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# the TIMBERJAY

VOL. 30, ISSUE 36 September 13, 2019

\$1<sup>00</sup>



## PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

### Tower, Breitung seek \$4 million in state bonding

Project includes water treatment plant, aging water main replacement

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- A \$3 million state bonding request would give the Tower-Breitung Wastewater Board (TBWB) the funding

needed to upgrade the local water treatment plant to insure safe drinking water for the residents of Tower and Soudan.

“The project is ranked as the fourth most important in the state right now,” TBWB Supervisor

Matt Tuchel told the city council here at Monday’s meeting. The bond funds would pay for the installation of a secondary water treatment plant, which is needed because surface water from the East Two River is seeping into

the well system. Tests on the municipal water supply dating back to 2016 showed problems with byproducts of the additional water chlorination chemicals needed to ensure safe water, due to the organic compounds natu-

rally found in the surface water.

“Our water is safe to drink,” Tuchel emphasized, “but we need to put in this redundant treatment system to make sure nothing is

See...BONDING pg. 10

## OUTDOOR RECREATION



### BRIDGING THE GAP

80-ton span across Vermilion River caps ATV trail connection

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

VERMILION RIVER— More than four years of planning and fundraising reached its dramatic culmination this past weekend as work crews, using a massive crane, installed a 185-foot section of bridge across a remote section of the Vermilion River about 12 miles south of Crane Lake.

The bridge is the capstone of a \$1.25 million multi-use trail project that will connect a 220-mile network of ATV and snowmobile trails in northwestern St. Louis County with the Prospector Trail network located east of the Vermilion River.

The project was the brainchild of Bruce Beste and Steve Koch, who have ATV’d on logging roads that crisscross the forest between Crane Lake, Elephant Lake, and Echo Lake for years. They knew if they could get a bridge built across the river, they could open up a whole new set of opportunities for riders like themselves.

So, they founded Voyageur



**A 185-foot section of bridge was installed across the Vermilion River last weekend some 12 miles south of Crane Lake. The span completes a multi-use trail project in northwestern St. Louis County. A ribbon-cutting will be held next Friday.** submitted photos

Country ATV in 2015 and it has quickly grown into one of the largest ATV clubs in Minnesota, with 800 members and 82 business sponsors. The club’s dramatic growth reflects the increasing popularity of ATV riding in the state, according to Beste, and the location of this major ATV project is sure to showcase the riding opportunities to be found in northern St. Louis County.

“The timing of this was fantastic,” said Beste. “The use of ATVs is growing so fast.”

The total project includes about 15 miles of connecting trail in addition to the bridge. And while Voyageur Country ATV led the push, they had plenty of partners, including St. Louis County, the Department of

See...BRIDGE pg. 11

## COMMUNICATIONS

### AG: Frontier settlement inadequate

Ellison’s office continuing investigation into quality of service complaints

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison is taking issue with a proposed settlement of a number of outstanding issues and complaints over the telecommunications service offered by Frontier Communications.

Ellison’s office, in an Aug. 21 response filed with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, suggests that the proposed settlement is inadequate given Frontier’s repeated violations of state law and is not in keeping with past settlement agreements reached

See...FRONTIER pg. 11



Keith Ellison

## ISD 696

### School gym closed until further notice

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – There was good news and bad news, and praise for the outgoing superintendent, during the Ely school board’s regular meeting on Monday night.

First, the bad news:

Tim Leeson, director of facilities, reported to school board members that janitorial staff discovered last Friday evening that a “sizable piece of plaster” had fallen from the ceiling of the gymnasium. “There was still dust in the air at about 6 p.m. when staff walked in the side door,” Leeson said. “It must have just come down about then.” He reported that the plaster was not wet, and there appear to be no roof leaks or water damage discovered on the initial

See... ELY pg. 12



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# COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

## Cook Library Book Sale on Saturday, Sept. 14

COOK- The Friends of the Cook Public Library are pleased to announce their Fall Book Sale on Saturday, Sept. 14, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The sale will be held at the Book Barn on 1st St. SE in Cook. Stock up on books, audiobooks, and DVDs for the coming winter, and browse the supply of children's books that are ideal for Christmas presents. Cook Library T-shirts and book totes are also available for sale. All proceeds from the sale support the Cook Public Library.

## Issues Forum at VCC on Oct. 12

ELY- What do you care about? Mark your calendar for Saturday, Oct. 12 from 12:30 - 4 p.m. at Vermilion Community College, to attend Democratic Values in Action: Issues Forum for Northern Minnesota. Bring your questions and an open mind. All are welcome to attend. Watch the *Timberjay* for further details.

## Courtney Yasmineh to perform at Northern Grounds, Sept. 20

ELY- Courtney Yasmineh, songwriter and Northwoods author, returns to Ely as part of her artist award with the Tofte Lake Center. She will be performing a solo acoustic concert at Northern Grounds on Friday, Sept. 20 from 7-9 p.m.

Her newest album, "Songs From The Open Road", will be releasing that same day across the globe on all music services including Apple Music and Spotify.

The CD for the new album will only be available at her shows, and Courtney will have copies of both her new album and her book, about her winter in the Northwoods in 1978, for purchase and signing.

## Cook Hospital Wellness Fair set for Saturday, Sept. 14 from 9 a.m. - noon

COOK- The Cook Hospital and Care Center will be hosting its annual Wellness Fair on Saturday Sept. 14 from 9 a.m. until 12 noon. This year's theme is "Staying on Target," and the goal is to inform, enlighten and inspire all who attend to make health and wellness a priority in their lives. This event is open to the community!

There will be many exhibitors attending the event who will provide health and wellness information, screening and fun activities: the Bloodmobile, a Drug Take-Back program, free blood pressure and blood sugar checks, cards for discount cholesterol checks, chair massages starting at \$5, free food, games, prizes and free bike helmets for the kids! Grand prizes for adults include a paddle board, Minnesota Wild tickets with hotel, and a smart watch voucher. Grand prizes for kids include gift cards. The Cook fire truck, ambulance and helicopter will be on-site!

Bring the entire family for the event of the year! The hospital is located at 10 Fifth St. SE in Cook.

## Rev. Eric Northard to speak at Mesabi Unitarian

VIRGINIA- "Lessons to Learn" will be the topic of Rev. Eric Northard at Mesabi Unitarian Universalist Church on Sunday, Sept 15.

Sometimes we are painfully slow to "get it." The world around us is full of wisdom and lessons and we, as a religious community, are a key player in educating our own faith community as well as our larger community. How can we make the lessons we teach have a lasting and meaningful impact?

The church is located at 230 7th Street S in Virginia. Services are at 10:30 a.m. The building is handicap-accessible.

## EMBARRASS

## Community Night Out draws a crowd



Above: Pat and Donna Surface performed in front of the housebarn. Below: Three-year-old Grace Poppema couldn't wait to taste her piece of apple pie. This is the third year Grace has attended the event. photos by J. Summit

EMBARRASS- If you got there late, you missed out on the chili and cornbread, and even the always-popular homemade pie. But everyone got to enjoy the live music presented by local favorites Pat and Donna Surface, as well as tour the historic Seitaniemi Housebarn.

Sisu Heritage's annual Community Night Out at the Seitaniemi Housebarn continues to attract a wide audience, both long-time attendees and newcomers, from across the region.

There were no new updates to show off on the building, which was built over 100 years ago, and is considered one of three housebarn structures built by Finns in this country, and is the only one left standing. The building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1990. Sisu Heritage has been undertaking major restoration work on the

structure, shoring up the foundation, replacing rotten logs, repairing the roof, replacing windows, along with other exterior and interior repairs, including the reconstruction of the unique hayloft ramps.

The building is now structurally sound, though much work remains to restore it to its original condition, said Sisu Heritage President Marlin Bjornrud. Sisu is working on securing additional grants so that the restoration work can continue in the future.

Sisu recently took ownership of the historic Apostolic Lutheran Church in Embarrass. Steve Solkela will be live in concert at the church, which is located on Hwy. 21, on Sunday, Oct. 13 at 3 p.m. He will bring his one-man band, and will play both original and traditional music. This is a concert for all ages. Solkela just returned from a trip to Finland,



so hopefully will have some new stories and songs from his travels.

## 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.

## Free Septic System and Private Well Homeowner Education Class on Sept. 30 in Cook; participants will receive free well water-testing kit

FIELD TWP- The University of Minnesota and Minnesota Department of Health will be providing

a free homeowner education class in our area. The class will be held from 5-7 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 30 at the North Woods School, 10248 Olson Rd. E in Cook. This free class will cover the basics of how septic systems function, well water testing, and how to help protect your well from contamination sources.

Free well-testing kits will be available. The Minnesota Department of

Health will fund well water testing of arsenic, nitrate, and coliform bacteria for all workshop attendees.

Homeowners will also learn about chemicals of emerging concern (CEC) including pharmaceuticals, personal care products, and the potential impact on ground and surface water. Information on proper maintenance of both septic systems and private drinking water systems will be covered

to help property owners protect their investments and the environment. A representative from St. Louis County will be present to answer any locally specific questions you may have.

This event is organized by the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD), in coordination with the University of Minnesota Water Resources Center, the Minnesota Department of Health, St. Louis County, North Woods School Community Education, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Registration is encouraged, to plan for materials, through the North St. Louis SWCD website at [www.nslswcd.org](http://www.nslswcd.org). For questions, please contact Becca at the North St. Louis SWCD at [becca@nslswcd.org](mailto:becca@nslswcd.org) or 218-288-6143.

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EMERGENCY SERVICES

# Projection: drop in TAAS margins to strain future budgets

Need for ambulance replacement could push five-year cumulative deficit to over \$600,000

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

TOWER—The Tower Area Ambulance Service’s (TAAS) shift to a paid on-call staffing model has drastically reduced the service’s operating margins and is raising questions about how the city will finance the purchase of ambulances in the future.

For years, the TAAS has been able to finance ambulances through cash surpluses generated through its operations, as well as a modest annual subsidy from area townships to help pay for ambulances and other costly equipment.

Prior to the shift to paid on-call in April 2018, the TAAS routinely posted annual operating margins of over \$100,000. Combined with the township subsidies,

those margins not only ensured that the service had sufficient cash to purchase ambulances but allowed the service to build a substantial fund balance. On paper, that fund balance exceeds \$800,000, although most of that revenue was transferred by former clerk-treasurer Linda Keith to cover other city spending and it’s not clear that the city will have the means to restore those funds any time soon.

For the ambulance service, hefty margins now appear unlikely given the significant additional cost of maintaining paid on-duty staff for 120 hours per week—at least without a change in the ambulance service’s business model.

Numbers so far in 2019 suggest the ambulance service has operated at roughly break even through the end of July.

Through the first seven months, TAAS expenditures totaled \$274,710. That includes a \$30,000 partial payment for a new ambulance, leaving operating expenditures recorded to date of \$244,710. The recording of TAAS expenses tends to lag as well, so it’s virtually certain that total operating costs through July 31 exceed \$250,000. At the current pace, the service’s operating expenses for 2019 are likely to come in close to last year’s expenditures of \$449,000.

Meanwhile, TAAS revenues have posted at a slower pace, although the first half of the year tends to reflect payments from the previous fall and winter, when run volume and billings are typically lower. As of the end of July, the TAAS reported total revenues

TOWER AMBULANCE SERVICE CASH FLOW PROJECTION (2019-2023)

| Year   | Beginning Balance | Estimated revenue | Available cash | Anticipated expenditures (operating) | Expected ambulance purchase | Total Expenditures | Total surplus/deficit | Total cash remaining |
|--------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 2019   | \$ 246,000        | \$ 410,000        | \$ 656,000     | \$ 442,000                           | \$ 250,000                  | \$ 692,000         | \$ (282,000)          | \$ (36,000)          |
| 2020   | \$ (36,000)       | \$ 505,800        | \$ 469,800     | \$ 459,680                           | 0                           | \$ 459,680         | \$ 46,120             | \$ 10,120            |
| 2021   | \$ 10,120         | \$ 526,032        | \$ 536,152     | \$ 478,067                           | \$ 265,000                  | \$ 743,067         | \$ (217,035)          | \$ (206,915)         |
| 2022   | \$ (206,915)      | \$ 547,073        | \$ 340,158     | \$ 497,190                           | 0                           | \$ 497,189         | \$ 49,884             | \$ (157,031)         |
| 2023   | \$ (157,031)      | \$ 568,956        | \$ 411,925     | \$ 517,077                           | \$ 281,000                  | \$ 798,077         | \$ (229,121)          | \$ (386,152)         |
| Totals |                   | \$ 2,557,861      |                | \$ 2,394,015                         | \$ 796,000                  | \$ 3,190,014       | \$ (632,152)          |                      |

- Assumptions:
- 2019 revenue projection assumes impact of auditor’s transfer of funds from 2018.
  - 2020 revenue projection assumes full 12 months of revenues.
  - 2020 and other future revenues assume a four percent annual escalator.
  - Assumes a three percent annual increase in the cost of ambulances.
  - Initial cash balance includes \$140,000 from 2014 insurance settlement.

of \$183,050 year-to-date. That number may be misleading, however, since, according to Altenburg, it does not include approximately \$79,000 in revenues booked in the early part of 2019 that the city’s auditors credited to 2018. Altenburg told the city council earlier this year that the city’s auditor won’t be making a similar transfer when the books are

finalized next spring.

Altenburg cited that transfer earlier this year to tout an “improvement” in the service’s operating margins, from the auditor’s original calculation of \$4,000 in 2018 profits, to about \$80,000.

That transfer, however, is making the service’s 2019 books look significantly worse, and that’s without considering

the \$250,000 cost of purchasing a new ambulance.

At the pace through July 31, the TAAS would book only about \$370,550 in revenue for 2019, leaving a substantial operating deficit. The pace of receipts is likely to increase in the second half of the year, however,

See ANALYSIS...pg. 5

CITY OF ORR

# Orr levy could rise by seven percent next year

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

ORR—The city’s levy here could rise by as much as seven percent next year, based on council action on Monday. The levy increase, which the council approved with little discussion, is preliminary and could well be reduced before the council sets its final 2020 budget and accompanying levy in December. City officials plan to meet with their

department heads over the next several weeks to look for ways to reduce spending and keep next year’s levy increase to a minimum. Staff will also be exploring possible opportunities to rent the former city hall, which is being vacated by the local St. Louis County assessor.

Along with the levy proposal, City Clerk-Treasurer Cheri Carter presented the city’s proposed 2020 budget, which includes general fund

expenditures of \$312,242. The proposed levy, totaling \$117,861 would fund just over a third of that spending, with other governmental revenues accounting for the rest.

Next year’s proposed expenditures represent about a \$5,000 increase over the current budget, and would amount to a reduction of approximately \$33,000 over 2018 expenditures.

In related action, the council set its annual Truth-in-Taxation

public hearing for Monday, Dec. 9, at 5 p.m. at city hall.

In other action, the council set a public hearing for 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 15 at city hall as part of the process for vacating an alley located between 4628 and 4632 Lake Street. The alley was part of the original platting for the location, but the city never developed the alley as a public roadway and is now proposing to vacate it, with the property to revert to the adjacent

landowners.

One of the adjacent owners of the alley had requested that the city maintain the alley, but the city insists they have always viewed the corridor as a private driveway, even though it was originally platted as an alley. “Because it was never opened to the public, the city can petition to vacate it,” said Mayor Joel Astleford.

See ORR... pg. 5



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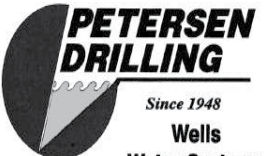
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# OPINION

“CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW...  
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The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

## Editorial

### Tower Ambulance and Fire Poor management, lack of leadership means change is needed at the top

The future of the Tower Area Ambulance Service is too important to leave to haphazard leadership. As we report this week, the once highly-profitable TAAS is facing another year of financial questions, as well as a five-year cumulative deficit of more than \$600,000 without a change in the business model of the service, according to a cash flow analysis prepared by this newspaper.

We prepared the cash flow analysis after Ambulance Supervisor Steve Altenburg repeatedly refused numerous requests by Mayor Orlyn Kringstad to undertake this critically-important financial planning. It's clear why Mr. Altenburg was leery of such projections, since they highlight the concerns that this newspaper first raised back in 2017 when Altenburg convinced the city council to approve his paid staffing model. His plan was dependent on substantially increasing non-emergency inter-hospital transfers to pay the additional costs of payroll, rental of quarters, fuel, and truck maintenance. This newspaper suggested at the time that Altenburg's projection of as many as 3-4 such transfers per week was unrealistic and that his plan would reduce operating margins to an extent that would make ambulance replacement difficult. Since implementation of the new staffing model in April 2018, the service has averaged 2.37 transfers per week. As a result, the service's margins have fallen as we predicted. Our cash flow projection shows that the city will now, almost certainly, have to turn to bonding or some other form of borrowing, in order to pay for ambulance purchases over the next five years.

From all reports, Altenburg is a very good EMT, which makes him a valuable member of the TAAS, one that the city should seek to retain. But he has not been effective at the helm. In fact, since he assumed his current position in 2016, the ambulance service has lost members, seen its margins decline significantly, and may very well be in violation of federal labor law as it applies to overtime, which is a potential financial time bomb for the city.

There are also very real concerns about Mr. Altenburg's personal behavior. As we reported two weeks ago, the only female member of the fire department, which Altenburg also oversees, has filed a complaint alleging a number of troubling incidents, including examples of blatant gender bias. Those allegations are currently under investigation, yet there are many other examples of Mr. Altenburg's at-times troubling behavior

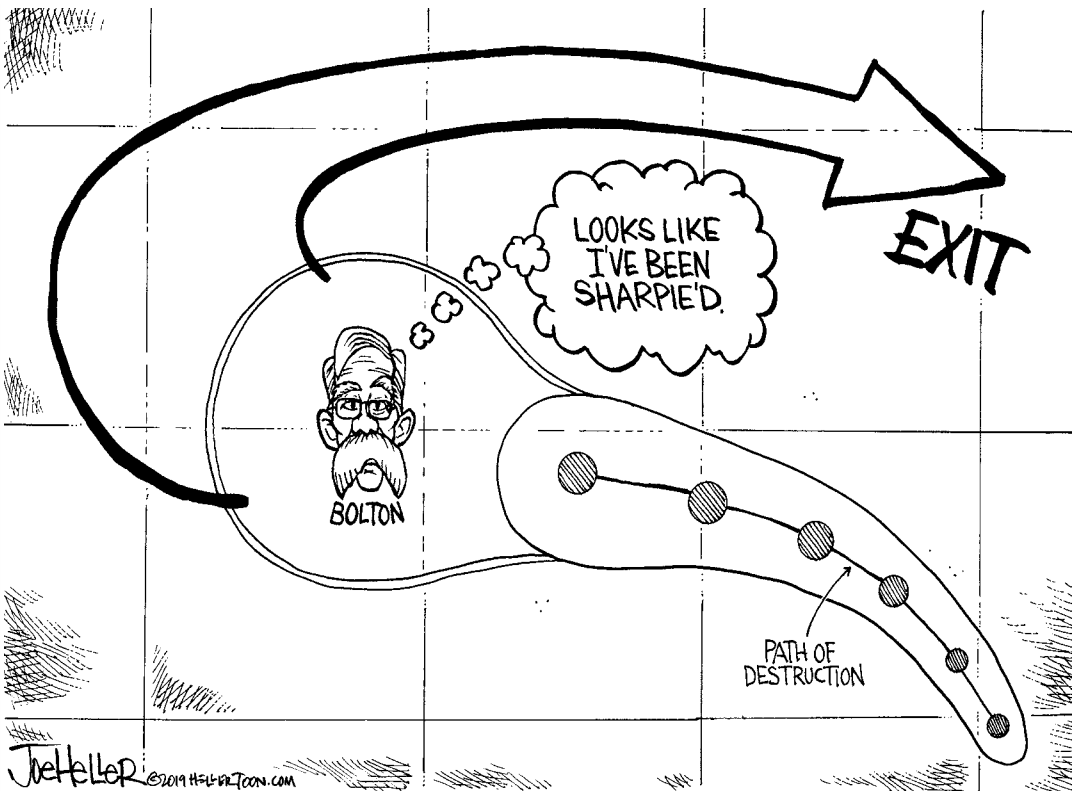
which have become a matter of public record.

