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**Daycare shortage in Ely... See /3**  
**Spring sports underway... See /1B**  
**Northern pike regulations... See /4B**

# The TIMBERJAY



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989

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## NEWS ANALYSIS

### Thorny issues still on the table in PolyMet battle

As all sides claim a legal victory, high court ruling foretells years of continued wrangling

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

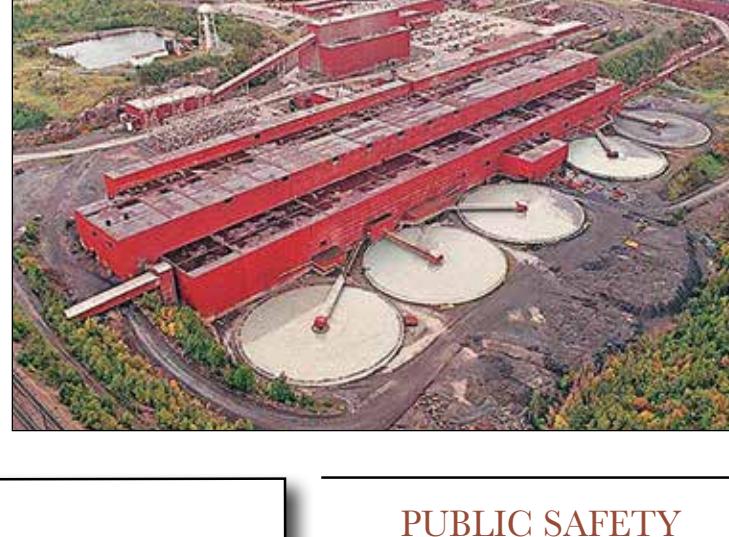
**REGIONAL** — Who really "won" in last week's Supreme Court decision on the future of the proposed PolyMet mine? That remains an open question after all parties in the dispute claimed legal vindication when the high court issued its ruling on April 28.

Environmental groups hailed the decision, which they argue has wiped away PolyMet's all-important permit to mine pending what is likely to be years of additional administrative process and legal wrangling.

Yet, officials from the Department of Natural Resources and PolyMet, contend that the decision keeps the existing permit intact, albeit suspended,

while the parties hash out relatively minor matters before an administrative law judge. Those matters include an assessment of whether the use of bentonite clay is a practical solution for addressing issues surrounding PolyMet's proposed tailings basin and the lack of a fixed term for the permit to mine.

*See...POLYMET pg. 10*



## BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



### MAKING PROGRESS

Major Ely projects jump-started with IRRR development funds

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

**ELY** — The city of Ely received approval late last week for three community and development infrastructure grants from the Minnesota Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation (IRR).

Two development infrastructure grants include an expansion project at the Boathouse Brewpub and Restaurant and renovation of the former Shopko building

**Despite business restrictions created by the COVID-19 pandemic last year, the Boathouse Brewpub and Restaurant in downtown Ely not only survived, but thrived. Co-owner Brian Tome, above, is guiding the bar and restaurant through a major expansion project for the landmark's second floor. A grant from the Department of IRRR to the city of Ely will help pay for a sprinkler system for the establishment. The new space should be open this summer** photo by K. Vandervort

by Zup's Market, and the third grant is a match for funds dedicated to the first phase of the Prospector Loop ATV Trail. In all more than \$650,000 will be coming to Ely this year from IRRR.

The Ely Boathouse Brewpub and Restaurant, one of the few eating establishments in the city to not only

*See...IRR pg. 11*

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Lawsuits pose rising risk to small town policing

Rising cost of officer misconduct increases need for new calculus

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

**REGIONAL** — The cost of a fatal police shooting is on the rise, and that elevates the risk for taxpayers, particularly in smaller communities that maintain their own police forces.

When the city of Minneapolis settled a lawsuit from the family of George Floyd for \$27 million back in March, city officials were betting that a jury would award even more.

While a city like Minneapolis has the deep pockets necessary to issue such awards when their police kill citizens without justifiable cause, that may not be the case for smaller communities. As the liability risks of police misconduct, or even questionable conduct, escalate, the stakes are increasingly high for communities for which damages of even a few million dollars could be crippling.

Increasing liability was one of the factors cited by Breitung Township officials when they made the decision to disband their police department earlier this year. "It's a problem for a whole bunch of municipalities, whether

*See...POLICE pg. 12*

## GET OUTDOORS

### New bog walk making strides for mid-June opening

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

**ORR** — Section by section, the old Orr Bog Walk is disappearing, and in the same way a new one to replace it may be ready for summer tourists

by mid-June. Workers from Pember Companies, Inc. of Menomonie, Wis., have already made significant progress in dismantling the dilapidated walk, with sections piled high in the Tourist

Framing sections stand ready to be installed at the Orr Bog Walk renovation project. photo by D. Colburn

Information Center parking lot last Friday.

"(We've removed) from the floating section all the way back to the 'Y' where

the six-foot wide starts at the beginning, and they're building frames heading

*See...WALK pg. 10*



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## Community notices

### Ruby's Pantry food distribution

COOK- The next Ruby's Pantry will be a drive-through food distribution at the old Cook School parking lot on Thursday, May 13 from 4:30 - 6 p.m. Please give a \$20 cash donation at the door. Ruby's Pantry is sponsored by St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Alango.

### Fishing for Fabric, benefit sale May 22

SIDE LAKE- Fabric Sale to be held Saturday, May 22 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Side Lake Community Center. The Sewing Collection, a mail order fabric company has donated its close-out inventory of fabric, patterns, buttons, threads, zippers and notions for sale along with miscellaneous upholstery fabric, craft items and instruction books. Due to low prices and many items available for freewill donation, we ask that you bring your own bags/totes to carry your purchases and help minimize costs. This is a self-serve sale, cash or check only. Proceeds benefit the French Township Volunteer Fire and Rescue.

The Side Lake Community Center is located at the intersection of Hwy. 5 and McCarthy Beach Road, approximately 18 miles north of the Chisholm Roundabout and 10 miles south of the Viking Bar at the intersection of Hwys 5 and 22. Masks and social distancing are encouraged in the building.

### Hwys 1 and 73 construction update

REGIONAL- Construction has resumed on Highways 1 and 73. Motorists can expect single lane closures on Hwy 1 and Hwy 73 during construction hours. Beginning May 5, Hwy 1 will be closed between County Rd 5 and County Rd 139, traffic will be detoured on Cty Rd 5, Cty Rd 114 and Cty Rd 139 for roadway repairs.

For more information, please visit the project website at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d1/projects/hwy1resurfacing/index.html>.

Important reminders for motorists regarding work zone safety:

- Slow down when approaching every work zone, then navigate through with care and caution.
- Stay alert; work zones constantly change.
- Watch for workers and slow-moving equipment.

➤ Obey posted speed limits. Fine for a violation in a work zone is \$300.

➤ Minimize distractions behind the wheel.

➤ Be patient; expect delays, especially during peak travel times.

For more information on projects in northeast Minnesota, follow us on Facebook at <https://facebook.com/groups/MnDOTnortheast> and Twitter at @mndotnortheast. For real-time traffic and travel information in Minnesota, visit [www.511mn.org](http://www.511mn.org).

### Health and well-being classes available from Juniper

REGIONAL- Juniper is improving health and wellness in communities across Minnesota. Through a network of local leaders, community organizations, and health systems, Juniper delivers programs to help adults manage chronic health conditions, prevent falls, and foster well-being.

If you are coping with high blood pressure, heart disease, COPD, arthritis, diabetes, or other chronic conditions, Juniper can support your efforts to live life as fully and independently as possible.

To keep everyone safe during the COVID-19 pandemic, Juniper is offering virtual, telephone, and in-person classes. The telephone class options let adults who may not have access to the internet or video capabilities still join classes.

Classes include strategies and exercises to take an active role in managing your health and well-being and are offered in three program categories: falls prevention, diabetes prevention and self-management, and chronic pain and disease management. Juniper's programs are evidence-based and proven to make a positive difference in the quality of life measures such as feeling more in control, less stressed, and able to do more of what makes you feel well.

To register or find a workshop near you, visit [www.yourjuniper.org](http://www.yourjuniper.org) or call or email Gina Marsalla at 1-855-215-2174 or info@yourjuniper.org.



## COVID-19 Vaccine Appointments Available

Scenic Rivers is now scheduling appointments for individuals to receive COVID-19 vaccinations at our medical locations following state eligibility guidelines. Supply is limited and call volumes are high, so we appreciate your patience. If you believe you meet the MN state vaccine eligibility requirements, please call the number below to schedule an appointment.

### Cook Medical Vaccine Scheduling

20 5th St SE  
(218) 361-3297



### Tower Medical Vaccine Scheduling

415 N 2nd St, Suite 2  
(218) 753-2405

24 Hour Emergency Care Available Through Cook Hospital

1-877-541-2817

[www.ScenicRiversHealth.org](http://www.ScenicRiversHealth.org)

## MINNESOTA DISCOVERY CENTER

# We Are Water MN exhibit on display at MDC beginning May 13

CHISHOLM- The Minnesota Humanities Center (MHC) and the North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District are pleased to announce that the traveling exhibition, We Are Water MN, will open in Chisholm at the Minnesota Discovery Center (MDC) on Thursday, May 13. Due to the state safety guidelines, the opening reception will be held at 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 13 at the MDC for key exhibit stakeholders. We Are Water MN is a project of the Humanities Center that engages Minnesotans with our state's most important natural resource through personal stories, historical content and scientific information. Thanks to a partnership with the North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District, We Are Water MN will be on display at the MDC from May 13 through July 11.

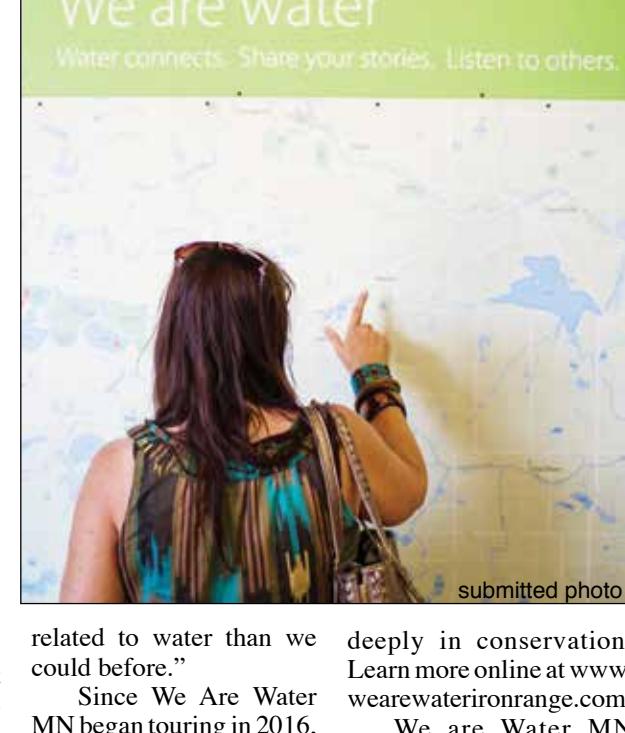
"How fortunate we are to have good water quality," notes Becca Reiss, Community Conservationist, North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District Water in Virginia. "Just knowing how unique it is to have water flowing in such different directions—to Hudson Bay, the Gulf of Mexico, or the St. Lawrence Seaway—depending on where it falls on the triple

divide. We have so much influence here on water quality downstream."

We Are Water MN host partners will collaboratively design local events and public programming that connect people to issues surrounding water in their communities. In co-creating with community members and organizations who are working on water issues, MHC is expanding the local and state network of stakeholders at multiple levels within Minnesota to support citizen initiatives and create a shared vision around water in Minnesota.

Visitors to the We Are Water MN exhibit learn about water issues statewide and in their community. They also reflect on local stories and the meaning and experiences of water in Minnesota with space to add their own stories. Combining learning and sharing in this way strengthens Minnesotans' relationships with water and increases participation in water stewardship activities.

"We Are Water MN is a unique opportunity to partner with organizations we may not have otherwise," said Becca Reiss. "Water connects people on so many levels. We Are Water MN has allowed us to reach out and connect with more organizations



submitted photo

related to water than we could before."

Since We Are Water MN began touring in 2016, more than 2,000 stories about water have been collected. Nearly 100 high-quality audio stories are available via the project's Story Map. Water stories are a way for visitors to share personal experiences while learning about their neighbors' relationships with water. The range of experiences—from water as a daily part of visitors' lives to personal stories of family, ritual, joy, and loss—along with education materials, compel people to evaluate their relationship with water and engage more

deeply in conservation. Learn more online at [www.wearewaterironrange.com](http://www.wearewaterironrange.com).

We are Water MN is led by the Minnesota Humanities Center in partnership with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the Minnesota Historical Society, the Minnesota Department of Health, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. We are Water MN is funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities and with money from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund that was created with the vote of the people of Minnesota on Nov. 4, 2008.

## Applications for Veterans BWCA trip now open until May 14

REGIONAL- The Richard I. Bong Veterans Historical Center is once again hosting two free trips for veterans to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area in Northern Minnesota this summer. With the COVID-19 pandemic canceling the 2020 trip, the center is able to offer a second trip this year. Trip dates are July 12 to 18 and July 26 to Aug. 1.

This will be the third year and trips #4 and #5 that the center has offered. The trip is for veterans who are disabled or dealing with PTSD and other specified traumas. "This is a great opportunity for us to provide support to the veterans who give so much to us," says executive director Dustin Heckman. "Veterans give so much to our local communities that we want to do our part to

give back to them as well."

There are many issues facing veterans today. In an effort to assist in healing and building healthy relationships within the community, the center is offering these BWCA trips for veterans. Participants will enjoy a week of fishing, canoeing, and camping with fellow veterans. By bringing veterans into the wilderness away from noises and stress, the hope is it will help them heal, recover, and just relax.

"In order to educate the public, the center relies on veterans to provide their stories and artifacts. We appreciate the trust veterans place in us to tell their stories and want to give back to the veteran community.

Duane Lasley, a retired Captain with the U.S. Army from Duluth, went on the trip in 2018 and is now volunteering his time for the trip. He states, "I was fortunate enough to go on a past trip and it was an amazing experience. I am doing what I can to help others enjoy a similar experience," said Heckman.

The center will be taking a small group of veterans and two group leaders up to Ely, where they will spend a night at a local resort before heading into the BWCA the next day.

All of the outfitting equipment will be provided for each participant. On the sixth day, the group will return to the resort before a return trip to Superior the next day.

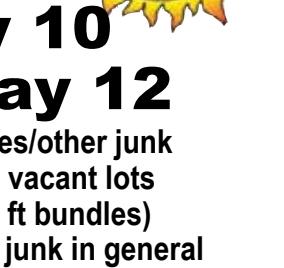
Interested veterans can apply for the trip through the center's website at <https://bongcenter.org/boundary-waters-canoe-area/> or stop by the center for an application. Applicants who wish to be part of the first review of applications need to submit all materials by Friday, May 14. A final deadline for consideration is set for Friday, May 21 for those who miss the first review date.

Individuals, businesses, or organizations that are interested in donating towards this program may contact Heckman at the center.

## Tidy-Up Tower

Got Cabin Fever? Itching to enjoy the outdoors? Tired of Trash? Here's the perfect way to build up immunity from all of those maladies!

Area residents are being asked to do their part in this project...to spruce up Tower.



Monday, May 10  
Wednesday, May 12

• Brush, yard waste • Old appliances/other junk

• Trash on adjacent roadsides and vacant lots

• Bagged yard waste and brush (3 ft bundles)

• Old appliances, building debris, and junk in general

Please leave all this in neat piles alongside alleys.

The city is looking at options for disposal of junk vehicles.

Please  
Do Not  
Litter

TOWER RESIDENTS: We need volunteers with trucks/trailers to help pick up brush, trash and appliances being collected.

Volunteers should email to [Mayor@CityofTower.com](mailto:Mayor@CityofTower.com)

to sign up, or post a message on the City of Tower Facebook page.

This garbage was picked up recently on Tower area streets.



COVID-19

# A “normal” summer may be in store despite a decline in vaccinations

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

**R E G I O N A L -** Minnesota data reflects a recent nationwide trend of declining COVID-19 vaccinations, but with 59 percent of those 16 and over in the state having received at least one dose of vaccine as of Sunday, Gov. Tim Walz appears poised to lift more restrictions this week.

During a Tuesday tour of Alice Smith Elementary School in Hopkins to promote funding for summer school programs, Walz indicated that a revision of COVID-19 restrictions is imminent.

“Thursday’s announcement should go a long way,

I think, toward moving things forward. I think Minnesotans should start assuming they’re going to have a very normal-looking summer,” Walz said.

While Walz gave no specific details about possible changes, he indicated that steady progress toward reaching a goal of having 70 percent of eligible Minnesotans fully vaccinated sometime in June would be a significant milestone in reopening the state.

However, that progress could be slowing, based on information from the Minnesota Department of Health.

From a high point of more than 405,000 doses

administered in the week beginning April 4, the first full week of eligibility for those 16 and older, last week’s total doses dropped by 32 percent to just over 276,000. State health officials acknowledged Tuesday that people getting second doses make up a large percentage of the doses administered, rather than new people coming to get vaccinated.

“In recent days, on any given day, we’ve been seeing more people getting second doses than new people getting first doses,” Commissioner Jan Malcolm said. “But that first dose number does continue to increase.”

State infectious disease

director Kris Ehresmann didn’t have a breakdown of last week’s vaccinations, but did provide insight for about 11,000 doses posted to the state vaccine website on Tuesday.

“The bottom line is that that included 4,000 first doses and 7,000 second doses,” she said. “We’re glad that people are continuing to get that second dose, but as we talked about, we’re at a phase where the first doses have slowed, and we need to retool and redirect our efforts to much more targeted outreach.”

Malcolm noted that one strategy would be to start making vaccinations available in conjunction

with popular community activities, such as fairs and sporting events, “some of the things people are eager to go to, to make it easy for them to also get a vaccine.”

In another sign of slowing demand for vaccinations, 80 Walmart pharmacies across the state have started offering walk-in vaccinations, while still providing appointments for those who want them.

Falling requests for vaccine from numerous states prompted the Biden administration to announce a new distribution plan on Tuesday. Surplus vaccines due to declining orders will be put into a vaccine bank so that states with greater need can increase how much they

receive. The administration also set a revised goal of getting at least one shot into the arms of 70 percent of eligible Americans by July 4. Currently, that number stands at roughly 56 percent.

Malcolm said it was too early to know if Minnesota would be affected by the revisions to Biden’s plan.

## More youths eligible

Malcolm responded positively to widely-reported news that federal officials may next week approve the Pfizer vaccine for youths 12- to 15-years-old.

“Given a significant

See COVID...pg. 5

CITY OF ELY

## Ely economic growth hinges on daycare options

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

**ELY** – One of the clear and present roadblocks to economic growth in the greater Ely area is the severe shortage of daycare services. Former mayor Ross Petersen was recently empowered by the Ely Economic Development Authority to spearhead a wide-ranging exploration of potential solutions to the continuing dilemma of attracting a younger, vibrant workforce to the area while a dearth of childcare services here

continues.

