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the TIMBERJAY

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\$1⁰⁰



COMMUNICATIONS

Frontier, Commerce settle on service issues

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— After months of mediation, officials from Frontier Communications and the Department of Commerce have reached a stipulation agreement that is designed to settle most outstanding issues related to Frontier’s telephone service quality and billing practices.

Customers can seek refunds, but company avoids fine

The parties signed the agreement on Aug. 1, as an alternative to a contested case hearing, which would likely have consumed several more months and considerable resources on both sides.

The agreement comes nearly a year and a half after



the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission opened an investigation into Frontier following

revelations of poor service and questionable billing by the company reported in the *Timberjay* in late 2017.

The Department of Commerce, which undertook the inquiry on behalf of the MPUC, issued a scathing report on Frontier’s service quality, billing

practices, and substandard infrastructure this past January, that suggested the company was in violation of as many as 35 state laws or rules.

State regulators received more than 1,000 public comments as part of the investigation, including many that were highly-detailed and documented.

See...FRONTIER pg. 10

SUPPORTING THE ARTS



An eye to the sky

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – Packed houses filled the Vermilion Community College Fine Arts Theatre last weekend for “Looking Skyward,” a multimedia production, featuring dance, live music, poetry, photos, videos and art.

Surrounding the theme of “sky,” the four sold-out performances took audiences through a dramatic experience that began with early morning light, continued through the day, into the night, and back to dawn again.

Presented by Ely’s Reflections Dance Company under the direction of Molly

See...ART pg. 11

Multi-media arts showcase presented by Reflections Dance Company in Ely



Dance, art and poetry, shown here, along with music, photography and video, focused on the theme of looking skyward as part of a multi-media presentation by Reflections Dance Company last weekend in Ely. photos by K. Vandervort

CITY OF TOWER

New Lamppa home nears completion

Stove maker could be in new plant by Sept. 1

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER— The city council took steps here on Monday to allow Lamppa Manufacturing to finally take possession of the new manufacturing facility built for the company by the Tower Economic Development Authority.

The council appointed a four-person committee to make what all parties hope is the final walk-through of the building on Thursday, Aug. 15, at which point the city may terminate its contract with Lenci Construction and make the building available for Lamppa Manufacturing to begin producing their world-class sauna stoves and wood furnaces at the new site, located on Hwy. 135.

At Monday’s city council meeting, Lamppa plant manager Dale Horihan said the company is eager to make the move as soon as possible, preferably by Sept. 1, when the newly-revised lease is set to take effect.

“We don’t want to have production down for more than a day,” he said. “This is our busiest time of the year.”

While the city has agreed to some modifications of the building, including exchanging a fume extractor in the facility’s welding room for a different model, that work will take place after Lamppa Manufacturing moves in. According to

See... TOWER pg. 9

COOK/ORR HEALTH CARE

Hospital district proposes levy increase

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

ORR— A proposed increase in the Cook-Orr Hospital District levy was an unexpected addition to the city council agenda here on Monday night. Barb Johnson, Orr’s representative on the 15-member hospital district board, told the

council that the board is considering a \$100,000 increase in the district’s levy effective for next year.

Under the proposal, \$95,000 of the increase will go toward hospital operations, \$4,000 would be earmarked for the local ambulance services, and \$1,000 would be added to the district’s capital levy.

The hospital levied a total of

\$1.39 million in 2019, so the increase would amount to seven percent overall. But the levy would boost the portion of the levy dedicated to cover operating costs at the hospital from the \$218,000 levied this year to \$313,000 next year— an increase of 43 percent.

See...LEVY pg. 11



Cook-Orr Hospital District board members are considering a \$100,000 levy increase for next year. Timberjay file photo



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COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Ride, Raffle, 'n' Roll for ALS to be held on Saturday, Aug. 17

EMBARRASS- The Fourth Annual Ride for ALS will take place on Saturday, Aug. 17. Registration and check-in will be at the Embarrass Timber Hall from 8-10:15 a.m., a group photo will be at 10:20 a.m., and kickstands up at 10:30 a.m. Day-of registration is \$25 per rider and \$10 per passenger. The ride starts and ends at Timber Hall. Breakfast, open to the public, will go from 8 to 11 a.m. There will also be lunch, a dice roll, 50/50 pot, and rider raffle.

All proceeds benefit the ALS Association MN/SD/ND Chapter through the 2020 Black Woods Blizzard Tour. For more information, contact Travis Erickson at 218-780-8944, Matt Roggenbuck at 218-410-4737, or Char Roggenbuck at 218-290-7887.

Ruby's Pantry food distribution set for Saturday, Aug. 24

BABBITT- Ruby's Pantry food distribution will be held at the Babbitt Municipal Center, 71 South Drive in Babbitt, on Saturday, Aug. 24 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Ruby's Pantry is a monthly food distribution program that helps 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, etc. Users must bring their own bags or baskets. This event is sponsored by St. Pius X Catholic Church. See rubyspantry.org for more information.

Anderson and Ostman to lecture on Finnish foods, Sept. 3

HIBBING- At the Tuesday, Sept. 3 meeting of Finnish Americans and Friends beginning at 2 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, 4010 9th Avenue W (across from the Cinema) in Hibbing two renowned Finnish cooks, Soile Anderson (who has catered for President Obama, and the Dalai Lama), and Eleanor Ostman (*St. Paul Pioneer Press* food writer for three decades) will kick off their lecture tour. Both are icons of the Twin Cities and are designated as Finlandia lecturers of the year. They will share their expertise and stories of their backgrounds. Soile spoke no English when she arrived here but became the leading caterer in Minnesota. Anyone interested in the topic is invited.

Alango School reunion, Aug. 30

ALANGO- The yearly Alango School reunion will be from 12:30 to 4:40 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 30 at the historic school located on the corner of Hwy. 22 and County Road 25. A \$5 per person fee will go toward school upkeep and a potluck lunch will be shared. Special guests celebrating their 60th graduation year will be the class of 1959. Anyone who attended even one day at Alango is welcome to attend.

"I Went For a Walk Today," workshop held on Friday, Aug. 23

ELY- A workshop entitled "I Went For a Walk Today" will be presented by professional actors from the ongoing performance, *Nature*, for people ages six and up. Participants will explore nature themes through theater games, outdoor activities, and journaling. The workshop will be held at Ely Arts and Heritage Center on Friday, Aug. 23 at 1 p.m. and is free for the first 30 registrants. Register at ElyFolkSchool.org.

The-Class-That-Should-Have-Been Reunion, Aug. 24: Class of 1972

PIKE TWP- County School 70 in Embarrass closed as a result of consolidation in June of 1970.

The 60 members of the class of 1972 have not seen each other, as a whole, since 1970. 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 21 in Pike Township.

LIVE THEATER IN ELY



Play features friendship between Thoreau and Emerson: performances Aug. 22 -25

ELY- Ely-area and Twin Cities singers from Tiger Lion Arts will perform *Nature*, a play of the dramatic telling of the friendship between essayist Ralph Waldo Emerson and author Henry David Thoreau and their shared belief that nature is a source of spiritual respite and renewal. Performances are at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, Aug. 22 through 24 and at 1 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 24 and 25. Tickets can be purchased by visiting ElyFolkSchool.org/Nature, at Art and Soul Gallery in Ely, or at the gate. The sponsoring organizations are committed to keeping this experience affordable for all, so ticket prices are as low as possible at \$15 for adults and \$10 for children and students, with a maximum of \$50 for a family.

Audience members should dress for the weather as performances will only be postponed for unsafe conditions such as lightning or high winds. Guests should also bring portable chairs or blankets for their comfort, seats are not provided. Transportation will be provided between scenes for those unable to

walk due to limited mobility.

Nature features 16 cast members from the Minneapolis area, some of whom also perform at the Guthrie Theater. They are joined by a community chorus of 20 Ely-area singers and Mattie Lindsay, a young female actor from Ely taking the role of Emerson's daughter Elly. The local performers practice under the direction of Michael Rouse, an award-winning choral director well known for his founding of the Boundary Waters Choir Festival held in Ely each year. During the week before the show, the locals and the Twin Cities-based actors are rehearsing together to be ready for the Aug. 22 opening.

The five performances are preceded by a rollicking pre-show extravaganza with bagpipe and choral music and light refreshments for purchase, so ticket-holders will want to arrive at least half an hour early. Guests are welcome to come even earlier to enjoy a hike on the ski trails or have a picnic on the grounds near the chalet. Following the Saturday afternoon performance there will be an opportunity for the

audience to talk to cast members (including the playwright, who is a direct descendant of Emerson) about their experience with the play, its performances nationwide, and its implications for modern times.

Nature is filled with music, story, and celebration as the award-winning Minneapolis-based ensemble of actors from Tiger Lion Arts performs in scenes set in four locations among the forest and fields at Hidden Valley, just east of the city of Ely. The action unfolds around audience members as they walk along with the ensemble through the natural beauty of the late August northwoods landscape.

The Ely performance of *Nature* is the only one in the Arrowhead region. It is sponsored jointly by Ely Folk School, Northern Lakes Arts Association, Ely Arts and Heritage Center, and Raven Words Press. You can see photos and learn more about the play and the performers at the Facebook pages and websites of these organizations as well as at TigerLion.org.

Free concerts by Northern Lights Chamber Music Institute, Aug. 22, 23

REGIONAL- All are invited to free summer concerts by the Northern Lights Chamber Music Institute on Thursday and Friday, Aug. 22 and 23.

The Thursday, Aug. 22 concert at will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Cook at 7 p.m. The Friday, Aug. 23 concert will be held at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Virginia at 7 p.m.

The Northern Lights Chamber Music Institute, consisting of 30 talented international and gifted



American students of college and high school age, and the premiere Northern Lights Institute staff, will create an evening of uplifting music.

The NLCMI is an annual summer workshop where 10 days of intense chamber music studies take

place at Camp Vermilion on Lake Vermilion near Cook. The program will consist of chamber works by Bartok, Beethoven, Brahms, Dvorak, Hayden, Mendelssohn, Mozart, Ravel, Shostakovich, Smetana, and Vanhall. All participants will join

in a string orchestra at the conclusion of the concert.

The NLCMI faculty is led by violinist Young-Nam Kim, artistic director of the Chamber Music Society of Minnesota; Ariana Kim, violin professor at Cornell University; and Sally Chisholm, viola professor at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. Guest faculty includes James Jaffe of the Crowden School in San Francisco and Jane O'Hara, an active freelance cellist in the Twin Cities.



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FOREST MANAGEMENT

Cutting plan for wildlife lands sparks DNR rift

Wildlife managers say habitat needs will be shortchanged by initiative to boost harvest levels

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Thousands of acres of prime wildlife habitat in northern Minnesota could be affected as a result of a decision by the state’s Department of Natural Resources to include Wildlife Management Areas, WMAs, in an initiative to boost timber harvest in the region.

That’s according to 28 DNR wildlife managers from across the state, who signed a letter to DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen last month, outlining their concerns over what the DNR calls its Sustainable Timber Harvest Initiative, or STHI.

The DNR manages about 1.3 million acres in roughly 1,500 WMAs statewide. About 400,000 of those acres are forested, located in northern Minnesota, and those are the lands that wildlife officials worry could be most impacted by the new harvest initiative. Under the STHI adopted by former Commissioner Tom Landwehr last year, WMAs would provide about 12 percent of the goal of the DNR’s goal of 870,000-900,000

cords per year.

While the wildlife managers stated in their letter that it may be possible to meet that target, they challenge some of the ways in which the agency has portrayed the plan. “We do not believe it is scientifically honest or transparent to say that the 10-year timber plan is ‘beneficial to wildlife,’ especially on WMAs,” the managers wrote. Managers expressed concern that old forest, which benefits many species of wildlife, will be lost. And they cite cases where new harvest plans are eliminating prime oak stands, which provide key wildlife food for a number of species, and could eliminate critical winter cover for whitetail deer in places like northern St. Louis County.

“A very high percentage of older aspen stands on forested WMA land were selected to meet timber goals,” noted the letter, which discussed impacts to the Tower work area among many others. “Older aspen (50+) with a significant conifer component is critical for winter deer and moose habitat. Stands aged 40-50 years old do not develop



a balsam fir component by age 50. This rotation age and level of harvest, in the aspen coevtype, will eliminate critical habitat for wintering deer, denning and resting habitat for fisher and marten and numerous other cavity-dwellers (e.g. bats, songbirds, ducks, owls, squirrels, etc.).”

The six-page letter from managers contends that the timber harvest increase approved last year by the DNR— under pressure from the state’s wood products industry — also failed to adequately address the needs of

species that require large chunks of habitat. “Area-sensitive species need large areas, not small clumps of dispersed wildlife habitat fragments,” wrote the managers.

The wildlife professionals say they’re committed to implementing whatever harvest plans the agency ultimately approves. “However, we also feel that expression of our concerns is not only our public trust responsibility, but also is consistent with the department goals of supporting sound science, encouraging

transparency and healthy discussion, and is consistent with a culture of respect.”

The letter has certainly caught the attention of top DNR leadership in St. Paul. “It’s unusual for us to receive a memo along these lines,” acknowledged Assistant Commissioner Barb Naramore, who said she recognizes that the changes the agency has implemented have ruffled feathers with some. “This does represent a change in how we approach decision-making,” she said. “As leaders in the DNR, we appreciate that change can be difficult for people.”

But Naramore says that the DNR conducted “robust and in-depth” discussions with staff from many of the department’s disciplines in developing the STHI, and that the agency’s leadership is confident that the plan will maintain wildlife habitat and many other values of the forest that Minnesotans have come to expect. “We assume that trees will grow longer on WMAs than on other timber lands,” said Naramore. “We recognize that

See **WILDLIFE...**pg. 5

POLYMET

Gov. Walz ‘pretty firm’ on adding Glencore to permits

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Gov. Tim Walz is “pretty firm” in his belief that Glencore should be included as a named party on mining permits issued on behalf of PolyMet Mining’s planned copper-nickel mine near Hoyt Lakes. That’s according to his spokesperson Teddy Tschann,

who spoke to the *Timberjay* this week.

The governor recently met with representatives from both PolyMet and Glencore, the Swiss-based commodities brokerage that operates mines around the world. Glencore acquired a 71-percent stake in PolyMet back in June, and that move has increased pressure on state regulators and the governor

to add Glencore to the state-issued permits. So far, Glencore has not committed to take on the responsibility, under which the company would potentially be required to pledge some assets to cover eventual clean-up and mine shutdown costs.

At the same time, Tschann said the governor asked that Glencore commit to abiding by a project labor agreement signed

several years ago by PolyMet as well as allowing a union workforce if workers there support unionization. Glencore has a reputation elsewhere for hostility to unions but has noted that many of the workers in their mines are covered by collective bargaining agreements.

Walz described Glencore’s response to his requests as “measured,” but Tschann said

the governor remains confident that the two companies will eventually agree to at least some of what Walz is proposing. “I don’t anticipate they would completely reject all of his asks,” said Tschann.

At the same time, Tschann said the governor is process-oriented and understands that more

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

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OPINION

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Editorial

DNR facing fallout

Agency shouldn’t let push for higher timber targets undermine wildlife habitat

The Department of Natural Resources appears to be breaking faith with hunters, trappers, and outdoor enthusiasts of all kinds through its decision to include lands that are supposed to be managed primarily for wildlife as part of its goal for maximizing the state’s timber harvest.

Wildlife is critically important to Minnesota’s outdoor traditions, and at a time when wildlife populations are under increasing threats from climate change, habitat loss, agricultural chemicals, and more, this is the worst possible time to disregard the value of the state’s 1.3 million acres dedicated to wildlife production as part of our statewide system of Wildlife Management Areas, or WMAs.

Since the founding of the WMA program in the 1950s, the DNR has financed the acquisition of WMA lands primarily from the license fees that hunters pay or the extra donations that drivers make to acquire Critical Habitat license plates. Conservation groups and their members have donated millions of dollars and thousands of acres of land for creation and expansion of WMAs. Outdoor heritage funds, approved by voters specifically for Minnesota’s environment, are also part of the mix.

In other words, these dedicated wildlife lands exist today precisely because outdoor enthusiasts have been willing to invest in them. They didn’t do so to ensure maximum yield for the wood products industry. They did so to benefit Minnesota’s wildlife. Altering that mission in a way that undermines the very purpose of these lands is an affront to the millions of Minnesotans who have invested in these public lands and who regularly enjoy them.

We don’t mean to suggest that producing timber for harvest isn’t an important goal for the DNR. The state’s wood products industry is incredibly valuable to the northern Minnesota economy and ensuring that there is adequate supply from the state’s commercial forests to sustain the industry has long been a top focus of the DNR, and rightly so.

But Minnesota’s public lands have value that goes well beyond the production of commodities. For the vast majority of Minnesotans, the value of our forests lies in their scenic beauty and in the opportunity to see and enjoy wildlife, and it is such values that are potentially undermined by the DNR’s singular focus on increasing timber harvest.

We recognize that DNR leadership sees it differently, and believes that their plan for ramped up harvest still protects these other values. Yet, as we report this week, the people who are really in a position to know, don’t agree with the direction coming from St. Paul. A total of 28 DNR area wildlife managers recently signed a letter to DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen, expressing concern that valuable wildlife habitat is being lost in the rush to cut. And they are not just talking about lost habitat within the state’s commercial forests. They’re talking about habitat lost from WMAs, which aren’t being spared from the ramped-up cutting plan.

That should never happen. When the public invests in wildlife lands in Minnesota, it’s done in good faith, and with the expectation that wildlife production is the primary objective in the management of those lands. In forested WMAs, that certainly doesn’t preclude timber harvest, since it can be a valuable tool for wildlife managers as well. But timber harvest on WMAs should be used when appropriate for wildlife management, not when its necessary to meet an otherwise unrealistic harvest objective for industry. As we report this week, prime stands of oak, which produce some of the most valuable wildlife food, have been leveled from WMAs. Closer to home, wildlife managers cite the loss of critical conifer understory as well as denning and nest sites from aspen stands in northern St. Louis County as a result of the DNR’s recent decision to shorten aspen stand rotation, which is part of the ramped-up harvest initiative.

While the DNR is boosting harvest to help the wood products industry, let’s not forget that there’s another major industry that could be undermined by the current policies. Outdoor recreation, such as hunting and wildlife watching, is a major economic factor in Minnesota, one that’s estimated to generate a billion dollars in sales annually and to employ tens of thousands of Minnesotans.

We shouldn’t have to sacrifice quality wildlife habitat to sustain the state’s wood products industry. If the DNR wants to ramp up timber harvests, it should do so by increasing the harvest on private lands, by hiring more consulting foresters to work with private landowners. That’s where harvest levels have declined in recent years. Making up for the shortfall of timber harvest on private lands by sacrificing the mission of public lands dedicated to wildlife management is absolutely the wrong way to go.



Letters from Readers

Outstanding care at Scenic Rivers-Tower

Over the past few years I’ve been a frequent visitor to Scenic Rivers in Tower, being seen regularly for two pregnancies, the regular check-ups for my now 1.5-year-old, dental care, and other occasional ailments. Over and over I continue to be astounded by the level of care my son and I receive. I am so thankful to have quality, personalized care so near to my home.

Many of the staff know us by name. We hardly ever have to wait to be seen. When I need an appointment, I don’t have to wait days or weeks to get in. When you have a cancellation, you call me. When I’m worried, you squeeze me in. We are always greeted with a smile and receive excellent care during our visits. Scenic Rivers in Tower is by far the best clinic and dental provider I’ve ever been to. Special thanks to my regular nurse practitioner Emily Hadrava, nurse Kendra Stella, and receptionist Jurnee Wilson. You all have been so good to me and my family!

