Inside: Council rejects grievance...See /3 Summer Festival fun...See /1B Olson tops in 800m... See /1B



CITY OF TOWER

Lamppa terminates lease on new plant Manager erupts over city clerk's false claims on project

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

TOWER — Will Lamppa Manufacturing walk away from their new plant in Tower over disagreements with the city's handling of the long-delayed project?

rout Lake rebounds....see /4B

That remained an open question this week after plant manager Dale Horihan erupted in frustration during discussion of a series of change orders to the project that Lamppa Manufacturing is seeking to replace equipment they say they didn't want.

"We're ready to walk away and leave Tower," Horihan told the council. "It's been a miserable process," he added, noting that the project is nine months behind schedule.

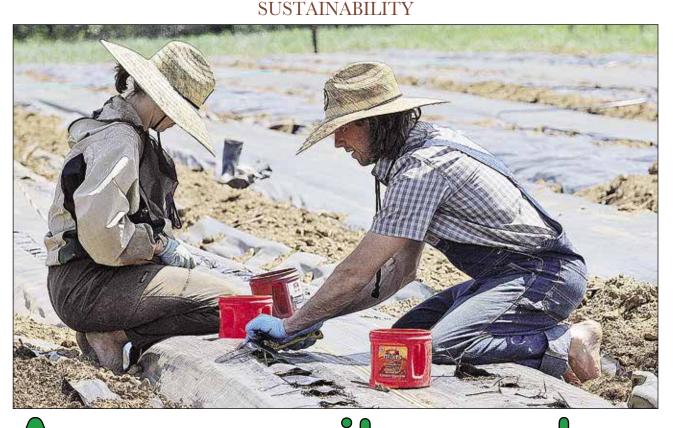
Lamppa Manufacturing had

Lamppa Manufacturing's new plant is on hold after company officials got fed up this week with the city of Tower. file photo

been unable to move into the facility as recently as last month and recent disagreements over the type of ventilation and air exchange systems

See...TOWER pg. 10





EDUCATION

ISD 2142 board seeks answers on bullying

by MARCUS WHITE Cook/Orr Editor

VIRGINIA - A letter signed by 25 graduating students at South Ridge has one ISD 2142 board member fuming at school officials.

At Tuesday evening's board meeting, Christine Taylor raised concerns brought by two-thirds of the school's seniors regarding what they feel is continued inaction by school officials to address persistent acts of bullying and threats of violence between students.

According to Taylor, she has known about the letter for at least six weeks but waited to see whether it would be addressed by school officials or district officials publicly. She's also questioning a decision by school staff to assemble students who signed the letter into a room, where school principal Andrew Bernard and dean of students Jessica Bialke allegedly berated them for challenging school officials.

A community garden Direct-to-consumer agriculture thriving near Babbitt

by KEITH VANDERVORT

Ely Editor

BABBITT – Growing food contributes to climate change (making fertilizer, running machinery, transportation, cooling, etc.), and climate change affects agriculture in ways that are ever increasing and mostly adverse. How can residents in northern Minnesota fight back?

See... GROW pg. 12

Van Conrad and Ellen Root, above, plant squash and melons in a new field at their Northern Delicious CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) facility near Babbitt. photo by K. Vandervort

A variety of fruits and vegetables, right, from last season. submitted photo



SULFIDE MINING

Leaked 2016 email rips Twin Metals lease decision

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

REGIONAL— The Trump administration is using an angry 2016 email from Sen. Amy Klobuchar to defend itself against Democrats who are investigating its renewal of mineral leases for Twin Metals and cancellation of a study of a 20-year mineral withdrawal on a portion of the Superior National Forest.

The administration has been under increasing pressure from House lawmakers in recent months to provide documents related to that investigation, including the administration's decision to cancel a two-year study on the merits and risks of a proposed copper-nickel mine near Ely. In an apparent effort to fight back, administration officials leaked a December 2016 email from Sen. Amy Klobuchar in which she takes then-Obama Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to task for the Forest Service's decision to disallow the mineral lease renewal in the final weeks of the Obama

See...MINING pg. 11



Amy Klobuchar

See...ISD 2142 pg. 9

ISD 696 finances get a big boost

Legislative action good news for bottom line

by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

ELY – School board members here took a look at a proposed 2019-2020 budget Monday night that includes a healthy general fund revenue increase of almost half a million dollars

Superintendent Kevin Abrahamson was quick to note that ISD 696's preliminary budget was based on several assumptions. "The budget is always a moving target, but we try to plan for less in revenues and more in expenses," he said. "We can only make our best guess at this point."

In presenting the budget for next year,

See...ISD 696 pg. 9



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COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Fortune Bay to host Wild Rice Hotdish-Eating Championship on Saturday, June 22

TOWER—Fortune Bay has already hosted two MLE (Major League Eating) Indian Taco Eating Contests, but now things will be even more interesting later this month as the first annual MLE Wild Rice Hotdish-Eating Championship takes place.

The No. 5-ranked competitive eater in the world, Darron Breeden, from Orange, Va. and other top-ranked eaters will gather Saturday, June 22 to seek the title and \$2,500 cash prize.

The competition will take place at 3 p.m. at Fortune Bay's Lakeside Tent. There is no charge to attend this event.

"We are excited to welcome the top competitive eaters in the nation for this historic eating contest for this distinct rice dish," said Fortune Bay's Sammy Richter. "This event continues a series of exciting events for guests of the Fortune Bay Resort Casino."

This inaugural event will take place over eight minutes of sanctioned competition time.

"We are thrilled to announce the first-ever Wild Rice Hotdish-Eating Championship, on top of Fortune Bay Resort's Indian Taco-Eating Championship," said Richard Shea, President of Major League Eating. "There will be a dramatic showdown between Breeden and Sudo in the fight for this new title."

Breeden will face fierce competition. Other top-ranked MLE competitors include the #7-ranked Miki Sudo from Las Vegas, Nev.; #23-ranked Eric "Badlands" Booker from Selden, NY; #36-ranked Darrien Thomas from Ontario, Can., and #38-ranked Matthew Raible from Edwards, Ill.

Fortune Bay Resort Casino's IT Director Alex Cook will participate in the event. Cook also participated in the 2018 MLE Indian Taco-Eating contest this past November. Fortune Bay's other representative will be Senior Technology Specialist Paul Shryer.

The winners of the Wild Rice Hotdish-Eating Championship will receive \$2,500, with the second through sixth-place finishers receiving \$1,250, \$650, \$350, \$200 and \$100, respectively.

ORRiginality Gallery. Studio. Coffee opens at Orr Center, June 22

ORR- The Orr Center proudly announces the grand opening of our newest venture, ORRiginality Gallery. Studio. Coffee., on Saturday, June 22 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The art gallery will be located at 10690 Hwy. 23 in Orr, the old school building.

ORRiginality is a place for Minnesota artists and community members to connect, create, work, and play. Art will be displayed and sold in the gallery and the studio will host art and craft classes for all ages. The coffee shop is a place to relax, play a game, or look through the many art books and magazines on hand.

Join us on June 22 to support and visit with some of our local artists, create an alcohol ink tile that will become a permanent piece in the gallery, and enjoy refreshments.

MESABA CO-OP PARK



90th annual Midsummer Festival at Mesaba Co-op Park, June 21-23

HIBBING-MesabaCo-opPark's 90th annual Midsummer Festival, "90 Years for the Common Good," will be held Friday through Sunday, June 21-23. Friday evening features a pasty supper and an open stage at 7 p.m. with music, dance, humor, and surprises.

Saturday offers morning yoga, and the "Mesaba Café," a two-hour informal storytelling by past and present park caretakers. Lunch is available at noon in the dining hall.

At 1:30 p.m. in the dance hall, a speakers forum begins: Pam Brunfelt, professor and historian, will speak on "Co-op History and Mesaba Park." Rolf Anderson of the Minnesota Historical Society will present "Mesaba Park: the FBI Files."

Special activities for children will be offered throughout the afternoon.

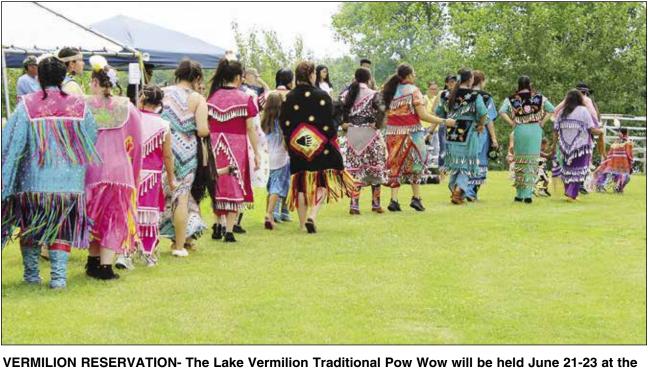
At 4 p.m. Terrence Smith's Maypole Dance enlivens the crowd, prior to a social hour on the pavilion breezeway. Dinner at 6 p.m. is a creation by chef Colleen Betts of Food Magic featuring a mouth-watering menu with amazing fare for vegetarians and omnivores alike. Following dinner, Oscar Forsman leads an all-ages traditional dance experience in the pavilion dance hall.

At 9 p.m. the evening accelerates as "The Confused Brothers" take the stage, playing standards and original music. These guys are a fun dance band. At 9:15 p.m. Jim Larson hosts "Lakeside Memorial Remembrances," before "The Confused Brothers" return for a second set. At 11 p.m. the traditional Juhanuus bonfire will be lit.

Sunday morning features breakfast and the Park's annual meeting, followed by a mojakka (beef stew) lunch at noon. A special afternoon concert begins at 1:30 p.m. in the dance hall. First up is Steve Solkela, singer, accordion player and comic. At 2 p.m. singer/songwriter Clair Brockway from North Carolina takes the stage. And at 2:30 p.m. the headliner, the magnificent fiddle player Gaelynn Lea, winner of NPR Music's 2016 Tiny Desk Contest, will perform.

Admission for the weekend is \$30 for adults. Children under 12 enter free. Meals are available at additional cost. Mesaba Park is located seven miles east of Hibbing at the intersection of Hwy. 37 and County Rd. 5, near the Thirsty Moose, at 3827 Mesaba Park Rd.

Lake Vermilion Pow Wow set for June 21-23 at Vermilion Reservation



Buy tickets now for Spring Art Expo 50/50 Raffle Drawing

COOK- Be sure to purchase your \$5 raffle tickets from Northwoods Friends of the Arts for the Tuesday, June 18 drawing at the annual meeting. NWFA will be giving away 50 percent of the raffle sales and a framed original (not a print as previously advertised) pen and ink sketch of a wolf by artist Wanda Parks. The first raffle name drawn will have first choice of prizes. Tickets may be purchased at the gallery or from any NWFA member.

VERMILION RESERVATION- The Lake Vermilion Traditional Pow Wow will be held June 21-23 at the Lake Vermilion Pow Wow Grounds on the Vermilion Reservation (behind the social center). Lake Vermilion Singers and Burntside Lake Singers are the host drums. MC is Terry Goodsky, spiritual adviser is Darrell Kingbird, and arena director is David Morrison Jr. Grand entries will be held on Saturday at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m., and Sunday at 1 p.m. The public is invited to attend. Concessions, craft booths, and children's activities available. Registration for the walk/run on Sunday is at 9:30 a.m., with the event at 10 a.m. Camping is available, and firewood is supplied. This is a commercial smoke-free event, and no drugs or alcohol are allowed. For more information, contact Muriel Deegan at 218-750-7772 or murieldeegan@yahoo.com, or Tracey Dagen at 218-780-1478.



MINING LITIGATION

EPA releases comments on PolyMet permit

by Marshall Helmberger Managing Editor

REGIONAL- After months of stonewalling, the federal Environmental Protection Agency has released staff comments that the agency had prepared for the state-issued water quality permit for PolyMet Mining. The release came on the same day that the agency was required to respond to a lawsuit over access to the comments, filed by Water Legacy and other environmental organizations.

The comments are potentially devastating to efforts by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to defend the water quality permit they issued to PolyMet late last year. That permit has been the subject of ongoing litigation by tribal governments and environmental groups.

They also raise serious questions about statements made by the MPCA in its own legal responses to the case and about allegations from a retired EPA lawyer, Jeffry Fowley, who filed a declaration with the court last week alleging that top officials with the MPCA had urged the Trump-appointed director of the EPA's Great Lakes regional office to suppress comments generated by the agency's own staff. Rather than submit the written comments, EPA officials, in April 2018, read some of their concerns over the phone to MPCA staff, but the MPCA never responded to those comments, as is required, prior to issuing the permit. Nor does it appear that the agency made changes in the permit to address concerns raised by the EPA.

The Timberjay has previously reported on some of Fowley's allegations, which he submitted earlier this year to the EPA's Office of Inspector General. Fowley, who spent more than 35 years with the EPA overseeing national water discharge and hazardous waste permitting before retiring in 2017, put his concerns in a sworn declaration to the court as part of Water Legacy's latest filing.

Apparent push to suppress

MPCA officials, based on previous communication with the EPA, were almost certainly aware that the federal agency staff harbored serious reservations about the PolyMet water discharge permit, including a belief that it failed to comply with federal law and was likely unenforceable. And MPCA officials were apparently hoping

that suppressing those concerns would help the state agency defend the permit against a likely legal challenge.

The detailed EPA comments, encompassed in a seven-page, single-spaced letter, which the EPA released late on Wednesday, June 12, are technical in nature, but the meaning is clear- and they will almost certainly pose a major legal and political complication for the MPCA.

"The draft permit does not include water quality-based effluent limitations (WQBEL)... for pH or any other conditions

See **POLYMET**....pg. 5

CITY OF TOWER

Council rejects city clerk's grievance remedy

Union complaint had held off an investigation into allegations against city clerk-treasurer

by Jodi Summit Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- After months of indecision, the city council here, on Monday, voted 4-0, with one abstention to reject a remedy to a union grievance that City Clerk-Treasurer Linda Keith had filed back in February. Keith had alleged that her union contract had been violated by actions of the city council, and specifically by newly-elected Mayor Orlyn Kringstad, when Kringstad raised issues of her job performance in a closed session of the council shortly after taking office.

The city's three-person grievance committee, led by Ambulance Supervisor Steve Altenburg, who had filed his own complaint against the mayor, had voted 2-1 in March to uphold the grievance, with Councilor Brooke Anderson voting in favor, and Councilor Steve Abrahamson voting against.

While the grievance committee process has repeatedly come under fire by Kringstad and members of the public, the bigger issue for the council was the union's remedy to the grievance, which Altenburg and Anderson adopted nearly verbatim in a committee meeting held without Abrahamson's knowledge. The remedy had directed the council to cease any inquiry into the misconduct allegations and performance of Keith and to prohibit Kringstad from participating in any way in any future oversight of Keith. It also required the council to write a letter of apology to Keith.

At Monday's meeting, both Marshall Helmberger and Steve Wilson spoke on the issue during public input. Helmberger told the council that the union remedy was illegitimate because it was an attempt to take away council authority provided for in the city's charter. Helmberger agreed that a grievance remedy can be considered binding, but only if it pertained to matters covered in the union contract. "But the grievance committee cannot bind the council on matters over which neither the committee nor union contract have authority," Helmberger said. "The council's authority to undertake that investigation [into the clerk's performance] resides in the charter, not in the union contract. The charter is the superior document, in that no one in the city can supersede its directive."

Wilson chided the council for its inaction on the issue and noted the city attorney also failed in his duty by refusing to give the council an opinion on the issue, recusing himself by citing his personal relationship with the clerk and the council members involved.

"It is time for the council to stand up to the union," Wilson said, "and call their bluff by officially rejecting the remedy."

When the council weighed in on the matter later in the meeting, it was clear that members agreed with some of the public comment.

"I appreciate the public input tonight," said Councilor Rachel Beldo. "There has been caution on our part, but I do hear and agree with the thought that we have our ordinances to guide and support us. We can say we disagree with the remedy."

Kringstad agreed. "It is the council's responsibility as to whether this grievance remedy is acceptable or not," he said.

Councilor Mary Shedd, who at the last meeting had agreed to contact union representative Erik Skoog to see if the union would meet with the city on the issue, said such actions had just delayed the matter.

"This is not personal," she said,"It is about the process. I am very disappointed that Attorney Andy Peterson recused himself."

'It is up to this council to decide if the authority of the council has been usurped," said Kringstad."I assume there would be a next step if we decide to reject the remedy."

Skoog, who was at the meeting, said he would need any decision by the council in writing.

"There are steps in the process," Skoog said. "However you want to proceed, we will

See COUNCIL...pg. 5





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ebch.org

Keith is great with ceramic samples.





with sauna items.



about carpet.







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

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial

Trump a folk hero to some But like so many folk heroes, Trump ultimately cares only about himself

For most Americans, the connection between President Donald Trump and the roughly 40 percent of the electorate who tell pollsters they continue to support him, is difficult to understand. Most Americans are appalled by a man who holds the highest office in the Free World yet acts most of the time like an unruly child.

On a daily basis, they see the tweets and hear the never-ending flow of misinformation and disrespect that emanates, like a polluted river, from Donald Trump's mouth. They hear him attack our closest allies while pronouncing his undying love and devotion to the world's most despotic dictators, and rightfully question his sanity.

But none of that matters to Trump's supporters. It's a reality that Trump foreshadowed when he predicted that he could "shoot somebody on Fifth Avenue" and wouldn't lose any support. Trump may not understand how tariffs work, or how America's Constitutional system is supposed to function, but he does understand his base.

Trump's support isn't founded on the characteristics that normally provide the framework of consent for a president - things like temperance, intelligence, maturity, honor, dignity, and empathy. Trump exhibits none of these characteristics. In fact, in many ways, he's a kind of "anti-president," exhibiting the exact opposite of what we've come to expect from a President of the United States.

We don't point this out in hopes that his supporters might recognize his flaws and reconsider their support. It's very clear that they won't, for exactly the reason that New York Times columnist Charles Blow posited in April- Trump isn't so much a president as he is a folk hero to those Americans who continue to express their challenge authority.

When the Access Hollywood tape was leaked, every political observer said Trump was finished. But it ultimately didn't matter because, to his supporters, Trump's willingness to be a braggart and a cad, not to mention a con man, was simply part of his mystique.

Like most folk heroes, Trump falsely portrays himself as the defender of the little guy, willing to break the rules to outmaneuver a deeply corrupt establishment that has abandoned the interests of a majority of Americans. They excuse Trump's methods- which somehow always manage to line his pockets— as long as they believe, in some way, that he's fighting for them. The fact that the leaders of both major political parties have, in reality, allowed large swaths of America to fall into despair, made Trump's argument possible, and is one reason why the Democrats would be wise to avoid a candidate, like Joe Biden, who seems intent to run on the merits of the pre-Trump status quo. That's a recipe for four more years.

If Democrats are going to truly take on Trump, they'll needto honestly advocate for the interests of the little guy. And that means a fair-trade agenda, not "free" trade that directs all the benefits of trade to those at the very top. It means directing more resources towards improving America's crumbling infrastructure. That was one of many campaign promises that Trump has failed to keep. It means ending the tyranny of college debt that our political establishment has hoisted upon the backs of young people, which has held back an entire generation. It means adopting universal health care coverage. It means seriously addressing climate change. And it means reversing Trump's signature tax cuts for the rich, which should have convinced even some of his ardent supporters that the myth of Trump doesn't wash with reality. There is plenty more myth where that came from. Trump, like many folk heroes of the past, is no hero at all. Yet pointing out his many personality flawshis vanity, selfishness, ignorance, and needless cruelty – is a waste of breath against Trump the folk hero. Democrats need to call him out on policy, not personality, because that's where the real Donald Trump is exposed. They need, in the end, to show Americans that Trump's biggest con of all is the notion that he cares, one iota, about the little guy. Like so many folks heroes of the past, Trump cares only about Trump.



Letters from Readers

Facts, not sophistry, involved in Dark River proposal

OPINION

The Timberjay's June 7 editorial, "Polluting the Dark River" used the term, "sophistry" in blasting U.S. Steel for willfully manipulating the regulatory process at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and continuing to damage the water quality of the Dark River. I would contend that the *Timberjay* is engaging in sophistry with your allegations on this very topic.

U.S. Steel, just like any other discharging permittee, has the right to request reconsideration on water quality standards and so they did. Again, as any discharger would have the right to do, U.S. Steel requested that the MPCA reconsider water quality uses that do not and cannot exist to the body of water in question, the Dark River Trout Reach.

Some of the classes and associated water quality standards are applied by default to all Minnesota waters, but those uses may not exist for that particular water body. The Dark River Trout Reach is a stream segment several river miles from the west side of the Minntac Tailings Basin and default standards currently apply. To formally determine what uses can/do exist. Use and Value Demonstration (UVD) was developed. Through the UVD process U. S. Steel requested that the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) remove the following uses and associated water quality standards that are not applicable on the Dark River Trout Reach including:

the health of fish and biotic life in the stream. That work supports that removal of these uses does not adversely affect water quality or aquatic life in the trout reach and is also protective of downstream uses. The MPCA agreed with the analysis and that's why the request is moving forward.

> No sophistry here, just facts. **Steve Giorgi** Mt Iron Not writing on behalf of RAMS

U.S. Steel proposal shows contempt for Minnesota values

The Timberjay's June 7 article "U.S.Steel seeks weaker standards for Dark River" documents a disgraceful history of mining industry arrogance in Minnesota. I started working for U.S. Steel 50 years ago and it's distressing to realize that they've been degrading public waters for most of my working lifetime.