The move to form a working subcommittee by city council members acting as EEDA commissioners follows recent discussions by the city’s projects committee and the council.

“Ely has a great need for daycare, I think we all know that,” Petersen said last week. “Ely lost over 40 percent of its daycare (providers) during the whole COVID thing. We didn’t have enough before COVID hit. Now there is a huge need for it and it is a huge problem.”

He stressed that young

families are needed in Ely to fuel any kind of economic resurgence and growth.

“It is a demographic we need to keep our school going and our community vital,” he said.

Petersen said financial assistance to address the community’s daycare industry from federal, state and county agencies may be in the works, and Ely officials need to be ready. “According to our economic advisor, DEED (Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development) is looking at something, and Commissioner (Paul)

McDonald said IRRR is very interested. There is supposed to be federal activity before too long. So, it’s a matter of trying to figure out what we need and what would work for us and get a plan together.”

The former mayor, who was largely credited with pushing Ely’s new library and City Hall renovation into reality, suggested initiating the same kind of community effort to address local daycare needs. Petersen suggested forming a subcommittee to include interested parties, especially those in the local daycare industry, or those

who would like be involved in providing more daycare options in the area.

He offered the services of his daughter-in-law, Mandy Petersen, who works for Wilder Foundation.

“She has studied on this before. She has a tremendous amount of information on this,” Petersen said.

“Perhaps we can put ads out there to attract daycare people to be involved. They really know what’s needed. There are a lot of opportunities there,” he said. “We need to move together and put a plan together, so when

the money is out there we have a cohesive plan to go after that money.”

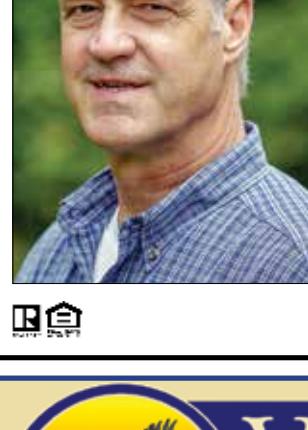
Interim Mayor Chuck Novak warned of the difficulty in addressing the childcare issue. “That’s a tough nut to crack in St. Paul or in Washington when you talk about maybe some money to come,” he said.

“One of the big difficulties is the rules. They make the rules because of the worst offenders, not the non-offenders.”

He called for a closer look at the regulations and rules, and perhaps a soft-

See EDA...pg. 5

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Crane Lake-\$187,000 Seasonal, fully furnished 2 BR cabin, storage/bunkhouse and 200+ ft shoreline perfect for swimming and giving you so many options. A short boat ride from mainland. **MLS#140061**

Orr-\$268,900 Well-maintained 3+ BR, 2 BA home on 3.65 acres nestled in the pines. Fully finished lower-level, black top driveway and 2-stall heated garage. **MLS#141110**

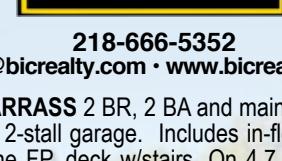
Orr-\$449,000 51 undeveloped acres and almost one mile of shoreline on Pelican Lake. 24x40 cabin, sauna and storage buildings. Privacy and paths along the shoreline. **MLS#141125**

Orr-\$289,000 Updated 3 BR, 1 BA home on 160 acres with garage/barn, loafing shed, chicken coop and storage shed. Adjoins public lands and is near Pelican Lake. **MLS#141175**

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**ELBOW LAKE** 18+ acre home or cabin site with approx. 3,600 ft. of lksh. Public landing site just minutes to the SW. Property offers a wide variety of tree cover. **MLS #129868**  
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# OPINION

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

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

*The First Amendment of the United States Constitution*

## Editorial

### Ignoring sulfate pollution

Who really stands to benefit when our region's water quality suffers?

Writer and political activist Upton Sinclair famously wrote, "It is difficult to get a man to understand something when his salary depends upon his not understanding it." And the truth of that statement is evident in the continuing failure of the Iron Range's political establishment to address the issue of sulfate pollution from the region's taconite mines.

We recognize that plenty of good salaries depend on the continuation of taconite mining, which is undoubtedly why so many in our region appear so willing to simply pretend that the pollution that emanates from facilities like the Minntac tailings basin doesn't exist, or that its impacts are minor.

While the current focus on sulfate pollution centers on its impact on wild rice, sulfate is also linked to the conversion of elemental mercury to methyl mercury in our area lakes. Methyl mercury is a particularly toxic form of mercury that bioaccumulates in fish. Under natural conditions, sulfate levels in northeastern Minnesota waters are very low, which limits the creation of methyl mercury. But when elevated, even a little, from sulfate discharges, the production of methyl mercury can jump sharply, leading to more mercury in the fish we eat. That's another inconvenient fact that we choose to pretend doesn't have a connection to the way in which many folks in our region earn a living.

Lest there be any misunderstanding, we believe that we can have taconite mining and clean water, but achieving that will take political courage from those who have chosen for years to bury their heads in the sand. As we reported earlier this year, an analysis by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency found that the taconite industry has the financial resources to clean up its pollution. But as long as mining companies know that the politicians, local unions, and the rest of the political establishment in our region are willing to carry their sulfate-tainted water on this issue, they have little need to fear enforcement of the state's water quality standards.

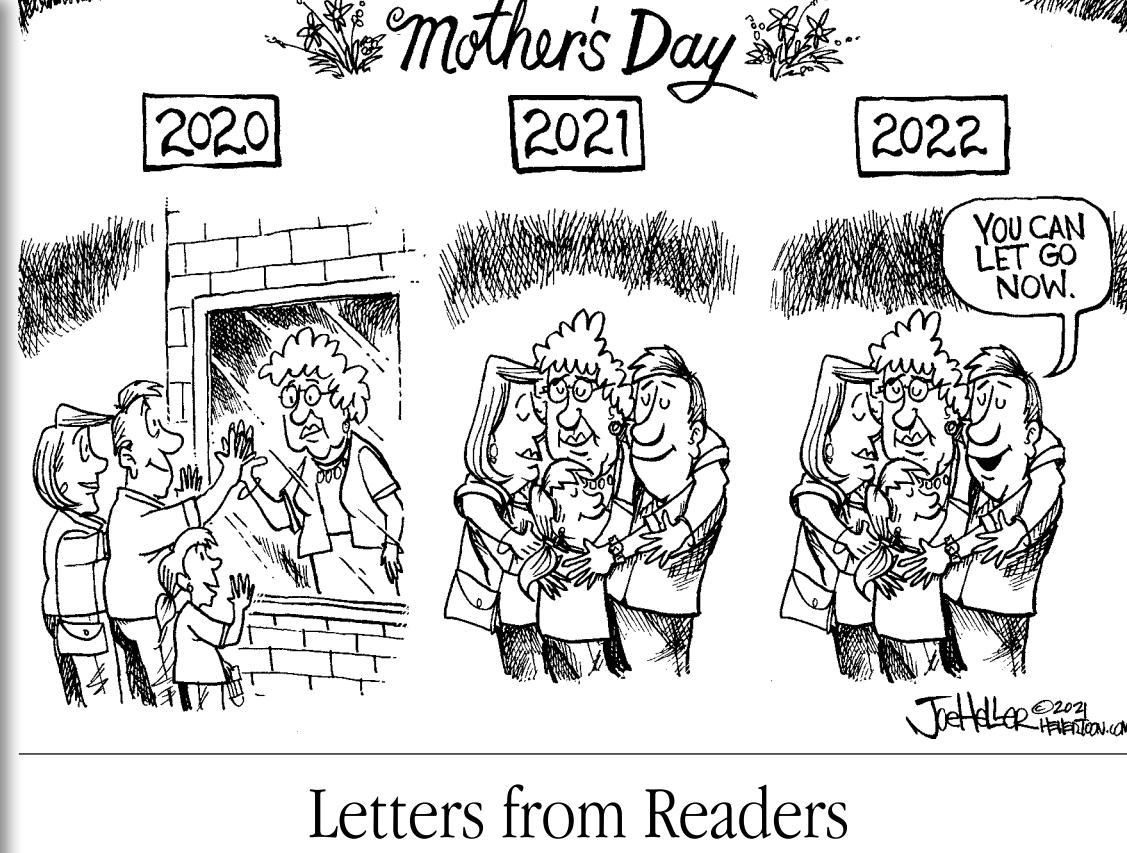
The connection between the Minntac tailings basin and sulfate discharges is indisputable. As the data released this past week by the Environmental Protection Agency shows, the closer a downstream water body is to the basin, the higher the concentration of sulfate. While the concentrations are lower by the time the water reaches Lake Vermilion, the EPA still

includes Vermilion on the list of 30 water bodies in the state impaired by sulfate pollution. The levels now reported in Lake Vermilion are high enough to impact wild rice as well as jump start the conversion of elemental mercury to methyl mercury. That should be a concern to everyone who consumes fish from the lake.

The state's historic failure to clean up pollution from taconite mines strongly suggests the state's regulators can't be trusted to keep a check on pollution from proposed copper-nickel mines, which involves sulfide ore, a far more environmentally hazardous type of rock than is the case with taconite. Actions matter more than words. Our region's political class may say that sulfide-based mining can be done safely, but if it isn't (as is likely), the evidence suggests they'll do nothing to fix it. As long as salaries depend on continuing to ignore the problem, the problem is likely to continue to be ignored, or even defended with the usual spin about how our region's water is cleaner than the rest of the state.

The truth is that the impacts of mining pollution are only felt in downstream waters. The lakes and rivers in the region that don't receive pollution discharge are, in fact, notably clean, mostly because their watersheds remain relatively undeveloped compared to other parts of the state. Yet, citing the water quality of lakes that aren't affected by mining discharge to defend the pollution of lakes that are, is the kind of logical fallacy we suspect Upton Sinclair had in mind when he penned his famous quote on the occasional failings of human nature.

Perhaps it's best in this case to consider whose salaries are really at risk. As the MPCA has already concluded, the mining companies have sufficient resources to clean up their act. In other words, they can reduce their discharges and still maintain the salaries that sustain many Iron Range families. It is corporate profits— i.e. the size of the salaries of the boys in the Pittsburgh suites— that are potentially diminished if funds are diverted to clean up water here in northeastern Minnesota. So, when we hear our politicians talking about mining pollution clean-up as a threat to someone's way of life, at least we know who they're really talking about. And it's not the working folks here on the Range.



## Letters from Readers

### More progress needed on pay equity

In 2017, with the Eighth Congressional District experiencing Minnesota's largest average gap in pay (women were making an average of 27 percent less than men working in the same jobs), AAUW and Rotary joined forces to begin canvassing every business in Ely, asking them to sign an "Equal Pay Affirmation"—stating they would pay women and men equally for the same work. The goal was to bring awareness of the pay gap in our region and make Ely the first city in our state to have 100 percent of businesses sign the affirmation. Today, our congressional district ranks sixth in Minnesota with a pay gap that has narrowed to 21.6 percent. The U.S. House has passed the Paycheck Fairness Act, providing protections to the Equal Pay Act of 1963. Encourage our senators, Tina Smith and Amy Klobuchar, to support the bill as it works its way through the U.S. Senate. The list of businesses that signed the pledge can be found in the newspaper today. Thank them, support them, for making the commitment to make Ely an equal pay community.

Mary Setterholm  
AAUW Public  
Policy Committee  
Ely

### Santorum and his backers seek a theocracy

Kudos to David Colburn for his well-crafted and incisive essay about the rock-bottom ignorance and bigotry of Rick Santorum. The faction of politically regressive Christianity that Santorum represents employs "religious liberty" as a code phrase and stalking horse for what they actually desire: a theocracy. Not only is such unconstitutional and antithetical to American values, it would also mean the destruction of liberty itself. All are free to believe and worship (or not)

as they will. None are free to impose their religion on others. It's sad but necessary that such a basic American principle must be constantly defended in every generation.

Peter M. Leschak  
Side Lake

### Birds regularly brighten our days

I enjoyed your article about the Evening Grosbeaks. We also have had them as almost daily visitors for a few months. For a while it seemed that a group of 5-8 males would be on our feeder at once, with maybe one female in the group. At other times, females would be in the majority, happily eating sunflower seeds. They contribute to emptying the feeder now, along with the other returnees, purple finches, juncos, white-throated sparrows, and pine siskins. Yesterday, I saw 11 species just while having an extended coffee time.

The Evening Grosbeaks used to be at our feeders pretty much year-round, but not in recent years, as many have noted. But we have had Rose-breasted Grosbeaks steadily all summer, obviously nesting somewhere close by, for at least 10 years. Before that, they only visited briefly at the beginning of summer.

Last, but certainly not least, is the versatile and economically vital corn plant (maize) and the billions of dollars it generates in the U.S. Of course, it has been altered in genetic selection by our breeders, but the germ plasm is from the sacred grain fostered by tribes of the Americas.

The senator, along with many Americans, also forgot about the Navajo Code Talkers of WWII who played a vital role in the war in the Pacific against the Japanese. Perhaps local school boards need to wake up and re-emphasize the importance of studying government, civics, and true history so that senators, house leaders, and presidents of the future can legislate with wisdom and not ignorance.

Mark Roalson  
Hoyt Lakes

### Native-influence is far-reaching in America

Mr. Colburn's column about the ignorance of a former senator on the inspiration, origins and adaptations of our nation's government was enlightening.

Unfortunately, many Americans get their "education and information" from social media, not from well-researched books or documentaries. The idea of having a government of states

Where the  
North Country  
Sounds Off

# Getting to the day we can say, "Yes!"

Everyone has a "growing up" story. Mine begins in an obscure township on the outskirts of Detroit, Mich. My parents' little asbestos-shingled bungalow sat amidst a hodgepodge of other small single-story dwellings on a dirt street called Linville.

I was lucky. Our lot had trees. This matters because at a very early age, I discovered the sense



KATHLEEN  
MCQUILLAN

of shelter that only trees can provide. When things got crazy in my house, as they sometimes did, I could climb to the tops of those trees where thick branches of maple leaves or pine boughs provided privacy and protection from the chaos. Like some other children, I would occasionally dream of "running away." I remember the day I drummed up enough courage to actually announce it. I pulled my skate case from under my bed and headed toward the door. I was surprised when my mom, mildly disinterested, her hands still in dishwater, called to ask if I'd packed clean underwear. I never made it very far.

In my innocent ignorance as a young

girl, I paid no attention to the fact that everyone in my neighborhood was white. One day, someone pointed out that most of my friends' families had come to Michigan in search of work and the dream of a better life. They spoke a little different from us because they came from "down south—" places called Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi. Detroit was known as a place of opportunity.

One summer day, my grandmother took her grandchildren to tour the Henry Ford Museum. It was one of my earliest history lessons. Our grandfather worked on the assembly line at Ford and according to Grandma, the company had "saved our family" during the Great Depression.

Assembly lines were revolutionary—mass producing cars for a "new middle class." A lot of people were needed to run those lines. They came in droves from far-away places. Henry Ford provided steady work, lifting many people out of poverty, while he became an extremely wealthy man.

It was my grade school classrooms where I first met people of many shades of color. It was a curiosity for me. That's when the discussion about "race" began.

My parents were good people. Young, and aware of their own heritage. My mother's father fled Greece to escape civil conflict. He sought refuge and prosperity.

See RACE...pg. 5

## Letters from Readers

### A book that has generated critical thinking

I read Micah Larson's (a student at Ely Memorial) comments and opinions in last week's paper about Austin Channing Brown's memoir "I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness" and thought about the fact that this is exactly what one wants to occur in the classroom when students respond to a book.

Students think, reflect, express opinions, examine thoughts, and grow and learn as a result. The book, "I'm Still Here" is a memoir. It is an account of the author's personal experiences as a young black woman. It is her story.

Micah felt that the book presented Brown's personal experience as if it were a universal experience for all

black people. This would be a point to examine more carefully. What passages in the book did Micah feel convey this? When I read Micah's comment, I thought how meaningful it would be to explore further. Read additional memoirs and stories from black and brown people. Connect with black and brown students in other classrooms with regular Zoom meetings. Get to know each other. Ask questions. Listen to the experiences and stories of those "not like us." So much is possible in today's world of technology.

Micah suggested that, to him, Austin Channing Brown's tone was condescending and patronizing. This would be another point to examine and discuss. What passages seemed to be condescending and patronizing? The class could then examine those passages and

reflect on their interpretation of the author's intent and meaning.

I agree with Micah that the point of education is NOT to create robots. The point of education is to develop critical thinking skills and the ability for each student to engage in serious, meaningful discussions about timely topics. The point of education is to see the multiple sides to any issue. The point of education is to expand and grow. Nothing is more effective in reaching that goal than to read books, especially those written by those "not like us." As educators, we have strived to move away from rote learning and memorizing facts to deeper levels of understanding. Instead of one text, multiple texts, books, and resources are utilized to make learning meaningful.

Micah's letter was an

excellent example of what students do in the classroom when they respond to books. They think, respond, reflect, listen, ponder, and in the end, hopefully grow in their awareness and understanding of those others, those "not like us."

**Ellie Larmouth  
Tower**

### Religious freedom also means freedom from religion

I read David Colburn's piece titled "Native Americans, religious liberty and Rick Santorum" in the April 30 issue.

Not only was it written well, but was truthful to its end. I heard Santorum's entire speech, and came across the same ideas Mr. Colburn did. Somehow religion just keeps sticking

its corrupted views onto others, as an excuse to push forward a twisted agenda when it satisfies them.

One thing I feel always gets left out of the "freedom of religion" rant, is the fact it not only is for freedom of a religion of your choice, BUT ALSO FREEDOM FROM IT, IF YOU SO DESIRE.

**Barry W. Tungseth  
Ely**

### "I'm Still Here," appears to have met its objective

"I'm Still Here," appears to have met its objective

In last week's letters, Micah Larson expressed his belief that Austin Channing Brown's memoir, "I'm Still Here, Black Dignity for a World Made for Whiteness," was a poor

selection for school-required reading because he disagrees with the author's views and perceptions. He argues that the goal of education is to create critical thinkers who are free to express how they feel and think (a luxury he apparently believes shouldn't be extended to the book's author), rather than staying mute and complying with whatever they are taught. By his own measures, then, this book has checked all his boxes in doing what education should. Only books that force you out of your comfort zone inspire the type of thoughtful critique and reasoned opinion that Ms. Brown's book elicited from Mr. Larson.

**Steve Wilson  
Tower**

### COVID...Continued from page 3

number of cases we have seen in middle and high school-aged kids recently, this expansion would be a really welcomed development and a significant step forward to make it that much harder for this virus to continue circulating and infecting people," she said.

Those 19-and-under represent 26 percent of new COVID cases identified since April 1, the day after vaccine eligibility was expanded.

"We've seen the increase in variants of concern circulating in

Minnesota, and some of the initial activity was seen associated with youth activities with our sports ecosystem," Ehresmann said. "That allowed for the transmission of a variant that was known to be easier to spread within that population. The Pfizer vaccine is available for individuals 16 and older, and we really want to encourage that age group to take advantage of that vaccine."

