





Flying Finn
 7503 Levander Rd
 Embarrass, MN 55732

February 2026
 Issue #2026-02

February 2026 Townhall Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 SISU Meeting	3 Ladies Coffee 	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Ladies Coffee 	11 Emb Town Board Meeting 6pm	12 Hall Rental	13	14 Happy Valentines Day
15	16 SISU Meeting 6:30pm Hall Closed	17 Ladies Coffee 	18	19	20	21
22 SISU Annual Meeting 2pm	23	24 Ladies Coffee 	25 Sewing Club 9am-4pm	26	27	28

Sisu Heritage, Inc.



invites you to its Annual Meeting

Sunday, Feb. 22 at 2 p.m.

Embarrass Town Hall, 7503 Levander Rd

Business Meeting • Coffee An' • Door Prizes

***Guest Speaker: Wayne Gannaway, Executive Director of the
St. Louis County Historical Society***

218-984-3024 • sisuheritage.org

Sisu Heritage, Inc. of Embarrass reports that significant work was completed on the Seitaniemi Housebarn in the fall of 2025. This work was made possible by funding from the Minnesota State Legislature. Preparation and construction work was provided by LHB and Underwood Construction. Major projects accomplished include:

- Removal of temporary framing from the north and south facades
- Removal of non-salvageable siding from the south and north facades
- Installation of new period doors for the hay loft
- Installation of new siding on the south, west, and upper portions of the east facades
- Window installation and pigeon holes on the south façade

A major grant from the Minnesota State Historical and Cultural Heritage program has been secured for 2026 in the amount of \$176,000. These funds will be used for completing almost all of the remaining exterior work, completing the privy restoration, and painting all appropriate siding and trim. The Seitaniemi Housebarn is the only Finnish log housebarn still standing in the U.S. Sisu Heritage, Inc. is committed to restoring the building to how it looked in the early 1920's.

Note to publication: For further information, you can contact project manager, Paul Knuti via phone at 218 290-0171.



**Town of Embarrass
Reorganizational Meeting and
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2026
PENDING BOARD APPROVAL**

Present: Jack LaMar, Shireen Lee, Eric Garman, Mary Novak, Jennifer Boese

Visitors: Gene Wright

Meeting called to order by LaMar with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:07 p.m.

December 2025 reviewed. *Motion LaMar/Lee to accept the minutes as amended. Carried 3-0.*

Motion Garman/Lee to have LaMar remain as chairman. Carried 3-0.

Motion LaMar/Garman to have Lee remain as Vice Chair. Carried 3-0.

Motion LaMar/Lee to adopt the regular board meeting schedule for the second Wednesday of the month but to change the time to 6:30 p.m. Carried 3-0.

Motion Lee/Garman to give lead maintenance (\$18.67) maintenance (\$16.14), and summer hire (\$15.36) a 2.5% COLA.

Motion Garman/Lee to increase Clerk (\$20.72) and Deputy Clerk (\$15.36) to a 2.5% increase for COLA. Carried 3-0.

Motion LaMar/Garman to increase Treasurer monthly wage at increase at 2.5% (\$364.01) Carried 3-0.

Supervisors all agree on no increase for themselves.

Motion Lee/LaMar to increase Sexton rates are increase the sexton rate from \$75 per interment to \$100.00. Carried 3-0.

Flying Finn editor no change.

Training rates no change.

Extra board meetings at \$25 no change.

Election Judges increase of 2.5%.

Motion LaMar/ to keep the designated newspapers Timberjay and Mesabi Daily News when needed because of time crunch. Carried 3-0.

Motion LaMar/Lee for supervisors' positions to remain the same. Eric Garman as Road Supervisor and Shireen Lee as Maintenance Supervisor. Carried 3-0.

Designated posting places to remain the same.

Designated banks and financial institutions to remain the same.

Campground Rates discussed. No changes at this time.

Flying Finn Rates and Advertising rates discussed. *Motion Garman/Lee to keep the Flying Finn rates the same. Carried 3-0.*

Town Hall rental rates and rental policy reviewed.