**Stephanie Ukkola
Soudan**

Good people made the difference after scammers exploited my trust

I was recently scammed. It began six months ago when I bought a two-year computer cleaning service for \$400. That service developed my trust and then scammed me. I feel like a complete, trusting fool. I found out how corrupt this world can be. ALL MY MONEY VANISHED FROM MY BANK ACCOUNT, AND I ENABLED IT.

On Thursday, Aug. 8, a little after 4 p.m., I let these people remotely enter my computer, then into my Frandsen Bank accounts. Am I nuts! The man I had trusted for six months promised me a \$300 refund because they were not able to serve me anymore. Four different people, who all gave their names, had me do different things. They dictated ID and password numbers, which I wrote down and repeated. After speaking with a man from “accounting” I was returned to the first man, who I allowed to remotely enter my computer and then my Frandsen account to deposit \$300 from his Chase account. He deposited \$1,800 dollars by mistake. He apologized for doing that. Then he brought my checking balance to zero and gave me this order: “We’ve got all your money. To get it back...” I interrupted and said, “I will not be scammed like this.” He responded, “You are in no position to argue with me. To receive your \$300 refund and your balance, you must drive to the Target parking lot in Virginia. I’ll stay on the line. Don’t hang up. There, I’ll tell you what to do next.”

In fear of losing my money, I obeyed the scammer’s slick, skillful voice and like a mind-altered subject drove 30 miles to Virginia. There he directed me to go into Target and purchase three \$500 gift cards, using my debit or credit card or a check. I entered Target and I asked the woman at the first cash register if they sold gift cards. She said, “Yes.” When I said, holding my phone to my ear, “Three \$500 dollar cards,” she looked at me and said, “Is the person on the line speaking with an accent?” I nodded. “You are being scammed. Hang up. Then call the police.”

Her words broke my hypnotic trance. I called 911 and reported the situation. The woman at the cash register, whose name I can’t remember, told me that her father had been scammed in just the same way a few weeks before and experienced the same “scamming process.” She was so helpful with her kindness, understanding and vital assistance. She is worthy of a promotion, along with the security person she called to assist her.

The Virginia police, with precision, took a brief report and sent it on to the Breitung Police Department. The scam occurred in my home in Soudan. Officer Jason Sanderson interviewed me that evening, not in judgment but with great understanding. He explained the steps I needed to take with

my computer, with Frandsen Bank and all my depositors and creditors. He provided much needed, calming help.

The next morning, in despair over the corruption of this world and my stupid vulnerability to it, I called Frandsen Bank and Trust in Tower. Susan Laine answered the phone. Her cheerful voice did not vanish when I told her about the scam.

“Have no fear Art. We’ll take care of it. I will help you. The bank will help you. The Federal Trade Commission will help you. A computer cleaning service will help you. It will take some work on all of our parts, but you will not lose any money and you will be safe from scammers.”

The next day, at her office in the bank, Susan’s words continued to bring me out of my despair, caused by scammers who victimize trusting people like me. We entered the bright sunlight of another world that functions alongside of the “scamming world.” This world is occupied by people like Susan, with her bright eyes and cheerful smile, by police like Officer Jason with his kind investigation and reporting, and by clerks like those at Target in Virginia. They saved me from scammers who care nothing about anyone, especially old people whose trust opens them to con artists who take every thing they have. I have learned how vulnerable I am to the manipulation of skillful scammers who care absolutely nothing about people. I will say NO to being terrorized and ruled by fear.

My reasons for telling my story are:

To warn people that, every day, scammers are taking people to the cleaners. Be on your guard. Hang up or delete their messages.

To always remember that the real world is dominated by people like Susan, Officer Jason and the Target clerk and millions more, including you.

To know that it is a bright and cheerful day!

And to celebrate the goodness of living and doing business in a small town.

**Art Dale
Soudan**

A ride for Ron...

Whenever we experience the loss of a loved one, we’re confronted with the pain of grief and those pesky existential questions that bubble to the surface of our busy lives. Often, we’re asked to participate in a memorial gathering where we recognize the special qualities of the person



**KATHLEEN
MCQUILLAN**

who has left us and the impact they had on our lives. It’s also the place where we’re allowed to share our sorrow.

Recently, a very dear friend of ours died rather unexpectedly. Despite his struggle with serious illness, we were stunned by his death and the empty place inside us left

family gathered for the memorial service in his honor where stories were shared that were especially focused on his commitment to serving his country and his community. It was in that shared space at the local VFW that the meaning of his life became very clear, as did the realization of what our lives would now be like without him. He was respected and loved by many. As we gathered our belongings to leave the hall, we were approached by a close mutual friend of Ron and my husband, John. Skip, a fellow

veteran, needed to share his desire to organize a “memorial ride for Ron”.

For anyone who is a motorcycle enthusiast, you know well the joy and camaraderie shared by “riders”. There is a special sense of freedom that one experiences as you cruise along on two wheels, out in the open air absorbing the varied sensations that come with viewing the land and sky. Everything from the scent of sweet clover on a warm summer breeze, the cool thermal drafts rising from a river

valley or the scorching heat from sunbaked pavement, the fleeting sight of an animal crossing a lonesome road, or the sting of raindrops from an unexpected cloudburst.

Ron had purchased a new Harley-Davidson and had begun riding again with his “band of brothers” a few years earlier — before his life was interrupted and then cut short by his unexpected illness. Skip wanted this memorial ride to bring some

See **RIDE...pg. 5**

RIDE...Continued from page 4

of Ron's closest buddies together again for no other reason than to remember the passing of an extraordinary man and a dear friend. He suggested they invite Ron's son, Michael, to ride along with them on his father's Harley Street Bob. John thought it was a great idea!

It mustn't be overlooked that Ron could sing well and played a good rhythm guitar. He loved to entertain with his outrageous humor and his rich storytelling. He was a driving force for the local ad hoc band popularly known as the "Juke Savages". Three of the would-be riders played

music with Ron every Saturday night for close to forty years. Folks would show up, often impromptu, to make music together that ran the gamut of rock, blues, folk and traditional jug band tunes. With his passing, Ron was now the fourth band member who'd left their circle, and the "missing" was intense.

A date was picked and a 10 a.m. gathering time at the VFW was set. A group of eight would travel north on Hwy. 53 to Orr and from there on to Voyageur's Lodge at Crane Lake for lunch, stories, laughter and a toast in Ron's honor.

Ron had joined the U.S. Army at the age of

17 and continued to serve throughout most of his life in both the Reserves and the National Guard. It seemed only right that the ride would be conducted in military fashion with everyone riding in formation. By all reports it was a "perfect day" — good weather, good times, no issues. Just pure and simple, important and definitely meaningful. A special way to remember a friend and help cope with the loss.

I understand this. Like most of us traveling through these later stages of life, death is no stranger. Many of our encounters with loss

began in our youth with grandparents, parents, siblings or friends, each time presenting painful opportunities to deepen our understanding of life and death. Those experiences often thrust us into a world of painful and complicated emotions, faced with "the void" created by death and discovering how to "cope", a short way of saying, the ways which help us accept its irreversibility and integrate death into the fullness of our lives. We do this in our own unique and personal ways. No one hands us a map through grief, nor are there any short cuts. Growing our understanding of life is

just plain hard work. But there are some seemingly universal strategies that human beings employ that can help.

For these eight men who rode together on that beautiful day in July, they discovered one of those strategies on their own. This ride served as their way of honoring a good friend. My hunch is that they will recall that trip to Crane Lake every now and then long into the future. Out of those memories will arise some unforgettable stories of good times with Ron that will most certainly trigger laughter, and even a little longing for those days spent hanging

out together.

My thought? This "ride for Ron" will become one of those events that will keep us talking about our friend who died too soon. To these eight men, I say, "Mission accomplished!" The recounting of your ride will add meaning to the words, "eternal life".

May you rest in peace, Ron. Thanks for the incredible ride! We miss you, man.

Thanks to John Hess for his help in writing this piece.

WILDLIFE...Continued from page 3

there is generally a desire for older trees on WMAs. We looked really hard at those habitat values as we did the analysis."

While the boost in timber harvest had been pushed primarily by the wood products industry, Naramore portrayed the change as an effort to give the agency a more consistent framework for its management decisions. In the past, different DNR work areas often had considerable flexibility in how they managed forestlands and wildlife habitat and it sometimes led to considerably different approaches. Naramore said some flexibility will still remain as field staff develop their 10-year harvest plans.

In their letter, the wildlife managers do express their concern about the loss of flexibility. While WMA acres are intended primarily for wildlife management, they have long been a part of the state's commercial timber harvest program. But managers fear they've lost control over where harvest takes place on WMAs and argue that "harvest should be employed where there will be a clear need and benefit to harvest, such as maintenance of open landscapes." They also want more say over what types of stands are subject to harvest. They say that strict area-specific goals set for some cover types, such as oak, are detrimental to wildlife habitat. The wildlife managers

also want stands identified for harvest within WMAs to be appraised and sold last, unless given a higher priority by the wildlife manager. Such an approach would likely allow wildlife managers to spare some valuable stands on WMAs if it turns out they are not needed to meet cordage goals.

Top DNR leadership in St. Paul offered a mixed message in a written response to the concerns of wildlife managers. In a July 26 reply, Commissioner Sarah Strommen acknowledged that the new harvest increase does "narrow the decision space for area managers." She added that the reduction in flexibility was done intentionally "to foster consistency, efficiency, and effectiveness in our forest management, while also reducing conflict at the field level."

Strommen argues that foresters have also seen a reduction in autonomy, while noting that some field-level discretion to make adjustments remains.

Strommen also contends that the agency's new harvest goals are designed to be adaptive and that it will be subject to a formal "check-in" after five years to evaluate short-term outcomes of modeling undertaken as part of the plan. "We will be monitoring implementation continually and seeking to learn from any issues that emerge through our established dispute reso-

lution processes," wrote Strommen. "I am confident the approach we are using will, over time, result in better outcomes for all of our forest management values."

Wildlife officials were not able to respond to comments from Strommen or Naramore. Wildlife managers have been directed not to comment to the media, but to send all questions to the St. Paul office. Some have likened the directive to a "gag order" but Naramore said the directive was intended to provide a "coherent and efficient" response to media inquiries.

A significant wildlife resource

Minnesota's WMA system is one of the largest in the U.S., and forms the backbone of the DNR's wildlife management efforts in the state. Much of the land now contained within WMAs was acquired by the DNR's wildlife division over the past 70 years, the bulk of it paid for by license fees from hunters, buyers of critical habitat license plates, and other sources of outdoor-focused recreation dollars, such as the Reinvest in Minnesota program and the Outdoor Heritage Fund. A number of conservation groups also regularly donate funds and land to create and expand WMAs.

The state's WMAs provide opportunities for

hunting, fishing, trapping, and wildlife watching, making them a valuable component of the state's billion-dollar hunting and wildlife watching industry. Hundreds of thousands of hunters use these public wildlife lands, including those seeking pheasants, waterfowl, deer, ruffed grouse, wild turkey, rabbits, and squirrels. Many more Minnesotans use the areas for other forms of outdoor recreation, particularly wildlife watching. According to the DNR, 52 percent of Minnesota residents watch wildlife, the highest participation rate in the country.

While WMAs have long been open to logging, timber harvest has been used primarily as a management tool to improve wildlife habitat. Wildlife managers acknowledge that timber harvest can be beneficial to wildlife, but not in every instance and not when valuable wildlife habitat is being lost as part of an otherwise unrelated goal to boost harvest levels.

Alarm bells

While internal grumbling over DNR policy decisions is nothing new, the letter signed by 28 wildlife managers suggests the new policy is highly troubling to those in the DNR's wildlife division. Don Arnosti, a long-time activist on forest management policy, most recently with the Minnesota Izaak

Walton League, said he can't remember another time when so many DNR officials openly took issue with official policy. "It's unprecedented in my experience that they took this step, in a way that risks their careers," said Arnosti. "In my 30-plus years of activism and in my role with numerous environmental organizations and being intimately involved with timber harvest policy, I have never seen this kind of a letter from field staff in the DNR. It's more than a yellow flag. It's a red alert."

While the DNR directive on media communications means wildlife officials are unable to talk about their concerns publicly, some retired wildlife officials have done so. Jerry Maertens, who spent 35 years with the DNR managing wildlife in northwestern Minnesota, said he shares the view of his former colleagues in the wildlife division and thinks their request for more flexibility is reasonable. "Essentially, they're just asking for more input and the ability to nix something if they don't feel it is beneficial to wildlife. Unfortunately, Strommen's memo in response didn't seem to make that available."

Wildlife officials within the DNR aren't the only ones with concerns

about the agency's shift in focus to more intensive harvest and shorter forest stand rotations. Biologists with the Leech Lake Band's Division of Resource Management raised concerns of their own in a July 17 letter to Strommen commenting on the DNR's duck management plan. "The DNR's recent move to shorten forest rotation to 40 years is very concerning and unsustainable on a number of fronts," wrote Rich Robinson, the director of the band's DRM. "Even aspen does not get large enough or start to form quality cavities for waterfowl size species until it has reached 60-plus years of age. Other tree species take even longer." Robinson argued that about three-quarters of the species found in northern Minnesota's forests do best when stands are mature and diverse and he urged the DNR to work with the band within reservation boundaries to extend rotations and promote forest diversity.

POLYMET...Continued from page 3

than a decade of work by both state regulators and PolyMet went into the environmental review and permitting. "He's not going to come in and shut the project down," said Tschann.

"If it can be done safely, he favors it."

The meeting with PolyMet and Glencore came in the wake of last week's Court of Appeals decision to put a hold on PolyMet's water discharge permit over questions about whether the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency sought to withhold critical comments by the federal Environmental Protection Agency from the administrative record that courts use to review agency decisions. Those allegations, supported at least partially by a suggestive email leaked by a union representing EPA workers, are currently the subject of both federal and state review, as well as an inquiry by the Ramsey County District Court. The

court is expected to keep the hold, or stay, on the PolyMet permit until the court completes its inquiry into the MPCA's actions.

Legislators push back

A bipartisan group of 70 lawmakers, mostly Republican, added their own take on the debate in an Aug. 6 letter to the governor. The missive was a direct response to a July 24 letter signed by 18 DFL legislators last month that asked Walz to put a hold on all of the state-issued permits for PolyMet until the state could review questions about the MPCA's permitting process as well as concerns raised in recent months over the safety of the tailings basin dam. Those concerns came in the wake of two prominent tailings dam collapses in Brazil that killed hundreds of people.

In the most recent letter, which was also signed by Iron Range DFLers David Tomassoni, Julie Sandstede, Rob Ecklund,

and Dave Lislegard, lawmakers said they "would not stand idle while misinformed legislators levy false attacks against valued industries in our state, like mining."

The letter likened the earlier letter from legislators to "throwing sand in the gears" in a last minute attempt to derail the mine project.

The lawmakers vigorously defended the MPCA. "The leaked emails mentioned in the allegations represent a snapshot in time during the drafting of the MPCA permit and in no way discredit the final permit since it met the requirements of the law and EPA did not object to its issuance," the lawmakers wrote. They also called concerns about the safety of the tailings basin dam "naïve."

"Tailings basins of similar design are ubiquitous across Minnesota's Iron Range and have never failed and are found by the thousands in other respon-

sible mining operations across the world."

The lawmakers also defended the financial assurance established by the state. "In Minnesota, state regulators control the financial assurance so any shareholder or ownership changes do not impact it. In fact, this is the very point of financial assurance laws in Minnesota."

The letter is just the latest sign of the intense pressure that the new DFL governor is facing over the controversial mine proposal. The DFL, in particular, is deeply divided over the mining of sulfide-based ore in water-rich northeastern Minnesota. While the party has long been supportive of taconite mining, copper-nickel mining poses additional risks to water quality given the differences in the geology of the rock in which the copper, nickel, and other metals are found.

Why am I paying more for my insulin?

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Learn what our industry can do to make medicine more affordable for Minnesota at [LetsTalkAboutCost.org/insulin](https://www.lets-talk-about-cost.org/insulin).



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TOWER FARMERS MARKET



Kids Day at the farmers market

Clockwise from top left: Kaija Alaspa works on a chalk drawing.

Erin Mullen blows bubbles with her mother, while sister Elizabeth smiles in the background.

Baby Sarah Engelke plays with chalk for the first time with her sister Samantha Kvistad.

Jasper Strasser was one of three drawing winners for the Tower Farmers Market Kids Day. Pictured with vendors Michelle Gunderson, who donated the prizes, and Mickey White.



Children piled in at the Tower Farmers Market last Friday for the market's first Kids Day. Vendors donated bubbles, chalk, and goodies for the kids to enjoy. A raffle was drawn. Winners were Cecilia Majerle, Jasper Strasser, and Edwin Swanson. The Tower Farmers Market is held every Friday from 4-6 p.m. at the Tower Train Depot. photos by S. Ukkola

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Little Church project days on Aug. 26, 27

VERMILION LAKE TWP- The Little Church is asking for volunteers to help with projects including caulking the siding, painting, and making shelves for the storage shed. Volunteers will be working on Monday and Tuesday, Aug. 26 and 27 starting at 10 a.m. each day. Anyone is welcome to help, even if they only have a few minutes or a few hours. The Little Church is located on Hwy. 26, next to the Pike River. Contact Len Hujanen with questions at 218-749-2014.

Retired Ely-Bloomenson employees picnic

ELY- All former Ely-Bloomenson employees from all departments are invited to come to the Whiteside Park Bandshell, in Ely, for a "Bring Your Own Sack Lunch Picnic" on Monday, Aug. 25 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Lemonade will be provided.

Come and have a great time visiting with everyone. Even if it rains, we will be under the shelter.

Defensive Driving - last eight-hour beginner class until spring

EAGLES NEST TWP- Drivers age 55 and older can save money on car insurance premiums and become a better driver. Minnesota law requires insurance companies to offer up to a 10-percent reduction for three years upon course completion. Check with your insurance agent for details. The course is two four-hour sessions of classroom which include a video, workbook and class discussion. There are no driving or test requirements. You must attend both four-hour

sessions to receive credit and a certificate of completion required by your insurance company.

The class is on Friday, Aug. 23, from 5-9 p.m. and Saturday, Aug. 24, from 8 a.m. - 12 noon at the NEW LOCATION, Eagles Nest Town Hall, 1552 Bear Head State Park Rd, Ely, MN 55731. You must attend both and they are both different from the four-hour refresher. Dana Waldron is the instructor for the class offered under AARP. Class fee is \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for Non-members. Payment is payable to the instructor on the day of class. You must pre-register so we can plan accordingly for class space and materials. Please call or text Leone Graf to pre-register at 218-343-3744. If no answer, please leave a message with your name and spelling, phone number and the class you are interested in.

is offered for drivers 55 years of age and older who have previously completed an eight-hour beginner course and who need to re-certify to continue receiving a discount on their car insurance. A certificate of completion will be given to participants to continue the 10-percent car insurance discount. Check your certificate or check with your car insurance agent to learn when you need to recertify. Dana Waldron is the instructor for the class offered under AARP. Class fee is \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-members. Payment is payable to the instructor on the day of class. You must pre-register so we can plan accordingly for class space and materials. Please text or call Leone Graf to pre-register at 218-343-3744. If no answer, please leave a message with your name and spelling, phone number, and the class you are interested in.

