

Inside: State settles with Frontier....See /3 Distance learning survey....See /7 Ely Marathon canceled... See /1B



GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP

Board slashes hours, pay for clerk by JODI SUMMIT Treasurer resigns, interim position hired

Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP - After contentious questioning of Greenwood Township Clerk Sue Drobac's work hours, the Greenwood Town Board cut Drobac's pay by 40 percent and told her to

reduce office hours, at their a week. This effectively Tuesday meeting.

The board reduced Drobac's monthly salary of \$2,316.61 to an hourly pay rate of \$27 per hour, at a maximum of 12 hours

reduces her monthly salary to \$1,404.

The clerk had been keeping the town hall office open for 20 hours a week, did other work

from home as needed, and attended township meetings.

"We are trying to be fiscally conservative here," said Chairman Mike Ralston, who said that Breitung Township keeps its office open only 12 hours a week.

The discussion, under an agenda item titled "township hall hours," started with board See...CLERK pg. 8

members Ralston and Carmen DeLuca questioning if Drobac had been in the office during her regularly-set office hours after the town hall had been closed to the public due to COVID-19.

"I've been here all my



COVID-19 **Going inside** Visits at long-term care facilities will require planning

by DAVID COLBURN Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL-Forthefirsttimesincelongterm care facilities were locked down four months ago to combat the spread of COVID-19, Gov. Tim Walz, on Friday, announced

a path for residents to begin receiving family and others inside those facilities. Still, it's an option individual facilities will choose based on





With COVID-19 restrictions, Ely library maintains services for the community

by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

ELY – While the library here, and others across the state, abruptly closed the doors this spring over public health concerns due to the coronavirus pandemic, the staff is busier than ever as community members take advantage of many ongoing services.

See... LIBRARY pg. 8

Jesse Dunn and Tricia Flake. top, produce a daily storytime program at the Ely Public Library. New books are continually added to the shelves. photo by K. Vandervort



Juggles bonding referendum, COVID-19, roof repairs, scoreboard replacement

careful planning and risk assessment.

STAY SAFE MIN

The Minnesota Department of Health released new guidance for designating family members or others to serve as "essential caregivers" for residents of nursing homes and other assisted living facilities. People designated as essential caregivers will have expanded access to help ensure that the residents' full range of emotional, social and physical needs are met.

Like most facility administrators, Kasey Kiefler, RN regional operations manager for Carefree Living facilities in Cook,

See...SENIORS pg. 9

ISD 696

Ely school board works on varied topics this summer

by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

ELY - With new challenges presented to school board members of ISD 696 this summer, including an imminent bonding referendum on funding a \$20 million facilities improvement project, and how to teach the district's students this fall in the age of the coronavirus, many so-called routine items on the

meeting agenda Monday night demanded their attention.

Funding for many long-term school building maintenance items would be addressed by the successful passage of the Aug.11 bonding referendum, but a new roof for the Memorial building, completion of the campus window improvement

More coverage

Survey shows area parents challenged by distance learning Page 7

project, maintaining a qualified staff, even replacing a worn-out scoreboard on the football field, highlight a to-do list that remains despite everything else.

The school board's facilities committee met several times recently to discuss building conditions. Scott Sosalla, of Architectural Resources, Inc. (ARI) is helping the district navigate through the various highcost building projects that will need to be completed whether or not a bonding referendum is approved next month.

The deteriorating condition of the Memorial building roof has been discussed by board members for several years. Long-term facilities mainte-

See...SCHOOL pg. 7



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Community notices

Graphic design program at MRCTC announces new transfer agreement

EVELETH- Mesabi Range College's Graphic Design Media program, located on the Eveleth campus, is pleased to announce a brand new transfer agreement with the Minneapolis College of Art and Design (MCAD).

Now, students who complete the Graphic Design Media AAS degree on the Eveleth campus can apply to transfer to the four-year Graphic Design major at MCAD. Classes on the Eveleth campus begin Monday, Aug. 24. For more information, call or text Paul, First Year Instructor, at 218-969-5012 or call Rosanne in admissions at 218-744-7506.

Managing chronic pain in the midst of a pandemic

REGIONAL- Support is available for people living with chronic pain, even during these difficult times. According to the National Institute of Health, chronic pain affects more Americans than diabetes, heart disease and cancer. As more people are staying home to reduce risk of COVID-19 infection, feelings of isolation and loneliness are increasing. Mental health is more important now, in this context, for the management of pain than it has ever been. If you or a loved one lives with chronic pain, and are feeling lonely or isolated, this online workshop is for you. Offered in partnership with local community organizations, Living Well with Chronic Pain is a six-week workshop that helps people deal with the ongoing issues associated with chronic pain. Participants learn strategies to overcome frustration, fatigue, isolation and poor sleep, exercises for maintaining and improving strength, appropriate use of medications, evaluating new treatment and the importance of good nutrition.

July Virtual Living Well with Chronic Pain classes are Tuesdays, July 14 - Aug. 11, 1 - 3:30 p.m. and Mondays, July 20 - Aug. 24, 9 - 11:30 a.m.

Register by calling 1-855-215-2174 or visit www.yourjuniper.org and search for online workshops. Classes are offered virtually via HIPAA Secure Zoom. No Zoom experience is necessary, we'll teach you. This class is donation based and no one is turned away based on inability to donate.

Tutors needed for AmeriCorps reading and math programs

REGIONAL- Minnesota Reading Corps and Minnesota Math Corps are searching for dedicated individuals interested in tutoring students this coming 2020-21 school year.

Minnesota Reading Corps and Minnesota Math Corps will be holding a virtual information session on Tuesday, July 21 from 6 p.m. – 7 p.m. for anyone interested in learning how they can support student success through tutoring, build new skills, and give back to their community.

Better your community with AmeriCorps. Whether you are a recent high school grad, college student, parent or retiree, there is an opportunity for you. A year of service with AmeriCorps is a meaningful opportunity to gain experience and make a difference while also earning some awesome perks.

Join us for a Facebook Live to learn more about 1,700 paid opportunities to make a difference in Minnesota. We will be hosting a panel so you can hear directly from Reading Corps and Math Corps members.

