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# the **TIMBERJAY**

VOL. 30, ISSUE 29 July 26, 2019

\$1<sup>00</sup>



## TOWERGATE

### ‘We don’t have that kind of money’ Tower delays final payment on harbor trails project

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**  
Managing Editor

**TOWER**— The city council here delayed action on a final pay estimate to Hermantown-based Nordic Group for work on the trails project around the Tower harbor until the city figures out how to pay the \$449,803 bill.

**EDITORIAL**  
Lying about Tower’s mayor  
**Page 4**

“We don’t have that kind of money,” Interim City Clerk-Treasurer Ann Lamppa told the council on Monday. “I’m not sure

how we’re going to do this.”  
The city has struggled with its cash flow in recent months as it has worked to pay off a number of major expenses for various initiatives, including the trails project. Lack of timely grant reporting by now-suspended city clerk-treasurer  
*See...TOWER pg. 10*



**The new harbor trail was busy over the 4th of July, but the city is now seeking a way to pay for it.** photo by J. Summit

## VERMILION RANGE

### *Delicious tradition*

At 105 years,  
Old Settlers  
Picnic still  
going strong



**The Booyah Crew, above, prepares the traditional stew last Saturday at the 105th annual Vermilion Range Old Settlers Reunion and Picnic held at McKinley Park.**

ognized as traveling the furthest this year, having arrived from England.  
This year’s president, Jennifer (Korpi) Fredrickson, presented the short program, which included a brief discourse on the origin of the word “booyah” by Lynn Olson, Tower-Soudan Class of 1964. Booyah, for any  
*See...PICNIC pg. 9*



**Four generations gathered at the Old Settlers picnic last weekend: Judy Sunsdahl, great-grandmother; Jill Besch, grandmother; Jamie Kultala, mother; and Harlow Kultala, one-and-a-half-years old.** photos by J. Summit

## ISD 696

### Ely school renovation moves up priority list

by **KEITH VANDERVORT**  
Ely Editor

**ELY** – The school board here brought its district facilities project into sharper focus during a Monday night study session.  
The district’s architect on the project, Architectural Resources Inc., presented drawings, details and schematics for the first phase of an effort to connect the campus’s three buildings, and create a secure entrance near the Industrial Arts building. With the board’s approval, construction bids could be sought as early as September with work to begin next spring, assuming funding is approved  
A \$495,000 school safety grant from the state is earmarked for the first phase of the renovation, but a construction timeline must move forward with completion of the first phase by the end of 2022, according to Superintendent Kevin Abrahamson.  
Board members also met with representatives of the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation to explore agency funding options for the entire renovation project, estimated to range from \$5 million to as much as \$20 million, depending on which option the school board ultimately selects.  
The project was put on the back burner in recent months as ISD 696 searched for  
*See...ELY pg. 11*

## TRAGIC ACCIDENT

### Cook man, 50, drowns when tractor tips into pond

by **CRYSTAL DEY**  
Cook/Orr Editor

**COOK** – A rural Cook building contractor drowned Sunday evening after being pinned underwater when his tractor tipped into a manmade pond. Authorities have identified the deceased as Sheldon D. Sandberg, 50, of Morcom Township. He was the owner and operator of Sandberg

Construction for many years (see full obituary on page 5B).  
According to a release from the St. Louis County Sheriff’s Office, the 911 call came in at approximately 8 p.m. on Sunday, July 21. The caller reported an adult male had been in a skidsteer tractor that fell into water. St. Louis County Sheriff’s Office Supervising Deputy Shannon Schultz said Sandberg had

been under water for an estimated 30 minutes before the 911 call came in.  
Family members had attempted to rescue Sandberg by pulling the tractor out of the pond while emergency personnel were enroute, according to the release. Once on scene, rescue personnel were able to remove the tractor and search the pond, however, they weren’t initially able to locate Sandberg.

The St. Louis County Sheriff’s Rescue Squad conducted an underwater search with a remotely operated vehicle (ROV). Use of the ROV’s live camera and sonar technologies enabled rescuers to locate Sandberg’s body at the bottom of the pond in approximately eight feet of water.  
*See... DROWNING pg. 11*



**Sheldon Sandberg**



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# COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

## Vacation Bible School at Gloria Dei to be held Aug. 5-7 from 5:30 - 7:30

SANDY TWP- Gloria Dei Lutheran Church on Hwy. 169 North invites all ages to their family Vacation Bible School from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Aug. 5, 6, and 7. The theme is "God's Promise through Joseph." The classes will be held outdoors and will include a Bible lesson, light supper of Bible foods, crafts, and yard games, ending with campfire singing. All children must be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult.

## Singing Slovenes at B'nai Abraham, July 27 in Virginia

VIRGINIA- The Singing Slovenes from Duluth, under the direction of Frank Bucar, will present a concert at the B'nai Abraham Museum and Cultural Center, on Saturday, July 27 at 2 p.m. The mission of this Minnesota group is to preserve Slovenian music and cultural heritage. Admission will be free.

B'nai Abraham, located at 328 5th St. S in Virginia, will be open every Wednesday and Friday from 1 - 3 p.m. through the months of July and August for tours and exhibit viewing. The building is staffed by volunteers from the Virginia Area Historical Society. Tours can be arranged for other hours by calling the VAHS at 218-741-1136 or Harry Lamppa at 218-741-6613.

## Ruby's Pantry, July 27 in Babbitt

BABBITT- Ruby's Pantry food distribution will be held at the Babbitt Municipal Center, 71 South Drive in Babbitt, on Saturday, July 27 from 10 - 11:30 a.m. Ruby's Pantry is a monthly food distribution program that helps to keep consumable food out of landfills. For a \$20 cash donation, guests receive two baskets of food that can include meat, vegetables, bread, paper products, and other items. Participants must bring their own bags or baskets. This event is sponsored by St. Pius X Catholic Church. For more information, see [www.rubyspantry.org](http://www.rubyspantry.org).

## Vermilion Dream Quilters to meet Thursday, Aug. 1 in Greenwood

TOWER- Vermilion Dream Quilters will meet Thursday, Aug. 1 beginning at 3:30 p.m., for our annual picnic at the Greenwood Town Hall, 3000 Highway 77, with outdoor pavilion and the indoor meeting spaces available, plus bocce courts and ball sets. If the tennis/pickle ball courts are not being used by Greenwood residents we can use those also. Susan Ellis will bring pickle ball equipment and share instruction for anyone interested. Parking is available in the lower lot between the pavilion and the town hall.

This is a true potluck - no sign-up - just bring what you like to do best and we'll begin dinner at 6 p.m. The guild will provide paper products, utensils, table covers, bottled water, and lemonade. Corrine Hill and Kathy Lovgren are coordinating; contact them if you have questions.

Brown Bag Challenge #3 is due if you are participating - hot pads and/or pot holders - two items of any combination. If you have a Pillow Cases for Veterans in Hospice kit, please complete it and bring Aug. 1. Check the June or July meeting minutes for a link on the method to make these. Last but not least, please bring your Show and Tell to share; we always like to see what you are doing.

Our members are from throughout the Iron Range. We encourage, instruct, and share tips with each other. Guests and visitors interested in quilting and creative sewing are welcome. For more information, please contact Corrine Hill in Tower at 218-753-4600.

## Blueberry/Art Festival opens on Friday

See our special Blueberry/Art Section on pages B1 - B4 with a map and listing of all this year's vendors and booths

ELY— The region's annual mass migration to the Blueberry/Art Festival will get underway Friday, July 26, at Ely's Whiteside Park and run through Sunday, July 28. Now in its 39th season, the festival is Ely's biggest bash of the year, annually drawing 30,000-40,000 people to shop the juried art show and taste the dozens of food options available during the three-day festival.

The event opens on Friday at 10 a.m. Friday and Saturday hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday is 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Festival participants will find unique, handcrafted items and original works of art from over 260 artists and crafts people. "We have a collection of some of the best photographers in the area, wonderful pottery, top notch jewelry, oil and water color paintings, exquisite furniture and of course the hot category of repurposed art," said festival organizer Ellen Cashman.

The festival also features a wide variety of food and beverage vendors. There will be 20 food trucks and trailers lining the food court. "Start your day with fresh, hot-off-the-gridle blueberry pancakes, or a yummy

breakfast sandwich and coffee drink," Cashman said.

"New this year is authentic Mexican food and Mexican sodas," Cashman added. "Make sure you save room for blueberry pie, by the slice or by the whole pie. Hundreds of blueberry pies are baked fresh for the festival and are available from the Kiwanis at the park pavilion."

The Blueberry/Art Festival features live music in the park bandshell all three days. On Friday, Timmy Haus will perform from 1-4 p.m. Saturday performances feature Bill Maxwell and Cowboy Angel Blue, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2-4 p.m. "We top things off on Sunday with Pat and Donna Surface and the Boundary Water Boys, on stage from noon-1 p.m. and 2-3 p.m.," Cashman said.



There is plenty for the younger folks to do, including bungee jumping, water ball and a bounce house, providing plenty of fun.

The Blueberry/Art Festival is sponsored by the Ely Chamber of Commerce Event and Promotions Committee. Like them on Facebook and check it out at [www.ely.org](http://www.ely.org).

## "Guatemala Missions and Adventures" on Monday, July 29 in Tower

TOWER- The Lake Vermilion Cultural Center (LVCC) will sponsor an educational program "Guatemala Missions and Adventures" on Monday, July 29 at 1 p.m. at the Herb Lamppa Civic Center. Presenters will be six local volunteers who have served in Guatemala and one who lives there. The volunteers are from five organizations in Guatemala including Recycled Lives, San Lucas Mission, Sharing the Dream, Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity-Guatemala, and Stoves for Guatemala. The presentation is free and open to the public. Bars and refreshments will be served. If you have volunteered in Guatemala, please attend so you may stand and be recognized.



Above: The Recycled Lives mission team from the Tower area and country directors are pictured with the recipients of the home built for them in 2016 in San Gabriel, Guatemala. Four women in this photo will be presenters at Monday's event: Cheryl Lamppa (second from left), Kathy Siskar (second from right), Angie Gurius (fourth from right), and Pastor Liz Cheney (fifth from right).

Left: At San Lucas Mission, local volunteers participated in a charity shopping program. Among other items, they purchased traditional Mayan clothing (pictured) for three Mayan women. The Guatemalan woman at left is Emmy Tun, Charity Program Director for the Mission. Local residents Shelby Vaske (second from left) and Bergetta Indihar (second from right) will be two of the presenters at Monday's event. submitted photos



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This activity is made possible in part by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, thanks to appropriations from the Minnesota State Legislature's general and arts and culture heritage funds, and in part by Lake Country Power's Operation Round Up.

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INVESTIGATION

# Anonymous claims against mayor fail fact-check

## Flyer part of a sustained effort to defame Orlyn Kringstad through false allegations

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

TOWER—The new mayor here continues to face false and defamatory attacks that have intensified since the suspension of city clerk-treasurer Linda Keith last month.

The source of the latest attack is unclear, since the effort by critics of Mayor Orlyn Kringstad has taken the form of an anonymous flyer posted around Tower’s Main Street. But the nature of the flyer and some of the allegations it raises are similar to those written by Tower Ambulance Director Steve Altenburg shortly after last November’s election. Then-clerk-treasurer Keith included Altenburg’s screed in the city council packet under correspon-



Orlyn Kringstad

dence, which was highly unusual given the nature and timing of Altenburg’s claims. Kringstad handily defeated Altenburg and a third candidate in that election.

The latest flyer again focuses on a Tower Economic Development Authority loan to Tower Vision 2025 and Tower Harbor Shores, falsely accusing Kringstad of utilizing the \$125,000 loan funds to purchase a lake cabin on Eagles Nest Lake, at a cost of \$90,000, as well as to finance purchase of a used pickup truck.

Tower Harbor Shores, which has since assumed liability for the entire loan, is a limited liability partnership in which Kringstad, at one time, was a principal. Kringstad and a handful of investors formed Tower Harbor Shores in 2016

to develop a planned 20-unit town home project at the city of Tower’s harbor, although Kringstad has since divested himself from the project.

The flyer also alleged that Kringstad, back in 2008, had “inflated the value of his [Edina] residence and stiffed his mortgage company for \$400,000 on a 100-year old house that wasn’t worth squat.”

Real estate sales and acquisitions are relatively easy to verify since such transactions and any mortgages associated with those purchases are public record and typically available online. Yet the authors of the flyer apparently failed to avail themselves of such records, and those records—which the *Timberjay* did review—disprove the claims of the individuals who are distributing the flyer.

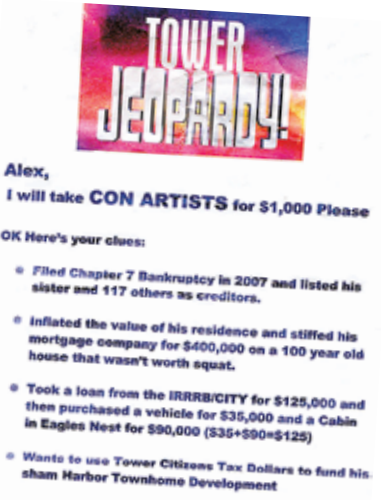
The *Timberjay* also reached out to Kringstad about the

**Right: A copy of the false, anonymous flyer that critics of the new mayor are spreading in Tower.**

vehicle purchase, for which public records are not typically available and Kringstad did provide information on the purchase, including bank records showing the outstanding balance on the vehicle loan.

Here is what the various records show:

➤ According to the St. Louis County Recorder’s Office, Kringstad and his wife Marit, along with Kringstad’s sister, Kathryn Scott, did purchase a lake cabin on Eagles Nest Lake in October of 2016 for \$105,000, or slightly less than the county’s estimated market value for the property of \$120,400. The Kringstads purchased a two-thirds interest in the cabin (worth approximately



\$70,000), while Scott purchased a one-third interest.

There is no evidence that Kringstad used any proceeds from the TEDA loan in the purchase of the cabin. In fact, it would

See **DEFAMATION...**pg. 5

FEDERAL FUNDING

# Three area counties stand to lose \$2.3 million in PILT

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL—Three northeastern Minnesota counties are slated to lose about \$2.3 million in federal payments-in-lieu-of-taxes, or PILT, next year as a result of a recent change in the appraisals for federal lands within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

The U.S. Forest Service allocates the funds to St. Louis, Lake, and Cook counties each year based on a formula established by the 1948 Thye-Blatnik Act. That law allocates funding equal

to three-quarters of one-percent of the fair appraised value of any lands within the BWCAW as well as select federal parcels located elsewhere in the three counties. The most recent appraisal, completed in 2018, reduced the estimated value of those lands by 39 percent over the previous market estimate, completed in 2008. Appraisals are typically developed assuming the “highest and best use” for a property and, for years, appraisers of the property assumed timber production would generate the highest financial benefit. In 2008, however, appraisers assumed real estate

development would be the highest and best use, a decision which boosted the appraisal and increased the flow of funds to the three counties.

The loss of funds will fall most heavily on Lake and Cook counties. Lake County will see a reduction of \$1.3 million, while Cook County stands to lose \$750,000, according to the Forest Service. St. Louis County stands to lose \$250,000, which is a relatively minor amount in St. Louis County’s overall 2019 budget of \$394 million.

But for Lake County, the \$1.3 million hit amounts

to about 4.5 percent of the county’s roughly \$29 million budget. The \$750,000 loss to Cook County amounts to a 2.9 percent reduction in the county’s overall revenue budget. With the changes, St. Louis County is expected to receive a total of \$1.36 million annually beginning next year, while Lake County, which had been the largest recipient of Thye-Blatnik PILT in recent years will see its annual funding decline from \$2.51 million to just \$1.21 million. Cook County will see its funding decline from its current annual allotment of \$2.025

million, to \$1.275 million.

The affected counties aren’t taking the funding loss lightly. “We’re working with Cook and Lake counties and have crafted a response to the feds,” said Fourth District St. Louis County Commissioner Paul McDonald. “We don’t think it’s a quality assessment of the value.”

McDonald said he expects the joint county letter will be submitted to the Forest Service in early August. What happens after that, is less certain, according to McDonald. “The feds make their own rules,” he said.

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# OPINION

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OF SPEECH, OR OF THE PRESS;”

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

## Editorial

### Lying about Tower’s mayor

Critics discredit themselves by turning to falsehoods and anonymous attacks

In the thirty years that we’ve reported the news in northern St. Louis County, we can’t recall a more intentional and dishonest effort to defame a public official as has been directed against the new mayor of Tower, Orlyn Kringstad.

As we have reported over the past several months, the effort to defame Mr. Kringstad began from the moment the votes were counted in the mayor’s race last November, leaving Kringstad with a sizable victory over two other candidates. For the small group of individuals who had been operating the city of Tower with virtually no oversight, accountability, or concern for the law, the election result was a serious threat.

From the beginning, clerk-treasurer Linda Keith and her primary political ally, ambulance director Steve Altenburg, began a sustained effort to undermine the new mayor. Keith falsified a city roster of commission and committee terms in an effort to keep her political allies in key positions longer, thereby limiting the new mayor’s ability to shape his new administration. Altenburg accused Kringstad of impropriety in the handling of an Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation grant to the Tower Economic Development Authority that was converted to a loan to the town home project that Kringstad started, but from which he later divested himself after winning election as mayor.

Altenburg’s claims were baseless. The loan was processed at city hall by Keith and signed off on and wrapped up by the IRRR in August of 2017, just like dozens of similar transactions every year at the agency. It was a non-issue, until Altenburg decided to use it for defamation, with Keith’s assistance. Altenburg and Keith even began surreptitiously video-recording council meetings in which they publicly attacked both Kringstad and *Timberjay* Publisher Marshall Helmberger, which they then posted to the city’s website.

When their actions appeared to gain little traction, they repackaged the same old tripe into a submission to the state auditor in May, claiming an invoice for architectural services was actually a buy-out of

a partner in the project. Architect Dewey Thorbeck pointed out Keith’s error in two separate letters to her, but by that time she was more interested in undermining Kringstad than getting at the facts of the matter. In the end, if there was any impropriety, it was due to Keith’s slipshod management of the grant and loan, since it was Keith who approved the invoice for payment in the first place.

The latest go-round of false charges appeared earlier this month in an anonymous flyer that’s been distributed around the community, most notably at the city’s Fourth of July parade. They are even more ridiculous, suggesting that Kringstad secretly used the TEDA loan funds to buy real estate and a newer pickup truck.