In 2018, he attempted to change the city's charter to enable himself to serve simultaneously as ambulance director, fire chief, and the city's mayor, despite the fact that numerous Minnesota attorneys general have determined that such an arrangement is unconstitutional. Mr. Altenburg seemed oblivious to the optics of such a move, which most people rightly viewed as tremendously self-serving.

Mr. Altenburg has also proven highly sensitive to criticism and responds in ways that, at times, border on bizarre. Late last year, after he apparently felt stung by a *Timberjay* story raising questions about the ambulance service, he set up a video camera in the city council chambers and proceeded to consume nearly an hour of a city council meeting on a disjointed, arms-flailing rant against this newspaper. He later traveled to a Vermilion Lake Township board meeting, and gave a similar, yet somehow even more bizarre, performance, complete with video camera. He also phoned a Greenwood township official at home last year and swore at him for posting a favorable comment online in response to a *Timberjay* editorial. He's engaged in repeated defamation at council meetings against Mayor Kringstad and others and, according to the recent female firefighter complaint, he talked openly in at least one recent meeting of wanting to see both the mayor and publisher of this newspaper dead. Other credible city residents have reported that Mr. Altenburg has talked of "running the mayor out of town."

This is not the behavior of a professional, nor a leader, and it was clearly a mistake by the former city council to elevate Mr. Altenburg to his current position as fire chief and ambulance director. He doesn't have the financial and business expertise, thoughtfulness, or the common sense to do the job effectively. And he clearly doesn't have the confidence of area township officials, none of whom have agreed, to date, to go along with his request for an increase in the ambulance subsidy — an increase that the city is going to need.

Perhaps with time, training, and more maturity, Mr. Altenburg could assume a position of authority with the departments sometime in the future. We are all works in progress and we hopefully all learn from our mistakes. Until that point, however, the city needs to look for more sensible leadership. It's well past time for a change.



## Letters from Readers

### Twin Metals threatens Minnesota's greatest natural resource

In a Sept. 3 *Star Tribune* counterpoint, state Rep. Dave Lislegard takes issue with the *Star Tribune's* call for Governor Walz to end the Trump administration's suppression of scientific and economic reports on the risks of a Twin Metals mine plan and to suspend permitting work involving the proposed Twin Metals mine. Lislegard argues that the state regulatory process provides for a sufficient review.

In his counterpoint, Lislegard ignores the fact that Minnesota's environmental review process and permitting standards are not designed to protect the Boundary Waters from copper mining.

The process with national public lands begins at the federal level with the question, "Is this location the right place for a mine?"

That question was answered in 2016 when the US Forest Service completed a three-year scientific review of a Twin Metals mine and unequivocally determined that copper mining next to the Boundary Waters would permanently damage the Wilderness. Twin Metals federal mining leases were terminated, and the Forest Service launched a detailed study to consider a long-term ban on mining as the best way to protect the Wilderness. This study was abruptly aborted by President Trump and the Twin Metals leases were unlawfully resurrected from the dead.

Congress and the *Star Tribune* are absolutely right to demand that the Forest Service study be completed and the reports made available to the public; it is clear that the study would show that only a copper mining ban will protect the Boundary Waters. It would also show that the region would perform dramatically better as to jobs and income without copper mining.

The state process is designed for mines in mining districts, places where significant changes to ecosystems and landscapes are acceptable. State standards limit pollution of the environment, but don't prohibit it. The Forest Service concluded there is no technology that would prevent or repair the inevitable damage to the Boundary Waters.

The greatest natural resource in the state of Minnesota is at stake. We are one Minnesota in our love for the Boundary Waters. We can create jobs and attract new residents and businesses to the Boundary Waters region by protecting it from copper mining.

**Becky Rom  
Ely**

### The three heads of totalitarianism in the United States

Moscow Mitch, Gulag Graham and Tsar Trump, a totalitarian troika, are servants of a corrupt "wealth-fare" system fueled by dark and dirty money. This evil-doer trio is an outcome of the three pillars of monopoly capitalism that produced obscene economic inequality. A Triad of Power is formed by the Military-Industrial-Complex, Wall Street and Corporate Media.

This Unholy Alliance is a national scheme for redistribution of wealth. The Military-Industrial-Complex, an iron triangle of interests is formed by Congress, Pentagon and the Corporate defense industry. Together they drain 60 percent of our nation's discretionary spending. Defense industry lobbyists influence Congress to allocate funds, the Pentagon spends it to fill the pockets of the already-rich.

Wall Street manipulates a financial economy of corporate socialism for those at the top and "go it alone" capitalism for Main Street. Stock quotes tell us of corporate health

while indicators of community well-being are nonexistent or rarely cited. Low wages, loss of pensions and costly health care are ignored as are markers for living standards, life expectancy and quality of life.

Corporate media distracts, misinforms and entertains the public to death with Trumpian political theater. Global warming is ignored, mass shootings are not seen as domestic terrorism, corporate power and corruption are rarely mentioned in political discourse. A "horse race" political game-show, campaign gossip and excessive media attention to celebrity created Trumpism for ratings, free of charge!

The Trump Frankenstein openly churns anger and resentment into homophobia, xenophobia, misogyny and racism. Fake news is the charge, but distortion by omission of hard news is the problem. Expose the Triad of Power that protects corporate interests at the expense of community, before it destroys what is left of democratic rule. The people's business has been trivialized into a Trump TV reality show.

**Harold Honkola  
Tower**

## We welcome your letters

The *Timberjay* encourages letters to the editor. You can submit letters by mail at PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790, or email letters to [marshall@timberjay.com](mailto:marshall@timberjay.com).

We ask that letters be limited to 300 words.

Letters are subject to editing, primarily for length and clarity.

Letters are a great way to offer your input to the *Timberjay's* editorial page. We want to know what you think!

# New leases just another Trump corporate give-away

New mineral leases issued to Twin Metals by the Trump administration in June were supposed to be the third and final renewal of two separate leases that the U.S. government originally granted to the International Nickel Company (INCO) in 1966. But the actual leases issued by the admin-



**MARSHALL  
HELMBERGER**

istration provide a potentially far more lucrative outcome for Twin Metals and its Chilean-based parent company, Antofagasta, granting nearly perpetual rights to potentially tens of billions of dollars-worth of low-grade sulfide deposits containing copper, nickel, and a variety of precious

metals. Those deposits are found in a line nearly parallel to the South Kawishiwi River, a major watershed that flows directly into the 1.1 million-acre Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, near Ely.

It's a sweetheart deal for Antofagasta, one that has become typical of the Trump administration, which appears intent on handing over millions of acres of public lands to private industry under the most favorable terms possible.

Handing Antofagasta potentially perpetual rights to minerals in the Superior National Forest is one of several significant alterations to the leases that appear to be highly advantageous to Antofagasta, one of the world's largest copper producers, and several of the changes were written into the leases after the administration released draft versions for public comment late last year. That means the public never had the opportunity to weigh in on the changes, virtu-

ally all of which were designed to benefit Antofagasta, during the shortened public process completed last winter.

Those changes include:

➤ Dropping the 1966 requirement that the lessee comply with the terms of the Shipstead-Newton-Nolan Act, which limits logging or other disturbance within 400 feet of a shoreline on lands in the Superior National Forest.

See **GIVE-AWAY...**pg. 5

# Letters from Readers

## Water plant project could result in higher rates in Tower

The most interesting item on the Tower City Council agenda to me this week was item 9.1 Water Plant Upgrade.

Matt Tuchel, Water Plant Operator, gave a report of surface water entering the water mains causing expensive treating costs to provide safe water. Tuchel did state the water was safe to drink. However, a number was thrown out there of one million dollars to address the aging system. This

cost would be done in the form of bonding and/or grant money. Nancy Larson gave somewhat of a diminishing view to the Tower issues. The bigger concern is that the failing main line that feeds the Tower portion was installed in 1949 and needs to be replaced at a cost of over three million dollars. SEH people are smiling. My concern is, the cost of this will more than likely result in higher water costs to the city of Tower. The joint wastewater board would not cover the cost of new water main replacement in the city limits of Tower. So that would require additional

bonding and grant money to the burden of taxpayers.

**Jeff Hill  
Tower**

## These answers should make us all think

Happy day! You won a slot on one of those big-money television game shows! Because you're pretty smart you do pretty well, week after week after week, until one day you find yourself in a knowledge-and-wisdom-duel with . . . another big winner! Just as sharp and just as tenacious as you.

The lights dim. The audience stills to the hush of breathing. You could hear a pin drop if people still used them.

Then the host of the show asks you this absolutely stunning question: "Can you give us three statements of fact – citing the source for each – and each statement containing the word "minimum"?"

Here's your winning answer: "One - There are just twenty-two counties in the U. S. where a full-time worker, earning minimum wage, can afford to rent a one-bedroom apartment. (National Low Income Housing

Coalition, Washington, D. C.)

Two- There are exactly zero counties in the U.S. where that same minimum wage worker can afford a two-bedroom apartment. (ibid).

Three- The minimum amount of money the Trump administration has spent on golfing trips is one-hundred and six million dollars. So far. (Huffington Post)"

Like Grandpa Olaf used to say, while laying down a winning poker hand, "Read 'em and weep."

**Steve Larson  
Ely**

## GIVE-AWAY...Continued from page 4

► Eliminating the 1966 requirement to prohibit land disturbance within 200 feet of an existing building. This was a provision designed to protect adjacent recreational property owners from excessive disturbance.

► Dropping the 1966 prohibition on caving or subsidence of national forest lands as a result of mining operations. Critics of the Twin Metals project believe this change may reflect planned changes in mining methods, including the possible use of caving, which could increase the risk of collapse.

► Dropping a 180-day time frame for removal of all mining equipment upon the completion of operations. The new lease requires a reclamation plan be submitted within

90 days but provides no time frame for how long reclamation could take.

► Removing the 1966 prohibition on the construction and operation of a smelter.

► Reducing the required bond from the \$10,000 required in 1966, to \$5,000. This change was originally granted in a 2004 lease renewal granted by the George W. Bush administration.

► Granting Antofagasta exclusive access to unidentified areas within the leased property. The 1966 lease did not grant exclusivity, which allowed the public continued access to the public lands in question.

► Dropping the 1966 requirement that any minerals mined at the site, or an equivalent amount, be sold for use within

the United States. So much for the argument that these are strategic minerals that are critical for the national security. Unless Antofagasta opts to process its metals locally, which would create an entirely new set of environmental concerns, it's almost certain to process its concentrates in other countries, where the end products will simply become part of the global commodity flow. Let's be clear on this point: We're potentially putting our region's water quality at risk to provide the raw materials to make copper, nickel, and palladium primarily for our Asian economic competitors.

And that's assuming that Antofagasta doesn't have an entirely different motivation in mind. It's no secret that the big players

in the metal markets reap the largest profits not from putting new production on line, but from limiting the sources of supply, thereby pushing prices higher. For a truly massive copper producer, like Antofagasta, the question at any point in time is whether the copper located along the Duluth Complex is worth more in the ground or in the pipeline. A company like Antofagasta certainly has the financial wherewithal to develop the Twin Metals mine, should that suit their bottom line. Likewise, it has the financial wherewithal to sit on the asset, potentially for decades, waiting for metal prices or new technology to make it worthwhile to mine.

While the leases issued to Twin Metals by the Trump administration do contain a requirement to

construct a mine within the first ten-year lease term, the lease contains so many loopholes that Antofagasta could easily maintain the leases indefinitely while doing little or nothing to actually open a mine. For example, the leases allow the company to seek suspension of the clock when ever market conditions are such that a mine could only operate at a loss. That would be the case today. While we haven't seen Twin Metals' final mine plan, if it assumes metal prices at current levels, it's highly unlikely to project profitability, unless it does so with smoke and mirrors.

Even if a future administration were to hold the company's feet to the fire, the lease sets a minimum annual production level at a paltry \$206,196 of copper, nickel or associ-

ated metals. Antofagasta could meet that level of production with five guys using pickaxes.

The bottom line is, if the federal courts find that the new leases are legitimate, and not an unlawful reversal of a final agency decision by a prior administration, a foreign corporation will have successfully locked up valuable federally-owned resources for as long as they suit the company's interests. And the public either gets next to nothing for it, or a significant environmental threat to the Boundary Waters. Either way, it's a bad deal for Minnesota, and the country. Unfortunately, that's known as "business as usual" for the Trump administration.

## ANALYSIS...Continued from page 3

as revenues from the busier summer season, and a record month of July, start to arrive. That should put 2019 revenues somewhere over \$400,000.

Assuming \$450,000 in operating expenditures, plus the cost of a new ambulance, the TAAS could spend as much as \$700,000 this year. The township subsidy account, which currently contains about \$120,000, would be able to cover a portion of the shortfall for the ambulance purchase. Even so, the deficit spending could well swamp the service's remaining reserve funds.

Part of the ambulance service's deteriorating budget picture stems from the high cost of maintaining staff on-duty five days a week, 24 hours a day. While the TAAS has long paid its members for time spent on emergency calls or non-emergency patient transfers, the decision to hire full-time staff to respond to calls has added at least \$100,000 annually to the payroll, and brought additional expenses as well, for things like training, rental of living quar-

ters, and extra travel. The TAAS spent \$240,000 on operations in 2017, the last full year without full-time staff. By contrast, the service spent \$449,000 last year, although approximately \$50,000 of that was for additional repairs and some major equipment purchases.

Those higher costs were supposed to be covered by increased revenues resulting from a sharp increase in the number of transfers the TAAS would accept under the new staffing model. Back in 2017, Altenburg had projected that the new paid staff could undertake as many as three or four transfers per week, which he argued would boost the service's profitability.

While the TAAS has conducted more transfers than in the past, they've fallen well short of the average of three per week, which is the number that Altenburg projected would be needed to pay for the additional staffing. Since beginning paid staffing in April 2018, the TAAS has undertaken an average of 2.37 transfers per week.

While the cost of the full-time staff has been high, the actual cost to the city could be even higher depending on the conclusion of an ongoing examination by city officials into whether the paid on-call staff qualify for overtime pay of time-and-a-half. Under federal law, public employees who work more than 40 hours in a week are entitled to overtime. Virtually every other area ambulance service limits the hours of paid staff to 40 hours in order to avoid overtime. But Altenburg continues to insist that TAAS staff, some of whom may work as many as 60 hours a week, don't qualify for overtime.

The issue arose at the Aug. 26 Tower City Council meeting when Altenburg criticized interim clerk-treasurer Ann Lamppa for suggesting that the department's failure to pay overtime is a violation of federal law. Lamppa said the issue isn't settled, and Mayor Orlyn Kringstad said the information the city has received in recent days suggests that Altenburg's

interpretation of the law has been in error. "It's something that we need to follow up on as a city council because your interpretation of when the ambulance staff is on-call is not in line with what we believe it actually is," Kringstad said.

If the city determines that overtime is required, it would not only impact the costs of paid on-call staffing moving forward— It could also require the city to make back-payments to paid on-call staff for previous overtime hours worked.

## Additional ambulance purchases ahead

Paying for the ambulance that the prior city council ordered last December is proving challenging enough for the TAAS given that the prior city council drained most of the service's reserves. But paying for two additional ambulances over the next four-to-five years is going to be all but impossible without city bonding or some other form of borrowing, something the city has not had

to do in the past to make ambulance purchases possible. That conclusion is based on a cash-flow projection developed by the *Timberjay* (see chart on page 3). The cash flow analysis suggests the TAAS could face a five-year deficit of over \$600,000 once the cost of ambulance purchases is calculated.

The new ambulance is supposed to replace the service's 2011 rig, although the other two rigs— a 2005 unit and a 2013— are expected to need replacement by the end of 2023.

Kringstad has, for months, urged Altenburg to develop a cash flow projection to determine whether the TAAS can afford the cost of the paid, full-time staffing and still afford to replace ambulances, but Altenburg has resisted, calling that effort "too complicated." In fact, the ambulance service's revenues and expenditures are quite consistent year-to-year, which makes cash flow projecting relatively easy.

Altenburg never pro-

vided the city council with any forward-looking financial projections at the time the council approved his plan to switch to paid staffing back in 2017. Altenburg sold the switch to paid staffing as a change that would actually increase TAAS profits, but his claim assumed the service would be able to conduct at least three transfers per week, a target that the service has not been able to achieve.

One wild card in the financial calculation is whether area townships will agree to an Altenburg plan to phase-in a doubling of their ambulance subsidy over the next few years. That could improve the financial picture for the service, but would not come close to covering the entire projected deficit. Altenburg has made presentations to several area townships in recent months, but to date has found little willingness from township officials or residents to provide additional subsidies to TAAS.

## ORR...Continued from page 3

The meeting's only bone of contention came during discussion of whether or not to install a slushy machine at the municipal liquor store. City hall staff have been arguing for the installation of a slushy machine as another enticement to get people in the door. But liquor store manager Chet Nieman said he's against the idea, noting that the machine would require regular cleaning and that the staff is already overworked. "Why do you care anyway?" asked Nieman of Carter. "You never go in the 'muni' anyway."

"Well, I would if there was a slushy machine,"

responded Carter.

Astleford, clearly somewhat amused by the discussion, told Carter and Nieman that they had six months to "work it out."

In other business, the council:

► Gave approval to sending notice to delinquent utility customers that they have until late November to bring their accounts up-to-date or the city will certify them to the St. Louis County Auditor for addition to their property taxes.

► Approved a new two-year contract with the city's maintenance staff, including Paul Koch and Rocky Hoffman, who

are represented by the Operating Engineers Local 49. The new contract includes a three-percent cost of living increase in each of the two years.

► Approved increases in water and sewer rates, effective Oct. 15, 2019. The cost of 1,000 gallons of water will rise from \$7.06, to \$8.06, while the sewer rate will increase from \$8.59 per 1,000 gallons to \$9.59. The late fee will also increase to \$7.50 per month.

► Approved the rescheduling of upcoming city council meetings due to federal holidays. The council's October meeting is rescheduled to Tuesday,

Oct. 15 in observance of Columbus Day and the November meeting is rescheduled to Tuesday, Nov. 12 in observance of Veterans Day. Both meetings are set for 5 p.m.

► Approved the purchase of three new fire hydrants.

► Approved a bylaw change for the ambulance service to allow for staggered terms for the supervisor, secretary, and training officer.



**NORTHERN COMMUNITY RADIO**

KAXE 91.7 FM Grand Rapids

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Independent, nonprofit community radio  
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## TOWER-SOUDAN CLASS OF 1969



Front, from left: Mairan (Stefanich) Greene, Monica (Trucano) Kolb, Patty (Wilson) Helin, Jean (Hamlin) Gornick, Cathy (Mattila) Neault, Paula (Koski) Tekautz, Nancy (Eidelbes) Kotzian, MaryBeth (Williams) Reller, Lois Laitinen, Christine (Dragavon) Friedlieb, Sancy (Fauth) Brandt, Sarah (Bruneau) Jensvold, Bonnie Harma. Back, from left: Wayne Dahl, Tony Pecha, Marty Pechek, Mickey Trucano, Dr. John Sweet, Jim Helin, Don Isle, Bill C, John Burgess, Douglas Swanson. Not pictured is Eric Koski. submitted photos

## Class of 1969 celebrates their 50th reunion

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Class of 1969 held their 50th reunion on Aug. 17 at the Wilderness at Fortune Bay. In the words of classmate Wayne Dahl, this group was “the last and the best of the ‘60s.”



A memorial for classmates who have passed away.

## BREITUNG TOWNSHIP

## Breitung Town Hall paving work to be completed soon

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

SOUDAN- Work continues on the renovation projects at the Breitung Town Hall. Interior work on the post office is now underway, and new post office boxes will be installed. The new boxes will be keyed, and there will be a \$6 deposit for two keys, and a \$9 fee for any extra keys.

The town board agreed to have the parking lot at the Soudan Apartments repaved while paving is being done at the town hall, and the housing authority will reimburse the township for the cost.