Book club highlights local authors

STORY PORTAGE



Left: Abigail Rehbein won the Story Portage T-shirt design contest with this artwork. T-shirts are available for purchase at Front Porch Coffee and Tea and Piragis Northwoods Company. Right: Song of Sampo Lake by William Durbin, available at Piragis Book Store, is Story Portage's title for September. submitted photos

ELY - Story Portage will sponsor a community-wide book club featuring books by local and regional writers William Durbin, DyAnne Korda, Timothy Stouffer and Mary Casanova. Funding for the program is made available through a State Farm Good Neighbor grant.

The book club will bring together readers of all ages to discuss the books (virtually or in-person) beginning in September and running through February.

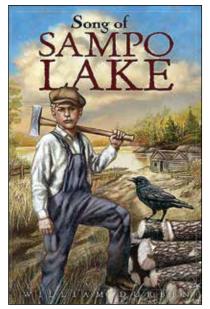
To promote the club and reading, Ely artist Abigail Rehbein designed a T-shirt logo. Shirts are available to purchase at the Front Porch Coffee and Tea Company and at Piragis Northwoods Company.

Proceeds from the sale of the shirts will be used to purchase classroom copies of book club titles, so that all students who wish to participate have access to the books.

"The T-shirts are also a way for community members to convey to young people that we are on the same page when it comes to supporting the stories and writers of our region," said organizer Jeanette Cox.

The selected writers will be at the Ely Farmers Market throughout the month of August. Students will be able to visit area writers before the event. The authors will also provide classroom visits, either in person or virtually, to the five area campuses of Ely Memorial Middle School, Washington Elementary, Northeast Range in Babbitt, Vermilion Country School, and Tower-Soudan Elementary.

Funding for the school visits is provided by the State Farm Good



Neighbor Grant, the U.S. Bank Foundation, Lake Country Power Operation Round-Up and Story Portage donations.

September's title is the "Song of Sampo Lake" by William Durbin. Set near Soudan, it tells the story of 15-year-old Matti Ojala and his family, Finnish immigrants in Minnesota in 1900. Starting a new life in America is both a hardship and an opportunity; after a tragic mining accident kills their beloved uncle, the family turns away from the iron mines to pursue the dream of owning a homestead in the wilderness. This means constant hard work and new challenges for the entire family. This book, as well as all the book club titles, are available at Piragis Book Store.

USDA's Farmers to Families boxes free to all

REGIONAL- United Way of Northeastern Minnesota (UWNEMN) has partnered with the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA) and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s Farmers to Families program to distribute boxes of free frozen food on the Iron Range on Wednesday, July 22.

Through the program, farmers sell food, previously destined for restaurants and bulk purchasers, to distributors to prevent waste, and the USDA partners with local non-profits to distribute the food into communities.

Distribution will take place across the Iron Range. Each pick-up site will have two free boxes of frozen meals to choose from: one contains two five-pound packages of barbecue pork patties and two five-pound packages of cheese, and the other contains two five-pound packages of chicken taco meat and two five-pound packages of cheese.

There are no income requirements to use this program; anyone in each town is eligible to drive up to distribution locations to take home a box.

"We are grateful that this USDA program does not have income guidelines so anyone who would like a box can have one, especially given the impacts of COVID-19 on grocery prices," said UWNEMN Executive Director Shelley Valentini.

Nearly 2,000 frozen food boxes will be available for distribution between AEOA and UWNEMN; any leftover boxes will be shared among local food shelves.

UWNEMN will be hosting a

Business Center in Hibbing (2900 East Beltline). Distribution times for AEOA sites will be announced soon along with additional Iron Range distribution sites. Details will also be posted on both UWNEMN and AEOA's social media pages.

"AEOA is proud to partner with a local agency like UWNEMN on this great program to get food to our local families during this stressful time," said AEOA Executive Director Scott Zahorik.

Volunteers will be on hand in masks at each distribution site to direct traffic, record numbers served, and place food boxes into recipients' vehicles for contactless distribution. Since the food is frozen, people are encouraged to bring coolers with ice

The Facebook Live will be broadcast at https://www.facebook.com/MNReadingCorps/.

Reading Corps and Math Corps offers options for 18, 25 and 35+ hours per week, bi-weekly pay up to \$650, health insurance and child care assistance, education award up to \$4,300, locations throughout Minnesota, start dates in August, September, November and January, and experience that employers value.

This event is free to attend and open to the public. For additional information about open positions, please visit readingandmath.net.



Embarrass Vermillion Federal Credit Union • 78th Annual Meeting •

NOTICE TO MEMBERS:

Due to the COVID-19 our 78th Annual Meeting will be a business-only meeting. We will be holding our 78th Annual Meeting on Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at the Timber Hall in Embarrass MN. This meeting will begin at 5:30 and will be a business-only meeting. Attendees will be required to wear masks and practice social distancing.

We Have Locations in Embarrass, Tower, Aurora Lake Vermilion (Fortune Bay) and Nett Lake

NCUA

"NOT FOR PROFIT, NOT FOR CHARITY, BUT FOR SERVICE" distribution on Wednesday, July 22 from 12-6 p.m. at their building (608 East Drive) in Chisholm. AEOA will be hosting distributions at its Virginia building (702 S 3rd Ave. W) and Lees

to keep the food cold when bringing it home.

Info: 1-218-743-3893



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COMMUNICATIONS

Frontier to make amends for past business practices

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

REGIONAL- Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison has reached a settlement with Frontier Communications that's designed to resolve concerns about the telecom's deceptive and misleading business billing and sales practices. The settlement comes at the conclusion of an investigation by the Attorney General's office into issues first raised in reporting by the Timberiav in late 2017.

Under the settlement, known as an Assurance of Discontinuance, Frontier and its affiliates in Minnesota agree to fully disclose its prices for internet service to new customers before they take service, allow many current customers to cancel their current service without penalty, make significant investments to upgrade its network to provide better service, and pay restitution for past harm.

Frontier provides tele-

phone and internet service to approximately 90,000 customers in Minnesota, including a large portion of northeastern Minnesota, including Tower-Soudan, Ely, and Embarrass. Minnesotans who are customers of Frontier may submit a claim for restitution through a dedicated claim form on the Attorney General's website, or by calling 651-296-3353 (Metro) or 800-657-3787 (Greater Minnesota).

"It's hard enough to afford your life these days," said Attorney General Ellison. "For so many folks, especially in Greater Minnesota, affording your life means being able to rely on the promises your telecomsprovider makes for the internet service vou depend on. For too many Minnesotans, Frontier broke its promises."