The charges aren’t just false, the people putting them out know that they’re false, or have made no effort to verify the facts, since real estate records are readily available online. Those involved in the dissemination of this anonymous flyer are simply liars, who are intentionally engaged in illegal and actionable defamation of character. Anyone with knowledge of the individuals involved should alert Mayor Kringstad so they can face consequences for their actions.

While running for public office invariably puts one under a spotlight, the kind of abuse that Mr. Kringstad has been subjected to is beyond the pale. Holding a public official accountable for their official acts is appropriate, but inventing false stories from whole cloth and distributing those claims anonymously through the community is the definition of dishonesty and cowardice.

Most people, and we believe that includes Mr. Kringstad, go into public service to help their community. We know from talking to Mr. Kringstad that he wanted to focus on sustainable economic development and restoring a functioning government to city hall— both of which have been lacking for far too long. Instead, he’s been understandably frustrated to see his hopes for a productive administration hampered at the outset by a tiny handful of critics who, it seems, will do anything, including lie, to undermine him. It tells us all we need to know about who these critics really are.



## Letters from Readers

### How low will Trump and his backers go?

The Trump supporters in North Carolina who chanted “Send her back!” in reference to Minnesota Representative Ilhan Omar, a United States citizen, are obligated to explain how this tactic differs from the tactics of the Nazis in the 1930s. That the President of the United States condones this, even terms it “patriotic,” is shameful and immoral. It is not a path to American greatness. That our Representative Pete Stauber declined to vote for a condemnation of Trump’s hatred-mongering – regarding one of his Minnesota Congressional colleagues, no less – is not a demonstration of character or courage. How low can we sink?

**Peter M. Leschak**  
Side Lake

### Mr. Tammen should look on the bright side

The July 19 letter to the editor from Soudan’s Bob Tammen is once again not only far off the mark, his often repeated and disparaging comments towards the Range communities are getting old to say the least.

For a person who was employed in the industry, one would think he would have a little more optimism and consideration for what the mining industry has done in this region. There have been numerous studies completed from all sides of the coin, and one constant is the financial impact that mining has on this region, state, and entire country.

I find it rather insulting that Mr. Tammen would make such statements towards the folks who live and work in these communities providing for their families. Does he honestly believe that we all live in poverty and decline? He has more than once used the city of Virginia as a poster child for an impoverished community and one can only question the basis for that opinion. Perhaps it would be beneficial for Mr. Tammen to get in his gas-guzzling, (built by mining) motor home and actually see what Virginia and the other commu-

nities on the Range have been up to recently. The community spirit is alive and well in Virginia and has been recently demonstrated in several new projects throughout the city. The Olcott Fountain project, beautiful murals, Veterans Memorial Park, City Center Park with vendors, a renewed push for updating the entire Main Street district, a brand new county services building in the final stages of construction, school districts working towards state of the art education facilities, and numerous new businesses that have recently opened or soon will. Yes, Virginia (like many communities) has its share of problems, but if the mines closed up shop tomorrow, the myriad of problems would only worsen. One just needs to look at all the service industries that employ thousands of folks with good-paying jobs to realize the importance of the mining industry. So comments about Potemkin villages don’t hold water for most of the Range cities because, unlike Mr. Tammen, most folks seem optimistic about what’s on the horizon for future mining. (Oh, one last comment, the old movie theater marquee that is now shining in Ely? That was assisted by dollars from the mining industry. Ironic isn’t it?)

**Steve Peterson**  
Former Virginia resident  
now on Lake Vermilion

### The powerful work to keep us divided

Early, in human evolution, “you’re not one of us” tribalism was hard-wired into our brain. Tribalism expresses loyalty to one’s social group and hostility toward those different and, therefore, defective. Tribalism provides social cohesion for in-group protection and animosity toward perceived out-group threat. Team loyalty, nationalism, racism, sexism and classism are all rooted in instinct and emotion that once served as our survival kit.

Predatory aggressive personalities still seek domination over the “other” for exploitation. Further human evolution developed the reasoning and adaptive brain to override belief in the

“law of the jungle.” Social brain development enabled compassion to help us overcome stubborn prejudice and bigotry, making civil society possible.

Identity politics has been derisively applied to the women’s movement, civil rights and LGBTQ movements. Hidden in plain sight, identity politics propels the Republican Party with white nationalism to preserve privilege, property and power for a shrinking old majority, soon a minority replaced by a majority of minorities. This is the force that drives Trumpism.

Trumpism manipulates a cult-like following for votes, but delivers a command and control economy for the wealthy few. This privileged tribal class amasses wealth all for themselves without sharing. Their goal is to control the courts, and establish an Imperial President (unitary executive) to lord over a compliant Congress. Public interest regulation would be abandoned, the commons privatized and the press muzzled, as voice of the people.

Wedge issues, from abortion to immigration and gun control to school prayer, keep the public fighting among themselves to deflect from excessive economic inequality. Scapegoating blames immigrants, minorities and the powerless for social ills. Opposition is demonized and friends are lionized to distract from what is really going on. War on truth, deep state conspiracy, attacking the press and public institutions are characteristic of dictatorships.

**Harold Honkola**  
Tower

### Thanks for signing our equal pay pledge

In the July 19 edition of the *Ely Timberjay*, the *Timberjay* newspaper was inadvertently omitted from the list of businesses which have signed the Equal Pay affirmation. The AAUW Public Policy committee wishes to apologize for the omission and thanks the *Timberjay* for being a partner in the effort to promote Ely as a 100-percent Equal Pay community.

**Ely AAUW**  
Public Policy Committee

# Keep the Golden (years) Opportunities coming!

Retirement has been known to offer “golden opportunities”, but this summer has offered something better than anything I could have expected. Introducing... “B & K Handywork Service”. You got it. I’m now one of those “baby-boom entrepreneurs” that I heard about on NPR’s All Things Considered.



**KATHLEEN MCQUILLAN**

Story goes that more and more restless retirees are finding innovative ways to apply their life experiences and skills. Maybe in that spirit of “It ain’t over ‘til it’s over?” Well here’s mine.

As some may know, I have been blessed with a wonderful grandson. It seems that I often find myself looking over friends’

shoulders as they search their phones for the latest photo of their newest grand-baby. While I “ooo and ogle” over their many, I silently gloat over my “one and only”. I’m surer now than ever that my grandson isn’t just some ordinary 13-year old. He’s the best! Here’s how I know...

For the past year, my priority has been helping my spouse recover from his health issues. Thankfully, he is well on the mend. When I realized I was needed a little less now, I began looking for a more challeng-

ing project to supplement my forever job, weeding the garden. I decided to dedicate any “free time” to reopening our abandoned log house. It had become our “storage unit” these past twenty years which wouldn’t be bad if it was a shack, but it’s a beautiful hand-built structure where John and I raised our sons “off the grid”, back when readers of *Mother Earth News* were the only folks who knew what that meant. I loved our life and have sometimes missed it sorely since our move in 1997

to our present location on the 40 acres next door, equipped with electricity, running water, and amenities like bright lights in every room, a washing machine, air conditioner, TV, and an electric guitar. For our teenager, that was the topper. Here I am, many years later, moving forward on the grand reopening of our cabin.

OMG!! Upon initial assessment, the yard had been completely taken over by aspen saplings, wild raspberries, and



# Letters from Readers

## Who is waging war on whom?

The *Ely Echo* carried a letter to the editor last week by Nancy McReady. In it she took aim at Becky Rom, stating, “She basically declared war against Twin Metals.”

Let me remind McReady that the *Ely Echo* declared war a decade ago in its 2009 editorial titled, “The new war on mining has begun,” stating, “Mark down Nov. 19 as the unofficial start of the war on the proposed nonferrous mining projects in northeast Minnesota. There may have been some skirmishes prior to that date, but now the gloves are off and the war has begun.”

The editorial continued, pulling the White Iron Chain of Lakes Association into the fray.

“Last Thursday there were shots fired at a meeting between several Lake County Commissioners and the White Iron Chain of Lakes Association. This may not go down as the first battle, but it should be a footnote in history.” ...

“As WICOLA board members spoke about the \$500,000 clean water project the group is proposing, there was a common theme. “We are not anti-mining” was repeated numerous times.” ...

“Seated in the back of the room was David Oliver of Duluth Metals. He spoke out at the meeting ... and compared the scene to Shakespeare’s line

in Hamlet about Gertrude protesting too much.”

Really? Let me tell you the rest of the story. Certain Lake County commissioners were essentially blackmailing WICOLA. Lake County had been proposed to act as fiscal agent for WICOLA. If the lake association wanted its water grant, WICOLA was basically told to keep its collective mouth shut about copper-nickel sulfide mining in its own watershed.

Let me repeat, Duluth Metals (now Antofagasta’s Twin Metals) was planning to operate a copper-nickel sulfide mine in WICOLA’s immediate watershed, yet the lake association could not raise objections even though its mission was to protect those waters. Not if it wanted funding for its \$500,000 clean water project. David Oliver of Duluth Metals publically scoffed at the WICOLA board members. WICOLA was also told, by another mining industry representative, that it had to remove “exceed” from language in the grant proposal that read, “Our goal is to meet or exceed Minnesota discharge standards.”

It cannot get more Shakespearean than that, as the final line of the editorial manifests, “The war has begun and Ely is a battlefield.”

Who is waging war on whom?

**Carla Arneson Ely**

## Economy being fueled by more and more federal debt

A local Ely discussion group and news pundits plus administration spokespersons, all have touted the robust state of the current U.S. economy. They referred to our financial status as “strong”, “fabulous” and a “Goldilocks” economy. And they point to the fact that major stock indices are at an all-time high. There is, however, no discussion pertaining to the cost of this robust economy.

The “booming” economy is the result of a massive increase of the federal deficit. Since January 2017, the national monetary infusion into the economy, according Reuters, was \$2.45 trillion. This huge debt increase was created by slashing individual and corporate tax rates along with the escalation of federal expenditures. The net monetary benefits from lower taxes have not generated the tax revenue commensurate with the lost tax revenue from the lowered tax rates. The amount of the loss of tax revenues has to be replaced by issuance of government bonds to fulfill the financial expenditure obligations sanctioned by Congress.

The monetary infusion was not focused on improving our infrastructure that might have resulted in cost saving efficiencies in our national trans-

portation and communication systems. Nor were the funds applied to health care needs that might have reduced our national health care costs.

The U.S. total current national debt is \$22 trillion. Some people actually believe that the debt does not matter and that we can just keep adding to it ad infinitum. At what point will investors pull back from purchasing more bonds to refinance the maturing bonds or to fund new bonds to finance the increased national debt?

For FY 2019, the Office of Management and Budget estimates the deficit will be \$1.1 trillion, a 40-percent increase over FY 2018. Large deficits “crowd out” private investments and inhibits economic growth and, in addition, reduces funds available for education, health, and welfare. Moreover, it curtails the ability of the Federal Reserve to effectively respond with counter measures against a financial crisis. It should be noted that the official “deficit” does not include the under-funded liabilities of the Federal National Mortgage Association, Social Security and Medicare.

The U.S. total current national debt of \$22 trillion exceeds the \$21 trillion of U.S. Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the value of all finished goods and services produced within the U.S. in a year, creating a debt to GDP ratio of 105 percent. The World Bank says that a debt

ratio greater than 77 percent is a “tipping point.” This is the point in time when investors start to consider a risk that countries will be unable to repay their loans.

There is a likelihood of a financial crisis tipping point materializing if the U.S. government fails to reduce the debt and/or adds incremental debt despite continued economic growth. Lack of Congressional meaningful action is likely to motivate investors to curtail or stop buying and financing our debt. They will begin to seek alternative sovereign states securities for investment, such as Switzerland with a 43 percent ratio. China bonds, as another example, may become a more attractive investment, especially with its economy currently growing at a six-percent annual rate compared to the United States’ three-percent and with a ratio of 66 percent.

If the United States defaults payments on any of its government securities, it will be hard pressed to raise funds by issuing new bonds or fund the repayment of the maturing bonds.

The old shibboleth of the “full faith and credit of the United States” may become part of our folklore in a weak economy that is no longer “robust,” but wallowing in a long-term depression.

**Gerry Snyder Ely**

## GOLDEN...Continued from page 4

a virulent form of five-foot tall reed grass that completely engulfed our beloved home right up to the windowsills, that would require nothing short of machete and chainsaw to carve a path to the front door! Having humped my way in, I stood speechless at the extent of our pack-ratting over these two decades. I felt overwhelmed but that didn’t dampen my desire to bring the place back to life. I only questioned if I could tackle this project alone. Time would tell.

As others can attest, thirteen is an interesting age. For example, my “favorite grandson” suddenly seemed like a

stranger. When he’d visit, he didn’t want to do any of those fun things that we used to do — like board games, mushroom hunting, building little clay figurines, or any other goofy idea Grandma would come up with. Once upon a time, everything was fun! I never felt like a boring person until Brad turned 13. And it seemed, no matter how hard I tried, I just couldn’t compete with all his new found friends, and games that appeared on his smart phone. That is, until one day the proverbial light bulb went on! “Surely, he needs money!”

That night, I asked him over to give me a hand with my new project. And I’d

pay him for his assistance. Surprise! He sounded interested. The following weekend, he explained, he hoped to invite a girl from school to go to the movies with him. But, he was worried. To buy tickets and treats, it would cost him \$35! (Yes! The gods were working with me. My timing couldn’t have been better.) “Perfect,” we both agreed. We made plans to meet on Monday.

Upon arriving, we exchanged glances. It was obvious. He felt as overwhelmed as I did.

I assured him. We would employ the age-old strategy, “aim high, do our best, and be satisfied” with whatever we could accom-

plish in one day. Brushing and clearing were first on the list. I had an old scythe and some brush-clippers. He chose the clippers. The challenge was on.

At break time, I offered a proposition. “Brad, can I hire you for the summer? Or, better yet, what if we formed our own business? Kathy McQuillan could be our first customer. She’s definitely got enough work to keep us busy for a long time. She should pay a livable wage. If she hired anybody else, she’d offer them at least \$12 an hour. So, if you work hard and do a good job, you should earn the same. If she likes our work, maybe she’d give us good references,

in case other jobs come along. What d’ya say? We could call ourselves B & K Handywork Service. Just think about it.” Break time was over. We got back to work.

That afternoon, we’d carved a nice path to the front door. Brad went home tired with \$50. in his pocket. Now, six weeks into our plan, we’ve worked together many times — emptying rooms, hauling, stacking, setting tanks, building steps, vacuuming, scrubbing walls and washing windows. Brad’s used shovels, hammers, screw drivers and drills for the first time. He’s learned to “dress for the job”, gotten

his hands dirty, learned to use new tools and discovered ways to get them to work better for him. He’s chimed in with solutions to problems, worked up a sweat and an appetite. And this is only a part of the story. We’ve gotten to know each other again. We work well as a team now, tease, make jokes, look back to measure our progress, and take pride in what we see. We’ve shared feelings, commiserated, talked about money, made agreements, shook on them and high-fived. Not bad for being just partway through summer! Quite the “golden opportunity” for this Gray Pantherette!

## DEFAMATION...Continued from page 3

have been impossible since the Kringstads purchased the cabin several months before Kringstad and then-TEDA president Marshall Helmburger approached the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation about the possibility of a loan to cover a funding gap to pay for early development costs for the town home project. The IRRR provided the funds as a grant to TEDA, with repayment proceeds to become part of a revolving loan fund.

The Eagles Nest cabin was financed primarily through a ten-year, \$84,000 mortgage through Frandsen Bank, which remains current with approximately \$72,000 in debt yet to retire. The fact that the mortgage continues to be retired according to the original schedule is evidence that no funds were improperly diverted for the purpose of paying off the debt owed on the property.

► According to Hennepin County real estate records, the Edina residence where the Kringstads purportedly “stuffed their mortgage company,” was actually sold by the bank in foreclosure in October 2008, at the height of the housing

crash, for \$463,000, or well above the claimed \$400,000 mortgage on the property. Kringstad had purchased the older farmhouse-style residence and undertook major renovations which greatly enhanced the value of the property before he and his wife Marit were hit by business losses stemming from the 2008 financial crash, which forced the foreclosure and loss of a previously-successful retail business. The home, located in Edina, is currently valued on the real estate website Zillow at \$628,735.

► According to St. Louis County and state records, the Kringstads purchased a commercial building on Tower’s Main Street for \$108,600, on a contract for deed, on March 23, 2017, after having rented the building for several months for a retail business. The Kringstads made a down payment of \$11,860 on the contract and began making payments while working out the terms of a mortgage to purchase the building outright. In December 2017, the Kringstads registered a mortgage of \$76,527 on property, which allowed them to convert the contract for deed to a war-

ranty deed. The mortgage remains current.

► While records on vehicle purchases aren’t public data, Kringstad did provide the *Timberjay* with bank records on the purchase of his used 2015 Chevrolet Colorado pickup, which he purchased in late October of 2017. The entire purchase price on the vehicle was financed and the outstanding loan principal, as of July 23, 2019, was \$23,656.

### Loan payments were based on paid invoices

Misappropriating the TEDA loan funds would have been difficult since the funds were issued by the city of Tower in a number of payments, which were based on actual paid invoices, mostly for architectural and design work and marketing, which were related to the town home project.

Those invoices were reviewed by city staff, with final authority for payment resting with the clerk-treasurer. The payments were also reviewed by IRRR staff and the grant was officially closed out in August of 2017. Tower Harbor Shores continues to make interest payments on the loan with approval

of both TEDA and the city council. The town home project has been unable to advance primarily as a result of the city’s continued delays in finalizing a plat for the project, which has prevented the town home developers from executing legally-enforceable purchase agreements.

Given that the TEDA loan is presently current, it’s unclear why Kringstad’s critics focus their attacks on the loan. If money was misappropriated, as they have claimed, it would be investors in the Tower Harbor Shores project who would actually be affected. Yet one of the biggest investors in the project, Michael Wood, of Biwabik, said he has “no concern” that funds were diverted. While Wood has not been deeply involved in the project’s finances, he said he is aware that “there were significant architectural expenses for the project, which are legitimate expenses.”

Project manager Jeremy Schoenfelder confirmed that and suggested that the current attacks on Kringstad appear personal, without regard for the interests of the city or its efforts at economic development. From a legal standpoint, said

Schoenfelder, it wouldn’t matter in either case if the reimbursements that Tower Harbor Shores received had been diverted for personal use. “We provided paid receipts, which is what the loan required,” said Schoenfelder. “They are valid receipts, which means we fulfilled all the terms of the loan. But on top of that, Orlyn didn’t do that.”

Schoenfelder noted that architectural costs alone for the project were already well over \$100,000, while marketing and legal costs, consulting fees, and loan interest payments were all further tapping the company’s available funds. “And we’re eating many of the soft costs,” he said. “I would normally charge a consultant’s fee for my work, but I’m not doing that.”