The weather has held up some progress, said Tomsich, and the parking lot needs to

be finished before the exterior work can be completed. Mesabi Bituminous is expected to be back soon to complete the paving. But otherwise the project is on schedule.

Soudan resident Anthony Sikora questioned the township on the location of Birch Street, which passes through his property. Sikora said the road wasn't built on the platted right-of-way. He said the township needs to move the road or purchase that property from him, or else, he said, he would sue the township. Township Supervisor Chuck Tekautz met with Sikora a few days after the meeting, and they reviewed the survey and drawings on the road. A curved portion of the road is not on the platted road,

but Tekautz explained to Sikora that this is very common and would be seen on most roads in Soudan. Tekautz reported to Chairman Tim Tomsich that he felt the issue had been resolved. The road has been in the same spot for over 50 years.

In other business at the Aug. 29 meeting, the town board:

- Heard that the Payment-in-Lieu-of-Taxes (PILT) payments to the township would be \$160,093 and the Taconite Production Tax would be \$15,778. PILT payments reimburse the township for the loss of property tax revenue for the lands in the state park.
- Will install a “No Dumping” sign at the township gravel pit. Supervisor Greg Dostert re-

cently cleaned up garbage and debris that had been left at the site.

- Will ask the Tower Area Ambulance Service for more information on the ambulance service's request for support for their move to provide Advanced Life Support care.
- Will review community hall use policies from Tower and Greenwood to help craft one for Breitung.

- Heard that the DNR has found an additional source of money to use for the paving on the new State Park Rd. The bids had come in about \$72,000 over the amount set aside in the state aid road fund for the project. The state had initially asked Breitung to pay for the extra cost, but Breitung said

no. Mesabi Bituminous had the low bid for the project, which is expected to be completed later this fall.

- Will be advertising for the maintenance supervisor position this month, with interviews planned in October, and job starting in December. Dale Swanson will be retiring, but will help train in the new employee.
- Will look into the costs of extending the bike trail to the airport area.
- Will hold their next meetings on Tuesday, Sept. 10 at 12 noon and Wednesday, Sept. 25 at 12 noon. Meetings are being held in the Surface Building while town hall renovations are underway.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

## TSHS annual meeting to feature talk about bats

TOWER- The annual dinner meeting of the Tower-Soudan Historical Society will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 17 at the Tower Civic Center. Social time starts at 5 p.m.; silent auction items will be available for bid. Donated auction items are appreciated. Please contact Doug Workman at 218-404-3331. The presentation and guest speaker start at 5:30 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend the program at no cost.

James Pointer will speak about “Bats of the Soudan Underground Mine State Park Mine.” James is currently the Interpretive Supervisor at

the Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park.

Dinner will be served at approximately 6:30 p.m. and features a champagne chicken and beef au jus buffet catered by Chef Marko Stefanich and Pam Abrahamson. There is a \$15 cost (payable that evening) for the dinner, which is open to all. **Dinner reservations are required and must be made in advance. Please call TSHS at 218-753-5021 by Friday, Sept. 13 and leave a message with your name, phone contact, and number of attendees.**

TSHS membership dues for 2020 will be accepted at the annual meeting. A single membership is \$10, and a fam-

ily membership is \$20.

## Vermilion Lake Potluck Picnic set for Sunday, Sept. 15

VERMILION LAKE TWP- Vermilion Lake Township will hold its Annual Potluck Dinner and Get-Together on Sunday, Sept. 15 at the Vermilion Lake Town Hall, 6703 Wahlsten Road.

The event will be held from 4 - 7 p.m., with dinner served at 5 p.m.

All township residents, former residents, and friends are invited. Come and visit with neighbors and friends.

Please bring a casserole dish, salad, or dessert to share. Township supervisors will be grilling Polish, brats and hot-

## Too Much Stuff Sale a big success



TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Civic Club's “Too Much Stuff” rummage sale last weekend raised over \$2,000. The Tower Civic Center was filled with items donated for the sale. Proceeds from the sale will go towards beautification projects in Tower, as well as to cemetery upkeep. The club plans to hold another sale again next year, the weekend after Labor Day.

dogs. The township will provide coffee, punch, buns, plates and plastic ware.

This year the Little Church at 6268 Wahlsten Road will be open for tours from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Supervisor Bruce Swieringa will be available to answer questions on the history of the building.

If you have any questions, contact one of the Town Board members: Bruce Swieringa at 741-1789, Sarah Schmidt at 750-2524, Phil Anderson at 749-3462, Steve Lotz at 753-4129, or Crystal Alaspa at 750-4752.

## Tower-Soudan Civic Club to meet Wednesday

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Civic Club will meet at the Tower

Civic Center on Wednesday, Sept. 18 at 7 p.m.

The presentation will be on The Kalevala-Finnish Epic Poems, and the voices of the Finnish Ancestors. Ellie Larmouth will present the history of The Kalevala as well as profiles of the characters and stories. All are welcome to attend.

## St. Martin's Annual Fall Dinner

TOWER- St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower is happy to announce the date for this year's Fall Dinner, set for Sunday, Sept. 29. The dinner will be served in the church social hall from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. This year we will be serving a beef dinner. Ticket prices are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 5-12, and free for under 5's. Families (two

adults, two children) are \$25. Tickets may be purchased from any member of our Ladies Circles, at the rectory, or at the door. Take-outs are available. We hope that you will join us in celebrating the beautiful fall season!

## Northern Red Hat Belles to meet Sept. 16

VIRGINIA- The Northern Red Hat Belles will meet on Monday, Sept. 16 at 12 noon at Perkins in Virginia/Mt. Iron. Please RSVP to Helen at 218-753-6220 or Janice at 218-248-8460 by Saturday, Sept. 14.

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

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

**Event Rentals**  
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218-780-6709

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**Sunday FREE Pool**

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

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

**Take-Out 666-0500**



## Area Solid Waste Facility site hours

**Northwoods Transfer Station**  
9384 Hwy 21 N., Ely/Babbitt  
Winter Hours  
Mon, Thu, Fri, Sat: 8am-3pm  
Tue: 9:30am-3pm  
Wed: 11am-5pm

**County 77 Canister Site**  
2038 County Rd. 77, Greenwood Twp  
Winter Hours  
Thurs, Sun: noon-5pm

**Embarrass Canister Site**  
7530 Koski Rd., Embarrass  
Hours  
Sat: 12:30-4:30pm  
Thu: 10am-5pm

**Household Hazardous Waste Facility**  
5345 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia  
Hours  
Tues and Sat: 8am-1pm

**Cook Transfer Station**  
2134 S. Beatty Rd., Cook  
Hours  
Mon: 10am-6pm  
Tues thru Sat: 9am-3:30pm

**Soudan Canister Site**  
5160 Hwy 169, Soudan  
Hours  
Mon, Wed, Sat, Sun  
8am-5pm

**Aurora Transfer Station**  
5910 Hwy 135 N., Aurora  
Hours  
Mon, Thurs, Fri: 8am-4pm  
Tue, Wed: 10am-4pm  
Sat: 8am-noon

**Regional Landfill**  
5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia  
Hours  
Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30pm  
Sat: 8am-3:30pm

Winter hours effective October 1st through April 14th

St. Louis County Environmental Services Department  
1-800-450-9278

Office hours 8-4:30 Monday through Friday  
www.stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle



TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY



These students entering Kindergarten at Tower-Soudan Elementary will likely graduate in the year 2032! Fourteen students attended the first day of Kindergarten this year, but several others were expected to join the class this week. photo by J. Summit

A bright blue "Friendship Bench" has been installed on the elementary playground. The bench is dedicated to the memory of late Tower-Soudan graduate Joe Frazee. photo by J. Summit



Tower-Soudan Area Singers begins rehearsal on Sept. 30 for Christmas Concert

TOWER- Rehearsals for the 2019 Tower-Soudan Area Singers Christmas Concert will begin on Monday, Sept. 30 at 6 p.m. at the Tower-Soudan Elementary School music room.

This year’s theme, A Classic Christmas, will give every singer and listener a change to sing or hear their favorite tune.

There are no auditions for this group, so you can just come and share in the joy of singing with others.

The concert is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 15 at 2 p.m. As in the past, a freewill offering will be taken to cover music, advertising, and decorating expenses. Seasonal goodies will be served immediately after the concert.

The singers would like to add more basses to the group of 25, but any interested person can give a call to Rolf Anderson, 218-753-3262, for more information.

THE NEWS OF THE WEEK FROM MS. VERA MILION



from the friendly intruders, and wait until we heard the second ding—which meant they had left.

Oh my, my were they persistent.

We did, in the early part of the summer, greet many old friends, and a couple of strangers, with open arms, and lunch, that turned in dinner.

About 9:30 p.m., the sighs would start.

“Well... (sigh) a long dramatic pause, a wristwatch was tapped, another portent, “It’s late, we better hit the road. Since we both developed nyctalopia....you know NIGHT BLINDNESS, we have to leave before sundown.”

“Oh, for heaven sakes,” someone would say, “We have plenty of room and pajamas...” Never ever got to finish the sentence...

“Oh, don’t be silly, we have our own PJs,” one of them would say, “We hadn’t checked in yet! Aren’t we just a couple of old sillies?”

Then they would run to their trunk, haul out three or four suitcases and a steamer trunk, and just a couple of days sometimes became weeks.

So, this is our summer guest repellent, don’t blab it around!

As you can well imagine, many of our friends were made during those wild liberal days—they may not wear their beads anymore, but they still shudder when they hear words like conservative. So, by the mailbox we have posted a couple of pictures of certain political personages.

Sometimes the signs are torn down, but we have enough to last until November!

Moose, who forgot one had to go to classes in the spring, is doing summer school to catch-up! He took a conservation course and brought home this recipe!

**A Natural Do-It-Yourself Deer Repellent**

Combine 3 tablespoons hot sauce, 3 raw eggs, and 3 tablespoons minced garlic and blend in a blender.

Add this mixture to 1 gallon of water in a spray bottle and use it to spray your plants.

Be sure to re-apply the deer repellent after rain.

Deer do not like the smell of these ingredients, so it keeps them away.

Moose also brought home this recipe:

**The Real Shirley Temple**

“For a spot of film star glamour at your annual drinks do, try this Hollywood classic. Apparently, it was first served to the young starlet by a barman in Beverly Hills when she first hit the big-time. If you’re not a fan of ginger ale, try it with lemonade instead.”

3 ounces lemon-lime soda

3 ounces ginger ale

¼-ounce grenadine

Garnish: Maraschino cherry

I am sure there are ‘adjustments,’ that can be made to ‘enliven’ this bit of history...but you didn’t hear it from me!

**Ms. Vera Milion**

Bookmobile Schedule

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| <b>Wednesday, Oct. 2, 23; Nov. 13; Dec. 4</b> |                  |
| 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](http://www.arrowhead.lib.mn.us)

Transfer station

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

AEOA Senior Dining Menu

TOWER- Vermilion Country School and AEOA sponsor a senior dining site at the charter school in Tower. All meals include salad bar, fruit, choice of beverage, and dessert.

Reservations are appreciated the day before, or morning of, but walk-ins are always welcome. Take-outs are available. Seniors age 60 and older who have registered for the program and their partners qualify for special pricing of \$4 per meal, but all ages are welcome at the regular rate of \$5.75. There are no income guidelines.

Meals are served from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. on days when the charter school is open. Call the school at 218-753-1246 ext. 1003 for reservations, or call AEOA at 1-800-662-5711 ext. 7323 for the one-time registration process.

Homebound seniors can sign up for meal delivery. To register for Meals on Wheels, or for more information, please call AEOA Senior Nutrition at 218-735-6899.

**Week of Sept. 16**

Monday- Chicken Alfredo, Bread Stick, Green Beans

Tuesday- Chili in a Bread Bowl

Wednesday- Lasagna, Dinner Roll

Thursday- Broccoli and Cheese Stuffed Baked Potato, Dinner Roll

Friday- Pizza, Fruit Salad

Week of Sept. 16

**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 Sept. 17.

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](http://vermilioncountry.org).

Call to Subscribe  
(218) 753-2950



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

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|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Publisher         | Marshall Helmberger                             |
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| Office Manager    | M. M. White                                     |
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Read the entire paper on-line every week. On-line subscriptions cost \$29.95/year; details at [www.timberjay.com](http://www.timberjay.com).

**Moving? Questions about your subscription? Call the Tower office at (218) 753-2950.**

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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 encounter alcoholism in a relative or friend.  
**BABBITT AL-ANON**  
- Thursdays, 7 p.m. at Woodland Presbyterian Church.  
**CO-DEPENDENTS' 12-step support group,**  
**noon Fridays, St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Ely.**  
**ELY FOOD SHELF -**  
**Third Wednesday each month, 15 W. Conan St.**  
**ADULT BASIC EDUCATION**  
**GED - Study materials and pre-test available.**  
**Tower by appointment.**  
**Call 365-3359, 827-3232, or 1-800-662-5711.**

**Tuesday Group**  
ELY - The upcoming Tuesday Group schedule is listed below. All talks are at 12 noon on Tuesday at the Grand Ely Lodge.  
**Sept. 17 - Lonnie Dupree - "Life in the Middle of Nowhere"**  
**Sept. 24 - Consie Powell - "Canoeman Joe" picture book**


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

**Ely Free Clinic**  
ELY - The Ely Community Health Center is open every Thursday evening from 5:30-7 p.m. in the AFU Building, 111 S 4th Ave. E.  
For more information, call 218-365-5678, or visit their website, [www.elycommunityhealth.org](http://www.elycommunityhealth.org), or Facebook page.

**Breathing Out**  
by Cecilia Rolando © 2019



time for harvesting  
garden surprises appear  
  
earth-man connection



**the TIMBERJAY**  
  
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Stephanie Ukkola  
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RECREATION

**Ely cross country runners set the pace at Trezona Trail event**  
Annual Harvest Moon Run/Walk circles Miners Lake

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY –Ely Memorial High School cross country runners, paced by state champion Luke Olson with a four-mile time of 22:11, led approximately 70 participants to the finish line Saturday morning at the 13th annual Ely Harvest Moon Trezona Trail Run/Walk, sponsored by the Ely Track Club.  
While not a competitive sanctioned high school event, the Timberwolves took advantage of the day to stay in shape, and as a warm-up for the Eveleth Lions Invitational Cross Country Meet scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 12.  
Other boys team top finishers included: Emmett Faltesek, 23:22.3; Jasper Johnston, 23:36.3 and Gabriel Pointer, 24:15.4. Randy Wiinanen, 64, of Iron, finished fifth overall with a time of 25:53.4.  
Ely High School girls cross country runners led the overall women's race with the following top five finishers: Zoe Devine, 27:43.7; Sarah Isbell, 30:58.7; Laura Holmstrom, 30:28.8; Phoebe Helms, 30:59; and Julia Schwinghamer, 31:13.4.  
The four-mile walk men's division winners included: Herb Dillon, 71, Duluth, with a time of 47:51.8; Andy McKibben, 64; Ely, 51:18.4; and Dan Dusich, 66, Ely, 56:13.1.  
The four-mile walk women's division winners included: Wanda Marshall, 62, Ely, 56:16.5; Patricia Comeau, 65, Oakdale, 57:24.8; and Corie McKibben, 62, Ely, 58:58.0.  
Three local youth participated in the one-mile run, including Boden Devine, Lucy Dunn and Fiona Olson.



**Luke Olson, left, and Gabriel Pointer, Ely Memorial High School cross country teammates set the pace for the four-mile Trezona Run.**




**Middle left: Boden Devine finished first in the kids one-mile race. Middle right: David Engstrom, 68, of Ely, took second place in the males 64 and over age group with a time of 1:03:32.4**



**Bottom: From left, Gary Berkner, of San Antonio, Texas, Corie McKibben and Diane Thompson, both of Ely, set the pace in the four-mile walk race.** photos by K., Vandervort

SUPPORTING THE ARTS

**Gardner Humanities Trust seeks grants applicants**

ELY - The Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust's second grant cycle of the year is underway with grant applications due by Wednesday, Sept. 25.  
"Individual and organizations are free to re-apply for a grant program as long as they have final reports completed for all previous grants," said Keiko Williams, executive director. "Organizations sometimes have projects they would like to produce a second time. These projects need to compete anew with all other grants submitted in a grant round."  
Williams reminded Youth Grant applicants that they need to schedule a grant review meeting with her in order to go over their draft application. "This meeting is geared to help the individual youth make their applications as well-written and compelling as possible," she said. Youth Grant applicants must call and schedule a meeting with Keiko. The actual meeting will be scheduled for after Sept. 15 as the Trust office will be closed from Sept. 2-13.  
Artists and groups can apply for grants in the following four categories:  
► **Individual Artist** Grants encourage developing and established artists with funding of up to \$1,000 to take advantage of an impending, concrete opportunity.  
► **Youth Grants** are awarded to Ely school students in grades 6-12 or Ely home school students who have an interest in and demonstrate high motivation in the fine arts. The youth grants of up to \$750 can be used for workshops, classes, lessons or mentorships.  
► **Organization** Project Grants support activities in the fine arts and for the Ely Public Library. Grant support is intended to make it possible for organizations to present or produce a fine arts activity.  
► **Operational** Funding Grants fund high-quality, established Ely area organizations that produce, or present fine arts activities or provide services to artists.  
Individuals and organizations that would like to have a draft application reviewed should contact Williams. The office is open for any who would like to stop by, usually 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Monday and Wednesday. The Trust office will be closed from Sept. 2-13.  
Grant forms and eligibility requirements are available on the Gardner Humanities Trust website at [www.gardnertrust.org](http://www.gardnertrust.org). Those without Internet access can contact Keiko by phone at 365-2639 or email at [info@gardnertrust.org](mailto:info@gardnertrust.org) to have an application mailed to them.  
The deadline for applications will be noon on Wednesday, Sept. 25. Completed applications can be mailed to the Trust office at P.O. Box 720, Ely, MN 55731, or dropped off at the Ely City Hall, Clerk's Office, at 209 E. Chapman Street, Ely.

ELY MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBAL



Ely Memorial High School football head coach Cory Lassi gathers his Timberwolves team prior to their home opener last Friday night. Ely hosts South Ridge on Friday night at 7 p.m. Homecoming is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 27. See Page 1B for game coverage. photos by K. Vandervort



Erika Mattson on trumpet and the other members of the Ely High School band play the National Anthem Friday night at Memorial stadium prior to the Timberwolves’ home opener.

OUR COMMUNITY

Ely Winter Festival seeks sponsors

ELY - The Ely Winter Festival, scheduled to run Feb. 6-16, 2020, seeks sponsors, including businesses and organizations in the Ely area, to help support the independent, non-profit organization.

The group relies and depends on sponsorships, grants, and gifts in kind to keep the festival running, marking 26 years.

Despite support from all sectors of the Ely community, and having received a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board for specific expenses, they still depend on sponsors for their ongoing operation.

If you are interested in being a sponsor, contact the festival at 365-SNOW or at their website, <https://elywinterfestival.com/>.

The Ely Winter Festival and Ely ArtWalk are funded in part by grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board, the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council (thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund), the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust, and the Ely Chamber of Commerce.

Senior lunch program held daily in Ely

ELY – The Ely Senior Lunch program is held daily at the Ely Senior Center, 27 S First Ave. E, from noon to 1 p.m. Must be at least 60 years of age to participate.

Miss Ely pageant set for Oct. 4

ELY – The fifth annual Miss Ely and Little Miss Ely competition will be held Friday, Oct. 4 at Washington Auditorium, beginning at 7 p.m. More than \$7,000 in scholarships have been awarded through the program.

Ruffed Grouse Society banquet slated

ELY – The Crazy Flight chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society will host their annual banquet on Thursday, Oct. 17 at Grand Ely Lodge. Tickets are available by calling 218-365-5550.

Safety Open House set for Sept. 25

ELY – The 8th annual Ely Safety Open House, sponsored by the Ely Fire Department, will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 25, 3-6 p.m. at the fire department adjacent to City Hall, 209 E. Chapman St.

Safety demonstrations, car seat inspections, and kids activities are all part of the fun. Educational materials will be distributed. Free food will be available.

The event is sponsored by the EFD, Ely Area Ambulance Service, Ely Police Department, U.S. Forest Service, St. Louis County Sheriff’s Department Rescue Squad, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Customs and Border Protection.



