

ANNUAL REPORT

2025



IRON RANGE TODAY

MISSION

IRON RANGE TODAY IS AN INDEPENDENT, RELIABLE AND COMMUNITY-FOCUSED NONPROFIT NEWS SOURCE THAT PROVIDES ESSENTIAL AND THOUGHTFUL COVERAGE OF THE ISSUES AND PEOPLE OF THE IRON RANGE AND GREATER MINNESOTA.

WHAT WE'RE ABOUT

IRON RANGE TODAY IS AN INDEPENDENT, 501(C)(3) NONPROFIT NEWSROOM THAT PRODUCES THOUGHTFUL, IN-DEPTH AND COMMUNITY JOURNALISM FROM THE IRON RANGE AND GREATER MINNESOTA ABOUT THE REGION'S CULTURE, PEOPLE, POLITICS, ECONOMY AND CIVIC AFFAIRS.

IRON RANGE TODAY AIMS TO HIGHLIGHT AND INFORM READERS ON THE ISSUES THEY FACE, GOING DEEPER THAN THE HEADLINES AND SOUND BYTES TO ENGAGE ON HOW THE IRON RANGE AND ITS FUTURE ARE SHAPED BY THESE ISSUES.



2025 ANNUAL REPORT



OUR BOARD AND WRITERS



JERRY BURNES

JERRY IS A FOUNDING MEMBER OF IRON RANGE TODAY AND CHAIRS THE FOUNDING BOARD. HE'S THE LEAD WRITER, CONTENT PRODUCER AND IT DEPARTMENT.



LEAH RYAN

LEAH IS A FOUNDING MEMBER AND TREASURER. SHE'S BEHIND THE SCENES FINE-TUNING OUR OPERATIONS AND AIDING IN PLANNING.



MITZI MOE

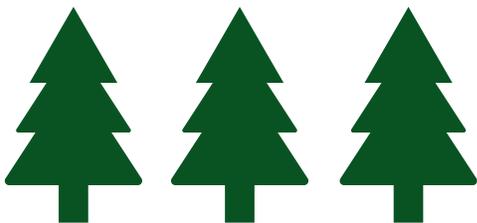
MITZI IS A RETIRED FORMER NEWSPAPER PUBLISHER IN NORTH DAKOTA, WITH DECADES IN THE INDUSTRY. SHE CURRENTLY RESIDES IN HOYT LAKES.


JOINED IN 2026!



TIFFANY LUKK

TIFFANY IS A FREELANCE WRITER WHO WORKED ON OUR FIRST RANGE MAKERS STORY. SHE HAS PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH MPLS. ST. PAUL MAGAZINE AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS.



2025 WAS A BANNER YEAR

(DAD PUN ACTIVATED)



OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED
AS A 501C3 NONPROFIT!



JOINED MEMBERSHIP OF
LAURENTIAN CHAMBER!

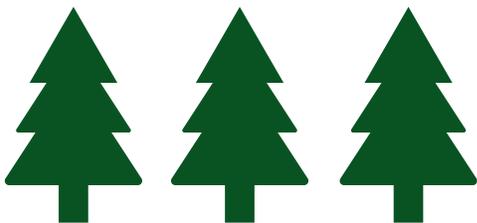


LAUNCHED OUR FIRST-EVER
FUNDRAISING DRIVE!



A NEW HOME OFFICE!
IT HAS WINDOWS!

WHAT'S ALL THIS LIGHT ABOUT??



2025 ANNUAL REPORT



2025 GRANTS

CAPITALIZED ON A \$40,000 GRANT FROM PRESS FORWARD MINNESOTA TO BUILD OUT OUR FOUNDATION, TECHNOLOGY AND TRAINING TO BECOME A MODERN NONPROFIT DIGITAL NEWSROOM.

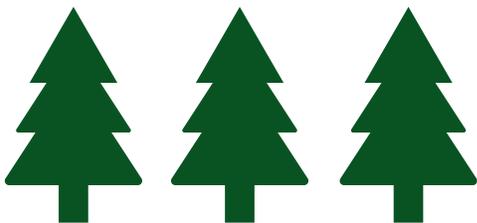


FOUNDING MEMBER DRIVE

IN NOVEMBER WE KICKED OFF OUR FIRST-EVER FUNDRAISING EFFORT. WE RAISED \$1,151 IN 2025 THROUGH 14 DONORS. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF LOCAL INDEPENDENT JOURNALISM!