Schoenfelder said he’s trying to remain focused on how to advance the project given the ongoing inability of the city to deliver a finalized plat for the harbor area. “I don’t have time for the saber-rattling and chest-pounding,” he said. “It’s irrelevant. It’s just white noise.”

### In Memory of Stanley Bunker Hill



*We all miss you. One day we will all be together, according to John 14.3 “and if i go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me- that you also may be where I am.”*

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Correction

In last week’s article on the Greenwood Town Board meeting, the following comment was incorrectly attributed to Paul Skubic. The comment made by Mike Ralston. “If we don’t get on board with broadband, we are really underserving our taxpayers... We have the third largest tax base in St. Louis County. If we don’t bring in these fiber speeds, we are not serving our taxpayers.” The *Timberjay* apologizes for the error.

Lake Vermilion 12x12 group to host speakers on Saturday, July 27

TOWER- The Lake Vermilion 12x12 group will hold its annual speaker meeting on Saturday, July 27 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower. A social time with food begins at 6:30 p.m. Mel C. of Nashwauk (Tuesday Night - AFG) will be the Al-Anon speaker at 7 p.m. At 8 p.m., Heidi B. of Ely (Friday Night - Happy, Joyous and Free) will be the AA speaker. The meeting is open to all.

Smoke and Suds at St. Martin’s on July 28

TOWER- Parishioners, community members, and summer visitors are invited to an afternoon of good food and laughs. St. Martin’s is once again hosting “Smoke and Suds” on Sunday, July 28 – festivities will get underway at 11:30 a.m. The head chef is the same (Nick Tekautz) but the menu has changed – brats and hot dogs on the grill, baked beans, pasta salad, watermelon, chips and dip, root beer floats, a campfire with s’mores, live music, Brenda’s popular meat raffles, and yard games. Music will be provided by ‘The Beef-eater Brothers’ featuring Anna Marie. Cost for the dinner is \$8 for adults and teens, \$5 for children aged 5 to 12, and children under five attend free. Tickets will be on sale before and after Mass, at the rectory, and at Jeanne’s Card Shop. Tickets will be available at the door – but we prefer pre-sales (to insure there is enough food). We hope that you will join us at this old-fashioned family picnic.



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by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- The Blandin Broadband Steering Committee has approved five initial broadband project grant requests. The projects have also been approved by the Tower Economic Development Authority (TEDA), the program’s fiscal agent. The projects now go to a Blandin Foundation committee for final approval. The aim of all the projects is to increase public access to broadband internet connections. A \$75,000 grant from the Blandin Foundation is funding the projects. Each project includes a local match (one part match to three part grant) which can include in-kind donations of services and equipment. Grant projects that have received funding include: **► Hoodoo Point Wifi Access:** To provide wifi access to all campers at the Hoodoo Point Campground. Project includes installing wifi repeaters, and electrical upgrades. Grant amount is \$7,500, total project cost is \$9,000. Fiber optic cable

is already available at the campground, but is underutilized. The work is expected to be done this fall and up and running for the 2020 camping season. **► City of Tower website:** Work with the city of Tower to develop a more user-friendly website. **► Breitung Public Access Workstation:** The township will build a broadband workstation in the town hall for public use, located in the under-construction new community room. Total cost for the project is \$2,080. The township will provide the workstation area and high-speed internet connection. **► Tower Business Community:** Funding to help some local businesses develop their own websites, along with funding for one-on-one assistance for some local businesses for technology training through an outreach program from UMD. **► Vermilion Country School:** Projects include creating a Senior Citizen Access/Student-Public Access Computer Lab at Vermilion Country School; an equipped classroom space for interactive field trips/virtual reality field trips, and

digital piano lab; connecting the fiber optic cable installed to the outside of the building to provide broadband access inside the school; and installing smart-board technology in the classrooms. **► Tower Farmers Market/Depot Museum:** Improve wifi service for the Depot building and outdoor wifi for the farmers market. This will also provide improved wifi at the civic center. **► Tower-Soudan Elementary:** Mobile computer lab. Steering committee members include John, Joanne and Kate Bassing; Marit Kringstad; Richard Hanson; Doug Workman; Molly Stanford; Greg Dostert; and Stephanie Ukkola. The feasibility study committee is now working on securing matching grant funding for the next step in the project—raising up to a total of \$75,000 to fund a region-wide feasibility study which will identify the most economical ways to bring broadband to area residents. Blandin will match all funds raised. The expected cost for the study is about \$150,000. The study will also identify possible private partners for the actual in-

stallation and service for broadband. Once the study is completed and a private company is selected, the project can apply for state and federal grant funds to help pay the cost of installing broadband at individual homes and businesses. If the study is completed by next spring, the project will be able to apply for installation funding next summer. The committee has already secured donations from Vermilion Lake, Eagles Nest, and Greenwood townships and the city of Tower. The group will be approaching other area townships and governmental units for donations in the next few weeks. The feasibility study is being done jointly with the East Range Joint Powers group and the Laurentian Chamber. Private donations are also being accepted. The fiscal agent for the study is the city of Virginia. Anyone wishing to make a donation can send it to Virginia City Hall, 327 First St. S, Virginia, MN 55792. Be sure to indicate it is a donation for the broadband feasibility study.

THOUGHTS FROM ART DALE

Carrying on the vision of a beautiful community

by ART DALE  
Timberjay contributor

Tower is a great small town, surrounded by great townships, all doing their best to create a “beautiful community.” Thousands and thousands of hours of hard work from strong leaders must inspire us to carry on their work and follow a new vision for today. What have these beautiful people given us? Their trust in the American reality of national, state, and local governments following the values and constitutions of past Americans is one of their gifts. Because of that we are: **► A group of people with a positive vision of Tower as a community with healthy infrastructures supporting us.** These infrastructures support our life together and are maintained by the leaders who have a passion for a beautiful life together here in this community. **► A group of people blessed by the hard work and commitment that has brought us to where we are today.** It is vital not to forget the past, or to fail to learn what has been done to create what we enjoy today. This, in the face of the negative energies challenging us, continues to guide us into the future. **► A group of people who know where we are at this moment and who use that vision to energize all citizens to seek leadership that will continue to help us grow into a healthy community where people work**

together. We cannot allow ourselves to continually spend all of our time focusing upon the abuses within our city and township governments, the lack of community, created years ago by school choice and loss of jobs, the sick desire to have Tower “the way it used to be,” and a resignation to Tower’s demise. **Where is the “Beautiful Tower Area” today?** Tower and its surrounding townships have developed supportive infrastructure that provides us with: safe drinking water, safe sewage and garbage disposal, well-maintained and safe streets and sidewalks, well-lit streets, law enforcement that serves us all and keeps us safe, quality schools that educate our children, good Samaritans who respond immediately to emergency needs, an airport serving air travelers, an economic development authority that brings us jobs and goods, a new industrial park and Lamppa Stove factory that provides quality jobs that benefit the world around us, a set of economic trading businesses that bring the community together in order to meet basic human needs, and numerous opportunities for developing small IT businesses that economically connect the Tower area to the world. All this IS the “Beautiful Tower Area” community.

**Leadership for a building a beautiful community** Leaders are essential in building beautiful community. Leadership draws members of the community together to achieve the “Beautiful Tower Area.” The past leadership of Herb Lamp-pa is a powerful case in point. Devoting time, using his skills mostly as a volunteer, Herb and supporting leadership teams gave us this great gift. Herb, who was a math teacher at the Tower High School, took on a leadership role in Tower and during this time he helped the city: envision and fund a mini-park, an industrial park, a new Department of Natural Resource Building location, tennis courts, a new historic train location, a tourist information site, East Two River expansion, Hoodoo Point, 16 new airplane hangars, construction of three senior/low-income housing units, North Star Addition, marina, harborfront development start-up, cleanup of the old city dump site, remodeling of the then-owned city municipal liquor store, city hall elevator, Howard Wagoner Ski Trails, thousands of feet of new water and sewer lines, the new sewage waste treatment system, the civic center, and creating Lamppa Manufacturing. He served four terms as the Tower mayor and also served as a St. Louis County Commissioner.

That kind of leadership calls citizens to become parts of leadership teams, vitally needed to build our beautiful Tower area. Gathering together, working as teams in economic and infrastructure development, we can develop a realizable vision that when united will help us to sustain and enjoy our beautiful Tower area.

**Teams bring us beautiful industry** It is essential that leaders in these communities come together to shape the “Beautiful Tower Area” of the future. The community needs to: **► Build a team of city and township heads, council members, and township supervisors devoting themselves to meet national and global marketing needs and to work towards improving the quality of life for all residents.** This means creating new jobs and providing supportive infrastructure. **► Expand attractive services and opportunities serving tourists of all ages.** **► Build housing for new residents and workers in the beautiful north-land.** **► Build wood product industries serving the global market.** **► Build a strong industrial center serving the world, for example: Lamppa Manufacturing, that builds and markets the best wood-burning heaters in the world already, ready for production and devoted to Tower as their manufacturing center.** This development alone can bring hundreds of new jobs to Tower. **► Bringing in a solar panel (materials available here) manufacturing plant to serve an ever-growing market.** **► Assembly of sewage disposal systems that create no negative discharge into the environment, ground or air.** **► Assembly of solar water heaters and storage units that will provide hot water and home heating.** **► A Center for Research for Clean Air and Water, developing devices and materials needed to save the world from warming temperatures.** **► A business that manufactures wood furniture from our pristine wilderness.** **► And however**

many more people can imagine. **What motivates people to give their lives to create a beautiful community?** The “Beautiful Tower Area” is not a day-dream. It is our history. Let us learn from it and give the reins of leadership to the many capable people to take the place of Herb and his teams. Communities that grow their beauty thrive. A change of focus is essential for every person in this community. Past leaders focused on creating a beautiful community which brought us to where we are today. They were devoted, hard-working leaders, most of whom have volunteered thousands of hours. The new vision, carried forth by our current leaders and volunteers, will bring forward fresh beauty and growth. Tending to the effects of poor leadership is essential. Good governance gets and keeps things in order, solves problems and keeps the business of government and infrastructure well-ordered and on track. This is taking place at this very moment and will continue to expand as our desire to build beautiful community grows. But that does not lead us to growth, nor does an uninspired, uncommitted group of leaders. Our good government will enable and facilitate a new kind of economic and social development that will build a “Beautiful Tower Area.” It will not take a miracle. It will only take people who love the challenge to grow economically and socially. Positive leadership can create a critical mass in our area population, in the people who have both economic and social hope and plans to fulfill it the Tower area.



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BUSINESS NEWS

Frandsen Bank & Trust honored

REGIONAL - Frandsen Bank & Trust, with branches in Ely and Tower, was recently named one of America’s Best Banks in Minnesota by Forbes magazine. Of the nearly 5,400 banks in the United States, only 149 made the 2019 list, and only three banks from Minnesota were recognized. Frandsen Financial Corporation CEO Chuck Mausbach states, “We were thrilled to learn that the

rankings are driven entirely off of customer survey responses. What a huge compliment from our customers.” The list is a result of Forbes and a market research firm surveying over 25,000 United States customers for their opinions about current and former banking relationships. Banks were scored on satisfaction and recommendations, as well as trust, terms and condi-

tions, branch services, digital services, and financial advice. Frandsen Bank & Trust has assets in excess of \$1.7 billion and offers a complete array of business, agricultural, real estate and consumer loans, savings, and financial services, serving communities in Minnesota, Eastern North Dakota, and Western Wisconsin.

Rod and Judy Politano honored in this year's parade

Rod and Judy Politano wish to thank the Tower-Soudan and Greenwood Communities for the honor of serving as the 2019 marshals for the 4th of July Parade. It was an awesome event as usual. Our thanks to all who make it possible each year. Rod and Judy were raised in Virginia and graduated from Roosevelt High School. After graduation Rod served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1958-1962. Following his service Rod attended Virginia Junior College where he and Judy met. They married in 1965. Both earned degrees in elementary education from the University of Minnesota-Duluth.

In 1967 they moved back to Virginia and then to Everett Bay on Lake Vermilion in 1968. They happily lived, worked and raised their son and four daughters in the Greenwood and Tower-Soudan communities. They feel blessed to have made many wonderful friends in the area. They have two grandsons and three granddaughters in the Twin Cities and Florida. They are members of St. Martin’s Catholic Church and are mem-



Judy Politano and her husband Rod rode in a boat from Aronson Boat Works in the Fourth of July parade.

bers of the choir. Rod taught for 35 years, retiring in 2001. Judy taught for 27 years, retiring in 2007. Rod enjoys fishing, hunting, boating, cross-country skiing, and golfing. He has been a Greenwood volunteer fireman since April of 1978 (41 years). He has served as a first responder for the past three years. Judy enjoys many of the same activities as Rod, but adds quilting, flower gardening, Bible study, family gatherings, and reading. She was active in the Greenwood Auxiliary and is currently a member of the Greenwood Recreation Board.

THE NEWS OF THE WEEK FROM MS. VERA MILION



We hope you made it through the FOURTH unscathed and unscarred. We did not participate this year, not for any political reasons or anti-anything... we just plain forgot! In the OLDEN DAYS, the Fourth started with the bang of firecrackers, the swoosh of skyrockets, the screams of pain from small children with second-degree burns and no eyebrows because they forgot to toss the cherry bomb. People have been shooting off fireworks since April, so you really had to check the calendar to know it was the glorious FOURTH. We just thought it was another summer day! To be honest, as an older, retired person I really don’t REALLY care about the date, as long as I am in my own bed and I hear the alarm - NOT HARPS! The Fourth use to be one of the best days of summer and, except for Christmas, maybe the

best day of the year. The Hauner family, who lived down the road, always ordered a huge box of assorted fireworks - cherry bombs, bottle rockets and skyrockets. Smaller firecrackers were ignited under cans that flew as high as their barn. Our parents warned us about the danger and potential bodily harm that resulted from fireworks. “Vera, dear, a lady just doesn’t do fireworks.” This may have been the beginning of my rebellious period, that eventually led to learning how to French-inhale behind the school garage in the sixth grade. It was a nice day! Our only regret was that we didn’t build a float. We have big plans for next year! There is a problem with our future float-building project; like many retired people or at least former educators, like myself, we do not seem to be able to keep track of time. One day everyone is wearing parkas and mukluks. You blink and everyone is suddenly tan with bleached blonde hair and wearing Bermudas! We have returned to our roots, our origins, our core essences...we have become one with nature... we have started to garden! A gentleman of a certain age lives

next door and has... I believe you call it... a roto-tiller. Hilda felt that she could “cast her spell” over the gentleman but he demanded money. We have little leafy green plants pushing their way up, up to the sun— corn, radishes, cucumbers, onions— we think. We tossed the little packets away but it will make for a good surprise come harvest time. Now that we are gardeners, we are aware of Bambi et al. This week’s recipe is a bit different... however we hope you find it helpful. AUNTIE VERA’S DEER REPELLANT— NUMERO UNO This makes one gallon of spray. Beat one egg in one cup of water and use a sieve to get out white strings and those clumpy things. Add this to a one gallon jug and mark your bottle “DEER REPELLANT,” so no one tries to drink the mixture— lawsuits!

ADD 1 tablespoon of regular dish soap 1 tablespoon of cooking oil 1/2 cup of milk Fill your jug partially with water, shake to mix, and add MORE water to fill up the jug! REFRIGERATE - it can get smelly. (You have been warned!!!!) Fill your spray bottle and spray your trees, lilacs, and plants. Don’t spray on anything you want to eat. Spray after every heavy rainfall. After three or four times the deer will get the hint and quit coming. In early spring, spray in the morning so it doesn’t freeze on the plant. Well, ta, ta loves! Remember, Auntie Vera’s gardens are always open for unwanted, overgrown perennials and if you have some extra corn you can drop that off, too! Ms. Vera Milion

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For info: 1-800-450-9278

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Summer Hours through Sept. 30 Tuesday 1 p.m. - 6 p.m. Thursday 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Saturday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday 12 p.m. - 6 p.m. Recycling canisters available daily at the Greenwood Town Hall. For info: 1-800-450-9278

Bookmobile Schedule

Wednesday, July 31; Aug. 21

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

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

Northeast Range fall athletics meeting July 29

BABBITT- All students interested in participating in fall athletics at Northeast Range should attend the meeting on Monday, July 29 at 6 p.m. at the Northeast Range cafeteria. Fall sports include football, volleyball, cross country, and swimming. General athletics information will be passed out, and registration paperwork will be available. Students and parents will be able to meet with their teams and coaches after the general information session.

Tower-Soudan Class of 1969 to hold 50th reunion on Aug. 17

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Class of 1969 will gather on Saturday, Aug. 17 at 5 p.m. at the Wilderness Grill. RSVP by calling or texting Marian Greene at 612-432-1283 or Wayne Dahl at 218-290-2118.

T-S Class of 1979 plans reunion Aug. 2-3

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan class of 1979 is planning 40th reunion activities for the first weekend in August. On Friday, Aug. 2 there is a pizza mixer at the Vermilion Club at 7 p.m., followed on Saturday, Aug. 3 by dinner and sharing of memories at Benchwarmer’s at 6 p.m. It doesn’t matter if you graduated from Tower or not. If you shared a class, they want to see you! Call Bill at 218-735-8009 with any questions.

Week of July 29

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 Aug. 20. 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 vermillioncountry.org.



the TIMBERJAY

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Publisher Marshall Helmberger General Manager Jodi Summit Staff Writers Melissa Roach Stephanie Ukkola Ely Editor Keith Vandervort Cook/Orr Editor Crystal Dey Office Manager M. M. White Graphics/Ad Sales Scarlet Lynn Stone Ad Sales/Sports Jay Greeney

Official Newspaper:

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

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

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SHOP OUR ARTISANS

jewelry  
woodworking  
photography  
felted wool

4-6 PM



# Libraries

## Ely library

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

## Babbitt library

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

# Support groups

**AA - Alcoholics Anonymous**  
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. Anthony's  
Catholic Church in Ely.  
For persons who encoun-  
ter 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 Schedule

ELY - The upcom-  
ing Tuesday Group  
schedule is listed below.  
All talks are at 12 noon  
on Tuesday at the Grand  
Ely Lodge.

**July 30** - Kathryn  
Hoffman - PolyMet  
update

**Aug. 6** - Jeff  
Hanson - Clearwater  
Biologic

## Play Smear at Senior Center

ELY - Smear tour-  
naments 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 infor-  
mation, call 218-365-  
5678, or visit their  
website, [www.elycommunityhealth.org](http://www.elycommunityhealth.org) or  
Facebook page.

## Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2019



get out the bucket  
find your secret picking place

blueberry heaven

## WINDOW INTO YESTERDAY



# Bridges of Ely: A link to the past

by DAVID KESS

Ely-Winton Historical Society

ELY - While the Ely-  
Winton Historical Society  
is often referred as a  
bridge to the past—the past  
history of Ely—this article  
and current display are  
about other bridges. The  
many lakes that surround  
Ely are connected by  
rivers, and that's where  
bridges come in.

With mining came  
railroad tracks. Often  
bridges were needed to  
cross over area rivers for  
various reasons. One area  
bridge even crosses over  
a dam. Others cross over  
water to get to islands.

The earliest bridges  
were constructed entirely  
of wood, mostly logs.  
Those bearing heavy  
traffic were later replaced  
with ones of steel and con-  
crete. The current display  
in the Fine Arts Lobby of  
Vermilion Community  
College features pictures  
of old and new bridges in  
the Ely area with photos  
available at the historical  
society.

Although the Ely-  
Winton Historical Society  
office now possess in  
excess of 24,000 photos,  
only about fifteen bridge  
photos could be found.  
Washouts and the building  
of new structures captured  
some interest but too often  
bridges were something  
“just always there”—too  
ordinary—just like the  
roads connecting them.  
Vehicles drove over them  
and hurried past with  
drivers not thinking much  
about either.

Unfortunately the vast  
majority of pictures that  
come to historical society  
have no identification.  
No names, no dates, no

subjects. The staff some-  
times is able to conjure  
up names while selecting  
prints for displays such  
as the current one. Too  
often pictures come in  
large family albums or in  
box-loads of loose photos,  
unlabeled. Some are incor-  
rectly labeled or names are  
misspelled. Sorting and  
categorizing is very often  
a frustrating job.

The staff of the his-  
torical society has been  
aided in this effort by  
work-study students from  
the college. Every picture  
is digitized and assigned  
a category in a computer  
file. This enables anyone  
who wants a copy of a  
picture, be it a business or  
a family, to find it among  
our files. More than 24,000  
possibilities exist. No need  
to sort through boxes of  
unorganized pictures as it  
was some years ago.

A great debt is due to  
Margaret Sweet in keeping  
current with the many  
photos and albums that  
keep coming in. You too  
can help with this ongoing  
effort: If you notice a photo  
in a display or attached to  
one of our articles—one  
without names—please let  
us know.

But back to our  
bridges: Our new display  
shows an interesting image  
of a log bridge being built  
over the Burnside River  
Bridge on Hwy. 88 in 1912.  
There may have been  
several other improved  
later versions but the one  
constructed in the 1930s  
using steel and concrete  
was replaced during the  
past two years. It is higher  
so as to accommodate  
snow mobile traffic on  
the river.

A flood in the spring of  
1950 destroyed the Silver  
Rapids bridge. Although  
no documentation has been  
found it appears this is  
the same spring the Birch  
Lake dam and bridge were  
decimated by flood waters.


Children, especially  
ones who grew up using  
Semer's Park, know about  
the wooden bridges that  
connect the shoreline to  
the islands that are part  
of the park. Look also  
for an interesting photo  
of a walking bridge built  
in an unknown area bog.  
Perhaps someone will  
recognize it.

The first bridge at  
Silver Rapids was called  
the Eve Lake bridge. This  
lake is now called Garden

Lake. The span was made  
of interesting wooden  
suspension trusses. Older  
bridges have been replaced  
now with viaducts such  
as the one that crosses the  
Shagawa River on Grant  
McMahan Boulevard.  
Another is on Hwy. 169  
five miles west of town.  
That one crosses an old  
railroad bed now used as  
a snowmobile trail.

Two smaller bridges  
crossed over the railroad  
tracks near the railroad  
depot. One was a wooden  
one near the depot and  
another just further west  
was the Lawrence Street  
bridge. It is in a mostly  
neglected state now.  
Undoubtedly we have  
missed a few others but that  
is largely due to the fact  
that we simply do not have  
these photos. If you might  
have one of these to share,  
bring it to the historical  
society. We can make you a  
copy and immediately give  
you back your original.  
Forget not, we are Ely's  
bridge to the past.

During the summer  
months the historical  
society office and museum  
are open from noon to  
4 p.m., Tuesday through  
Saturday.



# the TIMBERJAY

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General Manager	Jodi Summit
Ely Editor	Keith Vandervort
Cook/Orr Editor	Crystal Dey
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Office Manager	M. M. White
Graphics	Scarlet Lynn Stone
Ad Sales	Jay Greeney

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

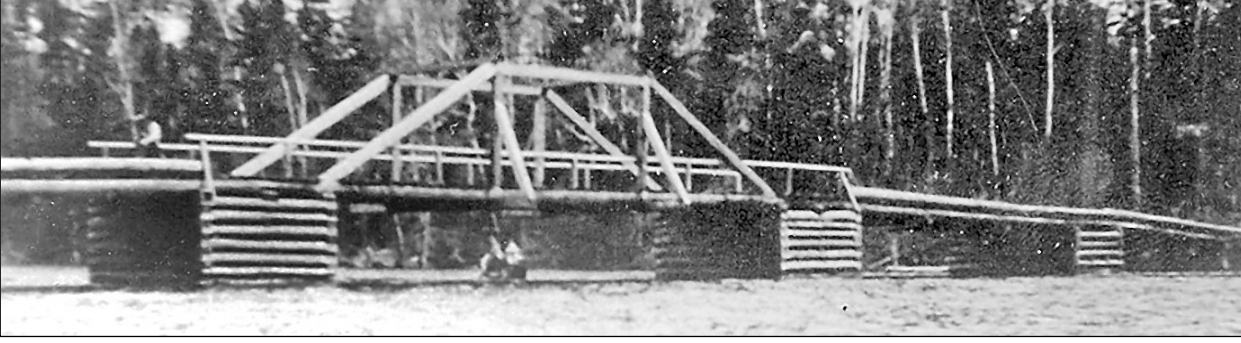
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# News in Brief

## Summer History Nights Programs

ELY – The Ely/Winton Historical Society Summer History Night schedule:

►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.

All programs begin at 7 p.m. They will be held in classroom CL 104 at Vermilion Community College.

All programs are open to the public.

## Wildlife career day is Aug. 3 in Ely

ELY - Are you interested in science, biology or working with wildlife?

Join the International Wolf Center's Wildlife Career Day on Saturday, Aug. 3, and meet local biologists, conservation officers, veterinarians and animal caretakers.

Participants will get a special behind-the-scenes tour to learn more about wolves and will even create an enrichment activity for the Ambassador wolves to try. Wrap-up the day by watching the Wolf Center's wolves being fed their weekly meal at What's for Dinner? The fee for the program is \$40. The registration deadline is Tuesday, July 31. To register, or for more information, visit <http://bit.ly/wildlifecareers>.

## Get a Taste of Slovenia on Aug. 3

ELY – The local chapter of the Slovenian Union of America will host a Taste of Slovenia event on Saturday, Aug 3, beginning at 11 a.m., at St. Anthony's Catholic Church.

A \$10 admission will cover 12 tastes of authentic Slovenian food. The event runs until 1:30 p.m. Music will be provided and authentic Slovenian items will be on display in the church hall.

A free Taste of Slovenia Polka Party will also be held that day at Amici's Event Center from 5-7 p.m.

This cultural event is sponsored by Ely Community Resource and the Northland Foundation.



ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY



From left, Reba Kissell, Mason Kurnava, Kaija Swanson and Jacob Vanderbeek, helped to stencil reminders at Ely storm water inlets Tuesday afternoon. photo by K. Vandervort

# Storm drain reminders painted in Ely

ELY - North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District, Ely Community Resources, and the fledgling Keep Ely Clean Facebook Group gathered Tuesday afternoon to conduct storm drain reminder stenciling at storm drains near Washington Elementary School.

Becca Reiss, community conservationist with the county district, held a workshop with participants in the Afternoon Adventures group at ECR and explained to them that storm drains are for rain water only, and the water is not treated in any way before flowing directly into

Miner’s Lake, Shagawa Lake and nearby wetlands.“Some people still dump used motor oil down theses drains,” Reiss said.

There are hundreds of such storm water drains around the city of Ely. ECR kids will be working on the project for the rest of the summer.

AROUND TOWN



Road construction crews are working this summer on reconstructing a portion of Pattison Street in Ely, between Central and Third Avenue. New water and sewer pipes, and sidewalks, are part of the project. photo by K. Vandervort

PRAIRE FIRE THEATRE



Prairie Fire Theatre and the Northern Lakes Arts Association recently presented “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs” at Vermilion Community College Fine Arts Theater. Snow White, played by Lucy Finnegan, is surrounded by the dwarfs, played by Oliver Hohenstein, Emory Hohenstein, Selam Houle, Katelyn Finnegan, Stella Koivisto, Lennon Brecke and Eleanor Nyquist. photo by K. Vandervort

## Ely library egg drop set for Thursday, Aug. 1

ELY - Do you think you could help safely land a human on another planet? Come to the library and learn about the principles involved with safe space landings by designing an “egg drop lander.” The event takes place at the Ely Public Library on Thursday, Aug. 1, starting at 1:30 p.m. Materials are available to test your design by building a container to help an uncooked egg land intact when dropped from the highest reach of the City of Ely’s bucket truck. This program is part of our NASA@My Library partnership. The NASA@My Library project is led by the National Center for Interactive Learning at the Space Science Institute. Partners include the American Library Association (ALA) Public Programs Office, Pacific Science Center, Cornerstones of Science, and Education Development Center. NASA@My Library is made possible through the support of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Science Mission Directorate as part of its STEM Activation program.

## News in Brief

### Fall sports meeting set for Aug. 5

ELY – Memorial High School will hold its annual fall sports registration meeting on Monday, Aug. 5, at 6 p.m. in the high school gymnasium. Students in grades 7-12 may sign up at this time for football, volleyball, boys and girls cross country and girls swimming. Dance team members will also meet at this time. Parents are strongly urged to attend this meeting to get information about practices, schedules and necessary paperwork. After a brief general meeting, each individual activity will hold its own meeting to pass along information about the upcoming fall season. In addition, please note that in order to participate, students must have, on file, record of a completed physical examination in the last three years. Please complete physicals prior to the start of practices on Aug. 12. For more information, contact your respective coach, or contact high school athletic director Tom Coombe at 218-365-6166, extension 1723, or email to , tcoombe@ely.k12.mn.us.

### Have coffee with a cop

ELY – Join members of the Ely Police Department at the Front Porch Coffee and Tea Co. on Wednesdays at 9 a.m. for Coffee with a Cop. The program was started as a community-police initiative to build relationships between law enforcement and the community they serve. “This event will provide a way to meet a police officer from the Ely Police Department in an informal and relaxed setting,” said Chief John Lahtonen. Feel free to stop by, grab a cup of coffee and have a chat with the police officer, who will have discussion topics on hand for those who just want to listen.

## Yesterday’s news, this week

from the archives of  
**THE ELY MINER**  
*Courtesy of the Ely-Winton Historical Society*

July 28, 1919

### Much forest fire danger

Forest rangers here report berry pickers have been particularly careless in the past few weeks in the matter of fire in the woods and that an unusual number of incipient forest fires have been put out before much damage has been done. The claim is made that berry pickers have left their coffee fires burning when they left the woods. The rangers also make the statement that arrests will be made unless there is more consideration shown. Notwithstanding the rains of the past week, the woods are as dry as tinder and swamps where formerly there was standing water are now dry for many feet. The lack of snow last winter is given as the cause for the lack of water in the swamps and the lowness of the water in lakes. The fire of last year should be fresh in the minds of all and every effort should be made to see that nothing like that disastrous event occurs again. The fire last year was \$28 million and 8.4 million acres burned. Campers should be very particular in regard to their campfires.

### Automobile causes death

While crossing the street near the Drug Store Saturday evening, Joseph Cardew was struck by an automobile, driven by Peter Western of Buhl, and the unfortunate man sustained injuries from the effects of which he died 24 hours later. The driver stopped his car “as rapidly as possible” after striking the man but not before the wheels had passed over him. He was taken to the Shipman Hospital where an operation and examination developed internal injuries that caused his death. Mr. Western was placed under bonds for his appearance in case he was wanted by the police. County Attorney Greene notified the local officers that an inquest would not be needed inasmuch as there was no testimony showing excessive speed and Mr. Western was released Tuesday and he left for his home that day. Joseph Cardew was 36 years old and has resided in this city for the past five years, being en employee of the Oliver Iron Mining Company. He was a member of the Ely City Band and of the Jazz Orchestra. He is survived by his mother, and other relatives in Ishpeming, Mich. The unfortunate affair has cast a deep gloom on several affected families.

**Breakfast in the Garden**  
**Saturday, August 3** from **10 am - 12 noon**  
Whiteside Park Pavilion • Art for Kids & Adults!!



**ART & TEA FOR EVERYONE!**  
Donald G. Gardner  
**Humanities Trust**  
An annual event to celebrate the creation of Ely's Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust.  
*Enriching life in Ely! - For 30 Years!*



CRANE LAKE BENEFIT

# Rooting for ‘Haakyn Strong’ 5K

## Labor Day weekend race to benefit 5-year-old boy with rare cancer



**Above: Haakyn Mohr’s brothers support him through his battle with cancer. Right: The Mohr family has participated in the Crane Lake 5K in previous years.** submitted photos

CRANE LAKE – If you want to participate in this year’s Crane Lake 5K, you better be “Haakyn Strong.”

Organizers of the Crane Lake 5K have dedicated this year’s annual event to Haakyn Mohr. Five-year-old Haakyn is battling stage 3 Wilms, a rare kidney cancer. The 5K, themed “Haakyn Strong,” will be on Sunday, Sept. 1, at 9 a.m. at Nelson’s Resort. Proceeds from the run/walk will be donated to Haakyn’s family.

Haakyn hopes to attend the event as he and his family have participated in the race in previous years, but an appearance by the little guy depends on how he is feeling. Haakyn has been undergoing weekly treatments and physical therapy to help fight neuropathy pain and toxicity in his feet and hands, which are side effects of the drugs he takes to treat the illness.

Haakyn’s mother, Tory (Driggs), said her son was diagnosed with stage 3 Wilms tumor pediatric cancer on Jan. 9 of this year. His only symptom at that time was a pale appearance for many days. As doctors

researched Haakyn’s condition, a volleyball-sized tumor was discovered attached to his left



kidney. Surgery was performed within 48 hours, effectively removing the tumor and subsequently his left kidney. The tumor had already ruptured, prompting Haakyn to undergo radiation treatments. He endured seven sessions at Abbot Northwestern as well as beginning weekly chemotherapy at

Children’s Hospital in Minneapolis.

Haakyn has lost all reflexes and struggles with some immobility in his legs and feet. It is difficult for him to maintain his weight and strength. Twice-weekly physical therapy has been prescribed. His family hopes he will not need leg braces.

Treatment efforts have grown more aggressive since Haakyn’s diagnosis. Drug dosage levels have increased. Recently the young man was administered a double-dose along with a full-dose chemotherapy session on July 10. Doctor appointments will continue through July as the family prays for clear image scans scheduled for the first week of August. A clear scan will enable a chest-port removal surgery.

Haakyn’s treatment will remain ongoing with scans and testing performed every three months for years to come. The desired outcome will be graduating to testing every six months. He will forever be a part of the Survivorship program at Children’s Hospital.



Long-term effects of Haakyn’s chemotherapy and radiation therapy will be tracked through the hospital.

Haakyn’s family has adapted to his treatment schedule. His father, Ryan, has taken time off work to help care for Haakyn. Tory has been able to continue working through the many appointments required for her son’s treatment.

The family invites you to participate in the 6th annual Crane Lake 5K to celebrate Haakyn’s strength. Haakyn’s favorite place is the family’s cabin on Crane Lake. He hasn’t been able to visit the lake this summer due to travel required for immediate medical care and treatments, however he remains hopeful he will join you at the 5K if he gets an “all

clear” in August.

To register for the race or send a donation, call Brenda Pohlman at Nelson’s Resort, 218-993-2295. Pre-registration by Aug. 18 guarantees a t-shirt. Registration fee is \$30 for the race and t-shirt or \$40 for a t-shirt alone. Race day registration will be from 8 to 8:45 a.m. at the resort. Nelson’s breakfast and lunch buffet and Bloody Mary bar will be open for refreshments.

Haakyn’s journey can be explored through his Caring Bridge website at <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/haakynmohr>. This has been a long, stressful, trying road for the Mohr and Driggs families. Please keep them in your prayers as they hope to beat cancer once and for all.

### AREA ACCOMPLISHMENTS



**Hospital trustees obtaining certification and advanced certification are recognized at the MHA Summer Trustee Conference.** submitted photo

## Cook trustee recognized by Minnesota Hospital Association

COOK – The Minnesota Hospital Association recently recognized 11 hospital trustees for completing the state’s trustee certification program. Liz Dahl of Cook Hospital and Care Center was among those praised.

The certification process prepares hospital trustees to effectively meet the growing demands of serving on a hospital board and to be strong health care and community leaders. By participating in the Minnesota Hospital Association (MHA) voluntary certification program, hospital

trustees receive training on current health care trends, governance best practices, ethics, government regulations, patient safety and quality. Participants undergo 35 hours of coursework, making Minnesota’s initiative the most comprehensive in the nation.

“In Minnesota, more and more hospital trustees are formally preparing themselves to address the complex issues facing hospitals and health systems today,” said Lawrence Massa, MHA president and CEO. “Our trustee certification program proactively

ensures that hospital leaders are equipped to make good decisions. Earning certification demonstrates a trustee’s commitment to the patients and communities the hospital serves.”

Trustees who have completed MHA board certification are eligible to participate in an additional eight hours of coursework to obtain advanced certification, which provides education to ensure excellence, innovation and accountability in health care governance. Dahl received mention for obtaining advanced

certification.

Newly certified trustees also recognized include: Keith Englund, Kevin Kopischke and Jerry Rapp of Alomere Health in Alexandria, Laura Laird of Buffalo Hospital, Jef R. Cichos with Lakewood Health System in Staples, Jon Lund of Mercy Hospital in Moose Lake, David Braun with Ridgeview Le Sueur Medical Center, Mary Ann Harty and Margie Nelsen of River’s Edge Hospital and Clinic in Saint Peter, and Michelle Elene Snyder of RiverView Health in Crookston.