Based on its investigation, the Attorney General's Office alleged that Frontier used a variety of deceptive and misleading practices to overcharge its customers, such as:

Settlement reached after Attorney General's investigation

► Billing customers more than they were quoted by Frontier's agents.

► Failing to disclose fees and surcharges in its sales presentations and advertising materials.

► Billing customers for services that were not delivered.

The attorney general also alleged that Frontier sold Minnesotans expensive internet services with so-called "maximum speed" ratings that were not attainable, and that Frontier improperly advertised its service as "reliable," when in fact it did not provide enough bandwidth for customers to consistently receive their expected service.

Attorney General Ellison's settlement resolves these allegations by requiring Frontier to take the following steps:

► Clearly disclose the important terms of its internet service to potential customers at the time it sells them internet service. This disclosure must include the exact "base price" for Frontier's service; estimated amounts of any taxes, fees, surcharges, and one-time fees; and any recurring charges. Frontier must also disclose the time period that the customer will be charged this amount, and any applicable cancellation charge.

▶ Provide all new customers with a written Order Confirmation that identifies the customer's total expected charges and provide customers with the ability to cancel service without charge before installation.

> Reform its sales and advertising practices to ensure customers are informed of the speed capability of internet service at their specific locations. ➤ Notify existing customers

who are not receiving internet service at the maximum speed they are paying for and allow those customers to change to a lower-priced plan or discontinue service at no cost.

► Ensure that every customer's maximum internet speed is at least 90 percent of the maximum speed advertised in the customer's service plans.

► Invest at least \$10 million over four years to improve its broadband network. This amount is in addition to any money Frontier may receive from outside government grants, and its current commitments for improvements.

▶ Pay restitution of \$750,000 that the Attorney General's Office can distribute to Frontier's customers for past harm.

Before entering into this settlement, Frontier had filed for bankruptcy in New York.

CITY OF TOWER

Council approve higher water/sewer rates

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

TOWER - City infrastructure and the cost of maintaining it was at the top of the city council agenda here on Monday. The council, at the recommendation of the city's auditor, approved a series of rate increases for water and sewer in an effort to close the gap between what the city's water and sewer fund takes in through service fees and what

BQ

Creates working group to address lack of wastewater capacity

it costs to operate and maintain its joint system with Breitung Township.

It's an issue the city's auditor has raised for several years. While the current fee structure narrowly covers the basic operating costs of the system, the auditor noted again this year that the city hasn't been covering the cost of depreciation. According

to the auditor, the city would need to raise its rates by about \$212 annually, or \$53 per quarter, to fully cover its costs. Council members weren't willing to go that far, but the council did approve a series of increases over the next three years that will close more than 80 percent of the funding gap.

Water and sewer custom-

ers will see their rates jump by \$10 per quarter effective for the remainder of 2020. That will jump by an additional five dollars per quarter in 2021 and an additional five dollars per quarter in 2022. That will increase the quarterly water and sewer bill for city residents from the current rate of \$208.50 per quarter to \$228.50 per quarter beginning

in 2022.

The city will send a notice of the planned rate increase to customers, explaining the reasoning behind the increase.

In other infrastructure action, the council established a work group to develop a program for reducing inflow and infiltra-

See WATER...pg. 5





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COOK 4 BR, 1 BA on 40 acres w/800 sq ft barn, garage and several other storage buildings. Gardens, fruit trees and lots of wildlife. #138180 PENDING! \$137,500

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The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial

Back to school? The complexities of a return to in-person learning are daunting

As the number of COVID-19 cases across the country continues to set new records almost daily, the prospects for students returning to school full-time in the fall looks increasingly questionable. It's a tough decision for state officials, who are expected to provide some degree of guidance to schools here in Minnesota later this month.

We all know that parents are eager to see their kids go back to school. Last spring's school closures proved a major challenge for many parents, particularly single parents, as they were forced to juggle work and limited childcare options, all while trying to help their kids navigate the world of remote learning.

Studies have shown that students from low income families faced the biggest challenges with remote learning. In many cases, they were already behind and only slipped further back without the support system that schools provide to so many young people from low income families. Schools provide regular meals, supportive teachers, counselors, and peers. For many students, the physical and emotional isolation that went along with remote learning was challenging for their mental health. In short, there is no question that getting kids back to school should be a priority.

Yet, can it be done without further exacerbating a pandemic that seems increasingly out of control in the U.S?

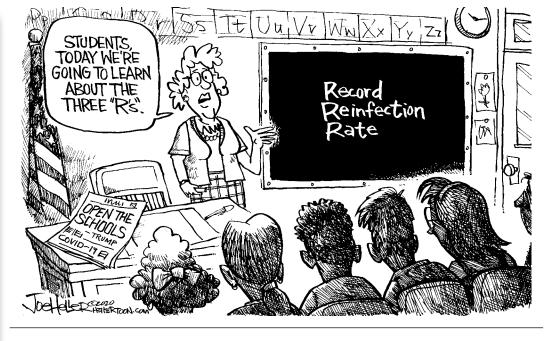
Putting kids back in schools barely six weeks from today looks like an enormous risk, and an incredibly complex task assuming that schools will do their best to keep their students, teachers, and staff safe. The logistics alone are daunting. Transportation is going to be a major challenge. Observing the required social distancing means buses designed for 76 kids will likely be able to carry no more than a third that number. Schools can't afford to buy more buses, and they couldn't find drivers even if they had the buses available. One option that might make sense is a hybrid model, where students would attend classes in person every other day and work remotely the rest of the time. Half the student body could be on one schedule, while the other half would be in school the other days. That helps solve the transportation issue, and it also cuts class sizes in half, allowing for social distancing in classrooms.

each teacher now teach half the number of students they did before, or are they expected to teach their remote students at the same time that they have students in the classroom?

And what happens if a student or teacher gets sick? Is the whole class quarantined for two weeks? We all know that students and teachers are constantly at risk of colds and flu throughout the fall and winter. COVID-19 is at least as contagious as those common illnesses, only much more dangerous. President Trump was flat out wrong earlier this month when he claimed 99 percent of COVID-19 cases are harmless. In fact, nearly five percent of those who catch the virus die from it, and one-in-five requires hospitalization, which is why hospitals are now overflowing in many parts of the country.