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

NIKKI BURNES	DAN COOPER
TYLER NESSET	ROBERT E WEISS
MEG MARTIN	JOHN ARBOGAST
TRAVIS TUFTE	JEFFERY ANDERSON
JEFF SCHROEDER	ETIENNE COETZEE
KAREN HUNT	KURT KOESTLER
MARY MCREYNOLDS	EDWARD BONACH

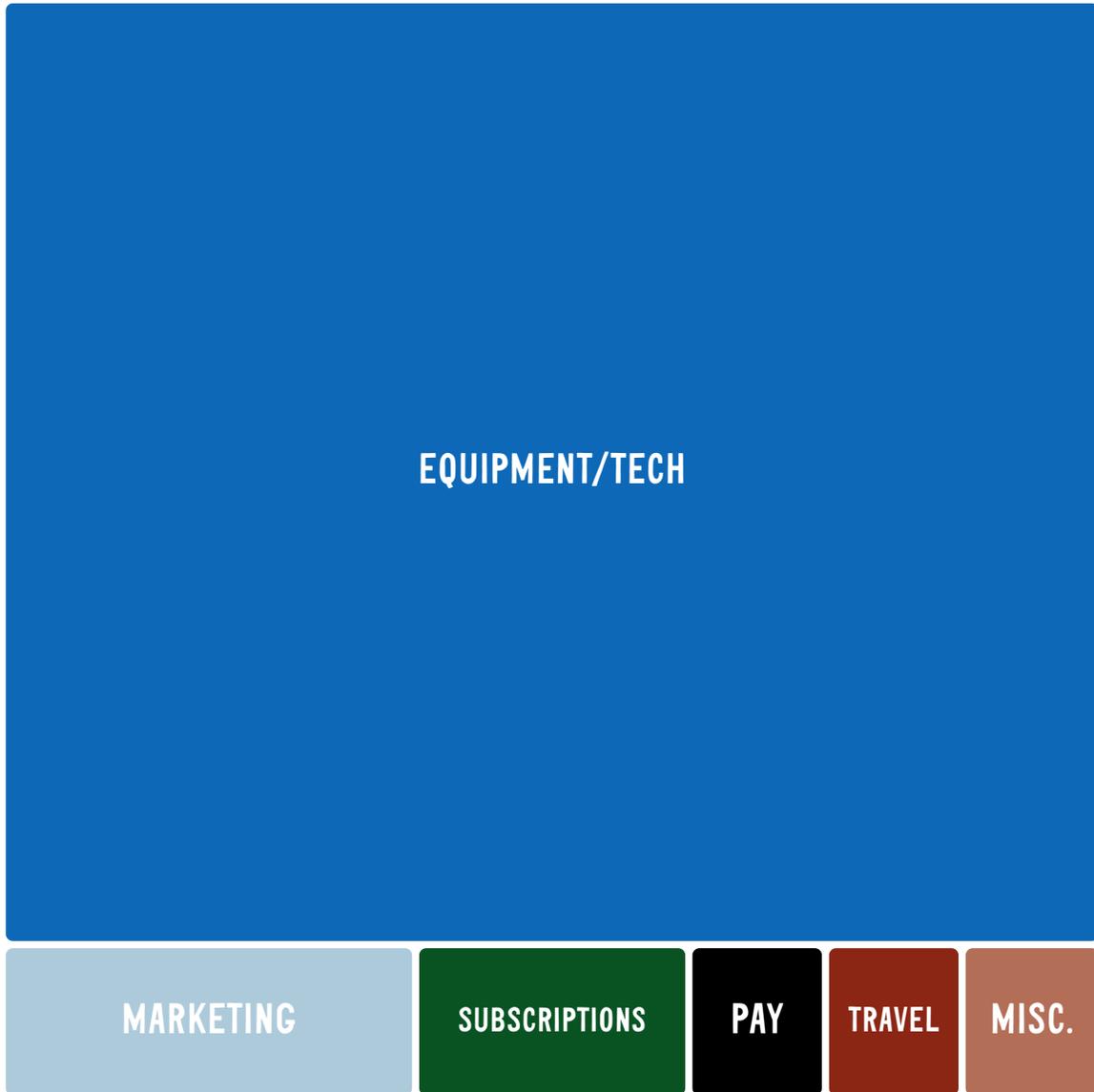


2025 ANNUAL REPORT



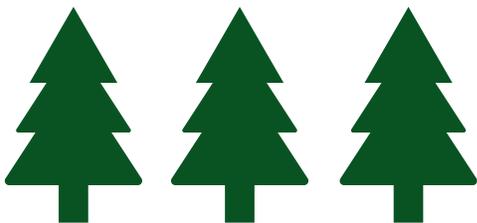
HOW WE SPENT MONEY IN 2025

TOTAL: \$35,538



TOTAL RAISED: \$41,151
GRANTS (97.3%); DONATIONS (2.7%)