The state of Minnesota has statutes opposing degradation of our water and soil but our mining industry has a long history of ignoring those policies. The battle over sulfates is a great example of corporate power.

Back in 2004, my wife Pat and I attended a hearing where U.S. Steel promoted a plan to discharge seven million gallons a day from their tailings basin into the St. Louis River drainage. This was in addition to the three million gallons that was already leaking from their dikes. They had the amazing chutzpah to claim that the water was too degraded to make quality pellets but it was clean enough to dump into our public waters. We fought them off 15 years ago and there's no evidence that they deserve deregulation now. The problem is that elevated sulfur is a contaminant in the steel smelting process. There are metallurgical solutions to the problem but it would be cheaper for them to dump their sulfates into our Dark River than to remedy them in their smelter.

The overarching problem is that whether it's iron or copper, Minnesota has low grade ore bodies that have difficulty competing in a global economy unless they have sweetheart deals on taxes, royalties, and environmental regulations. The Dark River discharge is a subsidy to an industry that can't pay its own way.

According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis at the Department of Commerce, mining is less than one percent of Minnesota's economy. We shouldn't be degrading waters that belong to all of us for an industry that has so much contempt for our values.

Bob Tammen

Soudan

Turning a blind eye to industry abuses

While reading the June 7, 2019 Timberjay I was reminded of the old saying...

"There are none so blind as those who will not see."

While Nancy McReady, Gerald Tyler, and Mike Cole railed against those who object to the Twin Metals project, yet again claiming that any mining will have to comply with "strict standards", they once again ignore the track record of mining in a water rich environment. The front page lead article "U.S. Steel seeks weaker standards for Dark River" highlights the fact that mining companies always seek to weaken environmental standards and seek relief either through a change in standards, a policy of ignoring standards, or getting a variance of standards. Many of these companies, including some in Minnesota, mine for years without renewal of their permits because they are unable or unwilling to meet the standards of new permits. Standards are not written in stone nor is the enforcement of standards guaranteed. We have only to look at the record of mining pollution in a water rich environment like Minnesota if we are willing to use our eyes to see.

approval.

By transcending reality for the mythical, Trump has the protection of the ultimate Teflon. Trump spends his political life in the mud yet to his supporters he continuously emerges unstained because the rules are different for Trump. During the Republican primary, a few of his challengers tried fighting Trump on his level, but it quickly blew up in their faces because, as normal politicians, they were still bound by the rules of the political game.

Trump plays by his own rules, and that's one of the hallmarks of the folk hero. People like Jesse James, the Sundance Kid, Pretty Boy Floyd, were outlaws and killers, but that never stopped a sizable percentage of the country from idolizing their willingness to

1 B – D o m e s t i c Consumption

3 B -Industrial Consumption, and

4A–Agricultural Irrigation The MPCA worked with

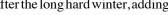
U.S. Steel to assure that the UVD was conducted correctly and per their standards. The UVD was a rigorous study evaluating both the uses and

Andrew Urban Eagles Nest Twp

May the circle be unbroken

This time of year I am engaged in activities that stimulate a lot of memories. During this most recent spell of beautiful but ungodly hot weather, John and I were bent over our nice-sized garden pulling weeds and planting seeds.

It takes hours to till the ground



rotted straw retrieved from around the house where the bales provide great insulation during those bitterly cold months by removing drafts from down around the floors. And then, come spring, they provide an excel-KATHLEEN lent source of gar-MCQUILLAN den-bed nutrients. This has been our ritual cycle for the

after the long hard winter, adding past forty-some years, all for the

purpose of growing and harvesting a year's supply of the best food money can't buy!

Now nearing seventy, we wonder sometimes if we're crazy, sticking to this labor-intensive lifestyle that allows us to eat gourmet, stay in shape, spend time in the "great outdoors," and have blocks of "quality time" together – and all this, minus the expense of eating out, the monthly fee for the fitness center, the high costs that take the joy out of vacationing, or butting up against the all-too-common

"nothing new to talk about" phenomenon of long-term marriage. The garden reaps heaps of pleasure throughout the entire year.

Recently we were recalling our first encounter with some old-time neighbors, Elsie and Elmer, who adopted the moniker, "Grandma and Grandpa Hippie". They were children of "first wave" immigrants who homesteaded this area at the turn of the twentieth century, some of the minority who stayed here rather than migrate to find work in big cities like Minneapolis, Milwaukee, or Detroit.

John and I like to think of ourselves as members of a second wave of "homesteaders". young people in the 1970s, ready to leave their hometowns to try their hands at living "closer to the land". We bought bare forties and erected shelters out of whatever materials we could find, salvaged, or purchased on the cheap. There were some among us who bought original farmsteads, abandoned during

See CIRCLE...pg. 5

Letters from Readers

Writers have no right to mislead others

"Everyone is entitled to his own opinion, but not to his own facts." This famous statement by Daniel Patrick Moynihan should guide the debate over whether the doorstep of the Boundary Waters is the right place to put a sulfide-ore copper mine. The letter by Gerald Tyler, Nancy McReady, and Mike Cole (Timberjay, June 7) fails to meet the test.

The Environmental Impact Statement that they refer to in the first paragraph studied proposed mineral prospecting activities in the Superior National Forest, not mining. Although destructive in its own right, prospecting has a tiny fraction of the impact that a Twin Metals mine would have. To suggest that the prospecting EIS adequately studied the destruction that a Twin Metals mine would cause is like saying you can check the tire pressure on your truck by looking at the oil dipstick.

The executive order that they claim President Obama signed to withdraw Superior National Forest lands from mining does not exist. He signed no such order. In fact, professional land managers, including then-Chief of the Forest Service Tom Tidwell, supported by extensive scientific expertise and analysis, decided to withhold consent for renewal of the

leases that Twin Metals sought and to ask the Secretary of the Interior to consider withdrawing federal lands in the Rainy River drainage basin from mining for 20 years. This request triggered the study to determine whether sulfide-ore copper mining on federal lands in the watershed poses an existential threat to the Boundary Waters. The entire process was by the letter of the National Environmental Policy Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, and the terms of the expired leases themselves.

The writers repeated the Trump Administration falsehood that "no new science" was presented before the study was wrongly halted prior to completion. In fact, more than fifty scientific reports dealing with the impacts that a Twin Metals mine would have on waters, forests, wetlands, fish, mammals, and birds in the Boundary Waters watershed and the Wilderness itself were submitted to the Forest Service before the study was halted.

All that is in just the first four paragraphs of their letter. Later on, among other things, they tout the supposedly strict environmental regulations that would govern any Twin Metals mine-while on the front page of the June 7 *Timberjay* is an article about yet another attempt by a mining company to further weaken pollution standards.

Twin Metals supporters have the right to hold an unfounded opinion about what sulfide-ore copper mining would really mean for northeastern Minnesota, but they have no right to create an unfounded tale to mislead others.

> **Reid Carron** Morse Twp

Put Tower clerk on leave until county finishes investigating

Enough is Enough!!! Monday night's council meeting was a total disgrace. It is time the council stop embracing excuses and start embracing solutions. The council chamber was packed with residents. The stench in the air was unbearable. I had to leave, for it made me sick to my stomach. Even the most simplistic solutions brought controversy. Randy Semo from Good Ol' Days had difficulty getting the clerk to turn the light on. It seems like we have visited this issue before when Orlyn Kringstad requested a light for the Marjo Motel. Might I suggest that Motel 6 always leaves the light on for ya. You got to be kidding!

Lamppa Manufacturing can not accomplish their goals. You can't make this s**t up. I find the council's meetings to be fascinating with highly illogical resolutions but entertaining for those that enjoy total chaos in their lives.

The city clerk and her ally

need to be put on administrative leave until the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office completes its investigation. This would minimize damages going forward.

I forewarned everyone about the crime scene at city hall. But I truly underestimated the severity of it all. And I did tell my supporters no matter who got elected for mayor, the residents of Tower would get "what they deserve." I think we deserve better.

Jeff Hill

Tower

Opinions should be based on facts

Seems everyone has an opinion on mining in the Rainy River Watershed of the Superior National Forest, but are these opinions based on fear, hearsay, or facts?

Environmental An Impact Study for Hardrock Mineral Prospecting was concluded in 2012. Since there is NO hard-rock mining being conducted in the Rainy River Watershed, opinions are being formed without facts. Where will the mine be located, what minerals will be mined, how will they be mined, how will water be affected, how will the tailings be handled? We won't know any facts until there is a proposal to mine. WHEN there is, an Environmental Impact Study for Hardrock Mineral Mining will be conducted. THEN opinions can be formed on this mining based on facts.

Days before he left office, President Barack Obama ordered a halt to all mineral exploration in the Rainy River Watershed with no proposed mine plan, no details, no facts. Ignoring the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, he forced a pre-emptive halt to all exploration. The current administration reversed this illegal action triggering environmental activists to force an Environmental Assessment. Since there is no proposal to mine, the assessment could only review exploration. After a 21-month review, Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue ended the assessment, stating no new information was made available, so the findings of the Environmental Impact Study completed in 2012 held.

Now a group of retired U.S. Forest Service employees, none of whom are hard-rock geologists, and Rep. Betty McCollum from St. Paul are trying to force ANOTHER review. Even more disheartening, both our U.S. Senators, Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith, signed a letter to Secretary Perdue questioning his decision. I expect these people to have a better understanding of the NEPA process. Please follow the process and wait until a mine plan is announced so opinions can be based on FACTS.

Linda Maki Ely

CIRCLE...Continued from page 4

hard times when the local cash economy was almost non-existent. In our youth, we were inspired to either build from scratch or bring those rundown houses and collapsing barns back to life!

Some locals didn't know what to make of us, the new arrivals, while others, people like Elsie and Elmer, enjoyed showing up unannounced to scope us out, share stories and useful survival tips in trade for a few beers which we'd swig together after a day of hard work. In

fact, they became frequent visitors until, one day, they would just quit showing up. Over time, we learned that those were the days they were totally busy getting their garden in.

Indeed, these were subsistence farmers hunting, gathering and growing everything they would need to sustain themselves during the coming year. Down deep in their blood, they knew when and how to have fun, and they also knew when to buckle down and "get her done".

In our recent recollections, we realized that these two local characters were some of our best mentors. John attributes his love for growing big, beautiful onions to these two. Elsie's were renowned. She was the one who advised him not to plant too deep. To this day, we plant our onions on the surface, only pressing them slightly into the ground and then, Ruth Stout style, covering them with a deep fluffy bed of straw. It was their frequent deliveries of deer meat, smoked sucker, and an array of roasted small game that helped us acquire a taste for many a northern woodland delicacy. And their homemade berry wines were among the best.

Grandma and Grandpa Hippie weren't the only wonderful locals who welcomed us into the "neighborhood". We learned how to grow big, juicy tomatoes here, in one of our nation's least hospitable climates for vine ripening, from Louis, our closest neighbor who lived a mile down the road. I'll never forget the generosity of another nearby farmer who gifted me with Thor and Oden, my first little piglets their "runties". They were even eventually willing to show me how to render lard. And it was their mis-timed calves, found frozen one morning in their pasture, that fed my sled dogs that winter. The adaptations and learning curve were made a lot easier and more enjoyable thanks to these many kind souls to whom I am so indebted. They helped this become my community, a rich and wonderful place to raise my children.

So, here we are, four decades later, planting our "subsistence" garden, on our little homestead, next to our off-the-grid-handbuilt log house, hand operated water pump to boot. with the creek running through still providing the basics, and so much more.

Funny but true, we figured Grandma and Grandpa Hippie must have been nearly seventy when we first met them, about the same age we are now. Ahhh. Now it all makes so much sense.

POLYMET...Continued from page 3-

that are as stringent as necessary to ensure compliance with the applicable the enforceability of water quality requirements

The EPA also raised concerns about the permit issued by the

the Clean Water Act." Water Legacy's chief legal counsel Paula

Maccabee said the EPA

had petitioned the state Court of Appeals to remand the appeal of the PolyMet permit back to district

needed in this case to fully develop the administrative record and give the court a better understanding of what took place. While the EPA comment letter answers some questions, Maccabee said it raises many others. "What role did MPCA play in making sure that neither the public nor the court would have access to this information?" she asked. "If our agency thinks all they have to do is quietly collude with a federal agency to make a permit look bullet-proof, then Minnesota has a problem. We need to know who at MPCA requested this information be withheld." While the EPA opted

the MPCA has still failed to respond to requests for written notes that agency officials acknowledged they took during the April 2018 phone call with EPA staff. In their own court filings, the MPCA has stated that agency staff destroyed the notes. Maccabee said the situation all but demands remand to a district court to examine what now appears to be a potentially significant state agency scandal. The Timberjay sought comment for this story from the MPCA. The agency did not respond prior to press time. Readers can find the EPA comment letter with this story at timberjay.com.

of Minnesota, or of all affected States," states the EPA letter, prepared and submitted by Kevin Pierard, chief of the EPA's water quality permitting branch. "Furthermore, the permit includes technology based effluent limitations (TBELs) that are up to a thousand times greater than applicable water quality standards."

The EPA also found that the draft permit does not include "all the requirements" of federal laws "that apply to this project, including a restriction on discharge volume that is in conformance with [federal law]."

MPCA. "For example, the permit as written may preclude enforcement per [the Clean Water Act] for pollutants disclosed during the application process but for which there are no limitations, or for water quality standards excursions where the limitation provided in the permit appears to be greater than the applicable state water quality criterion. Additionally, the permit contains 'operating limits' on an internal outfall that may not be enforceable by EPA, citizens, and potentially MPCA and, thus, may be ineffective at protecting water quality under

comments present a portrait of top officials of two agencies charged with protecting the environment, apparently colluding to undermine efforts to enforce water quality protections. "You can see why they were holding them back," said Maccabee."EPA staff were clearly horrified that you would have a project this big without water quality-based effluent limits. These are not mild recommendations. They're telling the MPCA they need to fix this. But they didn't fix it. Instead, they hid it."

Last week, Maccabee

court to allow for additional fact-finding in the case, including obtaining the EPA comments. Courts at the appellate level are typically limited to issuing rulings on agency decisions based on what's known as the "administrative record," which would typically include things like environmental impact statements, public comments, or agency comments, such as those that EPA staff had prepared but never sent to the MPCA. District courts, meanwhile, allow for the kind of fact-finding, including the calling of witnesses, that Maccabee insists is

for release of the information, Maccabee said

COUNCIL...Continued from page 3

end up in arbitration. You are going backwards on a collective bargaining agreement."

The council passed a motion 4-0, with Abrahamson abstaining, to reject the remedy. The motion noted that the grievance committee had developed the remedy under questionable circumstances.

Reorganization

The council made more progress on its annual reorganization, a duty normally completed with little fanfare at the second meeting in January, but which had been made more complicated by a number of unauthorized changes in the city roster of commission and committee terms, apparently made by the clerk-treasurer.

Kringstad had worked with Councilor Shelden Majerle to examine past minutes in order to correct the term dates on several committees, including planning and zoning, the Tower Economic Development Authority, Gunderson Trust, and the forestry board.

Kringstad handed out a spreadsheet he had developed based on that work, which he said he wanted incorporated into the meeting's minutes. Keith bristled at using Kringstad's spreadsheet, because it was in a different format from the one she had been using previously.

'We should be following the city format," Keith said. But Kringstad insisted and it was clear that Keith lacked the backing of the council on the issue.

The council attempted to work through Kringstad's spreadsheet, but Keith repeatedly interrupted, challenging some of the names and term dates that Kringstad had presented. The council persisted, however, and ultimately approved new members to the forestry board membership, as well as the Gundersen Trust. Kringstad, with council approval, removed Keith from her at-large seat on the Gundersen Trust Board, and added Eric Norberg and John Burgess to two open seats. The council had earlier removed former mayor Josh Carlson from the board, noting his seat on the board was as a council representative and that his term expired at the end of 2018. Keith said that both she and Carlson wished to remain on the Gundersen board, but Majerle noted that term renewals were up to the council. Kringstad

noted that Keith was still a member of the board, as the non-voting secretary.

The council approved the addition of Dick Larmouth (expiring 2021) and Nate Dostert (expiring 2022) to TEDA, and reappointed Joan Broten to her proper term, which will expire in 2023. Broten had originally been appointed in 2017 to a one-year term, but city officials switched her term with Marshall Helmberger in January 2018, in order to remove Helmberger from TEDA in retaliation for critical reporting of city operations.

Other changes in the

reorganization included formally appointing Jolene Herberg to a term on the Planning and Zoning Board, expiring in 2021, and correcting the terms of office of other members of the board, whose terms had been altered by the clerk-treasurer.

The council still needs to make final appointments to the city's charter commission, but questions about the terms of office of the board's members still need to be clarified.

TOWER-SOUDAN LOCAL NEWS

VERMILION COUNTRY SCHOOL



Vermilion Country School students performed the classic comedy, The Odd Couple, late last month. Cast members included (below) Jason Premo as Felix Unger and Andrew Sauls as Oscar Madison. Supporting cast members included Jacob Karasti, Jeremiah Lundberg, Daqari Shanks, Jacob Dorman, Shaylin Peliska, and Preston Tyndall-Robich. The play was directed by Karin Schmidt. The crew was led by Sue Beaton, with students Mahlia Schuster, Danica Starkman, Gage Monsrud, Presley Johnson, and Dakota Hanninen. photos by S. Ukkola



This group of teens cooled off at the Pike River Bridge

between Jr. Legion tournament games in Soudan last weekend. photo by J. Summit

Immanuel and St. James hosting joint VBS **July 8-12**

TOWER- Immanuel Lutheran and St. James Presbyterian churches, in Tower, are hosting a joint Vacation Bible School, 'Roar VBS" from July 8-12. At Roar, kids discover that God is good even when life gets wild! Kids participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, make and devour yummy treats, experience one-of-a-kind Wild Bible Adventures, collect Bible Memory Buddies to remind them of God's love, and test out Sciency-Fun Gizmos they'll take home and play with all summer long. Family members and friends are encouraged to join in daily for this special time at noon. Roar is for kids from ages four to grade six (completed). Hours will be Monday, 9 a.m. – 12:15 p.m., Tuesday

- Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m., and Fri-day, 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Early registration is appreciated. Forms can be emailed, mailed or picked up at either Immanuel or St. James.

Tower Farmers Market opens June 14

TOWER- The Tower Farmers Market will open for the season on Friday, June 14 from 4-6- p.m. at the Tower Depot - same time, same place, and a junior from Tower, Swsame great offerings as in previous years. Throughout the season, local vendors will have fresh produce, bread, sweet baked treats, eggs, pickles, jams, jellies, BBQ sauce, wood carving, furniture, rugs, photography, jewelry, soap and much more. Hope to see you there! Vendors can commit to the whole season or pay for a week at a time. Old and new vendors can just show up on June 14 with their table, chair, awning and produce or product. Call Janna at 749-2186 or Mickey at 984-3951 with questions about who can sell, what can be sold, or any other details.

University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) announces **Dean's List for** Spring Semester

COMMUNITY NOTICES

DULUTH-Two Tower-Soudan area students have been named to the University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) Dean's List for Spring Semester 2019. Students on the Dean's List have achieved a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

Jonathan D. Lanari, enson College of Science and Engineering, majoring in Chemical Engineering. Broderick N. Skala, a senior from Tower, Swenson College of Science and Engineering, majoring in Civil Engineering.



On Sunday, June 2, St. Martin's recognized their three graduating seniors during Mass and then at a reception held in their honor following Mass: Libby Suihkonen, Maddy Zupancich and Gavin **Olson. Best** wishes to each of them! submitted photo

Cook VFW Open Daily at Noon **CLOSED on TUESDAYS**

Happy Hour Daily 4-6 p.m. All Beer & Drinks Bar Menu & Pizza Available

> **Event Rentals** Welcome 218-780-6709

Pull-Tabs Sold Daily Lic. 00390

Sunday FREE Pool

Thursday Bingo Early Bird 6 p.m. **Progressive Prizes**

Friday 4:30-7 p.m. Hamburger Special

Take-Out 666-0500



Special Display at Historic Fire Hall in Tower by the Tower-Soudan **Historical Society**

TOWER- "Salute to Servicewomen in the United States Military" highlighting women from the Iron Range will be open on weekends at The Old Fire Hall on Main Street in Tower, next to the Post Office.

Exact Hours depend on volunteers for Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays in June and July. Look for the open sign on the sidewalk or entrance door.

This display on loan from The St. Louis County Historical Society.



Household Hazardous waste collection at Soudan Canister on Wednesday, June 19

BREITUNG- The Soudan Canister site will be accepting household hazardous waste on Wednesday, June 19 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. In the event of an emergency or bad weather, the collection will be delayed or canceled. Collection is for residential waste only. Businesses, commercial farms, schools and nonprofits need to call the B-Clean program at 1-800-450-9278

Some hazardous waste materials accepted include aerosol products, bug spray, cleaners, polishes, drain cleaners, fertilizers, insect killers, mercury wastes, old gasoline, paint thinner, rat poison, rodent bait, spot removers, thermometers, antifreeze, button batteries, concrete cleaner, driveway sealers, fuels, lighter fluid, moth balls, oven cleaner, pesticides, rechargeable batteries, roofing tar, stains, varnish, weed killer, brake fluid, carburetor cleaner, degreasers, epoxy products, furniture stripper, liquid paint products, paint stripper, roach/ant killers, solvents, thinners, stump remover, wood preservers. Fluorescent lights and compact fluorescent lights are taken, six free per trip. Asbestos is a regulated waste that is only taken at the landfill in Virginia.