Requiring everyone to wear personal protective equipment, or PPE, like face masks could help reduce the risk in schools. Health experts all agree that masks are critically important to preventing the spread but getting young people to comply has proven to be a challenge. Even if schools could get students to take mask-wearing seriously, the country is again facing an increasingly acute shortage of PPE. This administration has focused so much on gaslighting and dividing the American people about this pandemic that they haven't undertaken the real work of protecting the public.

Rather than acknowledging that his early push to reopen the economy has given the pandemic new life, President Trump has doubled down by threatening funding for school districts if they don't reopen as usual this fall. President Trump, who appears focused only on the politics of the pandemic, clearly has no understanding or concern for the complexities involved. When the experts at the Center for Disease Control predicted in a recent report that sending kids back to school full-time this fall would likely spark an uncontrollable spread of COVID-19, the administration simply suppressed the support, rather than seeing it for the caution sign it represented. Figuring this out is going to be tough enough for states and schools without a meddling president who ignores his own experts and channels the logic of simpletons picked up on social media. That may be how Trump runs his White House. Parents rightfully expect more from their schools.



Letters from Readers

All Minnesotans should consider voting by mail

OPINION

Iencourage all Minnesotans to request the option to vote early by mail. In-person voting is going to be difficult, especially in more rural areas with limited space at polling places. Voters and poll officials will be at risk from COVID-19 because of close contact. The effect in the recent Wisconsin primary during the current pandemic was frightening. The state identified over 50 people infected while exercising their right to vote.

The MN Secretary of State website (https://www.sos. state.mn.us/elections-voting/ other-ways-to-vote/vote-early-by-mail/) will provide an application to request ballots for both the Aug. 11 primary and the Nov. 3 general election. Once requested and approved, you will be sent a ballot approximately 60 days before each of the elections.

I encourage everyone in Minnesota to request a ballot. In this uncertain time, having the option to mail in your vote means we don't have to risk our health in order to exercise our right to vote, but we do have to request the ballot be mailed to us.

> Brad Sagen Fall Lake Twp

In a nutshell, what we get from the passage of the school bond referendum is work on our historical school buildings which should have been taken care of some years ago. There are some nut and bolt kinds of things to be refurbished such as plumbing, electrical, windows, roofs, but also we get a safer school for our students, cafeteria, industrial technology boost, and new media area and music suite.

We can also see the breakdown of the finances on who will be paying what and where the money is coming from. We see that 41 percent is paid by the taxpayers, and the remainder, or 59 percent, will be paid by our IRRRB, forest management, out-of-district taxpayers, and grants from our state. That is not only a good deal, it is a fantastic financial deal. It is a once-in-a-lifetime deal.

Let's take a look at what else is going on in our school district from the parent and community side of things. Without a doubt, our parental involvement, participation, and volunteering is just plain great. Our schools also receive enthusiastic alumni support and involvement. All we need to do is to look at the scholarship funding and support. And, then there is the annual WISH LIST that the faculty has printed in our local newspapers. Those special business of asking seniors to tax ourselves for school buildings and repairs? Have we not already done our share? We need to take a step back and think about that.

What kind of experience do we get when we drive by our elementary school and see the young elementary students out playing together, or see our students play their hearts out in athletics, put on a play, have a great band and choral performance, or read about individual greatness in track, cross country skiing or other individual performances? We are a part of all of those experiences because we are a part of our school community. Do we not get a feeling of pride, belonging, a sense of being a part of the total school experience and enjoyment? My favorite is the Veterans Day celebration at our school. What a fantastic experience it is to be honored by our students. I really cannot find words that describe that experience because it is something which is deeply personal and deeply felt.

Let us, like our parents, grandparents, and their friends and neighbors, continue to do our part, once again, support our schools and our students, our future, by voting YES for the school bond referendum. Let us all continue to participate in our school's experience. We have every right to continue the good work that we have done before. Please vote yes for our educational community.

But there are so many other issues to consider. Does

- an Bane - P

Referendum is a great opportunity to invest in our community

By now all of us voters and residents have received information from our school district describing what we can expect to receive from the passage or yes vote on our proposed school bond referendum held in early August. There have been special mailings describing the proposed building refurbishing and projects. There have been a number of newspaper articles which include drawings, pie charts defining the tax sharing, open forums, and school board meetings.

requests receive a phenomenal positive response.

What about our school district's student performance? We can use the information gathered by Niche.com. It shows that we have a higher than state average graduation level. We score in the 70-percent level for school excellence, or a B +. We do need to up our student scores in math and reading. In other words, we have a very good school but not an excellent one. And, yes, we definitely want to remain an independent school district.

We can debate, as we should, about the pros and cons of our school bond referendum. And definitely, yes, there are real and sincere issues for some of us who face financial hardships, no question about that.

So, what is all of this

Dorothy and John Esse Ely

Look at the career politicians instead

Enough is enough! The Dems are still harping about "needing to see Trump's tax records." Americans don't need to see the tax records of a highly motivated, hard-working billionaire, who became a public servant. Americans need to see the tax records of those who became millionaires while being public servants.

> Marilyn Mueller Greenwood Twp

We have more in common than we realize

Paging through a back issue of Sojourners magazine, I came across an article about Vincent Harding, the first director of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta. The more I read about him, the more surprised I was that I didn't know any-

thing about this powerful human being.



He was a professor, writer, scholar, and leading historian of the Black-led struggle for freedom and justice in the U.S. His lifelong activism focused on developing a compassionate, multireligious, multiracial democracy. He believed that transformation happened when people were

engaged and contributing, so he brought together scholars, activ-

ists, artists, youth, and people of faith, encouraging members of every community to talk about what was important to them. He listened rather than lecturing or directing. He believed that human beings could be transformed through love because he had felt such transformation in his own life.

He was brought up in the Victory Tabernacle 7th Day Christian Church, which he said was a place where "everyone knew my name, and everyone loved me, and everyone pushed me to be my best self." He was drafted at age 22 and thought he'd go to officer's candidate school, but he had an epiphany in basic training about killing others and knew he couldn't be a follower of Jesus and be in the military.

After discharge, his journey led him to the Woodlawn Mennonite Church in Chicago where he was to join as a co-pastor with the white minister and help build a multiracial congregation. In 1958, they visited the South to learn about the Southern Freedom Movement (also known as the Civil Rights Movement) and met Martin Luther King Jr. who said, "You're Mennonites and know something about nonviolence; you understand what we're trying to do down here. You ought to come back and help us." That was a turning point for Harding, drawing him into the heart of the Black-led movement to broaden and deepen democracy in the U.S.