#### Variant concerns

Ehresmann pointed to the crisis conditions in India

with COVID infections and deaths as she cautioned people about travel and its role in allowing the spread of coronavirus variants that can be more infectious and possibly more resistant to vaccinations.

"The unfortunate pattern we've seen is that variants developing elsewhere in the world tend to spread to new locations when people travel, and then these variants gain a foothold in our communities. Minnesota is no exception," she said.

Just in the last week, 65

cases have been identified involving a variant first identified in Brazil. The UK variant has been acknowledged as the source for 60 to 65 percent of recent infections in the state. Ehresmann mentioned a recent cluster of cases associated with travel to Mexico.

"Given that Mexico is a favorite destination for many in the upper Midwest, we need to reiterate that it remains a high-risk location," Ehresmann said.

#### Regional data

A recent surge of cases on the Bois Forte Reservation appears to be on the decline, according to recent health updates posted to the tribe's website. Only three new COVID cases have been reported, each on separate days, over the past week.

Due to differences in reporting practices, a surge of 12 cases in the Tower zip code reported on April 29 was anticipated, reflecting cases already diagnosed in the Vermilion sector of the Bois Forte Reservation.

Seven new cases were identified in Ely and four in Embarrass, while Cook saw one additional case.

The numbers align with county and statewide patterns of declining COVID infections in recent weeks, although the seven-day daily case average for northern St. Louis County remains in the escalating community spread category at 19.5, just slightly higher than the 18.8 mark for the county as a whole.

### EDA...Continued from page 3

ening of the regulations in rural areas.

"I'm in full support of pursuing this," he added. "Maybe we can have a forum in chambers to gather those interested in working on this to develop a plan to keep putting pressure on our legislators. We need to identify our needs. How many parents want

daycare? How many here aren't working because they can't get daycare here? It would be nice to have those metrics to make a solid argument."

Petersen added, "There are dozens of possible options that we could look at, and that's why we need to have a committee to gather this kind of information."

He welcomed federal money coming to northern Minnesota to address the daycare dilemma.

Ely Economic Advisor John Fedo warned of the thin profit margins that most daycare operations endure.

"Put unions and wages in the mix, and how can anybody afford good quality daycare? And as

the mayor points out, there are all the rules and regulations. That makes it even more difficult. Maybe we want to approach this as a hybrid or non-profit solution that addresses the needs. We might stand a chance if we carve out something unique," he said. "It wouldn't be the first time that Ely solved a

problem unique to its own approach."

EEDA members charged Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski to work with Petersen to form a subcommittee to begin discussions and fact-gath-

### RACE...Continued from page 4

I'm sure he endured many episodes of discrimination. My father's family were Irish immigrants escaping famine. America would be their "land of plenty." But instead, they found signs reading "No Irish need apply." My parents carried a strong value for justice and compassion for people who struggled, not to mention a sense of gratitude for the opportunities afforded to them.

Their messages in a nutshell were, "Don't forget your roots." and "Stand up for the underdog." That meant, "people who were rejected just for being different." We got strict orders that we were to defend their rights to equal respect and fair treatment, and never were we to refer to Negroes as we heard others call them. This was the early 1960s. Because of their guidance, I felt no hesitancy to befriend kids, regardless of their background or color, if they were friendly back to me. And for most of my youth, that system seemed to work.

It was in 1965 that my recently-widowed mother was offered a decent paying job as a librarian's assistant at the General Motors Company, an hour's drive across Detroit. She moved us to the "east side" which was like moving to a foreign country. Detroit was comprised of distinct ethnic neighborhoods, where clusters of people shared customs and cuisine. It wasn't unusual in initial introductions to be asked

about your "nationality." My last name identified me immediately as an "outsider" in my new neighborhood, made up of folks primarily of Polish and German descent.

Detroit was defined by its "neighborhoods", and then there was "the ghetto." Gradually, parts of the inner city neighborhoods became "mixed" which triggered a phenomenon called "white flight." This led to the development of strictly white suburbs. Over time, larger all-black neighborhoods grew, much to the dismay of many racist Detroiters. Like many other major American cities, it instituted a system called "red-lining" into its real estate industry. The goal was to keep people racially segregated.

When kept apart, we were deprived of "getting to know one another," experiencing our common humanity by sharing our histories and cultural traditions. This made it nearly impossible to develop mutual understanding and respect. That move introduced me to the ugly face of racism and my innocence quickly shattered. Not one black family lived in our town. Not one black student attended my school. Overt expressions of disgust for people of color were constant. It literally made me ill. A short bike ride away was the boundary line dividing blacks from whites. The signs of disparity overwhelmed me.

I was a teenager in 1967 when a racial uprising swept Detroit. My teachers openly preached that "blacks were coming to invade our neighborhoods." I couldn't believe my ears. I remember the day I walked out of class and headed for home. I felt nauseous from rage. That evening, my mother looked into my eyes and gave me a warning. In her scolding voice, she told me that I must "learn to ignore those remarks."

She gave me reasons that only made me feel worse. And then she added, "I'm telling you this because I love you." Those words made me heartsick.

That year, I joined a local chapter of "People Against Racism," a group of black, brown and white people, committed to understanding and exploring ways to heal our "war-torn" community. But nothing seemed to offer real hope. Tired of feeling helpless in the midst of hate, at eighteen I left home.

Looking at today's headlines, it may seem that we've made little progress. But I don't believe that's true. Since 1967, we can find many signs of change. Popular culture is more diverse than ever before and even relies on the creative input of our racially diverse population. Our ideas regarding intelligence, beauty and creativity have broadened as we increasingly experience our diversity in a slowly-growing more equitable society.

But no doubt, we've a long way to go to reach that "more perfect union."

We still lack assurances of safety and security for people of color so they can live their daily lives freely and fully. Their voices are still not equally heard and valued, not yet integral to the fabric and "doings" of American society. We do not yet truly honor their diverse histories, their essential role in birthing this nation, nor their inordinate contributions of labor spent building America's infrastructure and economic success.

Honest self-assessment is never easy. Ending entrenched systems of racial injustice will be even harder. But each are necessary if we are ever going to be the "exceptional" country we claim to be. We have so much yet to learn. And it is with and through the eyes of people of color that we will succeed.

Our work is far from done, but we mustn't be overwhelmed. We're not at the "beginning" but rather at a critical juncture on a long journey. Many agree that we've lived divided long enough. And now is the time to commit to "real change." The movement has already begun. We're being called to cast our fears aside. I want to believe it's a brand-new day, and voice a triumphant, "Yes!"

ering on the issue. The first meeting will be held at 5 p.m. on Monday, May 10, in Council Chambers.

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Cook/Orr Editor	David Colburn
Ely Editor	Keith Vandervort
Staff Writer	Stephanie Ukkola
Office Manager	M. M. White
Graphics/Ad Sales	Scarlet Lynn Stone
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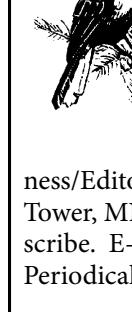
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**the**  
**TIMBERJAY**

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## Week of May 10

**Monday**

**TOPS - Immanuel Lutheran Church, Tower,** at 9 a.m. Canceled until further notice.

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

**Tower City Council-** 5:30 p.m. on May 10. See city website for agenda.

**Tuesday**

**Tower Area Food Shelf-** Open on the third Tuesday of every month from **2:30-5:00 p.m.** Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is May 18.

**Greenwood Fire Dept.-** Meetings on the first (business meeting) and third (drill) Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

**Greenwood Town Board-** 6:30 p.m. on May 11.

**Wednesday**

**Tower AA- Open Basics-** 7 p.m. at St. James Presbyterian Church. Questions, call 753-2332.

**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](http://vermilioncountry.org).

**Civic Club cancels Memorial Day Service due to COVID restrictions**

**TOWER-** The Tower Soudan Civic Club regrettably announces that they will not be sponsoring the Memorial Day Celebration or the July 4th pancake breakfast due to COVID restrictions. It is impossible to maintain safe distancing in the Civic Center for these functions.

**Special Mother's Day music at St. James on Sunday, May 9**

**TOWER-** Greg Kuchan, on guitar, and his wife Denice, on electric drums, will perform "Trust in You" by Lauren Daigle at 10 a.m. on Mother's Day at St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower. Greg and Denice have been bringing special music to the Sunday Service for some time now and the congregation of St. James invites friends and community members to come and enjoy the uplifting music.

**Breitung Clean-Up Days**

**Monday, May 10 & Wednesday, May 12**

**Maintenance Workers will pick up specified items for FREE DISPOSAL**

(anything that doesn't cost money at the dump)

All items must be separated and bagged or piled as directed and placed on the curb.

**Absolutely no household garbage will be accepted!**

**Clean Yard Waste (in bags, no glass, no rocks, etc.)**

**White Goods (old refrigerators or stoves - doors must be removed from refrigerators), Scrap Metal (pile in a pile)**

**Car & Pick-up Truck Tires (24" or smaller)**

**No Batteries, Paints or Hazardous Waste**

**Please place all items ON THE CURB.**

Residents must call Breitung Town Hall at 753-6020 or email the clerk at [clerk@breitungtownship.org](mailto:clerk@breitungtownship.org) to arrange pick-up or with questions.

**MUSIC ON THE ROAD****NER band has "excellent" trip to OrlandoFest Music Competition**

**BABBITT-** Five years of planning went into this year's Northeast Range High School band week-long trip to Orlando, Fla. A group of 25 students along with band director Kevin Ryks, and chaperones Christine Mackai, Chandra Koivisto and Amanda Koivisto travelled by motorcoach to Florida, stopping in Atlanta, where they toured the Coca-Cola Museum and Olympic Park.

Once in Orlando, the band participated in an intensive full ensemble music workshop, performed on a concert stage (see the school's facebook page for videos), and earned an excellent rating and trophy for their performance at OrlandoFest Music Fest 2021.

Band Director Kevin Ryks said this was only the second time his band had received this high a rating on a Florida trip, his eighth as a long-time music teacher.

"We were so fortunate to be able to come and compete at this event because so many bands had to drop out due to COVID," said Christine Mackai, one of the trip's chaperones and an active member of the band's booster club. "We are doing well and staying healthy...not even one sneeze!"

The trip had originally been planned for last year but was postponed due to COVID.

"For a lot of our kids this was the first time to be far from home," Mackai said. "It was a new experience altogether."

The weather was also a challenge, said Mackai, with temperatures in the 90s every day.

The chaperones were very proud of how the students handled themselves, and followed all the safety rules, like mask-wearing, that were in place.

"The kids have been super," she said.

"We extended the classroom

and a lot of great lessons were learned," Mackai said. "There is so much more learning that what takes place in the four walls of a classroom."

During their music workshops, the students really pushed themselves and grew as musicians, Mackai said.

"The kids really responded. They are taking more pride in what they are doing and gained a lot of confidence."

Band members also had plenty of time for fun, visiting Universal's Studios Volcano Bay water park, attending a theme dinner at Medieval Times while watching jousting knights in armor, visiting Disney Springs, and Busch Gardens Amusement and Animal Park. The trip had originally included a day at Disney World, but Busch Gardens was substituted since Disney Parks were not yet admitting large groups. The students also got a day at Cocoa Beach on the Atlantic Ocean before heading

back home to Minnesota. On the way home, the bus travelled through Nashville, where the students were set to have dinner at the Hard Rock Café before beginning the long overnight drive back to Minnesota.

Two bus drivers were along on the trip, trading off four-hour driving shifts. Travelling by bus made the logistics of the trip easier, said Mackai, because it was safer to transport the band instruments, as well as giving the group their own transportation once in Florida. The trip was arranged through Sue Bee Travel of Virginia. It also gave the stu-

dents a chance to see a lot more of the country than if they had flown. Students were expected back in Babbitt on Wednesday, May 5 in the afternoon.

Some students were able to cover the cost of the trip through their work on fundraising, and while students weren't required to help with fundraising, all did take advantage of fundraising opportunities to pay a portion of their cost for the trip. Donations of food and cash from area businesses and organizations also helped offset costs.

**Clean-up Days set for May 10 and 12**

**REGIONAL-** Residents of Tower and Breitung Township are being asked to do their part to clean-up their community. City and township maintenance crews will be picking up items on Monday, May 10 and Wednesday, May 12. The details are a bit different for each community, so please see the information below.

In the city of Tower, maintenance crews and volunteers will be picking up brush, bagged

yard waste, and old appliances on May 10 and 12. Neatly piled and bagged items should be left alongside the alley. No garbage will be collected, but litter collected from roadsides, alleys, and vacant lots can be bagged and left out for collection.

In Soudan and Breitung Township, maintenance workers

will transport yard waste, appliances, scrap metal, and tires, free

of charge, to the canister site.

Residents must call Breitung Town Hall at 218-753-6020 or email the clerk at [clerk@breitungtownship.org](mailto:clerk@breitungtownship.org) to arrange a pick-up, or if they have any questions. Maintenance workers will be collecting neatly-piled items from the curb or alley. Limited amounts of brush will be accepted.

No garbage, batteries, paints, or hazardous waste will be accepted in either town. If you do

have hazardous waste, residents are asked to bring it to the Soudan Canister on Wednesday, June 23 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for a special household hazardous waste collection day. If you can't make it that day, household hazardous waste is collected year-round at the Virginia Regional Landfill; call 218-741-8831 for more information.

**COMMUNITY NEWS****Baby Shower for Life- Fill the Bassinet**

**TOWER-** The St. Martin's Catholic Church Quilt Ministry is once again partnering with the Women's Care Center in Duluth. Quilters have been busy making quilts for them, but they have more needs. During the month of May, the quilt ministry group is sponsoring a Baby Shower for Life. All items and money donated will be given to the Women's Care Center.

We spoke with The Crib Club manager to identify their specific needs:

Travel size lotions, hand sanitizers; chap sticks; gifts for our mothers; infant hygiene products (lotion, sunscreen, shampoo); outfits of any size, summer/fall (9 mo. to 12 mo. most needed); infant/toddler toys; infant carriers; hooded towels and washcloths; Boppy pillows and covers; Bumbo seats; infant play mats; crib sheets; and diapers.

Donations may be placed in the bassinet located at the front entrance of the church, or dropped off at the rectory. Help us fill the bassinet for the Women's Care Center! Questions may be directed to Maryann at 753-4310.

**T-S Community Band seeking players for Fourth of July parade**

**TOWER-SOUDAN-** We're putting the Tower-Soudan Community Band back together. The Fourth of July Committee has asked if the band can play for the parade this year, because they are expecting that high school bands will not be playing.

The plan is to play a few tunes in front of Tow-

er City Hall (including The Star Spangled Banner) and then to ride and play on a flat-bed truck in the front of parade so band members can rejoin their families to watch the rest of the parade.

Please dig out your instrument and recruit others! If any questions, please text or call 218-393-2036, or email [enorberg14@gmail.com](mailto:enorberg14@gmail.com). Please join the Band for a fun time!

**Little Church Committee to meet Saturday, May 8**

**VERMILION LAKE TWP-** The Little Church quarterly business meeting will begin on Saturday, May 8 at 10 a.m. The group welcomes anyone and is looking for people interested in keeping The Little Church preserved and maintained in our community. The meeting will include a discussion of the last year's work projects, plus election of officers. Masks and social distancing will be advised. The Little Church is located in Vermilion Lake Township on Cty. Rd. 26/Wahlsten Rd. Any questions, contact Len Hujanen at 218-749-2014.

**NER Nighthawks baseball in Soudan**

**SOUHDAN-** The Northeast Range baseball team will be playing at the Soudan field (weather-permitting) on the following dates:

Monday, May 10 at 4:30 p.m. against Nashwauk-Keewatin

Thursday, May 13 at 4:30 p.m. against Silver Bay

**Parade float registrations required by May 8 to see if there is enough interest to hold a parade**

**TOWER-** The Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board is hoping that there will be a parade on the Fourth of July this year. With the COVID-19 restrictions being loosened, and more citizens getting vaccinated, things are getting closer to "back to normal."

But for the parade to happen, the TSLVEB needs to get the public involved now!

The board needs to hear from all businesses, families, organizations, and individuals who plan on having an entry in the parade. The level of in-

terest shown by all of you will be the deciding factor on whether or not a parade will happen.

**Everyone who wants to participate in the parade this year should contact Julie Johnson at [tseventsboard@gmail.com](mailto:tseventsboard@gmail.com), or by phone/text at 218-750-7242 by May 8.**

This is the deadline the board has set to allow time to get all the aspects of the parade in place for Sunday, July 4.

Fireworks are being planned for Saturday, July 3.

**TSHS aluminum can drive fundraiser**

**TOWER-SOUDAN-** The Tower-Soudan Historical Society is starting an ongoing "Aluminum Can" collection drive. Funds from the cans donated will go toward projects and the work of the Historical Society.

A fenced-in trailer is behind the Historic Fire Hall located next to the Tower Post Office on Main St. Please place your aluminum cans inside of a garbage bag and place them in the fenced trailer. Other donations or memberships can be sent to TSHS, PO Box 465, Tower, MN, 55790.

## OUR COMMUNITY



# Ely 'chooses love'

Organizer hopes impromptu rally grows

by KEITH VANDERVORT

Ely Editor

ELY - Dayna Mase didn't know she would be standing in Whiteside Park on a rainy Friday afternoon in April, holding a sign that said "Choose Love," until the day before it happened.

"I'd been thinking a lot lately about the divisions in our country and how emotionally exhausted everyone is after this last year," the Ely resident said. "It seems that so many people have forgotten how to love and forgive each other, let alone reach across the table and have conversations about how to make things better."



She said her idea of holding signs of encouraging words was to remind people, including herself, that above all else, "we must choose to love and help one another through

**Ely residents, above, Carol Orban, Kesly Ebbs and Carolyn Dehnboestel joined Dayna Mase, left, recently to send a message to passers-by at Whiteside Park. They displayed signs to send a message to "choose love" over everything else.**

photos by K. Vandervort

this strange and wonderful thing called life."

Mase chose Friday, April 23 at 3 p.m., for a specific reason. "A year ago on that date, at 3:15 p.m., my father died unexpectedly. As so many people know,

the death of a loved one is a heart wrenching and life-changing experience," she said. "I knew I wanted to do something to honor my father and decided to share with others some of the most important lessons he gave to me in this life:

► That no matter how much you disagree with someone, you can't hate them;

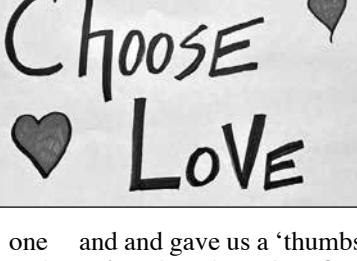
► To love our neighbors and strangers;

► To help others;

► To forgive quickly;

► To never lose hope."

"This was an impromptu event, with just a small group of people holding signs," she said. Lots of people honked their horns



and gave us a 'thumbs up' as they drove by. One gentleman gave us roses and another blew us a kiss. Next time there will be more notice and we look forward to more people joining us. I want to remind all of us to reach out and to love one another. That's the best way I can think of to honor my father: By choosing and spreading the message of love."