A second area household waste collection will be held on July 11 at the Highway 77 canister site.

Year-round disposal is available at the Regional Landfill Household Hazardous Waste Facility, 5345 Regional Landfill Road in Virginia. The facility is open Tuesdays and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m

For more information, contact the St. Louis County Environmental Services Department at 1-800-450-9278 or visit stlouiscountymn.gov/hw.



Read us online at www.timberjay.com check out our e-edition

TOWER-SOUDAN LOCAL NEWS

June 14, 2019 **7**

OLD SETTLERS

Early registration and memberships now open for 2019 Old Settlers Reunion and Picnic on Saturday, July 20



BREITUNG TWP-Committee members are urging area residents to register in advance for this year's Old Settlers Reunion and Picnic. Early registration helps with planning and makes the registration lines on picnic day move quickly. Members also save \$2 if they register by June 30.

The Annual Old

Settlers Reunion and Picnic will be held on Saturday, July 20 starting at 12 noon at McKinley Park Campground. Old Settlers is open to anyone born or living on the Vermilion Iron Range (Tower and Ely). Dues are \$6 if paid prior to June 30, and then \$8 after that. The Old Settlers Picnic features a delicious booyah dinner, entertainment, and door prizes. For the price of membership, it's the best value around!

The Old Settlers Committee appreciates receiving dues in advance to help with planning. Checks should be made out to Old Settlers and mailed to Old Settlers, PO Box 724, Tower, MN 55790.

MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL



The Midsummer Gala, a benefit for the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center, will be held on June 22 at the Herb Lamppa Civic Center in Tower. Tickets are going fast. Newly added to the silent auction is a three-night stay on a 44-foot Royalist model houseboat (see above) from Lake Vermilion Houseboats. George Leupold, on banjo and Wayne Wilberg, on guitar (at right) will also be performing again this year. If you would like to register for the event call 218-753-4100. Reservations may also be made online at vermilionculturalcenter.org. The RSVP deadline is June 15.





Barrett John Picard

Jason and Ariana Picard, of Virginia, are proud to announce the birth of their son, Barrett John Picard. Barrett was born at Essentia Health Virginia on May 28, 2019 at 5:14 a.m. He was eight pounds, seven ounces, and 20.25 inches long. Barrett is also welcomed by his brother Odin, who is almost two years old. Grandparents are Greg and Lisa Picard of Superior, Wis., and Tom and Dena Suihkonen of Tower. Great-Grandparents are Chuck and Nancy Tekautz of Soudan, and Diane Baremann of Dade City, Fla. Photo courtesy of Tara Kay Photography.

National Anthem singers needed for July 4 flag raising

TOWER- As part of the Fourth of July Parade celebration in Tower, the Tower-Soudan Area Singers, under the direction of Rolf Anderson, invite any and all persons wanting to sing the National Anthem to join them at Tower City Hall, at 10:30 a.m. on July 4, for the raising of the flag. The singing will be broadcast, so that many on the parade route will be able to hear and join in if they like.

Please come a few minutes early so the singers can be organized. There will be plenty of time to get back to your parade position or viewing place before the parade starts at 11 a.m.

Fourth of July donations

The Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board would like to thank the following individuals and businesses for their generous donations to this year's Fourth of July fund. Donations can be mailed to T-S LV Area Events Board, PO Box 461, Tower, MN 55790. Names of all donors are printed in the newspaper unless otherwise noted.

Week of June 17

Monday

TOPS - Immanuel Lutheran Church, Tower, at 9 a.m.

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

Tuesday

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

Greenwood Fire Dept.-Meetings on the first (drill) and third (business meeting) Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

Wednesday

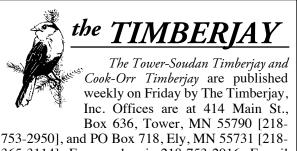
Tower AA- Open Basics-7 p.m. at St. James Presbyterian Church. Questions, call 753-2332.

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.

Subscribe Today (218) 753-2950 timberjay.com



Northeast Range fourth quarter honor roll

A Honor Roll Grade 12

Chloe Aase Jacob Bjork Heidi Houghton Taina Koivisto Kellsie Konstenius Chelsea Larson Maija Maki Justice Porisch Mersadies Stordahl

Grade 11

Carolyn Desilets Jolie Langevin Shelby Nelson Lara Poderzay Casey Zahnow

Grade 10

Dillon Gorsma Oskar Koivisto Phoebe Morgan Ethan Zaitz James Zupancich

Grade 9

Audrey Anderson Erin Backe Joscelyn LaSart Markus Maki Natalie Nelmark Hannah Reichensperger

Grade 8

Mariah DeJoode Rachael Kratz Jennie Nelson Alice Wolter

Grade 7

Aubree Gerlovich Allie Larson Hailey Lindquist

B Honor Roll

Grade 12 Dean Boese Shayler Lislegard Ruth Morgan Brett Porisch

Grade 11

Robert Dougherty Charles Fritz Kayla Johnson Charles Winger

Grade 10

Anne Barich Christopher Ferguson Isaac Hendrickson Kaleb Kappes-Bliss Willa Koivisto Alexia Lightfeather Bianca Urman Jacob Vernlund

Grade 9

Aili Bee Rylee Dusich Thia Lossing Rylan Poppenhagen Kaya Sawyer Jenna Smith Calvin Winger

Grade 8 Conner Berhow Morgan Bush Zoey Cameron Kolton Kari Layne Kaufenberg Logan Meskill Tori Sawyer Emily Westvik Jonathan Zaitz

Grade 7

Natalie Backe Edee Flug Abby Koivisto Ruby Milton Wesley Sandy

Transfer station

Soudan Canister

Expanded ho	ours year-round							
Monday	8 a.m 5 p.m.							
Wed.	8 a.m 5 p.m.							
Saturday	8 a.m 5 p.m.							
Sunday	8 a.m 5 p.m.							
For info: 1-800-450-9278								

Hwy. 77 Canister

Summer Hours through Sept. 30Tuesday1 p.m. - 6 p.m.Thursday8 a.m. - 1 p.m.Saturday8 a.m. - 5 p.m.Sunday12 p.m. - 6 p.m.Recycling canisters availabledaily at the Greenwood TownHall.For info: 1-800-450-9278

Bookmobile Schedule

Wednesday, June 19; July 10, 31; Aug. 21

Bois Forte Boys/Girls Club Greenwood Town Hall Soudan Fire Hall Tower Civic Center Embarrass, Four Corners 11:00-11:30 a.m. 12:00-12:30 p.m. 1:45-3:00 p.m. 3:15-4:15 p.m. 5:15-6:00 p.m.

For further information, call the Arrowhead Library System at 218-741-3840 or www.arrowhead.lib.mn.us

365-3114]. Fax number is 218-753-2916. E-mail address is editor@timberjay.com. Visit our web-site at www.timberjay.com.

Entered as Periodicals at the Post Office in Tower, Minnesota. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Timberjay, P.O. Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Three award-winning community editions are published each week for Tower/Soudan, Cook/Orr, and Ely.

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ELY LOCAL NEWS

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

Noon-6 pm Monday Tuesday Noon-6 pm Noon-6 pm Wednesday Thursday Noon-6 pm Noon-5 pm Fridav Phone: 827-3345

Support groups

AA - Alcoholics

Anonymous AA - 7 p.m. Mondays, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St., Ely WOMEN'S AA - Noon Mondays, St. Anthony Church basement, Ely BABBITT AA - 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church. AL-ANON - Sundays 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthonv's Catholic Church in Elv. For persons who encounter alcoholism in a relative or friend.

BABBITT AL-ANON - Thursdays, 7 p.m. at

Woodland Presbyterian Church. **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. Tower by appointment. Call 365-3359, 827-3232,

or 1-800-662-5711.

Tuesday Group

ELY - The upcoming Tuesday Group schedule is listed below. All talks are at 12 noon on Tuesday at the Grand Ely Lodge. June 18 - Derrick

Passe - The North Country Trail June 25 - Becky

Rom - Update on Save the Boundary Waters

Play Smear at Senior Center

ELY - Smear tournaments are held the first and third Mondays at the Ely Senior Center, 27 S. 1st Ave E, starting at 6 p.m.

Ely Free Clinic

ELY - The Ely Community Health Center is open every Monday evening from 5:30-7 p.m. in the AFU Building, 111 S 4th Ave. E.

For more information, call 218-365-5678, or visit their website, www.elycommunityhealth.org or Facebook page.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2019

AMATEUR RADIO Field Day set for next weekend

Vermilion Range Club to demonstrate science, skill, service

ELY-Membersofthe Vermilion Range Amateur Radio Club will be participating in the national Amateur Radio Field Day exercise, next Saturday and Sunday, June 22 - 23, at the St. Louis County Public Works Facility located at 2210 Hidden Valley Road.

Since 1933, ham radio operators across North America have established temporary ham radio stations in public locations during Field Day events to showcase the science and skill of Amateur Radio. This event is open to the public and all are encouraged to attend.

For more than 100 years, Amateur Radio — also called ham radio - has allowed people from all walks of life to experiment with electronics and communications techniques, as well as provide a free public service to their communities during a disaster or emergency, all without needing a cell phone or the Internet.

Field Day demonstrates ham radio's ability to work reliably under any conditions from almost any

location and create an independent communications network. More than 35,000 people from thousands of locations participated last year in Field Day 2018 activities.

"It's easy for anyone to pick up a computer or smartphone, connect to the Internet and communicate, with no knowledge of how the devices function or connect to each other." said David Isgur, communications manager for the American Radio Relay League, the national association for Amateur Radio. "But if there's an interruption of service or you're out of range of a cell tower, you have no way to communicate. Ham radio functions completely independent of the Internet or cell phone infrastructure, can interface with tablets or smartphones, and can be set up almost anywhere in minutes. That's the beauty of Amateur Radio during a communications outage."

Hams can literally throw a wire in a tree for an antenna, connect it to a battery-powered transmitter, and communicate halfway around the

world, Isgur added. "Hams do this by using a layer of Earth's atmosphere as a sort of mirror for radio waves. In today's electronic do-it-yourself (DIY) environment, ham radio remains one of the best ways for people to learn about electronics, physics, meteorology, and numerous other scientific disciplines."

In addition, amateur radio is an asset to any community during disasters or emergencies if the standard communication infrastructure goes down.

Anyone may become a licensed Amateur Radio operator. There are more than 725,000 licensed hams in the United States, as young as nine and as old as 100. And with clubs such as the Vermilion Range Amateur Radio Club, it's easy for anybody to get involved right here in the Ely area.

For more information about Field Day or Amateur Radio, contact the Vermilion Range Amateur Radio Club at 218-235-0059, www.vermilionrangearc.org, or visit www.arrl. org/what-is-ham-radio.

SUPPORTING THE ARTS





The Ely Timberjay is published weekly on Friday by The Timberjay, Inc. Offices are at 414 Main St., P.O. Box 636, Tower, MN 55790 [218-753-2950], and PO Box 718, Ely, MN 55731 [218-365-3114]. Fax number is 218-753-2916. E-mail address is editor@timberjay.com. Visit our website: www.timberjay.com.

lifejackets secured

surface congestion

nchors dropped, lines out, focused

Entered as Periodicals at the Post Office

Young Ely area artists attended the Ely Arts and Heritage Center's Summer Children's Art Camp this week. Camp was held at the Ely Miners Dry Building. This year's projects included carving stones, see Sawyer Anderson, above, drawing, creating tile mosaics, and painting placemats. Artists/teachers included Sandy Brandley, Bill Griffin, Mike Sinesio and Claire Taylor. Each student had four class sessions each day. An art show was held on Wednesday.



in Tower, Minnesota. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Timberjay, P.O. Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Three award-winning community editions are published each week for Tower/Soudan, Cook/Orr, and Ely.

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photos by K. Vandervort

Letter to the Editor

Tuesday Group welcomes new Elvites

The Tuesday Group program at the Grand Ely Lodge on June 4 was another in the on-going series called "Meet New Elyites," in which new arrivals in our community tell their stories (where they came from, their occupations, their interests, and why they chose to settle here). This was the sixth such program that I have put together for Tuesday Group since the end of summer; Ely is happily experiencing a wave of immigration!

The first presenter, Shelby Swanson, is the new Ely Clinic Patient Care Facilitator. Growing up, she came to Ely often to visit her grandparents, Eldon and Gerri Foster, and now she is very happy that her education has led to a job in her favorite town.

Lindsey Keen, on the second day of her new job as Ely's State Farm Agent, shared her excitement about her family's new life in the north woods. She and husband Corey are settling into the house they bought up the Echo Trail, and their three kids will enroll in the Ely schools in the fall.

An additional smallworld surprise: Shelby and Lindsey discovered they are both from Cambridge, MN, and know each other's families!

Next we met Pam Kewley and Scott Meland, who became so fond of our neck of the woods that they purchased a lot on Armstrong Lake and then a fixer-upper house on Washington St. Pam volunteers at the Ely Folk School. Scott brought his engineering job with him, working part-time on-line.

Sue Wormley and Walt McElderry spent their childhood summers on Ojibway Lake but never met until a few years ago! Walt has a long Ely history, and Sue is now a full-time Elyite; they share a home in town as well as an Ojibway cabin.

Mark and Alethea Fedders brought a business and eight children to Ely! After the avian flu wiped out their chicken farm in Iowa, they discovered a talent for leather work, bought a successful business (Lobo Gun Leather), purchased a home in Ely, and set up their well-appointed and busy family shop on Sheridan Street. They consider their holsters, belts, and handbags to be "wearable art."

The hour ended with a bonus introduction by a couple from Kentucky (I failed to write down their names). They were new to Tuesday Group but have been coming for years to

spend summers at their home in town.

Each of these new, newish, and old Elvites shared a similar theme: Ely is a beautiful, friendly, safe, and vibrant place, a wonderful respite from the over-crowded concrete cities of their former lives. We warmly welcome these new neighbors and thank them for bringing their energy, talents, jobs, children, and love for our lakes, forest, and community.

Tuesday Group is an informal gathering, open to anyone who can join us during the noon hour (pretty much every Tuesday except December!) for a presentation on a wide variety of topics. Come and help us welcome even more New Elyites as time goes on.

> **Elton Brown** Ely

ELY SCHOOLS

Running for life Ely track stars start young



Washington Elementary students held a track and field day during the last week of school. Some of these students may continue running in high school, and even make it to State.







Ely Memorial track team members qualified for State competition, held last week at Hamline University. Team members gathered for a photo, left, before boarding the bus. Memorial Principal Megan Anderson and school secretary Robin Erickson, above, cheered on the runners. Junior Luke Olson took the state title in the 800. Look for more coverage on page B1. photos by K. Vandervort

Ely Memorial School

Quarter 4 Honor Roll 2018-2019 * Denotes 3.5 GPA

Leeson, *Henry Lowe, Andrew Marolt, *Gavin Marshall, Braydin Fedders, *Charly Flom, Joseph Foster, *Jon Hakala,*Drayke

Vollom, Elsie Vollom, Davis Walsh. Grade 11: Elissia Bennett, *Ana Bercher, Nils DeRemee, Andrew Dunn, *Kalyssa Eilrich, *Dylan Fenske, *Apolonia Homer, Sarah Isbell, *Savannah Johnson, *McCartney Kaercher, *Joshua Larson, *Henry Matthys, Eric Mattila, *Erika Mattson, *Jenna Merhar, Kjetil Midttun, *Nathan Nettifee, *Luke Olson, *Raif Olson, *Eric Omerza, *Brooke Pasmick, *Winter Sainio, *James Schwinghamer, *Selina Sun. Grade 12: Jessica Anderson, *Dana Crenshaw, *Charles Dammann, *Lida Dodge, *Maarja Faltesek, Morgan Folz, *Madelene Johnson, *Jeremiah Kaercher, *Adam Knuutti, *Nicholas Mattila, Trevor Mattson, Preston Morgan, *Tim Moskalyk, Alex Motes, *Gabriella Omerza, *Evan Rabe, *Shane Spangler, *Lucy Stouffer.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Movies at EWHS History Nights

ELY - The Ely-Winton Historical Society will

or above

Grade 6: *Noah Anderson, Evelyn Cavalier, *Caid Chittum, *Isabella Davis, *Carena Debeltz, *Anna Dunn, Brady Eaton, Emma Fedders, Margaret Fetterer, Annabelle Henry, Rena Johnston, *Senja Kess, Rylee Larsen, Anna Larson, *Morgan Lassi, *Maija Mattson, *Wyatt Mattson, *Alex Merriman, Anya Moger, *Janae Murphy, *Carmen Nelson, *Lillian Rechichi, *Lauren Rehbein, *Garrett Rohr, Blake Schaller, Jonathan Schlosser, Silas Solum, *Ava Sundell, *Clare Thomas.

Grade 7: *Chase Anderson, *Esther Anderson, Colton Bramley, *Lily Dirks, *Kiarstin Eaton, *Samuel Favet, *Bryce Ferdig, *Thomas Homer, *Abigail Johnson, *Samantha Kvistad, *Grace LaTourell, Samuel Mosher, Ella Nappa, *Ailie Petrzilka, *Samuel Prijatel, *Deegan Richards, *Isabelle Schiltz, Rose Mary Schlosser, *Ava Skustad, Leo Stalmer, Robert Towley, *Sarah Visser, Ty Walker.

Grade 8: William Bach, Joseph Bianco, Charlize Carlson, Aragon Chase, *Jacob Cochran, *Katherine Coughlin, *Rachel Coughlin, *Margaret Dammann, *Zoe Devine, *Sydney Durkin, *Courtney Eilrich, *Natasha Fulkrod, *Taylor Gibney, Gunnar Hart, *Jackson Hegman, *Phoebe Helms, Madeline Kallberg, Kole Macho, Gabriel Mann, Morgan McClelland, *Sean Ogburn, *Cedar Ohlhauser, Elizabeth Omerza, *Madeline Perry, *Madison Rohr, *Juliet Stouffer, *Grace Sundell, *Audrey Thomas, *Kelly Thompson. Grade 9: *Bryce Fairchild, Grace

Hanninen, Matthew Janeksela, *Micah Larson, *Sidney Marshall, *Annikka Matson, Willow Ohlhauser, *Cora Olson, *Lauren Olson, *Gabriel Pointer, *Gracie Pointer, *Abigail Rehbein, *Zachary Robbins, Chase Sandberg, *Katrina Seliskar, Harry Simons, *Kellen Thomas, Karissa Vanvickle, *Ande Visser.

Grade 10: Riley Bishop, Madisyn Carlson, *McKenna Coughlin, *Harrison Dammann, *William Davies, *Grace Erickson, Emmett Faltesek, *Jasper Johnston, *Cameron Kienitz, *Brock Latourell, *Sophie Montana, Gabbrielle Motes, *Katie Pinckney, *Amelia Pluth, *Margaret Renner, *Sydni Richards, Madelyne Roderick, *Jonah Schwamm, *Julia Schwinghamer, Abigail Thompson, Brynn

show home movies at History Nights on Wednesday, June 19. This film covers everything from school children on field trips to Winton on the train, to the fire hall, to a farm and more. Watch again as St. Anthony's Church is demolished and the new one built. You will roam through long-lost resorts and a whole lot more. Look for familiar faces.

This program will be held in CL 104 at Vermilion Community College beginning at 7 p.m. Copies of this digitized film now on DVD will be for sale at \$10 each.

History Nights programs announced

ELY – The Ely-Winton Historical Society Summer History Night program returns this year. The schedule follows:

► July 17: Archaeology with Sue Mulholland

► July 31: The History of Co-op Point with Sally Koski and Val Myntti

► Aug. 14: Ethnic Diversity on the Iron Range with David Kess

With the exception of June 12, all programs begin at 7 p.m. They will be held in classroom CL 104 at Vermilion Community College. All programs are free and open to the public.

Ely Library hosts book sale

ELY - The Annual Book Sale by the Friends of the Ely Public Library will be held at Semer's Park Pavilion, Thursday to Saturday, June 20 - 22.

The "members only" sale will be held on Thursday, June 20, noon to 6 p.m. People can join or renew memberships at the door.

The public sale will be held on Friday, June 21, 10- 6 p.m. The "bag of books" sale will be held on Saturday, June 22, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Donations are accepted at Semer's Park Pavilion during the following times: Thursday, June 13,10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Friday, June 14, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Saturday, June 15, 9 a.m.-noon; Monday, June 17, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Tuesday, June 18, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Wednesday, June 19, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Ely Friends must be present to accept donations of books, puzzles, CDs and DVDs. Absolutely no magazines, textbooks, periodicals or encyclopedias will be accepted.

Cecilia Rolando art work on display at two Ely locations

ELY - Local artist Cecilia Rolando, currently has two localexhibits of her work.

Showing until the end of June in the Ely Library is a small display relating to her work with Haiku, the Japanese poetry form. Rolando has gathered together examples of her haiku with illustrations, seen weekly in the *Ely Timberjay*, various items made in Japan, and an explanation of the form.

The second show is running through the summer at Ely's Front Porch Coffee and Tea Co.