In 1960, he and his wife, Rosemarie, spoke, organized, and taught across Georgia, working with the Albany

See PEACE...pg. 5

Letters from Readers

Enough exploitation of workers

INEQUALITY is rooted in prejudice and discrimination. Racism is to race what sexism is to gender and wealthism is to capital bias (Marjorie Kelley, The Divine Right of Capital). Shareholder capital enjoys legal protections that stakeholder capital does not. Rules of the game shape the outcomes. The richest top 10 percent hold over 80 percent of the nation's stocks and bonds. Sixty percent of the wealth is inherited. How fair is that?

The 14th Amendment's "equal protection of the law" applies to money as speech and corporations as persons, but not to worker and community investment. Stakeholders create wealth with their time, health, energy, creativity, skills and education, but are not equally protected. Community capital deserves the same rights as corporations for providing streets, utilities, schooling, police and fire protection.

Corporate shareholder rights favor the wealthy while

restricting community and worker rights. Under U. S. law, shareholder extractors of wealth have supremacy over stakeholders, the producers of wealth. Workers and their communities are treated as subservient for exploitation, exclusion and discrimination without ownership to share the wealth they create.

The American economy has extracted wealth from native people, blacks, the poor, workers, women and children. Political democracy struggles to survive, while economic democracy remains lifeless. Financial "Pharaohs" using pyramid schemes of power and wealth dictate what the people shall claim, have and own. Supremacy of shareholder capital over stakeholder capital is class discrimination, not unlike what racial supremacy is to racism.

Workers produce more value than what they get paid, but employers claim credit. When productivity increases and wages remain the same, profits increase. Under capitalism, owners serve their self-interest at worker and community expense. Economic democracy empowers workers and communities as owners who determine outcomes in their own behalf. Capital flows from the bottom-up; stakeholders deserve their rightful share.

Harold Honkola Tower

More transparency needed in Tower ambulance finances

The article in last week's Timberjay, "Tower Ambulance Commission agrees on subsidy payments" contains a statement by the City Clerk/Treasurer that is incorrect: "Ranua also reiterated that the ambulance subsidy account was never used for other purposes and commission members received copies of bank statements, along with the regular ambulance fund bank statements, to provide evidence of that claim." The bank statements that the Clerk provided are too current and do not reflect the accurate recent history of the ambulance subsidy account. In the Sept. 25, 2019, Timberjay article"The city is in dire straits", interim City Clerk/Treasurer

Ann Lamppa stated: "And while money has since been restored to the ambulance subsidy account, which currently totals \$118,765, Lamppa said even that fund had been drained almost entirely at various points."

Let's remember when the Timberjay reported in Nov. 20, 2019, that "In excess of \$600,000 in previous TAAS surpluses were transferred to pay for other city operations or projects without being repaid." In fact, the official 2019 City Auditor's Report, released last month, states on page 38 that the full Ambulance Fund is short \$697,299 "Due From Other Funds". That's serious money, earned by the TAAS, that in my opinion needs to be restored by the city. It makes a regular person wonder why, with those kind of ambulance service earnings, there is even a need for an ambulance vehicle subsidy from the townships. Going forward, there is still a need for transparency and fully accurate accounting from the city.

> Lee Peterson Greenwood Twp

Editor's Note: For clarity, readers should be aware that Mr. Peterson is referring to two different things in this letter. There is an ambulance replacement account, which is primarily funded by contributions from area townships. No monies have been transferred from that account under the current administration and any funds transferred from that account by the previous city administration have been recouped in full by the city. Therefore, there is no current misuse of township funds for city purposes and there hasn't been under the current administration.

The ambulance operating surpluses (which are different from the ambulance replacement account) were generated by the profits that the city's ambulance service had earned in prior years from fees it received for ambulance runs. The city has tapped those funds for other city expenses, but no township funds were involved in those transactions under the current administration.

PEACE...Continued from page 4

Movement in Albany, Georgia, to desegregate the whole town. They drew in King for his first major involvement in an effort like that. It was not successful, but it laid the groundwork for success later in Birmingham, Alabama.

Harding drafted King's controversial speech delivered at Riverside Church in New York City in 1967, "Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break the Silence." He spoke out against racism, extreme materialism, and militarism, a whole cloth denunciation of U.S. foreign and domestic policy. Other civil rights leaders wanted King to soften the speech, fearful of alienating President Lyndon Johnson, who supported civil rights. King was adamant. He felt he could no longer promote nonviolence and remain silent about U.S. military actions around the globe destroying lives, communities, governments, and economies. He said, "We have destroyed their two most cherished institutions: the family and the village. We have destroyed their land and their

crops. We have cooperated in the crushing of the nation's only noncommunist political force, the unified Buddhist Church. We have supported the enemies of the peasants of Saigon. We have corrupted their women and children and killed their men." He also emphasized that the money spent on the military drained resources from all other programs, usually hitting the poor and minorities the hardest.

JohnLewis, civilrights leader and Georgia Congressman, said he thought it was King's strongest speech, calling it "a speech for all humanity - for the world community." King understood the big picture: that to have peace around the world and in our neighborhoods, we need to know each other, care about each other, and not kill each other, and that having economic fairness, social equality, and justice are essential foundational bricks to caring and not killing. Depriving someone of an opportunity to work for fair living wages, to have safe housing, and access to education and health care are ways we demean people and kill them in body and spirit.

King said, "We as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values." He foresaw the future, warning of a time of endless war, when the U.S. would be trapped in one overseas entanglement after another while the gap at home between the rich and poor grew ever larger. He was assassinated exactly one year later.

What really caught me in Harding's life story, echoed in King's, was the strength and faith he had because of his underpinnings as a child: he was known, he was loved and knew he was loved, and he was pushed to be his best. He could envision a powerful, loving, supportive, interactive community because he had experienced it. That had given him faith in himself and faith in everyone else with the strength to persevere, believing that everyone had something to contribute and could do so. So how do we get there?

I have often thought about how it seems to be hard for us in the U.S. to build and sustain strong, healthy, interconnected communities. Many have tried and failed. Some elements that contribute to this are the physical size of our country, with states and regions as large as some countries; distinctive regional differences; the geographical mobility that separates families and friends and which may also lessen attachments to communities; our cultural ethos of independence and self-reliance as individuals and family units, often enabled by a very high standard of living, requiring less dependence on others.