The next gathering of the "Choose Love" campaign is scheduled for Friday, May 21, beginning at 3:30 p.m. For more information on the "Choose Love" campaign, contact Mase at [daynamase@gmail.com](mailto:daynamase@gmail.com).

## Ely Watercolor Club cancels 2021 show

ELY - The 2021 Ely Watercolor Club's 2021 show is called off this year because of the continuing public health concerns over the coronavirus pandemic.

"It was a hard decision to make, but to keep everyone safe we voted to postpone our annual show until July of 2022," said club organizer Claire Taylor. "We will sure miss seeing you all. On the good side, seeing some of the paintings everyone is creating it will be a great show."

Taylor predicted, "And since you can't stop an artist from creating any more than you can stop a caterpillar from becoming a butterfly, 2022 will be the largest original watercolor show and sale in the state of Minnesota!"

## Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2021



the intense yellows pushing up out of drab earth mind blowing color

## Libraries

### Ely library

Hours: Monday — Friday, 10 a.m.—6 p.m.  
Saturdays — 8 a.m. to noon  
Closed on Sundays  
Phone: 365-5140

### Babbitt library

Monday	Noon-6 pm
Tuesday	Noon-6 pm
Wednesday	Noon-6 pm
Thursday	Noon-6 pm
Friday	Noon-5 pm

Phone: 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.

### ELY WOMEN'S OPEN AA - Every Monday at noon at St. Anthony's Catholic Church, 231 E. Camp St., Ely.

### BABBITT AA - 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church

AL-ANON - Sundays 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely. For persons who encounter alcoholism in a relative or friend.

### BABBITT AL-ANON Thursdays, 7 p.m., at Woodland Presbyterian.

### CO-DEPENDENTS' 12-step support group, noon Fridays, St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Ely.

ELY FOOD SHELF - Third Wednesday each month, 15 W. Conan St.

### ADULT BASIC EDUCATION GED

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

218-827-3232, or

1-800-662-5711.

### CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS: Babbitt: 3rd

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

Ely: 4th Monday of Month: 10-11:30 a.m. at Ely-Bloomenson Hospital Conference Room B



The Ely Women Who Care community fundraising organization gathered this week to present \$6,135 in donated funds to the Ely Senior Center. To donate, send a check to Ely Women Who Care, P.O. Box 216, Ely, MN 55731. Those attending the presentation included Linda Wiedemann, Corie McKibbon, Chris Chandler, Angela Campbell, Linda Maki, Wende Nelson, Autumn Cole, Emily Brown and Barbara Kollar. Theresa Jamnick and Virginia Ivancich accepted the funds for the Senior Center.

photo by K. Vandervort

## COOK CITY COUNCIL

# Council plays it safe with bond refinance

## Housing authority resident board rep resigns over lack of progress

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

**COOK-** When the Cook City Council met on April 22, they were faced with a \$50,000 question: play it safe, or go for broke?

Either way, refinancing the city's sewer and water revenue bonds appeared to be a winning proposition, saving the city between \$170,000 and \$220,000 over the life of the bonds through 2038.

"There's a couple of different ways we could do it," City Administrator Teresa Martinson said. "There's one where we could get a rating, or one without, and there's a difference in savings."

Jessica Green with Northland Securities called in to the meeting to review the two options

with the council, noting that the projections were based on current interest rates that could change when the refinanced bonds are put up for sale.

Given that, the most straightforward approach was to issue the new bonds without obtaining a financial rating.

"The benefits of not going with the rating is that you can move a little bit quicker, and you're not locked in," Green said. That approach is the one projected to save \$170,000 over the next 17 years.

If the city went through the process of getting a rating and obtained a favorable one, the bonds could command a better rate and accrue a projected \$50,000 more in savings to the city. However, the city would incur the additional cost of having its fi-

nances reviewed to obtain a rating, and the process would introduce additional weeks of delay, with additional risk for unfavorable rate fluctuations.

"I've seen some scenarios where cities have gone out for the rating process, and then the market essentially moved away from them where their savings is no longer attractive enough to the city to move forward."

Green said that rates have been relatively steady, although there has been some volatility in the market.

Council member Elizabeth Storm proposed that the council move ahead with the non-rated proposal, noting that the city could come back at a later time and go through another refinance with a rating if conditions suggested there were significant

savings to be had. Council members unanimously agreed with Storm's motion.

### CHRA resignation

The council received with regret a letter of resignation from Sharon Ratai as resident commissioner from the Cook Housing and Redevelopment Authority board.

"I find it impossible to continue in this position," Ratai wrote. "In my two-and-a-half years on the board I had hoped to make our buildings a better place for our residents to live out their lives. But that has not happened. My hope is that a new board member will have the knowledge and courage to make that happen."

The letter generated much discussion among council members focused on clarifying the relation-

ships between the city council, the CHRA board, and the housing authority executive director. There was consensus around the understanding that the CHRA board is the ultimate authority responsible for policies and practices in the housing development, including supervision and evaluation of the executive director.

A group of CHRA residents have had an openly contentious relationship for more than a year with the current executive director, Reed Erickson. The group has lobbied for more space to be used for resident activities and criticized numerous policies and practices. For his part, Erickson had steadfastly maintained that all practices at CHRA are in alignment with relevant federal standards, and that the legal imperative to

maintain confidentiality in matters related to residents has been a source of conflict with some who have asked for protected information.

### Ambulance

Council members unanimously approved the appointment of Karen Shultz as interim director for Cook Ambulance Service. She fills a position left vacant after former director Tina Rothleutner recently resigned to take a similar position with another department.

Meanwhile, in other business, the council took two actions related to Cook Timber Days. They approved a gambling permit for Friends of the Parks for the annual raffle, and agreed to pay the costs of porta potties and disinfecting stations for the event.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

## NWFA ramps up for Spring Art Expo

**COOK-** With the "Finding Light" photo contest and a quilt exhibit already on display through May at the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook, the organization isn't resting for a moment as it seeks artists for the 2021 edition of the popular "Spring Art Expo."

Artists and crafters of all kinds are invited to take over a 4x8 section of wall space or a six-foot table section to display their works for sale. Art-

ists who have their own display unit may use it if it fits within the allowed space. All sale proceeds go directly to the artists, while NWFA benefits from the \$15 entry fee for members and \$30 entry fee for nonmembers.

Artists should register for the event by May 13, and art submission should be in the gallery by June 2 in time for the June 3 expo opening. An artist's biography must accompany the entry. To set up an appointment or for addition-

al information, contact Alberta at 218-666-2153. Participating artist's biographies may be emailed to Shawna at shkisel@gmail.com.T

The art expo will run through June 26.

While registration forms are available online at www.nwfamn.org, artists and crafters are encouraged to register in person at the gallery at 210 S River St. in Cook in order to view the "Finding Light" photo contest exhibit and cast their votes

for their favorites. Cash prizes will be given to the winner and runner-up. Also on display is the Barbara Reed Schroeder quilt display.

The gallery is open Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The telephone, 218 780-7130, is answered only during gallery open hours.

Go to www.nwfamn.org for more information about NWFA and SAE registration forms.

## Book club moves May 11 meeting to park gazebo

**COOK-** It's out with Zoom and in with the fresh spring air for the May meeting of the Readers and Rappers Book Club, which will be held in the gazebo at Cook City Park at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 11.

Out of an abundance of caution for the coronavirus pandemic, the club has been holding its meetings online.

The meeting is scheduled a half-hour

earlier than normal to give members ample time to recommend and select books for the upcoming year's reading list. Members are encouraged to recommend and provide a summary of a book they are willing to moderate at a future meeting.

The May 11 event will also include a discussion of "The Nickel Boys" by Colson Whitehead, moderated by Ellie Larmouth.

## School forest provides learning experiences

**FIELD TWP-** Now that the weather is getting warmer and the ground is drying out, it is the season for us to use our school forest. We are so lucky that the location of the school, along with the partnership with Field Township, allows us to have this wonderful resource right out the front door. Plus, with the mask wearing that we are required to do in the school building, using the school forest is a welcome

need of some brushing. It was also re-flagged. Our local DNR forester, Steve Horndt, flagged much of it. The route should now be fairly easy to follow again. Soon, the "pencil popple" will be growing in the clear-cut areas, and we will be starting the forest cycle over again.

Connie Harju in the front office secured a \$500 mini-grant from the Minnesota School Forest branch of the DNR. We are always looking for financial avenues to assist us with our projects. We are in the process of lining up dirt fill in order to make two "low-spots" more accessible. Both areas will require small culverts and fill in order to be crossed more easily. Once complete, our next steps are to hopefully access some additional grant funding for trail signage and some benches. Our long-range plan is also to include some interpretive signage in English and Anishinaabe, benches for resting along the trail, a gazebo with benches for changing into boots or snowshoes, and an outhouse so that students and guests do not have to walk all the way back to the school to use the restroom.

Teachers have been busy taking kids outside to experience the forest. They have been playing games outside, journaling about nature, and writing about their observations as spring leads to big changes in how the forest looks. This week, sixth graders will also be planting saplings, which will further increase the diversity of our forest. Our fourth graders in Mrs. Tuthill's class ventured

out recently, and as indicated in the accompanying photo, they have their own chairs. Several classes of students have folding chairs at school in order to pursue outdoor learning. Students have seen many types of birds, deer, and fox in our forest. Coyotes were spotted this winter.

Additional lessons in plant identification, compass use, forest management, and traditional Anishinaabe forest use are on the horizon. Many classes, from elementary to high school, make the forest a part of their curriculum. Mr. Bajan's Ojibwe Culture and History class has

been exploring parts of the forest as well, and recently came across the carcass of what was a mature whitetail buck. The cause of his death is unknown, but the remaining carcass is an educational reminder of the cycle of nature and the cruelty that forest creatures must endure to

survive the tough Minnesota winters.

As our school forest plan evolves, we look forward to more opportunities for usage and community involvement and access to the facility. I will do my best to keep our communities up to date on our progress, and we welcome your support.



Fourth graders enjoying the North Woods school forest. submitted photo

Area St. Louis County Solid Waste and Recycling Facility site hours			
<b>Ash River Trail Canister Site</b> 11391 Ash River Trail Summer Hours Wed: 1pm–4pm Sat: 2:30pm–5:30pm	<b>Kabetogama Lake Canister Site</b> 10150 Gamma Rd. Summer Hours Mon. & Wed: 9am–noon Sat: 10:30am–1:30pm	<b>Sturgeon Canister Site</b> 8380 Hwy 73 Hours Sun: 10am–4pm	
<b>Orr Canister Site</b> 4038 Hwy 53 Summer Hours Tue: 9am–1pm, Thu: 2pm–7pm Sat: 8am–noon, Sun: 10am–2pm	<b>Portage Canister Site</b> 6992 Crane Lake Rd. Summer Hours Mon & Tue: 2pm–6pm Thu: 10am–1pm, Sun: 3pm–6pm	<b>County 77 Canister Site</b> 2038 County Rd. 77 Summer Hours Tue: 1–6pm, Thu: 8am–1pm Sat: 8am–5pm, Sun: noon–6pm	
<b>Cook Transfer Station</b> 2134 S. Beatty Rd. Hours Mon: 10am–6pm Tues thru Sat: 9am–3:30pm	<b>Regional Landfill</b> 5341 Regional Landfill Rd., Virginia Hours Mon–Fri: 8am–4:30pm Sat: 8am–3:30pm	<b>St. Louis County Environmental Services Department</b> 3994 Landfill Rd, Hibbing Hours Sat: 8am–1pm	
<b>Household Hazardous Waste Facilities</b> 5345 Regional Landfill Rd., Virginia Tue, Sat: 8am–1pm	<b>Summer hours effective April 15th through September 30th</b>	<b>1-800-450-9278</b> Office hours 8-4:30 Mon. thru Fri. <a href="http://stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle">stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle</a>	

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## PUBLIC SAFETY

# New Fire Chief sworn in for city of Ely

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – New Ely Fire Chief David Marshall took the oath of office this week, administered by Interim Mayor Chuck Novak Tuesday night at the City Council meeting, and began his duties as both department leader and secretary.

The council's negotiating committee met with Marshall late last month to review the position's pay and job description. As recommended, the council agreed to pay Marshall a flat \$700 biweekly with no hourly pay for calls and training.

"The former chief got paid a salary plus got paid to be on fire calls and training," Novak said. "This (new pay agreement) ends up being a wash for us if not actually a budget plus, so we thank Mr. Marshall for his offer."

The negotiating committee also discussed the fire chief's job description and possible revisions. According to the meeting minutes, the position was last reviewed in September

## David Marshall is a 17-year veteran of the volunteer force

2010, when former chief Tom Erchull took over as department leader. The chief's job description continues to include the duties of Emergency Management Director, currently maintained by Ely Police Department Sgt. Gorge Burger. The city's employee relations committee will review Marshall's revisions later in May.

Marshall will also continue his duties as department secretary, and the position will remain open, allowing future department leaders to fill the position depending on any revised management plan.

Chief Marshall will return to the city council on May 18 with a slate of recommended officers.

"He has some ideas on how to get current in the department as far as pay for the various officers," Novak said.

Council member Heidi Omerza, who also sits on the negotiating committee, highlighted the importance of communication with the

department.

"It was a delight to see right away that we already have fire department meeting minutes in our (council packet) and I appreciate that," she said.

"We forgot what they look like," Novak added.

Later in the council meeting, Marshall provided an update and described recent response calls.

"We had a call to Pioneer Apartments for an elevator that was stuck due to a partial power failure," he said. "There was a resident in the elevator in excess of 30 minutes, in the dark. He was grateful for our help and assured us he would be a stair climber from now on."

The department also responded to a compressor malfunction at the Ely Ice Arena on the ISD 696 campus that resulted in the charging of the sprinkler lines, Marshall said. Ely firefighters responded to a mutual aid call last Friday from the Morse/Fall Lake Fire Department, the Department of Natural

Resources and the U.S. Forest Service for a grass fire on Wolf Creek Pass Road.

"It was about a half-acre in size," he said. "We sent personnel and three trucks to that scene."

The new fire chief also described a variety of recent department training sessions and upcoming training topics to be covered.

### Liquor license transfer

Eric St. Martin, owner of Ely Liquor, is outgrowing his building at 438 E. Sheridan St. and wants to move to a larger location.

He recently changed the name of the popular off-sale liquor store from Lakeshore Liquor, and has fond memories of growing up in the building in the 1970s when his grandparents owned the store.

"I'm bursting at the seams and I need more room," he said.

His request for a liquor license transfer for his

business was approved. He will soon be doing business down the street at 1406 E. Sheridan in the former Family Dollar building.

With the liquor license transfer hurdle cleared, St. Martin had another issue and looked to the council to help him.

"I'm not quite ready to write a sizable check if there is going to be another liquor store approved very close to my new location," he said. "Are we really ready to add a fourth or fifth off-sale liquor (store) in the city of Ely? Will this be a rubber stamp or will you have a discussion on it?"

St. Martin was referring to the proposed renovation and expansion of the former Shopko building by Zup's Brothers Inc. with plans that include the addition of a new off-sale liquor store at the expanded food market. An enlarged meat processing area, new pharmacy, and dry goods availability will also be included in the expanded store.

"As we discussed with you," Novak said, "the city is not in a position where we have any limits on liquor licenses. If we deny a liquor license, it has to be from a legal standpoint."

St. Martin asked about the possibility of "closing" the availability of off-sale liquor licenses.

"Since it was open and with liquor there were no restrictions, no one entertained the idea that we would put a limit on licenses. It never came up as an idea that we would address," Novak said. "The city has a Liquor Commission to address those issues. I agree that too much competition kills everybody. What if another hardware store comes to town? What would that mean to our long-term businesses here?"

Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski will have more information on the issue at the next council meeting.

## OUR COMMUNITY

## Range Mental Health receives grant funds to work toward certification

*People Helping People*

**RMHC**  
Range Mental Health Center, Inc.

for RMHC and brings us into the next generation of providing care to meet our consumers' needs with a person-centered approach," said RMHC CEO Janis Allen.

The core components of services required to become a CCBHC are care coordination, peer support, assessment/referral to indicated services including primary care, tracking

of social determinants of health, and continued reporting on quality measures for persons served to improve care provided and healthy outcomes for persons served.

"These services will be provided by staff from a person-centered lens to meet the need as an essential community provider for the communities RMHC serves," said Allen. "In

the end, it's better service, better care and we'll be better at what we do."

Becoming a CCBHC will require RMHC to add care coordinators across settings to partake in the intake process, monitor clients' services path and provide follow-up. Currently there is not a point of contact between when a person calls and when that person sees a clinician.

"We will be looking at the whole person, see what the assessments says and start them on the right pathway with a reduced wait," Allen said.

This is applicable to both outpatient mental health services and sub-

stance use disorder services.

"It will make it easier to access and more comprehensive care for the person who is asking for help," said Allen. "No one asking for help has an easy time asking for help, and when they do, to have to wait two months means they may go somewhere else."

"It's about helping people navigate so it's seamless for them to go from one service to the next to get their needs met," said Allen. "It's coordinated care across settings, offering a full spectrum of health services, including primary medical care, which is the wave of the future."

RMHC is a nonprofit

organization dedicated to providing comprehensive, integrated behavioral healthcare services to Northern Minnesota residents, helping people reach and maintain productive and dignified lives. RMHC offers mental health and substance use disorder services in Virginia, Hibbing, Eveleth and Ely and will celebrate its 60th anniversary in May.

For more about RMHC, see [www.rangementalhealth.org](http://www.rangementalhealth.org) or call 218-749-2881. Appointments can be made at the same number. For details on the CCBHC job positions and to apply, see [www.rangementalhealth.org/careers](http://www.rangementalhealth.org/careers).

## Tax credits bill awaiting legislative action would bring filmmakers to region

REGIONAL - A transferable tax credit to encourage the film and television industries to bring their productions and resulting jobs to Minnesota as they begin to ramp up post-pandemic production is working its way through the legislative process.

Over the next few weeks, the measure will be included in Tax Conference Committee deliberations as they take up the Omnibus Tax Bill. Sen. Tom Bakk, I-Cook, and Rep. Dave Lislegard, DFL-Aurora, are among the committee's members.

Counties represented by Bakk have long attracted small film projects to the region. Between 2014 and 2018 at least eleven small feature films and two TV series were filmed in the area, representing more than \$4 million in spending on local wages and at local businesses. A tax credit incentive would

bring larger budget projects to the region, along with millions of dollars in new spending, and blue-collar jobs that pay higher than average wages.

St. Louis County has already taken steps to try to attract production to the North Country.

"The production industry brings in new money to our region and gives locals a new career pathway that allows them to live and be creative right here in Minnesota," said Riki McManus, Chief Production Officer of the Upper Midwest Film Office. "That is happening right now in Northern Minnesota because of the St. Louis County Film Incentive. We have four episodic series that would like to shoot here but they are just waiting to see if the tax credit passes. They need it in order to bring these large projects that can potentially last years

and employ hundreds and sometimes thousands of people over the span of shooting."