Included are twelve examples of Rolando's iPhone drawings. Created in the app Sketches, the electronic images were sent to email and then printed in an enlarged size and framed.



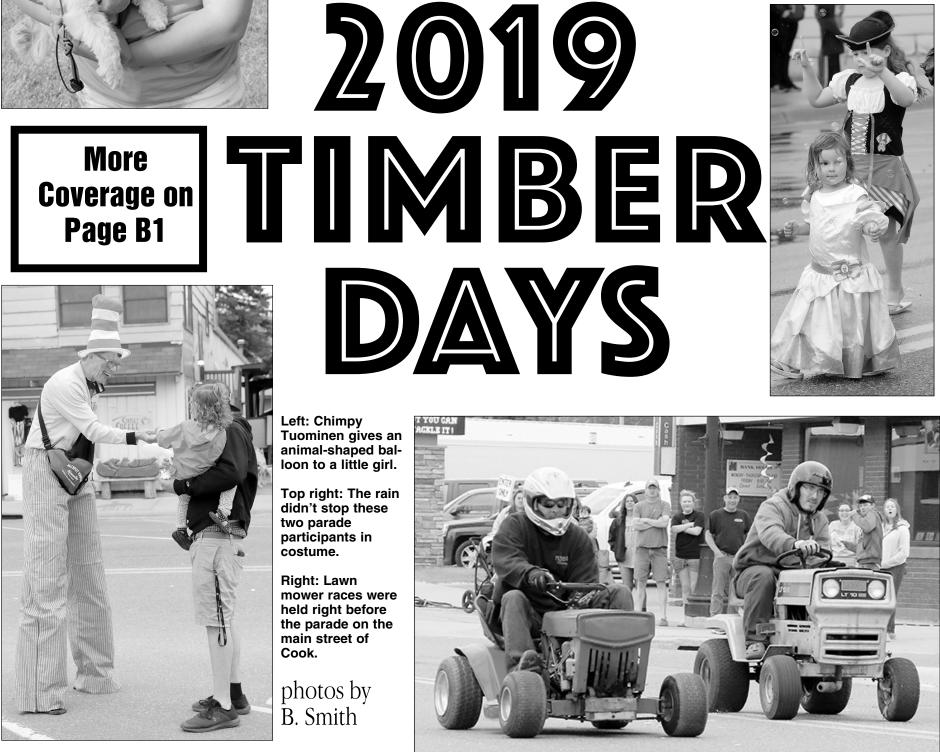
Top left: Grizzly basketball players, coaches, managers and cheerleaders entered a 3-peat float in the parade representing their 3rd trip to the state basketball tournaments.

Bottom left: Ashley Pinto entered her dog Bella in the pet show and won for best dressed.

Bottom right: There were many cars entered in the car show on Saturday morning, ranging from classic to newer sports hot rods.







Bottom left: Face painting was part of the kids activities. Here Payton Scofield gets a unicorn painted on his face.

Bottom right: Lilee and Audree enjoy cotton candy made by the Sugar Shack of Virginia.





MENTAL HEALTH ALLIES **Regional Mental Health: Everyone has a stake in it!**

"health" every one of us needs to be aware of and take notice. There are many misconceptions surrounding mental health. One of the largest misnomers is that mental health and mental illness are one in the same thing. People often use these terms interchangeably, but these terms are not the same and mean different things.

The National Institute of Mental Health defines mental illness as a mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder which can vary in impact, ranging from no impairment to mild, moderate, and even severe impairment. Mental health refers to much more than mental illness. In fact, most who struggle with their mental health do not have a mental illness. The World Health Organization defines mental health as "a state of well-being in which every individual

Mental health is realizes his or her own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to her or his community." People who may suffer from a mental illness work very hard on their mental health to achieve the well-being that many others may take for granted.

It is "OK" when we find ourselves struggling with our own mental health. It is during these times of struggle that we often may need the most support. These supports may include reaching out to our informal support (e.g., family, friends), self-help (e.g., books, online resources), or receiving formal support (e.g., support groups, medication, therapy, etc). Just as one's physical health may improve or decline, our mental health may improve or decline as well. Howev-

er, most people tend to find themselves much more willing to admit to difficulties they face in their physical health and tend to more often keep their mental health locked up tight. People often do things regularly that help manage their mental health such as going for a walk, reading a book, having dinner with friends, and taking vacations. They know that if they don't do these things they find themselves feeling stressed, maybe more anxious or feeling down, or they may tend to snap at others; these are all signs that our mental health needs more attention.

At best, the idea of normalizing mental health can be quite daunting. Each of us can work to make normalizing mental health happen. It starts with each one of us beginning to talk about mental health and treating mental

health like any other issue that someone faces (e.g., heart conditions, diabetes, etc). We recognize that any one of us may struggle with our mental health at different times in our lives.

Mental Health Allies was recently formed in Cook to help address issues surrounding mental health and making it "OK" to talk about mental health. Mental Health Allies is a group of various partner agencies, tribal partners, schools, and community members who have a passion to build a stronger community by identifying and providing access to resources, increasing education of mental health, and promoting community collaboration. This group meets the first Monday of each month from 1 - 3 p.m. in the Large Conference room at the Cook Hospital.

Community Notices

Summer library programs

COOK - Reading is the blockbuster event this summer at the Cook Public Library! Starting May 31 kids can pick up a summer reading playbill and get started on their reading adventure.

Butter the popcorn and grab some Junior Mints because It's Showtime at your Library! Story time for young children and Book Club for upper elementary kids are both held Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. Teens are invited to join TAB (Teen Advisory Board) members for special events in June. Teen volunteers are needed!

Kids who complete their playbill activities will receive a reward in August. Teens who participate in the 100-point TAB challenge are invited to a Star Wars themed overnight party in the library. This summer, let's put books center stage and help prevent summer slide by encouraging reading throughout the season.

ry parts or charms. The class is on Thursday June 20 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the NWFA Gallery. To register, call Alberta at 218 666-2153.

Help choose Cook **Public Library's** Next Great Read

COOK - Everyone is welcome to help choose our Next Great Read. Community members and library staff chose 104 books for the Next Great Read list. Voting on the books will take place throughout the summer.

Place your vote by stopping at the library, visiting our Facebook page, Twitter page or library website, www. cookpubliclibrary.org. One vote per person per day. The winning book will be our community read during the 2020 Winter Reading Program. A complete list of all the books is available at the library and on the library website.

to' draw, paint, etc, by diving into concepts, symbolism, representation and metaphor in a fun and stress-free environment! We will spend some time developing our stories and experimenting with materials. Then the class will continue to learn about composition, visual symbols, drawing, surface treatment, current artists that are using story and any other art questions that come up. Students from 12 to 100 years of age are welcome!

Please bring:

1. A story: well-developed or a very loose idea. 2. A handful of art materials you would like to use. 3. An open mind.

'My Story' is a memory, fiction, dream, story, idea, poem, opinion, struggle, victory, comedy, tragedy, etc. We can work with anything! If you have questions, you may contact Kris at kmusto@mcad.edu 612-325-0258. Please register for the class through NW-FAMN.ORG or by calling Alberta Whitenack at 218-666-2153 or Shawna Kishel at 218-780-6510. Checks written to NWFA can be dropped off at the NWFA Gallery in Cook or mailed to NWFA, PO Box 44, Cook. 55723. The cost is \$40 for NWFA members or \$55 for non-members, plus an additional \$5 supply fee paid to Kris Musto on the day of the class. Class size is limited to 12 students. The gallery is open 10 to 4 Wednesday to Friday and 9 to 1 on Saturday.

Kris Musto is one of NWFA's young instructors still fully involved in her career. She makes art about thinking and feeling with paint, drawing, sculpture, installation, photography, collage, fiber, fabric, printmaking, text and anything else within reach. She holds a Fine Arts degree from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design and has worked in MCAD Admissions since 1999. For NWFA she has contributed classes in acrylic painting, handmade books and co-chaired exhibits "Aprons In April" and "The Adventures of Jeanne & Kris". This is her second "Your Story As Art" class at NWFA

this year. June at NWFA is

Briefly

At the Orr City Council

ORR - A planned public hearing on the proposed short-term rental ordinance here on Monday evening was brief, after no members of the public voiced an opinion the matter. City Clerk Cheri Carter said the county had their own ordinance in the works that would be much more specific than the one proposed by the city.

Mayor Joel Astleford said the city could adapt theirs at a later date.

While the city currently does have any properties that would be covered by the ordinance, the measure is preemptive as websites like AirBNB and others that allow property owners to rent short-term grow in popularity.

The measure will go for a final reading before the council on July 8.

On another matter, involving rental fees for the community center for the city's July 3 festival, the council decided to split costs with the event organizers. The move was a compromise after a request was made to the city to waive all fees since the Orr Muni will have a bar set up in the building.

The council said they didn't want to set a precedent of waiving fees for community organizations.

In other business, the council:

► Raised fire rates by five percent.

► Approved a new credit card processing system to allow residents to pay their water bill online for a small fee.

Injuries in ATV crash

ORR - Two people were injured on June 7 on Elephant Lake Road after losing control of their vehicle. The sheriff's department reports Tim Harding of New Braunfels, TX was driving a side-by-side ATV with Justin Hamilton of Iowa City, IA as his passenger when he rolled the vehicle at the top of a hill. A second ATV driven by Ronald Harding of Solon, IA rear-ended the first ATV following the crash. Hamilton was taken by Lifelink to Duluth for treatment. All others were treated and released at the scene.

Grocery delivery services offered to Cook residents after Zup's fire

COOK - Registrations are being taken here for a grocery delivery service following the fire at Zup's Grocery. The program, offered by the AEOA, is for seniors 60 years of age or older. Resgistrations will be taken over the phone by calling the agency at 1-800-662-5711 ext. 6899.

Cook Senior Citizens Club

COOK - The Cook Seniors meet monthly on the first Wednesday at 1 p.m. For more information, call Nancy at 666-2726 or Lois at 666-5578.



Make your own jewlery in June at the NWFA Gallery in Cook

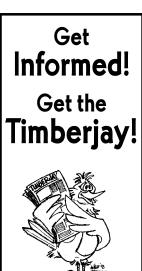
COOK - Create your very personal jewelry, a pendant converting metal washers using alcohol ink, wire and beads. Karen Lamppa, Fiber Artist and Quilter will show you how it's done and provide the basic kit for \$5. Students can use their own broken jewel-

Your story as art

COOK - Your story matters! Be guided in creating a visual of YOU at this workshop with Kris Musto. From 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Monday, July 29 at the NWFA Gallery. Use clippings, collage and drawing to create. Paint and paper provided (or other materials you bring) to create a finished art piece on canvas, board or paper.

This class transcends the technique of 'how

Spring Art Expo 2019, so see the art exhibits in in Crane Lake, Tower, Cook and Orr, as well as at NWFA Gallery in Cook. See the website at NWFAMN.ORG and contact volunteers at nwfamn.org@gmail.com or at the Gallery at 218-780-7130.



753-2950] and Box 718, Ely, MN 55731 [218-365-3114]. Fax number is 218-753-2916. E-mail address is editor@timberjay.com. Visit our website: www.timberjay.com.

Entered as Periodicals at the Post Office in Tower, Minnesota. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Timberjay, P.O. Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Three award-winning community editions are published each week for Cook/Orr, Tower/Soudan, and Ely.

Publisher General Manager Staff Writers

Ely Editor Cook/Orr Editor Office Manager Graphics/Ad Sales/ Staff Writer Ad Sales/Sports

Marshall Helmberger Jodi Summit Melissa Roach Stephanie Ukkola Keith Vandervort Marcus White M. M. White

Scarlet Lynn Stone Jay Greeney

Official Newspaper:

City of Orr, City of Ely, Townships of Bearville, Crane Lake, Eagles Nest, Embarrass, Kugler, Vermilion Lake, Field, Morcom, Leiding, ISD 707.

Member: Minnesota Newspaper Association, Lake Vermilion Resort Association, Lake Vermilion Area Chamber of Commerce, Orr Chamber of Commerce, Ely Chamber of Commerce.

Subscriptions Available:

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Read us online www.timberjay.com check out our e-edition

Dance workshops to be held in Ely June 23 and Julv 8

ELY- Two dance workshops are planned in Ely this summer. On Sunday, June 23, instructors from the Stomping Ground Studio of Minneapolis will be teaching acro and partnering skills along with tumbling. The workshop will take place at the Tofte Lake Center's Arie space from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with a short showcase at 4:30 p.m. for family and friends. The cost of the workshop is \$20.

On Monday, July 8, award-winning choreographer and dancer Darrius Strong will teach a modern/hip hop workshop in the Northern Grounds Society Hall from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. This workshop will be \$15 and interested dancers can register by contacting Reflections Dance Company at reflectionsdc18@gmail.com or by calling 218-248-2227.

Eagles Nest Twp Lakes Association annual meeting and picnic, June 29

EAGLES NEST TWP- The Eagles Nest Township Lakes Association (ENTLA) annual meeting and picnic will be held at the Eagles Nest Town Hall on Bear Island State Park Road on Saturday, June 29 at 12 noon. All township residents are welcome to attend. Grilled chicken is provided. Please bring eating utensils, plates, and a food item to share.

Local students named to the NDSU-Fargo Dean's List

FARGO, ND - Four area students were named to the spring 2019 dean's list at North Dakota State University in Fargo. A student must earn a 3.5 GPA or higher and be enrolled in at least 12 class credits to qualify for the spring list.

Honorees were Katrina A. Eisinger of Cook, Management; Benjamin P. Gantt of Ely, Horticulture; Elliot A. Omerza of Ely, Mechanical Engineering, and Asa E. Spicer of Tower, Criminal Justice.



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2017 RAM 1500 BIG HORN 4X4Hemi power!	\$30,990
2017 FORD FUSION SE Tons of options!	\$16,990
2017 BUICK ENCORECertified preowned!	\$21,990
2017 CHEVROLET EQUINOX LT AWD Low miles!	\$20,990
2016 JEEP PATRIOT HIGH ALTITUDE 4X4Loaded!	\$16,990
2016 CHEVROLET SILVERADO LT 4X4Certified preowned!	\$30,990
2015 DODGE DART GTFlashy and fun!	\$15,990
2015 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LIMITEDLoaded!	\$27,990
2014 CHEVROLET IMPALAClean local trade!	\$14,990
2014 CADILLAC SRX AWD LUXURYDrive first class!	\$18,990
Prices exclude license, tax & registration fees.	

NORTHWOODS FRIENDS OF THE ARTS

The Kalevala: The Voices of our Ancestors, June 18

COOK-Dr. Ellie Larmouth will be the featured speaker at NWFA's Annual Meeting on Tuesday, June 18 at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook. Her presentation will examine the Finnish epic poem. "The Kalevala," its history, messages, music, and continued influence on people of Finnish ancestry. This Spring Art Expo event begins at 5 p.m. and includes a potluck supper, the annual meeting, 50/50 raffle drawing, and "The Kalevala" presentation, at 6 p.m. The public is welcome. The NWFA Gallery is located at 210 S River St. in Cook, between Gustafson Motors and Dream Weaver Spa and Salon.

NWFA is honored that Larmouth has volunteered her talent and time as a teacher and

facilitator for ten years. Larmouth facilitates the NWFA Writers Group. After growing up in Esko, Larmouth graduated from the University of Minnesota-Duluth and taught in St. Paul Public Schools and then in Nebraska where she worked as a traveling school counselor in rural and small town schools. She has earned master's degrees from the University of Minnesota-Duluth and the University of Nebraska-Omaha and a Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska. Larmouth was employed as an educational therapist in mental health facilities, a therapist in private practice, and as a college professor in education at Dana College, Creighton University, and Buena Vista. Her final teaching assignment was at Concordia in Ann Arbor,

Mich.

The evening begins with a potluck supper, the annual meeting, and re-election of NWFA board of directors. Currently, the board members are Shawna Kishel, president; Lauren Nelson, vice-president; Lisa Hyppa, treasurer; Alberta Whitenack, gallery artist manager; Lisa Simensen, gallery manager/ secretary; Lois Garbisch, public relations/internet; and Judith Ulseth, public relations. Thanks to the many more volunteers. Cathryn Peters schedules gallery volunteers and we are always calling on Sue Wolfe, Priscilla Hiipakka, Ian Carlson, Bailey Conger and Jeanne O'Melia. Members and non-members of all ages are welcome to attend the annual meeting and lecture.

Tour of Minnesota bicycle ride on the Iron Range, June 15-21

REGIONAL- The Tour of Minnesota (TOM), a week-long bicycle tour, will be touring the cities and heritage of the Iron Range starting on Saturday, June 15. This is the 45th year of the annual ride. Participants will visit and stay overnight in the communities of Grand Rapids, Chisholm, Aurora, Ely, Gilbert, and Hibbing.

"This thing called the 'Jaunt with Jim' was started in 1974 by Jim Klobuchar, a columnist for the Star Tribune for 35 years and former Ely resident," stated Bob Lincoln, TOM ride director. "Jim became a bicycle tour leader before spandex was popular, when riders wore cut-off jeans and T-shirts and longed for a watermelon rest stop at the side of the road on a hot day. We reveled in the camaraderie of our band of misfits, a community on wheels. Now, 45 years later, the ride is called the Tour of Minnesota. Our goals are to visit small towns and out-of-the-way



places all around the state, enjoy the heritage and culture of those areas, and bring economic development to local businesses."

Local and visiting travelers should be aware of increased bicycle traffic on the highways the week of June 15-21 between the communities of Grand Rapids, Chisholm, Aurora,

Ely, Gilbert, and Hibbing. On many days the 175-plus riders will be using part of the Mesabi Trail and will enjoy the scenic byways of the Iron Range. Most of the bicycle riders camp each evening in the designated community and then pack up to ride the next day. The riders will enjoy a day off in Ely this year on June 18 and will participate in outdoor and arts activities.

More information about the Tour of Minnesota can be found on the website at www.tourofminnesota.com or on Facebook. Questions about the tour can be directed to Bob Lincoln, Ride Director, at blincoln@ tourofminnesota.com.

Above (from left) Keiko W. of Ely, Cindy B. of Nashwauk, and Pat R. of the Twin Cities ride the Lake Wobegon Trail in 2018. submitted photo

Northern Lights Music Festival announces 16th Season; concerts begin June 2

Northern Lights Music Festival announces its upcoming sixteenth season, with more than 20 performances from Ely to Coleraine, and eight other cities in between.

Anchoring the threeweek festival is the NLMF Opera's production of Verdi's tragic opera, La Traviata, starring Cecilia Violetta Lopez, who, as her name suggests, is described as being "born to sing the role of Violetta." Alex Richardson returns to NLMF to sing the role of Alfredo, and Metropolitan Opera star Jeffrey Mattsey will sing the role of Germont. Conducted by Maestro Darko Butorac and directed by Robert

REGIONAL- The Neu, the opera will be performed in Aurora on Friday, July 12, in Chisholm on Sunday, July 14, and in Ely on Monday, July 15.

> The festival begins on July 2 with an opening concert at Mesabi East School in Aurora. Minnesota Opera violinist Celine Leathead, flutist Barbara Leibundguth, cellists Sally Dorer and Yosif Feigelson, as well as prizewinning pianists Christopher Shin and Hans-Derek Yu will present a stellar program of chamber music and solo events. The NLMF Festival Fourth Concert will feature Broadway and operatic hits, sung by the opera cast

of La Traviata, chamber music, symphonic pieces and two semi-staged performances of opera scenes, presented by the NLMF Opera.

There will be Six Kids for Kids concerts, presented in Ely, Aurora, Gilbert, Virginia and Chisholm, as well as Duluth. There will be six chamber music concerts by NLMF faculty and participants, presented in Virginia's B'nai Abraham Synagogue and in Aurora, Chisholm, Ely and Grand Rapids. The winners of the NLMF Concerto Competition will be heard at the newly renovated Hibbing High School on Wednesday, July 17. Major contribu-

tors to the NLMF 2019 season include Minnesota Power, Minnesota Energy Lakehead Constructors Arrowhead Regional Arts Board, Jeno Paulucci Foundation, Donald J Gardner Trust for the Humanities, Donald Hilligoss Family Foundation, Chisholm Foundation, Mesabi East Community Fund Genentech Roche, IBM Foundation, and numerous private individuals. Tickets will be on sale at Schmitt's Music in Virginia, Bradach Lumber in Aurora, Kess Gallery in Ely, Borealis Art Guild in Hibbing, and Valentini's Restaurant in Chisholm For more information, go to northernlightsmusic.org

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Ely-Winton Historical Society

Summer History Nights Programs

All programs begin at 7 p.m. They will be held in CL 104 at Vermilion Community College. All programs are free and open to the public. A free-will donation is appreciated.

June 19: Movie Night: Home movies of Ely people and places.

July 17: Archaeology with Sue Mulholland

July 31: The History of Co-op Point with Sally Koski and Val Myntti

August 14: Ethnic Diversity on the Iron Range with David Kess.



MIDSUMMER 2019

June 22 • 4:30 p.m.

AN AMERICAN SONGBOOK

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ISD 2142...Continued from page 1

Chet Larson, who represents South Ridge along with Taylor, said he also knew about the letter and a meeting regarding it, but was unaware of the letter's contents or the subject of the meeting.

Taylor a s k e d Superintendent Reggie Engebritson whether she knew of the letter students said they had sent to school officials and all staff members at the South Ridge campus.