It's not that we're all isolated hedonists. In our hearts I think we all want peace, freedom, and fairness-at least for our families and the people we know. So, it may sound simplistic, but I think we need to get to know and understand a broader spectrum of people; it makes it harder to kill them. We readily care for family, friends, and strangers in difficult times, personally or through volunteerism. Indeed, the U.S. is known for high levels of volunteerism: 25 percent of people above 16 years old volunteer, giving an average of 52 hours per year. You might be surprised to know that the most likely people to volunteer are not the retired and unemployed, but employed people ages 35 to 44. Minneapolis-St. Paul leads American cities with a 45-percent volunteer rate.

Barbara Stewart, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service, said, "The fabric of our nation is strengthened by the service of its volunteers. When we stand side-by-side to help others, our differences fade away and we learn that Americans have more in common than we realize. Serving others has the power to change communities and lives for the better,"

Vincent Harding died in 2014 at 82, his vision still a distant dream, but he never gave up on it. I don't think we should either.

tion of freshwater, often referred to as "I and I", into the city's sewer system. Clerk-Treasurer Victoria Ranua noted that one of the city's primary functions is to provide adequate infrastructure to support the community and provide for future growth but said that's an area where the city is currently falling short because of the lack of sewage treatment capacity. She said the I and I is forcing city residents to pay for treating freshwater that shouldn't be part of the sewage flow and has also maxed out the capacity of the municipal sewage ponds.

"It's really a major barrier to economic development," said Ranua, since the city can't approve any more hookups to the system until the capacity issue is resolved. City engineer Matt Bolf agreed and said the city has the choice of building new capacity, at a cost of millions of dollars, or trying to chip away at the I and I problem.

While I and I has been a longstanding issue for the city, the 2018 hookup of the Hoodoo Point Campground to the municipal sewage system significantly exacerbated the problem, said Ranua. Bolf agreed. "I would assume that the campground is a pretty big contributor to your I and I problem," he said.

Bolf recommended that the city pursue a five-year plan with set goals for achieving reductions in I and I, which would include cleaning and televising about one-fifth of the city's system every year to look for areas where freshwater is entering the system. The city's maintenance staff has already begun inspecting manholes, which can also crack and allow freshwater into the system.

Maintenance director Ben Velcheff said that his department has already inspected 15 manholes so far this year, detecting leaks in eight of them.

Council member resignation

The council also declared a vacancy following the June 29 resignation of council member Rachel Beldo. Beldo, who had served as acting mayor as well as a council representative on the ambulance commission and Tower Economic Development Authority, gave no reason for her decision. On several occasions, however, she had expressed difficulty juggling her busy work schedule as a nurse practitioner with the demands of her council position.

The council will be advertising for a replacement for Beldo; the replacement councilor would serve until the November election. They expect to review applications and make a decision on that replacement at a special meeting set for Wednesday, Aug. 5.

The council also declared the need for a special election for

the seats held by Beldo and Steve Abrahamson, who resigned from the council last year and was replaced by Mary Shedd. Both of those seats would be for a two-year term. The council will also have two four-year terms up for election in November.

In related action, the council approved a motion to appoint Dave Setterberg as acting mayor and noted that Mayor Orlyn Kringstad, who was the council alternate for TEDA, will fill Beldo's TEDA seat for the time being.

Emergency services

In other action, the council approved leasing new quarters for paid on-call staff for the city's ambulance service for one year. While the city is still unsure of the future of the paid on-call staffing model, Ambulance Director Dena Suihkonen told the council that paid on-call is needed as a stop-gap until the service can rebuild its paid percall staffing levels. The number of paid per-call staff on the ambulance service dwindled steadily after the introduction of paid on-call staffing in 2018. Suihkonen acknowledged that only one paid on-call staff person was currently using the quarters, but said she was aware of other potential new recruits who might join and need quarters. She said she is hoping to hire new staff in order to limit everyone to 40 hours, to avoid exposing the city to overtime liability.

The rent for the new ambulance quarters will be substantially higher than the previous quarters, at \$675 per month plus heat and electricity. Rent for the previous quarters was just \$312.50 per month. Suihkonen suggested that the cost of heating the new house should be less because it is heated with propane and that the city will be able to take advantage of the city's discounted propane rate. She said, also, that the city will not be paying for cable television at the new quarters, unlike at the former house, which was set up by the previous ambulance director.

The council also gave the green light for Suihkonen and Ranua to develop a job description for an ambulance supervisor position, which will assume some of the duties currently undertaken by the director. The ambulance service has been operating without the two assistant directors and a training officer, all of whom had been in place prior to the dismissal of the previous ambulance director in March. According to Ranua, the elimination of those positions has provided some budget flexibility, clearing the way for the hiring of a supervisor.

In fire department business, Ranua told the council that the current fire chief has been putting in far more hours than is commensurate with the level of pay in an effort to address a laundry list of maintenance issues that had been neglected for years at the fire hall and to establish an aggressive training schedule to get the several new recruits certified as firefighters. Ranua said she would try to bring more research on the topic to the next regular meeting for consideration by the council.

In other business, the council:

► Approved the construction of a new trailhead kiosk at the junction of Pine Street and the Mesabi Trail on the site of the former trail kiosk. Construction will be undertaken by volunteers, with input from TEDA, Friends of Vermilion Country School, the Wagoner Trails Club, the Mesabi Trail, the Penguins Snowmobile Club and the Tower Soudan Civic Club. Much of the funding for the project will come from a recent grant for the Ancient Cedar Forest Trail, which is currently under construction.

Declared the fire department's ladder truck to be excess property and approved advertising for its sale. Fire chief Paige Olson noted that the truck has not been well-maintained over the years and that parts for the vehicle are no longer available.

We're your best source for local news...

TOWER-SOUDAN LOCAL NEWS

REMEMBERING...

Week of July 20

Monday

TOPS - Immanuel Lutheran Church, Tower, at 9 a.m. Canceled until further notice.

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

Tuesdav

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 July 21.

Greenwood Fire Dept.-Meetings on the first (business meeting) and third (drill) Tuesday of each month at 6 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.