Defensive Driving - last four-hour refresher course until spring

TOWER- This class is on Monday, Sept. 23, at the Tower Civic Center from 1-5 p.m. Please note the new location. The four-hour refresher course

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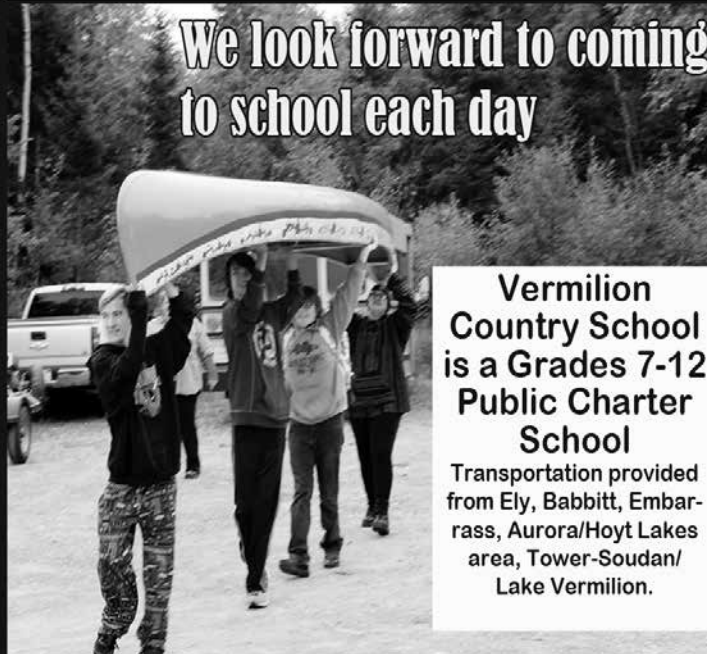
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Early Bird 6 p.m.
Progressive Prizes

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

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BREITUNG TOWNSHIP



Renovations at the Breitung Town Hall and Post Office are expected to be completed later this fall. photo by S. Ukkola

Soudan Post Office renovations underway

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA
Staff Writer

BREITUNG- Breitung residents may soon experience minor difficulties retrieving their mail. Starting this Friday, the Soudan Post Office parking lot will be leveled and repaved.

The entrance and lobby will also be undergoing construction soon, though details on dates and how customers will retrieve their mail during this time are yet to be announced. The post office will be open for business during the renovations.

After construction residents can look forward to new boxes, new wall and floor finishes, and a more easily accessible entrance. The stairs and ramp will be removed and the parking lot will be raised to door height.

Visitors to the post office are already enjoying a new outdoor window that replaced an outdated glass block window. Though, one glass panel cracked soon after installation and will have to be replaced again.

In other news at their Aug. 8 meeting, the Breitung Town Board:

- Made a \$1,000 offer of support to the local Blandin Broadband steering committee after hearing from John Bassing who asked for a financial commitment to fund a study of broadband feasibility in our area. The committee is seeking donations to match a grant from Blandin Foundation. Bassing also commented that the township’s request for grant funding for a public

computer will likely be approved shortly.

➤ Will look into a complaint about a motor home parked on the side of Puncher Point Road. The township received a similar complaint last year, the responding officer deemed the motor home was far enough off the road, considering the ten mile per hour speed limit. Last year, the issue was referred to St. Louis County Planning and Zoning who found that the road is not in its platted spot and crosses into the resident’s property, which complicates the issue. Supervisor Greg Dostert will follow up with planning and zoning.

➤ Heard that maintenance supervisor Dale Swanson found major deterioration in the last sixty feet of a storm drain that follows 1st Ave. from the township building. The drain will be repaired this summer for approximately \$3,000.

➤ Heard from chief of Breitung Fire and Rescue Steve Burgess that the department will receive a \$4,400 grant from the Minnesota DNR for personal protective equipment. The funds will be used to purchase boots for the firefighters.

➤ Heard that no area departments showed any interest in purchasing Breitung Fire’s brush truck. The board decided to keep the truck for maintenance use and to sell the skid and pump for a minimum bid of \$3,000.

➤ Heard that paving of the Lake Vermilion State Park Road has been halted after finding the cost to be \$72,000 over the initial estimate, a cost the township would

be responsible for. The township asked the state to pick up the costs and it is expected to be on the agenda of the next St. Louis County Board meeting.

➤ Approved a change order to install a light over the police garage door for \$875.

➤ Approved an invoice for \$3,738 to ARI.

➤ Accepted an agreement with Aaron Leustek to crush the township’s waste concrete.

➤ Heard that CW Winger repaired a sinking boat launch ramp at McKinley Park.

➤ Heard that McKinley Park rentals are up from last year.

➤ Changed the McKinley Park liaison from Supervisor Chuck Tekautz to Chairman Tim Tomsich.

➤ Discussed hiring a new maintenance director to replace Dale Swanson after his retirement next year. The board will post the position and plans to hire in early winter.

➤ Denied a request to plow an alleyway this winter.

➤ Acknowledged a thank you from the Old Settlers Association who recently hosted their annual picnic at the township’s McKinley Park Campground.

➤ Set Big Truck Night for Tuesday, Sept. 10 at Breitung Park. Big Truck Night is an Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) Event.

➤ The next township meeting will be Thursday, Aug. 29 at noon in the Surface Building.



New exhibit at Tower's Historic Fire Hall

The Tower-Soudan Historical Society is hosting a new exhibit about Italian immigrants who settled on the Iron Range. The exhibit is now on display in the under-renovation Tower Fire Hall on Main Street. The exhibit is on loan from the St. Louis County Historical Society in Duluth. It joins a second exhibit, highlighting women in the U.S. military, that has been on display all summer. Hours are Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. and Sunday from 12 noon - 3 p.m. A third exhibit, on the Ojibwe, is also being installed.

Pictured at left is TSHS President Doug Workman, one of the volunteers staffing the exhibit. photo by J. Summit

Red Hat Belles to meet Thursday, Aug. 22

GREENWOOD TWP- The Northern Red Hat Belles will meet on Thursday, Aug. 22 at 12 noon at Bayview for dinner and games. Call Pam Lundstrom at 218-753-3006 or Kathy Vogh at 218-753-2530 if you will be attending.

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.

Tower Farmers Market every Friday, 4-6 p.m.

TOWER- The Tower Farmers Market is now open for the season, every Friday from 4-6 p.m. at the Tower Depot - same time, same place, and same great offerings as in previous years. Throughout the season, local vendors will have fresh produce, bread, sweet baked treats, eggs, pickles, bacon, sausage, jams, jellies, BBQ sauce, wood carving, furniture, rugs, photography, jewelry, soap and much more. Hope to see you there!

Week of Aug. 19

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 vermilioncountry.org.

Call to Subscribe

(218) 753-2950

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the *TIMBERJAY*

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Bookmobile Schedule

Wednesday, Aug. 21, Sept. 11, Oct. 2, 23	
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

Transfer station

Soudan Canister		Hwy. 77 Canister	
<i>Expanded hours year-round</i>		<i>Summer Hours through Sept. 30</i>	
Monday	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Tuesday	1 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Wed.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Thursday	8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Saturday	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Saturday	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Sunday	12 p.m. - 6 p.m.
For info: 1-800-450-9278		Recycling canisters available daily at the Greenwood Town Hall. For info: 1-800-450-9278	

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,
and 7:30 p.m.
Wednesdays, 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.
Aug. 20 - Lee
Frelich - Boreal
Refugium Project
Aug. 27 - Chuck
Dayton - Review of
"Half Earth"

Play Smear
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
Thursday 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 or
Facebook page.

Breathing Out
by Cecilia Rolando © 2019

drooping off the trees
choke cherries in abundance

soon juice then jelly

the TIMBERJAY

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HISTORICAL PRESERVATION

Dorothy Molter Museum upgrades historic cabins

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - The Dorothy Molter Museum (DMM) here recently received a Culture and Tourism matching grant from the Minnesota Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation to install new temperature and moisture-resistant flooring in two of its historic 80-year old cabins.

The landmarks belonged to and house artifacts from Dorothy's actual home on Knife Lake in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW). The old vinyl flooring had crumbled due to seasonal foundation shifting, according to DMM Executive Director Jess Edberg. The cabins also needed to be leveled on the foundations.

Edberg said the \$5,000 IRRR grant was matched with an additional \$5,000 in matching funds raised through the museum foundation's Preserving the Legacy Campaign, that kicked-off last fall. "We are so thankful to receive the financial help from IRRR to help maintain these landmark cabins," she said.

Dorothy was the last non-indigenous resident of the BWCAW. A licensed nurse from Chicago, she first visited Isle of Pines resort on Knife Lake with family members in 1930 at age 23. As her annual visits with family continued, she developed a friendship with resort owner Bill Berglund based on their mutual love of the wilderness. Eventually Dorothy would reside on the island year-round to assist Mr. Berglund with resort operations and maintenance, as well as provide his nursing care as his health declined.

He passed away in 1948, and his family deeded the resort to Dorothy. She began making homemade root beer after the flight ban of 1949 and sold it to thousands of canoeists and visitors to her resort earning her the name Root Beer Lady.

Dorothy gained national media attention beginning in 1952 due to her unorthodox lifestyle, and that attention culminated with the passing of the 1964 Wilderness Act and a successful petition to the federal government urging the United States Forest Service to allow her to stay on her property until her death. She passed away at age 79 and was the last living occupant of the 2 million acre BWCAW.

The museum, located on the east end of Ely, features an interpretive center and gift shop and three of Dorothy's original cabins housing a variety of exhibits including her root-beer- making equipment. It is open daily through Labor Day and attracts approximately 5,000 visitors each season.

For IRRR Culture and Tourism grant information call Danae Beaudette at 218-735-3022.

A Northern Bedrock Historic Preservation Corps crew is at the Dorothy Molter Museum this week working on re-glazing and restoring the Point Cabin windows. "It's a neat process to help in keeping the cabins as authentic as possible," Edberg said. "This is a huge project that has been on the Museum's 'to-do' list for more than two years. Cabin roofing was completed last year, and the next big project is to replace and repair the decking outside of the cabins. Through our fund-raising campaign, we hope to establish an endowment fund for future projects and cabin maintenance."

Northern Bedrock Historic Preservation crew members are also working in the Ely Cemetery this week, involved in various restoration projects, as well as the Halfway Ranger Station.

Addison Galagan and Hanna Pilgrim work on window restoration in the Point Cabin at the Dorothy Molter Museum. photos by K. Vandervort

The flooring in the Winter Cabin at the Dorothy Molter Museum was replaced with the help of a grant from the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation.

SUPPORTING THE ARTS

Ely artists Cecilia Rolando, left, and Sarah Guy-Levar, right, demonstrate watercolor art techniques at the recent Watercolor Art Show held at Miner's Dry. photos by K. Vandervort

WATER SPORTS



Fall Lake, off the shores of the Longbranch in Winton, was the site of the 14th annual Snowmobile Watercross Race weekend, Aug. 10-11. Dubbed the “Fastest Show on H2O,” racers from several midwestern states competed in the officially-sanctioned International Watercross Association event. Racers competed head-to-head, above, and in timed events. Some racers, right, needed a hand to return to dry land. photos by K. Vandervort



News In Brief

Retired hospital employees picnic

ELY- All former Ely-Bloomenson employees from all departments are invited to Ely’s Whiteside Park for a “Bring Your Own Sack Lunch Picnic” on Monday, Aug. 25 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lemonade will be provided.

Come and have a great time visiting with everyone. Even if it rains, we will be under the shelter.

Yesterday’s news, this week

from the archives of

THE ELY MINER

Courtesy of the Ely-Winton Historical Society

August 15, 1919

County Board helps out

In view of the payments made by the federal government to the county board on road improvements and construction done in the area of the Superior National Forest, the county board of commissioners voted \$1,581 to be used for the improvement of the highway between Ely and Virginia.

Another appropriation of \$1,000 was made for the use of the St. Louis County Club, or its successors, in the work of advertising the agricultural resources of the county and promoting its lakes, forest and other natural resources.

This latter appropriation was made on the urgent request by President Geo. L. Brozich of the Ely Commercial Club, who in a communication to the board, told of the exhibit which the National Forest will stage at the State Fair in connection with the Commercial Club exhibit.

Alien’s income books

All persons who are planning to go to foreign countries, particularly aliens, must obtain data as to their earnings for the years 1917, 1918 and 1919 before applying for their income tax exemption certificates according to Philip Altman, deputy collector of internal revenue in Duluth.

An average of 10 aliens are making application each day for exemption certificates and in many instances the applicants are unfamiliar with their income figures for the last years, he said.

Advices received from the department at Washington suggest that those planning on foreign departures should obtain their exemption certificates in their home district in order to obviate the delay which would result by waiting until the port of embarkation is reached.

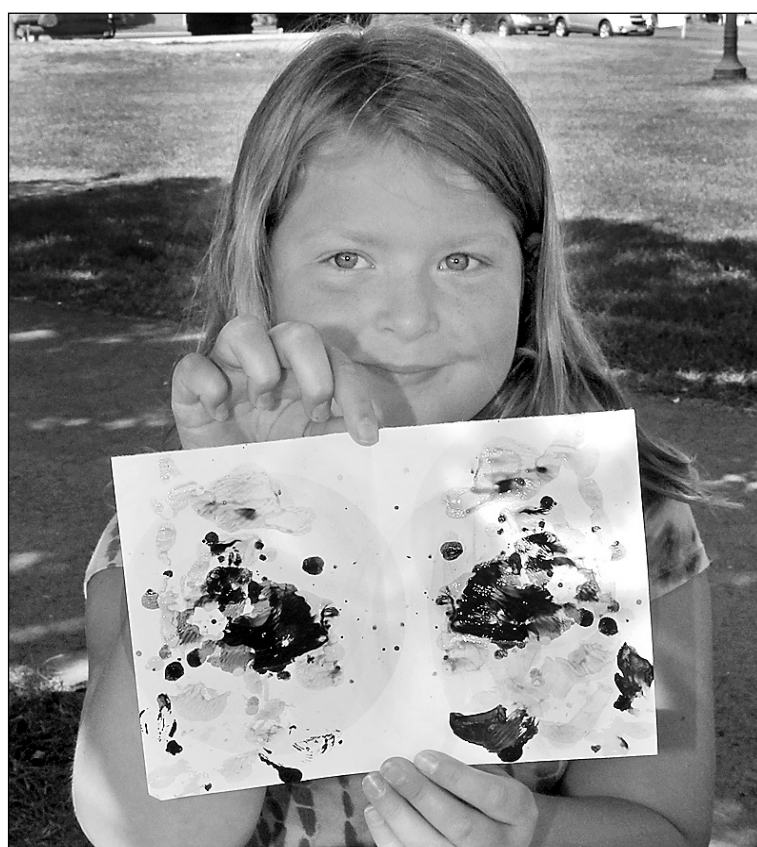
Loan approved

The \$100,000 loan asked of the state trust funds for the building of a technical school and putting an addition to the Ely Lincoln School was approved by the investment board last Thursday.

SUPPORTING THE ARTS



The annual Breakfast in the Garden event, hosted by the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust, was held last weekend in Whiteside Park. Supporters and budding artists had the opportunity to create their own watercolor art, including Anika Boerst, 8, at right. photos by K. Vandervort



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.

Donald G.
**Gardner
Humanities
Trust**

We are now accepting
**2019 Arts Grant
Applications**

for Individual Artists, Project & Youth Grants,
Scholarships & Operational Funding

Updated grant applications and guidelines are
available online at www.gardnertrust.org

**APPLICATION DEADLINE IS:
12:00 noon on Wed., Sept. 25**

*Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact
Keiko Williams, Executive Director, by August 30
for help and review of their applications.*

Call 365-2639 or email info@gardnertrust.org

*Youth Grant applicants must call by August 30 to schedule
a grant review meeting with Keiko. Office closed Sept. 2-13.*

GOLF

Vermilion Fairways facing financial challenges

Fundraiser for the 85-year-old Cook institution set for Sunday, Aug. 18 from 12 noon - 4 p.m.

COOK- Vermilion Fairways is potentially facing permanent closure due to reduced revenues, driven in large part by unusually inclement weather over the past two years, as well as rising costs from vendors.

Last fall, the Board of Directors met this coming crisis head on. "The budget was cut to the bone via labor reductions and maintenance minimization; our mortgage was refinanced; our line of credit was renegotiated; and grass and weed applications were eliminated. In short, we are operating on a shoestring," said Kent Wilson, President of Vermilion Fairways. "That having been said and done, in order to keep our doors open and to meet the

minimal maintenance needs of the golf course, we still need an infusion of cash to avoid raising rates, which we believe will be counter-productive." To raise cash, they will be hosting the first annual Friends of Vermilion Fairways fundraiser on Sunday, Aug. 18 from 12 noon to 4 p.m. "We are truly in crisis and desperately need your support," said Wilson.

Vermilion Fairways is far more than a mere golfing venue. It is a social meeting place and has stood as a Cook institution for over 85 years, catering to the community in a variety of ways. Please help keep it alive.

A cash donation would be of utmost importance, but donations of products or services that can be auctioned or raffled



would also be welcome. Checks can be made out to Friends of Vermilion Fairways and sent to the clubhouse at 2407 Vermilion Dr., Cook, MN 55723.

For donations of products or services, please drop a note in writing to the club at the same address, or contact

any of the following by email or phone as soon as possible: Bill Peterson - 218-666-2679 or ediepete666@gmail.com; Carol Green - 218-780-0372 or cjc62@aol.com; Carrolle Wood - 218-248-0170 or carrolleannwood@yahoo.com; Kent Wilson - 218-666-2195 or

kwilson@wilson-ryan.com.

The board hopes to see a big turnout for the festivities on Sunday, Aug. 18 and thanks you in advance for your support of the fundraiser.

North Star Credit Union wins statewide youth financial education award



REGIONAL- North Star Credit Union has been honored with a 2019 Desjardins Youth Financial Education Award. The award, sponsored by the Minnesota Credit Union Network (Mn-CUN) and the Credit Union National Association (CUNA), recognizes the leadership of individual credit unions on behalf of youth and adult financial education. NSCU fulfilled this by creating activities and programs that raise awareness and establish resources on behalf of financial literacy.

North Star Credit Union was honored for the Spartan Pride Financial Education Sessions that were taught at the Nashwauk-Keewatin High School. The credit union, partnering with school administration, was able to increase financial education by adding three financial sessions to the school's weekly Spartan Pride Time. Over the course of the year, all students in Nashwauk-Keewatin High School were able to attend all three financial education sessions: Credit Score/Credit Cards, Interviews/Customer Service, and Savings/Retirement.

North Star Credit Union's Participation in the program will continue in the coming school year, during which different financial topics will be taught by the Credit Union's Financial Education Specialist. "We strive to bring financial education to our communities, hoping to help everyone gain financial knowledge that will help them throughout their life," said Jody Feist, NSCU Financial Education Specialist.

North Star Credit Union's winning entry will advance to the national competition, where it will compete with financial education projects from credit unions in other states.

CITY OF ORR

Council taking first steps to establish neighborhood watch program

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

ORR—The city council here will take the first steps toward establishing a local neighborhood watch to address a recent spike in thefts and break-ins in the area. "We're going to be putting out flyers in hopes of attracting some volunteers," said Orr City Clerk Cheri Carter following council action on Monday.

Notices will also be placed in utility bills when they are sent to city residents in September.

If there's sufficient interest, Carter said the city would try to set up a meeting with the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office about proper protocol for such a volunteer effort.

Neighborhood watches are part of a national effort to address law-enforcement issues on a community scale. They can be

an effective crime-fighting tool if well-managed but can also create problems if volunteers become too aggressive in their role, or overstep their proper authority.