Ely Folk School instructor Chris Mueller guided a student from Great River School Tuesday in the blacksmithing craft. Sixty students from the Montessori learning community, located in St. Paul, spent part of this week in the Ely area. Students also learned about building a birch bark canoe, making pasties, sustainable house building, fire starting and wild rice processing, and Huichol beading while at the folk school. photo by K. Vandervort

Yesterday’s news,  
this week

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

September 12, 1919

Exhibit attracts attention

The Forest Exhibit placed at the Minnesota State Fair by the U.S. Forest Service, in cooperation with the Ely Commercial Club, St. Louis County Club and the Ten Thousand Lakes of Minnesota Association, was considered by all who saw it to be the best of its kind ever shown.

The smallest attendance at the exhibit on any one-day was 10,000 people, and on Labor Day, 32,078 viewed the exhibit.

Requests were made by the Golden Rule Department Store of St. Paul, and several of the larger stores at Minneapolis, to have the exhibit put on at these stores. Due to the volume of work connected with placing this exhibit, it was impossible to put it on at any more than one place. It was therefore installed at the Golden Rule Department Store will it will remain until Sept. 20.

There is no question but that every one who saw the exhibit went away with the impression that Northern St. Louis County has more to offer along recreational lines than can be found elsewhere, and that it is the one county that is worth seeing.

Too much credit cannot be given to the Ely Commercial Club for their cooperation in placing the exhibit. The effort brings the recreational possibilities of this portion of the state right at home to all who saw it, better than any kind of literature that could be prepared.

No trappers in Forest

Carlos Avery, state game and fish commissioner, announced plans to close the Superior National Forest to trappers after a conference with C.A. Dahlgren, of Ely, and the supervisor of the national forest.

State permits have been issued during the last three years to trappers agreeing to pay special attention to the killing of wolves on the reserve. That system did not procure satisfactory results, however, Mr. Avery said, and will be discontinued.

Wolf hunters will now be hired and paid according to the number of wolves killed. They will also receive the bounty money, but the pelts will go to the state. Thus, no game or fur-bearing animals will be taken in the national forest.

The wolf hunting will be under the joint supervision of federal and state wardens.

### Area Solid Waste Facility site hours

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Northwoods Transfer Station</b><br>9384 Hwy 21 N. Ely/Babbitt<br>Winter Hours<br>Mon, Thu, Fri, Sat: 8am–3pm<br>Tue: 9:30am–3pm<br>Wed: 11am–5pm | <b>Aurora Transfer Station</b><br>5910 Hwy 135 N., Aurora<br>Hours<br>Mon, Thurs, Fri: 8am–4pm<br>Tue, Wed: 10am–4pm<br>Sat: 8am–noon |
| <b>Embarrass Canister Site</b><br>7530 Koski Rd., Embarrass<br>Hours<br>Sat: 12:30–4:30pm<br>Thu: 10am–5pm  | <b>Soudan Canister Site</b><br>5160 Hwy 169, Soudan<br>Hours<br>Mon, Wed, Sat, Sun:<br>8am–5pm  |
| <b>Household Hazardous Waste Facility</b><br>5345 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia<br>Hours<br>Tues and Sat: 8am–1pm                                  | <b>Regional Landfill</b><br>5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia<br>Hours<br>Mon–Fri: 8am–4:30pm<br>Sat: 8am–3:30pm                    |

*Winter hours effective October 1st through April 14th*

St. Louis County Environmental Services Department  
1-800-450-9278  
Office hours 8-4:30 Monday through Friday  
[www.stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle](http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle)

NEW COOK BUSINESS

# Dollar General opens a new store in Cook; now open daily

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

COOK- Cook's Dollar General Store opened last weekend. The new store is located at 119 Hwy. 53 N and will be open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Store manager Shannon Woodworth said the first few days have been quite busy. This is her first time working for Dollar General, but she has years of experience in both retail and service industries and is very excited for the opportunity to be running the store.

"I am new to the area," she said, "but already love it up here."

"Dollar General stores offer convenience and value to customers by providing a focused selection of national name brands and private brands

of food, housewares, seasonal items, cleaning supplies, basic apparel and health/beauty products," said Angela Petkovic, who handles public relations for Dollar General. "Additionally, the new store will provide customers with home décor and party supplies. Seasonal products are displayed in the center of the store, departments are easily recognizable with visible signage and coolers are conveniently located at the front of the store."

Dollar General stores usually employ between six to 10 people.

When choosing store locations, meeting customers' needs is Dollar General's top priority, Petkovic said. "The company looks for places where we can offer customers an easy and convenient shopping choice." Demographic trends, competi-

tive factors, traffic patterns and community concerns also figured in the decision to locate a store in Cook.

Dollar General believes it gives its customers more than everyday low prices on basic merchandise. Dollar General is deeply involved in the communities it serves and is an ardent supporter of literacy and education. At the cash register of every Dollar General store, customers interested in learning how to read, speak English or prepare for their high school equivalency test can pick up a brochure with a postage-paid reply card that can be mailed in for a referral to a local organization that offers free literacy services.

Since its inception in 1993, the Dollar General Literacy Foundation has awarded more than \$168 million in grants to



nonprofit organizations, helping more than 10 million individuals take their first steps toward literacy or continued education.

VOYAGEUR TRAIL SOCIETY FUNDRAISER

## Melgeorge's Elephant Lake Lodge hosts fundraiser for the Voyageur Trail Society

**A lot of fun was had by the full house that gathered at Melgeorge's Elephant Lake Lodge on Aug. 18 for a Designer Purse Bingo Fundraiser. Participants paid \$20 for 20 games, and prizes included designer purses from many high-end brands. Proceeds benefited work of the Voyageur Trail Society.** submitted photos



## Girl Scout information session and sign-up, Sept. 17 at North Woods School

COOK- School is back in session and Girl Scouts are forming new troops in the Cook area. An information session and sign-up event will be held at North Woods Elementary on Tuesday, Sept. 17 at 5:30 p.m. Join us to learn how Girl Scouting offers the best leadership experience for girls - one that is designed with, by, and for girls. Girl Scout activities reach far beyond cookies, arts and crafts. The inclusive, all-girl environment of a Girl Scout troop creates a safe space where girls can try new things, develop a range of skills, take on leadership roles, and just be themselves. Girl Scouts go hiking, camping, and learn about the outdoors, volunteer in the local community, learn about

robotics and cybersecurity, and create memories with new friends.

Meet current local Girl Scouts and troop leaders and register for membership on-site. All new girl members will receive a free T-shirt featuring Luna the Unicorn. Girls will make "slime" while parents and caregivers team up with other members of the community to form new or join existing troops. Girl Scouts is open to all girls in Kindergarten through twelfth grade.

Joining Girl Scouts costs \$25 annually. Scholarships are available, thanks to support from our product program and generous community donors. All information sessions are free of charge.



Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin Lakes and Pines serves central and northern Minnesota and northwest Wisconsin. For more information about getting involved, please call 218-726-4710 or visit [www.girlscoutslp.org](http://www.girlscoutslp.org).

COOK PUBLIC LIBRARY

## Autumn Landscape Painting with 321 Art Studio on Sept. 13 at the Cook Public Library

REGIONAL- The Arrowhead Library System is pleased to present Autumn Landscape Painting with 321 Art Studio, a free program being offered for older teens and adults at the following dates and locations:

Friday, Sept. 13, 4 p.m. at

the Cook Public Library  
Tuesday, Sept. 17, 10:30 a.m. at the Ely Public Library  
Monday, Sept. 30, 6 p.m. at the Babbitt Public Library  
Adults and older teens of all art skill levels from beginner to advanced will enjoy spend-

ing time with other artists while learning to draw and paint from teaching artist Amy Lucas-Peroceski. Each participant will draw their landscape on an 11 x 14 canvas with the instructor and then paint their landscape with water-miscible oil paints

in their choice of colors. This hour-and-a-half program is free with all supplies provided.

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](http://www.alslib.info), follow us on Twitter at @ALSLibraryNews, or like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/alslibinfo](http://www.facebook.com/alslibinfo).

**Subscribe Today (218) 753-2950  
or online at [www.timberjay.com](http://www.timberjay.com)**



**JOHN  
VUKMANICH**

Welcome back North Woods students and staff for the 2019-2020 school year! It's hard to imagine that summer is already over. The older we get, the faster time goes, for sure.

As we head into the new school year, the teachers and staff at North Woods are focusing on creating the best envi-

ronment possible for our students. Teachers will be meeting as we always do, discussing our expectations, environment, and level of rigor at our school. As the principal at North Woods, I truly believe that our school's strongest characteristic is an environment where we really get to know each and every one of our kids, and care for them as our own. Each of our students brings with them different strengths, likes, personalities, and expectations for school. Our school families may also have varying expectations for school, but this principal believes that

all parents want safe and happy kids. By getting to know our students well, we can do our very best to meet the needs and expectations of our students and their families. We want all of our North Woods students to come to school where they know that they are valued!

Last year we began Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), which means that our kids are getting a standards-based, student-centered education to meet their post-secondary needs. This year, we continue on this same path while incorporating Positive

Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). PBIS is a framework for our environmental and behavioral expectations. It focuses on common language, building-wide, for defining behavioral expectations. PBIS also stresses that teachers must "teach" behavior rather than just expect that kids know what behavioral expectations exist at school. Think of it as teaching behavior as a subject!

If you have been in the school, you may have seen signs in the hall that Grizzlies are Responsible, Respectful, and Ready to Learn!

Our hope is that all of our kids will grow to know what this means as they progress through school. Mr. Jirik, our Dean of Students, and I have met with all levels of students to talk about expectations and lay the groundwork for a great school year.

As I enter into my fourth year at North Woods, our school is really full in terms of numbers of students, staff, and classes. Our little building is bustling with excitement. Fall sports are underway with cross-country, volleyball, and football. Football has seen some changes as larger enrollment has

bumped our team up a class from 9-man to 11-man. This brings a whole new schedule of opponents for the upcoming season.

I will also continue this year introducing new staff in this column, as we have a few new faces in the building.

We're truly happy to see all of our little ones (and not-so-little ones) back at school!

Go Grizzlies!  
**Principal  
John Vukmanich**

## ARROWHEAD LIBRARY SYSTEM

# COMPAS Teaching Artists present Siam's Congo Roots at area libraries

REGIONAL- The Arrowhead Library System and COMPAS are pleased to present Siam's Congo Roots, a free program being offered for all ages at Cook, Babbitt, and Ely libraries.

Enjoy this event at Cook Public Library on Friday, Sept. 20 at 6 p.m., at Babbitt Public Library on Tuesday, Sept. 24 at 1 p.m., or at Ely Public Library on Friday, Sept. 27 at 3:30 p.m.

When COMPAS Teaching Artist Siam Matuzungidi is

joined by Dallas Johnson, their harmonies are inspiring, and their joy is contagious as they perform and inspire everyone to sing along. Siam and Dallas tell stories of life in Africa and encourage everyone to use their imagination to transport them to DR Congo. This sunny and joyful performance will leave everyone feeling energized and happy. This program is free program for all ages.

This program, sponsored by Arrowhead Library System, was funded in part or in whole

with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (ACHF) and by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the ACHF. To learn more about Arrowhead Legacy Events, please see our calendar at [www.alslib.info](http://www.alslib.info), follow us on Twitter @ALSLibraryNews, or like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/alslibinfo](https://www.facebook.com/alslibinfo).



## Cook-Orr Calendar

### Jazz at the Gallery highlights The Swing Era, Sept. 16

COOK- Jazz at the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 16 at 210 S River St. next to Dream Weaver Salon. Bill Conger's jazz listening sessions are an exploration into the appreciation of a true American musical art form.

These sessions aim to equip the listener with tools that will unlock an understanding and appreciation of jazz, and other music types, that will lead the participants to an enhanced listening experience. Sessions will be based on listening and discussion, with an overview of resources available for self-directed exploration of jazz.

The Sept. 16 session will highlight the Swing Era of the 1930s. Bill Conger, who once led a jazz appreciation class at Coe College, has been a fan of jazz for many decades. This is a learn how to listen session, not a learn how to play session, so all are qualified and welcome to attend.

Jazz at NWFA Gallery is offered free of charge by Cook's own non-profit arts organization. The gallery in September features "Fish, Flora & Fauna", the paint-

ings of Jane Wertanen and Jim DeVries. Gallery hours are Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday is also "Open Studio Art" day, where artists gather to work on projects together. Find more information at [nwfa.org](http://nwfa.org).

### Ladies Fall Bible Study to begin at Covenant Church

COOK- Shirley Nicholas invites ladies of any background to come to her weekly Bible Study to share, care, learn, laugh, cry, and pray together. We're going to start the fall off with an inspiring book by Max Lucado called "Traveling Light." We'll do a video and discussion, sharing like last year. It's a great study to invite others to, and one that works if you can't make it every week.

So let's start our fall by traveling a bit lighter, releasing the burdens we were never meant to bear. Perhaps a suitcase of guilt, a briefcase of perfectionism, or a duffel

of fear. We'll unpack our luggage with the help of an old friend, the twenty-third Psalm.

Bible Study begins on Monday, Sept. 16, at the Evangelical Covenant Church in Cook, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Books will be available to buy or can be ordered on your own; the book is optional. There is no charge to participate. Shirley says, "I'm excited to start, and to be together!"

All are welcome to attend. This is a wonderful enriching time for everyone who participates. An evening session will be available for those who cannot come during the day. All sessions are held at the Covenant Church, 11 SE 2nd St., downstairs in the Fellow-

ship Hall.

### Fall service Schedule at First Baptist of Cook

COOK- First Baptist Church of Cook is switching to their fall service times starting on Sunday, Sept. 8. Sunday School is at 9:15 a.m., and Worship Service is at 10:30 a.m.

### Woodcarving group meets Thursdays

COOK- The NWFA woodcarving group will meeting on Thursdays, at the gallery from 6 to 8 p.m. The curious and carving beginners of all ages are encouraged to attend and share

this learning experience together. Call Howard Hilshorst for more information at 218-741-7941.

### Open Studio Art at NWFA Gallery on Saturdays

COOK- On Saturdays, artists meet at

Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery at 210 S River St. in Cook to enjoy working on their art from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. All artists and would-be artists are welcome to share the time and space every Saturday.

## Bookmobile Schedule

**Thursdays: Sept. 19; Oct. 10, 31; Nov. 21; Dec. 12**

|                             |               |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Nett Lake Community Center  | 9:30 - 1:15   |
| Crane Lake Ranger Station   | 11:15 - 12:00 |
| Orr Lake Country ReMax Bldg | 1:45 - 2:30   |
| Kabetogama Town Hall        | 3:15 - 3:45   |

For further information, call the Arrowhead Library System at 218-741-3840 or [www.arrowhead.lib.mn.us](http://www.arrowhead.lib.mn.us)



## Area Solid Waste Facility site hours

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Ash River Trail Canister Site</b><br>11391 Ash River Trail<br>Winter Hours<br>Sat: 12:30pm-4:30pm      | <b>Kabetogama Lake Canister Site</b><br>10150 Gamma Rd<br>Winter Hours<br>Wed: noon-4pm<br>Sat: 8am-noon           | <b>Sturgeon Canister Site</b><br>8380 Hwy 73<br>Hours<br>Sun: 10am-4pm   |
| <b>Orr Canister Site</b><br>4038 Hwy 53<br>Winter Hours<br>Tue, Thur: 9am-noon<br>Sat: 8am-noon           | <b>Portage Canister Site</b><br>6992 Crane Lake Rd.<br>Winter Hours<br>Tue, Sat: 1pm-4:30pm                        | <b>County 77 Canister Site</b><br>2038 County Rd. 77<br>Winter Hours<br>Thurs, Sun: noon-5pm   |
| <b>Cook Transfer Station</b><br>2134 S. Beatty Rd.<br>Hours<br>Mon: 10am-6pm<br>Tues thru Sat: 9am-3:30pm | <b>Regional Landfill</b><br>5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia<br>Hours<br>Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30pm<br>Sat: 8am-3:30pm | <b>St. Louis County Environmental Services Department</b><br><b>1-800-450-9278</b><br>Office hours 8-4:30<br>Monday through Friday<br><a href="http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle">www.stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle</a> |
| <b>Household Hazardous Waste Facilities</b><br>5345 Regional Landfill Rd., Virginia<br>Tue, Sat: 8am-1pm  | 3994 Landfill Rd, Hibbing<br>Sat: 8am-1pm  |  |

Winter hours effective October 1st through April 14th



## the TIMBERJAY

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EMBARRASS REGION FAIR

# Embarrass Fair Horse Show 2019 Results

**EMBARRASS** - The Embarrass Fair Horse Show was held on Sunday, Aug. 25. Organizers reported a very successful day and would like to thank the Embarrass Fair Board for sponsoring this annual horse show. The show would not be possible without the help of all the volunteers who put so much time and effort into the day, and thanks also to all the participants. *Winners listed in order, first through sixth, as awarded*

## Halter Classes

**Grade Gelding:** Dina Scherer/Stetson; Eli H./Oakie; Klara DeVries/Sonny; Tyme Voitalla/Diablo; Eli Boe/Rain; Lilly Jola/Dyno  
**Grade Mare:** Amber Jola/Chance; Khepra Hailey/Hazel; Taya Voitalla/Brandi; Tyme Voitalla/Jewlz; Chris Nash/Misty; Jennie Nelson/Lena  
**Registered Gelding:** Cody Raad/Ario; Emily Baudek/Chett; Sunnie Hardy/Tucker; Corbet Hailey/Hoss; Taya Voitalla/Remington  
**Registered Mare:** Lori Lilienthal/Summer; Barb Sonnentag/Sierra; Ryan Nash/One Cool Chick; Taya Voitalla/Mango; Shelby Nelson/Daisy; Chris Nash/Breeze  
**Ponies:** Chris Nash/Ginger; Andrew H./Scout, Adriana Sonnentag/Peanut; Ida/Summer Time; Taya Voitalla/Butters; Tyme Voitalla/Peppers

## Grand & Reserve

**Grand:** Lori Lilienthal/Summer  
**Reserve:** Amber Jola/Chance

## Events & Games

**Peewee Western Pleasure:** Ava Jola/Dyno; Cody Raad/Arlo; Ada Boe/Rain; Khepra Hailey/Hazel; Sarah Nash/Ginger; Corbet Hailey/Hoss  
**Jr. Western Pleasure:** Shelby Nelson/Daisy; Ryan Nash/One Cool Chick; Klara DeVries/Sonny; Adriana Sonnentag/Peanut; Eli Boe/Rain  
**Sr. Western Pleasure:** Lori Lilienthal/Summer; Amber Jola/Chance; Kristine Maki/Custer; Sunnie Hardy/Tucker; Emily Baudek/Chett; Barb Sonnentag/Sierra  
**Peewee Egg & Spoon:** Ava Jola/Dyno; Sarah Nash/Ginger; Tyler Nash/Breeze  
**Jr. Egg & Spoon:** Klara DeVries/Sunny; Shelby Nelson/Daisy; Eli Boe/Rain; Adriana Sonnentag/Peanut  
**Sr. Egg & Spoon:** Steph Mathison/Bunny; Barb Sonnentag/Sierra; Emily; Sunnie Hardy/Tucker; Doug Mattson/Bubba  
**Peewee Sack Race:** Hunter Mancina/White Thunder; Maija Peterson/Nip; Lilly Jola/Dyno; Tyler Nash/Breeze; Jackson Rolfson/Shakira; Sarah Nash/Ginger  
**Jr. Sack Race:** Jennie Nelson/Lena; Ryan Nash/Squirt; Adriana Sonnentag/Peanut; Ally Rolfson/Ariat  
**Sr. Sack Race:** Sunnie Hardy/Tucker; Abigail Carpenter/Sierra; Doug Mattson/Bubba; Emily Baudek/Chett; Amber Jola/Chance

**Peewee Package Race:** Maija Peterson/Nip; Tyme Voitalla/Myla; Tyler Nash/Breeze; Tyme Voitalla/Mango; Tyme Voitalla/Renegade; Taya Voitalla/Diablo  
**Jr. Package Race:** Adriana Sonnentag/Peanut; Ally Rolfson/Ariat; Klara DeVries/Sonny; Ryan Nash/Squirt; Jennie Nelson/Lena