Tower Food Shelf

TOWER- The Tower Food Shelf is not able to increase its hours on a regular basis, but anyone needing an emergency visit can contact Food Shelf Coordinator Marge McPeak at 218-753-3503.

Taps tradition Isle of Pines resident plays each night to honor those lost to COVID-19

by JODI SUMMIT Tower-Soudan Editor

services.

GREENWOOD

bugle, the simple tune of "Taps"

lake on her deck, every evening

near sunset since early April.

The impromptu concerts started

just as COVID-19 was starting

to take its toll in Minnesota. A

close family friend, the organist

from their church in Stillwater,

had just died from COVID-19,

and she wanted to do something

honor the memory of friends

was something she could do to

honor all those who have died

during this pandemic, as well as

to commemorate the sacrifices

thing I could do," she said.

the last 65 years," she said.

"At this point it was some-

Jane has been playing the

"I've been playing most of

She has played in high

school, college, and community

bands. She has been a regular

player in the Mesabi Communi-

ty Band, which had to cancel its

summer season due to the coro-

While Jane's background

coronet trumpet since she was

who had died," she said.

"I had done this before to

But Jane soon decided this

in his memory.

of the year.

10.

navirus.

is in early childhood education, she has always used and taught music, both in the classroom and in other community settings.

TWP-She was introduced to the Though originally written for a color-coded handbells while living in New Orleans, where her also resonates beautifully on the husband Dan was a Lutheran trumpet. The short tune, compastor. These bells can be used posed of 24 notes, was written in by children as young as preits current form during the Civil school (as well as by adults) to War to signal "lights out", and produce enjoyable and recogbecame widely used for both nizable music with only limited military funerals and memorial practice times. As director, Jane stands in front of the bell choir, Out on Isle of Pines on Lake holding up color-coded flash Vermilion, Jane Johns has been cards which tell each bell ringer playing Taps overlooking the when to sound their bell.

> She started using the bells with her preschool classes in Eveleth, and introduced them to other groups, including elementary students in Tower-Soudan, and adult members of the Tower Soudan Civic Club.

> Music has always been an important part of both her and Dan's lives. Dan, the son of a classical pianist, played the cello.

> "Music is a mutual love of both of ours," she said. Jane is on the board of the Arrowhead Concert Series, and is also a supporter of the Northern Lights Music Festival.

Concert on the deck

With Tower's traditional Memorial Day ceremony canceled, neighbors asked if she could play a patriotic concert on her deck that evening, with the thought that friends could assemble in boats on Daisy Bay in front of their cabin to listen. The weather, however, did not cooperate, and only a few boats braved the pouring rain that evening as Jane played from under the eaves, trying to stay dry.



Jane Johns playing on the deck on July 3, while husband Dan listens in. submitted photo

But on July 3, she tried again. This time, even with unseasonable warmth in the afternoon, the weather cooled down nicely, and about two dozen boats paraded in front of their deck while Jane played a concert of patriotic tunes, ending with Taps.

Jane has continued to play Taps each evening, only missing two nights since April, when they were out of town.

"This summer I couldn't play in the band," she said. This has helped me focus on my music and helped me focus on the lives that have been lost due to COVID."

"I am playing for COVID," she said. "That is why I continue playing."



The music has also meant a lot to several of her island neighbors who have also lost family or friends to the virus.

The tradition will end in September though, when Jane and Dan move from Lake Vermilion back to her hometown of Stillwater.

"We will miss the lake terribly," she said, "especially all the people we have gotten to know. We are so invested in this community."

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Tayah (left) and Colbie Stellmach enjoy the beach at Hoodoo Point Campground. photo by J. Summit

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Marshall Helmberger Jodi Summit David Colburn Keith Vandervort Stephanie Ukkola M. M. White Scarlet Lynn Stone Jay Greeney

St. Paul's

Evangelical

services; no

July 19

Evangelical

resuming Sunday

service to be held

SOUDAN- St. Paul's

Church is resuming Sun-

day Services at 8:30 a.m.

with Pastor Greg Ander-

son. Sunday School is

Lutheran

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COMMUNITY NEWS

held during the service.

Due to several members being on vacation on Sunday, July 19, St. Paul's will not hold services, but will resume services on July 26. Call Susan at 218-780-1560 with questions.

Masks must be worn during the service. Masks will be available in the narthex. Social distancing is required; hymns will be listened to but not sung. The offering plate and individual communion packets will be placed in the narthex for safety. Any questions, call Susan Trucano-Precht at 218-780-1560.

Area students named to Mesabi **Range College** Spring Semester **Dean's List High Honors**

(4.0 - 3.75 GPA)Christian Cersine, Babbitt Dillon Gorsma, Sou-

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Honors

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Tower

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Maude Lenz, Embar-

Megan Ruzic, Tower

Elizabeth Zupancich,

(3.74 - 3.50 GPA)

Brandson Johnson,

Maija Maki, Embar-

Rosendahl,

Thompson,



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

MondayNoon-6 pmTuesdayNoon-6 pmWednesdayNoon-6 pmThursdayNoon-6 pmFridayNoon-5 pmPhone: 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 **ELY WOMEN'S OPEN** AA - Every Monday at noon at St. Anthony's Catholic Church. 231 E. Camp St., Ely. Enter through side door. 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., upstairs 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.



Tuesday Group

ELY - The upcoming Tuesday Group schedule is listed below. All talks are at 12 noon on Tuesdays.

All presentations are administered in a virtual presence until further notice due to the coronavirus pandemic. Send email to stevieschon@gmail.com for more information.

July 21 - Becky Rom - Save The Boundary Waters Update

July 28 - Kathryn Hoffman - PolyMet Update

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2020



june berry delights arrive first, varied colors such is perfection

OUR COMMUNITY



Ely Fire Department honored with cake

LovELY cake Number 146 went out earlier this month to the Ely Fire Department and First Responders. The cake was dedicated and donated by Bob Lincoln and the Tour Of Minnesota Bike Club, according to Susan Laine. Thank you, Bob and friends, for your love and support of the Ely Fire Dept. and First Responders. We'd like to thank them for their service during these uncertain times, especially having to battle two house fires recently. photos courtersy of Cyko Art



Fund established for Conan Street house fire victim

KellyAnn Richards, who lived next door to the 131 E Conan Street house fire, last month, had her home listed for sale and was to have a family do a second look, scheduled the day after the fire next door. There is extensive damage to her home after she spent money to have it ready for selling. There are at least \$40,000 in damages to be repaired and or replaced, she said. An account has been set up at Ely Area Credit Union, 2 E Chapman St., Ely, MN 55731 to help her recoup her loss. photo by K. Vandervort



Fluoride treatments available

ELY-The Ely Family Dental clinic will be performing fluoride treatments at the Ely Farmers Market on Tuesday, July 21.