As reported last month in the *Timberjay*, the Orr and Pelican Lake areas have seen an increase in reported thefts and burglaries in 2019. And timely reports from watchful local residents did lead to the arrests of several suspects in at least some of those incidents.

In other business, the council:

➤ Agreed to extend the lease for the St. Louis County Assessor in the old city hall through the end of the year. The assessor is currently slated to relocate to the new government services building in Cook by next year.

➤ Approved the low bid of 88 cents per gallon for propane from Lakes Gas.

➤ Approved the purchase of two chemical usage scales for the

wastewater treatment plant from Indelco Plastics for \$2,077.50.

➤ Approved NP Solar's request for the city to purchase its interest in solar panels at the Orr Regional Airport for \$2,163. The purchase was part of an agreement dating back to 2013.

➤ Approved depositing first-half levy funds totaling \$37,348 from the Cook-Orr Hospital District into the Orr Ambulance account for operating expenses.

In reports, Orr Liquor Store Manager Chet Nieman reported that sales were up in July over last year and have been running ahead of last year's pace so far in August. Nieman will be obtaining quotes for replacing the flooring in both the on- and off-sale portions of the store.

Letters from Readers

Looking for information on Nelson Island on Pelican Lake

To the editor,

When my father (Charles T. Nelson, born June 29, 1947) was a child he went most every summer up to Pelican Lake and stayed on an island that was jointly-owned by three families. The island had a name made up for the first two letters of each family's name. Yesterday

I happened to look at a map of the lake, and I could recognize the island's location because it was on the south side and it was the right one in a pair of islands and about the distance from shore that I remembered.

I see the island's name is now Nelson Island. It would seem that one of the Nelson clan is now the sole owner or else I suppose it is just a coincidence.

My dad's brother LeRoy Nelson was, I believe, the part-owner. He was a retired dentist in Virginia, Minn. His son was LeRoy Jr.

but he has surely passed by now as well. Junior had at least one child, as I used to hang out with her, but I can't remember her name. She was about three years older than myself.

It would be interesting to find out the full name of the owner of that island.

Anyone with information can contact me at this address or email:

Sandra Nelson
218 S 61st Ave West,
Duluth, MN 55807,
or snelson2121@gmail.com

Bear River Fair set for this weekend, Aug. 17 and 18

BEAR RIVER- This year's fair is set for Aug. 17 and 18 and marks the 109th anniversary of that exposition. People still gather. They come from all over the country to use this weekend as a "reunion" of sorts - a time to catch up with friends and families. Through the years more activities have been added. This year activities include special music, a Flea Market, Bazaar, Games for Kids, and Softball Tournament. Outdoor worship services will be held in the pines on Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m.

First and foremost, the fair is here because of exhibits. Local folks still bring in the harvest from their gardens along with canning, baking, flowers, arts, crafts and many more examples of their talents. Each year, the Bear River Fair has

attracted community members and visitors alike to take a look at the creativity and crops that abound throughout the area. The Exhibit program is very important to the fair, and we need you to take part in that as well. Have you made anything in the past year? Photos? Crafts? Woodworking? Bring it! Do you have a garden? Bring some fruit or veggies! How about house plants? Take 'em along! Please enter at least one item to make this year's fair the best ever! You do not have to be a resident of the area to exhibit. We'd love everyone to enter a few items. The more the merrier! Come and win bragging rights!!! There are categories for both adults and youth. Regulations and premium lists are available at www.BearriverMn.com or from Jane

Bartlett at 218-376-4556. Exhibits must be entered on Saturday morning, Aug. 17, between 9 a.m. and 12 noon.

Treasures old and new are found by poking around at the Bear River Fair Flea Market booths. You never know what you will find - from antiques and gently-used items to wonderful items from Direct Sales companies, to newly crafted products and fresh baked goods. Contact Jane at 218-376-4556 for further information regarding setting up a table. More shopping may be done at the Mini Bazaar where you can purchase new items crafted by some of the incredibly talented people in the area. Hazel is the contact person for the Bazaar, and you may contact her at 218-969-3755.

There's food, too. A good

gathering, after all, must have good food - and lots of it! Along with the outdoor food booth, there will be a wonderful pig roast on Saturday night - including live music from 3 - 7 p.m. by the "Lake Street Gang." Tickets are available in advance or at the door. Contact Jane at 218-376-4556 for advance tickets - or get them from anyone involved with the fair. Sunday brings a morning worship service followed by a dinner of Swedish meatballs with mashed potatoes. Leave room for dessert, because the Bear River Church Pie Social follows the dinner. Casey Aro, a favorite for all ages, will be providing music and stories on Sunday afternoon from 1 - 3 p.m.

The Softball Tournament has become a great part of the

fair, and will be happening on Saturday and Sunday. Come to watch, and to cheer for your favorite team! Back this year is the Dunk Tank where you can share in the fun by getting all wet - or getting someone else all wet! (If you're willing to take a dip in the tank, let Jane know!)

Are you able to help out with the fair in any way? Let us know. We would love to have you join our crew! Keep your ears open for more information on this wonderful annual tradition. If you have questions or are willing to help, you may contact Bruce at 480-213-0767 or Jane at 218-376-4556.

The Bear River Community Center/Old Bear River School is handicapped accessible and is located at the intersection of Hwys. 22 and 5.

Read us online at timberjay.com

Cook-Orr Calendar

Community Events

Friday, Aug. 16
WEAVING CLASS: 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. Visit [nwfamn.org](#) for upcoming classes and events.

LIBRARY: 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.

Saturday, Aug. 17
BENEFIT: The W.C. Heiam Medical Foundation will host its annual summer benefit on Saturday, Aug. 17 from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade hall. Cost is \$125 per person, which includes music, silent auction, live auction, complimentary beverages and dinner catered by BoomTown Woodfire Grill.

ART: Northwoods Friends of the Arts hosts Open Studio Art every Saturday from 9 a.m. to

1 p.m. at 210 S River St. All ages and media welcome.

Wednesday, Aug. 21
CONCERT: Music in the Park on Wednesday, Aug. 21 at 6 p.m. at the Cook City Park Gazebo. Hunter Bunch will play folksy Americana and traditional hits.

Saturday, Aug. 24
ART: Northwoods Friends of the Arts hosts Open Studio Art every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 210 S River St. All ages and media welcome.

Wednesday, Aug. 28
CONCERT: Music in the Park on Wednesday, Aug. 28 at 6 p.m. at the Cook City Park Gazebo. Beefeater Brothers, Erick and Mike, close out the summer concert series with a musical variety.

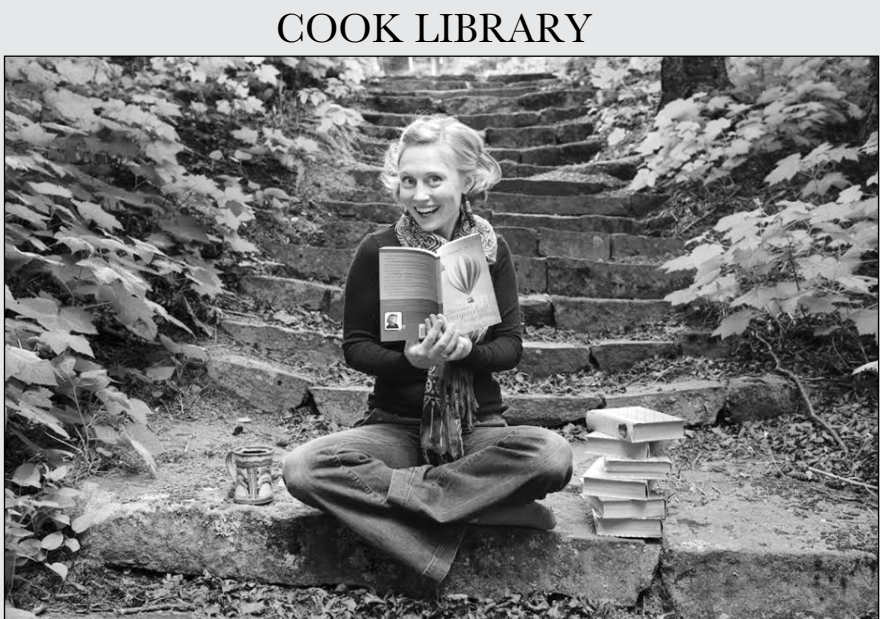
Thursday, Aug. 29
LIBRARY: Arrowhead Library System Bookmobile, Thursday, Aug. 29: Nett Lake Community Center 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.; Crane Lake Ranger Station 11:15 a.m. to 12 p.m.; Orr Lake Country ReMax building 1:45 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.; Kabetogama Town Hall 3:15 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. For more information, visit [www.alslib.info](#), call 218-741-3840 or write Arrowhead Library System, 5528 Emerald Ave., Mt. Iron, MN

55768.
Saturday, Aug. 31
FUNDRAISER: Northwoods Friends of the Arts will host the first ever "Pop Up" Fundraiser Sale on Saturday, Aug. 31 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the NWFA Gallery, 210 S River St. in Cook.

ART: Northwoods Friends of the Arts hosts Open Studio Art every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 210 S River St. All ages and media welcome.

Sunday, Sept. 1
5K RUN/WALK: Crane Lake 5K "Haakyn Strong," will be on Sunday, Sept. 1, at 9 a.m. at Nelson's Resort. 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.

Thursday, Sept. 12 and Friday, Sept. 13
ART CLASS: Watercolor Workshop on Thursday, Sept. 12 and Friday, Sept. 13 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Northwoods Friends



Brave Girls and Wise Women with Rose Arrowsmith DeCoux on Friday, Aug. 16

REGIONAL- The Arrowhead Library System is pleased to present Brave Girls and Wise Women with Rose Arrowsmith DeCoux, a free program being offered on Friday, Aug. 16 at 3:30 p.m. at Cook Public Library.

Join Rose Arrowsmith DeCoux for a storytelling adventure. Hear how Tatterhood battles a band of trolls, Manka solves impossible riddles, and Vasalisa dares to knock at the witch's door. In these stories, daring heroines reclaim fairy tales as fierce, funny, and feminine. The program length is 60 minutes, intended for youth ages

7-12 but appropriate and enjoyable for teens, mixed-age audiences, and adults. Stories will likely be too long for kids younger than 6.

This program, sponsored by Arrowhead Library System, was funded in part or in whole with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. To learn more about Arrowhead Legacy Events, please see our calendar at [www.alslib.info](#), follow us on Twitter @ALSLibraryNews, or like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/alslibinfo](#).

of the Arts features a two-day autumn watercolor painting workshop taught by Mary Beth Downs. Pre-registration required. Cost is \$60 for NWFA members and \$75 for non-members. Workshop will take place at the Cook Community Center, 510 E Gopher Dr. Register by calling 218-666-2153 or write

NWFA, PO Box 44, Cook, MN 55723.

Meetings & Groups

Tuesday, Aug. 27
WRITERS: Northwoods Friends of the Arts Writers Group meets from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

To submit an item for consideration in the Cook-Orr community calendar please email [editor@timberjay.com](#). Please send two weeks prior to the event to ensure timely placement.



The temps have been fall-ish of late, with cool nights and warmer days. Predictions are we are going back to temps in the 80s. An old Dame talked to her daughter in Austin, Texas, and the daughter said she would die for temps in the 80s; it has been close to 100 for days and days, and the daughter would love the "coolness" of 80-degree temps. Kids there are heading back to school this week, and the grandson who is heading off to college in the Austin area moves into his dorm on Friday. We are not quite ready for school to start, but many a harried parent is school shopping. Another grandson, in Eveleth, began football practice on Monday - so even here school and all it entails are on the horizon. Another Ladies of the Lake luncheon has come and gone, and it was a rousing success. Funds for the benefit of the Crane Lake Chapel rolled in as a delicious luncheon, fantastic door prizes, raffle baskets, and silent auction items contributed to the fundraising effort. New this year

Summer happenings

was the addition of Rapid Raffles that seemed to be a hit with those in attendance. Thanks also to Nelson's Resort for the tasty luncheon and the interesting beverage of the day - the Minnesota Margarita! One cannot forget the planning and attention to detail provided by the members of the committee. And of course, a huge thank you is sent out to all those who contributed the fabulous donations that made the day. Not only does one get a great luncheon and a fun day with gal pals, but there are prizes. How can this possibly get any better? I'm sure we'll all find out next year!

How successful are all the gardens and how exhausted are all the gardeners? A particular Dame has a garden that is exploding! No less than a million tomatoes are ripening on the vine, green beans are nearly finished after yielding jars of dilly beans and canned green and wax beans. Cucumbers are showing up, and cabbages are making heads. The lettuce, beets, spinach, broccoli and carrots are in varying stages of production. The Dame is sure she doesn't have enough jars to hold all the goodies that will be so appreciated in the winter. However, it does make one wonder - Mary, Mary, quite contrary, how does YOUR garden grow?

Dave and his fa-

mous guitar entertained at Voyagaire Lodge last weekend, and the Fabulous Fatheads are appearing this weekend at Nelson's. Enjoy the entertainment while it is available. Soon the plane and houseboat traffic, the tourists and summer residents, and the activity of day-visitors and fisher-people will be occurring elsewhere, and life for us will settle down considerably.

Surely you have heard someone being referred to as a "nerd", but have you ever wondered where the word came from? It is often used to describe a person who is overly-intellectual, obsessive, or lacking in social skills. The word "nerd" was first used in the 1950 Dr. Seuss book "If I Ran the Zoo"; a nerd was but one of the many oddly-named creatures in the zoo. Dr. Seuss is a favorite author of many, and few kids will grow into adulthood without contact with at least one of his books. Titles that come to mind are: And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street; Horton Hatches the Egg; Horton Hears

a Who; Green Eggs and Ham; and One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish. Which Dr. Seuss book brings back memories of your childhood?

Do you know why Batman and Robin had to quit fishing together?????

Robin ate all the worms!

Have a great week. Until next week, the Teapot Dames are singing off!

Let us hear from you! Send news by e-mail to [info@thelakecountry.com](#), by fax to 218-757-3533, or by phone to Sandy at 218-757-3233, and it will be added.

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the TIMBERJAY

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BLT Night returns on Aug. 23

TOWER- BLT Night is back! After a year’s hiatus, the Tower Farmers Market is again partnering with Randy and Carol Semo and the staff at Good Ol’ Days to offer the best BLT on the Iron Range, for one night only. Mark your calendar for Friday, Aug. 23, under the tent on the back patio, starting after the farmers market closes at 6 p.m.

Come get a fabulous BLT made with local ingredients - bacon from Bear Creek Acres, Karl’s bread, lettuce and tomatoes from market vendors - accompanied by chips and dilly beans. Desserts will be sold separately. Beverages can be ordered from the bar.

Good Ol’ Days Bar & Grill is located at 314 Main St. in Tower. Proceeds from BLT Night are shared with the Tower Area Food Shelf.

Embarrass Region Fair offers three days of fun, Aug. 23-25

EMBARRASS- Mark your calendars for the Embarrass Region Fair happening Aug. 23-25. Fairgrounds are located at the Embarrass Timber Hall, 4855 Hwy. 21. In addition to the vendors, artisans, fair food, team penning, horse show, mud runs, demolition derby, and judging, check out the great music planned for the weekend.

The Miss Embarrass Region Queen Coronation will be on Friday, Aug. 23 at 6 p.m. with popular band Sweet Freedom to follow. Saturday Night Country Live on Saturday, Aug. 24 will feature local musicians starting at 4 p.m. with 1/2 Way to Heaven, Robert Walker at 5:05 p.m., The Hutter Bunch at 5:55 p.m., Robert Walker encore at 7:10 p.m., and Back Roads at 7:45 p.m. Music lineup and times are subject to change. On Sunday, Aug. 25 the annual Karaoke Contest, hosted by Rising Sun Entertainment, will begin sign-up at 10 a.m. and competition begins at noon.

Fair admission is \$4 at the gate or \$10 for a weekend wristband. Children under ten are free with a paid adult. All music is free with admission. There are additional entrance fees for the mud run and demolition derby.

Eagles Nest woody debris haul away service, Sept. 20-23

EAGLES NEST TWP- All Eagles Nest residents have an opportunity to reduce risk to their homes by implementing wildfire prevention strategies.

Residents on Trygg, Peninsula, and Walsh roads, and Bear Head State Park Road from Hwy. 169 to Walsh Road have the opportunity to have woody debris picked up curbside from their homes on Monday, Sept. 23. You cut and stack; the township will haul away.

All residents are welcome to drop off woody debris at Eagles Nest Town Hall in the lower parking lot on Friday, Sept. 20 from 6-8 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 21 from 2-4 p.m., and Sunday, Sept. 22 from 2-4 p.m.

Directions: Cut and pile woody debris along the driveway entrance or off the shoulder of the roadway. Piles must be stacked neatly with ends facing the road. Piles must be approximately five by five by five feet. There is no limit to the number of piles, but please make sure they are not obstructing traffic or under power lines.

Acceptable materials include woody limbs and branches, trees six inches in diameter or less, branches and limbs (balsam fir, spruce, and brush will be accepted). All materials should be six inches in diameter or less.

Not acceptable materials include construction or building materials, bagged materials, trash, weeds, root wads, dirt, rocks, grass clippings, bags of leaves, and household garbage.

Contact Gloria Erickson, Firewise coordinator, at 218-365-0878 or gjerickson@frontiernet.net with any questions.

TOWER

Ride the Waves and Share Your Story: Author meet and greet, readings on Aug. 22 at Nordic Home North

TOWER- Authors of the new book, #EXTRAOrdinary: Ride the Waves and Share Your Story, Carleen Matts-Behrends and Lisa Shaffner Sohn will be at Nordic Home North in Tower on Thursday, Aug. 22 from 2 to 6 p.m. for a meet and greet, readings, book signing and reception. There will be readings at 3, 4 and 5 p.m.

Life is like waterskiing: don’t panic; if you fall, fall gracefully; when you fall, let go of the rope; get up and try again. These are the “Four Rules of Life, According to Waterskiing,” a metaphor shared long ago with Tower native, Carleen Matts-Behrends, by her late brother, Cedric. After carrying them

with her through a career of teaching English to junior high students, Matts-Behrends is now using them to teach a different group of people: women in the middle of life who are dealing with major life changes that society doesn’t talk much about.

#EXTRAOrdinary: Ride the Waves and Share Your Story can be purchased directly from the authors’ website, getupandtryagain.com and from Amazon. It can also be purchased at local gift shops such as Nordic Home North, Iron Range Apparel in Virginia, and Tobie’s in Hinckley.



ELY FOLK SCHOOL

Learn about Ojibwe culture on Monday, Aug. 19 at the Ely Folk School

ELY- On Monday, Aug. 19, the Ely Folk School will offer Living Arts - A Cultural Presentation.

Come witness the resiliency of the Anishaanabe people through the continuance of traditional crafting, singing, drumming, and dancing.

Dani Pieratos, Jingle Dress Dancer, and Chaz Wagner, a Traditional Men’s Dancer, Singer, and Drummer, will present on their dance styles, their Native American regalia, and the accompanying cultural and spiritual teachings of their traditional outfits.

The presentation is intended to demonstrate the Indigenous worldview of art as a means of survival and revival, a holistic perspective that works on both the individual and community levels for healing and growth.

We hope that through the sharing process our audience will rediscover



a bit of their own sacred truths in themselves.

The public is welcome to come at 5 p.m. and bring a dish to share for a community potluck dinner. Living

Arts presentation at 6:15 p.m. The Ely Folk School is located at 209 E Sheridan. Call 218-235-0138 with questions.