## Student News

- Daniel Holman, of Orr, is among the 2018-19 graduating class of Central Lakes College, Brainerd and Staples.
- Makenzie Sokoloski, of Orr, earned placement on the St. Cloud State University’s dean’s list for academic achievement. Sokoloski is pursuing a bachelor of science degree in early childhood education from the university’s School of Education.
- Anita Leander-Flores, of Cook, earned a Certificate in Literacy Instruction from the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth.

Get  
Informed!  
Get the  
Timberjay!





COOK CONCERT SERIES

Artists perform at the Cook City Park Gazebo on Wednesday evenings. Cook’s “Music in the Park” concert series features a variety of music groups through the summer. Upcoming concert dates are: July 31, Aug. 7, 14, 21 and 28 with performances beginning at 6 p.m. Music in the Park is sponsored by the Cook Timberwolves Snowmobile Club, Snowmobiles Friends of the Arts, Cook Lions Club, Cook VFW Post 1757, VFW Auxiliary 1757, Lisa Hyppa Consulting and the Cook Fire Association. St. Paul’s Lutheran Church offers burger and brat concessions during the concerts.

submitted photo



NEWS FROM THE LAKE

Dames dish on ice cream and fish



CRANE LAKE - Didn’t we just have the Fourth of July? How can it be almost August already? Does it seem to you that summer seems to go very fast, and winter very slow?

Chris White spent the weekend at the home of Ruth Carlson. They made an appearance at Nelson’s Resort for the Fabulous Fatheads and were pleased to see all the other people who were out and about.

Word has it that fishing has been picking up, well, maybe not fishing, but CATCHING has improved. Many a tasty meal is being consumed, and shore lunch is always a treat.

You may not think a holiday is necessary to honor the ice cream cone, but July 21 was National Ice Cream Day. There are several stories about how the ice cream sundae was invented, but the most popular one had to do with ice cream sodas. Sodas were popular every day of the week, but shop owners were not allowed to sell sugary treats on Sunday. (Who do you suppose came up with that rule?) Edward Berners, who owned an ice cream parlor, got around the law by selling a customer an ice cream soda minus the soda, so it only had syrup on it. It became so popular that Berner called it a sundae

(not to be confused with Sunday). Ice cream cones were first served in the St. Louis World’s Fair in 1904. Cones came about as the result of an ice cream vendor who ran out of cardboard dishes to serve the sweet treat. He had to find something or lose business. Fortunately, he was next door to a waffle vendor who was having trouble selling waffles in the heat, so the quick-thinking ice cream guy turned them into cones by rolling them. Combining the two was apparently a big hit among visitors at the fair.

Many think that vanilla was the first ice cream flavor. However, it was really chocolate. The reason is that early ice cream was flavored with drinks such as tea, coffee or chocolate. The first known recipe for chocolate ice cream was in a 1692 cookbook published in

Naples, Italy. Ice cream came to the U.S. in 1774; it was mostly enjoyed by the wealthy until the 1800s. George Washington was a real aficionado of ice cream and spent \$200 over one summer; this would equal about \$5,000 today. George really liked his ice cream, but he didn’t have to worry about it being too cold for his teeth; they were wooden!

Zelda Bruns, who has been visiting Crane Lake, will be heading to Fargo to visit family, but then returning to Crane Lake. She is staying at the home of Mike and Linda Lang. Give her a call and say hello. She is enjoying seeing old friends.

The Dames apologize to Brenda King for not yet welcoming her as the new minister at the Crane Lake Chapel and Kabetogama. Welcome, Pastor King! She and her hus-

band have been here since the beginning of July; she is familiar with our area as an aunt and uncle owned a cabin on Sand Point Lake.

The Ladies of the Lake Luncheon is coming up Aug. 10. The luncheon is a fund-raiser for the Crane Lake Chapel; it is traditionally also a good time and a fun day for the gals. Nelson’s always serves a delicious lunch, this year the main course is fish tacos. Door prizes abound as usual and there are fantastic silent auction items and baskets of choice for raffle. Social hour begins at 11 a.m., with luncheon served at 12:30 p.m. Tickets should be purchased prior and are available at Nelson’s Resort, Handberg Marine, or by calling Jody Driggs at 320-249-4302.

*Until next week, the Teapot Dames are singing off.*

Cook-Orr Calendar

Community Events

**Saturday, July 27**  
Friends of the Cook Public Library host “Get Caught Reading” on Saturday, July 27 from 9 to 11 a.m. A children’s story time is set for 9:30 a.m. with an appearance by a moose mascot.

**Monday, July 29**  
“Your Story as Art” with Kris Musto, Monday, July 29 from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery on main street in Cook. Registration required through nwfamn.org or calling 218-666-2153 or 218-780-6510. Cost is \$40 for members; \$55 for non-members plus an additional \$5 supply fee paid the day of class. Ages 12 and older. Contact Kris at kmusto@mcad.edu or 612-325-0258.

**Tuesday, July 30**  
Northwoods Friends of the Arts hosts Tom Kesanen’s Learn to Play the Harmonica on Tuesday, July 30 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the gallery, 210 S River Street in Cook. Ages 12 to adult. Pre-registration required by calling 218-780-1151.

**Wednesday, July 31**  
Music in the Park on Wednesday, July 31 at 6 p.m. at the Cook City Park Gazebo. Beefeater

Brothers will play featuring Anna Marie. A musical variety with a nod to Patsy Cline.

**Saturday, Aug. 3**  
Cook High School classes of 1964-65 will meet on Saturday, Aug. 3 at 11:30 a.m. at The Crescent in Cook for their annual class reunion luncheon.

**Wednesday, Aug. 7**  
Music in the Park on Wednesday, Aug. 7 at 6 p.m. at the Cook City Park Gazebo. Dionysian Dithyramb Band will play a unique blend of classic rock and jam band classics.

**Thursday, Aug. 8**  
Arrowhead Library System Bookmobile, Thursday, Aug. 8: Nett Lake Community Center 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.; Crane Lake Ranger Station 11:15 a.m. to 12 p.m.; Orr Lake Country ReMax building 1:45 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.; Kabetogama Town Hall 3:15 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. For more information, visit www.alslib.info, call 218-741-3840 or write Arrowhead Library System, 5528 Emerald Ave., Mt. Iron, MN 55768.

Northwoods Friends of the Arts hosts Linda Freeman’s Rosemaling, Thursday, Aug. 8 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the gallery,

210 S River Street in Cook. Ages 11 to adult. Pre-registration required by calling 218-780-1151.

**Saturday, Aug.10**  
Ladies of the Lake will host their annual event in Crane Lake on Saturday, Aug. 10. “A Fish Story,” begins with social hour at 11 a.m. followed by a 12:30 p.m. luncheon on Nelson’s Resort in Crane Lake. Proceeds benefit the Crane Lake Chapel. Door prizes, silent auction, raffles and music will be featured. Advance tickets only, call Jody at 320-249-4302. Reservations also available through Nelson’s Resort of Handberg’s Marine.

**Wednesday, Aug.14**  
Music in the Park on Wednesday, Aug. 14 at 6 p.m. at the Cook City Park Gazebo. Robert Walker’s Outlaw Country will play a collection of originals and contemporary country.

**Friday, Aug. 16**  
Northwoods Friends of the Arts hosts Elsie Hyppa’s Native American Weaving, Friday, Aug. 16 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Cook Library. Ages 8 to adult. Pre-registration required by calling 218-780-1151.

Arrowhead Library System presents Brave

Girls & Wise Women, a storytelling event led by Rose Arrowsmith DeCoux, on Friday, Aug. 16, at 3:30 p.m. at the Cook Public Library. The 60-minute program is intended for ages 7-12.

**Meetings & Groups**

**Tuesday, July 30**  
ISD 2142 school board negotiation committee will meet Tuesday, July 30 at 9 a.m. at the district office in Virginia.

**Wednesday, Aug. 7**  
Cook Seniors meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. For more information call 218-666-2726 or 218-666-5578.

**Tuesday, Aug. 13**  
Northwoods Friends of the Arts Writers Group meets at the gallery from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

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**the TIMBERJAY**

*The Cook-Orr Timberjay* is published weekly on Friday by The Timberjay, Inc. Offices are at 414 Main St., Box 636, Tower, MN 55790 [218-753-2950] 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	Marshall Helmberger
General Manager	Jodi Summit
Staff Writers	Melissa Roach
	Stephanie Ukkola
Ely Editor	Keith Vandervort
Cook/Orr Editor	Crystal Dey
Office Manager	M. M. White
Graphics/Ad Sales/Staff Writer	Scarlet Lynn Stone
Ad Sales/Sports	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:**  
St. Louis County: \$37 year Elsewhere: \$52 year Online web-only \$29.95. We accept VISA/Mastercard/Discover. Please specify Tower/Soudan, Cook/Orr or Ely edition.

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## Co-op Point History Night, July 31, at Vermilion Community College

ELY- Co-op Point on Eagles Nest Lake One will be the focus of the Ely-Winton Historical Society's History Nights on Wednesday, July 31 beginning at 7 p.m. in classroom 104 at Vermilion Community College. This enclave of summer homes was predominately Finnish and between them, Val Myntti and Sally Koski will bring the history of the point to life and teach the audience more about the people who emigrated to Minnesota, summered on the point, and their strong Finnish cooperative connections.

Born and raised in Ely, Sally Koski is a third-generation cabin owner on Co-Op Point, Eagles Nest Lake One. She is a retired nursing professor who enjoys historical research, travel and art. She has been researching the history of Co-Op Point for the last four years.

Born in Duluth, Valerie Myntti is the granddaughter of an original owner of a cabin on Co-op Point and today resides on Eagles Nest Lake Three. She is fascinated by her family's history and memories of life in Finland and on the Iron Range. She is a retired attorney and private school administrator who loves winter, hiking, running, and traveling off the beaten track with her husband, Frank Sherman.

History Nights is offered by the Ely-Winton Historical Society each summer and features detailed lectures on a variety of historical subjects. All lectures are free and open to the public. While there is no charge, a freewill donation to the EWHHS Building Fund is gladly accepted.

## Pat and Donna Surface to play at Community Night Out, Sept. 8

EMBARRASS- Sis Heritage of Embarrass is celebrating their annual Community Night Out on Sunday, Sept. 8 from 4-7 p.m. at the historic Seitaniemi Homestead. Come for a free concert, tours of the housebarn restoration project, visiting with friends and neighbors, and good food. Chili, cornbread, homemade pie, coffee and soft drinks will be for sale, or bring your own picnic to enjoy on the lawn. There is lots of room for children to run and play. The musical entertainment will be Pat and Donna Surface of Ely.

Freewill donations are gladly accepted. All proceeds go to the restoration and upkeep of Sis's historic properties in the Embarrass area. The Seitaniemi Homestead is located on Comet Road, north off Hwy 21, in Waasa. Watch for signs. Call 218-984-3402 with any questions.

## Courtney Yasmineh reading on July 25, in concert on July 26

ELY- Songwriter and Northwoods author Courtney Yasmineh will perform a full length concert of her own songs and some of her favorite folk rock classics on Friday, July 26 at 7 p.m. at the Tofte Lake Center, 2209 Fernberg Rd. in Ely.

Yasmineh will also be at Piragis Northwoods Co. in Ely at 2 p.m. on Thursday, July 25, reading from her first novel which is based on her own adventure of living on Lake Vermilion for a winter alone as a teen in the 1970s.

She'll have her books and CDs on hand at both events for purchase and signing.

Courtney Yasmineh was raised in Chicago, but ran away to the north woods of Minnesota at seventeen and graduated from Tower-Soudan High School in 1979. She received a scholarship in creative writing and went on to graduate from Macalester College in 1983. She attributes much of her songwriting inspiration to her time in Northern Minnesota where she was introduced to the music of native Bob Dylan. She has made nine full-length albums of her own music and has toured extensively in Europe and across the USA in recent years. Yasmineh lives in Minneapolis and is the 2019 recipient of the Gaia Fellowship Award offered each year by the Tofte Lake Center.



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2-3:30pm	<b>Dorothy Molter Museum:</b> Camp KWITCHURBELIAKIN, outdoor learning, Kids 4-12. Registration recommended
2-4pm	<b>Pioneer Mine/Ely Arts &amp; Heritage:</b> Historic Ely Pioneer Mine Museum Open
4pm	<b>Historic Walking Tour:</b> Meet Your Guide in front of City Hall
5-7pm	<b>Whiteside Park:</b> Farmers Market/NLAA Artist Market
6-7pm	<b>Whiteside Park:</b> City Band Concert
5:30-6:30pm	<b>Mealey's Tiki Deck-Music:</b> Matt Fetterer & Jef Ceimiak
7-9pm	<b>Mealey's Tiki Deck-Music:</b> Gordon Thorne, Early American Blues
6-9pm	<b>Rockwood-Music:</b> Van & Free Candies
7-9pm	<b>Snowbank Lodge-Music:</b> Barb Hall

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www.ely.org

## STATE MUSIC COMPETITION

# Old Time Fiddle Championships on Saturday, Aug. 3 at Merritt Elementary

MT. IRON- The Minnesota State Old Time Fiddle Championships are in their eighth year at Mt. Iron's Merritt School Auditorium and will take place on Saturday, Aug. 3. We are so happy to be able to continue this tradition, which began 38 years ago in Cotton.

The contest is open to all U.S. and Canadian fiddlers as well as all other stringed instrumentalists. Our championship division is certified by the National Old Time Fiddlers' Association, so our State Champion will qualify to compete at the National Old Time Fiddle Championships at Weiser, Idaho. We have cash prizes for the top four fiddlers in five different age divisions. The non-fiddle and Twin Fiddle divisions are open to all ages and stringed instruments. Rules and pre-registration information can be found on our website, [www.mesabisymphonyorchestra.org/FiddleContest](http://www.mesabisymphonyorchestra.org/FiddleContest).

Contestants must register between 10:30 a.m. and noon on Aug. 3. The preliminary round starts at 1 p.m. and all contestants play two of their pieces. The final round starts at 6:30 p.m. and this round features the four top scorers from each age division. All contestants play three new pieces in the final round and this round also features twin fiddling. Both rounds are open to the public for a fee of \$8. Last year's champion, Olivia Skaja, will be returning to defend her title. Judges are Sara Pajunen of Duluth, Cristina Seaborn of St. Cloud and John Wallace of Minnetonka. For



Last year's Fiddle Contest winner Olivia Skaja will be back on Aug. 3 to defend her title. submitted photo

contestants who don't bring their own accompanist, Derek Birkeland of Duluth will be on guitar.

These activities are made possible in part by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, thanks to appropriations from the Minnesota

State Legislature's general and arts and cultural heritage funds, and in part by a grant from Lake Country Power's Operation Round-Up®.

## Crane Lake Fry for All event set for Saturday, July 27

The popular "Fry For All" is on Saturday, July 27 from 4:30 – 7 p.m. at Nelson's Resort. All you can eat walleye dinner at the beautiful beach of Nelson's Resort. Enjoy this delicious meal of fried fish (with plenty of sides) cooked over an open flame by our friendly Crane Lake Voyageur Days hosts. A complete walleye dinner for \$15 per person.

For a full schedule of events, visit [www.visitcranelake.com](http://www.visitcranelake.com).

## ATV collides with car

BABBITT — A 63-year old man was not seriously injured here when he reportedly rolled his ATV into a passenger vehicle. St. Louis County Sheriff's deputies responded to a report of a personal injury accident involving a side-by-side ATV and a passenger car at about 11:30 a.m. on Monday, July 22.

The operator of the ATV rolled the machine near 8454 Timber Bay Road and the ATV struck the passenger car. No one was injured

in the mishap, and alcohol was a contributing factor, according to the incident report.

The Babbitt Police Department, St. Louis County Rescue Squad and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources also responded to the scene.

## Two injured in crash at Hwy. 169/77 intersection

VERMILION LAKE TWP— Two people were sent to the hospital on Wednesday following a two-car crash at the junction of Hwy. 169 and County Rd. 77.

Doug Kalina, age 55, of Ely, and Kim Gorsha, age 80, of Minneapolis suffered non-life threatening injuries in the collision shortly before 11 a.m. Gorsha was traveling northbound on Hwy. 169, when she attempted to turn onto County Rd. 77 in front of an oncoming Chevy Tahoe, driven by 58-year old Dawn Kalina, also of Ely. Dawn Kalina was uninjured in the accident.

Road conditions were dry at the time. It appears that alcohol was not a factor in the incident.

## Grief education and support group begins Aug. 5

VIRGINIA- A six-week grief education and support group will be taking place this fall on Monday evenings from 6 - 8 p.m. on Aug. 5, 12, 19, 26; Sept. 9 and 16 at the Peace United Methodist Church, 303 9th Ave. S in Virginia.

Experiencing the death of a loved one can be a very difficult experience, learning about the grief process and having support from others can help a great deal. Please consider reserving your spot to participate in this six-week grief education and support group. It is open to anyone in the area who has experienced the death of a loved one. There is no cost for this group. Registration is recommended but not required.

If you have questions about this group or would like to register, please call 1-877-851-2213 or 218-749-7975 by Friday, Aug. 2. This group is sponsored and facilitated by Essentia Health St. Mary's East Range Hospice.

• Thank You •

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## TOWER BINGO Monday, Aug. 5

TOWER- Senior Bingo will be held in Tower on Monday, Aug. 5 at the Tower Civic Center from 11:45 a.m. – 3 p.m. There is a \$10 charge for the bingo party, which includes lunch. All ages are welcome to attend this community event. Lunch is served starting at 11:45 a.m., and bingo begins at 12:45 p.m. Senior Bingo is organized by the Friends of the Vermilion Country Charter School. In case of inclement weather school closure in Tower, bingo will be cancelled. Questions, call Jodi Summit at 218-753-2950.

## Upcoming dates for 2019:

Monday, September 9 (2nd Monday)  
Monday, October 7  
Monday, November 4



# PICNIC...Continued from page 1



who are not familiar, is a meaty stew cooked in large batches over an open fire. In this case, it depends on five large cast iron kettles, in which the booyah simmers all night long. Head Chef Nick Tekautz, who isn't quite sure how he inherited the title, relies on a hand-written recipe, a large crew of vegetable cutters who assemble at his house the evening before, and picnic-day help from a crew of young chefs-in-training, the youngest of whom is in his mid-50s.

Booyah, while well-known in this area, is a regional specialty, mostly prepared in northeastern Minnesota, northwestern

Wisconsin, and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Linguists speculate the word was derived from either bouillon or bouillabaisse, and originally referred to a traditional stew from Belgium. And while there is some disagreement about where it first appeared in the United States, there is no disagreement on what it refers to: a meaty stew, cooked outdoors in a large iron kettle, with lots of vegetables.