A bipartisan Film-Production Tax Credit bill, HF 1975, authored in part by Lislegard, and its Senate counterpart, SF 1986, authored by Sen. David Tomassoni, Chisholm-DFL and others, received hearings in their respective chambers. However, only the House version was included in its Omnibus Tax Bill, requiring the Conference Committee to reconcile differences between the two versions.

The measure would create a transferable tax credit of up to 25 percent on qualified in-state expenditures for TV/film production.

The bill has the support of Minnesota Film & TV and SAG-AFTRA, labor/union leaders from IATSE Local 490, Teamsters Joint Council 32, and

the Directors Guild of America.

"This bill is not just good for our members, but also for businesses around the shooting location — everything from restaurants to dry cleaners to hotels," said SAG-AFTRA National Executive Director David White. "There are three great reasons to pass this bill: More money for the state, stimulus for the economy and more jobs for working people. And it comes with a bonus: all

of it helps to create art that enriches our culture."

Tourism sees a definite impact from local film production. A recent report by the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) revealed that the highly labor-intensive film/TV industry is responsible for creating 2.6 million jobs nationwide. Two-thirds of those jobs were in indirect industries such as hospitality, transportation, and the construction/building trades.

More than 30 states

have recognized the economic benefits of film production to their state and offer some form of production incentive, including Montana, Georgia, Illinois, and New Mexico.

With the explosive growth of streaming viewership throughout 2020, there is now a demand for new content that outstrips current studio capacity, providing even more opportunity for states with production credits.

## New manager for Ely-Winton Historical Society

ELY - Paul Colwell is taking over the reins of the Ely-Winton Historical Society upon the retirement of long-time manager Margaret Sweet.

Colwell, a Texas native, recently moved to this area from Boston, Mass. He said he is very interested in the local history and has made it his priority to learn as much as he can about this area.

Colwell has ample experience with historical research, archive maintenance, community relations, social media communications, and computer work. Additionally, he plans to earn a Museum Studies Certificate from the University of Minnesota Duluth. He and his wife, Charlene (nee Haapala), currently live in Babbitt.

Colwell may be reached Tuesday through Friday at the Ely-Winton



Historical Society office, 218-365-3226 or email him at [ewhsmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:ewhsmuseum@gmail.com).

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## BOG...Continued from page 1

back out on one stretch already," said Dave Webb, Pember's project manager. "So, things are going pretty good."

Progress is moving along in part because the crew has doubled in size.

"We started with three and actually it was going really good," Webb said. "But we just added another group of three and suddenly things are going along quite nicely."

A challenge before work began was to make tweaks to the original bid specifications to bring the project in line with the city's \$392,350 budget. A prime candidate for savings was modifying the number and/or size of the floats underneath the planned 55 open-water sections along

the river, and Webb hit on a good solution.

"Originally, there were more floats per section," he said. "I found some larger floats that you could actually set each end on. So now we're down to three floats per section, and it should have more than enough capacity. And with the section ends sitting on floats it will help hold it together better in the long run. We saved them a decent amount of money just by switching the kind and number and switching to a little larger float."

While replacing the land-based sections is relatively straightforward, approaching the water-based sections is a plan yet to be determined.

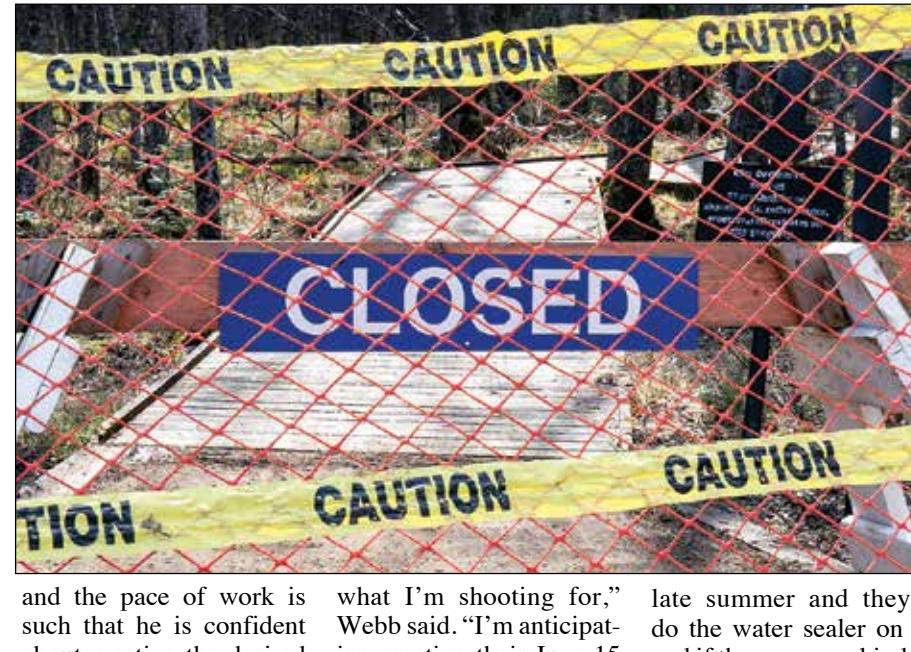
"We're not sure how

much the water fluctuates out there," Webb said. "We're going to build our way back out there, and by the time we get back out there maybe the water level will be a little lower. Maybe not."

Whatever the case, Webb and his crew are prepared.

"We brought our work platform raft with us this week, so the guys can push that out from the landing, we can grab a boat and push that down the river and get access to it from that way," Webb said. "We might end up building some sections and floating them in from the boat landing. We'll see how it goes."

The crew hasn't encountered any unforeseen obstacles, Webb said,



and the pace of work is such that he is confident about meeting the desired construction deadlines.

"It should be open hopefully mid-June, that's

what I'm shooting for," Webb said. "I'm anticipating meeting their June 15 deadline with this portion here, and then we'll have somebody come back in

late summer and they'll do the water sealer on it, and if there are any kind of adjustments needed, we'll take care of those then."

## POLYMET...Continued from page 1

"Despite the media narratives spun by opponents of our project, the Minnesota Supreme Court's opinion ruled in PolyMet's favor in six of the eight issues, including the most significant legal issue," wrote PolyMet spokesperson Bruce Richardson in follow-up comments on last week's ruling. "The claims of a 'win' by opponents of our project simply do not withstand scrutiny," he added.

Meanwhile, in an email to supporters, Chris Knopf of Friends of the Boundary Waters, one of the environmental litigants in the case, called the decision "a huge victory."

"The high court found that DNR failed in its oversight by allowing PolyMet to use a risky method to contain the enormous amount of acid mine drainage the mine would produce. They also failed to set a fixed end

date for mining to end, and for cleanup and reclaiming the land," wrote Knopf. "PolyMet has no permit. If they want to move forward, they need to start over, they need to begin again," Knopf concluded.

Knopf wasn't alone in that assessment. Legal counsel for the groups opposing the mine said last week that PolyMet will need to reapply for its permit to mine, and that the application process will include a new opportunity for public comment and to raise issues based on new information that the high court didn't directly address in its recent ruling.

The DNR sees it differently. "The Minnesota Supreme Court did not 'reverse the permit to mine' in the sense of voiding the current permit and requiring a new application," said DNR Assistant Commissioner Barb Naramore. "The court

ordered a contested case hearing on whether the use of bentonite in the tailings basin is a 'practical and workable' reclamation technique. The permit to mine will remain suspended during the contested case hearing on that issue."

While the DNR may eventually modify the permit based on information learned through the contested case hearing, which would be conducted in front of an administrative law judge, Naramore said the permit could simply be modified based on that new information.

"No new permit application is required," she said.

That's not at all clear according to attorneys on the other side. What is clear is that under state law the Supreme Court had the option to uphold the DNR's decisions, to remand them to the agency for further analysis, or to reverse or modify them. On the issue of a fixed term, the court was straightforward: "We further conclude that the court of appeals was correct in reversing the decision to grant the permit to mine because the DNR erred by issuing the permit without an appropriate fixed term," the judges wrote.

### Eye of the beholder

It's not the first time that parties in a legal dispute have found different ways to interpret a court ruling. In this case, said Ann Cohen, a former lawyer in the state attorney general's office, who now represents the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, a win is really a matter of perspective.

"I suspect that if you'd asked PolyMet the day before the ruling what they would consider a win, they'd have said they could start mining," said Cohen. "As it stands today, they don't have a permit under which they could start their

mine," she said.

Yet Cohen and other environmental attorneys expressed surprise at the DNR's position. "I think the DNR needs to look at its own rules," said Cohen, noting that the DNR can't issue a decision on a mining permit until after any required contested case hearings are completed. "I don't know what the DNR thinks those words mean," said Cohen. "Our understanding is that the DNR needs to make a new decision. That's standard administrative law."

And once that decision is made, critics of the decision will be free to begin a whole new round of legal challenges, a point that the Supreme Court made itself in its recent ruling on the case. And those challenges are almost certain to go well beyond the two issues that the Supreme Court ruled on last week and will likely bring the focus back to the legal sufficiency of the permit to mine, which was an issue that the court decided it did not need to settle in the current case.

As the court noted in a footnote in their written ruling: "Our decision today focuses primarily on the DNR's decision to deny respondents' petitions for a contested case hearing on the permit to mine. Because we conclude that the DNR must hold a contested case hearing on the bentonite amendment, we believe a decision on the legal sufficiency of the permits is premature."

Which means the court didn't really address the fundamental arguments of project critics, which center on the adequacy of the permit to protect the environment.

While the high court ruled in favor of the DNR's authority to deny contested case hearings on several issues, the court made it

clear that the DNR would be well served by taking a broader approach as it begins to take a fresh look at the permit to mine, if only to bolster their case should the high court, as seems likely, eventually need to rule on the adequacy of the permit. The court noted that the "DNR has the authority to identify the issues and scope of the contested case hearing... and may decide to address issues raised by this appeal regarding the legal sufficiency of the permits."

### Issues may not be minor

Even if that fresh look is limited to the issue of bentonite and the permit's lack of a finite term, the agency could still face a significant challenge, says Cohen. She notes that the DNR's position on the use of bentonite was soundly criticized by the agency's own hired experts. "They had so many experts telling them this plan was hinky and that they needed to get some proof that it would work," said Cohen.

"Instead, they proposed to let PolyMet move ahead and just experiment with the scheme."

While the issue of the use of clay might seem a relatively minor matter, it's an important one, says Knopf of the Friends. "The bentonite is the mechanism for controlling the acid drainage," he said.

"And here the DNR is essentially trying to let them build a plane while flying it. That seems to defy common sense."

The far thornier issue, Cohen believes, is establishing a set term for the permit, which is the other issue on which the Supreme Court found for opponents of the mine. "That's the DNR's real dilemma," said Cohen. "The DNR has no idea whatsoever when this

facility will be able to be reclaimed. They can't just pull a term out of wherever they can't reach. There has to be an actual plan for reclamation and they have to have substantial evidence supporting their decision."

While acknowledging the court's reversal on the issue, the DNR's Naramore defended the agency's decision. "The DNR used a performance-based term, rather than a fixed date, because this is a straightforward manner to ensure that the permittee remains subject to the permit conditions until the DNR determines that all obligations have been met," she said.

"This has been the DNR's long-standing approach with permits to mine and was not unique to the PolyMet project."

Cohen says the DNR's approach is flawed because it sets no timeline or benchmarks for closure. "We want to know when the mine will be closed," said Cohen. "The object of the [mining] rule is to revegetate and integrate the site back into the surrounding environment. This will be a huge challenge for the DNR."

Cohen says that challenge was made more difficult by the DNR's decision to allow PolyMet to use a "wet closure" method that will retain highly-acidic water in the tailings basin, potentially for centuries. The agency can't realistically "close" the mine until any discharge can be treated passively, such as through a manufactured wetland. Cohen describes that issue as the "Gordian knot" of the entire project.

Modeling done for the mine's environmental impact statement suggests the site will retain a high degree of acid generating potential for hundreds of years, a period of time that far exceeds any permit previously issued by the state. Environmental groups contend the DNR couldn't identify a date by which the permit could be ended, so they essentially fudged the issue. "But the Supreme Court was very clear that you cannot have a forever permit," said Knopf. "And that's what the DNR wanted, a permit without an end date."

Naramore sees that issue as less critical. "While the Minnesota Supreme Court ordered the DNR to set a fixed term for the permit to mine, the court also noted that 'DNR retains the power to amend the permit if a permittee fails to achieve reclamation within the proposed term,'" she notes. "DNR will make a determination regarding the appropriate permit term in accordance with the court's decision."

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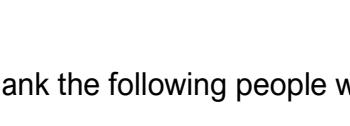


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## POLICE...Continued from page 1

you're talking excessive use of force, violating rights, or racial profiling," said Richard Painter, a University of Minnesota law professor who specializes in civil litigation. "This is a big area of potential liability."

Indeed, for many small communities that maintain their own law enforcement, one bad police shooting could leave a small city or township bankrupt. While most local governments maintain liability insurance to protect against such outcomes, the current liability limits on most of their insurance policies rarely exceeds \$2 million.

Almost all but the largest cities in Minnesota obtain their insurance through the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust, or LMCIT, which typically maintains a \$2 million limit. "That's not going to cover you on one of these cases," said Painter.

While state law limits most government tort cases in Minnesota to \$1.5 million, the lawsuits filed in such cases are often based on federal civil rights laws, in which there are no limits.

Increasing liability limits is one possible protection, but higher protection means substantially higher premiums. "The LMCIT was created and is owned and managed by its members, which are cities and other local government units," said Dan Greensweig, who administers the trust for the League. Greensweig says setting the limits of liability is a balancing act that weighs the coverage most communities need against the cost of premiums. "As the legal environment and our members' exposures change, we modify our coverage limits accordingly," said Greensweig. "All other things being equal, though, higher limits mean more exposure for us and our reinsurers and result in higher premiums."

Concern about the liability over police misconduct really isn't that

new, according to St. Louis County Sheriff Ross Litman. "But recent incidents have certainly highlighted the consequences that civil settlements or liability can bring on any entity," Litman said. St. Louis County, which is large enough to be self-insured, is less at risk than smaller units of government. The county maintains a well-established tort liability fund to pay jury verdicts when they happen.

The county recently settled a small liability case following an injury to an inmate of the county jail. But the county could face a larger claim after the shooting death of 20-year Estevon Elioff in Mt. Iron back in December. Litman said the county hasn't seen a lawsuit in that case, at least not so far.

Litman said St. Louis County has been relatively fortunate to have avoided major liability from the actions of county law enforcement. "But that could change today or tomorrow," he said.

### **Limiting liability**

When it comes to civil liability, communities can rely on more than insurance to protect themselves. "These settlements stress the importance of having qualified, well-trained staff," said Litman. He notes that St. Louis County deputies train frequently, including critical incident training, so they have the skills to defuse incidents that can lead to citizen fatalities. "We've always stressed that," said Litman, who noted that the training is now mandated in Minnesota.

Painter agrees that communities can help reduce their risks by taking appropriate steps. "City councils should be proactive," he said. "If they see evidence of racial profiling, it has to be reported. If you have reasonable controls in place, you can protect against larger judgments," he said.

Painter said he believes

that the vast majority of police are law abiding and want to do the right thing. "But, in any group, you have people who are out of control," he added. By addressing those officers, he said, communities can protect themselves. "Getting more body cams on police would help," said Painter, who notes that the cameras can help document improper conduct by officers. "Video cameras and body cams have made a huge difference," he said.

According to Painter, communities also need to have a reporting system if their police may be engaging in racial profiling and need to focus on addressing officers who are the subject of multiple complaints. If communities fail to act even in the face of complaints, the liability risks can escalate, notes Painter. "At a certain point, the statistical evidence turns against you," he said.

Painter also suggests that communities look at ways to change the way that police conduct themselves. "They should really reconsider the 'Mickey Mouse' stops, for minor things," he said, noting that many police shootings start with traffic stops for minor offenses. Painter said many minor issues can be addressed without having to interact in person with

a driver. "Why are municipalities stopping cars over a taillight?" he asked. "Just snap a photo and send them a ticket in the mail." He said it would be far more efficient for police to enforce expired license tabs by walking through a parking lot and sticking tickets on windshields. "We really need to pull back on some of these kinds of things," he said.

Litman said there's some validity to Painter's suggestions, although he notes that communities can benefit by having frequent interactions with their local law enforcement. "Certainly, if you minimize the pro-active contacts, you

will reduce the use-of-force incidents," said Litman. "But I don't know if that's the direction that we as a society want to go."

Given the growing complexity of law enforcement in an age when video cameras are now nearly ubiquitous, Litman said he fears that policing is inevitably headed in that direction anyway, and that is likely to make it increasingly more difficult for small communities to maintain their own police. "Why would a small entity like that want to deal with all of this?" asked Litman. "All the training and the supervision, and the liability?"

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## BASEBALL

# Grizzlies take a pair

Chalk up wins against Mesabi East and Littlefork-Big Falls

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

**FIELD TWP-** The North Woods baseball team is on a roll, chalking up impressive wins in contests against Mesabi East last week and Littlefork-Big Falls on Tuesday.