Vermilion Lake Association celebrates 51 years protecting the lake

REGIONAL- Vermilion Lake Association members gathered for their annual meeting last Saturday at the Tower-Soudan Elementary School, marking 51 years carrying out their mission to protect and improve Lake Vermilion. About 175 members and guests attended.

The featured speaker, Kevin Kenow, USGS Research Wildlife Biologist, shared his research on developing common loon con-

servation strategies using unique technology to look at migration and foraging patterns.

Lori Ptak and Jim Graham were elected as new directors. Mary McNellis, John Yocum, and Gary Haugen, who had been appointed as directors during the past year, were re-confirmed at the meeting. The organization’s 150 volunteers were thanked and invited to a recognition picnic later this month.

The 2,700-member Vermilion Lake Association, one of the largest and most active in Minnesota, welcomes all who care about Lake Vermilion and wish to protect it for the next generation. If you would like to join or volunteer, please check out the organization’s website www.VermilionLakeAssociation.org or contact Pat Michaelson at 612-306-7702.

Järvenpää Singers to perform Aug. 17 at B’nai Abraham

VIRGINIA - The Järvenpää Singers from Duluth will sing folk, sacred, and patriotic songs in the Finnish

language on Saturday, Aug. 17 at 3 p.m. at the B’Nai Abraham Museum and Cultural Center in Virginia at 328 5th St. S. The singers, under the direction of Dave Tucci, dedicate their music to uphold and promote

Finnish culture. Freewill offering.

B’nai Abraham will be open every Wednesday and Friday from 1 - 3 p.m. through the month of August for tours and exhibit viewing. The building will be staffed by vol-

unteers from the Virginia Area Historical Society. Tours can be arranged at other hours by calling the VAHS at 218-741-1136 or Harry Lappala at 218-741-6613.

ESTATE FARM AUCTION

Estate of Walter Veit; Valerie Leone, PR

TUESDAY, AUGUST 27 • 10 AM

5144 Hwy 217, Littlefork, MN 56653 (Equipment stored inside)

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2012 John Deere 6125R Diesel, 4x4, 125 hp Engine, 101 hp PTO, Auto Quad, Cab w/Buddy Seat, 3-Pt., w/JD H340 Loader, 845 Hrs., Looks new!; 2009 John Deere 7230 Standard, Diesel, 4x4, 131 hp Engine, 110 hp PTO, 16-Sp. Power Quad Trans, Deluxe Exhaust, Air Seat, Cab, 3-Pt., Dual Hyd., 540- and 1000-PTO, w/JD 740 Self-Leveling, Quick-Tach Hyd. Loader w/Joystick and 85-In. Bucket, 2,555 Hrs., Nicel!; John Deere 8640 Diesel, 4x4, Cab, 3-Pt., Tri-Hyd., Syncro-Shift, Duals, 9,533 Hrs.; JD 3-Pt. Quick Hitch;

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1978 IH Load Star 1700 Grain Truck, w/Harvest King 16-Ft. Steel Grain Box w/Hoist and Spool Roll Tarp; 18-Ft. Car-Hauler Trailer; Semi-5th-Wheel Dolly; More Shop and Farm Items!

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Outside the Ely Area Food Shelf • 15 West Conan St., Ely

Everyone is welcome to participate in this FREE SCREENING to monitor your blood pressure and glucose levels.

Sponsored by the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital.

Catch the last wave of summer and make sure you are happy AND healthy to start off the fall season!

ebch.org

328 W Conan St. Ely, MN 55731 218-365-3271

Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital is committed to caring for and enhancing the health and well being of the community it serves.

TOWER...Continued from page 1

Horihan, the company does have a couple of portable fume extractors that it can use temporarily while waiting for the new equipment to arrive and be installed. With Horihan's help, TEDA will be overseeing that installation using remaining funding from the \$1.8 million non-recourse loan provided for the project by the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation. TEDA had received a quote from Lenci for the work, but balked at the price tag of \$115,000 plus the engineering costs. Based on quotes received by Horihan since then, it appears that the work can be done for far less. SEH engineer Matt Bolf reminded the city that the project does require following Minnesota wage guidelines for any contractors hired.

The council approved granting a certificate of occupancy for the building if the Aug. 15 walkthrough is approved. The building will have a one-year warranty from the contractor.

Bolf also gave updates on other city projects. Final approval of the harbor plat is still being held up by an old annexation issue. City officials are working with the city attorney and the state agency involved to resolve the issue but noted that both Tower and Kugler Township will need to pass a joint resolution on a new map before the paperwork can be processed.

Bolf said the town home developers should get a draft Common Interest Community (CIC) plan to the city planning and zoning commission for review as soon as possible, to get that process started. The final CIC requires the completed plat map.

Final plans for the Pine Street reconstruction project have been submitted to MnDOT and St. Louis County for review. The city has a local match of \$287,000 for that project, which is required before bids can be let. Bolf said the city was working with IRRR to secure funding for the local match. This project includes installing the infrastructure needed for the first phase of the town home project. That project has been stuck in neutral for years pending the city's ability to complete the plat.

The city's new grant writer and manager Nancy Larson reported on several projects, including the LCCMR harbor trail. The state has put any further work on hold until it completes a review of the mishandling of the first phase of a two-phase trail project connecting the harbor area to the Mesabi Trail. Larson said the hold is putting the second phase of the project in doubt, since it requires completion by June 30, 2020, and the city is already up against a tight deadline for completing design and bidding in time to begin work this fall. The first phase of the project, Larson explained, had been "red-flagged" by the LCCMR's grant manager early on because the former clerk-treasurer had failed to provide timely project updates or submit reimbursement requests for work on the project. While Larson and Bolf have been working to resolve the issues relating to the first phase, additional planning for the second phase has been put on hold.

Staff from LCCMR

were in Tower last week and toured the site and traveled up the East Two River. Rep. Rob Ecklund also came on the tour, Larson said.

In related news, Larson said the city can get an IRRR grant to demolish and remove the two abandoned mobile home halves that sit at the site of the proposed trailhead for the trail project. This was not part of the original phase two project. An IRRR grant could pay 75 percent of the cost. The council approved the application for the grant.

Larson is also working to obtain reimbursement totaling \$100,000 due the city for work done at the airport in 2016. The former clerk-treasurer had never submitted a pay request for those funds.

Paramedic training

Ambulance Supervisor Steve Altenburg presented a verbal proposal to the council asking them to fund the training costs for new paramedics who agree to stay on the department for at least three years.

Altenburg has been working on a plan to provide part-time Advanced Life Support (ALS) service to area patients, under a cooperative agreement with the Virginia Ambulance Service. He said he was about halfway through getting the information needed to complete the application process for part-time ALS. The department just sent out letters to area townships, tribal government, and the city itself, asking for a letter of support for the ALS application, he said, which is required for the application.

The ALS plan, proposed earlier, called for using paramedics from the Virginia Department to ride along on transfers of critical patients being taken to Duluth, and then having the city split the revenue from the run with Virginia. Insurance reimbursements for ALS service, which can only be provided by paramedics, is typically higher than for Basic Life Support, or BLS, typically provided by EMTs. Altenburg told the council the shift to part-time ALS would provide additional revenue for the department, as well as providing a higher level of care.

But Altenburg seemed to be asking the council to approve training and staffing local EMTs as paramedics, with a cost that was not clear. Altenburg told the council that the department has always paid for all the training and education for EMTs and EMRs, as long as they commit to remaining on the service for a full year.

Altenburg said the cost of paramedic training would be \$10,000 - \$12,000 per person for the classwork, the first year of which is mostly completed online, with in-person classes on some weekends.

Councilor Rachel Beldo asked if this would mean hiring full-time paramedics. Altenburg said they would only be part-time, which is why the department would be expected to pick up the training costs. Altenburg said that he and possibly two other current EMTs were interested in the training, as well as one paid-on-call staff member who has already completed

the first year of the training at their own expense.

Beldo asked if the ambulance budget could support the training costs. Altenburg said that "over the two years, incrementally, yes." He added that the Virginia Fire Chief Al Lewis will be helping him with financial projections.

Kringstad said the city is still not certain that Virginia will agree to the part-time ALS service plan. He also wondered why the Ambulance Commission had not discussed this issue.

Beldo wondered if the city shouldn't wait until there is more information available. She asked for a draft agreement for the paramedic training, number of people the department would train, and estimated costs.

Altenburg said the deadline to sign up for the paramedic cost was before the next council meeting, so he was hoping for approval tonight.

"It's unfortunate there is such a tight deadline," Kringstad said.

"This would delay it for a year for our own staff," Altenburg noted.

Altenburg had no information for the council on the costs of employing the paramedics once trained, the impact on the department's overall training budget, or if the department would need to pay on-call paramedics a higher hourly rate than it currently pays for EMTs.

The council declined to take any action at this time.

In other ambulance news, the department had a record-setting month in July, with 68 runs. Year-to-date runs are at 312 through July, compared to 276 for the same period last year. The department has done 66 transfers so far this year, putting the department on pace to handle approximately 110 transfers for the year. That's well below the 150 runs that Altenburg previously projected were necessary to fund the department's shift to paid on-call last year.

Financials

Interim Clerk-Treasurer Ann Lamppa gave a financial report with data from January through the end of June. She has identified several funds (sick leave, fire department, streets, police car) where money was transferred out the past few years and will need to be restored for a total of a little over \$95,000. And while the city's bank account does show a positive balance of almost \$200,000 today, she said, once all the outstanding bills approved Monday by the council are paid, the city's balance will drop to around \$23,000.

"I would like to have our new financial committee sit down with me and go through a month's worth of bills to find places we can cut," she said. Lamppa noted she had already found \$6,000 in recurring out-of-town advertising bills for Hoodoo Point and the Fourth of July that she had canceled. She said the city needs to do a better job of inventory control, and she was working with city departments to make sure all spending was necessary.

Mayor Orlyn Kringstad said the city would be working on its preliminary budget for 2020 soon, and was

looking at areas to cut back, and also looking at ways to increase revenue.

City website

Kringstad noted that he had contacted the city's website vendor, Tech Bytes, regarding the website's outage over the weekend. He said the city had formed a website committee to look into improvements for the website and would likely be asking for proposals to create a new and improved website.

Other action

In other business the council:

► Hosted what would have been a very full house, with over 25 in attendance, at the Tower Civic Center. Coffee and was also served compliments of Marit Kringstad. The city council is holding the first meeting of the month at the civic center until further notice, and all other meetings at city hall.

► Heard from Jeff Hill, who asked why emails he had sent to the city were not being reviewed under the correspondence portion of the agenda. Lamppa noted that when the issue was something she could answer, it didn't need to come to the council. Hill also complained that his request to be put on the agenda email list was being ignored, but council members pointed out that his email was part

of the group email that it sent out to anyone requesting meeting agendas.

► Appointed Richard Hanson to the city's employee relation committee, along with Kringstad and Mary Shedd. Councilor Rachel Beldo will step down. The committee will review the job description for the clerk-treasurer position. Once the job description is approved, the committee has permission to advertise for the opening.

► Approved the purchase of a laptop for use by the maintenance department, with a cost not to exceed \$1,000. The city also approved submitting a claim for the loss of the clerk's laptop and data, which can help cover the cost of the new laptop. The maintenance department is up in the clerk's office every day, Lamppa reported. The laptop needs to be durable enough to use in the field and will have internet access in the field through the city's data plan.

► Will have the city attorney review a 12-year old developer/purchase agreement for the old DNR forestry station land, which is now owned by the city, to see if it is still valid. The area was once looked at as a site for senior housing. Councilor Steve Abrahamson said the 12-year-old paperwork would no longer be valid. He noted that proposal had not moved

forward because of the costs involved. Kringstad wondered if the city should divide the land into lots to sell for new housing.

► Approved hiring someone to clean at Tower City Hall for a total of three hours a week.

► Discussed updating the city's charter and charter commission membership. Charter commission members need to be approved by the court which has not been done in many years. The city will advertise for interested city residents. The charter commission only meets as needed. Membership is maintained until a person moves or resigns. Lamppa noted that her name is still on the charter, even though she resigned when she moved out of Tower several years ago.

► Discussed appointing a city representative to the Vermilion Trails Joint Powers Board. Shedd said she had heard from an interested community member who would like to volunteer. Dena Suikonen asked why this wasn't being advertised so other interested people might apply. Nancy Larson noted the joint powers board member needed to be a councilor or city hall representative (currently it is Terri Joki-Martin, the deputy clerk). There is also a working group which is separate from the joint powers board. The council tabled the issue.



AUGUST 23, 24 & 25
Friday, Saturday and Sunday

Gate Fee \$4 or \$10 Three-Day Pass
(10 & under free w/paying adult)

Beer Garden • Concessions

Vendors & Crafters on the grounds all weekend!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23

Crafts, Concessions & Beer Garden... 2 PM
Wizards Kingdom Inflatables..... 3 PM
Team Penning..... 4 PM til dusk
Exhibit Entries..... 1-7 PM

Miss Embarrass Region Queen Coronation • 6 PM
"SWEET FREEDOM" playing after coronation

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

Grounds Open..... 8 AM
Quadcopter (New This Year)..... 10:30 AM
BINGO..... 10 AM-5 PM
39th Annual Flying Finn Walk/Run..... 9:30 AM

SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT ALL DAY

Exhibit Entries..... 8-10 AM
Team Penning..... 10 AM
Dog Show (Sign up 9 AM)..... 10 AM
Exhibit Judging..... 11-3 PM
Games For All Ages..... 11 AM
Tony Morsching Memorial Mud Run.... 12:30 PM
Bean Bag Tournament (After Mud Run)..... 4 PM

SATURDAY NIGHT COUNTRY LIVE... 4 -10 PM

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25

Grounds Open..... 7 AM
Horse Show..... 9 AM

SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT ALL DAY

Classic Car & Truck Show..... 9 AM
Karaoke Contest Sign Up..... 10 AM
Quadcopter (New This Year)..... 10:30 AM
BINGO..... 10 AM-4 PM
Horse Shoe Tournament..... 11 AM
Karaoke Contest..... NOON-3 PM
Demolition Derby..... 12:30 PM
PARADE..... 4 PM

DUNK TANK FOR ALS..... ALL WEEKEND!
4855 Highway 21, Embarrass, MN

FRONTIER...Continued from page 1

The Commerce Department's investigation had also suggested the company could be subject to significant penalties for its actions. "The Minnesota Legislature has provided a clear set of remedies to curb misconduct of rogue companies, ones who routinely, knowingly disregard the law and jeopardize the lives and well-being of Minnesotans, including hefty civil penalties and criminal prosecutions," noted the report. Frontier representatives have strongly disputed many of the findings in the department's report.

While state regulators could still issue significant fines, none are included within the stipulation

agreement released earlier this month. In response to questions from the Timberjay, Commerce Department spokesperson Emma Bauer said the department "prioritizes Minnesotans' customer service and focused on obtaining tangible remedies for Minnesota consumers."

Bauer emphasized that the proposed settlement seeks to address multiple issues raised by Frontier customers and that the agreement gives those customers a means to file individual claims for credits and other compensation for past problems. "In addition, going forward, the settlement includes required remedies for customers that

experience problems related to call answer times, installation, loss of service, service impairment, missed repair appointments and repeat trouble with telephone service," stated Bauer.

Specific steps outlined in the 36-page agreement include:

➤ Issuing refunds within 90 days to those customers who can provide documentation that they were overbilled for services or for services that they never received. The company will be required to mail notices to all customers in the state alerting them of the refund opportunity.

➤ Committing in good faith to improve telephone services and

comply with all applicable Minnesota rules and laws.

➤ Provide training to current and future Frontier employees and contractors prior to assigning them to perform duties associated with phone service in the state, including facilities, billing, or collections.

➤ Waiving primary phone service installation fees if the company is unable to complete installation within three business days.

➤ Requiring bill credits and refunds of \$10 per day for businesses or \$5 per day for residential customers if reported outages are not repaired within 24 hours. Refunds increase to \$20 per day for businesses and \$10

per day for residential customers if the outage lasts longer than 10 days. Customers could receive a similar refund if the company is unable to fix reported static, cross talk, or inadequate volume on their phone line within the same time frame.

➤ Requiring Frontier to issue a \$25 credit if a repair ticket commitment date is missed when the customer is required to be at their premises.

➤ Requiring Frontier to pay credits in some cases if calls to the company's 800 number take longer than ten minutes for an initial answer.

➤ Requiring Frontier to issue credits or refunds to customers who were charged an early termination fee for service without having signed a term agreement or being aware of automatic renewal provisions. Frontier will be required to notify those who may qualify for such refunds or credits.

In virtually all cases, Frontier will only be required to issue credits or refunds on a case-by-case basis, assuming adequate documentation by the customers involved.

The proposed settlement does not address widespread concerns expressed by customers about the reliability and speed of Frontier Internet service, which is not technically regulated by the MPUC. According to Bauer, some of those issues may still be addressed in a separate investigation being conducted by the Attorney General's office.

In addition to refunds and other outreach to customers, the settlement package requires Frontier to submit regular reports on its compliance with the agreement, including the number of credits and refunds it might issue, the number of outages, and the time taken for repairs. Among those reports, Frontier must present the MPUC with a maintenance plan for upgrading its facilities, including repairing temporary lines, above-ground lines awaiting burial, exposed lines, and broken or damaged pedestals or poles. As part of the plan, Frontier will be required to establish an 800-number for the public to report problems with the company's facilities. The company will also be required to provide regular updates on its progress in improving its facilities. All of the provisions of the agreement will apply for a period of two years, after which the company could be released from the requirements if it demonstrates consistent compliance.

Judge recommends approval

An administrative law judge assigned to the case is recommending its approval by the MPUC, which would be the next step in the process. ALJ Jeffery Oxley oversaw public hearings held in Ely and elsewhere in the state last year. He also served as a mediator between the parties as they developed the terms of the proposed settlement. While ALJs don't typically issue such recommendations, Oxley

noted that he has considerable experience in telecom issues, having served as the executive general counsel for a telecom company that purchased wholesale capacity from Frontier.

It turns out Oxley wasn't the only state representative in the talks with a telecom background. According to Oxley, one of the Commerce Department's lead staffers in the talks worked under him in the legal department of the same telecom company.

Telecom companies in the state have been watching the handling of the Frontier complaints with interest and weighed in with comments under auspices of the Minnesota Telecom Alliance (MTA) in March. According to Oxley, the MTA "expressed its concern that in resolving this matter, the Commission could adopt several interpretations of Minnesota rules relating to telecommunications advanced in the Department report with which the MTA disagreed."

The public will also have a limited amount of time to weigh in on the agreement. The MPUC issued a notice of public comment on the deal earlier this month and that comment period continues through Aug. 21. Anyone interested in commenting on the settlement can visit mn.gov/puc, and select Speak Up! to find this docket. You can add your comments to the discussion or email your comments to consumer.puc@state.mn.us. The MPUC is expected to take up the settlement formally at a board meeting in September or October.

Outlook uncertain

Enforcement of any agreement with Frontier could be affected by the company's ongoing financial woes. The company's stock, which had traded as high as \$124 a share as recently as 2015, was trading at just 79 cents a share as of this week. The company reported a net loss of \$5.32 billion in the second quarter, which included a goodwill impairment likely resulting from previous acquisitions of landline capacity. The company has been hemorrhaging customers due to quality concerns and cost, among other factors. "We continue to be challenged by ongoing revenue declines, content cost escalations, higher labor costs, and other pressures across the business," said Dan McCarthy, President and CEO, in response to the second quarter results, which the company reported earlier this month.