Motion LaMar/Garman to keep the town hall rental rates the same and add the amended changes by the board.

Carried 3-0.

Motion Garman/LaMar to raise the extra charge for winter burial to minimum of at least \$1,000. Motion Garman/Lee to change the burial charges for Casket/Vault to \$550, leave the cremains burial charges at \$125. Crypt Storage to be added during winter months. No storage after May 1st. Charge for Crypt storage at \$30 a month. Carried 3-0. Cemetery rules were reviewed.

Motion Lee/Garman to raise the Ice Candle to \$5.00.

Carried 3-0.

Motion Lee/LaMar to set the mileage rates as set by the IRS. Carried 3-0.

Motion Lee/LaMar to set the Ice Candle Celebration on December 19th. Carried 3-0.

Town Board reads and reviews the Code of Ethics.

Upcoming training opportunities NOTED.

REGULAR MEETING

Treasurers Report given by Novak. Breakdown of few claims still need to be completed by Clerk for December. Few uncashed checks from 2025 will need to be voided if not cashed, treasurer will try to contact the individuals who the checks were written too. *Motion LaMar/Lee to accept the Treasurers Report. Carried 3-0.*

Novak speaks about the upcoming CD that is approaching date of rolling over or taking other options with the CD.

Novak speaks about fund numbers that should be adjusted on CTAS accounting system according to the MN State Auditor's Office.

Motion Lee/Garman to change the fund numbers as recommended by the auditor's office. Motion LaMar/Lee to transfer the balance to the adjusted funds once the fund numbers are changed. Carried 3-0.

Road Report by Garman.

Novak suggests that the Clerk adjust the office hours and to possibly close the office to the public on certain days or shorten the daily hours to the public. Supervisors in agreement that Clerk could have window/public hours and then have hours where the office is not open to public. Boese is the one who determines office hours but is in favor of changing the hours for the public and hours closed to public.

Claims and Correspondence Lee/LaMar. Carried 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:54 by LaMar.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Boese, Embarrass Town Clerk

Waasa Township Regular Board Meeting

Waasa Town Hall Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Board Members Present: Eric Pulkinen, Allan Schnacky, Kim Daugherty and Sandra Gibson

Absent: Mike Johnson

Visitors: Richard Pierce

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Board Supervisor, Eric Pulkinen and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes Approval: *Eric moved to approve the November 5, 202 minutes as read with Allan supporting. Carried (2-0).*

Treasurer's Report: November Receipts: \$57.89 from MN Budget & Management. Disbursements from General Fund totaled \$4,227.38. Our CDs have been renewed at Northern State Bank at the rate of 3.60%. *Eric approved the Treasurer's report, approve payment of the bills listed below plus payroll & PERA. Support came from Eric. Carried (2-0).*

Daughtery, Kim	\$86.60
Mileage Reimbursement: 2X to N.S. Bank	
Lake Country Power	86.60
Automatic Payment-Due on 11/31/25, taken out 12/2/25	
Lossing Building Center	17.49
Ice Melt	
Menards—Virginia	7.46
Fly Traps & Mouse Traps	
Pulkinen, Eric	22.40
Mileage Reimb.	

Obituaries

David A. Pike, 81

David Allyn Pike, 81, of Embarrass, known to many as Mr. Pike, Coach Pike, or simply Piker, passed away peacefully on Jan. 14, 2026, at Essentia in Duluth, surrounded by love, leaving behind a legacy of quiet leadership, steady kindness, fierce devotion to family, and more than a few groan-worthy jokes that will still make people smile. A private family memorial service was held at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Virginia with Pastor Zachary Klumpp officiating. A spring burial will be in the Embarrass Cemetery. In honor of Dave's love for sports, everyone is invited to wear their favorite Minnesota sports team shirt, professional, college or high school, to a celebration of life on Feb. 9 from 4-7 p.m., with a time of remembrance at 5 p.m., at the Mt. Iron Community Center. Memorials are kindly preferred to the Virgie Hegg Hospice Foundation in Cook.

