZMN YL SX.
- RMBAYMJ AYFNZMO
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Super Crossword GONE GUY

ACROSS	1 Sturdily built	7 Evergreen-scented cleaning brand	14 Cows' milk deliverers	20 Perjurious way to be caught	21 Transition zone between biomes	22 Go on a trip	23 "... at least"	24 Hundredth of a peseta	25 Cure	26 Managers' evaluations of employees	29 "Rope-a-dope" boxer	30 Gas brand in Ontario	31 "Ltd." cousin	32 Hit the slopes	35 Tries to swat with an open hand	39 2002 film with Jennifer Lopez and Ralph Fiennes	45 "I have it!"	48 Uno plus due	49 Narrow ship passages	50 Regulation of a computer network	55 White wader	56 1/24 of a day	57 Torrid	58 Capital of the Bahamas	61 Try out for the role	65 Realm that began with the reign of Charlemagne	71 Monk's title	72 Crumple (up)	73 Mafia bosses	74 Meadow	75 Denials	76 They were given to Moses on Mount Sinai	79 Most energetic	81 Humiliated	82 Suffix with 52-Down	84 Creamy cheese	85 "May I see —?" (diner's question)	88 "Don't Cry Out Loud" singer	94 Full of subtlety	97 Little kid	98 Plaza Hotel girl of kid-lit	99 They deliver fuel and air from carburetors to cylinders	102 National anthem in Ontario	106 Fleur-de- —	107 "Bad" cholesterol, in brief	108 Worker's pay	111 Bonn article	112 What you have to do before entering seven answers in this puzzle?	120 Actress Hedy	123 Long rants	124 Put new cables in	125 To-do list	126 Illustrious	127 Loves to bits	128 Rises from bed	129 Insists	130 Pastry chefs, e.g.	DOWN	1 Dry Spanish wines	2 Open, as a sleeping bag	3 African nation	4 Mushy food	5 St. Pat's isle	6 Doe, e.g.	7 Texas river	8 Frosting tools	9 Sarge, say	10 Un-PC suffix	11 Evening, in French	12 "My treat!"	13 10th-century pope	14 Netherlands province or its capital	15 Doodled, e.g.	16 Stops up	17 Adam's mate	18 Like many wines	19 Like many winks	27 Gala affairs	28 Motels	32 Swizzle	33 Model Moss	34 Pt. of MIT	36 — dish	37 Drag to court	38 Ulna's place	40 \$ dispenser	41 Great anger	42 Alternative to Bob Evans	43 Hiker's guide	44 Touch base after a fly-out	46 Madeline of "Judy Berlin"	47 In history	50 Elevator part	51 "— welcome"	52 Neighbor of Chad	53 Hollywood's Hawke	54 Road goop	59 Only	60 Ooze	62 — Chuck (cheap wine)	63 "— Rock" (1966 hit)	64 Probability	66 Choose (to)	67 Is defeated	68 Nonreactive	69 O'Donnell of TV and film	70 Citrate, e.g.	73 Give formally	77 Tropical plant with bright flowers	78 One paying dues: Abbr.	79 Bell's ring	80 "Peer Gynt" playwright	83 NNV's opposite	85 Dye used in blue jeans	86 City bond, in brief	87 Devours	89 Cyber-giggle	90 "— be my pleasure!"	91 Murmured lovingly	92 Fruit drink brand	93 That, in Chile	95 It might ensnare	96 Aeneas' congers	96 Aeneas' lover, in myth	100 Played like Galway	101 Neighbor of Denmark	103 Think a lot of one's heart	104 Closer to	105 "Gunsmoke" actor James	109 Revise	110 Main ideas	112 Soda holders	113 Pakistani language	114 Part of DST	115 Prune	116 Tennis player	117 Drearly dull	118 Mother of Helen of Troy	119 Furry "Star Wars" critter	120 Fall behind	121 Grow older	122 Ran into
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EAST DHU RIVER SAWMILL

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IN STOCK

2x4x8' 2x6x10'
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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Super Crossword

Answers

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

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