While the company continues to labor under a massive debt load, it will likely generate some additional cash flow through the recently-announced sale of its operations in four western states for \$1.352 billion. The deal, which still requires regulatory approval, could help Frontier cover at least some of its short and long-term debt obligations. If approved, the deal isn't expected to close until next year.

END OF SUMMER... SALES EVENT

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Backup Camera, Reverse-Sensing System, Sync, Satellite Radio, Sony Sound

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Panoramic Vista Roof, Trailer Tow Pkg., Pwr. Liftgate, Reverse-Sensing Sys.

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Manual, Factory Warranty, Htd. Seats, Backup Camera, 9K Miles, One Owner

#19FN15A **\$12,300**

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One Owner, 13k Miles, 30 MPG Hwy, 25 MPG City, Clean Vehicle

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Adaptive Cruise Control, Blind Spot Information Sys., Lane Keeping Sys., Tech.Pkg., Nav., Panoramic Roof

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2013 FORD F-150 FX4 SUPERCAB 4X4



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2015 FORD F-150 XLT SUPERCREW 4X4



5.0L V8, 36-Gallon Tank, Trailer Tow Pkg., Snow Plow Prep, Chrome App. Pkg.

#19T149A **\$29,500**

2016 FORD F-150 XL SUPERCREW 4X4



5.0L V8, Pro-trailer Backup Assist, Trailer Tow Pkg., Tailgate Step, Sport App. Pkg., Sync

#19T86A **\$29,500**

2017 FORD EDGE TITANIUM AWD



Remote Start, Htd./Cooled Seats, Htd. Steering Wheel, Nav., Trailer Tow Pkg.

#19T94A **\$29,900**

2018 FORD EDGE SPORT AWD



2.7L EcoBoost, Htd./Cooled Seats, Htd. Steering Wheel, Remote Start, 6K Miles, One Owner

#19ES47A **\$33,900**

2017 LEXUS LX 570 4X4



Factory Warranty, One Owner, Htd. Seats, Nav., DVD Sys., Pwr. Moonroof, Fully Loaded!!!

#19L16A **\$67,900**

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Sales Manager



Tony Potter
Marketing Manager



Jordan Fields
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Parker Osborne
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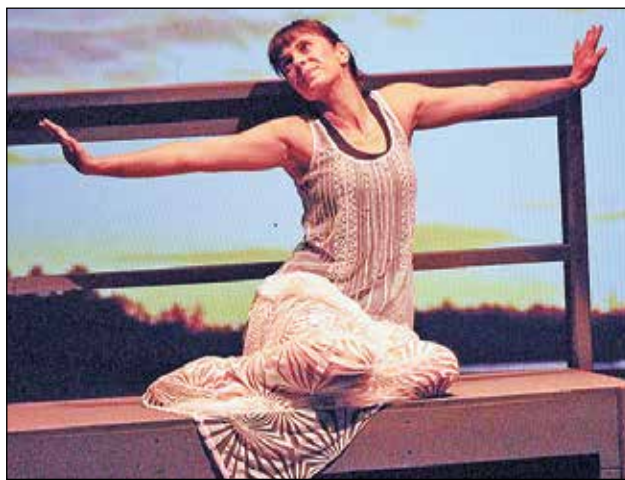
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ART...Continued from page 1

Olson, the showcase featured more than 40 dancers in 17 different dance pieces, ages five through adult, who presented their talents including ballet, contemporary, tap, and acro dance pieces (tumbling and partner tricks).

Local musicians Joey Kenig, Irene Hartfield, Jef Cerniak, Andy Messerschmidt, Sarah Mason, Alan Phillips, Mandy Fassett, Raif Olson, Keiko Williams and former Ely resident Zack Baltich, along with several others, shared their talents as part of the performance.

Singers in the choir included Mason, Maria Paschke, Cora Martorelli, Karin Schmidt, Todd Crego, David Wigdahl and



Greg Mann.

Photographs from Heidi Pinkerton and videos from Simon Stouffer and others, presented a visual backdrop for the show. Tim Stouffer read his poetry live during the show. An art exhibit in the lobby displayed pieces

related to the sky theme.

A new concept this year featured live performance art by Dafne Caruso who was on stage during one of the songs creating a live painting while being inspired by the music.

The show was dedicated to Joey's daughter,



Irene Hartfield and Joey Kenig, above, were part of the Looking Skyward orchestra. Dancer Emma Larson, left, danced to "Feelin' Good." photos by K. Vandervort

Zane Kenig and her love of dance. According to Olson, Kenig was born in Ely in 1994 and died in 2016 after struggling with anorexia for many years.

"While she traveled to many places in pursuit of her dream of dancing, Ely

was her home. It would be a mistake to think of Zane only in terms of dance," Olson said. "She was an artist who expressed herself in many different ways. Zane loved life and people. She was constantly rediscovering the world."

The Reflections Dance Company looked to honor Zane's love of dance and her memory, Olson said. "'Looking Skyward' is one way of connecting with Zane's spirit. Another way, and this is what Zane suggested before she died, is to go to a playground and swing on the swings there. She will always be with you when you swing."

The event was 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 as well as a grant from the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust.

LEVY...Continued from page 1

In addition to the operational assessment, the hospital district currently levies \$300,000 annually for the nursing home, \$724,000 for capital improvements, and \$148,000 for area ambulance services.

Hospital Director Teresa Debevec said it's been at least five years since the district has seen a levy increase and the hospital has recently experienced a decline in revenue for its imaging services, among other areas. The installation of a new CT scan and new X-ray machine did require some down time as the work was completed, but Debevec said that does not appear to have contributed significantly to the lower revenues.

Recent retirements and relocations of some long-time physicians, who have not all been replaced by the adjacent Scenic Rivers Clinic, may be playing a role in the lower demand for some patient services, said Liz Dahl, who chairs the hospital district board. In addition, said Dahl, Blue Cross has been more aggressive in requiring pre-approval for some hospital services, which is affecting utilization. "Right now, they're standing between the doctor and the patient in some cases," she said.

The hospital is also facing higher costs due to the ongoing worker shortage, notes Dahl. She said the hospital has had to increasingly rely on agency staffing to operate imaging

equipment and provide certified nursing assistants in the care center. "That's much more expensive than hiring our own people, even full-time employees with benefits," said Dahl, who noted that anywhere from 6-10 agency people are working at the hospital at any given time. She said hospitals across the state are struggling with workforce issues right now.

Debevec said she hopes to have a more definitive analysis for the hospital board at their Aug. 27 meeting. That's when the board expects to make a final decision on the proposed levy increase.

Debevec said the board wanted to get word out to communities within the district ahead of time to give time for feedback

ahead of the final vote. The board has the authority to increase its levy without a public referendum. Even so, Dahl said the levy increase is something the board is considering only reluctantly. "We really take the taxpayers' burden seriously. This is done with

a heavy heart, but we don't want to see our hospital close," she said.

According to information developed by the hospital district, the proposed levy increase would boost property taxes on a \$100,000 homesteaded property by \$9.90 next

year. A \$500,000 homesteaded property would see taxes rise by \$49.51.

No estimate of the impact on commercial properties was available as of this week.



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ELY SCHOOL BOARD

Surveys for Ely school facility project coming soon

Pending final board approval, in mailboxes mid-September

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – Ely school district voters will have an opportunity to voice their opinions this fall about a proposed facility renovation project after a community survey is finalized later this month. The renovation project, estimated to cost at least \$5 million and possibly as much as \$20 million, will require voter approval to become a reality.

In a short business meeting Monday night, Superintendent Kevin Abrahamson said the latest draft of the community survey would be ready for board members to review at their Aug. 26 study session. Once the wording is approved, the survey will be finalized and should be ready to send to the printer by the end of the month.

“Starting in the second week in September, the survey would be emailed to staff, followed by distribution, via email, to parents,” Abrahamson said. Mailed surveys to all district taxpayers would be distributed the week of Sept. 16, he added.

With this timeline in mind, the survey return deadline would be Oct. 7, and survey results could be presented to the school board by School Perceptions as early as Oct. 24. A special board meeting would likely be scheduled.

“We have some time on this,” Abrahamson said, “but I wouldn’t want the survey results no later than the middle of November to meet the timeline if you want to bond in February.” Any decision to bond will require voter approval, which would be determined in a bond referendum now tentatively set for February 2020.

Abrahamson noted that the survey can be completed online or by mail. “They are numbered, so a person can’t do more than one. However, if there are two voters in the household, each voter will have the opportunity to fill out a separate survey.” Instructions will be provided to access another survey for the same address.

Abrahamson received board approval to begin a media informa-

tion campaign to explain the project to voters. “That could begin this week or next week and there will be a series (of articles), otherwise they could get too long,” he said. “The informational articles will also be posted on the school district’s website.

Board member Tony Colarich has been keeping tabs on interest rates this summer and said he anticipates a continued drop in the cost to borrow money later this year and perhaps into early next year.

“The Fed just lowered rates at the end of July, and will meet again in December. There is a real good chance they will lower rates again,” he said. “When the Virginia-Eveleth-Gilbert bond was passed, a 10-year bond was 2.75 percent, and today it is at 1.65 (percent). If we can get this (bond referendum) on the ballot in February, we can get more for less.”

Board member Tom Omerza pushed to get the survey approved and distributed as soon as possible. “We can hold a special meeting after our study session on Aug. 26 to approve the survey and move this process along,” he said. “The IRRR wants to see a passed referendum before they weigh in on anything.”

Abrahamson said that bid inquiries for the building connection link project should be ready by mid-September or mid-October.

Other action

In other business, the board:

► Hired Sarah Hansen for the Early Childhood Family Education Parent Educator position.

► Accepted the resignation of Craig Lindberg for the part-time bus driver position, effective Sept. 13, 2019.

► Hired Joe Baltich for the part-time bus driver position.

► Accepted the resignation of Kristy Johnson from the cafeteria aide position.

► Accepted the leave request from Martina Jarecki for the first quarter of the 2019-2020 school year.

► Approved the following coaching positions for the 2019-2020 school year: Tim Omerza, assistant boys basketball

coach, Tom Omerza, assistant girls basketball coach, Megan Wognum, assistant volleyball coach, Jim Wittrup, assis-

tant football coach, Randi Walker and Kelly Noble, junior high girls assistant volleyball coaches, Cory Musel, junior high

football coach, Megan Devine, volunteer assistant cross country coach.

► Appointed a committee of Ray Marsnik,

Tony Colarich and Heidi Mann to negotiate the superintendent contract.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Fantasy in the forest

Festival of Skalds brings Viking-era history to the Angora countryside

Photos and story by J. Summit

ANGORA- “A thousand years ago the Norsemen were here,” said Micah Hodge. Or at least we can imagine. That was the theme behind the Festival of Skalds, held publicly for the first time this year on land that Hodge and his wife, Jacinda, own in Angora. Even though his family has no Norse ancestry, he said he has always felt a strong Norse presence in this uniquely pastoral portion of northern St. Louis County. And he wanted to re-create what life might have been like at a Norse gathering on the site, 1,000 years ago.

With help from Jacinda and quite a few relatives, they created their small-scale version of a Renaissance festival with a Norse theme. They held the event for family and friends in 2017 and 2018, but decided to open it to the public for the first time this year, for a two-day event held Aug. 10-11. Micah, an instrument repairman by trade, also produces replica Norse-era weaponry and archery equipment. Jacinda creates leather journal covers, archery quivers and other styles of leatherwork. The couple has been selling their

wares at Renaissance Festivals throughout the upper Midwest for seven years, as well as at the Cook Farmers Market on Saturdays in the summer. Three years ago, they started planning to host their own event and started doing some work on their semi-forested 10-acre plot, located about eight miles southwest of Cook. The timing for the event was tricky, said Micah, who noted it couldn’t coincide with the county fair, or with other Renaissance events where the Hodges sell their wares.

See **FESTIVAL**...pg. 2B



Clockwise from top left: Aaron Bobeck and his pet dragon puppet “Booger;” Empress of the Gardens, Leah Landacre; blacksmith Landrew Olson; mystic and musician Mustafa Ali; Viking re-enactors Rav Torsdotter (l) and Fingar Gulbrandson; and event co-creator Micah Hodges with some of the primitive shooting bows he has created.



No ducks need apply

Ely loon-calling contest draws a crowd

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – The wails, tremolos, and hoots of the common loon heard throughout Ely last Thursday afternoon were nothing new to this town at the end of the road, but these calls were anything but common. Anybody within earshot of Piragis Northwoods Company on the west end of town was regaled by a symphony of loon calls that afternoon at the 34th annual Loony Day celebration. As many as 75 people gathered on the front lawn of the iconic outfitter and outdoors retailer to hear young and old mimic the calls of the North Woods’ equally-iconic bird as they competed for the admiration of their peers, fabulous prizes

and ice cream. Piragis’s own Tim Stouffer and Steve Schon whipped the crowd into a frenzy with their own versions of loon calls. Well, Schon just solicited a chorus of groans from the audience with his litany of bad jokes. (Why didn’t the skeleton cross the road? No guts!) Three champions were named from a couple of dozen entrants, as determined by judges Simon Stouffer and Jonah Schwamm. Avery Ellerbroek, 9, of Ely, took first place in the boys division, followed by Caleb Larson, 10, also of Ely, and Tristan Harm, 9, of Madison, Wis. Cassidy Chadwick was honored with extra ice cream for a great loon-calling effort. Eleanor Nyquist, 7, won first place in the girls division,

LOONY TUNES



Moderator Steve Schon introduces one of the younger contestants at last week’s loon-calling contest held in front of Piragis Northwoods Co. in Ely. K. Vandervort

followed by Salem Houle, 9, and Madison Jonas, 9. They all hail from Ely. Ben Tomlinson, of Cleveland, Ohio, won the adult division, followed by Laura Harm, of Madison, Wis., in second place, and Micah Larson, of Ely, in third place. Leftover ice cream was distributed, while supplies lasted, to all spectators.

FESTIVAL...Continued from page 1B

Micah said that several of his nephews, who spent the weekend teaching primitive archery skills, were a huge help in getting the grounds ready over several weekends. They cleared trees and brush, created a parking lot in an old field, and readied for the various booths, entertainment, food vendors, and more. Others helped with some landscaping, creating some fairy garden areas.

“These woods are nice and secluded,” he said. “We want it to feel magical when you walk through.” The Hodges hope to

all in period costume, were selling wares at the event. Most were either relatives or friends the Hodges had made at other festivals.

Landrew Olson, along with Lina Olson and Kip Olson, had a blacksmithing forge set up and demonstrated making period tools and weapons.

Rachel King, of Virginia, was selling Renaissance and Medieval-era cloaks and dresses. This was her first time selling her hand-sewn clothing.

“I loved costumes and dressing up when I was a kid,” she said.

Rachel was one of the many relatives of the Hodges taking part in the festival.

Ten-year-old Nathan Ploof, of Angora, was eager to show off his axe-throwing skills, though he admitted his older brother was a better shot than he was. His family was selling throwing axes during the event.

Eleven-year-old Abigail Bobeck, of Lindstrom, was travelling with her sister, father and grandmother, with their replica gypsy wagon. Her father Aaron, a carpenter by trade, was selling his intricate leatherwork shields and other period items, and her grandmother had chainmaille and Viking-themed embroidery work for sale. She first made chainmaille to decorate her sister’s motorcycle leathers, but then got hooked on the craft.

“It’s a lot like quilt-



Above: Caitlin Hamblin was pleased to receive her Lifetime Dragon Hunting License during the festival.



Left: Temperance Stanina, face decorated from the mermaid booth, gets help shooting a bow from a nephew of Micah and Jacinda’s.

see the festival grow in future years. Turnout this year was great, they said. And while some did come in period costume, most were just in regular street clothes. Though it did seem that all the children that attended went home with replica knives, axes, or arrows strapped to their waists.

Tales of the Nordic past were an important part of the event. In old Norse culture, a skald was a poet and storyteller. “We want people to know the old stories,” Jacinda said.

Over a dozen artisans,

ing,” she said.

“I’ve been a crafter since I was nine,” Robin said, “and after my husband passed away, I asked Aaron to build me a gypsy wagon. Now it’s a real business.” The family does about a half dozen festivals a year. Abigail enjoys dressing up in costume and helping sell the items. She also helps her grandmother with some of the handiwork.

Part of the charm of such festivals is visiting with all the vendors, many of whom stay in character.

Mustafa Ali entertained the crowds with his music. With a look that harkened back to the Arabian Nights folktales, this mystic, poet, and musician played any of dozens of instruments that he had gathered during his travels around the world.

grounds. The two, Rav Torsdotter and Fingar Gulbranson, often work at larger Renaissance Festivals including the one in Shakopee.

RV Hodge grew up in Cook, and he and his wife Jennie were back in the area to visit friends and family. Their grown son also came back to visit and was strolling the grounds entertaining visitors with his juggling.

Hodge is a boat-builder in North Carolina, but has also written a series of children’s books.

“This is the first festival we’ve done,” said Jennie.

Six-year-old Elya Perkins, from Ely, was impressed with all she learned at the dragon hunting “class.” “Mostly,” she said, “dragons will eat you!”

Elya was pretty sure she had seen red eyes staring out at her from the trees as she and her family were eating lunch.

“I’m pretty sure it was a dragon,” she said.

Elya, not quite keeping with the Viking theme, had asked the face-painter at the mermaid booth to give her a zombie look, so perhaps she scared that dragon back into the woods.

Micah said planning for this year’s event at times was almost a full-time job. Next year they have plans to expand, and each year hope to continue to improve the festival grounds.

Micah and Jacinda’s business is called Iron Ranger Arts.



Memories of the Early Days

A fascinating look back at the early history of the Lake Vermilion area

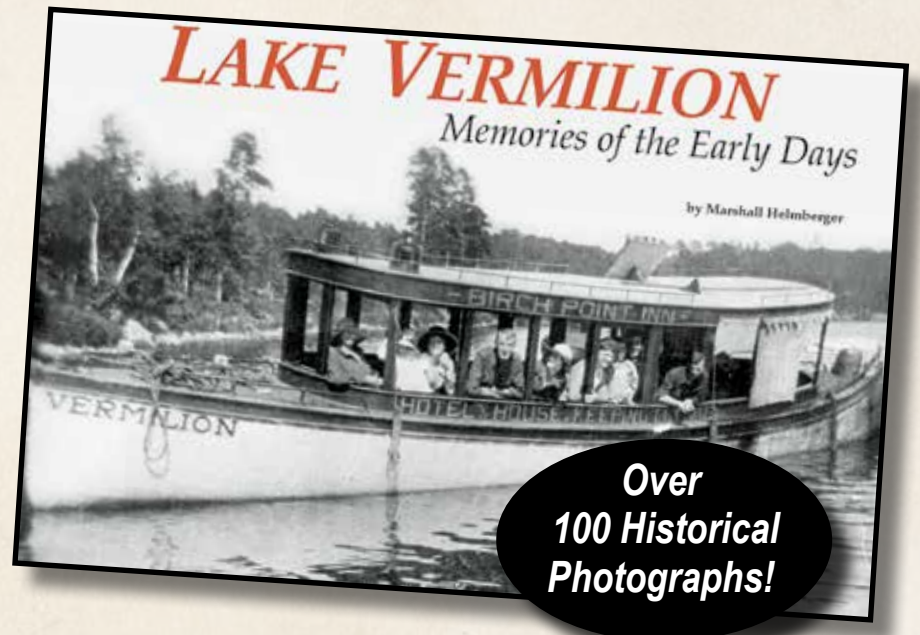
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MINING POLITICS



Sen. Klobuchar's staff visits Ely

Environmental advocates voice concerns during the meeting

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY—Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar sent her staff to Ely on Monday to hear concerns about copper-nickel mining, particularly the Twin Metals project proposed for just south of town.