David was born on Aug. 10, 1944, in Ely, to Charles T. Pike and Ora E. Pike, both of whom preceded him in death. He spent most of his childhood in Embarrass, with a few formative years in Maine, experiences that helped shape his steady nature, quiet resilience, and lifelong appreciation for community.

Visitor Input: None

Road Report: Eric reported that several roads have been recently graded, including Beckman, So. Skarp, Tienala and Norby.

Cemetery: Sexton Sipola reported that all necessary fall work has been done.

Old Business: We are still waiting for OJ's price quote for a transfer pump on the furnace. Eric may check into getting a scoping of the line. Two estimates were obtained for the brushing work needed on S. Skarp Road. *Eric motioned to accept Tarzan & Jane's bid for \$450.00. Allan supported. Carried (2-0).*

New Business: The hall is booked for parties on December 13-14 and again on January 3-4th.

Snow removal at the town hall was tabled. Snow plowing at the hall will be done for the rentals mentioned.

Correspondence: None.

Adjournment: *Eric moved to adjourn with support from Allan at 7:55 p.m. Carried.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra Gibson, Waasa Town Clerk
Eric Pulkinen, Waasa Board Vice Chair

Over the last month of his life, David fought with remarkable *sisu*, the quiet determination and grit that defined him throughout his life. When he was finally diagnosed with cancer, it was simply too much, and he knew it was time to rest. While he was ready for peace, he was also deeply sad to leave this world, especially to leave his beloved Berta and his family. In the days that followed, he was comfortable, lucid, and surrounded by family. He was given the rare gift of time, time for meaningful conversations, heartfelt goodbyes, and moments of laughter. Before he left, he told his children, Tricia and Jeff, that his heart was full.

The outpouring of love and messages from friends, former players, students, and loved ones moved him deeply, bringing both tears and smiles. From the moment he chose comfort, David was able to share what his family lovingly describes as the longest and most meaningful Minnesota goodbye, the kind that included stories, laughter, and probably a few opinions.

David attended school in Babbitt before continuing his education at Ely Junior College and the University of Minnesota-Duluth. He dedicated his professional life to (continued on next page)

education, teaching elementary school in McKinley and Gilbert, and serving as acting principal for a time, roles he filled with fairness, patience, and an ability to command respect without ever raising his voice.

Coaching was one of David's great callings. He coached baseball, basketball, football, and nearly every other sport where kids could be taught and molded, always believing in developing both incredible people as well as excellent athletes. He cared far more about effort and character than the scoreboard, though he appreciated a good win. A special joy was coaching his grandson Noah's Little League baseball team. In recognition of his impact, he was inducted into the Hall of Honor by the MN Basketball Coaches Association.

In retirement, Dave worked at the Wilderness Golf Course which he loved. He was a member of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, as Congregational President, Elder and Choir member. David's sisu showed most clearly in his devotion to his wife. In recent years, he cared for Berta through the incredible challenges of dementia. It was not easy, and it was often exhausting, but he never gave up. He showed up every day with patience, love, and unwavering commitment, continuing to care for her despite how difficult it became.

David was known for being respectful, kind, calm, and quietly stubborn, with deep grit and enduring sisu. He had a dry, quick, and unpredictable sense of humor, often delivered with perfect timing and a straight face. He loved wintergreen mints, strong coffee, a good Finnish biscuit, and puzzles that didn't give up too easily. When he wasn't mentoring kids or family, he could often be found working on his beloved '67 Chevy, occasionally fixing it, occasionally just admiring it. Family was David's greatest pride. He was deeply proud of how close his family was and especially loved watching his grandchildren grow, taking quiet joy in who they were becoming.

David is survived by his wife, Roberta Pike; daughter, Tricia Shuck (Scott) and their son, Noah Shuck (Lauren); son, Jeff Pike (Angie) and their daughters, Carissa Pohl (Carter) and Shaylene Pike; sister-in-law, Barb Hegg (David); nephews, Jason Hegg (Kelly) and son, Carter, and AJ Hegg (Cara) and sons, Anders and Levi; and aunt, Lorraine Jarve.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and sister, Cheryl Aho.