"I am not aware of it," Engebritson said.

Taylor then asked if she had been made aware of the letter, would she have brought it to the school board's attention.

Engebritson said she was unsure, and it would have depended on the circumstance.

Taylor was unhappy with the answer.

"These aren't backroom conversations. We need to be accountable to the public," Taylor said. "If I wouldn't have brought this to Reggie, we still wouldn't know about it. What the students did was completely undermined. I am going to talk about this right here, so everyone knows. That is really a problem to me if you knew and didn't tell us. I've had other graduates from previous years that would have liked to come forward and name names. I have listened for many years that there are persistent problems that need to be addressed. I just want to see something get done.'

Engebritson countered: "You've asked me to take care of management, the board is for policy.'

"Part of the deal is the board doesn't get a free pass," Chair Dan Manick responded. "It's not that we are trying to micro-manage. We need to do excellent work at this table.'

Both Taylor and Manick said the issue raised by South Ridge students wasn't a management issue, but a district culture issue that should be dealt with openly and in public view.

"It (the letter) was about safety and quality of learning," Taylor said. "We are responsible to the taxpayers and children of this district. It really surprises me that you haven't seen this letter. No one is named, it's not that kind of letter. It's wanting to open a dialogue with the staff. They don't feel that bullying is being addressed. They feel emphasis is being put in the wrong places.²

The letter in question was not made public at the meeting, however a board member allowed the *Timberiav* to see it on condition that the paper did not directly quote from it until the students choose to make it public.

Questions on MI-B collaboration

Earlier in the board meeting, more heated discussion erupted over aspects of the collaboration between St. Louis County Schools and Mt. Iron-Buhl.

The issue stemmed from a plan by Engebritson, who serves as superintendent for both districts, who proposed to change the transportation assistant's position from part-time to full-time.

Manick, Taylor and Chris Koivisto questioned both the cost and the logic behind the decision, given that ISD 2142 would be responsible for 80 percent of the cost.

The three asked why the district implementing a new computer program, called Traversa, which digitizes many aspects of bus routing to save time, was not being effective.

Board members said they agreed to pay for the program after district officials sold it to them as a relief for Transportation Director Kay Cornelius and her assistant, Rebecca Mariucci, who was hired after the MI-B collaboration began. However, Engebritson said, "It's unheard of for a transportation manager to take on another district and not be compensated. Adding Traversa program didn't reduce the work load."

Taylor and Koivisto were not happy with the admission.

"That's the point. It was supposed to reduce her workload," Taylor said.

"The argument was that it would save time and money," Koivisto said. "If it hasn't, we shouldn't be paying money for it.'

Cornelius said, however that the board did not understand her job.

"Yes, Traversa has mainstreamed things, and Becky has helped in things," she said. "I just don't think you understand the realm of transportation. I am not here to whine about anything. I like the fast pace. Things change and happen. When I get up

in the morning, I start my phone. I would be doing this whether we had MIB or not, but it adds additional layers."

Taylor said district officials were conflating two separate issues - the collaboration with MI-B and the need to compensate Cornelius and Mariucci more fairly for the work they do for St. Louis County schools.

"If you are doing all this work for other people, what work aren't you doing for us?" Taylor asked. "I was picturing that once we had Traversa, this would take weight off your shoulders. I feel like the salary and duties are getting tied up when they shouldn't be.'

"My biggest concern is having Kay not putting those hours in," Manick said. "This is why I have supported it. She needs to have more time for herself and her family. I thought having the assistant and the Traversa program solved these problems."

Cornelius said while she appreciated Manick's concern, she likes her job and accepts the time it takes her to do it.

Lynette Zupetz asked why these matters weren't settled as part of salary negotiations.

Engebritson said this was about services being sold to MI-B, not salary.

TroySwansonsaidthat as long as people weren't being overwhelmed and MI-B is willing to pay for the services, he didn't see a problem.

The board unanimously voted to move Mariucci to full time, however Koivisto and Taylor voted against the proposed fees to be charged to MI-B.

In other business, the school board:

► Awarded propane bids for each of the schools for the upcoming year. Koivisto and Swanson noted that Tower's propane cost was much higher than the others since the district did not own the tanks at the school.

➤ Heard from Engebritson that the district office planned to start closing daily at 4 p.m. instead of 4:30 p.m. beginning July 1.

▶ Heard from Engebritson that the IRRRB had awarded a \$350,000 grant for the Iron Range Collaboration project.

ISD 696...Continued from page 1 -

Abrahamson outlined his assumptions to board members.

"With enrollment, we try to under-guess," he said. "We looked at what we anticipate having and reduced from there." He assumes there will be 40 incoming Kindergarten students for the 2019-2020 school year. He also assumes total enrollment will be at 561 students, down slightly from the 565 students counted in 2018-2019.

Abrahamson estimated staffing costs, particularly salary and benefits, using current labor contracts, and increased by a certain percentage in anticipation of upcoming contract renewal negotiations.

"The general fund revenue shows an increase of \$470,000, based on 2018-2019 numbers along with a two-percent increase in state aid and other legislative changes," he said. "Our revenue increase is largely based on what the Legislature did in the last month or so. In addition to the state aid increase of \$70,000, the general fund 01 and 03 accounts also show a Special Education revenue increase of \$115,000, a portion of the state safety grant to match preliminary facility renovation design expenses at \$144,000, and miscellaneous grants and interest at \$25,000, for a total of \$354,000. Also, the general fund 05 account indicates revenue increases of \$37,000 in operating revenue increases, \$14,000

in long-term facilities maintenance, and \$66,000 in health and safety fiscal year adjustment, for a total of \$117,000.

Overall, Abrahamson's preliminary budget assumes a slight increase in the unassigned fund balance, from \$2.114 million in 2018-2019, to \$2.119 million for 2019-2020. Board chair Ray Marsnik noted that the unassigned fund balance, as a percentage of operating expenses, remains at more than 28 percent for the district. "This district's policy is to maintain an unassigned fund balance of at least 20 percent," he said.

Abrahamson estimated that next year's budget would show an overall surplus of \$249,954. "We are doing really well," he

a new superintendent is in place. The school board has not yet negotiated a temporary contract with Abrahamson.

Board members this spring interviewed four candidates from an original pool of eight applicants, but could not agree on any of them to consider for the post. The position was re-posted last month. Six of the original eight applicants indicated a willingness to remain in consideration for the post, and four new applicants are being screened for possible interviews.

Litigation

Schoolboardmembers went into closed session at the end of the meeting to be briefed by the district's attorney, Kelly Klun, regarding a lawsuit from as many as 17 teachers that stems from wage overpayments during the 2017-18 school year. Over the course of 13 paychecks, between August 2017 and February 2018, the school district allegedly overpaid the teachers. The lawsuit, originally filed by teacher Krista Moyer, said that ISD 696 overpaid her by \$1,088 then deducted \$155 over seven paychecks between February and May 2018. She sued for \$2,176, twice the amount of the deductions, plus her \$75 filing fee. Sixteen other teachers signed onto the lawsuit. The district filed a counter claim, saying that for four of the 17 teachers, there was an overpayment of \$1,674 and that the teachers owe them that money plus fees and costs of \$1,080 for a total of \$2.754.

Klun referred questions in the matter to the school district administration.

According t o Abrahamson, in the decisions rendered in three representative court cases, the school district prevailed in two counter claims, and a teacher prevailed in the other case. "There are timelines to follow if either side wishes to appeal," he said. "Regarding the remaining cases, it is my understanding that the attorneys will confer and determine the next course of action, which could consist of additional court appearances or a possible

Days Preschool for the 2019-2020 school year at \$400 per month.

► Approved a contract with Arrowhead Regional Computing Consortium for 2019-2020.

►OK'd a managed services contract with Voltz Technologies, Inc., for the 2019-2020 school year for \$117,231.54.

► Approved an agreement with Walker, Giroux & Hahne Certified Public Accountants & Consultants for auditing services.

> Approved the annual premiums submitted by Vaaler Insurance in the amount of \$157,388.40 for the 2019-2020 school vear

> Approved quotes from Dean Foods for the district's milk products, and Pan-O-Gold Baking Co. for the district's bread products for the 2019-2020 school year.

to June 30, 2020.

> Authorized the reimbursement to the Ely Track Club for participation fees of \$852.50.

>Accepted the resignation of Paul Peterson from the K-12 physical education teaching position at the end of the 2018-2019 school year.

≻Hired Cathy Braun for the extended school year paraprofessional position.

► Accepted the resignation of Nicole Udovich from the Early Childhood Education Classroom Assistant position at the end of the 2018-2019 school year.

► Board members held a special meeting on Wednesday, June 12 to confer with a committee from the St. Louis County School District and discuss

academic collaboration

options and ideas. Look

for more information on

the meeting in the June

21 issue of the Timberjay.

said.

Superintendent search

School board members were allowed to take home the redacted application information for review and screening of candidates for the vacant part-time superintendent position. Board members were set to review and discuss their next steps in finding a replacement for Abrahamson at a special meeting on Wednesday, June 12. The results of that meeting will be reported in the Timberjay next week.

Abrahamson is set to resign his position on June 30 when his contract expires, but has indicated a willingness to remain at his post temporarily until

settlement.'

Other business

In other business, the board:

► Discussed the issue of providing free event passes to staff and teachers for next year. On the recommendation of the athletic director, board members will likely approve the policy next month, and will consider providing free event passes for Memorial school students next year;

► Considered adding an online payment option for student activity participation fees and will likely approve the policy next month;

>Approved the purchase of a new school bus from Hoglund Bus Co. in the amount of \$93,161.99.

► Approved a lease agreement with Happy

 Approved a professional services contract with Range Mental Health Center from July 1, 2019,

CORRECTION

The free introductory session to the Eco-friendly building project by Andy Hill will be on Saturday, June 15 from 10 a.m. to noon, (not June 8 as stated in the recent column on the subject.) See the Ely Folk School website for more details, www.elyfolkschool.org.

Janet Gensler Memorial ELY4 on the 4TH

Thursday, July 4, 2019 Miner's Lake 4 Mile Run and Walk

8:00 AM Run / 8:05 AM Walk

Parking and registration will occur in the parking lot at the corner of Central Avenue and Miner's Drive

Online registration is available at Active.com. Printed registration forms are available for pick up at

The Ely Pebble Spa and Northern Grounds. Questions can be emailed to Mary Schwinghamermaryschwinghamer@gmail.com or call 218-235-1285

Pre-registration to guarantee a T-shirt is June12. Race day July 4th registration closes at 7:40 ÅM.



TUESDAY NITE LIVE · JUNE 18

9am-7:59pm	Steger Mukluk Store: Sign up for a drawing for Mukluk give-away-1 pair any style
2-3:30pm	Dorothy Molter Museum: Camp KWITCHURBELIAKIN, outdoor learning, Kids 4-12. registration recommended
2-4pm	Pioneer Mine/Ely Arts & Heritage: Historic Ely Pioneer Mine Museum Open
4pm	Historic Walking Tour: Meet Your Guide in front of City Hall
5-7pm	Whiteside Park: Farmers Market
5-7pm	Whiteside Park: NLAA Artist Market
5:30-6:30pm	Mealey's Tiki Deck-Music: Shagawa Shorty/ Steve Hornstein
7-9pm	Mealey's Tiki Deck-Music: True Blue North/ Jef, Earl & Andy
6-9pm	Rockwood-Music: Van and the Free Candies
7-9pm	Snowbank Lodge-Music: Barb Hall
Sponsore	d by the Elv Chamber of Commerce • www.elv.org



Sponsored by the Ely Chamber of Commerce

All proceeds go to fund the Ely Boys and Girls Track Club.

CITY OF TOWER

Hoodoo Point wants to provide campground wifi access

by JODI SUMMIT Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- Hoodoo Point Campground managers Julie Stellmach and Randy Pratt asked the Tower City Council, Monday, to consider a plan to install campground-wide wifi in an effort to keep up with increasing demand from campground users for the service. The city's internet provider, CTC, would provide the wifi service for an additional \$220 a month over what they currently pay to have wifi at the campground store. That monthly charge would only apply for the six months the campground is open each year.

Installation cost would include the addition of some new electric outlets on the utility poles to power the system, with estimated cost of \$4,500 in onetime fees, according to Pratt.

"Wifi would increase our nightly rentals," Pratt said. "It would just take seven additional rentals a month to cover the cost of the wifi."

The council asked Pratt to come back with written estimates for the project cost. The earliest the system could be installed would be in the early fall. The campground would need to commit to the system for three years.

The managers also talked about the need for some longterm improvements, to keep the campground up-to-date and competitive with other area campgrounds and RV sites.

They proposed a round of modest fee increases for next season, increasing the seasonal rate by \$50/summer, and nightly rates by one or two dollars. Pratt said Hoodoo's rates are currently on the low end of costs for area campgrounds.

"That would cover the monthly wifi expense," they said.

But other improvements

will be more costly. The bathrooms, they noted, are in need of upgrade. "McKinley Park just installed beautiful new bathrooms," they said. Pratt said Breitung spent about \$50,000 on their bathroom upgrades.

Electrical service to the RV sites also needs to be upgraded to handle the new, larger RVs. Even right now, Pratt said, the campground is having a rough time handling electrical loads with RVs that are running air conditioning on hot days.

"We turn away a lot of campers," they said, "because we can't do the Class A 45-footers."

The cost of upgrading service to all the sites to 50-amp service could be several hundred thousand dollars, he predicted.

"We realize this isn't going to happen overnight," Pratt said. "But over the next five-to-ten years, we want to see advancement." The two noted that if the city set aside the revenue from the increased rental rates, and also was able to increase the occupancy rate, this would help pay for the projects.

Pine Street project funding gap

The council reacted with irritation to a request by clerk-treasurer Linda Keith to approve moving forward with a bond or tax-abatement to cover a funding gap for the Pine Street project, that is slated to begin in July. The state approved a \$420,00 grant for the project last year, but total costs are expected to exceed that amount by at least \$180,000, plus legal fees for the bond, which will likely run \$10,000-\$20,000.

The necessity of a bond was a major and unwelcome surprise to the council members, none of whom were involved in the approval of the project last year. "We are sitting here with a gun to our heads," said Mayor Orlyn Kringstad. "I am really irritated by this."

Councilor Sheldon Majerle said the council had been spending "too damn much money that we didn't have" and suggested holding off on the project.

But SEH Engineer Matt Bolf told councilors that a portion of the project is connected to the town home construction and he said the city was fortunate to be able to tie in that project with the rebuilding of Pine Street, so it was eligible for the grant. The project includes the reconstruction of Pine Street from Main Street to the Iron Ore Bar bridge; the relocation of Pine Street on the other side of the Iron Ore Bar bridge, and then utility and infrastructure work related to the town home development.

"We always knew it wouldn't be 100-percent," Bolf said. "The grant does not cover utility work."

Bolf said the previous council had talked about borrowing from the Gundersen Trust, asking the IRRR for grant dollars, or getting a bond as options to fill the funding gap.

Bolf said the city needed to come up with the funding as soon as possible. St. Louis County is acting as the fiscal agent on the project, and the city must pre-pay its share before the project can begin.

"The previous council committed to the state to do this project in 2019," Bolf said. "Nothing can happen with the town home project if this isn't done."

A \$350,000 IRRR grant to the city that was initially given for infrastructure work for the town homes was reassigned for the Lamppa building project last year when the funding was set to expire at the end of December.

"Last year, IRRR officials told me there was another \$350,000 that would be allocated for the town home infrastructure," Mayor Orlyn Kringstad said.

Bolf said that option had been discussed, but "the paper-work never happened."

Keith said she had spoken recently with staff at the IRRR, who told her that such a grant would not be possible at this time.

"They said we would have to reapply," Keith said, "and would need to show sales on the town home units."

The town home project has been stuck in neutral while the city has been unable to get the plat paperwork completed. Sales on the units cannot begin until the plat is formally approved.

The council approved beginning the process of securing bonding for the project, but noted they were not committing to borrowing yet.

"I am ill-prepared to make this decision," said Councilor Rachel Beldo.

Councilor Mary Shedd questioned why the issue hadn't been brought to the council sooner.

Kringstad said he would talk with IRRR officials, who had previously said that funding for the town home infrastructure was a possibility.

"Don't let this happen again," Kringstad said pointedly to Keith. "The [previous] council agreed to an ambulance we can't afford, too."

The council approved moving forward with the initial steps of securing bonding, working with the Fryberger firm in Duluth.

Airport project

Airport Commission Chairman John Burgess expressed his frustration with Tower City Hall and the process for bids on an upcoming runway crack sealing project. Burgess was upset that the council was set to approve a bid before the airport commission members had reviewed them.

"This is not the way to run the city council," Burgess said. "We need to recommend."

Burgess said the airport commission would have held a special meeting, if they had been notified the bids were ready.

Keith said the bids needed to be approved by June 28, or the city would lose the funding.

The council tabled the bid and will wait for a recommendation from the airport commission. The bids can then be awarded at the June 24 council meeting.

Conflict of interest agreement

The council tabled signing a conflict of interest policy required by the state LCCMR grant for the harbor trail project. Keith said the document was required because of a potential conflict of interest posed by the mayor.

The grant provides funding for installation of public trails, walkways, and docking around the new harbor. It isn't clear what conflict of interest the mayor could hold on the project, particularly since the contract on the project was awarded last year, prior to the mayor assuming office. And Kringstad divested himself from the Tower Harbor Shores project prior to becoming mayor.

Council members asked for time to review the document, which appears to simply require the city council to maintain an adequate conflict of interest policy, and to report any actual, potential, or perceived conflicts. Keith said the issue had come up as part of a DNR audit of the LCCMR trail funding but she was unable to provide the name of her DNR contact for Kringstad or anyone else to follow up.

TOWER...Continued from page 1_

installed by the contractors have further delayed the company's move-in date.

AtMonday'smeeting, Horihan also complained about the original lease, which had provisions that he said Lamppa didn't support. He said city officials at the time had failed to make changes to the lease that the company had sought and then pressured Lamppa to sign it without having a chance to read it. City Clerk-Treasurer Linda Keith argued otherwise, telling Horihan that she had sent him the lease months before. "Bulls#@t!" said Horihan, clearly irritated. He left the meeting moments later. "We're withdrawing. We're done." Horihan's comments left council members unsure of how to proceed in addressing concerns that Horihan has raised in recent weeks. They held

off on approving some of the change orders that the company had requested until they could get clarification of the company's intentions.

The city has spent the past year and a half working to build the 9,000 square-toot facility, through a non-recourse loan from the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation. Half of the building was supposed to be leased immediately to Lamppa Manufacturing to allow the company to expand production of their wood furnaces and stoves, which have been certified as the cleanest-burning in North America and are now in high demand. Mayor Orlyn Kringstad said it was a mistake for SEH and the city to have kept Lamppa officials out of the loop on the project as it developed, and indicated he would reach out to Horihan and company owner Daryl Lamppa to see if the situation could be salvaged.

SEH engineer Matt Bolfhad, moments earlier, told the council that the issues raised by Horihan at previous meetings had been largely resolved. Bolf reported that he and the project's mechanical engineer and architect had met with Horihan the previous Thursday, after Horihan had raised concerns about the noise level generated by some of the ventilation equipment that had been installed for the project. He also raised concerns about the energy efficiency of the air exchange system installed in the plant's paint booth among other issues. Bolf told the council that the meeting had gone well and that sound testing showed that the equipment used in the project should fall within acceptable standards. But Horihan challenged Bolf's presentation. "What irritates me is you can throw out things as actual facts when they are not facts," he said. Horihan said he had also asked for an analysis of the additional heating costs associated with the paint booth's air exchange system but hadn't received it. "As far as I know, it's all malarkey," said Horihan, referring to Bolf's comments. "I apologize, Dale," said Bolf. "I thought we had agreement on this." On Tuesday, in the wake of Monday's meeting, Horihan said the company is scrapping its lease with the city, although he said the company remains willing to negotiate a new one. Under the lease signed last summerbetweentheTower Economic Development Authority and Lamppa Manufacturing, the company has a right to terminate the lease possession is not delivered within 90 days of the commencement of the term hereof." The lease term was originally established as Oct. 1, 2018, so the city needed to have the facility available for Lamppa's occupancy as of Jan. 1, 2019 - a target the city was unable to meet. Horihansaidheregretted losing his temper but said both he and company owner Daryl Lamppa have been frustrated by the poor communication by SEH and the city clerk-treasurer with officials from Lamppa, and by what he sees as misinformation being put out by those involved. "That's what just burned my butt, these half-truths that just left people misinformed." The discussion on the Lamppa project came relatively early into a five-hour-long council marathon that included other economic development matters. Among the other contentious items was a lengthy discussion about the state of the city's planning and zoning process, which has left two RV park proposals stuck in neutral for years over the city's refusal to allow either party to apply for the needed conditional use permit. One of the would-be developers, Gary Ross,

said he had been advised by a county planner to "buy land somewhere else and move on," given the city's ongoing struggles with its planning and zoning process. Ross and his wife Charity have been seeking to build an RV park on an isolated, 58-acre parcel along Pike Bay, located within the city limits, and they've fought for six years without being allowed to apply for a conditional use permit. Council member Steve Abrahamson said he had met with a county planner himself, who told him that the county typically approves the use fairly quickly, but then actually issues the permit when the required conditions have been met. But Abrahamson, who serves on the Planning and Zoning Commission, defended the city's process, even though it differs from St. Louis County's. In Tower's case, the city's planning and zoning commission requires would-be developers to meet all conditions and have all other agency permits in hand before they will even accept a conditional use permit application, which forces developers to spend potentially tens or even hundreds of thousands of dollars up front, without knowing if the city will ultimately grant a conditional use permit.

igated by a prospective developer in a matter of weeks. "We're basically just approving the use," she said. "We don't want people investing their life's fortune in something that won't get approved. We try not to put too much burden on the applicant. We want to promote development." RV park developer Dave Rose, who has spent over three years seeking to build his own RV park along the East Two River, noted that St. Louis County approved an RV park proposal at Bay View Lodge on Lake Vermilion within a matter of weeks this spring and that the facility is now planning to have sites available for rent by the Fourth of July. Planning and Zoning Chair Steve Altenburg defended their process and said the commission is following the city's ordinance. "Where do we go from here?" asked council member Rachel Beldo in hopes of stemming a heated discussion that seemed destined to drag on without resolution. "I really think we need to pause this. We're not going to solve this tonight." In the end, after a suggestion by new council and planning and zoning member Mary Shedd, the council agreed to ask for a St. Louis County planner to attend the next city planning and zoning meeting to help the members understand the appropriate process for enabling projects to move forward in a timely manner.