The Vikings had a long bus ride home on Tuesday after the Grizzlies dropped the hammer in a 12-0, five-inning affair. Starting North Woods pitcher Jake Panichi tallied three strikeouts in the top of the first, and the Grizzlies blew the game wide open in the bottom

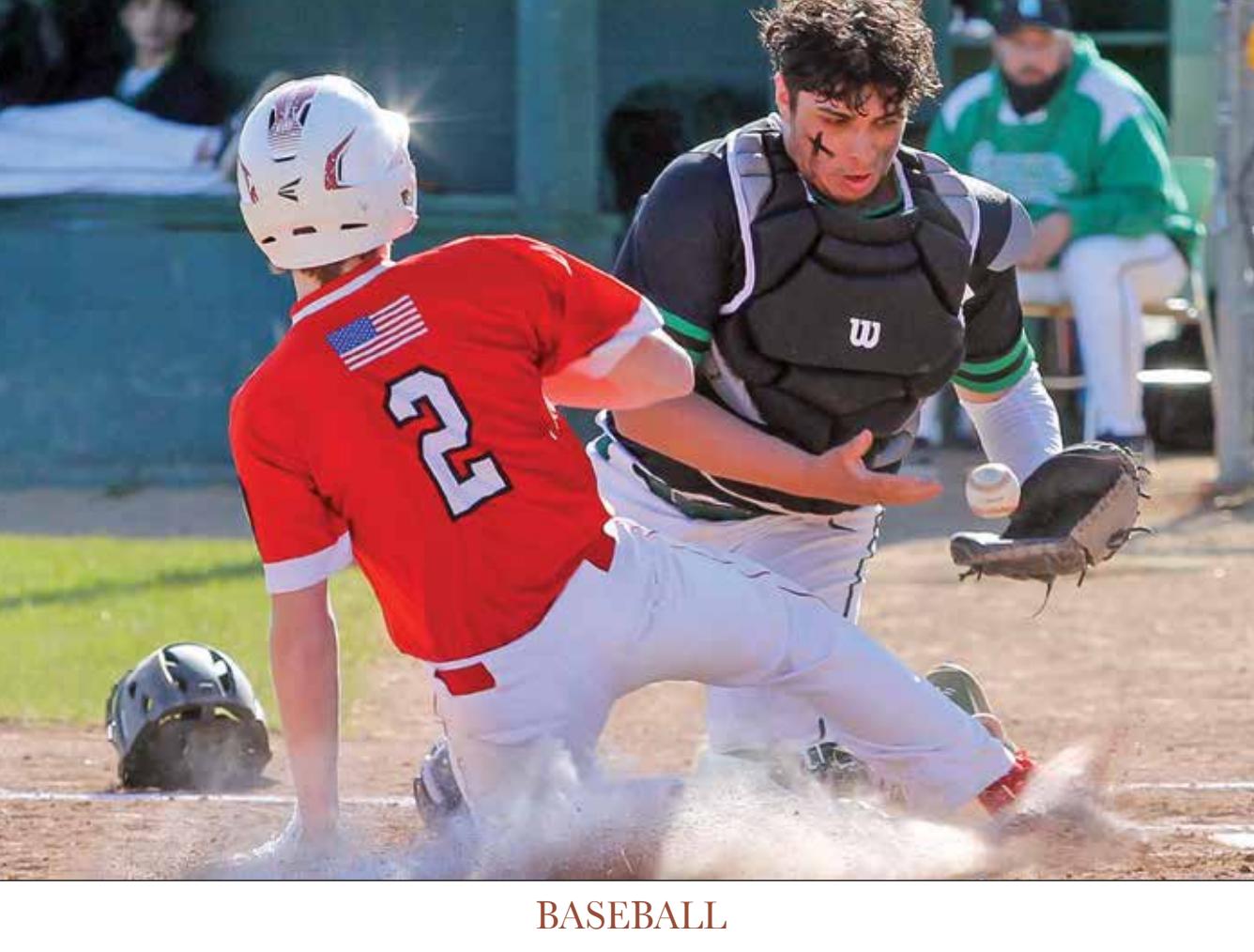
half of the inning, scoring nine runs. Jake Panichi, Ty Leinonen, Austin Sokoloski, Louie Panichi, Cole Thiel, and Zach Cheney all moved runners across the plate with RBIs in the frame.

North Woods picked up

See GRIZZLIES...pg. 2B

**Right:**  
**Zach Cheney**  
**kicks up**  
**synthetic**  
**pebbles as**  
**he slides**  
**for a steal at**  
**Mesabi East.**

photo by  
D. Colburn



## BASEBALL

# Wolves split on the week

Chisholm pitching tops Ely; better offense lifts Wolves over Greenway

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

**CHISHOLM**— Ely junior Harry Simons pitched a solid game here on Monday, but five Timberwolves' errors helped the Bluestreaks to a 6-0 win. “We struggled at the plate and in the field,” said Ely Head Coach Frank Ivancich. “Harry pitched well enough to deserve a better fate in this game.”

Indeed, Simons allowed just one earned run on six hits, while striking out seven Chisholm batters.

Ely had plenty of opportunities to get on the scoreboard as it stranded ten runners. “We just couldn’t seem to produce a big hit to get them on board,” said Ivancich.

Senior Will Davies and junior Eddie Prijatel notched the only two hits of the game for Ely.

The Wolves had a better outing when they hosted Greenway last Friday. Davies made his high school pitching debut a memorable one as he hurled a complete game, allowing just four runs while scattering seven hits and fanning three batters, while walking none.

More lively Ely bats also helped as the Wolves put eight points on the board to take the contest 8-4. The Wolves got the party started in the bottom of the third frame, as junior Mason Davis drove in two runs en route to a 3-0 Ely lead. Greenway

**Top:** Ely sophomore Logan Loe slides safe into home during last Friday's contest with Greenway.

**Right:** Ely's Erron Anderson makes the long stretch for an out, beating the Greenway runner by a split second.

photos by K. Vandervort



## SOFTBALL

# Wolves outlast Grizzlies

Notch 15-10 victory in battle of the bats

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

**ELY**— One big inning was what the Ely Timberwolves softball team needed, and that’s what they got in a 15-10 triumph over the North Woods Grizzlies on Thursday, April 29 in Ely.

After Ely pitcher Katrina Seliskar retired the first two

**Left:** Ely's Sydni Richards puts wood to the ball during last week's contest with North Woods.

photo by K. Vandervort

Grizzlies batters in the top of the second inning, North Woods went on a tear, hammering four singles and two doubles while scoring five runs to take a 5-1 lead. Ely answered with three runs in the bottom of the second, but still trailed 5-4.

After turning a double play to erase a North Woods scoring threat in the top of the third, it was Ely’s turn to light up the base-paths. The Timberwolves rocked

Grizzlies starter Ivy Chauklin for five singles, two doubles, a walk and seven runs to go up 11-5. After both teams scored three runs in the fourth, Ely tallied another in the fifth. The Grizzlies managed to plate two runs in the seventh on a

Hannah Cheney RBI triple and a steal of home, but it wasn’t enough.

Seliskar scattered 16 hits, surrendered five earned runs, and struck out four Grizzlies. She also contributed at the plate, going four-for-five with a run scored and three RBIs.

Charly Flom and Sydni Richards also went four-for-five for the day. Flom scored four runs. Richards scored once and added four RBIs.

Pitching three innings each, North Woods hurlers Ivy Chauklin and Evelyn Brodeen gave up a combined 26 hits against ten strikeouts. Skyler Yernatich went three-for-four from the plate. Avery Thiel had two RBIs.



## GOLF

# NW golfers start strong

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

**FIELD TWP-** The members of the North Woods boys golf team had high expectations going into the 2021 season, and so far they’ve delivered, both as a team and individually.

The Grizzlies opened the season on April 21 by winning a five-team tourney in Virginia, with Ian Olson taking top medalist honors with a 1-over-par round of 36. Sam Frazee carded a 40, Davis Kleppe had a 42, and Eli Smith scored a 43. The Grizzlies’ 161 total was one stroke better than runner-up International Falls. Virginia-MIB, Hibbing, and Mesabi East rounded out the field.

On Wednesday, April 28, the Grizzlies picked up their second

See GOLF...pg. 2B

## SOFTBALL

# Grizzlies top Deer River

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

**FIELD TWP-** After consecutive losses, on the road to Ely and at home Monday against Mt. Iron-Buhl, the North Woods softball team got back on the winning track on Tuesday with a 20-5 thumping of Deer River on the North Woods diamond.

After shutting down Deer River in the top of the first, the Grizzlies revved up the scoring machine in the bottom of the inning. Karah Scofield, Helen Koch, Skyler Yernatich, Ivy Chauklin, Evelyn Brodeen and Addy Hartway all crossed the plate for scores and the Grizzlies worked the Deer River pitcher for four singles and three walks in the six-run

See NW GIRLS...pg. 2B

## TRACK

# North Woods runners place at Mesabi East

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

AURORA- Three North Woods athletes competing in the colors of the South Ridge Panthers took part in a quadrangular track meet on Thursday, April 29 at the Mesabi East sports complex.

Senior sprinter Joey Lakoskey had a hand in eight of the 56 points scored by the combined South Ridge/North Woods/Cherry girls squad. Lakoskey's raced to a fourth-place finish in the 100-meter dash with a time of 14.23 seconds, edged out of third by barely a tenth of a second by Hibbing's Brynn Babich.

Lakoskey ran a strong third leg for the Panthers' second-place

4x100 relay team, which clocked a time of 55.13 seconds. Other relay members included Kenna Ridge, Sophie Johnson, and Jaden Ellefson.

Fellow Grizzlies senior Zuly Roach competed in two individual events. Her time of 34.18 seconds in the 200-meter dash landed her in 15th place, and she finished eighth in the 800 meters with a time of 3:33.10.

Mesabi East edged Hibbing 113-105 to claim the team title. South Ridge's 56 points were enough to outpace Two Harbors for third.

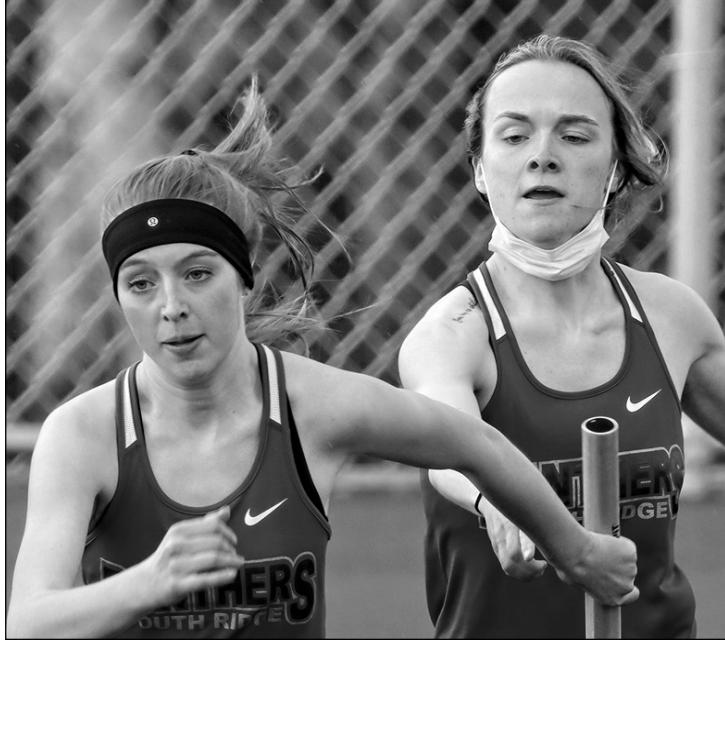
North Woods eighth-grader Alex Burkhardt fared well against older competition last fall during cross country, and he proved those performances

were no fluke by racing to a fourth-place finish in the 1500 meters last Thursday. Senior Isaac Swanson of Two Harbors easily outdistanced the field with his winning time of 4:48, but Burkhardt's time of 5:30.88 put him squarely in the lead pack.

Burkhardt's two points helped South Ridge to a third-place finish for the boys, trailing Hibbing, 105.5, and Mesabi East, 85.5. Two Harbors scored 51.

The Panthers were scheduled to be back on the track on Tuesday at Moose Lake, followed by a Thursday meet at Chisholm.

**Right: North Woods senior Joey Lakoskey passes the baton to a South Ridge teammate during the 4x100 relay.** photo by D. Colburn



## SOFTBALL

# Ely keeping it close in high-scoring games

by KEITH VANDERVORT

Ely Editor

ELY-Heading into Monday's game at International Falls, Ely's 3-3 record included high-scoring games with both wins and losses.

They held true to form against the Broncos as they dropped to 3-4 on the season after suffering a 10-8 loss.

Pitcher Katrina Seliskar had one of her rougher outings of the season as she gave up the 10 runs on 11 hits, while issuing five walks. She also struck out three batters. At the plate, Sydnie Richards had four RBIs. Charly Flom and Kate Coughlin each

went two for four.

"I'm happy with where we are so far this season," said Coach Cory Lassi. "Out of the four losses, two of those were two-run games that we were in. We could easily be 5-2."

More than just the record, Lassi looks to the growth he sees in the team each week. "We told the girls from the start, there's two things we want to see. We hope they enjoy being out here and have fun playing the game," he said. "We don't know if or when we might get a call that we are forced to quarantine for two weeks because of COVID. That would be a big chunk of the

season. The other thing is, I want to see them get better each time they hit the field. I see improvement every game."

Ely opened the month of May with a rare morning game at home last Saturday against Cook County that resulted in an impressive 13-3 victory in five innings.

Multiple Ely players had big days with multiple hits. Kate Coughlin went two for three at the plate, scored three runs and added two RBI. Charly Flom went two for two and scored twice. She also added two RBI. Madeline Kallberg was one-for-three at the plate with a double and a run scored.

at the plate. Seliskar got the win. She struck out five, scattered eight hits and didn't walk anyone.

On April 28, Ely fell 13-3 to host South Ridge. Flom gave up 11 hits and walked five to take the loss. Kate Coughlin went one-for-three with a double and an RBI. She also scored a run. Madeline Kallberg was one-for-three at the plate with a double and a run scored.

Coach Lassi singled out Seliskar for her pitching as well as hitting ability. "I moved her down in the lineup from second to fifth and ever since she's come to the plate with a lot of confidence," he said. "She's an all-around solid

player. She's always around the strike zone and throws outs."

He added, "Charly makes solid plays every time. And from the lead-off spot she finds a way to get on base. Yesterday, in her first at-bat she fell behind 0-2, and ended up drawing a walk."

The Timberwolves were set to host Eveleth-Gilbert on Thursday, and travel to North Woods on Friday. Ely will return home Monday to host Mt. Iron on Monday. Ely's home game against Littlefork-Big Falls on Wednesday, May 12 will start at 3 p.m. because of the Junior/Senior banquet later that evening.

## GRIZZLIES...Continued from page 1B

single runs in each of the next three innings to add to their lead. Jake Panichi allowed just one Vikings hit and recorded 10 strikeouts before giving way to reliever Caleb Uchal in the fourth inning.

The Grizzlies collected 11 hits, with Leinonen's 3-for-3 performance leading the way.

It was only slightly less lopsided in the Grizzlies'

contest against Mesabi East. After a scoreless first inning on the Giants' home diamond, the Grizzlies rattled Mesabi East starter Brayden Leffel with singles and stolen bases by Andrew Zika and Chris Chauklin, and a walk by Ben Kruse to open the second. All three advanced and scored on wild pitches by Leffel that got past the catcher.

Zach Cheney added to

the Grizzlies' 3-0 lead in the top of the third. Cheney smashed a line drive single to center, stole second, then advanced to third on a Jake Panichi ground out. Cheney sprinted home when the catcher had to throw the ball to first base after a dropped third strike.

The Grizzlies got all the runs they would need to win when Chauklin launched a three-run homer

to left with two out in the top of the fifth. Cheney and Panichi scored ahead of him for a 7-0 lead.

Drawing the start on the mound for the Grizzlies, Cheney held the Giants in check for the first four innings, but in the fifth the Giants picked up two runs on an RBI double and a run on a North Woods error to get back in the game at 7-3.

The Grizzlies erased

any notion of a comeback in their next at bat. With two out in the top of the sixth, Louis Panichi reached base on an error, followed by a Cole Thiel walk. Cheney smacked a double to score Panichi, and then Jake Panichi doubled to score Thiel and Cheney.

The Giants scratched across another run in the bottom of the inning, but the Grizzlies held on for a

10-4 win.

Cheney held the Giants to six hits against nine strikeouts in the complete-game win, and went 3-for-4 at the plate. Seven Grizzlies collected 11 hits in the game.

North Woods is scheduled to host Cherry on Friday before traveling to Pequot Lakes next Tuesday.

The Wolves were set to host Cherry on Thursday afternoon. After a weekend tournament in Blackduck, the Wolves will be back home on Monday to take on Virginia and will host Mesabi East on Tuesday.

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

responded with four runs in the top of the fifth on a double and two Ely errors. But Ely wasn't finished as Prijatel, freshman Andrew Marolt, sophomore Joey Bianco, and sophomore Erron Anderson all drove

in runs to put the Wolves up 7-4. Ely later added an insurance run, but it didn't factor into the decision.

Anderson had a standout performance a day earlier, in Mt. Iron, as he went 3-4, including three

RBIs, and stole three bases to help lead Ely to a 9-2 win over the Rangers.

The Wolves did most of their damage in the third inning as they put five runs on the board on RBI hits by Davies, Anderson, and

junior Jacob Towley. They sent ten batters to the plate in the fifth as they added three more runs. Anderson and sophomore Logan Loe both notched RBIs in the frame.

Towley notched the

win for Ely, as he pitched five and a third innings, allowing just two runs on three hits, while striking out six and issuing five walks.

Marolt pitched well in relief, allowing just one hit while notching a strikeout.

got to Brodeen for 15 hits and seven walks, although she rang up five MIB batters on strike-outs.

North Woods rallied in their final at bat, but their three runs fell short of closing the gap to force extra innings.

Karah Scofield had two RBIs and Hannah Cheney collected one for the Grizzlies. The Rangers

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

inning.

With Chauklin on the mound holding Deer River to just five runs in four innings, the Grizzlies had little trouble in padding their lead, scoring four runs in the second inning, two in the third, and a game-end-

ing eight-run outburst in the fourth.

Koch accounted for four RBIs on two-for-two hitting, and Avery Thiel, Skyler Yernatich and Ivy Chauklin had two RBIs each.

Chauklin threw 60

pitches in the shortened affair, striking out six while giving up eight hits.

## Mt. Iron-Buhl

The Grizzlies hoped to exact revenge for an earlier 13-2 loss to MIB when the Rangers came to North Woods on Monday, but

the Rangers still managed to squeak out an 9-5 win.

Evelyn Brodeen took the mound for the Grizzlies and backed by good defense kept the Grizzlies close until a three-run blitz in the top of the seventh gave the Rangers a 9-2 lead.

## GOLF...Continued from page 1B

East Range Conference tourney victory in a field of six teams. Sam Frazee and Ian Olson tied for team low score with 39, just one stroke off of top medalist Connor Willard,

of Hibbing. Davis Kleppe came in with a 41, and Eli Smith had a 44. Together, their 163-stroke total was 19 strokes better than second-place Hibbing. The remaining teams in order

of finish were Virginia-MIB, International Falls, Eveleth, and Mesabi East.

The same six teams plus Hermantown and Cass Lake-Bena gathered Tuesday at Fortune Bay

Resort for The Wilderness Golf 18-hole Invitational tournament.

Once again, a North Woods golfer was the cream of the crop. Davis Kleppe's round of 80 tied

with two other golfers, but Kleppe was declared the winner in a scorecard playoff.

Ian Olson and Sam Frazee tied for 15th with scores of 88. Eli Smith

landed in 25th place with a score of 92. The Grizzlies tied for fourth overall with International Falls.

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## VERMILION COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**Lori Schmidt to keynote VCC Class of 2021 commencement**

ELY – The Vermilion Community College Virtual Commencement for the Class of 2021 will be held on Tuesday, May 11.

The keynote speaker will be Lori Schmidt, alumna, former Natural Resource Program co-ordinator, and Vermilion Community College Foundation's Lifetime Achievement recipient.

Schmidt received a Natural Resource Technology AAS degree and AA degree from VCC in 1983, earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resource Management from



Lori Schmidt

the University of Minnesota in 1994, and a Master's in Forestry from Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada in 2000.

Schmidt became an instructor in Vermilion's Environmental Studies department in 1990,

and by 1995 was working full time in the Natural Resource department, teaching in the NRT, Fish and Wildlife and Surveying degree programs.

She served as the advisor for Vermilion's Forestry Wildlife Club, the VCC Society of American Foresters student chapter, and was the Natural Resource Program Coordinator. Schmidt was the recipient of the 2019 VCC Foundation Lifetime Achievement award for her outstanding accomplishments and exceptional commitment to the natural resource field. She re-

tired from VCC in 2019.

A virtual slideshow and live music will begin at 6 p.m. The virtual commencement ceremony starts at 7 p.m. Go to VCC's website, [www.vcc.edu](http://www.vcc.edu), for details on how to view the slideshow and ceremony.