Art Lehtonen once again entertained the crowd with favorites on his accordion, often with a few preschoolers dancing to the tunes.

Fredrickson and Lee Branwall took a few

minutes to honor *The Tower News'* Phyllis Burgess, who has been attending the event since she was a young child and has been compiling local news and updates at the picnic for well over 50 years.

This year's attendance was slightly higher than last year. The large number of young children enjoying the day with their families filled the park area with playful noise.

And the tradition is certainly making its mark on some of our younger residents. Zia Jonas, waiting in line with his own pot this year, proudly noted he had bought his own membership this year.

Harlow Kultala, at a year-and-a-half, picnicked with her mother Jamie (Glavan) Kultala, grandmother Jill Besch, and great-grandmother Judy Sundahl. Five-year-old Valerie Young, from Duluth, daintily made her way up the walkway, pot in hand, to take her place in line with her grandparents Charles and Sarah Sundeen Young.

Registrations this year were once again handled by Kathy Hoppa, secretary/treasurer, and Jackie Kangas, who had help from her grandson Chad Kangas. The committee also would like to recognize the efforts of Susie and Jerry Chiabotti, managers of McKinley Park

**The 105th annual Vermilion Range Old Settlers Picnic and Reunion was held last Saturday at McKinley Park Campground.** photo by J. Summit

Campground, and staff from Breitung Township for all their assistance. Dena Suihkonen and Kristine Jonas handled the raffle and awarding of prizes and said this year's donations from local businesses were especially generous.

This year's past president was Jodi Summit. Incoming president for 2020 is Muriel Scott, with Stephen Tekautz as

first vice-president, and Matt Tuchel as second vice-president.

Save the date for the 106<sup>th</sup> Old Settlers on Saturday, July 18, 2020.

Membership in Old Settlers is open to anyone born or living on the Vermilion Iron Range. Annual dues, which fund the cost for the food, are \$6 paid in advance or \$8 at the event.

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CITY OF TOWER

Council to hold first monthly meeting at the Tower Civic Center

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER — Residents here will soon be able to attend at least one city council meeting per month in the relative comfort of the city’s Herbert R. Lamppa Civic Center.

The Tower City Council, on Monday, unanimously approved a motion to begin holding the council’s first meeting of the month— held the second Monday— at the civic center. Mayor Orlyn Kringstad had raised the idea in January, but suspended clerk-treasurer Linda Keith repeatedly told the council it was too much work to move the meeting. Councilor Sheldon Majerle had requested the item be put back on the agenda this week.

Attendance at council meetings has been standing room only since January. The city did hold one meeting at the civic center in March, which attracted an audience of about 60 people.

Councilor Mary Shedd said she had talked to current city hall staff who didn’t think the change would be a burden.

“At least on a trial basis,” Shedd said, “we can try it out.”

Shedd noted that in addition to holding the meeting in a space which is air-conditioned, it also alleviates a safety concern. With the council chambers packed wall to wall with chairs, she noted, it was a safety and security concern in case the chamber needed to be evacuated quickly.

“I like the idea of having civic engagement,” said Mayor Orlyn Kringstad. “If we are in a larger location, we will have more participation.”

The council voted to make the change starting with their Aug. 12 meeting. The second meetings of the month, which usually have a smaller agenda and more limited public attendance, will still be held in the council chambers at Tower City Hall. The council’s regular meetings are set for the second and fourth Mondays of each month

at 5:30 p.m.

In other city hall news, Interim Clerk-Treasurer Ann Lamppa let the council know that the clerk’s office will be open limited hours from Friday, July 26 through Tuesday, Aug. 7, and will be closed all day on Friday, Aug. 2. Deputy Clerk Terri Joki-Martin will be on vacation over that time, and the interim clerk only works limited hours.

Fire, ambulance vehicle storage issues

The council questioned why the ambulance and fire department were parking vehicles outdoors instead of storing them in the city storage buildings on South Second or Hoodoo Point Rd.

“It has always bothered me that since the [fire department’s] building burned down, it wasn’t replaced,” said Majerle. “We need to get those vehicles under cover.”

The fire department’s second garage, which was adjacent to the fire hall, burned down about six years ago. The city received \$140,000 in an insurance settlement, but has yet to replace the building, which was used to store excess equipment.

The ambulance service has been parking its third rig outside by the fire hall, along with the fire department’s brush rig and a rescue trailer.

Ambulance and Fire Department Chief Steve Altenburg said that parking the vehicles indoors on a gravel floor causes rust problems. He blamed \$5,000 in rust damage done to an ambulance from the fact it was parked in a storage building with a gravel floor. He also said the rig is not immediately available for a run if it’s not parked at the hall. Altenburg said that in the winter, when the third rig is not needed because call volumes are much lower, that the department parks it in the Hoodoo Point Rd. storage building, which has a concrete floor.

Altenburg said the brush rig is used in the winter to pull the trailer for the rescue snowmobile, so that is needed at the fire hall year-round.

Majerle questioned whether or not the rust damage was caused by parking the vehicle on gravel. He noted that valuable airport maintenance equipment is stored in a building with a dirt floor without any damage. Majerle wondered if road salt could be blamed for the rust.

Altenburg said the airport equipment is “meant to be outdoors” unlike the ambulance.

Altenburg told the council the garage was not rebuilt because it was already too small to hold the equipment needed.

“It didn’t make sense,” he said. “to waste \$140,000 that won’t fit everything we had before.”

The city has not had a long-term plan for the fire department since talks with Breitung Township on forming a regional department fell apart.

The council voted to form a committee, with Rachel Beldo and Mary Shedd, to look into the best short-term options for storing emergency vehicles.

The council also questioned why the department is renting two storage units, at a cost of \$85 a month, and wondered what is being stored in the units. Majerle noted that city hall did not have a key to the units, or any inventory of what was being stored in them.

Altenburg told the council that the smaller unit was used to store a \$30,000 dual SCBA tank-filler system that was supposed to be installed in the fire department garage that burned down.

“It’s a perfectly good unit,” said Altenburg, “we just don’t have a place to install it.”

He noted the department was using the filling equipment at the Breitung Fire Hall, which can fill one tank at a time. The stored unit can fill two tanks at a time.

At a fire scene, Altenburg noted, the department can refill

tanks from a portable unit that is brought to the scene.

Council members wondered if it was worth it to store the unit long-term, or if it would be better to sell the unit to another department.

“It might be dry and safe in there,” said Mayor Orlyn Kringstad, “but there is the possibility of it deteriorating. We don’t have an immediate use for it.”

The second storage unit is filled with Halloween decorations and the tent used for the Fourth of July. Council members wondered if that equipment couldn’t be moved to one of the city’s storage buildings. The decorations are mostly stored in large rubber tubs and stacked on shelving.

The council will also look into longer-term options to meet the storage needs for the fire and ambulance departments.

Other business

In other business the Tower City Council:

➤ Appointed Mary Shedd, Randy Johnson, and the clerk-treasurer to the newly-formed Hoodoo Point Campground committee.

➤ Agreed to move the deputy clerk position back to a full-time job. It is currently set at 35 hours a week. Lamppa said the amount of work that needs to be done justifies a full-time schedule. The cost to the city will be about \$9,000 annually.

➤ Voted to donate \$1,000 to the Blandin Broadband Feasibility Study. The study is being done jointly with the Laurentian Chamber and East Range Joint Powers Board. The three groups need to raise approximately \$75,000, which will be matched with a \$75,000 grant from the Blandin Foundation. The study will identify the most feasible and economical ways to bring broadband internet speeds to the area, and it will also identify private service providers that can partner with

area communities to provide the higher-speed service. Once the feasibility study is completed, the groups can apply for state and federal funding to help pay a significant portion of the actual installation costs.

➤ Heard a public thank you from Julie Horihan, who thanked the mayor and council members for taking on the challenge of “making sense out of chaos.” She noted that they all have likely taken on more than they bargained for, but wanted the elected officials to know that there are many people in the community who support what they are doing.

➤ Will work on a new policy to require that all committee/ commission monthly reports come in written form and follow a standard guideline to ensure that all council members are being kept informed and up-to-date on issues. The council had passed a similar policy several years ago, which will be looked into and updated as needed.

➤ Will need to increase public utility (water/sewer) bills by \$3.36 per year, starting in January on account of a statewide fee imposed by the Minnesota Department of Health which covers the cost of the state’s drinking water protection program. The state had not increased the fee since 2005 when it was set at \$6.36. The council had voted in June to raise water rates by \$2 per month effective in 2020 to help close the deficit in that fund.

➤ Forwarded a request from the Wee Cabin Company of Ely to get a short-term rental of the unfinished second bay in the Lamppa Building to use to construct the timber frames for their small cabins, which are then disassembled and moved to the building site for final construction. The company would just need the space on a temporary basis for a few months either in the fall or spring while their primary work space is being renovated.

TOWER...Continued from page 1

Linda Keith meant the city has been slow to receive reimbursements from those grants

The nearly \$450,000 bill was in addition to \$57,000 in two other pay estimates for the trails project, which the council did approve on Monday. “So, what we need to do is find a source to pay about \$515,000 all together,” said Mayor Orlyn Kringstad.

Adding to the financial concern is the fact that the city may not receive full reimbursement for the trails project, which was funded by a \$679,000 grant from the Legislative-Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources, or LCCMR. Nancy Larson, an experienced grant writer who has volunteered

her time to try to get the city’s grant reporting back on track, said Keith never informed the LCCMR that the city was making changes to the project, including dropping a half-mile section of bituminous biking and walking trail connecting to the Mesabi Trail.

She told the council that LCCMR officials had indicated that the city could not submit reimbursement for that portion of the grant, which amounted to approximately \$250,000. “At a minimum, there is \$250,000 that may not be reimbursed,” Larson told the council. “Right now, we’re just looking for divine intervention. Or at least some kind of intervention.”

The city could well be

stuck with a significantly higher bill. “Linda did not include the engineering fees into the overall project, which is over and above that,” said Larson. “That could be up to \$120,000,” she said, adding that SEH had charged about \$100,000 on the project to date. “And at this point we don’t know how much is going to be reimbursed because the proper procedures weren’t followed to make the amendments for the project. It’s been a real disaster as far as how it was managed. The budget numbers are way off.” To date, the city has received no reimbursement for any portion of the project due to Keith’s failure to submit timely reimbursement requests.

Kringstad said he had set up a meeting for later in the week with Rep. Rob Ecklund, DFL-International Falls, who serves on the LCCMR board, in hopes of convincing board members to give the city some leeway on reimbursements given that the council now appears focused on fixing the longstanding dysfunction at city hall.

Larson said she’s been making her own case to officials at the LCCMR. She said she’s been assured by SEH engineer Matt Bolf that he could complete the second phase of the project, which could include a shorter bituminous trail connection to the Mesabi Trail, as well as a kayak launch site and trail head, for the \$600,000 in grant funding, which would

include engineering fees. “If so, all the outcomes of the grants would be met,” noted Larson. “I’m trying to convince the LCCMR of that.” So far, however, the LCCMR has told the city to put that phase on hold until it can review the handling of the first round of funding.

Whether the city is ultimately successful in making its case or not, it appears certain it will be on the hook for at least \$120,000, and possibly more. That’s because the total project, including engineering fees, is now expected to come in at approximately \$800,000, while the original grant, which was supposed to include engineering costs, totaled \$679,000.

The city won’t receive any reimbursement, however, until it pays the bills to its contractors, including the \$450,000 bill it tabled this week. “It’s a serious problem, but the bottom line is, we’re working on it,” said Kringstad. “We’ve worked through a lot of problems already and I believe we will work through this.” Kringstad said as soon as a feasible option is developed, he will inform the council. “If we need a special meeting, we’ll call it,” he said.

In related action, the council provided signatures on two vouchers that Keith had never processed for payments to Nordic Group totaling \$125,000. “Even though they were approved by the council, vouchers were never given to the

council,” said Lamppa. “The checks were written without any vouchers. This needs to be done properly so the payments show up in the city’s books.”

Insurance coverage for destroyed laptop

Lamppa informed the council that a representative of the League of Minnesota Cities insurance trust had recently contacted her after reading a newspaper account of the destruction of a city laptop computer by the now-suspended clerk-treasurer. “He said it’s most likely covered under the insurance we have with them,” said Lamppa. “And he said we can also claim lost data,” Lamppa added, although she said it’s unclear what the value of that loss might be.

Councilor Rachel Beldo motioned to file a claim, which was quickly seconded by council member Sheldon Majerle. But council member Mary Shedd sought clarification. “Does filing for insurance reimbursement now preclude any resolution that we might pursue for the destruction of the government property?” she asked. “I wouldn’t want to narrow our options going forward.”

Kringstad said insurance companies will sometimes seek to recover funds they’ve been forced to pay out based on errors or wrongdoing of others. “I don’t know if they would do that in this case or not. It probably depends

on whether we can put a monetary value of the data loss.”

“Five hundred and fifteen thousand dollars,” quipped Majerle, prompting laughs from the room. “I don’t know if that would fly,” responded council member Steve Abrahamson.

After more discussion, Beldo withdrew her motion and the council will review the matter at their next meeting to determine the appropriate time to file an insurance claim.

Mediation set

In related business, Kringstad informed the council that the city will host a mediation session with a representative from the Minnesota Bureau of Mediation to address Keith’s union grievance. The session, which will include Keith and her union representative, is set for 9 a.m. on Wednesday, July 31, at city hall. Kringstad, acting mayor Rachel Beldo, and interim clerk-treasurer Ann Lamppa will represent the city in the talks.

Kringstad said any agreement or options that might emerge from the session would have to come back to the city council for review. “Nothing would be binding,” he said. “What would come out is a recommendation which would come back to the city in an open meeting,” he said. The session could potentially include discussion of a settlement to officially end Keith’s involvement with the city.

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# ELY...Continued from page 1

a new superintendent and explored various collaboration options with the neighboring St. Louis County School District. New superintendent Erik Erie should be on the job this fall after he completes his state licensure practicum this summer under the mentorship of Abrahamson. Collaboration efforts were considered, but are limited in scope with the remoteness of ISD 696.

ARI Principal Designer Katie Hildenbrand reviewed the secure entrance plans for the Industrial Arts building with board members. This first phase was designed in such a way as to meld seamlessly into a larger project that would include connecting the three academic buildings, plus other major components such as adding a second gymnasium and other building renovations, or to stand alone if the decision was made not to move forward with the second phase.

“This is just a portion of the project to connect the Industrial Arts building with the Washington building, and can be extended out to add additional

office space and connect the Memorial building,” Abrahamson said.

Hildenbrand said the plan concept includes the secured entrance to the Industrial Arts building by way of the courtyard. “You will have a (school day) check-in point with office space, reception area, conference room and nurses suite,” she said. Access will be ADA-compliant. Ramps will be utilized to access the Washington building and the Industrial Arts building. Demolition of the former boiler plant building, electrical infrastructure and tunnel sealing is also part of the phase one project.

“We are 99-percent complete on these plans,” she said. “You also have full architectural, structural, mechanical, electrical project plans. We have completed multiple on-site reviews. We are at the point where we can put this on the street for bidding if you choose to move forward.”

The total cost for the first phase of the building project is estimated to cost between \$1.4 million and \$1.8 million. The state grant of \$495,000 will

fund about one-third while other district funds could be tapped to cover about \$500,000-\$600,000.

The source for the balance of the phase one funding was not discussed Monday night. Voters will likely be asked to approve a bonding referendum for the second phase of the renovation project. The scope of the second phase has not been determined. The amount of borrowing or when a referendum would be put to voters has also not been decided.

No action was taken by the board at the study session. Board members will hold their next board meeting on Monday, Aug. 12.

Hildenbrand noted that state officials must review and approve the phase one plans before the project can be released for construction bidding.

## Project funding

IRRR staff members Roy Smith and Chris Ismil, along with Jeff Anderson, who works with lobbyist Gary Cerkvenik as part of the Costin Group, discussed the district’s building renovation plans.

Conducting and analyzing a community

survey to gauge the public’s support of the project appears to be the board’s next move.

Smith described the agency’s school collaboration accounts and gave examples of how other Iron Range school projects were funded by the IRRR. “The first part of the fund is for bricks and mortar,” he said, “for districts who are collaborating together, potentially consolidating, leaving old buildings and coming together to build a new building.”

Those funds are paid out over an extended period of time to pay bonds and are contingent on voters of both school districts approving a borrowing referendum. Smith referenced the recently-approved Virginia/Eveleth-Gilbert as an example.

“Other dollars have been paid out of this fund that didn’t involve collaboration, such as the Grand Rapids School District, who had some growth issues and couldn’t find anybody to partner with,” Smith said.

He stressed that Grand Rapids voters had passed a referendum to access IRRR funds. “If a ref-

erendum does not pass, our dollars would not be available.”

The other part of the fund, he called Innovative Academic Programming, is where districts come together and explore programs that benefit education-delivery systems for students. “We encourage that very much, because often times those types of collaborations lead to larger collaborations in the future,” Smith said.

He described the Nashwauk-Keewatin-Greenway-Green Rapids districts’ collaboration with Itasca Community College to offer a “career pathways” STEM initiative. “Each of those districts specialize in a certain academic area, and are actually moving students between districts,” Smith said.

Ismil stressed that Ely school district leaders must establish their path forward to help students. “That is where the community survey comes in,” he said. “Let us know what you are doing and that the community is on board with the district’s commitment to moving a project forward.”

A b r a h a m s o n

described the dilemma the district is having deciding which piece of the funding puzzle comes first—asking the public for support, then asking the IRRR to help, or securing IRRR buy-in and then asking the community to get on board.

“The public buy-in coming first is our selling point,” Ismil said. “The commissioner (Mark Philips) has said, ‘Show that the community is really behind this, and that they are willing to make the investment.’”

Ismil stressed that a community survey to gauge support should be at the top of the to-do list for the school district. “The timing of that survey could be big in terms of what we’re able to do whether you call it a phase one or phase two investment. You can’t put the cart before the horse. We need to know where the school board is at and where the community is at.”

Anderson added, “Security and buildings are important, but academics and what is happening in those buildings with the students and teachers is also a very important factor.”

# DROWNING...Continued from page 1

The incident occurred on privately-owned hunting property on the 8700 block of Hwy. 5 in Morcom Township, located north of the Side Lake area. It appears Sandberg had been mowing

grass with the tractor near a pond on the property. The skidsteer got too close to the edge causing the tractor to fall into the pond upside down, trapping Sandberg underwater, the release said.