**Sr. Package Race:** Sunnie Hardy/Tucker; Steph Mathison/Bunny; Kristine/Cus; Abigail/Sierra; Amber/Chance  
**Peewee Pole Weaving:** Taya Voitalla/Remington; Maija Peterson/Nip; Hunter Mancina/White Thunder; Taya Voitalla/Diablo; Jackson/Remington; Maija/Telsa

**Jr. Pole Weaving:** Briar/Apple; Ally Rolfson/Ariat; Shelby Nelson/Daisy; Eli Boe/Rain; Klara DeVries/Sonny; Ryan Nash/Squirt

**Sr. Pole Weaving:** Dale/Cammie; Barb Sonnentag/Sierra; Cassie/Reba; Kristine/Cus; Doug Mattson/Bubba; Amber/Chance

**Peewee Jumping Figure 8:** Maija Peterson/Nip; Maija/Telsa; Taya Voitalla/Diablo; Jackson/Shakira; Jackson/Remington; Lilly/Dyno

**Jr. Jumping Figure 8:** Jennie Nelson/Lena; Adriana Sonnentag/Peanut; Ally Rolfson/Ariat; Eli Boe/Rain; Ryan Nash/Squirt; Klara DeVries/Sonny

**Sr. Jumping Figure 8:** Barb Sonnentag/Sierra; Sunnie Hardy/Tucker; Cassie/Reba; Kristine/Cus; Amber/Chance; Doug Mattson/Bubba

**Peewee Barrels:** Tyme Voitalla/Mango; Maija Peterson/Telsa; Taya Voitalla/Remington; Maija Peterson/Nip; Hunter Mancina/White Thunder; Taya Voitalla/Butters

**Jr. Barrels:** Briar/Apple; Shelby Nelson/Daisy; Eli Boe/Rain; Klara DeVries/Sonny; Ryan Nash/Squirt

**Sr. Barrels:** Dale/Cammie; Barb Sonnentag/Sierra; Sunnie Hardy/Tucker; Taylor/Turbo; Cassie/Reba; Kristine/Cus

**Peewee Keyhole:** Maija Peterson/Telsa; Maija Peterson/Nip; Taya Voitalla/Remington; Tyme Voitalla/Mango; Tyme Voitalla/Myla; Taya Voitalla/Diablo

**Jr. Keyhole:** Adrianna Sonnentag/Peanut; Ally Rolfson/Ariat; Eli Boe/Rain; Klara DeVries/Sonny

**Sr. Keyhole:** Dale/Cammie; Barb Sonnentag/Sierra; Cassie/Reba; Abigail/Sierra; Sunnie Hardy/Tucker; Amber/Chance

**Peewee Speed Dash:** Tyme Voitalla/Mango; Maija Peterson/Telsa; Maija Peterson/Nip; Taya Voitalla/Remington; Hunter Mancina/White Hunter; Tyme Voitalla/Myla

**Jr. Speed Dash:** Ally Rolfson/Ariat; Jennie Nelson/Lena; Adriana Sonnentag/Peanut; Shelby Nelson/Daisy; Eli Boe/Rain; Ryan Nash/Squirt

**Sr. Speed Dash:** Dale/Cammie; Barb Sonnentag/Sierra; Abigail/Sierra; Kristine/Cus; Sunnie Hardy/Tucker; Cassie/Reba

## High Points

**Peewee High Points:** Maija Peterson/Nip

**Jr. High Points:** Adriana



**Clockwise from top: Deb Nelson steadies a horse as Taya Voitalla jumps off. Allie Rolfson competed in the Team Penning event on Saturday. Chris Nash with his horse Misty. Tyme Voitalla leads her pony. Dallyce Hardy was one of the smallest riders at the show.** photos by P. Wattering

Sonnentag/Peanut

**Sr. High Points:** Barb Sonnentag/Sierra

## Open Events

**Team Jumping:** Ally/Ariat &

Jennie/Lena; Maija/Nip & Pam/

Telsa; Taya/Diablo & Maija/Nip;

Barb/Sierra & Adriana/Peanut;

Abigail/Sierra & Klara/Sonny

Adriana/Peanut; Tyme/Myla &

Taya/Remington; Adriana/Peanut

& Klara/Sonny; Jackson/Shakira

& Tyme/Diablo.

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## UP NORTH TRADITION

# Anytime is sauna time

Sauna expert Glenn Auerbach gives tips and tricks on the lakeside tradition

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP- “What exactly is a sauna?”

This was the first question that Lake Vermilion summer resident and sauna expert Glenn Auerbach posed at an informal gathering at Gruben’s Marina, on Lake Vermilion, on Aug. 31. Auerbach met with a little over a dozen interested Lake Vermilion residents, giving them the latest knowledge gleaned from his recent trip to Finland, where he took a sauna more than 50 times over the course of his 12-day trip.

A mobile sauna (built on a wheeled trailer) from Custom Mobile Saunas was set up lakeside and was piping hot and ready for anyone wanting to give it a try.

Sauna is both a noun, describing the building itself, and a verb, describing the action of heating up one’s body in a very hot room.

The definition of a sauna, Auerbach said, is pretty simple. A sauna is a room which is heated by a stove that is topped with rocks and must also include water that is poured on the rocks to create steam. The stove can be electric (most common, even in Finland), or wood-fired. The thermal mass of the rocks, he explained, is integral to the sauna experience, because of the quality of the heat they give off.

Dense, round, igneous rocks, with sizes mixed from golf ball to softball sizes, create the smoothest heat, he said. The dark grey and black diabase rocks found along the shore of Lake Superior also make great sauna rocks, he said.

And while sauna is synonymous with heat, the cooling off is just as



**Above: Mary Ann Wycoff, and her husband Shannon attended a recent Sauna Talk event at Gruben’s Marina on Lake Vermilion to get ideas for a mobile sauna unit.**

**Right: Lake Vermilion summer resident Glenn Auerbach met with interested saunafans about the Finnish tradition.** photos by J. Summit

important, he stressed. Whether this means jumping into a nearby lake, dumping cold water over one’s head, or cooling off with an outdoor or indoor shower, it is the heating and cooling cycles which make sauna a unique physical and mental experience.

“Sauna is a place,” he said. “And it is a thing you do.”

The best saunas, Auerbach said, are places that are separate from one’s regular busy life.

While in Finland, Auerbach had the chance to meet with medical researchers who have been studying the positive health benefits of regular sauna. A recently-completed study of 1,200 men that lasted 25 years showed marked benefits in those who took sauna 4-7 times a week, including reduced cardiovascular disease, lower blood pressure, and lower levels of Alzheimer’s and dementia.

“The more frequent the saunas, the lower the risks,” he said. The sauna-taking experiences included at least two cycles of heating up/cooling down.

## How to enjoy a sauna

Hydration, Auerbach stressed, is essential to a positive sauna experience. He recommended drinking at least 20 ounces of water before taking a sauna, and then drinking water during and after.

“The water in Helsinki has more minerals than our tap water,” he said, noting he didn’t feel nearly as tired post-sauna while in Finland. He is now experimenting with adding some minerals to his pre-sauna water to see if that makes a difference.

Auerbach likes his sauna heated to between 180 and 200 degrees, with about 10 minutes in the heat to get his core temperature raised, then as long as it takes outdoors to

cool his core back down. Then repeat at least two more times.

“There are only a few rules,” he said. “If you get too hot, go outside, and if you get too cold, go back in.” He said top or low bench was just a personal preference.

He recommended not taking sauna with a full stomach or if really hungry.

“But there is no right or wrong way,” he said.

Auerbach and his wife live in the Twin Cities but spend most of the summer at their cabin on Lake Vermilion, which of course has a lakeside sauna. At their city house, they have a backyard sauna with an outdoor shower which they use year-round.

Auerbach is also active in the 612 Sauna Society, a Twin Cities group that uses mobile sauna units to introduce



people to the activity.

He said there is a growing interest in sauna among young adults in Finland also, with bars and restaurants bringing in mobile saunas, or building their own, and attracting large crowds.

“There are about 185,000 lakes in Finland,” he said, “and all of them have saunas along the shore.”

at [www.saunatimes.com](http://www.saunatimes.com).

He also produces a sauna blog, called Sauna Talk. The website is full of sauna-building and sauna-taking tips.

He also partnered with Eric Bongard, owner of Custom Mobile Saunas, helping design a very functional, and portable, sauna on a trailer, that features a Lamppa Kuuma sauna stove.

“Kuuma means hot in Finnish,” he said. “I am a big fan. It really harnesses the energy of the wood. It is so efficient. You only need a small bundle of wood to get the sauna very hot.”

## Build your own

Auerbach has written a book about building your own sauna, which is available on his website

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## Correction

In the Sept. 6 issue of the *Timberjay*, the report on U.S. Sen. Tina Smith in Ely should have said she visited Ten Below Coworking, and not Ten Below Networking, to discuss broadband access and its vital importance to financial stability and growth as Ely reinvents itself.

Ten Below Coworking is a space designed for residents, small businesses, startups, freelancers and visiting professionals.

The *Timberjay* strives for accuracy and regrets the error.

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# BONDING...Continued from page 1

slipping through.”

The problem, Tuchel said, would be if any components in the existing treatment system failed.

On-site engineering is being done later this month to determine the best options for secondary treatment, which will include filtering out organics and additional water sterilization. The best system, Tuchel said, depends on the actual well water, so on-site testing is needed.

The bonding request jumped to nearly the top of the list for state bonding dollars earlier this year after the state released a new study looking for the presence of illness-causing viruses such as rotavirus, Cryptosporidium, and Giardia in public water supplies.

“We now know there are some viruses in our wells,” said Tuchel, “so now adding the secondary treatment system is considered a health issue.”

The current water treatment system would destroy bacteria and viruses in the water, but not the Cryptosporidium and Giardia. The secondary treatment system would destroy those pathogens.

Tuchel said state legislators will be in the area next week, and they will hear a presentation on the project. The city should hear later this year if the bonding request is approved. This money would come as a grant, and not have to be repaid. If approved, the treatment system would be installed next year.

Tuchel said the exact costs of the project will

not be known until a final design is selected. He said TBWB hopes that state bonding dollars would cover about 75 percent of the overall cost. The rest would be a mix of other grant dollars and low-interest loans.

Tuchel also reported that the bond for the current water treatment plant was paid off this month. Users have been paying a \$5.50 per month charge to pay off that debt, although Tuchel said the TBWB would like to keep that fee in place to help build up their capital reserve fund and help pay for engineering costs for the upcoming project. He said the board is bringing in a consultant to review billing practices in both Tower and Soudan for water and sewer. Currently customers in Tower pay around \$70 per month for water/sewer service.

In conjunction with this project, Tuchel said the city needs to look at replacing its own main water line, which city officials believe dates back to 1949.

“If that one line failed,” Tuchel said, “Tower would be without water until it is fixed.”

The bonding request also includes an additional one million dollars for the water main project. While the water treatment plant is jointly-owned, each Tower and Breitung maintain the water lines and infrastructure within their own limits. Tuchel said if that bonding is approved, it would cover the actual cost of the main line replacement.

Tuchel said the city

would be responsible for the engineering and design costs for the water main project. The city council agreed and passed a resolution in support of the project. Grant writer Nancy Larson said she would meet with the city engineers to look at other grant funding opportunities for the city’s portion of the project.

### 2020 levy

The council approved a preliminary levy increase of 10 percent for the upcoming year. The amount can be lowered, but not increased, when the city sets its final levy in December.

Interim Clerk-Treasurer Ann Lamppa said she had put a lot of time and effort into the preliminary budget and that, as a whole, “things are looking pretty good.”

“The city budget looks alright on paper,” she said. “Each of the funds balances out with revenue and expenditures.” Cash flow, however, continues to remain a major concern for the city.

Lamppa said if the council decided not to increase the levy, the budget would most likely be fine, but the council did need to look at upcoming capital improvement needs.

“Our dump truck is 25 years old, and we are being nickeled and dimed with repairs,” she said. The other issue that needs to be addressed is the Main Street lighting. The tall lights, which are about 25 years old, are in poor shape and the bases are rusting out.

A ten-percent increase in the levy would give the city about \$36,000 in additional revenue, Lamppa said.

Larson said she would look into any options for grant dollars for the street lighting, because it is a safety issue.

### Grant updates

Larson gave an update to the council on past, present, and future grant applications and projects. She noted that all the previous grant paperwork is mostly “cleaned up” at this point. She said the final paperwork on the LCCMR harbor area grant is ready for submission, and the city is waiting to hear whether or not the full grant amount will be awarded, based on their amended paperwork. The city is seeking an extension on the second phase of the project because of problems with implementation of the first phase of the project and the Legislature will have to sign off on any new deadline for that project. That decision likely won’t be made until next June, according to Larson. If the Legislature doesn’t agree, the city would lose the \$600,000 that the LCCMR previously approved for the project.

“None of this is guaranteed,” she said. “But we are taking steps to show we have it under control and that improvements are being made going forward.”

Larson said they have also completed the paperwork needed for reimbursement on two airport grants, one for \$123,686 and the second for \$23,175 for projects in 2016 and 2017, for which the former city clerk-treasurer had

never applied for reimbursement. Larson said she expected the city to receive the grant funds shortly.

As for new grant opportunities, the city is receiving IRRR funds for two residential demolition projects, and the city approved contractors for both projects. Larson said the city will hear in the next few weeks if they received a second Downtown Streetscapes grant, and that they had also applied for a Lake Country Power Operation RoundUp grant to replace the stove at the civic center.

Larson said the city had not submitted a CDBG grant application in six years. Prior to that, the city had been putting in applications almost every year, and often received grant funding from the program. Larson said that CDBG might be an option for helping with funding for the Pine Street project, as well as for sidewalk and handicap-accessibility improvements at the Scenic Rivers Clinic building.

### Cell tower lease

The council gave Mayor Kringstad and Lamppa authority to negotiate with American Tower over payments for their lease of land on the hilltop north of the city where their cell phone tower is located, to determine the best deal for the city. The company sent a letter to the city with two options for future payment— a lump sum payment of \$289,918 for a perpetual lease/easement for the land, or a one-time signing bonus of \$5,000 plus payments of \$1,246 per month with a two-percent annual increase, to last through

2079. This would total \$2.228 million to the city over the next 60 years, or about \$37,141 a year on average.

The city is currently receiving \$2,016 per month for the lease.

Council members wondered what other area cities were doing, and also wanted to make sure any final agreement was reviewed by the city attorney. The final agreement will come back to the council for approval.

### Other business

The Monday meeting was remarkably ordinary. The council is working to be more organized in how it handles the monthly reports. While reports from city commissions and departments were included in the meeting’s packet, the council will wait until the second meeting of the month (fourth Monday) to discuss them, giving council members time to read them thoroughly. Any issues that need to be addressed in a timely matter will be added to the regular agenda, said Interim Clerk-Treasurer Ann Lamppa.

The city engineer’s report and grant writer’s report will be discussed as part of the first meeting agenda, since these often have matters which need to be acted on.

This week’s council meeting was the most sparsely attended of the year, with about 15 in the audience. Marit Kringstad once again provided snacks and coffee in the civic center kitchen.

In other business, the council:

- Awarded the contract for propane to low-bidder Edwards Propane at a price of 95.9 cents per gallon.
- Rescinded the motion from the last meeting regarding the purchase of new tires for the loader and awarded the bid to Taconite Tire, whose bid was \$116 higher than the other bid, but was for a 16-ply, rather than a 12-ply tire. Maintenance Supervisor Tom Gorsma said the 16-ply tire was heavier-duty.
- Passed a resolution to participate in the CDBG loan program.
- Noted the city does not currently have an Emergency Management Director, which is required.
- Heard that the city boundary revision needed for the final harbor plat was approved by Sept. 3.

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HISTORIC PRESERVATION

# State preservation alliance honors Ely, Virginia efforts

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

REGIONAL - Rethos, formerly the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota (PAM) recently announced its 2019 Minnesota Preservation Awards (MPAs) recognizing outstanding projects, groups and individuals that contribute to Minnesota's preservation accomplishments.

Ely's Tanner Ott, vice president of Alley A Realty, a local historic building preservation effort, and B'nai Abraham Museum and Cultural Center, of Virginia, were among those honored.

The President's Award presented to Ott represents more than a single project and years of effort and contributions to preservation.

In the last five years ,Ott, 27, has overseen numerous preservation projects in downtown Ely. His passion lies in renovating properties and leasing them to entrepreneurs, restaurants, artists, and professionals, helping to create a vibrant community and bring life back to historic buildings. Success to Ott looks like "a building full of happy people." He continues to work on restoring and preserving

some of Ely's most unique and historically-significant downtown buildings.

B'nai Abraham Museum and Cultural Center, of Virginia, will receive an Impact Award for projects that exemplify undeniable impact, quality, and vision in the field of preservation.

Stakeholders include: AJ Builders, Apter Family Fund, Arrow Lift, Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, Beverly Foundation, Charles Nelson Fund for Historic Preservation, Design for Preservation, Directors of Friends of B'nai Abraham Synagogue, Heisel

Brothers, Hillsdale Fund, Iron Range Resources, Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation, Jeffris Heartland Fund, Jon Lauber, MA, John T. and Elizabeth C. Adams Arts Fund for the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation, Michael Bleher, Minneapolis Jewish Federation, Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, Minnesota Center on Energy and the Environment, Minnesota Historical Society, Minnesota Humanities Center, Mount Sinai Community Foundation, Robert J. Claybaugh,

AIA, Robert Roscoe, BA, Rude Awakening Studio, Sanford I. and Sande Berman, St. Louis Community Development Block Grant, State Historic Preservation Office, Temple Israel, Tuck Pointing, United Jewish Fund and Council of Saint Paul, US Bancorp Foundation, Virginia Community Foundation, and Wells Fargo Bank Foundation

The many nominations received this year represent a range from small, community-driven projects to large scale, high-profile rehabilitation efforts. Rethos assembled

a distinguished panel with the difficult task of selecting this year's award winners. The panel designated eight exceptional nominations for recognition due to their significant contribution to Minnesota's preservation accomplishments and connection to the mission of Rethos.

The MPAs will be presented at the Rethos Annual Benefit on Oct. 3, at the Nicollet Island Pavilion in Minneapolis. Event and ticket information is posted to the organization's website: rethos.org.

## BRIDGE...Continued from page 1

Natural Resources, and the U.S. Forest Service. The Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation was the key financial partner, putting up the bulk of the funding for the project.

The bridge was fabricated in one gigantic piece, weighing 80 tons, which made lifting the structure into place a decidedly dramatic event. Workers from Bougalis and Sons out of Hibbing, using equipment from Vic's Crane, undertook the installation, which went off largely without a hitch. "Those guys are absolutely awesome," said Beste.

The 14-foot-wide bridge is engineered to



support 15 tons, which means it will easily carry the weight of any number of ATVs or snowmobiles, and will also easily carry the weight of snow and a

trail groomer come winter. The bridge includes two six-by-18-foot overlooks on each side of the bridge, which offer spectacular views down the river.

"This really is a premier feature for the ATV community," said Beste.

The new bridge, and the now-vastly-expanded trail network associated

**The trail bridge is located in a remote area about 12 miles south of Crane Lake.**  
submitted photo

with it is likely to become a major draw for ATV riders. And hundreds of riders will have the opportunity to check it out next weekend as part of the ATVAM 2019 Fall Ride and Rally, set for Sept. 20-22 at Crane Lake. The event will include a Friday ribbon-cutting at the new bridge, followed by a barbecue at Vermilion Falls. There is no road access to the bridge site, so anyone who would like to attend will need to arrange off-road transportation. Beste

said transportation to the site will be organized from the Crane Lake rally.

Officials from the various partners, including the Forest Service, St. Louis County, and various state offices will be on hand for the ribbon-cutting, which will be overseen by Cook DFLer and state Senate Minority Leader Tom Bakk.

The ATVAM rally also features 12 trail different trail rides in the area on Saturday, followed by a banquet and auction. For more information and a complete schedule of activities, go to the ATVAM website at atvam.org.