Anticipated awards include 11 Associate of Arts, 19 Associate of Science, and 37 Associate of Applied Science degrees, and one diploma. There are 63 honors graduates.

Following prelude music performed by Joey Kenig to open the celebration, "Pomp

and Circumstance March" will be performed by the Minnesota Orchestra.

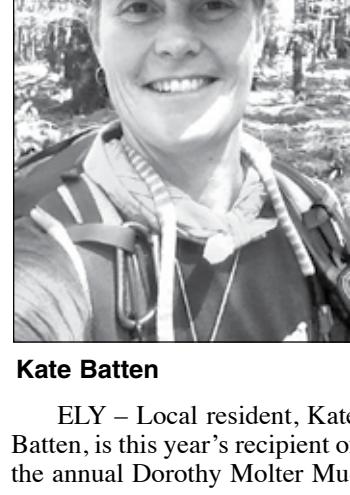
VCC Interim Provost Christopher Koivisto will welcome graduates and guests, and Dr. Michael Raich, President of the Northeast Higher Education District will provide a greeting for those in attendance.

Following the presentation of the class by Koivisto, Faculty President Reed Petersen will present degrees and certificates.

## DOROTHY MOLTER SCHOLARSHIP

**Ely resident awarded Molter Museum scholarship**

Wilderness First Responders scholarship helps resident medical professional receive advanced training



Kate Batten

ELY – Local resident, Kate Batten, is this year's recipient of the annual Dorothy Molter Mu-

seum Wilderness First Responders scholarship, awarded to residents of northeastern Minnesota pursuing a degree or continuing education in a medical field.

The scholarship was established by the Dorothy Molter Museum to honor Dorothy Molter's legacy of serving thousands of visitors who came to her for medical care during their wilderness trips in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

"We are proud to award Ms. Batten this year's scholarship and value her contributions toward providing medical services in our community" said Executive Director Jess Edberg. "Her work at the Ely Area Ambulance Service and Ely VA Clinic, as well as her volunteer work on

northern Minnesota Team Ruricon is of great value to us all. Her desire to stay abreast of current wilderness rescue methods by attending the National Conference on Wilderness Medicine demonstrates her passion for helping others and embodies the spirit of Dorothy."

Ely legend Dorothy Molter was concerned with the physical well-being of others and gave freely of her medical knowledge to all who came her way. To give back to the community that supported Dorothy, the Dorothy Molter Memorial Foundation (Dorothy Molter Museum) awards one scholarship per year up to \$1,000 from the Wilderness First Responders Fund. This scholarship is funded by

contributions made from staff, board, volunteers, members, supporters and guests of the Dorothy Molter Museum.

"I am active in the outdoors and have Advanced Wilderness Life Support certification," Batten said. "This conference will be incredibly useful in both refreshing what I already know and teaching me new skills and knowledge. Whether I am responding through an organization like the ambulance service or helping a group member on a personal trip, the skills and knowledge I will further develop will be invaluable."

Scholarship applications are located at [www.rootbeerlady.com](http://www.rootbeerlady.com) and donations for this fund are accepted both online and at

the Dorothy Molter Museum in Ely. The next scholarship cycle will be in spring 2022.

The Dorothy Molter Museum strives to inspire the next generation of Northwoods stewards to make a significant contribution toward a better world through Dorothy's legacy of perseverance, integrity and generosity. It has been preserving and interpreting Northwoods wilderness heritage through learning opportunities inspired by Dorothy Molter, the last non-indigenous resident of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness for over 25 years.

## Obituaries and Death Notices



Lynell R. Yancey

Lynell R. Yancey, 66, of Tower, passed away on Monday, April 26, 2021, at St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth. A Tribute to a Life Well-Lived will be held for Lynell at 11 a.m. on Friday, May 7 at the Sand Lake Chapel in Britt with Pastor Dick Lohry officiating. Visitation will be for one hour prior to the service at the church. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

Lynell was born on March 27, 1955, in Moose Lake, the daughter of Clarence and Helen (Wills) Folstad. When she was a young girl, the family moved to Tower, where she grew up and graduated from Tower-Soudan High School in 1973. She was united in marriage to John Zaitz on June 6, 1973. They lived in Chicago for a year before moving to Tower, where her two children were born. On Oct. 26, 1994, she married Michael Yancey in Lowville, N.Y. They lived in Tower for a time and then in Wisconsin and Pennsylvania before returning to Tower.

Lynell had been an assistant supervisor for the Tower Ambulance and a volunteer for the Breitung Fire Department. She was employed by Allegheny Particle Board in Pennsylvania, Flambeau River Papers in Wisconsin, Disability Specialists and Potlatch, both of Cook, and for the past five years, at For-

tune Bay Resort Casino in Tower, retiring in March of 2020. Lynell enjoyed doing diamond painting, golfing, fishing and was an avid reader. She loved her puppies. She followed all of her children's sports and was their biggest fan. She especially loved her grandkids. They were her world.

Lynell is survived by her husband, Michael Yancey of Tower; children, Joseph Zaitz of Tower and Melissa (Alan) Schroeter of Ely; grandchildren, Alexis Kudis, Ethan Zaitz, Jonathan Zaitz, Trevor Zaitz, Jordan Haburn and Lily Schroeter; her first great-grandchild expected in September; brothers, Kenneth Folstad Sr. of Soudan and Peanuts (Linda) Folstad of Soudan; the father of her children, John Zaitz of Tower; numerous nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins; and her fur babies, Hadasah and Havalah.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Clarence and Helen Folstad; sister, Kathy Fuson; and grand-niece, Kendra Folstad.

## Marlene Akkanen

A graveside service for Marlene Akkanen of Babbitt will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 8 at Argo Cemetery in Babbitt with Pastor Brian Birk officiating. Visitation will begin at 11 a.m. A luncheon and celebration of life will follow the service at the Junction Inn in Babbitt. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

## Alice R. Niemi

Alice Ruth Lamppa Niemi, 92, was born on June 22, 1928, in Embarrass, and died 92 years, and 23 miles farther, on Dec. 19, 2020, in Virginia. A celebration of life service will take place at 11 a.m. on Monday, May 10 at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Virginia with Pastor Amy Janssen offi-

cating. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church. Current COVID mandates will be followed. Inurnment will be in the Embarrass Cemetery at a later date. Memorials may be directed to Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners.

Funeral arrangements are by Ziemer-Moeglein-Shatava Funeral Home in Gilbert.

## Dennis Erchul

Dennis "Denny" Erchul, 83, of Duluth, passed away on Sunday, Jan. 3, 2021, at his home. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 15 at St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower with Father Nick Nelson as celebrant. Visitation will be for one hour prior to the service at the church. Burial will be in Lakeview Cemetery in Tower. Masks and social distancing will be required.



# Outdoors

Our lives in the  
Northwoods

## FISHING

# Be prepared for northern pike this season

## DNR reminds anglers of northern pike zone regulations

**REGIONAL**— If you're planning to take to your favorite lake for the May 15 fishing opener, the Department of Natural Resources is recommending that you familiarize yourself with the new zone regulations for northern pike.

"Sometimes anglers who catch northern pike are fishing for other types of fish and aren't sure what to do with that toothy pike on the line," said Bethany Bethke, DNR fisheries research scientist. "We want these anglers to be equipped with the

knowledge they need to keep a pike if that's their desire."

Minnesota has three northern pike zones that apply to inland waters and reflect the differing characteristics of pike populations across the state:

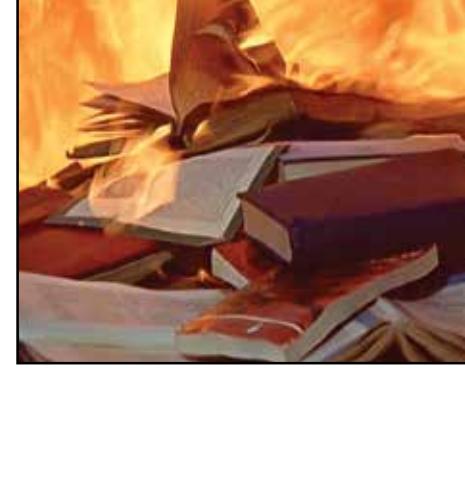
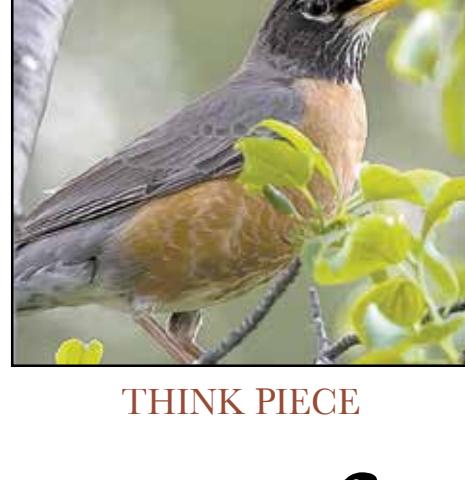
In northeastern Minnesota, anglers are allowed no more than two pike and must release all pike between 30 and 40 inches. One fish over 40 inches is allowed.

In north-central Minnesota, anglers are allowed a limit of 10

northern pike, but not more than two pike longer than 26 inches. All fish 22 to 26 inches must be released.

The DNR implemented the zone regulations in 2018 following

See NORTHERNS...pg. 5B



## THINK PIECE

# Telling Jizz from Jazz

## What an albino robin says about truth and perception

by PETER M. LESCHAK

Contributing Writer

I saw a bird flash through the crown of an aspen, ruffling summer leaves, briefly lit by morning sun. At that instant I thought: robin. I'd keyed off the shape, size, and location. In the next instant I thought: but it was white, pure white! I had seen the bird for no more than three seconds.

In the birding lexicon there's a phrase "general impression and shape" or G.I.S., spoken as "jizz." It's commonly a snap judgement, and experienced observers almost always have a jizz when they glimpse or hear a bird. That first impression may be wrong, but it registers. If my jizz was correct then I'd seen an albino robin. Is that even possible? Yes, there are albino birds, and according to data from the University of Wisconsin, robins express full or partial albinism more than any wild bird species. Just over eight percent of North American avian albinos are robins, and about one in 30,000 individuals show the trait.

So my jizz was likely trustworthy, but here's the thing: I wasn't casually strolling the woods that day, I was stalking. About 200 times each year I deliberately spend an hour in a specific area, seeking every bird I can see or hear and recording species and numbers that I enter into an international data base accessed by research ornithologists. For that purpose jizz is not enough. As bird identification expert David Sibley writes, "Observers should beware of using jizz as a substitute for careful study and thought." I'm confident I spotted an albino robin, and enjoyed telling people about it, but I did not record the observation as fact. My sighting was as much jazz as jizz, a kind of happy birding riff. Those three seconds were fun but they weren't science. If the bird had perched, and if I had a few more moments to raise and focus binoculars, maybe then I could've

logged the sighting.

We regularly employ jizz in daily life, reaching quick judgments about people, ideas, news items, food, music – you name it. It's a seemingly automatic process. You meet a new person, experience an impression, and categorize them. It can be a useful short cut as we traverse the obstacle course of life. Is that new person a potential ally or a potential adversary? But the

tion was achieved. You could see it happening – the softening of brows and pursed lips; sentences beginning with "Well...." or "Oh, I didn't know...."; a ripple of self-conscious chuckling. The essential leavening was good will and a sense of responsibility.

Manifestations of good will and responsibility are not routinely generated by jizz. We aren't born with a sense of duty or a sturdy streak of amicability. If we're seeking a durable outcome in the human sphere, allowing nuance to blossom, then we usually need to take more time, uncover enough truth to be able to "log in the sighting." It's crucial work. Mark Twain wrote, "A lie can travel around the world while truth is putting on its shoes." He said that a century before the internet. Barbara Kingsolver, another insightful writer, remarked, "Pain reaches the heart with electrical speed, but truth moves to the heart as slowly as a glacier." It would be facile and perhaps old fashioned to advocate therefore that we should read more books and fewer social media posts. I support the notion, but it's unrealistic. That ship has sailed and is over the horizon. I need to keep in mind that my jizz on this matter is informed by the facts that I'm an aging Boomer who reads, on average, a book per week; who long ago deleted the Facebook account; who has never Tweeted. And yes, I certainly know intelligent, reasonable humans who don't routinely read books.

However, are their lives and our culture and civilization supported by those who do? It's worth thinking about. Ray Bradbury's 1953 novel "Fahrenheit 451" describes a future American society where books are outlawed and routinely burned by "firemen" appointed to the task. It's a passionate parable about censorship and oppression, and one of the more chilling aspects of the tale is that most citizens don't have a problem with it. While actually torching

mounds of books is an effective plot device, and certainly happens in our world, Bradbury himself noted that, "You don't have to burn books to destroy a culture. Just get people to stop reading them." I submit that's a way to either purposely or inadvertently create a national, communal, unconscious jizz.

It's been done. Adolf Hitler wrote: "The art of leadership consists of consolidating the attention of the people against a single adversary and taking care that nothing will split up this attention....The leader of genius must have the ability to make different opponents appear as if they belonged to one category." In other words, dispense with nuance. Which is pretty much the same as eliminating individual ideas and expression. It's not a long journey from there to the gallows. If not in practice, at least in effect. If you're afraid to say something, you don't need to be executed. When people in contemporary America attend meetings carrying guns, it usually doesn't bode well for dialogue over the details. Openly discussing details is the hard currency of retail politics, the social legal tender that keeps communities together.

I once had a .44 Magnum revolver aimed at my forehead. The muzzle was an intimate eight inches away. I was ordered to "Keep your mouth shut!" I did.

The threat was not issued in a political context, but when shock subsided I recalled a famous statement by Mao Tse-tung. "Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun." The man brandishing the .44 was in not in a symposium-friendly mood. If his trigger finger had twitched I would've been dead a half-century ago, a victim of impulse. But fortunately, power doesn't flow exclusively from force or threats. Margaret Atwood, one of the great decoders of the human condition, wrote, "A word after

If we're seeking a durable outcome in the human sphere, allowing nuance to blossom, we usually need to take more time...

Peter M. Leschak

problem with short cuts, rules-of-thumb, and other heuristic schemes is that by definition, they lack nuance – subtle distinctions or variations. Election campaigns are the obvious case in point, driven by sound bites, glittering generalities, and blatant appeals to bias. It's possible that facet of our national democratic process will never be remodeled, but such disarray is not mandated for your personal life.

It's my experience that on a smaller scale even politics can dodge the downside of jizz. For over three decades I've been heavily involved in township government, and on several occasions I've witnessed citizens enter the meeting chamber in a polarized, sometimes hostile mindset over a local issue. Given the relatively few people involved and town board members who were willing to listen, and to entertain details and shades of gray – that is, nuance – on almost every occasion an amicable, if not perfect, resolu-

## Wildflower Watch

This week's featured flower  
**ROUND-LOBED HEPATICA**



You'll find the **Round-lobed Hepatica**, *Anemone americana*, among our earliest blooming wildflowers. They can often be spotted poking up through lingering spring snow, but cold doesn't seem to bother this hardy species. There are actually two species of hepatica in Minnesota, but the other, **Sharp-lobed Hepatica**, is limited to central and southern Minnesota, so if you spot hepatica here in the North Country, it's almost certainly the round-lobed variety.

The leaves in both species are found at the base of the plant, with the cheery flowers, ranging in color from white to light purple, sitting atop 3-5-inch tall stems. A single plant may sport anywhere from one to a dozen blossoms.

They're a member of the Buttercup family.

## Outdoors briefly

### Apply by May 7 for fall bear hunt

**REGIONAL**—If you hope to hunt black bear in northeastern Minnesota this fall, you have until Friday, May 7 to apply for a permit.

Applications for the 2021 season should be submitted online or via telephone at 888-665-4236.

A total of 3,575 licenses are available in 13 permit areas. The fee to apply is \$5. Bear licenses cost \$44 for residents and \$230 for nonresidents. The bear season runs from Wednesday, Sept. 1, through Sunday, Oct. 17.

Lottery winners will be notified by June 1 and will have until Sunday, Aug. 1 to purchase their license. Any remaining unpurchased licenses will be available starting at noon on Wednesday, Aug. 4.

The no-quota area that includes east-central and far northwestern Minnesota is not part of the lottery drawing and will have an unlimited number of licenses available that may be purchased starting July 1.

Overall, bear permit numbers for quota areas have remained unchanged since last year to allow bear population numbers to gradually increase and support a robust bear population.

See TRUTH...pg. 5B

## YOUNG WILDLIFE

## Leave fawns be, says DNR

**R E G I O N A L —** Whitetail does will soon be giving birth and that means that fawns will be found out in the woods and fields around the region. The Department of Natural Resources is asking that people avoid disturbing or touching them.

Most fawns are born from mid-May to mid-June, and they do not attempt to evade predators during their first few weeks of life. Instead, they remain still to avoid being seen. During these times, fawns are learning critical survival skills from their mothers but are often left on their own while their mothers forage nearby.

Be assured deer fawns do fine even if they look



abandoned or fragile. Even if a fawn is wounded or abandoned as a result of a car strike or animal attack, people should not transport it before speaking with a wildlife rehabilitator. More information about what people should do if they find fawns or other species of baby wild animals is available on the DNR website.

## Fishing reports

## Ely area

Crappie anglers finally got a nice stretch of warm weather and sun to help with the crappie bite. Anglers reported finding crappies in deeper water just outside shallow bays, early in the day. By the afternoon, crappies were being located in water as shallow as three feet. Small tube jigs, hair jigs or plain hook and minnow, fished under a bobber were the go-to regardless of depth.

only open on waters along the U.S./Canada border. Anglers have been making the trek north to find cooperative fish and have reported good success. Spinnerbaits and spoons accounted for good numbers of pike around the 30-inch mark. Dead bait fished under a bobber accounted for many of the bigger pike pushing the 40-inch mark. Key areas were shallow bays and river mouths, in 10 feet of water or less.

Courtesy Arrowhead Outdoors, Ely

## TRUTH...Continued from page 4B

word after a word is power," that is, the relentless pursuit and application of truth. Books are only one source of such power, but over the long haul what channel is deeper, or to update the metaphor, what channel has more bandwidth?

Last October I looked out a window and spotted a bird scratching in the duff at the base of a balsam fir. My jizz: what is that? I'd not seen this bird before. Shape suggested a Brewer's

blackbird, but it wasn't. I scrutinized it with binoculars from twenty feet away for a solid three minutes – a relative eon in birding. Aloud, I recited the characteristics of its "topography," then grabbed a field guide and ticked them off against three or four images, employing Sibley's "careful study and thought." It was a rusty blackbird. No doubt. I logged it in.

## NORTHERNS...Continued from page 4B

extensive public input and comments. In the north-central zone, the northern pike regulations address angler concerns about the over-abundance of small, or "hammer-handled," northern pike.

"Northern pike can be delicious table fare. We encourage anglers to know the regulations and give a meal of pike a try," Bethke said. "Northern pike require a little more work while filleting, and anglers can check the DNR website and other online sources for how-to videos on cleaning northern pike."