The incident remains under investigation by the St. Louis County Sheriff’s Office with assistance by the Midwest Medical Examiner’s Office in Ramsey. The Minnesota Department of Natural

Resources, Bearville Fire Department and First Responders and Cook Ambulance assisted the sheriff’s office rescue squad during the incident.

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**(Watch for more items to be added in next week’s paper!)**





SUMMER BASEBALL

# State’s top Legion teams coming to Ely

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

## Eight-team Division II state tourney set for Aug. 2-4

ELY —Minnesota’s top small-school American Legion baseball teams will flock to Ely next weekend, bringing loads of family, friends and fans to the area. A total of 126 teams started playoff action this week, and the road to the state title will end in Ely with the final eight teams competing here in the championship round.

The Division II State tournament, hosted by the Ely Baseball Association, is set for Friday-Sunday, Aug. 2-4, at Veterans Memorial Field on the ISD 696 campus. It will be the ninth time that the state Legion tournament has been held in Ely and the first time in six years, according to Ely coach and organizing committee member Tom Coombe.

American Legion baseball is the highest level of youth baseball.



**Veterans Memorial Field, on the campus of the Ely School District, has undergone a \$45,000 facelift in recent months.**  
photo by K. Vandervort

the tournament on Friday, Aug. 2 at 7 p.m., following an opening ceremony scheduled for 6 p.m. The state title game is slated to begin at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 4.

As many as 150 players and coaches, along with families and fans, will fill motels and restaurants in the Ely area, providing a substantial economic impact. At last week’s Ely City Council meeting, Mayor Chuck Novak highlighted the impact that such tournaments have on the city. “It is not quite like the Blueberry Art/ Festival, in terms of dollars spent here, but it could equate

to the Harvest Moon Festival. This is big for Ely,” he said.

The Ely Baseball Association has been gearing up for the event, organizing and completing a renovation project costing close to \$45,000 that includes new lighting and a scoreboard, along with the installation of new netting for the first and third base areas the spring. The creation of a new paved pavilion area on the third base side with the removal of old wooden bleachers, includes new tables and chairs donated by the local Dairy Queen franchise.

Other major sponsors for the event include Twin Metals Minnesota, Steger Mukluks, Zup’s Food Market, Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation, Mesabi Bituminous/Nemanich Trucking, Fortune Bay

Resort Casino and the North American Bear Center.

According to a Facebook post, prices for an adult at the gate will be \$7 per game, \$10 per day, or \$20 for a weekend pass. Contact any Ely Legion player or coach for a ticket. Tickets will also be available at the ballpark this weekend as Ely hosts the District 8 playoffs.

Ely team members are selling \$10 passes that get spectators in to all of the games of the state tournament as well as entered into a raffle for a chance to win \$1,000 cash, Steger mukluks, a Wintergreen Designs gift card, or a \$100 gift certificate for dinner at JD Hoyt’s. These tickets are pre-sale only and will not be available at the gate. Call Tom Coombe at 218 235-1025, for more information.

### SULFIDE MINING

## PR specialist: Twin Metals’ dry stack tailings announcement is not new

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

ELY — Twin Metals Minnesota announced on Thursday that it plans to use a more modern form of tailings storage than has been permitted for the proposed PolyMet Mine near Hoyt Lakes.

Known as the dry stack method, the new approach to tailings storage would eliminate the need for a tailings pond and dam, reducing the risk of dam failure.

According to a Twin Metals press statement, dry stack tailings storage has been used successfully in four mines in the northern United States and Canada with similar climates to Minnesota and has also been permitted at two mines in the western U.S.

Twin Metals is a joint venture controlled by Antofagasta, a Chilean mining conglomerate. The proposed copper-nickel mining operation would be located along the South Kawishiwi River, a major watershed for the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. The location of the mine and its potential impact to the wilderness has been the primary focus of opponents of the Twin Metals proposal.

Mine tailings represent the crushed rock left over after target minerals are removed. According to Twin Metals, the remaining tailings will be compressed into low-moisture, sand-like deposits and stored on a lined ground facility near the plant site.

Reclamation of the tailing site can occur in stages and can be capped or covered with natural vegetation.

“Dry stack tailing storage is the most environmentally-friendly tailings management approach for our site,” said Kelly Osborne, Twin Metals CEO. “The first key is that there’s no dam, no risk of dam failure. The moisture content of the filtered tailings is reduced to a material that we can compact and manage seasonally.”

According to the company, dry stack tailings storage, often promoted by environmental groups as an alternative to conventional wet tailings as a way to protect water quality, has been an option under consideration since Twin Metals began mine planning in 2010. As technology has continued to advance, and the application of dry stack in cold, wet climates has proven successful at multiple locations, Twin Metals made the decision to move to it as the best available option.

“Dry stack is one of the ways we are making a 21st century mine that will be the most technologically-advanced mine in Minnesota’s history and a model of how copper mining can be done safely and sustainably,” said Osborne.

While environmental groups have frequently advocated for dry stack tailings storage as an improvement over wet slurry tailings management, opponents of the

Twin Metals proposal say the bigger issue is that this week’s announcement means the tailings basin will be located near Birch Lake, putting it within the watershed of the Boundary Waters. An earlier mine plan proposed by Twin Metals in 2014 called for wet slurry disposal of the tailings in a facility located in the Lake Superior watershed, which would have sent any toxic discharge into the St. Louis River rather than towards the 1.1 million-acre BWCAW.

“When the Forest Service rejected the Twin Metals proposal in 2016, their Record of Decision assumed that the tailings basin was outside the Boundary Waters watershed,” said Becky Rom, chair of the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters. “The mine itself was seen as the primary risk and this does nothing to address that concern. If anything, it makes the Forest Service’s case for rejection even stronger.”

Chris Knopf, executive director of Friends of the Boundary Waters, said the announcement did little or nothing to lessen risks to the wilderness. “This announcement is an improvement in the sense that drinking a cup of rubbing alcohol is an improvement over drinking a cup of bleach,” he said.

### Acid-generating?

Along with this week’s



**Twin Metals Minnesota said it plans to use a more modern tailings storage option known as the dry stack method.** file photo

tailings announcement, Twin Metals claimed that tailings from the Maturi Deposit will be “non-acid-generating.” The potential for acid runoff from mining operations, which are known to leach toxic metals into surface and groundwater, has been one of the primary concerns of environmental opponents of the project, but company officials now say that is based on misunderstanding.

“The common concern about sulfides points to a basic misconception about our project,” Osborne said. “The geology of the Maturi Deposit provides

us with confidence that we can mine here safely and sustainably. The rock sandwiching the layer of copper, nickel and platinum group minerals in the deposit is almost completely free of sulfides. When the targeted minerals are removed during the concentration process and shipped to customers, only a minute amount of sulfides will remain in the tailings.”

According to the company, extensive testing over the past decade shows that Maturi Deposit tailings won’t generate the acids that are typical of other sulfide-based mines.

That claim, however, is hotly-contested by mine opponents, who cite 2014 research on the subject by geophysicist David Chambers, who concluded that “most of the waste rock and pit wall rock so far studied in the Duluth Complex would contain some sulfur, mainly as the mineral pyrrhotite, a primary cause of acid mine drainage.”

A Twin Metals spokesperson cites a 2014 DNR study, “Laboratory Dissolution of Blast Hole Samples of Duluth Complex Rock from the South Kawishiwi Intrusion,” as evidence that acid levels in the Maturi deposit are too low to pose much of a risk of acid drainage.

“This is not a new claim,” Alecia Engelmeyer, a public relations specialist working on behalf of Twin Metals. “Twin Metals has known and talked publicly about this for several years, including on the website. The company is confident in its research and the results and will maintain all mining best practices to ensure that the surrounding environment and water resources are protected,” said Engelmeyer.

Twin Metals is expected to offer more details when they release a Mine Plan of Operation, which will be submitted to state and federal regulators in the coming months.

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# Blueberry/Art Festival

Ely's Premier Summer Festival

## July 26, 27 & 28



## From baby ducks to GRIZZLY BEARS



A baby wood duck fledges from its nest earlier this spring. photo courtesy of H. Pinkerton

### Heidi Pinkerton does more than capturing the Northern Lights

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – Local photographer Heidi Pinkerton began her journey in photography by capturing stunning images of the northern lights, otherwise known as the aurora borealis. Her dedication to working between sunset and sunrise, often at sub-zero temperatures, to capture the

stunning night sky has earned her an unmatched reputation.

Just six years ago, she was first accepted as a juried artist in the Blueberry/Art Festival in Ely. As part of her Root River Photography business plan, created in 2012, Pinkerton listed the acceptance in juried shows as an indication of her professionalism. “Getting your work to that caliber is a really big thing,” she

said last week as she prepared for her seventh consecutive Blueberry/Art Festival show.

“One has to meet their criteria and be good enough to be able to be part of the event,” Pinkerton said. Her work is definitely good enough.

When the 39th annual Blueberry/Art Festival opens on Friday, Pinkerton will be showcasing her photographic reputa-

tion along with the six top-artist ribbons she earned in as many years at both the Blueberry/Art Festival and Harvest Moon Festival, held here in September.

She noted that to enter prestigious art shows elsewhere in the country requires winning best-of-show ribbons at other established exhibits and events. “It is really important to be recognized to able to be part of

bigger shows,” she said.

In Ely, Pinkerton’s reputation is well-established. Her original focus on the northern lights has recently expanded into wildlife photography, from moose and Yellowstone grizzly bears, to baby wood ducks taking their first flights.

“My challenge is to find a

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# Blueberry/Art Festival

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ARTIST...Continued from page 1B

way to bring to your home what I'm seeing out there in nature or in the night sky," she said.

Making prints, and matting and framing them so they are ready to hang, is the important next step once the memory card is filled with images for download to the computer.

Pinkerton pushed the envelope of photography as art by incorporating a process that prints the images onto a thin sheet of metal. "At first, I learned everything from the beginning," she said, "from making an image, to processing the picture to printing it on canvas, to matting and framing it, to making it ready to hang."

She wasn't satisfied with the way her images were depicted with the canvas printing. "The northern lights didn't look as bright and shiny as I saw them outside," she said. "I was challenged to find something that made my photographs look more like I what I saw."

The answer was dye sublimation. "It is a high heat process that fuses the image onto the sheet of aluminum," Pinkerton explained. "Then I choose to give it a high-gloss finish, because I like the way it pops on the surface."

She admitted that not everyone prefers the modern, contemporary display option. "You can frame it if you like," she said. "Everyone has different tastes. They are my driving market."

Pinkerton also prints her photographs on greeting cards

and calendars, candle holders, and jewelry. "Two new products will be launched within the next year," she teased. "I continue to work with my customers to give them what they want."

She will also go to a customer's house or lake frontage and photograph the northern lights, if feasible, guaranteeing a one-of-a-kind image.

When she's not looking for a new angle or landscape in northern Minnesota to photograph the northern lights, Pinkerton journeys to Yellowstone National Park to photograph grizzly bears and wolf packs and any other wildlife she spots. "I do that for myself," she said. "I've been trying to get out there every year since 2008. It helps me to understand the wildlife and how they live and interact. That just fascinates me."

Pinkerton enjoyed a new experience this year that included an opportunity to photograph wood ducks as they left their nesting boxes for the first time. "Eight ducks jumped out of the boxes in less than two minutes," she said. "They hatch one day and the next day they jump out of the box. You have to be quick or you miss it."

The work of Root River Photography is currently on display in the art gallery at the International Wolf Center in Ely. Look for Pinkerton's exclusive coverage of the new wolf pups next year at the IWC. She also teaches several classes at the wolf center. Her work



Above: Pinkerton travels to Yellowstone National Park in the spring to photograph grizzly bears. photo courtesy of H. Pinkerton

Below: Pinkerton was awarded the first-place ribbon at last year's festival. file photo

is also on display at the North American Bear Center in Ely, the Duluth International Airport, and several resorts up and down Hwy. 61 on the North Shore.

Pinkerton was quick to point out her appreciation for the Ely community. "I could not have done any of this if not for the support of the people who live here," she said. "Everyone here supports me, including the businesses, the residents, the visitors, just everybody. It is truly overwhelming."



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275 OPIOID PILLS PER PERSON IN ST. LOUIS COUNTY

# Local impact of opioid crisis exposed through DEA data

by CRYSTAL DEY  
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL – Pharmacies in St. Louis County distributed an average of 275 pills of two of the most common types of opioid medications to every man, woman, and child in the county during a seven-year span, from 2006-2012.

*The Washington Post* mined a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) database of opioid transactions nationwide between those years in order to uncover how so many of these addictive drugs are finding their way into consumers’ hands. The database revealed in excess of 76 billion oxycodone and hydrocodone pills distributed nationwide and more than 100,000 opioid-related deaths during those. Health experts contend the problem has not diminished in the seven years since this data was tabulated. In fact, according to the National Institute on Health, 17,029



Americans died of prescription opioid overdoses in 2017 alone. That’s well above the approximately 14,000 Americans who died from the same cause in 2012.

In a July 21 report, *The Washington Post* said it is making the data available at the county and state levels in order to help the public understand the impact of years of prescription pill shipments on their communities. The story provides readers with perspective on how much hydrocodone and oxycodone have been released state by state, county by county. Hydrocodone and oxycodone reportedly make up only about

a third of the opioids shipped to pharmacies, according to the article. Information on the distribution of other types of opioids was not available.

Statewide, pharmacies in Minnesota supplied 841.69 million prescription pain pills during the seven-year period for which data became available. A total of 54.87 million pills went to people in St. Louis County during that period, or approximately 275 per resident of the county.

The DEA tracks each individual pain pill through manufacturers, distributors and pharmacies. The top five distributors in Minnesota were McKesson Corporation, Walgreen Co., Cardinal Health, AmerisourceBergen Drug and Wal-Mart. Walgreen Co. distributed the most opioids in St. Louis County at 16.45 million pills.

Three Walgreen store’s

in Duluth were among the five highest-ranking pharmacies, while Essentia Health in Duluth and Baron’s Pharmacy in Hibbing were also listed among the bigger distributors. The pharmacies distributing the most opioids throughout the state were Omnicare in Brooklyn Center, Pharmerica in Fridley, HCMC P-1 Pharmacy in Minneapolis and two of the Walgreens in Duluth.

Of the five leading manufacturers, Actavis Pharma, Inc. made the majority that reached St. Louis County— a total of 23.21 million pills.

Nationwide, SpecGx LLC manufactured the most in the nation followed by Actavis Pharma, Inc., Par Pharmaceutical, Purdue Pharma LP and Amneal Pharmaceuticals LLC. SpecGx manufactured 37.7 percent of the pain killers on the market, equal to 29 billion pills.

*The Washington Post* and its publisher HD Media, were granted access to the DEA’s

database after a year-long legal battle. According to the newspaper, it’s the first time such data has been released. Researchers at the newspaper analyzed almost 380 million consumer transactions, and demonstrated the growth in the use of opioid-based pain killers during the period. Pharmacies distributed 8.4 billion opioids in 2006. By 2012, that number had jumped 51 percent, to 12.6 billion pills.

Comparing per-capita data, *The Washington Post*, spotted what was described as an “opioid belt” consisting of 90 counties between Webster County, W.Va., through southern Virginia extending to Monroe County, Ky.

To view *The Washington Post*’s article and explore research into the opioid epidemic, visit [https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2019/investigations/dea-pain-pill-database/?utm\\_term=.87ec8b93801e](https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2019/investigations/dea-pain-pill-database/?utm_term=.87ec8b93801e).

## Obituaries and Death Notices



### Sheldon D. Sandberg

Sheldon Duane Sandberg, 50, of Cook, passed away as the result of an accident on Sunday, July 21, 2019, in Bear River. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, July 27 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Cook. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the church. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Sheldon was born to Merlin and Maxine (Kersting) Sandberg on May 25, 1969, in Hibbing. He attended Alango and Cook Schools, graduating in 1987. Sheldon was an athlete through school and continued to play men’s softball for years after. Sheldon enjoyed watching sports, especially watching his son Jaret. He was a Cook Youth Baseball coach for all the years Jaret played baseball.

Sheldon was united in marriage on April 24, 1999, to Taryn Holter in Cook. Together they raised two children, Jaret and Jahna, and were proud grandparents of Sheldon’s “little buddy” Grayson.

Over the years, Sheldon connected with many people whether it was serving a beer/cocktail at the Viking Bar in Bear River or filling a car’s gas tank at Russ & Mike’s Gas Station in Cook. He worked as a logger in the winter for a few years. Sheldon was a talented carpenter and had worked for a few area companies before starting his own company, Sandberg Construction & Property Services, where he connected with a lot of customers that turned into great friendships.

Sheldon enjoyed the outdoors and liked to hunt and fish, especially Canadian fishing trips to Anishinabi Lodge and Fitchie Lake. He liked to snowmobile and was a member of

the Cook Timberwolves Snowmobile Club. He enjoyed riding wheeler, pontooning with family and friends, going to the shack in Bear River and cabin on Black Duck Lake, along with vacationing in the winter to warm climates with Taryn and great friends.

Sheldon is survived by his wife, Taryn; son, Jaret (Destinie Villebrun) Sandberg and their son Grayson; daughter, Jahna Sandberg; parents, Maxine and Merlin Sandberg; brother, Brad (DeeAnn) Sandberg and their daughters Alli and Hanna; sister, Stacey (Steven) Ratai and their children Regan and Kaden; mother-in-law, Gail (Mike Gwash) Brunner; sister-in-law, Tammi Holter; many family members and a large circle of friends.

Sheldon was preceded in death by his father-in-law, James “Ding” Holter; paternal grandparents, Art and Ella Sandberg; and maternal grandparents, Archie and Clara Kersting.

### Gail Sheddy

Gail Williams Sheddy, 78, of Ely, died on Wednesday, July 3, 2019. There will be a service of gratitude to honor both Gail and her late husband Gordon in mid-September.

The place and time will be announced at a later date. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

Gail was born in Lincoln, Neb., on Sept. 3, 1940, to Mark and Dorothea Williams. After living in several Nebraska towns, her family settled permanently in Omaha where Gail attended North High School. She was educated at the University of Kansas and joined the Delta Delta Delta sorority. Afterward, she taught briefly in Kansas and then returned to Omaha to teach English and Debate for several years.

Deciding to “see the world” Gail changed careers and began a 38-year adventure with United Airlines. Beginning as a flight attendant, she quickly rose to positions of greater responsibility and considerable leadership.

Gail married Gordon Sheddy in 1968. They lived in Teaneck and Cherry Hill, N.J., as well as other locations in Pennsylvania, Minnesota, and Ohio. They became immersed in the world of Komondors, a Hungarian dog breed, quite rare at the time. They owned and bred the dogs. Gail became a well-known judge at dog shows and it was said she knew every Komondor in North

America. She traveled to London, England, to see the Crufts dog show.