Judith E. Mazzeo, 81

Judith Ellen "Judy" Mazzeo, 81, of Virginia, passed away unexpectedly on Jan. 9, 2026, at Heritage Manor in Chisholm. The family extends a heartfelt thank you to all the staff at Heritage Manor for the excellent care and making her feel so special. A celebration of life was held on Jan. 24 at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Virginia.

Judy was born on Feb. 19, 1944, in Soudan, to Ray and Jenny Lempia. She graduated from Embarrass High School in 1962. Immediately after high school she joined the U.S. Navy and served her country until 1964. While in the Navy, Judy met her husband Anthony Mazzeo III. They were married on Nov. 2, 1963, in San Diego, Calif. Together they made their home and raised their family in Embarrass on her family homestead. She worked as an insurance agent for many years. In 2008 they moved to the Washington Manor in Virginia, where they enjoyed their retirement together.

Judy was known for being a true sisu through and through. She was a true believer in the Lord, a compassionate friend, loving mother and wife. She was a very proud mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She was always the happiest surrounded by her family and friends. She was always knitting, quilting, or working her needlepoint. She blessed many family and friends with her handiwork.

She is survived by her stepsister, Kathyne Kotke; loving husband of 62 years, Anthony Mazzeo III; children, Theresa (David) Hmielenski, Carolynne (Steven) Pluchino, William (Claudine) Mazzeo and David (Karlina Flaschberger) Mazzeo; grandchildren, Amanda Hmielenski, Dylan (Kelly) Hmielenski, Jorden Pluchino, Hannah (Joshua) Berning, Ashley (Robert) Carpenter, Tasha (Antwon Johnson) Mazzeo, Zachary Mazzeo and Leo Goggeye; great-grandchildren, Ella Rose Hmielenski, Abigail Olson, Elizabeth Carpenter, Hannah Carpenter, Anthony Carpenter, Natasha Johnson, Bella Johnson and Gracie Johnson; numerous nieces, nephews and cousins; her Washington Manor family; and many other special friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Ray and Jenny Lempia; stepmother, Sigrid Lempia; and siblings, Patricia Lempia, Jeralyn Lempia and Jacob Lempia.



Embarrass Area Volunteer Fire Department February 2026 Runs

Jan 2	EMS	Embarrass
Jan 8	EMS	Embarrass
Jan 21	EMS	Town of White
Jan 22	EMS	Town of White
Jan 22	EMS	Embarrass

Flying Finn Subscription Renewal and/or Gift Subscription - \$22/Year

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Name of Gift Giver _____

Debit cards or credit cards are accepted. If paying by check, please make check payable to Embarrass Township and mail to 7503 Levander Rd, Embarrass, MN 55732



Embarrass MN Post Office

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Pickup/Retail Hours:

Monday-Friday 7:00am-11:00am

Saturday 7:00am-9:00am

Lobby is open 24 hours for those with post office boxes at this location

Embarrass Transfer Station



7530 Koski Rd
Embarrass, MN



Hours of Operation

Thursday

10 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Saturday

12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m

Advertise Your Business Here

¼ Page = \$10

½ Page = \$20

Full Page = \$40

To place an ad in the Flying Finn Monthly Newsletter, write to:

The Flying Finn, 7503 Levander Rd Embarrass MN 55732

embarrasstownship@frontiernet.net

or contact the Embarrass Town Clerk at 984- 2084

The Flying Finn welcomes any and all announcements regarding community events or groups. All items submitted must be approved by the Town of Embarrass governing board. Neither the Town of Embarrass nor the Flying Finn necessarily endorse the viewpoints or ideology of these groups or their events. The Town of Embarrass reserves the right to publish or not publish any or all letters to the editor including submitted materials.