As many as 80 people attended the unadvertised listening session at Vermilion Community College, hosted by Sustainable Ely and the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters. Klobuchar staff members Ida Rukavina and Brian Werner were there to listen.

“We are visiting various places all over the Iron Range, and are trying to listen to residents’ concerns over this issue,” Rukavina said. Several at the event stated that Klobuchar’s staff had met earlier in the day with representatives of Twin Metals and mining advocates, but Rukavina denied any such meeting.

For more than an hour, environmental advocates

and clean water supporters reiterated what was voiced succinctly by Ely resident Ellie Piragis, “Sen. Klobuchar’s silence on mining has been deafening.”

Larry Smith, a retired minister who recently returned to Ely, said he is hopeful that “things don’t go the way of mining” here in Ely. “We must not cause suffering,” Smith said. “Yes, we want more jobs here but we don’t want jobs that kill the surrounding world around us.”

Ely resident Carol Orban, expressed a common concern: “I don’t understand why Amy has not come out against this mining (project). She has been on the fence for years. I know many who can’t get excited about her (running for president) for this issue.”

Ely school board member Heidi Mann related her own family’s story of “falling in love with Ely” and relocating to the community a couple years ago. “Our leaders,

such as Ely Mayor Chuck Novak, and others continue to say, ‘Ely supports mining,’ but they are not representing all of their constituents when they say that. I don’t want to live in a place where I could get sick from drinking the water.”

VCC outdoors studies instructor Mark Carlson, a fourth generation Birch Lake resident with a family history in mining, argued that tourism and outdoor recreation can be the basis for a sustainable economy in northeastern Minnesota and other places in the United States. “Outdoor recreation brings \$646 billion and 6.1 million jobs to the U.S. economy. It is viable and sustainable. The Boundary Waters is our state’s contribution to that industry,” he said. “My family was (iron ore) miners. This (sulfide mining) is a different deal.”

Ely business owner Johnny Hyde compared the environmental supporters with the mining supporters. “We all want clean water,” she said.

“They trust their sources on this and we trust ours. Mining supporters view Ely as a dying town as they remember (Ely high school) graduating classes numbering 125 instead of in the mid-30s. We have good teachers, a good hospital and other businesses because many were attracted here because of the natural environment.”

Christopher Steele, of Ely, said that there is no such thing as a “fool-proof” mine. “That is not science, but just faith. Minnesota standards are not the toughest, and enforcement here is non-existent.”

White Iron resident Jeff Pike, who is the president of the White Iron Chain of Lakes Association (WICOLA) called for drastic action. “We need a permanent mining ban, not just for Twin Metals, but for everybody. Period.”

The public can contact Sen. Klobuchar’s Iron Range office at 218-741-9690.

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Outdoors

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2019 DEER SEASON

DNR to issue fewer antlerless permits this year

Permit Area 177 remains hunter’s choice while others will allow a limited number of antlerless tags

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Deer hunters in many parts of northern and central St. Louis and Lake counties will likely have to settle for a bucks-only tag this fall as a result of the Department of Natural Resources’ decision to restrict the number of antlerless tags.

Only Permit Area 177, which encompasses agricultural areas near Cook and nearby Lake Vermilion, will give hunters the choice to take either a buck or a doe.

Most areas will offer some antlerless tags through a lottery, although the numbers are down significantly from recent years. Permit Area 119, in far northern St. Louis

County, will remain bucks-only this year, as it has for the past several years.

Available antlerless permits for the following areas include:

- PA 108: 100 permits
- PA 118: 50 permits
- PA 176: 300 permits
- PA 178: 300 permits
- PA 130: 50 permits

Hunters who wish to take

part in the antlerless lottery will need to purchase their 2019 deer permit by Thursday, Sept. 5 to be entered in the drawing.

The archery deer season gets underway Sept. 14 and runs through the end of the year. The regular firearms deer season in northeastern Minnesota runs Saturday, Nov. 9 to Sunday, Nov. 24.



Wildflower Watch

This week’s featured flower
SPOTTED JOE-PYE WEED



The **Spotted Joe-Pye Weed**, *Eupatorium maculatum*, is a prominent late summer wildflower found most often in wet meadows, ditches, and shorelines. It stands anywhere from three-to-five feet tall, with its bushy magenta flower cluster atop a purple stem covered with long, narrow, slightly toothed leaves.

It’s a member of the Composite family.

Fishing reports

Ely area

The walleye bite remains fairly consistent on many of the area’s lakes of late. The best chance of landing these prized game fish has been by using a crawler harness slow trolled around reef edges and weed lines. Some of the best specimens are actually coming from shallow water. This may be counter-intuitive as most anglers believe that the walleyes will always be in deeper water throughout the summer months, which is not entirely true. While there appears to be an active bite for some by trolling larger crank baits in deep water, there are others who have found that the fish are also chasing their meals in the shallows where the bait is plentiful. Small bait fish will nearly always be found in the shallowest of cover around weed lines and other structures. This is where flexibility in one’s approach can provide the best action. Small crank baits can be effective, but the majority of anglers are using the tried and true method of pulling spinners tipped with either a crawler or leeches. As the summer wears on, the availability of leeches wanes and their size begins to dwindle, so it may be necessary to use more than one on a rig. This is where a multiple hook harness can be a plus, as you can place a smaller leech on either two or three of the hooks to attain a larger presentation. With crawlers on the same rig, a good tip is to shorten the crawler by pinching off the long tail that protrudes beyond the trailing hook. This will help to avoid the short striking walleye from avoiding the hook. In the heat of summer, it is much easier to care for crawlers or leeches by placing them in a cooler to protect them from the summer heat and maintain a good, lively bait.

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



VERMILION LAKE ASSOCIATION

Loon study keynotes VLA annual meeting

Minnesota to receive \$7.5 million for loon restoration efforts from BP oil spill settlement

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

LAKE VERMILION— Some area lake associations may soon be deploying more loon nesting platforms as part of a \$7.5 million BP oil spill settlement approved last fall. Longtime loon researcher Kevin Kenow discussed that and much more about loons as part of his keynote talk to the 51st annual meeting of the Vermilion Lake Association on Aug. 10.

According to Kenow, the massive 2010 oil spill directly killed as many as 910 loons, although many more were likely affected in some way through various levels of contamination. In total, the spill released 4.9 million barrels of crude oil into the Gulf of Mexico along with about 2.1 million gallons of chemical dispersants used to break up the oil.

A portion of a multi-billion financial settlement stemming from the spill has been earmarked for restoration efforts for some of the estimated 93 different bird species that were affected by the massive contamination left behind. Some of those funds will be distributed to lake associations and other entities in Minnesota to help fund acquisition of critical loon nesting habitat as well as for the purchase, installation, and maintenance of loon nesting platforms.

Kenow said the platforms offer a number of advantages for loons, because they’re easy to access, they tend to discourage land-based predators, and

Right: Researcher Kevin Kenow explains loon biology during his keynote talk at last Saturday’s annual meeting of the Vermilion Lake Association.

photo by J. Summit

The four primary loon calls

➤ **TREMOLO**—Signals alarm, and is also the only sound given in flight.

➤ **WAIL**—The mournful cry, often heard in the evening, is primarily a means for paired birds to stay in communication.

➤ **YODEL**—Begins like a wail, then transforms into a fast-paced up-and-down sing song. Usually made by the male of a pair.

➤ **HOOT**—Usually soft single call notes given by members of a family.

can rise and fall with changing water levels. “The objective is to reduce adult mortality and increase nesting success,” said Kenow.

While Lake Vermilion has no shortage of nesting habitat for loons, two of three loon platforms deployed by the lake association this year were ultimately used by loons for nesting, according to VLA President Terry Grosshauser, so it appears that loons do recognize the advantages of the floating platforms.

Kenow also discussed his longstanding studies on loon behavior and migration patterns. Kenow, who grew up in Minneapolis and became fascinated with loons as a child during trips to northern



Minnesota, recently retired as a scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey— but he continues to conduct loon research for the USGS under temporary contracts. He began his work as part of an effort to better understand loon mortality resulting from avian botulism in the Great Lakes. As part of that effort, he began using a variety of transmitting and geo-tracking devices in loons to better understand their movements, and that work ultimately helped the Minnesota DNR provide a documentary link between the state’s summer loon population and the Gulf of Mexico.

Kenow noted that loons face a large number of hazards in the wild, from predators like

bald eagles, to parasites, to lead poisoning and entanglement from abandoned fishing tackle. Kenow’s work demonstrated that mortality among juvenile loons can be quite high, as most young birds tracked by his study died within their first two years, before every returning to Minnesota. Despite the challenges that loons face, he said the population in Minnesota remains remarkably stable, with a statewide population estimated at between 12,000-13,000 birds.

That’s about a third of the total common loon population in the United States, he said. Alaska is the summer home to about 13,500 loons, while the

See **KEYNOTE...**pg. 5B

BORDER ROUTE CHALLENGE

Pair seeks new record

You can track their progress online

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Two marathon canoers are hoping to set a new world record by this Saturday night and the public can watch their progress live online. Bob Vollhaber, of Stacy, and Kendra Leibel, of Princeton, will depart on their 220-mile journey from Sha Sha Resort on Rainy Lake to Grand Portage at 4 a.m. on Thursday. If they can reach Lake Superior by Saturday night, they'll beat the record of 69 hours and 25 minutes set this past May by their much-younger friends Matt Peterson and Peter Wagner.

Vollhaber, who's known as BeaV to his friends, and Leibel, are both in their 50s and they will be the first mixed-gender team to attempt a serious effort at the record. It's all part of the fabled Border Route Challenge, dating back to 1968, when famed canoe marathoners Verlen Kruger and Clint Waddel traveled the route in 80 hours and 40 minutes. Despite many efforts to break that mark, it wasn't until this year that Wagner and Peterson managed to do so.

In attempting to set a new record, Vollhaber and Leibel will face extraordinary physical and mental challenges. To have any chance at the record, the team will need to paddle or portage continuously during the 220 mile-long



Bob Vollhaber and Kendra Leibel at the finish of their Border Route Challenge run last fall. Now, they're hoping to set the record for the fastest time ever on the 220-mile route.

journey, which includes 23 miles of portaging. That means no sleep and no stopping to cook a meal— for nearly three days straight.

Much of their travel will take place in darkness, but the team will be able to rely only on map and compass for navigation, as Waddell and Kruger did in 1968. Their canoe will, however, have a GPS unit affixed that will transmit data to a satellite, allowing the public to track their progress as they seek the record. The data will be available live on a map of their route at water-tribe.com. On the home page, click on the map for the Minnesota Kruger Challenge 2019.

Check it out and be glad you can experience this grueling event from the comfort of home.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
75 56					75 52					74 52					77 55					77 56				
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.
08/05	84	58	0.08		08/05	85	60	0.01		08/05	85	60	0.02		08/05	81	61	0.00		07/29	na	na	0.10	
08/06	79	47	0.05		08/06	79	45	0.00		08/06	79	54	0.12		08/06	81	48	0.00		07				
08/07	81	48	0.05		08/07	81	46	0.18		08/07	82	55	0.08		08/07	72	61	0.00		07	No readings at presstime			
08/08	74	44	0.01		08/08	74	43	0.01		08/08	73	49	0.07		08/08	72	46	0.00		08				
08/09	71	43	0.00		08/09	72	41	0.00		08/09	71	49	0.00		08/09	75	48	0.00		08				
08/10	76	44	0.00		08/10	75	41	0.00		08/10	76	50	0.00		08/10	81	46	0.00		08				
08/11	81	45	0.00		08/11	81	42	0.00		08/11	83	53	0.00		08/11	75	52	0.00		05/14	02	00	0.00	
YTD Total				11.34	YTD Total				14.81	YTD Total				11.89	YTD Total				12.48	YTD Total				13.25

Outdoors in brief

Paddling celebration set for Saturday in Ely

ELY—Silent water enthusiasts are invited to the annual Paddling Celebration on Saturday, Aug. 17, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Semers Beach.

This free public event is sponsored by the Minnesota Canoe Museum and the Ely Folk School. Activities include:

► Recreational and educational opportunities for paddling various

styles of canoes.

► Viewing and learning about historic canoes.

► Networking with paddlers, canoe builders, guides, and outfitters.

► Learning about the Ely Folk School's community birch bark canoe-building project and traditional craft classes.

A highlight of the event is having a chance to paddle wood canvas and birch bark canoes, offered as a fundraiser for the non-profit sponsors. Learn about the

Minnesota Canoe Museum and the Ely Folk School and how to become involved.

Bring the family, picnic food, canoe, and a guitar. Semers Beach is a city waterfront park that offers a public swimming beach, campfire pits, picnic tables, playground, restrooms, canoe carry-down access, and an enclosed pavilion. Semers Beach Park is located at 476 Shagawa Road North.

For more information, contact the Minnesota Canoe Museum at 218-226-8482.

KEYNOTE...Continued from page 4B

remainder of the birds are found in a handful of other northern tier states, including Maine, Wisconsin, and Michigan.

The vast majority of common loons spend their summers in Canada.

Kenow gave his presentation after the conclusion of the business portion of the lake association's annual meeting, held this year in the gymnasium of the Tower-Soudan Elementary School. Grosshauser gave an update on several topics of interest to members, including that no new invasive species had been detected on Lake Vermilion, which is a marked contrast to some of the state's other largest and most popular lakes, which have seen infestations of both zebra mussels and starry stonewort in the past year. Zebra mussels were also reported as

recently as last week in the Rochleau Pit in Virginia. Grosshauser credited the VLA's aquatic invasive species efforts, which he called "second-to-none in the state" for helping to forestall infestations in the lake. He noted that the club's volunteers had inspected 18,750 boats last year, including at both public and private launches on the lake. Grosshauser said the club is currently analyzing traffic patterns at the various launches in order to boost the efficiency of the inspection effort.

Claire Zweig reported on the annual loon count, noting that total loon numbers were down by 40 this year, while the chick count was actually slightly above the ten-year average. Grosshauser reported on the cormorant count, which appears to be down again on Potato Island, with a total count of 353. He said

a growing number of herring gulls on the island appear to be keeping the cormorants in check.

The club recognized the efforts of Howard Ankrum and Rob Joki, two longtime board members who stepped down this year. The assembled members voted to add five new members to the board, including Mary McNellis, Gary Haugen, and John Yocum, who joined the board in late 2018, and Lori Ptak and Jim Graham, who joined last month. All five new members needed approval from the annual meeting. Members also approved the re-appointment of board members Dwight Warkentin, Wayne Souja, and Jeff Lovgren.

In addition, the membership voted to expand the association's board of directors from 15 to 18 members. Those appointments will be added at a later date.

CLEAN.DRAIN.DRY.

CLEAN

✓ Boats, trailers, and gear

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

DRAIN

✓ Water from boat, bilge, motor, and live well

✓ Remove drain plug and open all water draining devices

✓ Trash unused bait

DRY

✓ Everything at least five days before going to other waters

✓ (Or) Decontaminate with high pressure water (120°F or warmer)

Obituaries and Death Notices



Patrick J. Murphy

Patrick John Murphy, 57, of Babbitt, passed away on Friday, Aug. 9, 2019, at his residence. A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 16 at Range Funeral Home with visitation for one hour prior. Deacon Dan Schultz will officiate. Burial will take place at the Argo Cemetery. Arrangements are with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

Patrick was born on Feb. 4, 1962, in Ely, to Earl and Nina (Sveine) Murphy. He graduated from John F. Kennedy High School in Babbitt in 1980. Following high school, Patrick attended Vermilion Community College, attaining his AA degree. While enrolled at Vermilion, he played hockey and later coached for a few years. Patrick worked for the U.S. Forest Service and Reserve Mining, retiring from North Shore mining after 25 years.

Patrick loved hunting, fishing, golfing, motorcycles and music. He enjoyed spending time at his hunting shack that was built with his best friends. His outlaw ways will be sadly missed.

He is survived by his

children, Jazmin Murphy of Babbitt and Logan (Lacey) Murphy of Eveleth; grandchildren, Ryan, Keagan and Kael; sister, Sherril (Michael) Borg of Babbitt; brothers, Richard (Bev) Murphy of Kissimmee, Fla., Larry (Kathy) Murphy of New Ulm and Timothy Murphy of Detroit Lakes; and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and brothers, Joseph and Terry.



Richard Sabart

Richard "Dale" Sabart, 86, of Cook, died unexpectedly in his home on Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2019. A celebration of Dale's life was held on Thursday, Aug. 15 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Cook. Dale was laid to rest with his wife Marge at the Cook Community Cemetery in Cook. Military Honors were accorded by the Cook VFW Post 1757 Honor Guard and Orr American Legion Post 480 Honor Guard. A reception followed at the church. Arrangements were with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

He was born to William and Mary (Bluth) Sabart on Sept. 25, 1932, in Grey Eagle. Dale attended school in Hitterdal, graduating from Hitterdal High School in 1949. Dale lived in Virginia, where he was the owner-operator of Range Paint and Varnish for 55 years. He was very well known throughout the Iron Range for his excellent paint advice. He

was a past member of the Rotary Club, Elks Lodge and Knights of Columbus. Dale joined the National Guard in 1952 and served for three years.

Dale is survived by one sister, Mary Jane Johnson of Virginia; five children, David Sabart of Cook, Kathy (Larry) Meyer of Destin, Fla., Thomas (On) Sabart of Navarre, Fla., Linda (Kevin) Haney of Sioux Falls, S.D., and Larry (Annie) Sabart of Britt; nine grandchildren, David Sabart, Christopher Sabart, Brittany Sabart, Tedd Petrich, Troy Petrich, Mark Sabart, Katelyn Maki, Julie Williams and Michael Haney; three great-grandchildren and one on the way in January; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of almost 60 years, Marjorie (Kleffler) Sabart; six brothers; and two sisters.



Clara Gustafson

Clara Dall Gustafson, 98, of Harrison, Idaho, formerly of Cook, died at her home on Friday, Aug. 2, 2019, with her loving daughter Donna and faithful dog Daisy by her side. A visitation will be held from 6-8 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 23 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 24 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Cook. Visitation will be held again one hour prior to the service at the church. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Clara spent the first 95 years of her life in Silverdale and Cook. She was born in Silverdale on Aug. 14, 1920, the youngest of seven children. At age 16, she moved to Cook to become a waitress at Ardeen's Café, where she

met her future husband, Walter Gustafson. Walter was drafted in WWII, and upon his return to Cook following the war, Clara and Walter were married on Feb. 12, 1944. They purchased a home and 40 acres in rural Cook, where they raised their son and three daughters. Clara was a loving caretaker, and she took care of her parents until they passed away in the 1950s. Her husband Walter built her parents a home next door, so Clara could care for them while also raising her own children.

Once her children were school-aged, Clara worked outside the home in various jobs in the Cook area, but her main employment began at the Cook Hospital in 1958. She worked in the laundry, and was an exemplary, dedicated employee and coworker. She was instrumental in unionizing the hospital so employees would earn a livable wage, and receive health and welfare benefits. During her 48-year working career at the hospital, she continued to strive to improve conditions for blue collar workers. As gentle, kind, and loving as Clara was, she always fought for the underdog, and she never gave up on anything that she felt was worth fighting for.