## FRONTIER...Continued from page 1

with other telecommunications firms under similar circumstances.

Frontier and the Minnesota Department of Commerce announced the proposed settlement on Aug. 1, following several months of mediation over how to address more than 1,000 customer complaints about poor phone service, overbilling, and sluggish customer service.

Commerce Department negotiators and an administrative law judge who oversaw public hearings on the matter as well as the mediation process are recommending that the state's Public Utilities Commission adopt the settlement terms as a means of addressing most of the complaints raised against Frontier.

The Attorney General's office is continuing its own investigation into other complaints surrounding Frontier's service quality and does not make a formal recommendation to approve or reject the proposed settlement over issues addressed by the Department of Commerce.

Yet the AG's office doesn't mince words in expressing its view of the proposal. "The proposed settlement's remedies strike the OAG as paltry compared with Frontier's alleged misconduct as set forth in the department report," writes Assistant Attorney General Max Kieley, writing for Ellison. The department's investigative report, issued last January, detailed systematic violations of as many as 35 separate laws or rules in Minnesota, notes the Attorney General.

Rather than penalizing the company, the AG's office notes that the settlement agreement mostly requires Frontier to undertake many of the same

procedures for handling customer service complaints as was previously required by its operating agreement with the state.

Ellison's office cites a 1996 settlement of similar consumer complaints lodged against US West by its Minnesota customers. In that case, the settlement required US West to deposit \$5 million in escrow to pay about \$300,000 in compensation to customers, with the remainder going to expand and upgrade telecommunications service to Minnesota schools, libraries, and rural health care centers.

The AG noted that the 1996 settlement also "incentivized US West's future compliance with such customer service performance metrics by penalizing the company either daily (ranging from \$100-\$500) or yearly (ranging from \$250,000-\$500,000) depending on the metric."

The proposed settlement reached by the Commerce Department and Frontier includes no such financial penalties. And the AG's office is concerned the agreement could actually make Frontier more likely to reject resolution of customer complaints.

The AG's office notes that under the proposed settlement, the MPUC "must rely upon Frontier's 'good faith' to follow Minnesota's telecommunications laws without detailing any procedural claims process."

AG Ellison is equally concerned that the settlement "fails to resolve any past violation by Frontier of Minnesota's telecommunications statutes or rules." Instead, Ellison's office complains that the agreement, as proposed "merely 'kicks the can down the road' and pro-

vides a procedural claims process that authorizes Frontier to deny customer remedies and force the department (or individual customers) to mediate such disputed claims at the OAH [Office of Administrative Hearings] prior to any resolution by the [MPUC]."

At the same time, Ellison is concerned that the settlement sets no timeframe for addressing other unresolved issues, particularly concerns about Frontier's Internet service.

The AG's office had a number of more legalistic concerns as well, particularly that the settlement lacks a strong connection to the evidentiary findings in the department's report. At the same time, the AG notes that Frontier continues to challenge the evidentiary basis for many of the complaints against the company. "The Commission should be especially cautious in finding that the proposed settlement furthers the public interest in light of Frontier's repeated statements in the record that the department report fails to articulate substantial evidence supporting any violations of Minnesota's telecommunications laws.

Under Minnesota law, regulatory agencies only have authority to impose settlements if it is based on "substantial evidence."

The Department of Commerce, in reply comments issued Sept. 4, argues that its 500-plus page report, issued earlier this year, provides the evidentiary basis for the settlement.

The department's comments did not take issue with the AG's broader concerns about the lack of a financial penalty for past failures or a financial incentive for future improvement. But the department does ask

the MPUC not to impose a timeframe for resolving the issues, like Internet service, not addressed in the proposed settlement.

Frontier, in its own comments, recommends that the MPUC take no action in response to the comments from the Attorney General.

The MPUC is expected to take up the matter later this fall.



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ELY...Continued from page 1

inspection.

“We are planning for the worst, but hoping for the best, said soon-to-be-retiring Superintendent Kevin Abrahamson. “We are erring on the side of caution right now until we can learn more in a couple of days. With no water damage, it could be that (the plaster) is just a hundred years old. The school’s insurance policy carries a \$5,000 deductible.”

School officials brought a contractor in on Monday morning to assess the situation. An engineer was scheduled to visit the school Wednesday to assess the integrity of the rest of the ceiling. “We have to see if we need to do more work and if it is safe,” Leeson said. “I should be able to get some answers in a couple of days.”

Meanwhile, the gymnasium is closed to everyone. School board chair Ray Marsnik asked to see the damage, but Leeson advised against it, saying that it wasn’t safe to go into the room. “I’ll take your word for it,” Marsnik said.

With the school year just a week old, gym classes, and volleyball practices, and scheduled games must be shuffled around the closure. Leeson said the elementary classes are utilizing the ice-free hockey arena for gym classes and indoor recess time on rainy days.

The high school volleyball team practiced on Monday at the Vermilion Community College gymnasium, according to Athletic Director Tom Coombe. A home volleyball match that was scheduled for Tuesday night, was moved to Silver Bay. “We play them twice this season so we were able to flip the dates, and they will hopefully be here in October.”

The next home game, scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 19, against North Woods, is still up in the air. “We don’t know if that can be held in the gym here,” Coombe said, “if not, we will look at other options and the first one will be over at Vermilion. We are very fortunate that (VCC) opened their facilities to us.”

Enrollment at ISD 696

2006, 609 students  
2007, 567 students  
2008, 563 students  
2009, 538 students  
2010, 544 students  
2011, 545 students  
2012, 569 students  
2013, 560 students  
2014, 549 students  
2015, 565 students  
2016, 582 students  
2017, 596 students  
2018, 568 students  
2019, 573 students

School enrollment

Principals Anne Oelke and Megan Anderson reported that 573 students were in school on the first day of class for the 2019-2020 school year, an increase from the 568 K-12 students reported last year. Oelke reported that it was “probably the best start to a school year” since she has been here. “We had a positive, mellow start,” she said.

That serenity lasted just a couple of days until the gymnasium was closed last Friday. “Now it’s supposed to rain all week, but we have the arena to use,” she said.

The incoming Kindergarten class jumped to 36 students, up from 29 students last year. The rest of the Washington

Elementary class numbers include: first grade, 29 students; second grade, 49 students; third grade, 58 students; fourth grade, 43 students; and fifth grade, 54 students. The total of 269 Washington Elementary students includes 44 students in open enrollment, according to Oelke.

At Memorial High School, a total of 304 students were reported as of Sept. 9, according to Anderson. The Class of 2020 could have as many as 45 graduates, up significantly from 33 graduates in the Class of 2019. The other class sizes include: sixth grade, 48 students; seventh grade, 52 students; eighth grade, 39 students; ninth grade, 49 students; tenth grade, 34 students; and eleventh grade, 37 students.

Coaching need

Due to significant interest in the school’s cross country program, Abrahamson, Coombe and Anderson determined that the district needs to hire an assistant cross country coach. “We have in excess of 40 students in seventh through grade 12 on our teams,” Coombe said. “That includes the boys and girls teams for both varsity and junior varsity, and I think that is too much to ask of Jane (Dusich) to be responsible for. Issues such as liability and supervision come into play as well.”

An assistant coach would cost \$1,980 for the season, according to Coombe. “We had money leftover last spring from our golf team, and unless those (golf team) numbers dramatically increase, those budgeted dollars would go unused again. From a financial standpoint, the numbers are negligible for the district,” he said.

He asked for approval from the school board to post for the position of assistant cross county coach. “We have one particular volunteer coach on the team who would be a natural candidate for this position,” Coombe said.

Board member Tom Omerza asked if Megan Devine, a district Kindergarten teacher with as many as four runners in the family, who has been helping out on the team, is the candidate Coombe had in mind.

“If she were to apply, I think she would be a great help with the team,” Coombe said.

Board members agreed to post for the paid position of Assistant Cross Country Coach.

Farewell to Abrahamson

At his last official business meeting at ISD 696, Abrahamson received high praise from school board members for his job performance over the last four years. He is set to resign on Oct. 1.

Erik Erie has worked with Abrahamson all summer to fulfill his on-the-job practicum requirements for state licensure and is set to step into the role of part-time superintendent for Ely schools.

“As this is your last meeting with us, I want to thank you for your efforts here and a job well done,” said board member Tony Colarich.

Marsnik echoed the sentiment. “Your four years here have been very successful,” he said. “We have had a balanced budget

for the past four years. Our fund balance grew in each of those four years. We have a strategic plan in place, that was long overdue. We have a new playground. Our window replacement project is

continuing, which is a nice improvement to our campus. And we are looking at a major facility improvement project that you helped get off the ground. I thank you.”

Marsnik also thanked

Abrahamson for navigating the district through a “couple of bumps in the road,” and closed with a statement from Ralph Brauer, who facilitated the development of the district’s long-range plan:

“On a personal note, I think you are losing one of the best administrators I have ever seen, and I have worked with some of the best across the country.”

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-750 BONUS CASH  
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## VOLLEYBALL

# Up and down week for Grizz

### Slip to Eveleth-Gilbert after hanging on for win against Deer River

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

EVELETH—The Grizzlies showed promise here in the early-going on Tuesday night, but let the Golden Bears rally to win in four sets, 16-25, 15-25, 25-21, and 17-25. The Grizzlies let a big lead slip away in the first set, allowing Eveleth-Gilbert to make a 20-4 run for the win after they had trailed 12-5 early in the set. North Woods took the early lead in the second

set before yet another burst by the Golden Bears put it away. “We learned on-the-floor communication is critical for our team,” said Grizzlies Head Coach Kandi Olson. “When we communicated well we played well.” Seniors Coley Olson and Karlyn Pierce both had big nights despite the loss. Olson tallied 11 kills, 11 assists, and 19 digs, while Pierce posted 11 kills and seven blocks. Eighth-grader Tori Olson had 21 digs, while senior Kenzie

Fox added four ace serves. In Monday action on their home court, North Woods held on through an up-and-down match with Deer River to top the Warriors in five sets, 25-16, 25-11, 25-10, 25-10, and 25-10. See **GRIZZ**...pg. 2B  
**Right: Senior Karlyn Pierce goes up for a block against Deer River. Pierce tallied seven blocks in Tuesday’s game against Eveleth-Gilbert.**  
photo by C. Stone



## NINEMAN FOOTBALL

# Wolves struggle against N-C Stars

### Ely still looking for its first score after back-to-back shutouts

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – An overpowering and aggressive North Central football team crushed the Timberwolves 54-0 last Friday night at Memorial Stadium, to leave Ely at 0-2 on the season. Short-handed again, Ely suited up just 14 players last week, and faced a newly-combined team of Littlefork/Big Falls and Kelliher/Northome schools. “We definitely had our hands full with this combined team,” said Ely Head Coach Cory Lassi. The Stars did most of their scoring in the first half. At 10:03 in the first quarter, North Central senior running back Matt Kennedy galloped from 40 yards out to put the first six on the board. A two-point conversion put Ely down 8-0. After a three-and-out series for Ely, North Central scored again at 6:14 in the first quarter on a 25-yard run by Kennedy. They took a 16-0



**Above: Hold? What hold? An unidentified Ely player grabs a little jersey as he tries to hold off a North Central defender giving chase to Ely’s Dalton Schreffler.**

**Right: Ninth-grader Jason Kerntz helps wrap up the Stars’ Matt Kennedy.**

photos by K. Vandervort

“We definitely had our hands full with this combined team.”  
**Head Coach Cory Lassi**



## 11-MAN FOOTBALL

# Rush City rushing overwhelms Grizzlies

### North Woods showing progress as they adapt to eleven-man competition

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

FIELD TWP— They don’t call it Rush City for nothing. The Grizzlies, in the second game of their new season, struggled to contain junior halfback Zeth Hahn and the Rush City ground game as they fell 34-8 in 11-man competition. Hahn rushed for 224 yards and three touchdowns on 14 carries to lead his Class 2A Tigers to the win. Rush City scored three times in the first half. They connected on a short pass play in the first quarter for six, then added 12 more in the second stanza off a pass play and on the first of Hahn’s three touchdowns. That left the Tigers up 18-0 at the break. After a scoreless third, Grizzlies sophomore halfback TJ Chiabotti put North Woods on the scoreboard on a run from one yard out. He ran in the conversion moments later to close the gap to ten points. But Rush City wasn’t done yet, and Hahn racked up two more touchdowns and conversions before the clock ran out.



**Nathan Crain and Trevor Morrison chase after Rush City’s Zeth Hahn during last Friday’s contest at the North Woods School. Hahn rushed for 224 yards to lead the Tigers to a 34-8 win.**  
photo by C. Stone

## VOLLEYBALL

# Ely dumps Mariners in three sets

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

SILVER BAY— Ely had to relocate their contest against the Mariners on Tuesday, but it didn’t faze the Timberwolves, who wrapped up Silver Bay in straight sets, 25-16, 25-11, and 25-9. Falling plaster from the ceiling of the Ely gymnasium last Friday forced the school district to close their gym until repairs can be made, and that prompted relocation of Tuesday’s volleyball match to Silver Bay. The Ely squad has started well this season, and they continued to show consistency this week. “The girls played well on Tuesday,” said Head Coach Andrea Thomas. “Our passing was on target and the girls played aggressively.” Brielle Kallberg had

See **ELY**...pg. 2B

# Sports week

## FOOTBALL

**Friday, Sept. 13**  
North Woods at Deer River, 7 p.m.  
  
Ely hosts South Ridge, 7 p.m.

Northeast Range hosts Kelley, 7 p.m.

## VOLLEYBALL

**Tuesday, Sept. 17**  
Ely at I-Falls, 7 p.m.  
  
Northeast Range hosts Lakeview Christian, 7 p.m.  
  
North Woods at Cherry, 7 p.m.

**Thursday, Sept. 19**  
Ely hosts North Woods, 7 p.m.

## SWIMMING

**Thursday, Sept. 19**  
Northeast Range hosts Chisholm, 4:30 p.m.

## CROSS COUNTRY

**Thursday, Sept. 17**  
Ely at Grand Rapids Invite, 4 p.m.

See **NORTH WOODS**...pg. 2B

SWIMMING

NER/Ely perform well, but fall short to Mesabi East

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

AURORA — Swimmers from Northeast Range/Ely dominated in several events here last Thursday, but it wasn’t enough to outpace the Giants in their home pool. Mesabi East used its dominance in two relay events to edge the Nighthawks 85-72. Several Nighthawks swim-

mers had strong outings, despite the loss. Senior Brooke Pasmick notched first-place finishes in the 50-yard freestyle, with a time of 27.45, more than two seconds ahead of second-place finisher, eighth-grader and fellow ‘Hawk Abby Koivisto. Pasmick also took first in the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 1:11.53. Sophomore Aili Bee scored a first-place finish in the 100-

yard breaststroke, with a time of 1:30.03, while freshman Lily Tedrick notched a first-place finish in the 200-yard individual medley, with a time of 2:45.05. Freshman Kelly Thompson scored a second-place finish in the 100-yard freestyle with a time of 1:07.06. That was 0.4 seconds ahead of third-place finisher Abby Koivisto. Thompson also took second in the 200-yard

freestyle, with a time of 2:30.23. The ‘Hawks relay team of Elizabeth Omerza, Maggie Dammann, Grace Sundell, and Alice Wolter took first place in the 400-yard freestyle, with a time of 5:27.72. The Giants dominated in several events as well and claimed their point advantage by taking first and second in both the 200-yard freestyle and

200-yard medley relays. Those two events provided the Giants with a 20-point margin, which made the difference in the meet. The Nighthawks were set to take on Duluth Denfeld on Thursday, Sept. 12. First starting gun is set for 5 p.m. They’ll travel to Chisholm on Thursday, Sept. 19 to take on the Bluestreaks, with a 4:30 p.m. start.



NORTH WOODS...Continued from page 1B

Chiabotti led the rushing attack for North Woods, with 71 tough yards on 16 carries, while catching the Grizzlies’ only two completed passes for 22 yards. At quarterback, junior Zach Cheney rushed for 24 yards on seven carries and completed the two passes to Chiabotti. Senior Nathan Crain rushed for 25 yards on six carries. “I thought we played well overall,” said Grizzlies Head Coach John Jirik. “We need to improve our blocking schemes and learn more about game time

**Above: Junior quarterback Zach Cheney looks for daylight as he runs from a Rush City defender.**  
photo by C. Stone

situations on defense. We have come quite a distance in the first four weeks and are quickly catching on.” The Grizzlies are set to face their first Class A squad this Friday when they take on the Warriors in Deer River. They’ll stay on the road the following Friday, taking on Barnum. Kickoff for both games is at 7 p.m.



GRIZZ...Continued from page 1B

sets. North Woods won 25-13, 23-25, 25-15, 21-25, and 15-6. “They were really roller coaster games,” said Coach Olson. “We had to learn to overcome a deficit and how to maintain a lead.” Coley Olson had another strong performance, with 22 kills, eight

**Above: Joey Lakoskey picks up the serve receive for North Woods.**  
photo by C. Stone

sets, and 11 digs, while sophomore Olivia Udovich posted 12 digs and 20 set assists. Sophomore Abbi Shuster added nine digs and four ace serves.

VOLLEYBALL

Two games down, Nighthawks beat Littlefork-BF 3-2

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

BABBITT- The Nighthawks looked headed for defeat here on Tuesday night as they dropped the first two sets of their high school girls volleyball match with Littlefork-Big Falls. But Northeast Range batted down their defenses and swept the next three sets to chalk up the win. “It was a barnburner,” said Head Coach Jodi Rogers-Reichensperger. The team dropped the first set

23-25, after leading 9-1 at the start. Errors plagued the Nighthawks in the second set. “For every one thing LBF did right, we made two errors,” Reichensperger said. But the team regained its confidence, taking the third set 25-20 and the fourth 25-22. The team really shined in the final game of the night. “We were able to clean up our offense and pass the balls we needed to get the hits,” she said. “We were able to take and keep the lead for a 15-8 finish.” Reichensperger said the team

as a whole is starting to play well. “Natalie Nelmark dominated on her three rotations in the front row,” she said. “If we can continue to have at least two of our hitters hitting in the double digits like that, the tides will turn.” Lara Poderzay has 32 set assists, Hannah Reichensperger had 20 kills and Nelmark added 15 kills. Makaya Bodas went 21 for 21 at the service line. The team hosts Lakeview Christian on Tuesday. First serve is set for 6:30 p.m.

WOLVES...Continued from page 1B

lead on a pass completion on the conversion effort. North Central closed out the first quarter with another six, this time on a seven-yard rush by Jacob Pendergast. The two-point conversion increased their lead to 24-0. Two long scoring drives in the second quarter, the first capped by a 40-yard run by junior quarterback Jack Gilbert, plus the two-point conversion left the Stars up 32-0. Gilbert scored again on a 20-yard keeper at 2:35, leaving the Stars up 40-0 after the conversion. Ely put together a promising drive late in the half, but a North Central interception gave the Stars the ball with just seconds remaining. Gilbert connected for yet another touchdown as time

ran out in the half, leaving North Central up 48-0. In the second half, playing with running time, and with just under three minutes to go in the game, Stars tight end Cam McRoberts ripped off an 80-yard run to increase the Stars’ lead to 54-0. Ely’s Mason Davis took a helmet to the ribs on the play and the serious injury prompted game officials to end the game early. The Timberwolves’ Schreffler had 95 yards rushing on 19 carries in the game. “Our offense is focused around him and he had some nice carries for us,” Lassi said. Schreffler also had 14 tackles and a fumble recovery on defense. Freshman Jason Kerntz had 17 tackles in the game. “That was good

to see for the young and inexperienced player,” he said. Lassi admitted that the team didn’t play as disciplined this week. “We shot ourselves in the foot with three false starts. It’s hard to beat another team and ourselves at the same time.” Ely continues to face the toughest part of their schedule Friday night when they host South Ridge who consistently finishes near the top of their section. “We will have five more players suit up this week, and I keep pushing for the guys to stay positive and keep motivated and to work on getting better every week.” Lassi said.