Longtime St. Louis County planner Mary Anderson, who retired last month, said there's a reason that the county's permit application process is substantially different and can usually be nav-

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Empty storefronts concern new Ely business owners

y KEITH VANDERVORT

ELY – Two new business owners here took the Ely Economic Development Authority (EEDA) to task Tuesday night over the issue of business development in the downtown corridor, especially their efforts to help fill empty storefronts.

Mike Gronski, owner of the Old Fashioned Candy store, 228 E. Sheridan St., and Kris Winkelman, owner of Arrowhead Outdoors, 1810 E. Sheridan St., are both relatively new business owners in town. They questioned EEDA members for half of their hour-long meeting and asked them to describe their efforts in encouraging other new business owners to fill the empty buildings.

Gronski asked, "What is the city's economic development plan in general? Your website is outdated and does not provide much information."

EEDA president Heidi Omerza was quick to tout the organization's updated website (www. eeda.ely.mn.us) that has been under construction for many months and just recently went online.

"Every year, we have priorities, and we talk about them at every meeting," Omerza said. "We have an economic developer. Our philosophy is to make sure we have the right (business) environment and grow what we already have here. Our economic developer, John Fedo, also helps us take advantage of the opportunities that are before us."

Omerza noted that for 2019, EEDA's priorities center around the new recreational trailhead and west end development, and continuing work on providing broadband and high-speed fiber infrastructure in the downtown area. "This has been an ongoing process," she said.

Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski noted that the EEDA has used the resources of the Blandin Foundation to advance the broadband initiative business marketing using online media. "The idea is to help businesses market themselves," he said. We are also using the efforts of Incredible Ely and the Google Business App as a new initiative. We weren't aware that so many Ely businesses aren't found on Google."

Gronski returned to his main concern for appearing before the EEDA. "There are a lot of empty storefronts here," he said. "I hear about it from my customers. They ask me why everything is closed. Is there any incentive to get these storefronts filled? Is there any concern from the city about these vacancies?"

Mayor Chuck Novak took a stab at it. "We are concerned," he said. "As a city government, we can't start businesses to put in there. Some businesses close because there aren't any customers. Some business close because of outside influences."

He referenced the impending shuttering of the Shopko Hometown and Family Dollar stores as corporate decisions. "We have no control over that," Novak said. "Some businesses close because of self-inflicted wounds such as a lack of working capital to survive over the winter."

In veiled optimism of future sulfide mining opportunities, Novak added, "We pretty much rely on tourism right now."

As for filling the empty storefronts, Novak stressed that the city's economic development efforts include putting out feelers, working with the IRRR and the state Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED). "Those conversations continue down in St. Paul. We keep making an effort, but it is a long, hard slog." He bemoaned that fact that Ely, "sitting in the hinterland,"doesn't get the recognition afforded bigger cities.

Gronski pressed the issue, "Are there funds available to incentivize a business to open a store here?"

Novak responded, "We continue to work with DEED, but we have to be careful with the kind of businesses we are going to get. We have no employees here. There are stories of mangers working double time. We have to find a way of getting an influx of employees."

EEDA member Paul Kess pointed out that funding sources exist to helpbusiness owners grow or expand, and even fix up their storefronts. "We have a person on staff to help businesses," he said. "We are fairly active in that arena."

Winkelman related that she called Fedo about a year ago seeking business development funds. "He told me that the city ran out of money so I would have to wait," she said.

Fedo noted that some programs, such as the Business Energy Retrofit (BER) program do get refunded by the IRRR so the popular initiative can continue. "We are very aggressive in recommending BER programs to our local businesses. We have taken more than our share of BER money. But, there are other such programs available," he said.

He asserted that it takes a combination of many funding sources to help out a particular business. "A lot of times, it is not magic, it is hard work, and a case of continuing to be aggressive," Fedo said.

Gronski wondered about help available for new businesses to move to town. "Where do those potential owners get help?" he asked. "When I was looking to move here, I had to create my own business plan on my own. I couldn't find the information that I needed, such as how many tourists come here, and how much money they spend. I think that type of information would be very helpful," he said.

Langowski said that many of the empty storefronts are privately owned, and that many of the ones that could be worked on are tax-forfeit properties and should probably be razed. "Buildings like the State Theater needed a million dollars in investment," he said. "A lot of what we work on is infrastructure and help to support what businesses need to be here."

He mentioned the broadband project, downtown beautification, new sidewalks and other efforts to make businesses more attractive. "We look to make these buildings more feasible to be reopened. We looked at more pop-up initiatives, and as soon as we did that, they went right to lease and opened," he said.

Novak encourage Gronski and Winkelman to join city commissions and committees to help focus business development and community improvement efforts.

MINING....Continued from page 1

administration.

A conservative *Wall* Street Journal columnist, Kimberly Strassel, highlighted the email last week under the headline: A Democrat Deflates a Trump "Scandal". In it, Strassel contends that it was the Obama administration that failed to follow proper procedure when it opted not to renew the two mineral leases that were central to Twin Metals' mine plans.

"This highly irregular decision was destined to get a fresh look from the Trump team," writes Strassel. "The new president's appointees at the Interior and Agricultural departments all came to office determined to restore the law and regulatory certainty. In December 2017, the new Interior principal deputy solicitor found the prior opinion fatally flawed and moved to renew Twin Metals' leases," Strassel added.

tells Vilsack that the decision "floored me" and predicted that the Trump administration would quickly move to reverse the decision. "It should have been handled through the normal process," argues Klobuchar. "It wasn't."

It's not clear what process Klobuchar is referring to in the missive, but she said she had expected that "a thorough EPA review would have told us if it is safe or not."

In fact, the EPA would likely serve only as a "cooperator" on any environmental review of a mine plan. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources would serve as the lead agency in any such process. Klobuchar also references questions that she had asked several months earlier, that the administration had apparently not yet addressed. "Who cares about answering pesky questions from a woman senator from the Midwest when you guys and the White House and the activists have all the

politics down, right?" Klobuchar asked somewhat sarcastically.

Klobuchar's comments appeared to be a reaction to a Republican Party press release responding to the Obama administration decision, which accused Democrats of trying to "end mining" on the Iron Range. Klobuchar's father grew up in Ely and she has long been a supporter of mining in the region, including the PolyMet copper-nickel proposal.

Klobuchar's position reflected the ongoing split within the DFL Party in Minnesota over the issue of copper-nickel mining, which is widely understood to be substantially more-risky environmentally than traditional taconite mining. Her position, however, left her at odds with other prominent DFLers, like former Vice President Walter Mondale and then-Gov. Mark Dayton, who supported the termination of the mineral leases. Dayton had called the Trump administration's reversal of the mineral lease decision proof that "big corporate money and special-interest influence now rule again."

Klobuchar's office was quick to respond to the fallout from the release of the email. "The Senator continues to have serious concerns about this project being so close to the Boundary Waters and has always wanted a thorough environmental review," said Ben Hill, Klobuchar's state director, in a statement issued to the *Timberjay*. "As the senator stated in the email, she did not trust the Trump Administration to handle this correctly and rightfully predicted they would overturn the lame duck decision -- and if anything she feared that this strategy would actually politicize the project and decrease the possibility of it getting a good and fair scientific review."

called on the Trump administration to release the scientific data that it used to justify halting the twoyear study of the proposed mineral leasing withdrawal. "[Sen. Klobuchar] does not believe this administration will move forward in good faith to protect the environment given their track record on environmental issues," added Hill.

Critics of the Twin Metals proposal defended the Obama administration decision and put the target back on the more recent actions of the Trump administration. "In 2016 the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management clearly made the correct decision--based on science, public comment, and established environmental policy--to terminate Twin Metals leases," said Becky Rom, with the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters. "The process was transparent, with public comment and two public meetings, and followed legally required processes. This stands in stark contrast to what the Trump Administration has done by unlawfully reinstating the terminated Twin Metals leases and renewing them without looking at the consequences of mining whatsoever."

Klobuchar's email serves to bolster Strassel's contention, as Klobuchar Klobuchar has also

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Volunteer opportunities also available





GROW...Continued from page 1 –

Growing veggies on rocks in the shade in a short season is not a sustainable answer.

Van Conrad and Ellen Root think they have a better one.

Conrad attended a recent gathering of the Ely Climate Change Discussion Group to talk about his small farm near here where he and Root grow fresh fruits and vegetables commercially. They deliver their produce to customers as well as attend regional farmers markets during the summer.

"Up here in northern Minnesota, a frost can happen just about any time of the year, so at Northern Delicious CSA (community supported agriculture), we take advantage of the short growing season and strive to provide our neighbors and visitors with a steady supply of fresh, healthy, in-season salad greens, vegetables and fruits," Conrad said.

"Northern Delicious delivers locally-grown produce harvested fresh from our farm. We take pride in distributing readyto-use vegetables, fruits and herbs grown without the use of synthetic fertilizers or pesticides," he said. They also offer drop points in Ely and Babbitt or shareholders can pick up their weekly allotment at the farm, beginning in July this year because of the late spring, and ending sometime in October. Their operation is now in its sixth year of production.

"We moved here to be close to the millions of acres of wild lakes, rivers, and forest that exist in this region," Conrad said. "The land we farm was cleared by Finnish settlers who arrived at the end of the 19th century. They built a sturdy barn that we still use today. We have about four acres of intensive production."

Northern Delicious CSA is located on the Birch River west of Babbitt. "We're not fertilizing, because I wouldn't want to screw it up," he said. "There is not a lot of potential for that river to get polluted because it flows into the Boundary Waters pretty quickly." He assured the groumembers that he has a substantial buffer zone between the wetlands of the river and the farm production acreage. Being a community-supported agricultural operation, Conrad and Root grow a large variety of vegetables – as many as possible, actually. "They get cut from the team if they get too labor intensive," he said. "We abide by organic standards for pest control, so the ones that harbor too much pest pressure will be eliminated for that reason, rather than trying to kill the pests." Communitysupported agriculture has existed in Europe for decades. The growing model was first attempted on the East Coast of the United States in the 1980s, according to Conrad. Participants buy a subscription to a weekly or bi-weekly share, depending on the time of year. "In our CSA, we deliver vegetables and fruits for 14 consecutive weeks, once the growing season is going late in June," he said. Shareholders pay for their membership at the beginning of the season. "I find this to be a very useful model for being a beginning farmer, and being able to have the cash up front to pay for seed, supplies, or what is needed."

Northern Delicious has close to 100 members this year. They started their first year with just 15 members. He planned for a certain number of customers this year since he started planting in early April. "Everything is planned out for a certain amount of customers, so at some point, I can't take anymore for this season," he said.

Members can join together and split a share, if a full share is too much for one person or small family. "We divide what we harvest each week and equally distribute it to each share," he explained. Harvesting is done on Mondays and Tuesdays and deliveries are made every Wednesday through October. Shareholders can opt to work at the farm to help pay for the cost of the membership

Conrad studied horticulture in college and said he has always been interested in growing things. He formerly worked on a sheep farm. "I kind of stumbled through this on my own so far," he admitted. "I visited many farms in recent years, and I wish I had done that a little bit more early on."

Organic gardening procedures are a big part of the Northern Delicious operation. "I typically will begin by plowing a new section in the fall and plant it with oats in the spring, then let that grow and chop that in," Conrad said. "In year three, I fertilize the field with pelletized chicken manure for organic production, along with wood ash, crushed limestone to give it a balanced feeding and let the plant matter decay in the soil."

He uses no synthetic fertilizer. "I prefer to have the soil provide the nutrients in a more stable fashion," he added, rather than add something that is water soluble and washed away too quickly.

After the feeding o

is over,"Conrad said. This year he is transitioning from wood heat to kerosene heaters.

For the past five years, Conrad and Root have been experimenting with their farm and are now looking to develop their vision. "From what I can see, trying out the wholesale root market looks good, in terms of doing less work and having less diversity of crops," he said. "The CSA has been a great way to start out and I've learned a lot about growing many different crops. I'm slowly trying to change that so this is less labor-intensive and less diverse.'



Van Conrad looks at the progress of plants in one of the Northern Delicious CSA hoophouses. A cold, wet spring put some planting behind schedule this year. photo by K. Vandervort



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the soil, Conrad covers the plot with black fabric and then grows squash, pumpkins and melons. The matter stays in the soil to help decompose sod clumps and whatever other matter exists. "The fabric keeps the weeds from growing up," he said. I have holes cut where the squash come through."

In the fourth year, the fabric is removed and finished compost is added. "Our soil is so sandy that adding compost is the only way to add nutrients that can't be washed out," he said. "We use just plant matter compost, such as chipped trees, grass clippings and stuff."

Conrad and Root grow several varieties of berries and vegetables and add and eliminate varieties based on success and failures. "This year I'm giving up on Brussels Sprouts because they are a big cabbage maggot draw,"he said. "Rutabagas are also really difficult because the cabbage maggots like them, too."

The use of two 30x100 hoophouses helps Northern Delicious extend the northern Minnesota growing season. "We like that we can close them and add heat overnight when the frosts hit in the fall so we can continue producing tomatoes, peppers and egg plants until the season

June 14, 2019 **1B**

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TRACK

Olson takes first at state track meet

by MARCUS WHITE Cook-Orr Editor

Cook-Orr Editor

ST PAUL - Ely Junior Luke Olson is fast. How fast? He's won every single 800meter title in section 7A this season and now he can add the state title to his list of accomplishments.

"He fought hard in his prelims," Head Coach Will Helms said. "He ran really strong in his first lap which caused the other runners to need to adapt. No one could keep up with him."

With a time of 1:55.48, Olson was more than a second ahead of Jaden Maanum of

Morris/Chokio, who finished next in line in the event.

To get Olson all the way to the top, Helms said the team made some last-minute adjustments that would keep him focused on the single event.

Olson was set to compete on a relay team as well, but Helms said the 800-meter event was more important. The relay team ultimately finished in last place.

Helms said next year will be different with Olson likely remaining on the relay team to give them a boost and hopefully garner them a state title as a team. With Olson only being a junior, he has one more year to improve his times and potentially qualify for more events in both relay and other racing distances.

Olson was the only Timberwolf to place in the tournament held last week in St. Paul.

Junior Luke Olson breezes by his competitors at Hamline University in St. Paul last week. Olson has won every single 800-meter event in Section 7A including placing first in the state preliminaries and finals. submitted photo



AROUND THE REGION

River Street goes to the woods

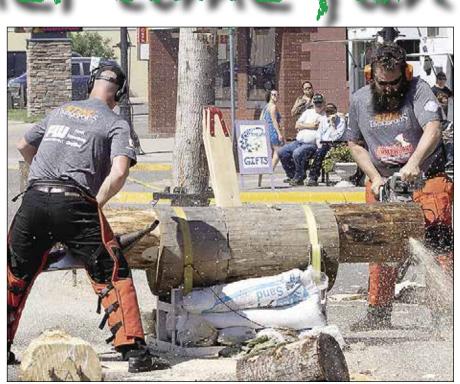
by MARCUS WHITE Cook-Orr Editor

COOK - Whether it's in the woods or on the street, Adam LaSalle feels at home with a chainsaw in his hands. The New York native has brought his lumberjack skills cross-country working and performing in the woods around Cook, including at this year's Timber Days celebration.

LaSalle and his fellow lumberjacks displayed their expertise during two live demonstrations on River Street on Saturday afternoon.

"We go through cutting down timber in the woods, then cutting it into smaller pieces," LaSalle said. We add some modern flare with equipment. We don't wear flannel or suspenders."

Even with the high temperatures this weekend, LaSalle said the performers treated the shows as they would any other competition.



Above: Two lumberjacks compete to saw off portions of a log the fastest. The two use modified chainsaws which enable them to not only go faster, but also safer. Right: Adam LaSalle holds a log he tried to make into a rabbit photos by B. Smith

their curious onlookers safe, a number of precautions are taken to ensure no one loses a foot.

"Axes are sharp," LaSalle said. "One of the biggest safety measures is knowing how to use sharp tools. Chain mesh socks and leg protection provide safety if there was an accident. It wouldn't sever your foot or your toe. You'll just be beat up and bruised."



GOLF Grizzlies well positioned going into final tourney round



Sam Frazee and Coley Olson

by MARCUS WHITE Cook-Orr Editor

BECKER - Both Grizzlies golf teams were in sixth place after the first round of the state golf tournament held here on Tuesday. The North Woods squads were competing in the second round of the tournament on Wednesday and results weren't available as the *Timberjay* went to press.

Meanwhile, North Woods junior Coley Olson carded an 83 in the first round Tuesday, tying for third place overall for the girls individual competition. North Woods sophomore Sam Frazee shot a 79 in the first round, leaving him in ninth place among boys golfers as of Tuesday.

The girls team posted a combined score of 396 after first-round play on Tuesday at Pebble Creek Golf Course in Becker. Kylie Parson was tied for 34th with a score of 96, while Haley Bogdan was tied four 54th with a score of 103. Morgan Burnett carded a 119 to tie for 80th and Victoria Olson was 82nd with 120. The boys collectively shot 353. In addition to Frazee's 79, Ian Olson was tied for 50th after round one, shooting an 89. Blake Scofield carded a 91, leaving him tied for 55th, while Chase Kleppe shot a 94 to tie for 62nd place. Davis Kleppe carded a 104 to tie for 80th, while Ty Fabish shot 111, good for 86th. Check the *Timberjay* online for the latest on the state golf tournament.

"Physically, the folks competing spend a lot of years perfecting their craft and their training," he said. "Even though there was nothing on the line this weekend, the events are still taken seriously."

To keep both the lumberjacks and

For the spectators, a safety buffer

See TIMBER DAYS...pg. 2B

Gloomy day for golf tourney

ELY - At noon on Sunday, June 9, 39 enthusiastic golfers headed out under darkening skies to participate in the First Annual Polish Delight Par Three Tournament, sponsored by Zup's as a fundraiser for the Ely Golf Club.

After a gloomy start, the conditions turned to full rain and wind, but not one team failed to complete the 18 holes. The eventual winners of the event were Team Youngman, followed by Team Curtiss, with Team Casey in third place. Most teams were mixed men and women, with ages from the 20's to the 70's. Many additional prizes were awarded for accomplishments on various holes.

Course Superintendent Jacob Curtiss shortened each of the nine holes to a Par Three length – mostly 100 yards or less – so that the emphasis was on skill and not power. The most notable change was hitting from near the top of the hill near Morse Town Hall over the trees to the number three green in the valley below.

by JODI SUMMIT Tower-Soudan Editor

EMBARRASS- Eric Bongard, from Shakopee, is pretty excited about mobile saunas. And he was right at home, Saturday, during National Sauna Day at the Nelimark Homestead Museum in Embarrass. Turnout was high this year for the annual event, which highlights the longtime Finnish tradition of sauna (pronounced: sow'na, not saw'na).

A little over a year ago, Bongard, who had been building custom-made ice fishing trailers for 20 years, was approached by some members of the 612 Sauna Society, a cooperative that works to bring the sauna experience to the Twin Cities area, about building a mobile sauna.

"It's the same chassis we use for the fish houses," he said. The finished units weigh about 2,100 pounds, though 600 of these are from the wood-fired Lamppa Kuuma sauna stove installed inside.

"Kuuma is the only sauna stove I'll use," he said. "Lamppa has been a great company to work with."

The portable sauna units are low-maintenance inside and out. They feature a changing room, along with the

Eric Bongard sits in his portable sauna on National Sauna Day. photo by J. Summit

traditional interior cedar paneling and cedar double benches. The units have retractable, hand-crank wheels, so the sauna is lowered onto the ground before use. Since they are portable, Bongard said, they do not require a zoning permit.

"You can take them anywhere," he said.

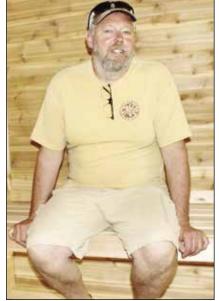
Each unit is custom built, and can include water and a shower system, if desired. The units feature 12-volt electric lighting, and can get fishing holes installed, to do double-duty as a fish house and sauna.