Clara was a wonderful mother to her children, as well as being a loving second mom to her special niece Joyce, who spent many years living with Clara and Walter. Clara loved being affectionately referred to as "Auntie Clara" by all the Gustafson and Dall nieces and nephews who frequented her home. Many came in the winter to slide down the hill, and there would be hot cocoa, popcorn, and cookies for all. In the summer, nieces and nephews would come to the frog pond in the sand pit playground and ride horses. Room was always available for as many kids as would like to stay for extended periods of time. Nephew Jerry, and nieces Vivy and Janis, liked to stay all summer long, as Auntie Clara would take all the kids swimming in Lake Vermilion.

Her home was her "castle"; she lived there from 1944 until 2015. With its circular driveway, large lawns and garden space, there was plenty to keep Clara busy outdoors, and that was where she loved to be. She never had a lock on her door; it was always open to anyone. She mowed her lawn with a small power mower, until her loving nephew Kenny brought her a riding mower. She felt nervous about driving it, but quickly caught on that it saved time. In the fall she would order 12 cords of wood for winter heat. Grandson Brad would bring over his log splitter; it would take her about two weeks to split her winter wood. She hauled it by wheelbarrow into her woodshed, stacking it neatly for the upcoming winter. Spring was the time she scraped and repainted her house. The local hardware store told her she needed permission from her kids to buy an extension ladder....we knew Mom....if they would not sell her a ladder, she would build some scary scaffolding.

On St. Patrick's Day, Gladys and Clara gath-

ered at her home for their annual 200 tomato-seed-planting project. This was in preparation for Memorial Day weekend, when friends stopped by to pick up tomato plants for their gardens. Clara loved "to watch things grow"; Kristen and Nicole would dig in the dirt with Grandma, planting vegetable seeds and picking produce in the fall. Clara picked raspberries on her gravel pit banks, always counting how many raspberries it took to fill her bowl. She loved picking blueberries with granddaughters Kristen and Nicole, but had a fear of getting lost in the woods.

After Clara raised her own children, she became a wonderful grandmother to seven grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. Three of her grandchildren, Bradley, Kristen and Nicole, lived nearby, and they soon discovered that there was "no place like Grandma's." Grandma was patient, she spoiled kids, she loved to bake goodies, and she always let you lick the bowl. Kristen and Nicole were only 10 and 12 years old, when Grandma thought they should learn to drive. What fun they had behind the steering wheel, up and down the half-mile dirt road, with their Grandma on the seat beside them giving instructions. Grandma was an expert at softball; she was the pitcher for her team when she was in school. Kristen, Nicole and Grandma had many great times playing softball on her lawn.

Clara had a great sense of humor, and she loved music and dancing. She enjoyed playing her piano, while teaching her children to sing hymns. Senior citizen trips to Branson, Mo., were dear to her heart, and dancing to live polka music at Sabin's in Chisholm was a favorite pastime for Clara and her best friend, Gladys. Clara loved dressing up; when the Cook Thrift Shop asked her and Gabby Pihlaja to be models for their style show she was thrilled. These two were partners in "crime"; fun was the name of the game. She and Gladys particularly enjoyed dressing up as chickens to perform the humorous chicken dance for nursing home residents. They loved sharing humor, and spreading joy to others.

Clara loved birthday parties. Every five years, an event was planned in Cook to celebrate her birthday, at which she would request live dance music. Prior to her relocating to Idaho in 2015, 225 friends and family members came to Clara's 95th birthday celebration at the VFW in Cook.

Clara was an animal lover; she told stories of riding her cow home from school. When she was a teenager, she raised a newborn fawn to adulthood in the family dining room. If there was a dog in Cook whose master passed away, Clara gave it a loving home.

Sunday morning church services were rarely missed by Clara, who was a lifetime member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Cook. She most recently attended Trinity Lutheran Church in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. She also supported the Lutheran Church in Silverdale, where she was baptized and confirmed. Her strong Christian faith

was a pillar of her strength. She loved making doughnuts to serve with coffee at church, and she was well known in both Cook and Harrison for krumkake, rosettes, pasties, and homemade lemon pies.

As Clara's hearing started to fail, phone conversations began to dwindle, but that did not stop her from communicating with friends and loved ones. She began writing lengthy letters, and waited anxiously each day for return correspondence. She often placed three stamps on her letters, to make certain they would not be returned for lack of postage.

Clara was known as "The Poppy Lady" in Cook. She sold VFW Poppies in Cook from the end of WWII through this last May, missing only two years when her children were ill. She was generally considered the top seller, as it was difficult to get past her without buying a poppy. She was a true patriot and volunteer, and was a lifetime Ladies Auxiliary member of Post 1757 in Cook, serving in many officer positions over the years. Clara also served as an AEOA volunteer for the Cook Area Nutrition Site for over 12 years. She had the honor of being a Grand Marshal in Cook's Timber Days Parade, riding in son Dale's classic Corvette convertible.

Clara was an avid newspaper reader, and after moving to Idaho, she continued subscribing to three Minnesota newspapers, to keep track of friends back home. She loved to play cards, and to watch Wheel of Fortune and Who Wants to be a Millionaire. Jigsaw puzzles were her favorite hobby, and her good friend Lori would bring her new ones, so they could enjoy their common pastime together.

Son-in-law Richard Ruhl and daughter Donna were blessed to share 10 years of loving care with Clara/Mom in their home. Her wish of never having to spend a day in a nursing home came true!

Clara is survived by her daughters,

Lois (Joe) Hughes and Donna (Richard) Ruhl; son,

Dale Gustafson; grandsons,

Bradley (Jena) Perala and Dean Johnson; grand-

daughters, Lisa Hughes (Robert Klenk), Heidi

(Eric) Cederstrand, Kelli

(Greg) Petersen and Nicole

Gustafson; great-grand-

children, Blake and Alec

Perala, Ross Hanstad,

Chase, Alexis and Savannah

DeChaney, Cole, Carly

and Tate Cederstrand;

Svea, Draven and Simon

Gustafson, Jacob and

Lilyana Petersen; many

special kind, loving nieces

and nephews from the Dall

and Gustafson sides of her

family; and special friends,

Joan Beamish of Idaho

and Greta Jeske of Lake

Vermilion.

She was preceded

in death by her husband,

Walter; parents, Drier

and Jenny Dall; daugh-

ter, Nancy Perala;

granddaughter, Kristen

Gustafson; sisters, Alice

Mair, Mildred Stanke and

Irene Nelson; brothers,

Frank Moe, George Dall

and infant Roy Dall; niece,

Joyce Gustafson; and life-

long friends, Gladys Snell

and Diana Woitel.

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VCS Students have regular opportunities to volunteer in the community, such as the Tower Food Shelf, Tower Senior Bingo, and for Tower-Soudan Historical Society projects.

TOWER-SOUDAN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Big Woods Transit is expanding services, beginning Sept. 3

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

REGIONAL- Big Woods Transit is expanding services in the Tower-Soudan and Vermilion Reservation area starting Tuesday, Sept. 3. The company will start with two routes and may increase services depending on ridership.

“We are open to adding additional routes if there is a demand,” said driver Chris Schuster. “This is about providing a public service.”

The first route is aimed at those commuting to work from the Vermilion Reservation and Tower areas to Cook or Nett Lake. This route is called Aamoo, the Ojibwe word for bee. Aamoo will be a fast commuter route, running Monday through Friday from park-n-rides at the Vermilion Social Center (departing at 6:15 a.m.) and the Y Store (departs at 6:30 a.m.) to Cook and through Cook to Nett Lake, returning at the end of the work day (departing Nett

Lake RTG at 4:30 p.m.) Fares cost \$5 one-way or \$8 for round-trip. Riders can also purchase a five return-trip punch ticket for \$32 (one return-trip free) or 10 return-trip punch ticket for \$64 (two return-trips free). There are monthly unlimited passes, to Cook at \$50 per month and to Orr/Nett Lake at \$80 per month

The second new route is aimed at those needing to go to Tower or the Virginia area for shopping, medical appointments, or other errands. This route is called Ajidamoo, the Ojibwe word for squirrel. This route will run from the Vermilion area, to Tower-Soudan, and then into Virginia along Hwy. 169 for shopping, medical, and/or employment, etc. This route leaves at 9 a.m. and returns by 3 p.m., but it can make any number of stops during this time, depending on the needs of that day’s riders. This route picks riders up at their door and returns them to their door. Fares cost \$2 for one-way, \$3 for a round-trip. Frequent riders can opt for a five round-trip punch



Big Woods Transit is expanding service to the Tower-Soudan area in September.
file photo

ticket for \$12 (one ride free) or ten round-trip punch ticket for \$24 (two rides free)

Riders need to call dispatch to schedule a ride at 888-757-1540 and leave a message, or call the dispatch cell phone at 218-750-1258 and leave a message. Schuster said Big Woods is

looking at providing an evening service to Tower and/or Virginia, for those who need transportation after the regular work day.

Big Woods Transit has been operating in northern Minnesota for eight years. This program is funded through the Federal Transportation Administration

(FTA) and these services are public transit and available to everyone. All busses are ADA accessible with wheelchair lifts. Big Woods is proud and excited to be expanding transit to include the Lake Vermilion and Tower-Soudan area. Big Woods is also

PUBLIC NOTICES

MINUTES OF BOARD OF
EDUCATION
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
DISTRICT NO. 707
Nett Lake, Minnesota
55772-8122

REGULAR MEETING
July 15, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Beverly Steel, Chairman
Marilyn Geshick,
Vice-Chairman
Malita Spears, Clerk
Jane Villebrun, Director
Janice Connor, Director

ALSO PRESENT:
Jim Varichak, Supt./Prin.
Christine Hampson, Business
Mgr.
Corinne Whiteman, School
Secretary

ABSENT:
Shane Drift

Beverly Steel called the regular meeting of the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 707 to order at 8:08 a.m.

Davelle Jones, and Simona Benner wanted to address the School Board with an incident with the School Bus and Driver.

20-001 Motion was made by Geshick and seconded by Connor to approve the agenda with adding Lamp Posts to Discussion Items. MOTION CARRIED 5-0-0

20-002 Motion was made by Geshick and seconded by Connor to approve the June 10, 2019 regular meeting minutes. MOTION CARRIED 5-0-0

20-003 Motion was made by Geshick and seconded by Villebrun to approve the bills in the amount of \$330,093.19 (list attached). MOTION CARRIED 5-0-0

20-004 Motion was made by Geshick and seconded by Villebrun to approve the June 30, 2019 Financial Report. MOTION CARRIED 5-0-0

Superintendent Report was given: Summer School is going well, and

has two weeks remaining. The attendance is varying from day to day. We will be offering Summer Camp, through UMD at the end of the month. The camp will be broken down into Dragon Flies one week and Engineering the next week. We will be offering a Kindergarten Sneak Preview in August. The incoming Kindergarteners will be able to come in and get to know the Kindergarten Schedule. I applied for a G5 grant. This grant is for Emergency Maintenance. This grant would be for \$305,000.00 I haven't heard back from this grant. I would put this towards Flooring in the school, most of the tiling is coming off due to high levels of moisture.

Technology Report was reviewed.

Indian Education Report was reviewed, Malita Spears gave a verbal update of what she is currently working on, in her program.

20-005 Motion was made by Geshick and seconded by Spears to approve the Consent Agenda. MOTION CARRIED 5-0-0

20-006 Motion was made by Connor and seconded by Villebrun to approve the Reading Well by 3rd Grade Plan. MOTION CARRIED 5-0-0

20-007 Motion was made by Geshick and seconded by Villebrun to Adopt the Long - Term Facilities Maintenance Plan Resolution. Roll Call Vote Taken: Jane Villebrun Yes Janice Connor Yes Marilyn Geshick Yes Malita Spears Yes Beverly Steel Yes Shane Drift Absent

20-008 Motion was made by Geshick and seconded by Spears to approve the Range Mental Health Center (Adapt) Contract. MOTION CARRIED 5-0-0

20-009 Motion was made by Spears and seconded by Villebrun to approve the Mower Rental Agreement with Darren Landgren. MOTION CARRIED 5-0-0

20-010 Motion was made by Connor and seconded by Geshick to approve the MN Seal Coating Proposal. MOTION CARRIED 5-0-0

20-011 Motion was made by Geshick and seconded by Connor to approve the Apple Quote. MOTION CARRIED 5-0-0

Discussion on Lawn Tractor Replacement.

Discussion on Part-time Employee Benefits It was suggested that Christine brings forward a Prorated Benefit Plan for the next meeting.

Discussion on Lamp Posts. It was decided that it was more cost effective to have a Lamp Post Base built instead of buying a Lamp Post Unit. Discussion on Bus Driver/Bus Incident.

20-012 Motion was made by Geshick and seconded by Villebrun to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 a.m. MOTION CARRIED 5-0-0

Published in the Timberjay,
August 16, 2019

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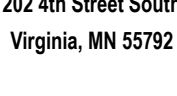
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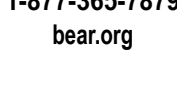
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Friday, August 30: Trading Post Run and Sidewalk Sales begin. Pick up your map at Anderson's. Kid's Fishing Contest at Pine Point Lodge-all weekend! 5 PM-9 PM Fish Fry at Voyagaire Lodge.
Saturday, August 31: 8-11 AM Pancake Breakfast at Crane Lake Chapel. 1-5 PM Free Guided Trail Hike-Meet at Handberg's Marina.
Sunday, September 1: 8 AM Registration begins for the Crane Lake 5K Walk/Run at Nelson's Resort.
Proceeds will go to benefit 5-year-old Haakyn Mohr, who has cancer.
9 AM: Race begins. Bloody Mary Bar following the race. 11:30 AM-12:30 PM: Crane Lake Chapel Service 1-3 PM: Ice Cream Social at Handberg's Marina.
Monday, September 2: Noon-3 PM Car Show at Voyagaire Lodge, weather permitting.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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

Library Board: 1- Mid-term

Please remit a letter of interest and qualifications by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, August 19, 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, Aug. 9 & 16, 2019

CITY OF ELY
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Ely City Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, August 20, 2019 at 5:15 pm in the Council Chambers at Ely City Hall to hear public comment regarding considering Vacating a portion of Power Street described as follows: a portion of Power Street running adjacent to Lot 1, Block 14 and Lot 2, Block 13, Chandler Addition to Ely. (A Map of the potential vacation can be found at www.ely.mn.us – Ordinances) The area to be vacated is 189 ft in length with a width of 33 ft.

Harold R Langowski, Clerk/Treasurer

Published in the Ely Timberjay, Aug. 9 & 16, 2019

EMPLOYMENT

CARETAKER

Vintage Vermilion Cabins and Retreat is seeking single/couple for our caretaker position. The retreat is a 5-cabin rental resort on Black Bay on Lake Vermilion. Duties include yard work and routine maintenance on buildings/property and equipment on-site, cabin prep for guests (cleaning, changing linens, laundry) and serving as resort host(s) (which includes welcoming visitors, explaining amenities, answering questions and providing assistance as necessary). Should possess basic carpentry and mechanical skills, be a self-starter and a personality that promotes effective interaction with guests. Moderate/light duty physical activity required. Should have own truck. Seasonal position (mid-April through late October). Personal and job references will be required. Competitive wages. Possible living accommodations on site during season.

For further information on the resort, please see our website at www.vintagevermilion.com. Please send a cover letter/resume to dellis@estplanner.net. 8/23

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Head Start Teacher (Nett Lake)

The Head Start Teacher will provide educational services to preschool-aged children in an assigned classroom setting. Provide educational and support services to families of enrolled children, while assuring that confidentiality is maintained in a professional manner. Incumbent will implement the Head Start Early Childhood Education Plan and provide the full range of early childhood services through the curriculum, meet the Performance Standards, including mental and physical health and safety, culture and nutrition activities.

- Experience: One year experience in a preschool classroom.
- Education: Baccalaureate or advanced degree in early childhood education; or a baccalaureate or advanced degree and coursework equivalent to a major relating to early childhood education, with experience teaching preschool-aged children.

Please visit the Bois Forte website at www.boisforte.com for a full job description and to download an application

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Dentist

The Dentist provides dental services assisting in implementation and operation of the dental program which includes preventive, educational, and corrective dental services. The incumbent also performs a full range of professional dental duties in connection with the treatment of commonly encountered dental disease or dental health programs requiring standard corrective, restorative, or preventive measures.

- Experience: Two year post graduate experience.
- Education: DDS or DMD Degree from a dental school accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation.

Please visit the Bois Forte website at www.boisforte.com for a full job description and to download an application.

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Early Head Start Child Care
Teacher (Vermilion)

The Early Head Start Child Care Teacher will implement the Early Head Start Education Plan and provide a full range of early childhood services through curriculum, meet the Performance Standards, including mental and physical health and safety, culture and nutrition activities. They will develop individualized education plans for all children, taking into account the information from staffing, on-going assessments and outcomes done with each child, as well as utilizing parental input and will implement a full range of early childhood activities, including play, learning, mealtimes, and diapering.

Experience: One year of experience working with children in a classroom setting
Education: Associate's Degree

Please visit the Bois Forte website at www.boisforte.com for a full job description and to download an application

Published in the Timberjay, Aug. 2, 9 & 16

Head Start Teacher Aide
Openings in Nett Lake and Vermilion

The Head Start Teacher Aide is responsible in assisting the Head Start Teacher in carrying out the classroom activities and component plans and will provide support through classroom and playground supervision of all children. Must work closely with parents and families to secure the needs of the children in the classroom.

- Experience: One year experience working with preschool aged children.
- Education: Must possess a high school diploma or GED equivalent.

Please visit the Bois Forte website at www.boisforte.com for a full job description and to download an application

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POSITION OPENING-ISD 696
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Permanent part-time; 2¼ hrs./day; 5 days/week; student contact days; \$14.79/ hr.; must be able to lift 30 lbs. on a regular basis; start date: Sept. 3, 2019; background check required. Non-licensed application form available at www.ely.k12.mn.us, or in the General Office, 2nd floor of the Memorial building. Return application to: ISD No. 696, Attn: Superintendent, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731. Application deadline: Tuesday, August 27, 2019 at 3 p.m. 8/23

Part-Time
Sportswriter

We're looking for someone to help cover high school and community college sports in the Timberjay readership area. If you have a passion for high school sports, writing experience, and are a self-starter, this is the job for you. Hours are part-time, depending on the sports season.

Please send resumé, and cover letter describing your interest to marshall@timberjay.com, or call 218-753-2950 and ask for Marshall or Jodi. Position open until filled.

Thursday distribution driver

We are looking for someone to help with newspaper distribution on Thursdays. Hours are approx. 8am - 1pm. Duties involve picking up the newspapers in Virginia with Timberjay van, driving them to Tower, sorting for mailing, then dropping papers at post offices in Cook/Orr and newstand sales drops. Must be able to lift 20 lbs, and have a good driving record.

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by Linda Thistle

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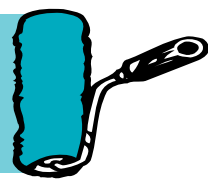
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#137944 NORWEGIAN BAY LOT Level lot with SE views. Towering pines make it a great spot for building your home. 17 miles from Cook gives you privacy for your retreat. Power is available. Approved for a 3 BR home sewer system. **\$159,900**

#136652 COOK Large storage building on .3 acre backlot near Frazer Bay public access. 14 ft clearance w/ 4-stalls and 100 amp panel. **\$65,000**

#137256 EMBARRASS 3 BR, 2 BA manufactured home on 40 acres. Pole bldg, pond, adjacent to public lands. **PRICE REDUCED! \$99,000**

#136309 LAKE VERMILION Road-access lot situated on a protected bay, features approx. 200 ft ksh, 2.3 acres, gradual elevation. Electric and phone service, lift-out dock, privy, driveway. **\$179,900**

CONGRATULATIONS

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Super Crossword

Answers

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

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