ELY...Continued from page 1B

another strong night with seven kills and seven ace serves, along with a 12-point serving run in the second set. McCartney Kaercher served ten straight in set three and posted 26 set assists and four aces serves. McKenna Coughlin proved the night’s top assassin, with 13 kills, while Erika Mattson posted six and Jenna Merhar five. In tournament action at Greenway last Saturday, the Wolves put

up a solid performance, topping Mt. Iron-Buhl in two sets, 25-16 and 25-15 before polishing off Mesabi East 25-19 and 25-21. They played hard in the afternoon as well, but couldn’t overcome a few mental lapses that cost them matches against Greenway (23-25 and 20-25) and Cherry (13-25, 25-19, and 8-15). “The morning went well for us, even though we were playing a slower tempo of volleyball than we’d like,” said Thomas.

“The afternoon showed us that we can battle back when we are down. After a few errors early on in set one against Greenway we were able to regroup and play some great volleyball. In set two, the score went back and forth and even and though we lost, I felt that we played very competitively. Against Cherry, our errors led to our demise in sets one and three, We just didn’t have the mental toughness to recover from them. Set two was great. We played

aggressively and kept the momentum on our side.” The Wolves had little trouble with Cherry in their Thursday night matchup, sweeping the Tigers 25-18, 25-21, and 25-22. Brielle Kallberg had a big night, with eight kills, seven digs, eight blocks, and five set assists. McCartney Kaercher put up 20 sets and notched six digs, while McKenna Coughlin posted ten kills. Erika Mattson tallied seven kills and as many digs. “The girls played great defense all night,” said Thomas. The Wolves were set to face Mesabi East on Thursday night, in Aurora. They travel to the border on Tuesday to take on International Falls. First serve is set for 7 p.m.



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## COUNTY SCHOOLS

# Calgaro case may go to Supreme Court

ISD 2142 is one of the named defendants in the civil case

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — The St. Louis County School District is among a number of defendants waiting to hear if a civil case lodged against the school district and others in 2016 will be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Thomas More Society and their special counsel Erick Kaardal continue to back the case brought by Cherry-area resident Anmarie Calgaro who believes the school district, St. Louis County, and two Minnesota health care providers violated her rights as a parent when they treated her 17-year-old child as an emancipated minor without the required due process. As a result, Calgaro alleges she was denied access to her son's school and medical records, despite the fact that she had legally been given joint physical custody. In addition, while still a minor, the child began sex change therapy without Calgaro's consent. While the transgender nature of the student involved has garnered significant attention in the media, Calgaro's attorney,

Erick Kaardal said the case really centers on the lack of due process.

The federal district court that heard the case back in 2017 ultimately ruled against Calgaro, as did the Eighth Circuit of Appeals. But the Thomas More Society and Kaardal, in late July, petitioned the Supreme Court to take up the case and the parties are continuing to wait on the high court's decision about whether it will hear the matter. The child, identified only by initials, is now over 18 years of age, which the Court of Appeals said rendered some of the legal issues raised in the case as moot.

Kaardal has opted to argue the case as a violation of Calgaro's 14th Amendment rights to equal protection, arguing that Minnesota law is not currently protecting the rights of parents to have input into the decisions of their minor children.

"It's a parent's worst nightmare," said Kaardal. "Anmarie Calgaro's child, while a minor, was steered through a life-changing, permanent body-altering process, becoming a pawn in someone else's sociopolitical

agenda and being influenced by those who have no legal or moral right to usurp the role of a parent."

Kaardal noted that Minnesota statutes authorize a county to deem a minor 'emancipated' to receive welfare payments to live on their own and allow medical providers to void parental input if they determine the minor is living apart from the parents and is managing personal financial affairs. "And the St. Louis County School District in Minnesota has a custom and practice of barring a parent for more than two years from involvement in the child's education after a child is deemed by the school principal, not by a court order, to be emancipated. This is an unacceptable situation for any parent and a serious violation of parental and due process rights," said Kaardal.

The St. Louis County School Board heard an update on the case during a closed session held late last month. The school district's attorney does not expect the Supreme Court to take up the case.

## Harvest Moon Festival



**Above: Ben and Mary Kubes enjoyed the festival with their sons Sigurd and Soren. Below: Farmers harvest bounty. More photos in next week's paper.**  
photos by K. Vandervort



## Obituaries and Death Notices



### James W. Griffith

James William "Jim" Griffith, 82, of International Falls, passed away peacefully in his sleep on Monday, Aug. 19, 2019, in Soudan. A funeral service will be conducted at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 14 at Hope Lutheran Church in Northome. Flowers can be sent prior to the service to Dolly Fisher, 12031 Lake St., Northome, MN 56661. Cards of condolence may be sent to Griffith Law Office, 343 Third St., International Falls, MN 56649. Memorials may be made in Jim's honor to the charity of your choice.

Jim was born at home on Sept. 24, 1936, in Bridgie Township, and graduated from Northome High School in the class of 1954. He was known for his love of physical labor and strong work ethic. Jim retired from Boise Cascade in October 2013 at the age of 76 with 51 years of service as a machine oiler. He was one of the oldest and longest employees of Boise Cascade at that time.

When he had off-time from the paper mill, Jim could be found out in the woods operating his skidder and chainsaw for his independent logging and firewood business of 25 years. Jim enjoyed working in the woods, fishing, and hunting. He often hunted with family and friends, but in his later years enjoyed watching deer instead of hunting, saying, "I've killed enough deer for one lifetime."

Jim also enjoyed watching football and was a lifelong Vikings fan. He had a love of old movies, especially Westerns. He was a kind man with a fun sense of humor who was pleasant to be around. In retirement, Jim enjoyed trips to the casino and could often be found at Fortune Bay Casino on Lake Vermilion, affectionately coined "Torture Bay" by him.

He is survived by his children, Scott (Cathy) Griffith of Oklahoma City, Okla., Natalia Griffith of West Palm Beach, Fla., Sharon Griffith, Dan (Debbie) Griffith and Danita Ducharme, all of International Falls, Lori (John) Boykin of Chandler, Ariz., and Lisa (Terrence) Holden of Burnsville; 17 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; sister, Dolly (Gary) Fisher of Northome; as

well as numerous nieces and nephews. Jim's memory will be cherished by many, including former wife, Sharon Groskreutz, and friend, Barb Stahlberg.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William (Bill) and Alice Griffith; two older brothers, Lloyd Griffith and Raymond Griffith; as well as former wife, Donna Iverson, and friend, Mary Mastin.

### Marilynn E. Pelkey

Marilynn Elizabeth Pelkey, 78, of Babbitt, passed away on Friday, Sept. 6, 2019, at Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital in Ely, surrounded by her loved ones. Her funeral will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 14, 2019, her 79th birthday, at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Babbitt with visitation being held one hour prior to the service at the church. A luncheon will be served following the service. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kernitz Funeral Home of Ely.

Marilynn was born on Sept. 14, 1940, in Prince George, British Columbia, Canada, to Rev. William and Elizabeth (Knack) Krueger; she was the oldest daughter of four children.

She was married on Dec. 5, 1959, in Marble, to Clarence E. Pelkey of Pengilly. To this union, four children were blessed: Mark, Sheree, Susan and Kay.

Marilynn graduated from Greenway High School and attended Duluth School of Beauty Culture. Marilynn was an ongoing active member of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church community: Sunday School teacher and Superintendent, Ladies Aide, Altar Guild, Cradle Roll and Vacation Bible School. Her hobbies included knitting, gardening and crafts. She had collections of spoons, Precious Moments, baskets and angels. She enjoyed cooking, camping, dancing, roller-skating and being a "snowbird" in Lake Havasu, Ariz. She enjoyed doing circle word books, watching Wheel of Fortune and Jeopardy, and playing penny slot machines. She loved hummingbirds, the color red, roses, country music, and her grand-dog Sandy.

Marilynn is survived by her beloved husband of almost 60 years, Clarence; four children, Mark (Heidi) Pelkey, Sheree (Dean) Coan, Susan (Tony) Erni and Kay (Larry)

Gregg; five grandchildren, Amber (Ryan) Diebold, Dennis (Kassi) Coan, Sara (Eric) Milbridge, Genoa and Benjamin; two great-grandchildren, River and Huntleigh; sister, Kathy (Mike Doud) Sliva; brother, Brent (Jill Weisser) Krueger; sister, Pam Krueger; and several cousins, nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Rev. William and Elizabeth Krueger.

### Gordon and Gail Sheddy

St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Ely will hold a memorial service celebrating the lives of Gordon and Gail Sheddy on Saturday, Sept. 21 at 2 p.m. The service will be held at First Presbyterian Church in Ely. A reception will follow at First Presbyterian Church. Interment will be at the Ely Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to any of the following

local Ely community organizations: Ely Community Resources, Ely Food Shelf, Friends of the Ely Public Library, or any local non-profit or charity of your choice.

### Elsie M. Scott

Elsie M. Klomps Scott, 85, of Babbitt, passed away on Friday, Sept. 6, 2019, at Edgewood Vista Memory Care Unit in Virginia. Funeral services were held on Wednesday, Sept. 11 at Woodland Presbyterian Church in Babbitt with Rev. Terese Tomanek officiating. Burial was in Argo Cemetery in Babbitt. Arrangements were with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her daughter, Rhonda (John) Raskovich of Chisholm; sons, Gary (Pam) Scott of Farmington and Michael Scott of Duluth; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

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# Outdoors

Our lives in the  
Northwoods

## HUNTING

# Bear hunters reap the benefits of a dry summer

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — A dry end to the summer meant bear hunters had the advantage, and that was apparent in the registrations through the first ten days of the 2019 bear season. Hunters reported harvesting 1,714 bears through Sept. 9, a 45-percent increase over the same period last year.

While the bear season continues through Oct. 13, the season is already over for most hunters by this point in the

## Early harvest up 45 percent over last year

season. Typically, the reported harvest at this point represents about three-quarters of the final tally, which means hunters should finish up very close to the DNR's predicted harvest of 2,000 bears. "It looks like we'll be right on target," said Tower Area Wildlife Manager Tom Rusch.

The higher harvest is likely to push any bear recovery off at least another year. That's especially so given that about

40 percent of the harvested bears were females, meaning hunters took a whack at the state's breeding population. "We'd like the percentage of females harvested to be as low as possible," said Rusch. "We'd like to see it under 25 percent if possible."

The DNR estimates the state's current bear population at 12,000-15,000. That's about half the number of bears that roamed the state's forests 15 years ago and is below the DNR's goal of



20,000. The state's bear population remains under goal, in part because of the higher-than-desirable harvest of females, or sows.

| Year | YTD   | Total |
|------|-------|-------|
| 2019 | 1,714 | 1,714 |
| 2018 | 1,185 | 1,768 |
| 2017 | 1,565 | 2,036 |
| 2016 | 1,910 | 2,633 |
| 2015 | 1,226 | 1,972 |
| 2014 | 1,040 | 1,624 |
| 2013 | 1,220 | 1,861 |

One of the challenges of lowering the sow harvest is the

See **BEARS...**pg. 5B

## Wildflower Watch

This week's featured flower  
**FLAT-TOPPED ASTER**



The **Flat-topped Aster** *Eurybia umbellata*, is another common fall aster in our region, and one that seems to do best in wet areas, like bog edges, wet ditches, and wet meadows. It is consistently our tallest aster, and is recognized by its generally flat-topped cluster of cream-colored flowers. Its leaves are long and narrow and untoothed. They'll be in bloom right through September in most of our area.

## Fishing reports

### Ely area

Walleye fishing has remained fairly steady on most of the lakes up north as the fall season descends upon us. Some of the walleyes have begun to stage a bit deeper these days as the water temperatures begin to cool. This is the perfect scenario to drag out those deep diving crank baits from the tackle box and put them to work. The larger lures can be deadly at this time of year as the bait fish are at the largest of the season, after filling out over the past few months. Cranks up to six inches long are the norm for folks who are probing the depths down to twenty feet or so. Clear water lakes require baits that are neutral in color such as shad or shiner. Off color lakes that are bog stained are best fished with brighter patterns such as fire tiger or orange, which will show up better when fishing at depth. Live bait aficionados are still dragging crawler harnesses with good success. As the water cools further, minnows will begin to come back into play and this can be some of the best fishing of the season as most fish species will be seeking to put on some weight before the water temps plunge.

Lake trout anglers are still having some action while pulling spoons and crank baits in water from thirty to forty-five feet down, while the stream trout such as rainbows and splake are staging from ten to fifteen feet no matter what the depth of the lake might be. This is also a good time to fish crawlers suspended under a bobber for those who wish to take a more laid-back approach.

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



## THE BEST TIME OF YEAR

# Fall up close



**Top:** Scarlet maple leaves contrast against the remaining green of other forest vegetation.

**Above right:** Yellow birch leaves with a backdrop of balsam fir.

**Left:** Salmon-colored sarsaparilla leaves against an aspen trunk.

**Right:** Scarlet leaves of bunchberry.



## HUNTING

# Mixed reports ahead of grouse opener

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor



REGIONAL — By traditional yardsticks, hunters should find plenty of opportunity as they hit their favorite forest trails for the grouse opener this Saturday. A drier-than-average summer, combined with a respectable spring drumming count, has typically meant good fall hunting conditions.

But with concerns like

West Nile virus and the impact of a growing raccoon population on ground-nesting birds, the old rules don't necessarily apply. Which is why DNR wildlife officials are shying away from predictions these days. Tower Area Wildlife Manager Tom Rusch said he's mostly heard mixed reports so far this year. "Some guys say they're seeing good-sized broods and others say they're not seeing much of anything," Rusch said he was in the field

last week, following up on the contract mowers who maintain the DNR's hunter walking trails. That involves driving an ATV on miles of recently-mowed terrain, from Ely to Willow Valley. "I never saw a grouse all week," he said.

While conventional wisdom suggests that grouse should be on the downward part of their cycle, after a supposed peak in 2017, most

See **GROUSE...**pg. 5B

GROUSE...Continued from page 4B

hunters found that peak to be underwhelming at best. Last year seemed an improvement and the spring drumming counts held mostly steady this year, at a fairly average 1.5 drums per stop, suggesting that the downward trend is less dramatic than usual. If the dry summer allowed for strong reproduction, hunters could well find good numbers of birds, particularly come October, when the leaves drop. That's traditionally

the best time of year for grouse hunters. If the weather holds, hunters should have at least one advantage this year— good access. The dry summer has left many traditionally wet areas in the forest high and dry, and that should open up areas that hunters may not have had access to the past few years. Will the birds be out there come Saturday? There's only one way to find out.

Outdoors in brief

Zebra mussels found in Virginia's Rouchleau pit

VIRGINIA — The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed zebra mussels in the Rouchleau Mine Pit in Virginia. The historic Rouchleau Pit is near an active taconite mine and was being dewatered to facilitate future mining. Environmental staff from the mining company discovered zebra mussels during a routine inspection of the dewatering operation. Lower water levels revealed widespread living and dead zebra mussels in the shallow water near the pumping station in the pit. The mining company stopped the pumping operation and took immediate steps to report the discovery. The DNR confirmed zebra mussels on rocks and debris in the mine pit. The water from the pit was being pumped into a drainage ditch that flows into a shallow wetland known as Ramshaw Lake,

which eventually flows into Long Lake Creek and the St. Louis River. Those nearby waters are not known to have zebra mussels. The St. Louis River eventually flows into Lake Superior, where zebra mussels were first confirmed in Minnesota in 1989. The DNR will review all existing permits to take water from the Rouchleau Pit and connected waters and will meet with permit holders to determine the most appropriate of several potential measures to prevent the spread of zebra mussels. The DNR will conduct additional monitoring for zebra mussels in downstream and nearby waters. The Rouchleau Pit is part of a larger pit complex known as the Missabe Mountain Pit Complex. The Missabe Mountain/Moose-Shaw/Rouchleau pits make up the Missabe Mountain Pit Complex. The pit complex is currently one contiguous body of water.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST from NOAA weather

| Friday    |    |    |       |     | Saturday  |    |    |       |     | Sunday    |    |    |       |     | Monday    |    |    |       |     | Tuesday   |    |    |       |       |
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| 09/02     | 67 | 48 | 0.04  |     | 09/02     | 68 | 50 | 0.04  |     | 09/02     | 56 | 50 | 0.12  |     | 09/02     | 63 | 50 | 0.00  |     | 09/02     | 67 | 49 | 0.14  |       |
| 09/03     | 66 | 48 | 0.10  |     | 09/03     | 68 | 48 | 0.14  |     | 09/03     | 62 | 49 | 0.13  |     | 09/03     | 59 | 48 | 0.00  |     | 09/03     | 65 | 48 | 0.18  |       |
| 09/04     | 59 | 46 | 0.14  |     | 09/04     | 60 | 46 | 0.12  |     | 09/04     | 59 | 49 | 0.21  |     | 09/04     | 64 | 48 | 0.05  |     | 09/04     | 60 | 47 | 0.23  |       |
| 09/05     | 66 | 41 | 0.00  |     | 09/05     | 66 | 40 | 0.00  |     | 09/05     | 65 | 49 | 0.00  |     | 09/05     | 63 | 48 | 0.02  |     | 09/05     | 64 | 42 | 0.05  |       |
| 09/06     | 65 | 44 | 0.09  |     | 09/06     | 65 | 43 | 0.12  |     | 09/06     | 62 | 50 | 0.13  |     | 09/06     | 70 | 52 | 0.16  |     | 09/06     | 64 | 55 | 0.00  |       |
| 09/07     | 71 | 45 | 0.00  |     | 09/07     | 73 | 38 | 0.00  |     | 09/07     | 70 | 48 | 0.00  |     | 09/07     | 54 | 45 | 0.00  |     | 09/07     | 71 | 39 | 0.00  |       |
| 09/08     | 57 | 41 | 0.01  |     | 09/08     | 57 | 40 | 0.00  |     | 09/08     | 55 | 46 | 0.00  |     | 09/08     | 61 | 41 | 0.00  |     | 09/08     | 56 | 42 | 0.00  |       |
| YTD Total |    |    | 13.86 |     | YTD Total |    |    | 18.01 |     | YTD Total |    |    | 15.22 |     | YTD Total |    |    | 14.87 |     | YTD Total |    |    |       | 17.06 |

WHAT'S IN YOUR BOATHOUSE?

by ROBERT MATSON  
Columnist

My final featured boat for the season is this far-out boat owned by eclectic collector Del Van Emmerick of Owatonna. It's a 1968 SpaceCraft, manufactured by the SpaceCraft corporation of Los Angeles, Cal. "Farout" is powered by a Ford 302 Engine and a Volvo out drive. Not much is known about the boat, except that it may be the only one in existence, as only one prototype was



built and one production model. The boat has had many different owners, and finally ended up at a auto salvage yard, where it sat for eighteen years. Del took two years to restore it and uses it on

many area lakes. It wins awards wherever it goes. Del is one of the largest collectors of "strange" boats in the nation. If you would like to see your

BEARS...Continued from page 4B

difficulty of telling males from females. "It's not like the males have antlers that make it obvious," said Rusch. The presence of cubs is the primary method that many hunters use to distinguish the sexes, and ethical hunters generally won't shoot a sow with young. But sows in northern Minnesota often don't begin breeding until at least age four, and that can leave them vulnerable to harvest before they ever have a chance to reproduce. The average age of a harvested black bear in Minnesota is just four years old, a statistic that points to a population under intensive hunting pressure. Longtime bear hunting guide Dennis Udovich said it's definitely possible to distinguish a male from the female bear, with or without



Three hunters from southern Minnesota pose with their bears, taken while hunting with Dennis Udovich of Udovich Guide Service in Greaney. submitted Rusch said he may look at opportunities to better inform hunters of ways to distinguish between male and female bears, in hopes of reducing the sow harvest in the future.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ORR CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF  
REGULAR MEETING  
August 12, 2019

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Orr City Council was held Monday, August 12, 2019, at the Orr City Hall.

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

Absent:  
Councilor Bruce Black  
Councilor Thomas Kennebeck

Also present: Clerk/Treasurer Cheri Carter; Deputy Clerk, Laura Manai; Maintenance Supervisor Paul Koch; Liquor Store Manager Charles Nieman; Ambulance Director Donna Hoffer, Ambulance Finance Director, Jim Gray; and Barbara Johnson, Cook-Orr Hospital District Representative.