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Facebook: Hope Lutheran/Babbitt Evangelical

Pastor Christina Forsythe

Worship: Sundays at 10:30AM

Pike Apostolic Lutheran Church

6997 Oberg Rd (on Hwy 169)
www.apostoliclutheran.org

Services at 10:30am

Communion – First Sundays



Evangelical Free Church

5606 E Taylor Rd - Embarrass, MN 55732 - 218-984-3402
www.efreechurch.com - marlinb@efreechurch.com

Sunday

Family Bible classes 9am
Family Worship Service 10am

Monday

Men's Bible Study 6:30pm

Wednesday

Women's Bible Study 9am
Kids on the Rock 4pm
ENGAGE Youth Ministry 6:30pm

Thursday

All Coffee and Conversation 9am-11am

Saturday

Feb 15 Ministries Team Meetings 11:30am
Feb 28 Men's Breakfast 8am

Sunday Messages

Feb 1 A Biblical View of Living and Dying
Feb 8 Pastor Colin Rieke
Feb 15 A Life Worthy of the Gospel
Feb 22 Running on Empty

Babbitt Public Library

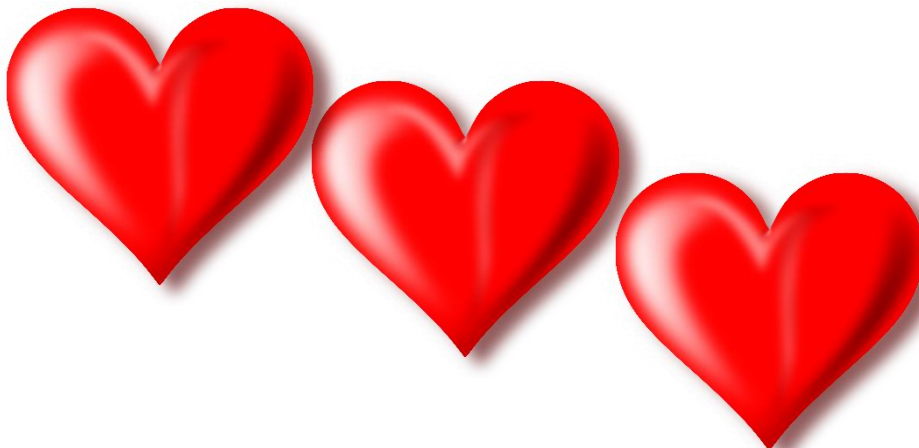


Monday - Thursday
9am-5pm

Friday
10am - 6pm

Arrowhead Bookmobile

The Bookmobile offers print books, Cookbooks, large print books, DVDs, audiobooks and video games. For further information on the Bookmobile or Mail-A- Book services, contact the Arrowhead Library System, 5528 Emerald Ave., Mt. Iron, MN 55768, 218 741-3840, see us on Facebook or check our web site at www.alslib.info.



Happy Valentines Day

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Monday – Saturday 8am-10 pm, Sunday 11 am-6 pm



SNACKS:

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Energy Drinks
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GROCERIES:

Milk, Eggs
Bread, Butter
Italian Bakery
---lots more!

READY TO GO:

Sandwiches
Ice
Coffee

ATM

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Cigarettes
Tobacco Products
DNR Licenses
Landfill Cards

FROZEN ITEMS:

Ice Cream
Pizzas

OTHER:

Cleaning Supplies
Baking/Cooking
Items
Toilet Paper
Misc Personal
Care
Some Auto Fluids

From the Editor

We at the FLYING FINN strive to represent Embarrass and the surrounding areas. Please contact me, to submit articles, advertisements, community notices, letters to the editor, photos, artwork, etc or if you have concerns or suggestions for the newsletter. Along with your submission, please include the size you want placed in the newsletter. You can contact me via email at this address:

flyingfinneditor@gmail.com

Include your name, phone number and email address. Photos or other materials will be returned, if necessary, please be sure to let me know. The Town of Embarrass reserves the right to publish or not publish any letter to the editor or other submitted materials. I *must* receive all submissions for the newsletter no later than the 23rd of each month.

Terri
Flying Finn Editor

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