Bongard, while German, not Finnish, has become a sauna enthusiast. He rents out mobile saunas for special events and private parties. He is also helping run a "sauna lot," at 4700 Nicollet Ave. in Minneapolis, where three portable sauna units are set up and available to rent on a regular basis.

Bongard was only one of several sauna builders with units on display.

Cole Schneider, from Duluth, had a barrel-shaped cedar sauna on display. And Christensen Family Saunas had brought three of their beautiful cedar

Sauna day cranks up the heat



units which feature outside-feed custom made woodstoves, on display. One more sauna, a locally-made homemade unit built on a trailer chassis, was also in the mix.

Sisu Heritage President Marlin Bjornrud said that the Christensen family loves coming to the festival each year, since they make so many good contacts.

See EMBARRASS....pg. 2B

helps to prevent flying wood chips from injuring those watching the lumberjacks.

LaSalle, who brings his skills to a job at the U.S. Forest Service, said the shows give exposure not only to the sport, but to the timber industry in the region.

"The first step in recruiting is exposure," he said. "I knew about this growing up from going to festivals in New York. I encourage people to come up to the lumberjacks at the end of each show. It's not easy, but it can be really fun and rewarding."

Both shows attracted a crowd on River Street, with several youngsters taking a particular interest in the performers.

Escape for a cause

Across the street at the public library on Friday, people willingly trapped themselves in the library for a good cause.

For the second time this year, volunteers turned rows of books at the Cook Library into an escape room, where people follow clues to free themselves.

In the scenario devised on Friday evening, participants were locked in the library's meeting room as criminals wanting to break free and clear their names.

Two keys were hidden, one in the meeting room, and another among the stacks of books.

Participants were given a flash drive they needed to wipe clear of all data before they could leave as well.

"They're stuck in here forever if they can't get out

within 20 minutes," librarian Crystal Phillips joked before the event.

Volunteers posing as prison guards and data specialists created the illusion.

In order to participate, the volunteers collected suggested donations of \$5 per person, with the final tally to be split between the library and the Cook Food Shelf.

Money raised totaled \$95. Other events over the weekend included a vendor fair in the city park along with live music. Stores along River Street also held special weekend sales.

Josephine Carlson releases Kaija Leinonen's handcuffs in the interrogation room. photo by B. Smith



EMBARRASS...Continued from page 1B -

It was an unusually hot day, so none of the saunas were actually in use, but many of the Sauna Day visitors toured inside and out, to see all the sauna options available.

The day-long event also featured two opportunities to tour the historic log buildings in Embarrass with long-time tour guide Mike Salo, musical entertainment with Bill Maxwell and Cowboy Angel Blue, and demonstrations of traditional log home construction with Gustave Schroeder.

Schroeder demonstrated how to fit logs together, using traditional Scandinavian techniques. He is a fourth-generation log builder. A home built by his great-grandfather in the 1880s, on the family homestead, is still in use, along with newer log homes built by other family members.

Finnish food was also featured at the event, with Mojakka, a Finnish beef stew, for sale, along with squeaky cheese, rhubarb-strawberry pie, and rhubarb slushies. Coffee was on in the Nelimark Museum and the tables were full of neighbors and newly-made friends,

visiting over coffee.

Sisu Heritage Inc. sponsors Sauna Day, with help from many local busineses, including Lamppa Manufacturing, Fortune Bay Resort Casino, Embarrass-Vermillion Credit Union, Como Oil, and C & C Winger.

The Nelimark Homestead features a log sauna, built in the 1930s, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. As described by the Sisu Heritage website, "The most characteristic feature of the Finnish homestead is the sauna, a place for the family and friends to share what they considered to be the "well-spring" of life and health. To the Finnish homesteaders, the sauna was more than a bath house. It was also used for washing and drying clothes, baking and cooking, butchering and smoking meat and even as a spare bedroom

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Saunas from Christensen Saunas line the grass in Embarrass for the 2019 Sauna Day. The event features not only the festival's namesake, but plenty of other activities from blacksmithing to live music. photo by J. Summit

built."

for guests. The sauna was typically the first building built on the farmstead where the family lived until the "big house" was

Museum and Gift Shop is open Thursdays through Saturdays now through Labor Day, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. The gift shop features ethnic items along with handiwork and homebaked specialty breads and desserts from the

Farmstead Artisan group.

The Nelimark

Tours of the historic Finnish log buildings in Embarrass are offered Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 1 p.m. or by special appointment; call 218-984-2084 for information. This year tours will begin at the Nelimark.



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 5K Run/Walk - 8 a.m. 1-Mile Kids Fun Run - 8:15 a.m.

Email: jodi.summit@gmail.com for registration form or race map

Registrations accepted race day starting at 7 a.m. 10K or 5K-\$10 • Kids Run is FREE T-Shirts available on race day (first-come, first-served) For more information, contact Jodi Summit at 218-753-2950 (leave message)

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Simple Gifts in concert at the Cook Community Center on Friday, June 14

COOK- On Friday, June 14 there will be a special concert at the Cook Community Center featuring Simple Gifts with Billy McLaughlin, performing "The Young and the Rest..."

This concert is sponsored by Northwoods Friends of the Arts. It is NWFA's annual fundraising concert. Simple Gifts and Billy McLaughlin invite you to a new, year-round show, "The Young and The Rest... an acoustic tribute to Neil Young and the rest of your favorite artists who defined an era and whose popularity endures – Crosby, Stills and Nash, The Eagles, Joni Mitchell, America and more."

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with a pre-concert by regional talent Eric Pederson. There will be refreshments, basket raffles, and silent auctions until 7 p.m. when Simple Gifts begin their music.

Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. To purchase advance tickets, call Lisa at 218-780-1151, Shawna at 218-780-6510, or you may stop by Andrews Cameras in Virginia or Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery, open on Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The gallery is on Cook's main street at 210 S River St. The concert takes place at the Cook Community Center on the grounds of the Doug Johnson Recreation Area, 510 E Gopher Dr.

ELY ARTS NAD HERITAGE CENTER Space still available for Annual Gala and Art Show

ELY- The Ely Arts and Heritage Center's 14th Annual Gala and Art Show's deadline for entries is June 21. There is still space available to display your favorite pieces. Go to www.elyartsheritage.org to register online or call Sandy Brandley at 218-235-8491 for an application. A \$20 entry fee covers three art pieces in the show. We allow a maximum of six pieces of a single medium for \$30. You may enter an additional medium for a maximum of nine pieces of art for \$40, i.e. six paintings and three wood carvings. An opening night gala reception with champagne and charcuterie hors d'oeuvres will kick off the show on Friday, July 12. The show and sale will run for four days until July 15. Don't miss this grand tradition of the Arts in Ely!



New Tower-Soudan area maps available

TOWER- Look for Tower-Soudan area maps now available at local businesses. The Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Area Events Board, with grant funding from the IRRR, has produced a map highlighting businesses and attractions in Tower and Soudan. The map extends all the way out to show McKinley Park and Hoodoo Point campgrounds and the Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park.

In addition to in-town businesses, churches and tourist attractions, the map shows walking, biking, and ski trails, and includes listings for other businesses along Hwy 169, County Rd. 77, and around the lake. A small bit of local history makes the map complete. The maps are large print and easy to use, pick one up today!

Obituaries and Death Notices



Merlys E. Pankratz Merlys Elaine Pankratz, 72, of Eveleth, passed away on Thursday, May 30, 2019, surrounded by family at her residence. A visitation is planned from 5-8 p.m. on Friday, June 21 at Messiah Lutheran Church. Visitation will continue at Messiah Lutheran Church at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 22, followed by a service at 11 a.m. A small luncheon will be served at the church after the service, with burial to follow at the Eveleth Cemetery. Pastor Ellen Taube will be presiding and Pastor Liz Cheney

will be assisting. The family requests memorials in lieu of flowers to be donated to charities of your choice. Arrangements are with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

Merlys was born on Feb.14, 1947, in St. James, to Robert and Myrtle (Nelson) Dougherty. She graduated from Butterfield High School in 1965. Following high school, she attended Mankato State College and Mesabi Community College.On Aug. 28, 1965, she was united in marriage to DeLyle Pankratz in Butterfield. Merlys held various jobs, her last being as a Senior Eligibility Specialist for St. Louis County, where she was employed for 31 years.

Merlys was a member of St. Louis County Employees Local 66 Executive Board and Messiah Lutheran Church. She was also a member of Path Blazers, Trailhawks, and Mesabi Snow Voyageurs snow-

mobile clubs. Through the years, she belonged to and was active in a variety of organizations related to her children's activities.

Merlys enjoyed quilting, sewing, needlepoint, deer hunting in the Crane Lake and Buyck area, spending time at "the cabin" in Buyck, camping when their children were younger in the Thistledew area, and was a supporter of the DFL party. She especially made every effort to spend time with her daughters, grandchildren, great-granddaughter, and her sisters.

She was strongwilled, generous, no nonsense, tell it like it was, always keeping her family at the center of her world.

Merlys is survived by her husband of 53 years, DeLyle; daughters, Natalie (Dave Leff) Pankratz-Leff, Nicole Pankratz and Noel (Wade) Nivala; grandchildren, DustynLeff,Paige (Eddie) Mortaloni-Ferguson, DylanLeff, Tristin Nivala, Payton Nivala and Sydney Nivala; great-granddaughter, Vivian Mortaloni-Ferguson; sisters, Sandra (Lynn) Clausen, Robbin (Scott) Heller and Tammy Kuehl; numerous cousins, sisters- and brothers-inlaw, nieces, nephews and special friends; and pets, Buddy and Basil.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Robert and Myrtle Dougherty; parents-inlaw, William and Althea Pankratz; brother, Robert Dougherty; brother-inlaw, Larry Kuehl; and niece, McKenzie Kuehl.

Joanne Zahn

Joanne Carlson Zahn, 84, of Ely, was ushered into glory on Saturday, June 8, 2019, during her stay at the Solvay House in Duluth, with her faithful husband Dick by her side. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 15 at Ledgerock Community Church with visitation being held one hour prior to the service at the church. A gathering of family and friends will be held from 5-7 p.m. on Friday, June 14 at Kerntz Funeral Home in Ely.

She is survived by her husband, Dick; daughters, Pamela (Grant) Netzer and Wendy (Mike) Sibley; grandchildren, Chrissy (Aric) Schumacher, Silas (Heather) Simone, Athena (Alex) Simone, Nathan Baseman and Chantal (Brady) Netzer; and great-grandchildren Hailey, Allison, Margaret, Hazel, Ruth, Michael and Haddie.

George H. Nyman

George H. Nyman, 88, of Ely, passed away on Friday, May 31, 2019, at the Boundary Waters Care Center in Ely. A family memorial service will be held at a later date.

He is survived by his loving wife of 65 years, Mavis; daughters, Laura Hoolihan (special friend Al Gagnon) and Claudia(Tom)LeMahieu; grandchildren, Erin Hoolihan (Rob) Korman, Courtney Hoolihan, Conor Hoolihan, Grant (Jamie) LeMahieu and Margo LeMahieu (partner Jacob Feldt); and dear family friend, Brent Spink.

Nancy L. Berens

Nancy Lee Berens, 82, of Embarrass, passed away on Wednesday, May 29, 2019, at St. Mary's Hospital in Duluth. A family gathering to celebrate Nancy's life will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 15 at Pike Town Hall. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

She is survived by her husband, Kenneth Berens; sons, Michael (Rosemary) Berens and Richard "Rick" (Janet) Berens; daughter, Beverly Berens; 10 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and sister, Delores Sampson.

PUBLIC NOTICES

4th OF JULY DONATIONS NEEDED!

The City of Ely needs your donations to continue to provide the display of Fireworks and the Parade that is enjoyed by hundreds of families and visitors every year.

Please make your contribution now for Ely's 2019 4th of July Events.

- The Parade will start at 1pm on the 4th of July.
- Flyover from the 148th Fighter Wing (time to be determined)
- Activities in Whiteside Park from 11am-4 pm sponsored by Young Life
- City Band in Whiteside Park Band Shell at 3pm
- Van and the Free Candies playing at the new Semer's Park Pavilion from 6 pm-9 pm
- The Fireworks will be put on by Premier Pyrotechnics and are scheduled to start around 10 pm, shot over Miners Lake.

Donations can be dropped off or mailed to City Hall, Clerk's Office at 209 E Chapman St., Ely MN 55731.

Thank you, Casey Velcheff, Deputy Clerk

Published in the Ely Timberjay, June 14, 2019



ORR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING May 13, 2019

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Orr City Council was held Monday, May 13, 2019, at the Orr City Hall.

Mayor Joel Astleford called the Meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Roll call was taken and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Present: Mayor Joel Astleford

Councilor Lloyd Scott Councilor Bruce Black Councilor Ericka Cote

Councilor Thomas Kennebeck was absent for roll call but arrived after the meeting started.

Also present: Clerk/ Treasurer Cheri Carter; Deputy Clerk, Laura Manai; Maintenance Supervisor Paul Koch; Assistant Maintenance Rocky Hoffman; Liquor Store Manager, Charles Nieman; Ambulance Director, Donna Hoffer; Ambulance Finance Officer, Jim Gray; and Marcus White, Timberjay.

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

Motion by Bruce Black, second by Ericka Cote, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of Minutes of Regular Council Meeting of April 9, 2019; and expenditures in the amount of \$98,218.69. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED. One (1) Absent.

Motion by Lloyd Scott, second by Ericka Cote, to approve building permits for Anthony Norman and Connie Harju. All in favor. MOTION

CARRIED. One (1) Absent.

The outside neon sign at the Municipal Liquor Store is not working and no one in the area wants to repair or maintain a neon sign. Quotes were obtained for a 4' x 8' two-sided LED backlit cabinet sign from Froggy's Signs in the amount of \$2,950.00; and Mesabi Sign Co., in the amount of \$9,608.00. Both quotes include installation. Froggy's Signs will take down the current sign and take care of disposal. Motion by Bruce Black, second by Ericka Cote, to accept the lower quote from Froggy's Signs in the amount of \$2,950.00, which includes installation and disposal of the old sign. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED. One (1) Absent.

Motion by Bruce Black, second by Ericka Cote, to approve Resolution 2019-02 Authorizing Execution of Minnesota Department of Transportation Airport Maintenance and Operation Grant Contract for 2019-20 and 2020-21 in the amount of \$25,391.00. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED. One (1) Absent.

Councilor Thomas Kennebeck joined the council meeting at 5:07 p.m.

Motion by Bruce Black, second by Ericka Cote, to approve the 2018 Leiding Cemetery Report from Sharon Lammi, and payment of 2019 dues in the amount of \$1,000 to the Leiding Cemetery Association. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

The council discussed the condition of the roof at the Tourist Information Center. The shingles are over 30 years old and are starting to

curl and come off. The City Clerk was directed to get 2 or 3 bids for a new roof. Specs to include shingles good for a minimum of 30 years, removal and disposal of current shingles, and sheeting.

A written complaint was received regarding the condition of a property within the City. The owners were sent a letter on August 1, 2018, stating they were in violation of the City of Orr blight ordinance. The council approved sending another letter to the property owner giving him 10 days to submit a written plan addressing how he plans to remedy the blight issues.

Motion by Tom Kennebeck, second by Lloyd Scott, to put the deep frvers out of service in the kitchen at the Community Center. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED. The quote from Purdy Electric for controlling the power for the deep dryers was tabled. Motion by Bruce Black, second by Ericka Cote, to approve the quote from Purdy Electric in the amount of \$282.81 to replace the security light on the north side of the Community Center with an LED wall pack. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

A proposed ordinance regulating Short-Term Vacation Rentals was reviewed and discussed. A final ordinance will be drafted, and a Public Hearing will be scheduled prior to the Regular Council Meeting in June.

Motion by Bruce Black, second by Ericka Cote, to add Clerk Cheri J. Carter and Deputy Clerk Laura L. Manai as additional signatories on the ATM bank account with American Bank in addition to Tyae Pattenn, Charles Nieman and Bruce Black.

This will allow city staff to take care of banking so liquor store personnel don't have to close the liquor store. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Liquor Store: Liquor Store Manager Chet Nieman reported sales for this April were close to sales from last year at this time. The council approved additional bartenders if needed for the July 3rd Festival: Rocky Hoffman, Heather Nelson and Marie Cloyd. Chet will have the bar open at the Community Center on July 3rd.

Water and Sewer: Maintenance Supervisor Paul Koch reported all is going well. They are getting ready for summer. The pump from the DNR lift station is being repaired, which should cost \$1,047.50 plus freight. This was much cheaper than ordering a new pump.

Airport: Airport Manager Rocky Hoffman reported fuel inventory of 740 gallons of Jet A, and 1049 gallons of 100LL. Air traffic is starting to pick up. The weather did not cooperate this spring to allow maintenance staff and the fire department to burn brush at the airport.

Ambulance: Ambulance Director Donna Hoffer reported Sierra Sokoloski and Patrick Hoffer have received EMT certification. their The EMR class has start-They had seven runs ed. in April. Finance Director Jim Gray reported they have billed \$65,000+ in revenue so far year. Revenue is down because they are taking less transfers but expenses are also down. It is looking like ambulance wages may

run over budget. They will review the budget to see it expenses in other areas can be trimmed to make up the difference.

Community Center: Mayor Astleford reported the outside of the building needs to be power washed. The Fire Department and Ambulance Department each have a power washer that could be loaned to city staff to wash the exterior of the building.

Fire Department: No report.

Tourist Information Center: Tom Kennebeck recently evaluated the bog walk and it was determined the end near the river should be barricaded and be off limits to pedestrians until repairs can be made.

Comments from Council/ Visitors:

The council received an invitation from the Voyageur Country ATV Club to attend a ribbon cutting ceremony for the bridge across the Vermilion River on September 20th.

There being no further business before the council, motion by Bruce Black, second by Ericka Cote, to adjourn. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED. Meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel R. Astleford, Mayor Cheri J. Carter, Clerk/Treasurer

Published in the Timberjay, June 14, 2019



DRY CONDITIONS

Fire danger remains relatively high for June

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

REGIONAL — June is typically one of northern Minnesota's wettest month, but that hasn't proven to be the case so far this year — and that has helped elevate fire danger across virtually all of northern Minnesota. Indeed, high winds and warm temperatures this past weekend prompted the National Weather Service to issue a critical fire danger advisory on June 8.

No serious fires were

reported over the weekend, although fire crews did extinguish an eight-acre wildfire near Gunsten Lake, located about two miles northeast of the junction of Hwy. 1 and Hwy. 2, in Lake County. That fire was reported by aerial reconnaissance.

Spring fire danger typically all but vanishes once the fields and forests green up in the North Country, but the lack of normal rainfall has kept fire dangers elevated well into June this year.

While limited showers

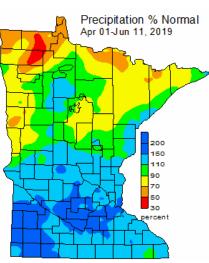
have stemmed the danger at times in recent weeks, until more consistent rainfall arrives, the risk of wildfire is likely to continue. With generally dry and sunny weather forecast into the weekend, there's little sign of a break in the pattern.

Much of northwestern Minnesota is already listed as "abnormally dry" by the U.S. Drought Monitor and with precipitation running below normal across northeastern Minnesota over the past six weeks, it appears that the area Right: The latest precipitation map demonstrates that most of northern Minnesota is running below average.

experiencing the early stages of drought could well expand.

Since May 1, every reporting station in northeastern Minnesota north of Duluth or Two Harbors is running below average for precipitation. Some reporting stations,

See DRYNESS....pg. 5B



RECOVERY

Trout Lake rebounds

Wildflower Watch

This week's featured flower **JACK-IN-THE-PULPIT**



While not as common as many other wildflowers in our region, the Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Arisaema triphyllum is always an interesting and often unpredictable find. It can be found in almost any moist to upland location in our area and seems to do well in heavy shade. Yet, even in the right terrain, this species never seems very common here in the North Country. Then again, with its tri-lobed leaves, it could be mistaken for a nodding trillium unless you take the time for a closer look.

It's a member of the Arum family (think Calla lily).

Lake trout population doing well after anglers had nearly given up on the species here

TROUT LAKE— The lake trout population here is continuing its recovery from its low ebb nearly two decades ago— and DNR fisheries staff aren't entirely sure why it's happening.

Back in the late 1990s and early 2000s, many anglers had just about given up on catching lake trout here on this big, cold, and clear lake located north of Lake Vermilion in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. "I quit fishing for them," said Rob Bryers, who grew up on Lake Vermilion and had fished lakers "north of the portage" for years. "It

was about the early 1990s when it just tanked," Bryers recalls.

Speculation abounded as to the reasons why. Some blamed eelpout, while others suggested smallmouth bass were making short work of the younger trout. Despite repeated stocking, it was apparent that the

introduced stock was failing to thrive.

Back in 1998, deep water gill nets deployed by the DNR

Above: This reporter holds two fish caught on Memorial Day while fishing on Trout Lake with guide Rob Bryers. photo by J. Summit

Right: Bryers hoists another nice laker caught last week on Trout Lake. Lake trout numbers are looking stronger on the lake than they have in decades and that's improved angler success.

submitted

captured just three lake trout during that year's fish population assessment, a low ebb.



Six years later, in 2004, after several substantial stocking efforts, the DNR caught just four lakers in their survey nets. By then, many feared that the lake's trout fishery could disappear to history.