Barbara Johnson was added to the Agenda as the first item of business to discuss the hospital's proposed levy increase.

Motion by Ericka Cote, second by Lloyd Scott, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of Minutes of Regular Council Meeting of July 8, 2019; Minutes of Public Hearing of July 8, 2019; and expenditures in the amount of \$97,429.14. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED. Two (2) Absent.

Barbara Johnson informed the council of a proposed levy increase by the Cook-Orr Hospital District of \$100,000 for 2020. Revenue is down quite a bit compared to last year. The majority of income loss is attributed to imaging volumes (CT and MRI). Barb provided the council with a spreadsheet showing how the levy will impact homesteaded property. Barb requested council input that she can bring back to the board at their next meeting, which will be August 24, 2019. Mayor Astleford questioned whether this is a one-time increase to make up for lost revenue from the imaging volumes. Barb will find out from the administrator and let the council know.

The city received three bids for 13,000 gallons of propane for the 2019-20 heating season: Lakes Gas - \$.88 per gallon; Rainy Lake Oil - \$1.049 per gallon; and Ferrellgas - \$1.08 per gallon. No bid was received from Como Oil. Motion by Ericka Cote, second by Lloyd Scott, to accept the low bid from Lakes Gas in the amount of \$0.88 per gallon. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED. Two (2) Absent.

NOTICE OF STATE LAND SALE  
By Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Notice is hereby given that state land located in St. Louis County, as described below, is hereby offered for sale by the Commissioner of Natural Resources. The land will be sold at public auction as required by Minn. Stat. Ch. 92 and 94.

Bidders are advised to obtain property data sheets and be familiar with the property, price, and terms and conditions of sale prior to attending the auction. To obtain a property data sheet, visit [mndnr.gov/landsale](http://mndnr.gov/landsale) or call (651) 259-5432, (888) 646-6367 or email: [min.landsale@state.mn.us](mailto:min.landsale@state.mn.us) Please specify the property number.

**Public Land Auction on Tuesday, Oct. 29 at 10 a.m.** DNR Central Office, Lobby Conference Room, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, 55155. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m.

Land to be sold at this event is as follows:

Property 69161: The North Half of the Southeast Quarter, the South Half of the Southeast Quarter, and the South Half of the Southwest Quarter, all in Section 36, Township 68 North, Range 19, St. Louis County, Minnesota. And the North Half of the Northeast Quarter of Section 1, Township 67 North, Range 19 West, St. Louis County, Minnesota.

**General Statement of Terms of Sale:** The following is a summary of terms: Please obtain the document Instructions for **Oral Bid Auction and Terms and Conditions of Sale** on the DNR Land Sale web page or by phone or email as outlined above. The property data sheet details the comprehensive terms and conditions of sale. Bidding for each parcel will start at the minimum bid, which is the appraised value plus sale costs. Any bid for less than the minimum stated on the property data sheet will be rejected. The successful bidder must pay 10% of the bid amount, which must be paid at the auction. The balance of the purchase price must be paid within 90 days from the date of the auction. Bidders are advised to obtain a property data sheet and instructions for oral bid auction prior to attending the auction.

Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 13, 2019

Motion by Lloyd Scott, second by Ericka Cote, to deposit first half levy funds from the Cook-Orr Hospital District in the amount of \$37,348.87, into the Ambulance Fund checking account to be used for ambulance operating expenses per statutory authority. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED. Two (2) Absent.

Three quotes were obtained for two chemical usage scales at the wastewater treatment plant: Eagle Micro Systems - \$1,725.00; Indelco Plastics Corp. - \$2,077.50; and Hawkins - \$3,865.00. Quotes are for one scale. Paul recommended purchasing two scales from Indelco Plastics. Eagle Micro Systems had the lower bid but the City would be required to purchase a floor mounted post and safety chain bracket, which adds \$332.00 to the cost in addition to time spent by city maintenance to assemble and install. Motion by Lloyd Scott, second by Ericka Cote, to approve purchase of two chemical usage scales from Indelco Plastics. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED. Two (2) Absent.

Four bid proposals were sent out for the Fire Hydrant Project with no response. Charlie Winger will be in the area in the next couple weeks and offered to do the excavation work for an approximate cost of \$7,000.

Motion by Lloyd Scott, second by Ericka Cote, to approve extension of the Office Space Lease Agreement with St. Louis County Assessor's Office to December 31, 2019. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED. Two (2) Absent.

Motion by Ericka Cote, second by Lloyd Scott, to approve the Short-Term Rental Permit Application submitted by Shane Halverson with the condition vehicles are not to be parked in front of the Leiding Town Garage. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED. Two (2) Absent.

Motion by Ericka Cote, second by Lloyd Scott, to approve the Affiliate Welcome Center Recertification with Explore Minnesota Tourism. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED. Two (2) Absent.

The council discussed forming a Neighborhood Crime Watch. Notices will be placed in September's utility bills for volunteers. The St. Louis County Sheriff's Department will then meet with all volunteers and review protocol and procedures.

Motion by Ericka Cote, second by Lloyd Scott, to approve NP Solar's request to require the City to purchase its interest in the solar panels at the Orr Regional Airport pursuant to the Put

and Call Agreement dated May 13, 2013, in the amount of \$2,163.00. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED. Two (2) Absent.

REPORTS FROM  
DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Liquor Store: Liquor Store Manager Chet Nieman reported sales for July were up compared to last year, and sales have been up for August. Chet will be obtaining two quotes to replace the flooring in the on-sale and off-sale. Chet's anniversary date is August 18th, and the council approved Chet to carry over unused vacation.

Water and Sewer: Water Supervisor Paul Koch reported all is going well. He is planning to spread bio-solids this week.

Airport: Airport Manager Rocky Hoffman was not present for the meeting. Mayor Astleford reported 1,490 gallons of 100LL and 943 gallons of Jet A on hand. The printer for the fuel system stopped working. If it is determined it was struck by lightning, the replacement cost will not be covered by the service agreement.

Ambulance: Ambulance Director Donna Hoffer brought the council up to date on staffing and scheduling. She purchased radio switch boxes for both rigs for ease of communication. Overhead Door had to replace door strips on both doors. She is working on updating the Bylaws so the terms of the officers are staggered.

Community Center: The council was updated on rentals for the next couple months.

Fire Department: No report.

Tourist Information Center: Cheri Carter reported it has been busy with lots of tourist traffic. Roni Carr has turned in her resignation for cleaning at the TIC. She will be moving out of the area. The council thanked Roni for many years of excellent service as Director of the TIC. An additional 1,000 "Orr" brochures were ordered.

Comments from Visitors: The status of progress on blighted property in the city was discussed. The property owner was given until September to comply with the City's blight ordinance. If not addressed, costs associated with getting the property into compliance with the blight ordinance will be assessed to the owner's property taxes.

Comments from Mayor/Council: None

There being no further business before the council, motion by Ericka Cote, second by Lloyd Scott, to adjourn. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED. Two (2) Absent. Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheri Carter  
Clerk/Treasurer  
Joel R. Astleford, Mayor

Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 13, 2019

CITY OF ELY  
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Ely City Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, September 17, 2019 at 5:00 pm in the Council Chambers at Ely City Hall to hear public comment regarding Sunday Off Sale Liquor Sales in the City of Ely.

Harold R Langowski, Clerk/Treasurer

Published in the Ely Timberjay, Sept. 6 & 13, 2019

KUGLER TOWNSHIP  
NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

The Kugler Town Board will hold its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, Sept. 19 at 6 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Julie Suihkonen, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 13, 2019

EMPLOYMENT



Part-Time  
Staff Writer

We're looking for someone to help cover news and features in the Cook and Orr area.

Please send resumé, any writing clips, and cover letter describing your interest to [marshall@timberjay.com](mailto:marshall@timberjay.com), or call 218-753-2950 and ask for Marshall or Jodi. Position open until filled.

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Answers

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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City of Ely 00 11 13-1  
TKDA Project No.  
17449.001  
EEDA Building  
Improvements  
DOCUMENT 00 11 13  
ADVERTISEMENT FOR  
BIDS

1.01 PROJECT  
INFORMATION

A. Notice to Bidders: Qualified bidders may submit bids for project as described in this Document.

B. Project Identification: Ely Economic Development Authority (EEDA) Building Improvements.

1. Project Location: 720 Miners Drive, Ely, MN 55731.

C. Owner: City of Ely, Minnesota.

1. Owner's Representative: Harold Langowski, PE, City Clerk – Treasurer, (218) 226-5474

D. Project Manager: Joshua Elder TKDA, (218) 491-7396

E. Architect: Benjamin M. Olson, AIA. TKDA, (218) 491-7372

F. Project Description: Project consists of the removal of existing wood lap siding and replacing it with LP SmartSide and Trim. Removal of existing asphalt shingled roof(s) and replacing in kind. Removal of existing aluminum framed window system and replacing them with nonoperable

fiberglass units. Construction of two (2) piers at existing canopy.

G. Construction Contract: Bids will be received for the following Work:

1. General Contract (all trades).

1.02 BID SUBMITTAL AND OPENING

A. Owner will receive sealed lump sum bids until the bid time and date at the location given below.

Owner will consider bids prepared in compliance with the Instructions to Bidders issued by

Owner, and delivered as follows:

1. Bid Date: September 20, 2019

2. Bid Time: 2:00 p.m., local time.

3. Location: Clerk's Office, Ely City Hall, 209 East Chapman Street, Ely, MN, 55731.

B. Bids will be thereafter publicly opened and read aloud.

1.03 BID SECURITY

A. Bid security shall be submitted with each bid in the amount of 5 percent of the bid amount. No bids may be withdrawn for a period of 60 days after opening of bids. Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive informalities and irregularities.

1.04 DOCUMENTS

A. Online Procurement and Contracting Documents: Obtain access after August 15, 2019, by

City of Ely 00 11 13-2 TKDA

Project No. 17449.001 EEDA Building Improvements downloading the complete digital plan set at [www.quest-cdn.com](http://www.quest-cdn.com) under Project # 6478380 for a non-refundable charge of \$25. Online access will be provided to all registered bidders and suppliers.

1.05 TIME OF COMPLETION A. Successful bidder shall begin the Work on receipt of the Notice to Proceed and shall complete the Work within the Contract Time.

1.06 BIDDER'S QUALIFICATIONS

A. Bidders must be properly licensed under the laws governing their respective trades and be able to obtain insurance and bonds required for the Work. A Performance Bond, separate Labor and Material Payment Bond, and Insurance in a form acceptable to Owner will be required of the successful Bidder.

1.07 NOTIFICATION

A. This Advertisement for Bids document is issued by Harold Langowski, PE, Clerk-Treasurer, City of Ely, Minnesota.

Published in the Ely Timberjay, Sept. 6 & 13, 2019

EMPLOYMENT



OPEN POSITIONS

10 Fifth Street SE Cook, MN 55723

Care Center

PT Nursing Assistant

(sign-on bonus- wage starting at \$15.42/hr.)

PT RN/LPN (sign-on bonus)

Dietary

Full and Part-Time Cook/Dietary Aide

(Wage starting at \$12.43/hr.)

Imaging

Full Time Radiologic Tech

Full Time Imaging Manager (sign-on bonus)

Rehabilitation

FT Physical Therapist (sign-on bonus)

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[humanresources@cookhospital.org](mailto:humanresources@cookhospital.org)

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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# TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

Considerations of personal privacy, time and resources prevent the newspaper from investigating ads placed in the classified section. If you respond to an ad, we urge you to use the same care and prudence that you would use when conducting business in any other situation.

## AUTOMOTIVE

**NAPA PARTS CENTER, INC.**  
45 E. Chapman Street  
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**365-3132**

**Langevin Auto & Truck Repair**  
Full Service  
Auto Repair & Garage  
  
Hours: 8 AM-5 PM M-F  
2 Miles South of Tower  
**218-749-0751**

## DAY CARE

PJ's DAYCARE- Located in Soudan. Openings for ages infant to age 10. Hours 6am – 6pm. Paige Olson and Jesse Hinkel, operators. Licensed through the State of Minnesota. CPR and First Aid Certified. For more information, contact Paige Olson at 218-780-7217 or email paige-hinkel41@gmail.com.

## HAIR CARE

DREAMWEAVER SALON & DAY SPA- Open Monday-Friday 8:30 – 6:30. 218-666-5594. tfn

## HOSPICE

VIRGIE HEGG HOSPICE PARTNERS can provide help for patients and their families in ways such as: comfort care, massages, last wishes and more. For more information, contact Program Director Becca Bundy at 218-780-5423 or vhhpdirector@gmail.com. This ad is paid for by Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners.

## LICENSE BUREAU

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

## REAL ESTATE

Search ALL MLS listings at [www.pfremmerrealty.com](http://www.pfremmerrealty.com). tfn

## FOR RENT

FOR RENT- Storefront/office space for rent in Aurora. Large windows, 400 sq ft, handicap accessible. Great location on 3rd Ave. Utilities included. 612-390-1005. 9/20p

## HELP WANTED

BARTENDER & COOK WANTED- Good Ol' Days in Tower. Stop in or call 218-753-6097 for an application. tfn

## FOR SALE

17 FT. GRUMMAN ALUMINUM CANOE- good condition. \$475. In Tower area. Call 630-418-1135. 9/13

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### Answer

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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MS SUPPORT GROUP- meets the second Friday of the month at 1 p.m. at the Babbitt Municipal Building, senior room. Open to all. For information contact Mary at 218-827-8327.

ORR AA meets Tuesdays at 8 p.m. at Holy Cross Catholic Church, Orr.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS- Meetings every Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Virginia.

ELY CO-DEPENDENTS MEETING- Fridays at noon-St. Anthony's Church Classroom 3-Use west side entrance. For more information go to coda.org on the web.

BABBITT AL-ANON- meets Thursdays at 7 p.m. at the Babbitt Assembly of God Church.

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## Super Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 High-fiber cereal ingredient
- 8 Thwacked
- 15 Something imperative
- 20 Endorse
- 21 Many a quaint cabin
- 22 "The Gypsy" singer Shore
- 23 Tree anchors growing in a groundwork? [Asimov-Haley]
- 25 Split in two
- 26 Lyric poems
- 27 — chi
- 28 Dirtier, as a chimney
- 30 Headland
- 34 Awful review
- 36 Actress De Mornay after marrying "Star Trek" ensign Harry? [du Maurier-Kipling]
- 39 Egg-shaped instrument
- 42 Defeat in cleverness
- 45 Lays (down)
- 46 Dear granny? [Morrison-Zola]
- 48 Indulges fully

- 50 Belle of a ball
- 51 Butler's girl
- 53 Knight's tunic
- 58 Livy's "to be"
- 61 Geller of the paranormal
- 63 Small, thin part of a beach hill? [Herbert-Levin]
- 67 Government financial assistance
- 69 — News (Utah paper)
- 72 Elliptical
- 73 Laughter syllables
- 74 Scott Joplin's "The Entertainer," for the film "The Sting"? [Doctorow-Rand]
- 77 Long of film
- 78 Boise locale
- 80 Related compounds
- 81 Welded, as power
- 83 Distress after a really deep sleep? [Cook-King]
- 85 Eminent lead-in
- 86 Gives help to
- 87 Neighbor of Norway

- 88 Biblical queendom
- 92 Woolen cap
- 94 Nash of funny poems
- 98 President Grant is gabby? [Joyce-Benchley]
- 103 Blood type, informally
- 107 Physician who may cry "Stat!"
- 109 Hall of talk TV
- 110 Have a phobia of queasiness? [Hubbard-Sartre]
- 112 "I" finisher
- 114 Dog ID sites
- 115 Pistol, e.g.
- 116 Sarge, e.g.
- 119 Lacerations
- 122 Tough guy's claim
- 123 Abducted old Japanese chief? [Stevenson-Clavell]
- 131 Give rise to
- 132 Brainless
- 133 Treat as a hero
- 134 Finisher
- 135 Moves very quietly
- 136 Tallinn's land

### DOWN

- 1 Clumsy type
- 2 Of yore
- 3 Mr. Capote, briefly
- 4 Singer Folds
- 5 Total change
- 6 Very little
- 7 Memo tablet
- 8 — -mo
- 9 — Blanc (Alps peak)
- 10 Home to Taj Mahal
- 11 Groups in church robes
- 12 "Kitchy —!"
- 13 Livesaving pro
- 14 Pie, e.g.
- 15 Not standing, as a committee
- 16 Sporty two-seaters
- 17 Not typical of
- 18 "Don't waste your breath!"
- 19 Heat units
- 24 "Life — cabaret"
- 29 Eight-player bands
- 30 Kernel holder
- 31 Strikeout star
- 32 Good friend
- 33 Ate away at
- 35 Actor Beery
- 37 Printers' widths
- 38 Ewe's cry
- 40 "So — heard"

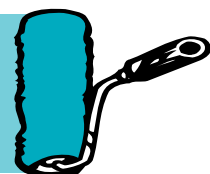
- 41 Space cloud
- 43 One, to Juanita
- 44 Road coater
- 47 "— do not!"
- 49 Dancer in Matthew
- 52 "Be — and help me"
- 54 ROY G. —
- 55 1972 Jack Lemmon film
- 56 Made tighter, as a knot
- 57 Horrors
- 58 Moral code
- 59 Eye makeup
- 60 Bagel variety
- 62 Former TV host Philbin
- 64 Some vases
- 65 Mesh
- 66 Thin air
- 68 Start of a cry from Juliet
- 69 Gucci alternative
- 70 Awards for Tina Fey
- 71 Recognize of Rome
- 75 Philosopher Lao- —
- 76 Phillips — Academy
- 79 Harbored
- 82 Kind of plane engine
- 84 Engaged, as a car engine
- 85 Ballet step
- 89 Lean-to's kin

- 90 Roy Wood's rock gp.
- 91 51-year senator Robert
- 93 Equine beast
- 95 It includes a snare
- 96 Mag. team
- 97 — Valley, San Francisco
- 99 Lazed about
- 100 Comic Gasteyer
- 101 Faux hair
- 102 Maritime "Mayday!"
- 103 Business workplace
- 104 — Marcus (retailer)
- 105 Accessory for an iPod
- 106 Oily matter
- 108 Am unable to
- 111 Reformer Ralph
- 113 Native metal
- 117 "The Elder" of Rome
- 118 Andy Taylor's tyke
- 120 Greek letters
- 121 Quick drink
- 124 Africa's Amin
- 125 Quick swim
- 126 HP products
- 127 Artist Yoko
- 128 Gimlet liquor
- 129 Arm of Israel
- 130 Tchr.'s org.

|     |     |     |     |    |     |     |    |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
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| 83  |     |     |     |    | 84  |     |    |     |     |     |     | 85  |     |     |     | 86  |     |     |     |     |
| 87  |     |     |     |    |     |     |    |     |     | 88  | 89  | 90  | 91  |     |     | 92  | 93  |     |     |     |
|     |     |     |     | 94 |     | 95  | 96 | 97  |     | 98  |     |     |     |     | 99  |     |     | 100 | 101 | 102 |
| 103 | 104 | 105 | 106 |    |     | 107 |    |     |     | 108 |     |     |     |     | 109 |     |     |     |     |     |
| 110 |     |     |     |    | 111 |     |    |     |     |     |     | 112 | 113 |     |     |     | 114 |     |     |     |
| 115 |     |     |     |    |     |     |    |     |     | 116 | 117 | 118 |     | 119 |     | 120 | 121 |     |     |     |
| 122 |     |     |     |    |     |     |    | 123 | 124 | 125 |     |     | 126 |     |     |     | 127 | 128 | 129 | 130 |
| 131 |     |     |     |    |     |     |    | 132 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 133 |     |     |     |     |
| 134 |     |     |     |    |     |     |    | 135 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 136 |     |     |     |     |



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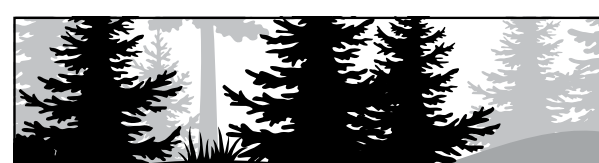
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