Throughout the state, special regulations that cover individual lakes, rivers and streams remain in effect and take precedence over the zone regulations. The northern pike zone regulations do not apply to border waters.

More information about northern pike

zones, including a zone map, is available on the DNR's northern pike page.

## LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
49 26	53 28	53 29	57 32	61 38
Ely Hi Lo Prec. Sn. Emb. Hi Lo Prec. Sn. Cook Hi Lo Prec. Sn. Orr Hi Lo Prec. Sn. Tower Hi Lo Prec. Sn.	Ely Hi Lo Prec. Sn. Emb. Hi Lo Prec. Sn. Cook Hi Lo Prec. Sn. Orr Hi Lo Prec. Sn. Tower Hi Lo Prec. Sn.	Ely Hi Lo Prec. Sn. Emb. Hi Lo Prec. Sn. Cook Hi Lo Prec. Sn. Orr Hi Lo Prec. Sn. Tower Hi Lo Prec. Sn.	Ely Hi Lo Prec. Sn. Emb. Hi Lo Prec. Sn. Cook Hi Lo Prec. Sn. Orr Hi Lo Prec. Sn. Tower Hi Lo Prec. Sn.	Ely Hi Lo Prec. Sn. Emb. Hi Lo Prec. Sn. Cook Hi Lo Prec. Sn. Orr Hi Lo Prec. Sn. Tower Hi Lo Prec. Sn.
04/26 49 20 0.03 0.8" 04/26 50 14 0.05 0.2" 04/26 50 21 0.02 0.4" 04/26 37 30 0.12 0.00 04/26 49 15 0.00 04/27 37 34 0.00 04/27 35 33 0.15 04/27 37 33 0.00 04/27 55 34 0.00 04/27 37 33 0.05 04/28 54 31 0.00 04/28 54 28 0.00 04/28 53 34 0.00 04/28 64 34 0.00 04/28 53 28 0.00 04/29 65 33 0.01 04/29 66 28 0.02 04/29 53 33 0.02 04/29 57 37 0.04 04/29 64 36 0.04 04/30 60 29 0.00 04/30 60 25 0.00 04/30 57 31 0.01 04/30 57 28 0.00 04/30 58 26 0.00 05/01 57 31 0.00 05/01 58 27 0.00 05/01 58 52 0.00 05/01 79 48 0.00 05/01 57 28 0.00 05/02 78 38 0.00 05/02 79 37 0.00 05/02 75 38 0.00 05/02 73 41 0.00 05/02 76 36 0.00	Total 5.23 69.9" YTD Total 4.95 50.1" Total 4.50 69.3" YTD Total 4.57 NA YTD Total 5.75 55.0"			

## WATER QUALITY

## EPA moves to protect wild rice waters

Lake Vermilion added to list of waters impaired by sulfate pollution

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER

Managing Editor

**R E G I O N A L —** The Environmental Protection Agency has added Lake Vermilion, the Pike River, and 28 other water bodies in northern Minnesota to the state's list of impaired waters, due to sulfate pollution.

The federal agency took that unusual step after the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency refused to add lakes and streams impacted by sulfate to the list of waters requiring plans to improve their water quality. Sulfate at levels above 10 milligrams per liter is known to harm wild rice — Minnesota's state grain which has long been nutritionally and culturally important to native tribes in the state.

The EPA challenged the MPCA's most recent update of its list of impaired waters last month because it did not include wild rice waters, which the federal agency contends violates federal law. EPA had informed the state that it would be issuing its own list of impaired wild rice waters, and it followed through on that promise late last week.

Minnesota has the nation's strictest sulfate limit for wild rice waters, at 10 mg/l, but the state has not enforced that law since its passage in the early 1970s. Environmental groups and tribes have pressured the MPCA and EPA for years to take action to address sulfate pollution, which is primarily discharged from taconite mines and some wastewater treatment facilities. Mining companies have lobbied lawmakers in St. Paul to relax the sulfate limit. Weakening the standard, without scientific evidence to support the change, isn't possible under federal law, however, and efforts by the Legislature to



commission new studies of the issue have only confirmed the sensitivity of wild rice to sulfate. While sulfate itself isn't toxic to wild rice, the chemical is often converted in aquatic systems to sulfide, which is deadly to the wild grain. High levels of sulfate downstream from mining operations has had documented impact on former wild rice beds.

Without a scientific basis for weakening the sulfate standard, the Legislature passed a law in 2015 that prohibits the MPCA from regulating sulfate discharges. The MPCA has repeatedly cited that law as rationale for failure to regulate sulfate pollution.

Sulfate discharge from the Minntac tailings basin, north of Virginia, into the Pike River watershed has left elevated levels of the chemical in the river's water. The Pike River, which flows into Lake Vermilion, adds tons of sulfate to the lake every day. In addition to impacting wild rice, sulfate is known to facilitate the conversion of elemental mercury to methyl mercury, a toxin known to accumulate in fish.

Lake Vermilion is the largest water body to be included on the list of 30 lakes and streams impacted by sulfates. In the case of Vermilion, the EPA lists both the lake as a whole,

and East Lake Vermilion as a separate water body. East Lake Vermilion has a higher overall concentration of sulfate, likely reflecting the proximity of the Pike River to that portion of the lake. The mean level of sulfate in East Vermilion was 12.38 mg/l, with a maximum reading of 14.6. The lake as a whole shows a mean sulfate level of 9.97 mg/l, but that increases to 10.71 mg/l if a single reading that the EPA believes was erroneous is eliminated from the calculation.

The Pike River showed considerably higher levels of sulfate, with a mean of 22.19 mg/l, and a maximum reading of 42.5 mg/l. The Sand River, which is a tributary of the Pike River, drains an area just downstream from the Minntac tailings basin, and maintains a mean sulfate level of 104.08 mg/l, with a maximum reading of 286 mg/l.

Other local waters impacted by sulfate include the Embarrass River (mean 26.1 mg/l), the Partridge River (mean 92.8 mg/l), Lake Esquagama (mean 16.11 mg/l), and Wynne Lake (mean 19.6 mg/l).

In northeastern Minnesota, natural levels of sulfate are very low, typically running 1-2 mg/l, according to sampling done by the MPCA and other agencies.

# CLEAN.DRAIN.DRY.

**CLEAN**

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

**DRAIN**

- Water from boat, bilge, motor, ballast tanks, and bladders. PWCs – run motor for 10 seconds to blow water out of jet drive
- Remove drain plug and open all water draining devices
- Trash unused bait

**DRY**

- Everything at least five days before going to other waters
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## PUBLIC NOTICES

## Notice-Local Board of Appeal & Equalization Breitung Township

### Important Information Regarding Property Assessments This may affect your 2022 property taxes

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeal and Equalization for Breitung Township shall meet in person on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 from 1:00 pm-2:00 pm at the Breitung Community Center, 33 First Ave, Soudan, MN. Meeting is also available via teleconference.

Via Conference Call: Phone in 701-802-5299. Access code 8973797#

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

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact the assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you disagree with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the local board of appeal and equalization. The board will review your assessments and may make corrections as needed. Generally you must appeal to the local board before appealing to the county board of appeal and equalization. If you are going to make an appeal in writing, please mail your written appeal as soon as possible:

Breitung Township, PO Box 56, Soudan, MN 55782 Attn: Dianna Sundahl, Township Clerk. Or send correspondence by email to the clerk at [clerk@breitungtownship.org](mailto:clerk@breitungtownship.org). You may call the Township Clerk with your questions @ 218-753-6020.

COVID-19 protocols will be followed, along with social distancing, and masks are required.

Dianna Sundahl, Clerk, Breitung Township

*Published in the Timberjay, April 30 & May 7, 2021*

## FOR SALE TO HIGHEST BIDDER

The Tower Economic Development Authority is offering the unattached contents of a garage located at 510 S. Second Street in Tower to the highest bidder. Contents include assorted lumber, tools, hardware, a Toro lawnmower, insulation, old band saw, and other assorted items. The contents will be sold as a lot and all of the contents will need to be removed from the site by June 15, 2021.

To view the contents, please contact TEDA Executive Director Marshall Helmerger at 218-750-2510 by Wednesday, May 19. Sealed bids must be received by 4 p.m. Friday, May 21, 2021, and delivered to Tower City Hall in person, or at P.O. Box 576, Tower, MN 55790.

*Published in the Timberjay, May 7 & 14, 2021*

## LOCAL BOARD OF APPEAL & EQUALIZATION LEIDING TOWNSHIP

### Important Information Regarding Property Assessments This may affect your 2022 property taxes

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeal and Equalization for Leiding Township shall meet on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. at the Leiding Town Hall.

The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether taxable property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor, and 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 disagree with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the local board of appeal and equalization. The board will review your assessments and may make corrections as needed. Generally you must appeal to the local board before appealing to the county board of appeal and equalization.

Marie Milan, Leiding Township Clerk

*Published in the Timberjay, May 7, 2021*

## EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP Open Supervisor Seat

Eagles Nest Township is seeking an interested resident for appointment to an open supervisor position through Jan. 2, 2023.

Minimum qualifications include being an eligible voter in the Eagles Nest Township, being at least 21 years old, and having lived in Eagles Nest Township for at least 30 days. Please send a letter of interest, along with qualifications to Eagles Nest Township Clerk, Keely Drange at 1552 Bear Head State Park Rd., Ely, MN 55731.

*Published in the Timberjay, May 7 & 14, 2021*

## CITY OF TOWER CALL FOR SEALED BIDS

The City of Tower is calling for sealed bids on a 2014 John Deere D150 Riding Mower. Sold as is, Where is. Needs Mower Deck Replacement.

Questions? call Randy at 218-753-6868

Minimum bid: \$200

Sealed Bids Due Monday, May 10 at 12 Noon, City Hall Outside Drop Box or Mail to PO Box 576, Tower, MN 55790.

Bids to be opened Monday, May 10, 2021 at the Council Meeting.

*Published in the Timberjay, April 16, 23, 30 & May 7, 2021*

## EMPLOYMENT

### Camp Voyageur

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### Super Crossword

#### Answers



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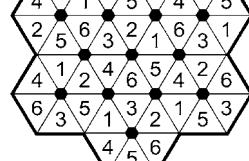
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SNOWFLAKES

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## General Maintenance Worker

NOTE: This is a reposting and those who already applied, need not apply again

Vermilion Community College is seeking qualified candidates for a Full-time General Maintenance Worker.

Work shift during the academic year is 2 pm -10:30 pm Monday-Friday and every third Saturday 8 am-4:30 pm. Summer schedule is Monday-Friday day shift with the option of four 10-hour days.

Duties include general maintenance, cleaning, and groundskeeping. The ability to work independently and experience with maintenance work in a business/school setting is preferred. Starting pay \$15.24/hr, benefits in accordance with Minnesota State Employees Union AFSCME, Council 5.

Interested individuals must apply on-line at <http://www.careers.state.mn.us/>, search Job ID: 44882.

To request further information, please call Human Resources (218) 749-7767. Deadline to apply: May 17, 2021. EO/AA 5/7

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

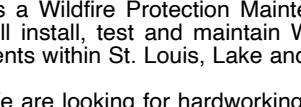
1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10
11			12		13			14			
15					16			17			
18				19		20		21			
			22		23		24		25	26	27
28	29	30			31		32				
33				34		35		36			
37			38		39		40				
41				42		43					
50	51	52			53		54		55		
56					57				58		
59					60				61		

### DOWN

1	Mr. Guinness	9	Dallas hoopster, briefly	31	Mentalist's gift
2	Nitwit	10	Chemical suffix	35	Church seat
3	Slay	11	Stitch	38	Heilium, for one
4	Ecol. watchdog	12	Multi-state lottery with a huge jackpot	42	Oxen harnesses
5	Event for Cinderella	13	Blackbird	45	Goddess of victory
6	Fleeting	14	In the style of	47	Tiny bit
7	The Duchess of Sussex who once starred in "Suits"	15	"CSI" evidence	48	Drescher or Tarkenton
56	Ms. Brockovich	16	Ocho —, Jamaica	49	Fedora fabric
57	Scratch (out)	17	Isaac's eldest	50	Wager
58	List-ending abbr.	18	Cozy rooms	51	Man-mouse link
59		19	Doorframe piece	52	Energy
		20	Cruising	54	-Mex cuisine
		21	Flag feature		

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## EMPLOYMENT



## HELP WANTED — FULL-TIME SUMMER EMPLOYMENT

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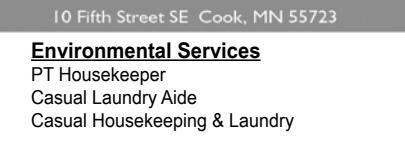
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Please contact George or Marilyn Carlson at 218-388-9969 c: 218-370-0399 or [gcarlson@wildfiresprinkler.com](mailto:gcarlson@wildfiresprinkler.com).

5/7



10 Fifth Street SE Cook, MN 55723

### OPEN POSITIONS

#### Central Services/Scheduling

FT Central Services Assistant/Staffing Scheduler

#### Hospital/ER

PT Registered Nurse (wage starting at \$34.06/hr- Sign-On Bonus)

#### Care Center

PT Nursing Assistant (wage starting at \$16.36/hr - Sign-On Bonus)

#### Activities

PT & Casual Activities Assistant

#### Environmental Services

PT Housekeeper

Casual Laundry Aide

Casual Housekeeping & Laundry

**TO APPLY:** [www.cookhospital.org/join-our-team/](http://www.cookhospital.org/join-our-team/)

More Info: Contact Human Resources

**218-666-6220**

[humanresources@cookhospital.org](mailto:humanresources@cookhospital.org)

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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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## HAIR CARE

DREAMWEAVER SALON & DAY SPA- Open Monday-Friday 8:30 - 6:30. 218-666-5594. tfn

## HOSPICE

VIRGIE HEGG HOSPICE PARTNERS can provide help for patients and their families in ways such as: comfort care, massages, last wishes and more. For more information, contact Program Director Becca Bundy at 218-780-5423 or vhhdirector@gmail.com. This ad is paid for by Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners.

## LOST

PURPLE JET SKI SEAT lost on Tuesday, April 27 on City Rd. 77 or Hwy. 169, between the Vermilion Club and Ely. Call Mark at 218-343-5903. 4/30p

## SUPPORT GROUPS

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.

ELY CO-DEPENDENTS MEETING- Fridays at noon-St. Anthony's Church Classroom 3-Use west side entrance. For more information go to coda.org on the web.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS-Meetings every Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Virginia.

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

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP-Are you troubled by 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.

VIRGINIA AA WOMEN'S MEETING- Ladies by the Lake. Tuesdays at 12 noon. Peace United Methodist Church, 303 S 9th Ave, please use side door and parking.

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

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

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

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

## King Crossword

Answers

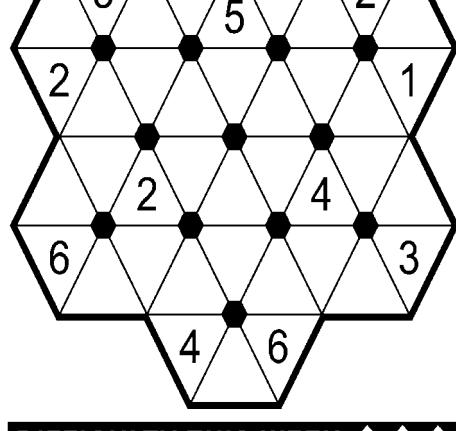
Solution time: 22 mins.

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

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

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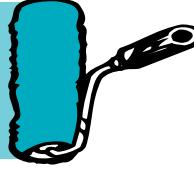
## HANGING FRUIT

## Super Crossword

ACROSS	54	Heroine in Nintendo's Mario games	101	Some shiny plastics	4	Court plea, in brief	40	See 37-Across	91	See 90-Across
1	Muscat dweller	104	Private college in the Bay State	5	Desktops since 1998	42	Resembling a gorilla	94	Flew on foot	
6	Imitate Daffy Duck	59	Lisa of pop	60	Like some hotel dining	43	Crowns for nobles	95	Period	
10	Chest muscles, informally	62	More than friendly	63	Chew like a rodent	44	Spring (from)	96	Glistening grass stuff	
14	Coalition	63	Rock	64	Ending for acetyl	7	Fourth prime	99	Mu — chicken	
18	Billiards shot	66	Dictator Ildi	68	Legendary hero of Athens	8	Antares, e.g.	101	Blood carrier	
19	Not duped by	70	Hawaii's Mauna —	71	Regatta gear	9	Tyler's successor	102	Give knowledge	
20	Folk legend Guthrie	71	Lindsay of "Mean Girls"	72	In case it's true ...	10	Infant food	103	Lipton rival	
21	Not-yet-final software	72	Come to New York City is said to be one	73	Hotel phone abbr.	11	Transgress	104	Respiratory woe	
22	Involving three parties	75	"Beetle Bailey," e.g.	76	It may follow "Use by" on a label	12	Attire	105	One slaving away	
24	One of the Clue suspects	77	Stuck — rut	78	Of no value	13	Capital of Bulgaria	109	Laud	
27	1971 Stanley Kubrick film	78	Attain	79	Irvine locale	14	Small pellets of shot	111	Spring (from)	
29	"Shop — you drop!"	80	"Quit it!"	80	Swamp grass	15	Not including	112	U.K. mil. branch	
30	Sully	81	Home pest	81	Prefix with present	16	Peter of "Masada"	113	Grocery, e.g.	
31	Middling	82	Mexican folk musician	83	Contends	17	Len of stage and screen	115	Due, as money	
32	Old Italian painter	86	British gun	84	Singer Bonnie	23	Ref's ring decision	116	Rome	
36	Singer Rawls	88	Collins of rock and pop	131	Concocted	24	Set up, for short	117	Doing the job	
37	Honcho	90	Fluorescent green Crayola color	132	Uninvited partygoer	25	Actress Susan	118	Evening, in adspeak	
41	Gruesome									



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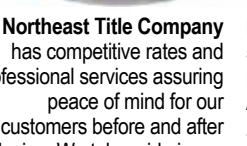
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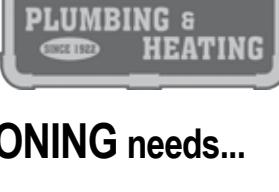
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[jschulze.excavating2@gmail.com](mailto:jschulze.excavating2@gmail.com)

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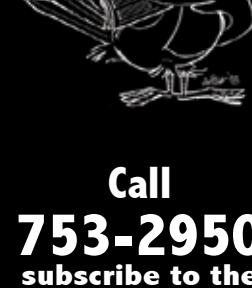
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# Kitchen & Bath Showcase

## KITCHEN

Cabinets • Counters • Flooring • Fixtures • Storewide Displays • Knowledgeable Staff

Tubs • Showers • Saunas • Tile • Counters • Design Assistance • Do-It-Yourself Ideas

## BATH

**FREE Estimates**

BIG Enough to Serve you; small Enough to Know You

**FLOOR to CEILING**  
INTERIOR DESIGN SHOWROOM

8401 Enterprise Drive N., Virginia/Mt. Iron  
(1/2 Mile West on Highway 169) • 741-6690

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HOURS: 9-5 M-F

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