And then something changed. In 2010, DNR fisheries staff caught ten lakers in their survey nets and that jumped to 21 in 2014. And

finally, in 2018, the DNR caught 27 lake trout in their nets— the highest number in memory. "It's been doing very



well," said Edie Evarts, Tower area fisheries supervisor.

These days, Bryers, who now guides on both Vermilion and Trout, heads to Trout as often as he can and has found from his own experience what the DNR's test data is also demonstrating — that the lake trout are back at Trout Lake.

"Every trip I've taken so far this year, we've caught fish," said Bryers, and in some cases several fish. And that's

See TROUT...pg. 5B

Ely area

The walleyes are beginning to leave the shallows for their summer haunts as the water temperatures continue to rise. Crank baits at this time of the season wll be the preferred tool of choice due to their ability to be run at different depths and speed. These search missions should begin in the shallowest parts of the lakes early in the day and work progressively deeper as the day wears on.

Some anglers are having success at midday down to twenty-five feet, and this is where large-lipped cranks can be very productive. Begin your trolling at speeds around 0.8 mph and gradually increase your speed up to about 1.7 or 1.8 if necessary. When you hit that sweet spot in your pattern and have a strike or you land a fish, make a note of your speed and direction, and try to duplicate it. More often than not there will be other fish in the area, as walleyes tend to school near a food source. For live bait anglers, it's a good idea to carry a variety of baits to determine what the fish might prefer at the time. Leeches, crawlers, and minnows will all work, but one might stand out above the rest, and you might not want to be sitting next to a bucket of leeches while the fish are on a minnow bite.

Courtesy of Babe's Bait located at Ely's west entrance.

TROUT...Continued from page 4B

unusual for a generally low-density species like lake trout, where catching one or two in a day is considered a successful outing.

Bryers said he finds the situation somewhat surprising given that fishing pressure remains relatively high on the lake and improved fishing technology has made it easier for anglers to fish for trout, even in the summer when they typically inhabit deep water.

"For some reason, it is sustaining itself, despite the situation," said Bryers.

The DNR doesn't have good data on Trout Lake fishing pressure, according to Evarts, since the lack of road access to the lake makes it challenging to conduct a creel census, which is the usual method the DNR uses to assess fishing pressure.ButEvarts noted that when fishing is good, anglers generally make the effort to take advantage.

Fishing pressure can have a significant impact on trout populations, according to Evarts, since they're a top fish predator that is rarely found in large numbers. Think muskie, only way better tasting. And, in part, because trout are so highly sought after for eating, anglers tend to keep the fish they catch.

Stocking not a major factor in recovery

While some lakes rely on trout stocking to maintain the fishery, Evarts said the evidence from Trout Lake suggests that stocked fish have had little impact on the recovery — and that has prompted the agency to re-examine its stocking efforts. "The stocked fish don't seem to be making it, but the natural fish in the lake are doing well," said Evarts.

During one recent survey using trap nets on reefs where lake trout spawn, the DNR caught 54 lake trout, ranging in size up to 37 inches, and only one was clipped, indicating it was a stocked fish. "We get anecdotal reports from anglers that they almost never catch clipped fish," said Evarts.

Genetics testing conducted by the DNR also confirms that the native Trout Lake strain of lake trout continues to dominate in the lake. That's despite an aggressive program of lake trout stocking in recent years, including up to 40,000 yearling fish every other year— most recently in 2018.

Given the lack of road access, the DNR ends up flying the trout in, which is an expensive venture for the DNR. According to Evarts, the DNR is currently revising Trout Lake's management plan and the agency is considering discontinuing stocking efforts, at least for now. "We're thinking that the stocking isn't really giving us any returns," she said. "It's a pretty expensive program, having to fly all the yearlings in. It takes more than one trip. If it was working well, we could justify it."

For now, at least, the natural trout population here appears to have rebounded. And, for anglers like Bryers who love Trout Lake, that's what matters. "It's been good and consistent," said Bryers.

L	LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST from NOAA weather																			
	Friday : Saturday :				Sunday .				•	Monday					Tuesday					
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05/28	65	31	0.03	05/28	48	30	0.00	05/28	48	37	0.12	05/28	70	30	0.08	05/28	48	31	0.14	
05/29	67	35	0.00	05/29	69	31	0.00	05/29	69	38	0.00	05/29	77	41	0.00	05/29	69	31	0.00	
05/30	70	39	0.00	05/30	77	38	0.00	05/30	77	48	0.00	05/30	75	43	0.00	05/30	77	40	0.00	
05/31	61	42	0.00	05/31	77	39	0.00	05/31	72	46	0.00	05/31	66	48	0.00	05/31	76	42	0.00	
06/01	61	36	0.00	06/01	75	36	0.00	06/01	65	42	0.00	06/01	64	39	0.00	06/01	68 69	34	0.00	
06/02 Totals	46	29	0.00 5.82	06/02 Totals	64	29	0.00 7.22	06/02 Totals	63	36	0.00 7.53	06/02 Totals	63	30	0.00 5.84	06/02 Totals	69	25	0.00 6.23	

Fishing reports

Kab-Nam area

Fishing here continues to be good despite the up and down weather patterns.

The walleye bite remains virtually unchanged. Water temps are holding in the low to mid 60s throughout Kab but that could change as we have some cooler weather in store this upcoming week. Jigs and minnow are still the presentation of choice. Leeches are catching fish but mostly in the evenings under a slip bobber. The same story.....windy or overcast days, go shallow. Sunny or calm days, slide out to that adjacent deeper water.

DRYNESS...Continued from page 4B

like Babbitt, Orr, and a station located 25 miles east of Ely have received barely half of their normal precipitation since May 1. Many others, including Tower, Cook, and Embarrass, are also running well-below average.

"In northern Minnesota, you should be getting roughly an inch of rain a week, so things can quickly fall behind," said state climatologist Pete Boulay. Northern Minnesota normally receives almost 60 percent of its total annual precipitation in the four months from June 1-Sept. 30. In a normal year, northern St. Louis and Lake counties average Smaller walleyes have schooled up and are easier to find while the larger fish are scattered. Sauger have become more common in the livewell. Continue using a jig and minnow until we see a more definite summer pattern emerge.

Crappies are still in a transition period but some are finding a few shallow as they begin to move into their spawning beds. It's going to happen fast this year with the late spring so keep checking your favorite areas daily. Smaller jigs tipped with plastics are a good way to cover some water. Once you find a good school, stay on them.

Small mouth bass are also

26-29 inches of total precipitation. **Extended prescribed fire season**

The dry weather has offered a silver lining to fire crews hoping to make progress on a long list of prescribed fire treatments in the Superior National Forest. Fire crews have successfully treated a total of more than 3,600 acres on approximately a dozen units with prescribed fire, including dead vegetation that had been piled for burning. "This is good news for native plants and wildlife who depend on fire to create conditions for them to thrive, good for general forest health and regeneration, and good in terms of slow to move into the shallows but there has been a definite increase in catch rates. Casting shallow rocky shorelines has been good. Look for those areas that have a gradual dropoff and cast lures to inside turns and points. Crawdad colored lures are going to be your best bet when choosing what to use, as crawdads make up most of a smallie's diet.

Northern pike are literally on a tear right now with all sizes being caught and with just about anything. At times, they can be a nuisance but a good go-to if you are having a tough time locating other species.

Courtesy Cooper's Gateway Store, Lake Kabetogama

reduced wildfire hazards for people living near or visiting the forest," stated the Forest Service in a press statement issued late last week.

This large amount of prescribed fire work was accomplished by Superior National Forest personnel with the assistance of fire crews from several different national forests and other federal agencies. Operations involved crews on the ground and in boats on the water with air support from planes and helicopters.

As favorable conditions continue, crews plan to complete additional prescribed fires and are also prepared to respond to wildfires.



1.slo

CLEAN

🥑 Boats, trailers, and gear

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

DRAIN

- Water from boat, bilge, motor, and live well
 - Remove drain plug and open all water draining devices





- Everything at least five days before going to other waters
 - O(Or) Decontaminate with high pressure water (120°F or warmer)

STOP INVASIVE SPECIES! LEARN

LEARN MORE AT CLEANDRAINDRY.ORG







6B June 14, 2019

PUBLIC NOTICES

2019-2020 & 2019-2021 **Cook Hospital Bids** For Propane

Two separate sealed propane bids will be accepted until 4:30 p.m., June 24th with contracts to begin October 2019

Propane Bid #1: 180,000 gallons for 2019-2020 Propane Bid #2: 360,000 gallons for 2019-2021

A contract for 24-hour emergency service and biannual maintenance of vaporizers must be included in Bid #1 and #2. Must be able to provide backup propane tank of 2,000 gallons or more and keep it filled in the event of an emergency or main propane tank failure

The sealed bids must be marked "Propane Bid #1 and #2" and be delivered to Cook Hospital, Teresa Debevec, CEO, 10 Fifth Street SE, Cook, MN 55723.

Bids will be opened at the board meeting of the Cook-Orr Healthcare District on June 24th at 6:30 p.m.

Teresa Debevec, CEO

CITY OF ORR SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE 2019-01 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ORR, MINNESOTA CONCERNING THE PERMITTING OF SHORT-TERM VACATION RENTALS

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ORR:

Section 1: Purpose: The purpose of this ordinance is to ensure that the short-term rental of dwelling units within the City is conducted, operated and maintained in a manner so as to protect the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City of Orr, and so as to not become a nuisance to the surrounding neighborhood.

NOTICE: The above publication is only a summary and the full printed text of City of Orr Ordinance No. 2019-01 is available for inspection by any person during regular office hours at the office of the City Clerk. A copy of the entire text of the ordinance shall also be posted at the Orr City Hall, 4429 Hwy 53, Orr, MN 55771.

Published in the Timberjay, June 14, 2019

EMPLOYMENT

Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness seeks Community Coordinator

The Community Coordinator serves as a liaison to communities that are gateways to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

The Friends recognizes that the successful protection of the Boundary Waters Wilderness and the wilderness areas throughout the Quetico-Superior ecosystem requires the support of communities that are gateways to the wilderness. This position provides the Friends with an on-the-ground presence in Ely, Grand Marais, Duluth and other communities along the North Shore, Gunflint Trail and Iron Range. This position builds relationships with local business owners, teachers and other school officials, labor organizations, other nonprofit and civic organizations, and government and tribal officials to support and advance the Friends' mission.

An integral part of this position is to identify and participate in activities in Ely and other gateway communities that make for stronger communities, such as local park projects or broadband internet access. This position also supports the Development and Membership staff by facilitating and building relationships with existing and potential donors. This position represents the Friends at local events and serves as a local spokesperson for the Friends.

For complete job description and to apply, please contact Bree Mattson at bree@ friends-bwca.org. 6/14

Charter School Administrator Vermilion Country School

Qualifications: Minimum 4-year degree in relevant area. Administrator licensure or coursework preferred but not required. Experience with charter schools and school leadership. Experience/interest in project-based learning, with an environmental education focus, and working in a teaching team environment. Ability to write/manage grants, interact with state agencies, help with school technology, and all stakeholders. This is a .50 position, with the remainder of the position to be filled with a teaching, or special education position, if desired.

Ely 4th of July Parade and Fireworks

The City of Ely's 4th of July Parade will be on Thursday, July 4th at 1:00 pm. Line up starts at 10:30 am on 4th Ave. from Harvey Street to Boundary Street including the Ice Arena Parking lot and the green space. If you are participating in the parade please enter the lineup area at 4th Ave. and Boundary Street.

Please call City Hall, Clerk's Office at 218-226-5449 to sign up to be in the parade. There will be ribbons and prizes awarded for kids entering decorated bikes, trikes, wagons and/or costumes. Judging will be at 12 Noon.

Parade starts at 4th Ave. and Harvey St. and follows Harvey Street to 2nd Ave. East and then down Sheridan St., ending at 8th Ave. (Whiteside Park).

Volunteers are needed to assist with the parade. If anyone is interested please contact the Clerk's Office for more information, 218-226-5449.

VETERANS WANTED to ride in the parade; a chair lift is available for those that may need assistance.

The Fireworks Display will be put on by Premier Pyrotechnics. The show is scheduled to start at 10:00 pm over Miners Lake.

Clerk's Office, City of Ely

Published in the Ely Timberjay, June 7, 14, 21 & 28, 2019

EMPLOYMENT



OPEN POSITIONS

<u>Care Center</u>

PT Nursing Assistant (sign-on bonus) Casual Restorative Nursing Assistant PT RN/LPN (sign-on bonus)

Imaging Full Time Radiologic Tech

<u>Rehabilitation</u>

FT Physical Therapist (sign-on bonus)

<u>Hospital</u> PT Registered Nurse (sign-on bonus) **Dietary** Full-Time Cook/Dietary Aide

Business Office Casual Secretary/Receptionist

Environmental Services Casual Housekeeper & Laundry Aide Part-Time Housekeeper Full-Time Housekeeper

TO APPLY: www.cookhospital.org/join-our-team/

More Info? Contact Human Resources 218-666-6220 humanresources@cookhospital.org

The Cook Hospital & Care Center offers competitive pay and benefits

including PERA retirement, Health and Dental coverage, Life and LTD.

Equal Opportunity Employer/ Affirmative Action Employe

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

City of Ely Public Hearing Notice

The Ely Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday June 19th at 5:30 pm in the 2nd Floor Board Room of City Hall to consider issuance of an interim use permit to Well Being Development for the 3rd annual Northern Lights Club House 5K Glow Run. The event will take place on Friday, September 20th, 2019. All interested parties may submit comments to Planning and Zoning, 209 E Chapman St. Ely, MN 55731, 218-226-5475, pzadmin@ely.mn.us, or in person at the public hearing.

Published in the Ely Timberjay, June 7 & 14, 2019

EMPLOYMENT

POSITION OPENING - ISD NO. 696 EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY EDUCATION CLASSROOM ASSISTANT

Approximately 240 hours; \$11.71/hour. Start date: September 3, 2019 – May 8, 2020. Background check required. Application (non-licensed) available at www.ely.k12. mn.us or in the General Office. Send materials to: ISD 696, Attn: Superintendent, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731. Deadline for application: Wednesday, June 19, 2019. 6/14

Moose Bear Wolf is a New American Cuisine pop up restaurant opening mid-June 2019 in Ely.

We are seeking to hire the following:

HOSTS • WAIT ASSISTS • SERVERS DISHWASHERS • LINE COOKS

Applicants need to be able to commit to a short term season, June 15 through October 15. While experience is preferred, we are open to training applicants who are good communicators, enthusiastic team contributors, curious thinkers, and driven to take ownership in their work.

Send your resume and a short cover letter, subject "Attention Sarah Knapp" to: mbwelymn@gmail.com.

Published in the Timberjay: June 7, 14, & 21, 2019

POSITION OPENING - ISD No. 696, ELY PUBLIC SCHOOLS for the 2019-2020 school year

1.0 FTE K-12 Physical **Education; Coaching Desired**

Salary and fringes as per Master Agreement Between ISD #696 and the Ely Education Association and School Board policy. Include district application, resume', official tran-scripts, letters of recommendation and current Minnesota teaching license; background check required. Application available at www.ely.k12.mn.us, click on District then on Job Openings, then Application for Employment in Licensed Position or at the General Office, 2nd floor of the Memorial Building; return materials to: ISD No. 696, Attn: Superintendent, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731. Application deadline: Tuesday, June 18, 2019. 6/14

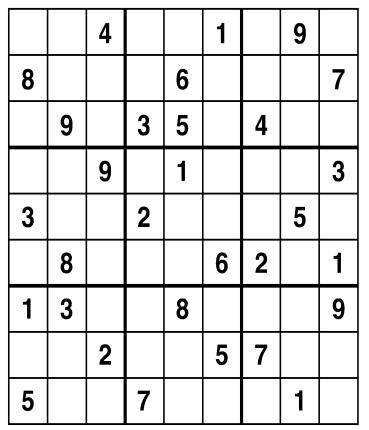
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	Answers																			
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Job Summary: The Vermilion Country School is a grades 7-12 public charter school that opened in the fall of 2013. It is located in Tower, Minn. The school serves a multicultural student body of 40-50 (est. 70% White, 25% American Indian), with a higher special education population and higher free/ reduced lunch rate population than neighboring districts. The school offers a project-based learning model that is uniquely-adapted for our students. Our school attracts students from a 30-mile radius and provides individualized learning plans for students who have not been well served in the traditional public school model. For more information, visit our website at www.vermilioncountry.org or see our facebook page.

The Vermilion Country School Administrator will assist in several aspects of program development and implementation while working side-by-side with our staff to oversee the educational programming. Our school's staff oversees day-to-day student management. The administrator is responsible for guiding our staff to reach our school goals, and will report directly to the school board, and act as our administrator of record for MDE and our authorizer. VCS is authorized by Audubon Center of the Northwoods. The school was just re-authorized for five years, which shows our authorizer's confidence in our school model and record of student achievement.

Job Description: For complete job description, email Board Chair Jodi Summit at vcs. charter@gmail.com. Interested applicants, please email resume, cover letter, and any letters of recommendation to vcs.charter@ amail.com.

Vermilion Country School, 1 Enterprise Dr., PO Box 629, Tower, MN 55790 VCS is an Equal Opportunity Employer



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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: **♦**



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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 vhhpdirector@gmail.com. This ad is paid for by Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners

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LICENSE COOK AREA BUREAU-REAU- -221 S. Hwy Cook. Open-M-F 9-5, 53. FastTrack Title Service-MVR-DNR-Limited DL, Dry Cleaning CDL/ Drop off/Pick up, Motorcycle/ Drivers Manuals. Now accepting Visa/MC/ Now accepting Visa/MC/ Discover. Questions call 218-666-6199. tfn

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LOOKING TO RENT NEAR ELY- House or apartment with garage. Willing to sign 1-year lease. Recent VCC hire, single, no pets or kids. Needed by Aug. 1 or sooner. Call Jack, 714-273-2933. 6/28p



WANTED-prep work, some Dan... assisting during and after meals. Flexible hours/days. not necessary and we will train. This is an ideal opportunity for someone that wants to learn from our experienced kitchen staff. Contact deb@campvoyageur. com or call 218-365-6042. tfn

RN CAMP NURSE WANTED Mid-July through August 10. Partial days and flexible hours. If you enjoy working with youth and the outdoors this is an opportunity for you. Contact deb@campvoyageur. com or call 218-365-6042. tfn

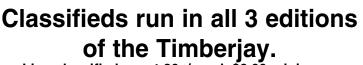
HEAD START is accepting applications for various posi-tions working with pre-school children and families in the Quad Cities and surrounding areas. Please apply at: www. aeoa.org/Careers Tab/View All Jobs. AA/EOE. 7/5

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

MEETING in Ely! "New Ideas" WOMEN IN RECOVERY: 12 Steps. For women seeking help and hope to recover from any and nope to recover normany addiction: drugs, alcohol, food, gambling etc. Every Thursday noon at St. Anthony's Catholic Church. Come join us! Q: 218-005 254 235-3581.

MEETING- Ladies by the Lake. IE YOU THINK YOU HAVE A Tuesdays at 12 noon. Peace United Methodist Church, 303 PROBLEM WITH DRUGS, give S 9th Ave, please use side door yourself a break. There is a way out with the help of other and parking. recovering addicts in Narcotics Anonymous. We have been there. For meeting or other information call 218-728-3199. call (Narcotics Anonymous is a non-profit organization.)



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MARINE



GROUPS GROUPmeets 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 ORR AA meets Tuesdays at 8 p.m. at Holy Cross Catholic OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS-Meetings every Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Virginia. CO-DEPENDENTS MEETING- Fridays at noon-St. Anthony's Church Classroom 3-Use west side entrance. For more information go to coda. BABBITT AL-ANON- meets Thursdays at 7 p.m. at the Babbitt Assembly of God VIRGINIA AA WOMEN'S

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HUGE GARAGE SALE- 5757 Lake Ave S, Tower. Thursday, Friday, Saturday, June 20-22, 9-3. 6/21

FOR SALE

1948 FORD DUMP TRUCK-F6, V-8, 4-yard dump, good tires. \$4,000. 218-248-5979 or 218-235-4295. 6/14



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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

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

SUPPORT

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WANTED TO BUY: Will pay cash for junk cars and pickups. Will pick up. Also, we collect used oil. Call 218-757-3255 or 218-780-2579. tfn

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2184 Passi Rd. Burntside Lake 1,725 sq. ft., 4 BR, 3 BA cabin/home, new 2-car garage, 200+ ft of gentle sloping shoreline, sauna w/ double bed and toilet on the shore, 2 slip boathouse w/ electric lifts,

classic Larson boat w/ 75 hp motor, canoe. 2011 updated sewer mound system, and much more. Fully furnished/turnkey. Call 218-365-5357 or 214-616-8316.

FOR SALE BY OWNER 2180 Passi Rd. Burntside Lake

Newly (2017) Reconstructed 1,940 sq ft log cabin. It's beautifully refinished. Majestic, hand-scribed native MN logs. Must be seen. 3 BR areas, 2 BA. It's coloredconcrete drive and parking area, sewer mound and water system. In-floor heating system, fireplace, electric and plumbing systems, tile and carpeting - all new in 2017. Granite countertops, washer/ dryer, dishwasher, and much more. 200+ ft of shoreline with new dock and 2 canoes. Fully furnished/turnkey. Call 218-365-5357 or 214-616-8316. tm



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