 PAY INCLUDES FREELANCER WAGE AND FISCAL SPONSOR FEE DUE FROM 2025 GRANT. IRON RANGE TODAY BOARD MEMBERS ARE NOT COMPENSATED.



2025 ANNUAL REPORT



WE ALSO DID SOME JOURNALISM

- ◆ 133% INCREASE IN READERS FROM 2024
- ◆ 2 LONG FORM STORIES ON MINING & COMMUNITY DYNAMIC
- ◆ 1ST PLACE FROM MNSPJ FOR 2024 FLOOD COVERAGE



TOP STORIES OF 2025



MINING

Iron Range on the ropes: Mining and school layoffs test the region's resiliency – again

Jerry Burnes



MINING

The ghosts of Iron Range mine closures aren't resting yet

Jerry Burnes

THE FIRST TWO STORIES OF RANGE MAKERS WILL BE LAUNCHING IN 2026. AN ONGOING FEATURE SERIES ON THE PEOPLE MAKING THE RANGE AREA HOME, AND ADVANCING OUR COMMUNITIES.



AROUND THE RANGE

Chris Chad, dean of students at Rock Ridge High School, arrested in child exploitation investigation

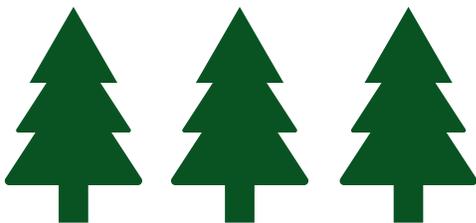
Jerry Burnes



AROUND THE RANGE

Rock Ridge hired a recent graduate to coach dance. A racist video from her past reignited diversity tensions

Jerry Burnes



2025 ANNUAL REPORT





- ◆ **EXPAND COVERAGE OF LOCAL CITIES & SCHOOLS**
- ◆ **HOST LOCAL FORUMS AHEAD OF 2026 ELECTION**
- ◆ **INVEST & EVOLVE AS A FORWARD-LOOKING NEWSROOM**
- ◆ **KEEP DEVELOPING FUNDRAISING AND MARKETING**
- ◆ **FINALIZE THE IRON RANGE TODAY ADVISORY COUNCIL**



OUR GOALS FOR 2026



PLAN MORE! BECAUSE WE CAN'T CLONE. DEVELOP A STRATEGIC PLAN. STORY SERIES. A (BETTER) PUBLISHING SCHEDULE. NEW CONTENT.



SETTLE ON ONE OF THE TOO-MANY IDEAS FOR A PODCAST. THEN ACTUALLY DO IT.



SPEAKING OF PLANNING. DEVELOP MORE SOCIAL MEDIA CONTENT.



CREATE PARTNERSHIPS IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES ON NEW PROJECTS.



2025 ANNUAL REPORT



HELP IRON RANGE TODAY GROW

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR FREE SUBSTACK NEWSLETTER.
FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA. @IRONRANGETODAY

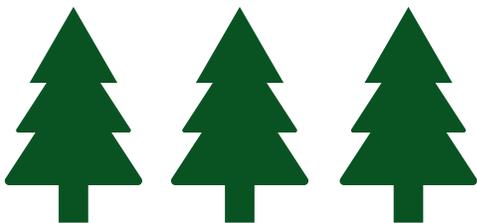
DONATE ❤️

WWW.IRONRANGETODAY.COM/DONATE



**WE'RE IN THE
PROCESS OF
FINALIZING
SPONSORSHIP &
ADVERTISING
OPPORTUNITIES!
MORE INFO
COMING!**

**IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN PARTNERING OR BECOMING INVOLVED
WITH IRON RANGE TODAY, CONTACT JERRY AT
JBURNES@IRONRANGETODAY.COM.**



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