After frequent vacations in the Ely area, Gail and Gordon moved to Ely in 2005, building a home in Spaulding where they lived together until Gordon died in 2018. Both Gail and Gordon became absorbed in Ely matters and organizations, with Gordon serving on the Ely City Council for two terms.

At the encouragement of Mary Brown, a legendary woman in Ely, Gail quickly became associated with and often an officer of Ely Community Resources, The Library Board, Friends of the Library, Ely-Winton Historical Society, American Association of University Women, Philanthropic Educational Organization, Northern Lakes Arts Association, and St. Mary’s Episcopal Church in the U.S.

As well as serving St. Mary’s Church in Ely as Evangelist and Administrator, Gail was elected to the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota (ECMN) for several terms. She also represented the ECMN at the National Convention of the church twice. She was a great and active supporter of her church in every way

and considered these experiences very significant.

Always enthusiastic about young people in Ely sports activities, she followed the teams, often knowing the stats of individual players. Devoted as she was to the University of Kansas basketball teams, March Madness was a sacred time, as were the days of the Westminster Dog Show in February.

All of Ely could appreciate Gail’s efforts to make the city a better place, especially for children.

Gail is survived by three nieces, Julie Cortinas and Marcia Johnson, both of Omaha, Neb., and Amy Engelhart of Turnersville, N.J.; and sister-in-law, Barbara Solly of Williamstown, N.J.

She was predeceased by her parents; husband, Gordon; and brother, Mark.

### Alan J. Rhein

Alan J. Rhein, 82, of Ely, passed away on Tuesday, July 16, 2019, at the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital. A memorial service was held

on Monday, July 22 at First Presbyterian Church in Ely. Funeral arrangements were with Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Betty; sons, Keith (Kay) Rhein of Coon Rapids and Gregory Rhein of Ely; daughter, Susan (Wayne) Karge of Anchorage, Alaska; grandchildren, Bethany (Jeff) Brunton and their daughter Olivia, Matthew Rhein and friend Julia Balestriere, Jennifer (Keith) Brown and their sons Zachary and Quinton, and Timothy Karge; sister-in-law, Phyllis Olson; and several nieces and nephews.

### James R. Maki

James Robert “Jim” Maki, 70, of Ely, died on Saturday, July 6, 2019, at his home on Burntside Lake. He was where he loved to be, doing what he loved, fishing. A gathering for Jim’s friends will be held at the Long Branch in Winton on Saturday, July 27 from 12 noon to 3 p.m. Remarks at 1 p.m. All are welcome.

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Our lives in the  
Northwoods

# Outdoors

## TAKE A KID FISHING

# Rain doesn't dampen fishing enthusiasm

TOWER— Despite a weather forecast that looked more disheartening than an empty stringer, the 10th annual Lake Vermilion Take A Kid Fishing event was a rousing success.

Over 100 kids hit the lake Wednesday with area guides from the Lake Vermilion Guides League and other volunteers for a great day of fishing. While rain eventually

cut the fishing short, you wouldn't have known from the results, as the young anglers brought back significant numbers of walleye, perch, and bass, keeping area guides busy in the cleaning shack.

The annual event is designed to introduce a new generation of anglers to the sport of fishing. Kids ages 10-15 are eligible, and those

who take part learn a lot about rules and regulations as well as helpful tips from area guides on how to fish.

Before taking off from Fortune Bay's Marina, the kids heard a talk from DNR staff about boating safety, while 1854 Treaty Authority staff demonstrated how to tie a knot and cast. There was also a booth set up to educate kids on aquatic

invasive species. The kids then spent three hours on the lake before coming back to Fortune Bay's lakeside tent for a shore lunch.

Putting on the event requires countless hours of labor and thanks to the leadership of co-chairs Cathy Rouleau and Ruby Alto, the 10th annual event was

See TAKE...pg. 7B



Young anglers seem rightfully impressed with their catch. submitted



## WILDLIFE MONITORING

# Vermilion loon count dips

## Volunteers find fewest loons on the lake in more than 25 years

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

LAKE VERMILION— It appears common loon numbers dipped this year on the east end of Lake Vermilion, based on results from the latest loon count. The Vermilion Lake Association, and its predecessor Lake Vermilion Sportsmen's Club, has been conducting the annual count with dozens of volunteers for the past 36 years.

A total of 71 counters found 195 loons on the lake during this year's count, conducted on July 15. That included 159 adults and a total of 36 chicks.

Those numbers represent a 17-percent decline over last year's tally and are the first time that the number of loons counted fell below 200 since 1992, when volunteers counted 184 loons.

"I was surprised," said Claire Zweig, who coordinates the count for the lake association. "It was a good day for counting. You could see them clearly."

Loon numbers on the lake's west end appeared stable, while the lake's east end saw a 28-percent drop— from 143 loons last year to 104 in 2019. Wildlife surveys always include some level of variability, so a single year's numbers don't necessarily suggest a declining population. It would take a few more years of similar data to draw such a conclusion.

This year's numbers, however, represent the third straight year that the loon tally has come in below the ten-year average count of 238 loons. Volunteers sighted 202 loons in 2017 and tallied 235 loons last year, before this year's substantial dip.

Minnesota is home to more common loons than all other states in the U.S. combined, except Alaska. And as the state bird, interest has long been high in

### Lake Vermilion loon count totals 2010-2019



Numbers of all loons sighted, as reported by the Vermilion Lake Association

## Dead loons test positive for West Nile virus

REGIONAL— A recent uptick in reports of dead loons and test results indicate an impact from West Nile virus (WNV), according to nongame wildlife staff at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

The Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory at the University of Minnesota confirmed WNV as the cause of death in two of three dead loons from northeastern Minnesota earlier this month. Wildlife staff are receiving a small but noticeable increase in calls from people finding dead loons in northeastern Minnesota this summer.

WNV was first confirmed in Minnesota in 2002 and was documented as a cause of loon mortality in Minnesota as early as 2005. It is not uncommon for people, animals and birds to be exposed to WNV through mosquito bites. Most people and animals successfully fight off the virus and develop antibodies against future infection. Some birds, like loons, crows

and other corvids, are especially susceptible to the infection. Researchers are attempting to discover the rates of infection among ruffed grouse.

Loons can die from a variety of illnesses and injuries and individual bird deaths are a normal occurrence and not cause for alarm.

"But when we start seeing multiple birds dying on a single lake, we want to know about it so we can start tracking the information and determine when further testing is warranted," said nongame wildlife specialist Gaea Crozier. Anyone in northeastern Minnesota who observes two or more dead loons on a single lake with no obvious injury or cause of death is asked to email Crozier at gaea.e.crozier@state.mn.us.

If reporting numbers reach a threshold that indicates a need for further testing, more information and handling protocols will follow.

## Wildflower Watch

This week's featured flower  
**COMMON YARROW**



The **Common Yarrow** *Achillea millefolium*, is one of our most widespread wildflowers in mid-to-late summer, especially along roadsides. It's easily recognized by its flat-topped flower clusters and feathery leaves, which distinguish this wildflower from the flat-topped aster, which won't be in bloom for a few more weeks yet.

This plant has long been known for its medicinal properties. The juice is reportedly helpful for the treatment of burns and bleeding.

## Fishing reports

### Ely area

Bass fishing has gone crazy on most of the area's lakes. Anglers are tossing top water baits and cranks and catching good numbers of bragging-size fish. Early and late in the day the top water baits such as Whopper Poppers and other poppers and frogs of various styles were putting fish in the boat up to 21 inches and more. Old favorites such as Hula Poppers and Jitterbugs have shown they can coax a bass out of the thickest of cover. Calm waters are not the only place these baits shine as they are still effective when there is a chop. Any disturbance in the water's surface is sure to be investigated by these voracious feeders. One might also try sub-surface cranks and spinner baits to get in on the action. Families with young children are also able to get in on the action by setting up a simple hook and bobber baited with a leech or a crawler.

Walleyes continue to please many folks as they roam shallower structure in search of food. Many are reporting good action while pulling crank baits and spinner rigs in water from four to ten feet. Some might still believe that you need to go deep in these warmer waters of summer, but this is simply not true. Much of the natural forage for walleyes are in shallow water near shorelines and submerged reef tops or at the edges of weed beds and that is where shallow running crank baits will really put fish in the boat. Some anglers are staying out after dark and pulling in impressive numbers of walleyes by dragging or casting cranks in water from five to ten feet.

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

See LOON COUNT...pg. 7B



CAUGHT AND RELEASED



Larry Dotterer, of Omaha, Neb., caught and released this beautiful 26-1/4" wall-eye while fishing White Iron Lake.

submitted



Kids practiced their casting before heading out during the Take a Kid Fishing event last week.

submitted

**TAKF...**Continued from page 6B

perhaps the best one yet.

Volunteers not only plan the event, but they sell raffle tickets to help offset expenses associated with it. After all, each participant gets a free hat, T-shirt, fishing rod and reel combo, tackle box, and other goodies.

"The guides enjoyed teaching the kids how to fish and telling stories about the times they've spent guiding on Lake Vermilion," said Fortune Bay's Brian K. Anderson. "The kids had a great time fishing and with all of the activities planned throughout the day."

Anderson said he was impressed with how the volunteers stepped up to

LAKE COUNTRY FORECASTfrom NOAA weather

Friday

83 59

Saturday

83 61

Sunday

84 56

Monday


73 49

Tuesday

73 50

Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
07/22	83	58	0.00		07/22	83	61	0.00		07/22	85	62	0.00		07/22	86	64	0.25		07/22	84	61	0.00	
07/23	87	57	0.39		07/23	87	57	0.75		07/23	87	63	0.38		07/23	82	61	0.01		07/23	87	57	0.32	
07/24	83	60	0.00		07/24	82	57	0.00		07/24	82	63	0.00		07/24	75	63	0.00		07/24	82	58	0.00	
07/25	75	63	0.05		07/25	77	61	0.05		07/25	77	65	0.47		07/25	82	63	2.30		07/25	78	63	0.25	
07/26	84	56	0.05		07/26	83	55	0.00		07/26	80	64	0.00		07/26	75	63	0.00		07/26	83	60	0.20	
07/27	80	52	0.00		07/27	79	52	0.00		07/27	75	57	0.00		07/27	79	55	0.00		07/27	78	52	0.02	
07/28	79	48	0.00		07/28	78	45	0.00		07/28	79	50	0.00		07/28	72	50	0.00		07/28	79	48	0.00	
YTD Total			9.41		YTD Total			13.04		YTD Total			9.57		YTD Total			12.03		YTD Total			10.65	

WHAT'S IN YOUR BOATHOUSE?



by ROBERT MATSON  
Columnist

My featured boat in this issue is a 1963 Glasspar Seafair Sedan fiberglass boat, owned by Gene Johnson of Bigfork. Gene has owned this boat for 44 years, and he is now 90-years old and ready to part with it. This one is nicely tricked out, and it would make a great showboat. The boat is powered by a modern 40HP outboard and also has a 6HP kicker motor. The fish painted on the side represent the lunkers he has caught over the years. It has always been stored inside and comes with a stand up drive, 2 bunks, tilt and trim, electric anchor, marine radio, depth finders, and 12 volt winch on trailer. Glasspar boats started in 1947 and were made in Costa Mesa, Calif., up until the mid-60s. Nina is for sale now and is advertised on Craigslist Duluth.

If you would like to see your boat featured here, contact me at 218-3443-5719, or email at rcmely@frontiernet.net.

LOON COUNT...

Continued from page 6B

this iconic resident of the state. In the wake of the 2010 BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, researchers have been closely watching loon numbers for signs that the incident on the Gulf could be impacting loon numbers and reproduction. Previous research has demonstrated that loons in Minnesota and Michigan were exposed to the 2010 spill, but it remains uncertain how quickly any effects from that exposure might show up in population trends and reproductive success. The Lake Vermilion loon count is one of the longest-running loon counts in Minnesota, which makes it particularly valuable for researchers watching the long-term health of the state's loon population.

Most Minnesota loons winter on the Gulf Coast, so they likely were exposed to some of the toxic byproducts of the 2010 spill. In addition, young loons from the region will frequently spend their first several years living on the Gulf. They don't return to breeding grounds on northern Minnesota lakes until they reach maturity. Zweig said she has no idea if this year's numbers suggest that Lake Vermilion is finally feeling the effects of the oil spill. She said she hears plenty of speculation about the lake's loon population. "I've kind of given up on theories," she said. On the plus side, Zweig noted that she has yet to receive any reports of dead loons on the lake this year.

Loons are good indicators of water quality because they need clean, clear water to catch food. They are also sensitive to disturbances such as lakeshore development and contaminants like mercury and lead in their environment.



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COMMUNITY NOTICES

Jumpin' Jehosafats jazz/gospel band coming to Ely July 31

ELY- The Jumpin' Jehosafats have been blending traditional jazz and Gospel for more than twenty-five years, raising money for charity and lifting spirits. The men and women of this group play a total of thirteen instruments - horns, piano, drums, strings, and flute among them, and they sing, too. They have played community concerts, prisons, riverboats, churches, nursing homes, state fairs, and homeless shelters in the Upper Midwest, and also toured Haiti and Jamaica. Based in the Twin Cities, the band includes two Elyites: Suzanne Mades on flute and Elton Brown on tuba.

The Jumpin' Jehosafats will be playing in the Whiteside Park bandshell on Wednesday, July 31 at 7 p.m. This toe-tapping free concert is a gift to the community from the Ely United

Methodist Church (where the concert will be held in case of rain). Freewill donations will be given to "Young Life" Youth Ministry in Ely. The Ely concert kicks off this year's "Annual Jumpin' Jehosafats World Tour of Northern Minnesota," with appearances the following days in Emily, Pine River, and Little Falls.

The-Class-That-Should-Have-Been Reunion, Aug. 24: Embarrass '72

PIKE TWP- County School 70 in Embarrass closed as a result of consolidation in June of 1970. The students were sent to area independent school districts in Babbitt, Virginia, and Tower-Soudan. The 60 members of the class of 1972 have not seen each other, as a whole, since 1970. During the summer of 2019 this will be rectified with The-Class-That-Should-Have-Been Reunion. Anyone

who ever attended school in Embarrass with the class that would have graduated in 1972 is also invited to the gathering. The reunion will take place on Saturday, Aug. 24 at 4 p.m. at The Shack, located at the intersection of Hwy. 169 and Hwy. 21 in Pike Township. Attendees should also note that the Embarrass Fair is scheduled for the same weekend as the reunion. Contact Ruby Parin Alto at 218-290-0680 or altodella@yahoo.com for more information.

Grief education and support group begins Aug. 5

VIRGINIA- A six-week grief education and support group will be taking place this fall on Monday evenings from 6 - 8 p.m. on Aug. 5, 12, 19, 26; Sept. 9 and 16 at the Peace United Methodist Church, 303 9th Ave. S in Virginia. Experiencing the death of a loved one can be a very diffi-

cult experience, learning about the grief process and having support from others can help a great deal. Please consider reserving your spot to participate in this six-week grief education and support group. It is open to anyone in the area who has experienced the death of a loved one. There is no cost for this group. Registration is recommended but not required. If you have questions about this group or would like to register, please call 1-877-851-2213 or 218-749-7975 by Friday, Aug. 2.

Professional wrestling on stage at Fortune Bay on Sunday

TOWER— Professional wrestling fans can get in on some live action on Sunday, July 28 at Fortune Bay. Fortunebaynia2 is set for 5 p.m. on July 28 on the outdoor stage. Some of the star power signed on to play a part in the festivities includes Sting, Booker

T, Ultimo Dragon, Super Crazy, Honky Tonk Man, Demolition, Air Wolf and King Leonidas. Everyone's favorite villain Jimmy "The Mouth from the South" Hart will also be part of the show as will Minnesota's very own Madusa. There will be many top-notch wrestlers from the Midwest taking the ring once the bell is rung at 5 p.m. If you are a general admission ticket holder, make sure to get there when the gates open at 4:30 p.m. There will be plenty of food and beverage available for purchase so please leave your coolers at home. A new twist this year will be a Q and A session in The Woodlands Ballroom the night prior to the event. Guests who bought a seat in the front two rows will get in free and all others can get in for \$10 at the door. The Q and A will last for two hours and many great wrestling stories will be told during the session.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF ELY Study Session Notice

The Study Session on Tuesday, July 30, 2019 at 5:30 pm will be dedicated to discussion of the renegotiation of the Sanitation Contract for in-town refuse and the process to enforce the Blight Ordinance. All interested parties who would like to participate are invited to attend or submit comments to City Clerk's Office, 209 E Chapman St, Ely, MN 55731, 218-226-5474, elyod@ely.mn.us.

Mayor Chuck Novak

Published in the Ely Timberjay, July 19 & 26, 2019

CALL FOR PROPANE BIDS CITY OF ORR 2019-2020 HEATING SEASON

The City of Orr is calling for sealed bids on a contract price for 13,000 gallons of propane for the upcoming heating season September 1, 2019, through May 31, 2020. Cost per gallon should reflect any additional fees or charges.

Please submit your bid to the City of Orr, PO Box 237, 4429 Hwy 53, Orr, MN 55771. Sealed bids must be received no later than 4:00 PM, Thursday, August 8, 2019, to be considered at the Orr City Council Meeting on August 12, 2019, at 7:00 PM at the Orr City Hall, 4429 Hwy 53, Orr, MN.

Cheri Carter, Clerk/Treasurer, 218-757-3288

Published in the Timberjay, July 19 & 26, 2019

CITY OF ELY NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The City of Ely is calling for interested applicants to fill the following vacancies on the

Airport Commission - 1 Mid-Term

Cemetery Committee - 2 Mid-Term

Please remit a letter of interest and qualifications by 4:30p.m. on July 31, 2019 to the Ely City Clerk's Office, 209 E. Chapman Street, Ely, MN or email casey.velcheff@ely.mn.us. Questions, please contact the Clerk-Treasurer's Office, 218-226-5449.

Casey Velcheff, Deputy Clerk

Published in the Ely Timberjay, July 19 & 26, 2019

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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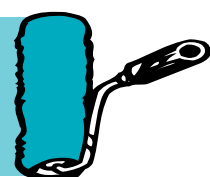








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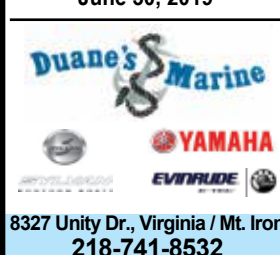
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