"Fluoride is a naturally-occurring mineral reducing tooth sensitivity due to gum recession and loss of enamel," said Dr. Crystal Chopp.

Fluoride varnish is similar to the fluoride gel that is applied during teeth cleaning visits using special trays, according to Dr. Chopp. "In contrast, fluoride varnish will stay on the teeth for a few hours which multiplies its effectiveness. It will then "wash off after four to six hours by design as it is exposed to food, liquids, as well as the forces of the teeth and your jaw."

This type of fluoride varnish can be applied to the entire mouth in about two minutes. "It can be an economical way to treat sensitivity in adults and provides an additional very three to six months," she said.

Because of the COVID-19 virus, the Ely Community Health Center can offer these treatments only on an appointment basis. No walk-ups are allowed.

See the Ely Community Health Center

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that has been shown to reduce the risk of cavities for people of all ages. It is also very effective in tool that protects the teeth from cavities and sensitivity. It is suggested that this treatment be repeated volunteers at the Farmers Market to sign up for an appointment or call them at 218-365-5678.

Higher Education Briefs

Ely student graduates

ELY–Ely student Nicholas Mattila, who was studying Electrical Line Worker Technology, was among the 745 2020 spring semester graduates of Minnesota State Community and Technical College, with campuses in Detroit Lakes, Fergus Falls, Moorhead and Wadena.

Ely students honored at UMD

DULUTH - The University of Minnesota-Duluth announced that two Ely students were named to the Dean's List for Spring Semester 2020.

The local students on the Dean's List who achieved a grade point average of 3.5 or higher include Emma R. Kari, sophomore, School of Fine Arts, Graphic Design B F A, and Daniel R. Mattila, sophomore, UMD-Swenson College of Science and Engineering, Pre-Electrical Engineering.

Mesabi Range College Dean's List

High Honors (4.0 - 3.75 GPA) - Christian Cersine, Babbitt, Trevor Mattson, Ely.

Honors (3.74 – 3.50 GPA) - Jean Serson, Ely.

Local student honored at Aurora

AURORA, Ill. - Aurora University named Lida Dodge, of Ely, to the Dean's List for the spring 2020 semester. Dodge is a freshman majoring in Early Child/ Special Education.

The Dean's List recognizes full-time undergraduate students who have earned a 3.6 GPA or higher.

Aurora University is a four-year, private, nonprofit, fully-accredited higher education institution serving approximately 6,000 undergraduate and graduate students across more than 50 majors and programs.

Local student honored at WSU

WICHITA, Kan. - Wichita State University announced that Courtney S. Kellogg, of Ely, and more than 3,700 other students were on the WSU dean's honor roll for spring 2020.

To be included on the dean's honor roll, a student must be enrolled full time (at least 12 credit hours) and earn at least a 3.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

WSU enrolls about 16,000 students and offers more than 50 undergraduate degree programs in more than 150 areas of study in six undergraduate colleges.

Senior Center re-opening

ELY – The Ely Senior Center, 26 S First Ave, is planning a grand re-opening celebration for Saturday, July 18.

Visitors will have an opportunity to view the center's recent renovations.

A lunch for \$6, including a chicken or tuna salad croissant sandwich, chips, fruit and a beverage will be available.

Fastest Show on H20 sunk for 2020

ELY – On the heels of the 2020 Ely Marathon cancellation announcement last week, the Ely Watercross Association broke the news on Tuesday that their annual event, held every August on the shores of Fall Lake at the Longbranch in Winton, has been sunk for this year.

In a Facebook post, organizers said, "While we wish we could host our race this year, ultimately the limitations due to COVID-19 make it impossible to do so. Our board (of directors) wants to continue hosting this event for the long term and we feel that this decision sets us up to do just that."

This year was supposed to be the 15th anniversary of the "Fastest Show on H20." Watch out for their "15th Re-Anniversary Celebration" in 2021. "We promise next year's race weekend will be full of fun, entertainment and surprises."

ORR CITY COUNCIL **Delayed light yields benefits** for Orr ambulance service

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

ORR- A manufacturer's delay in fulfilling an order for a \$4,000 disinfectant light turned into a windfall for the ambulance service after director Donna Hoffer found a cheaper alternative and canceled the order.

Hoffer told Orr City Council members on Monday that a UV-C Air and Surface Disinfection Lamp ordered in April to be used to disinfect ambulances had not yet been received. The lamp, which was to be paid for out of COVID-19 grant funds, cost \$3,995.

When Hoffer contacted the company to find out the status of the order, she was told the bulb for the lamp was backordered and would take at least another six to eight weeks to deliver.

Hoffer said she was familiar with an equally effective alternative light through her work with Nett Lake that cost just \$518, and was available, so she canceled the original order and placed one for the second light, saving approximately \$3,400

Hoffer requested approval to apply the savings to the purchase of a washer and dryer to replace the service's aging

units. The equipment is used for washing ambulance blankets and occasionally EMS staff clothes if needed after a run. Hoffer presented specifications for a washer/dryer combo from Lowe's in Hibbing for \$1,798. The council approved that request, as well as a second request for three cabinets for PPE storage costing \$1,060.

In other business, the council:

► Received donations totaling \$1,080 to the ambulance service. Donors included Joanne and Ronald Larson, \$530; Douglas and Leslie Watson, \$250; Beverly Howard, \$100; Kevin McKee and Lauren Watkins, \$50; Jeanne and Thomas Auron, \$50; Harvey Glowaski, \$50; Linda Craig, \$25; and Gary and LouAnn Weflen, \$25.

► Received donations to the fire department from Joseph Lakosky, \$1,000, and Jeanelle and Gaylon Lahr, \$200.

► Approved seeking a buyer for two electric deep fat fryers from the Community Center that are considered surplus equipment. A minimum bid of \$50 for each fryer was established.

Summarized a June 30 review of the 2019 city audit and determined there was no need to hire a consultant to do an actuarial study.

➤Reviewed and re-approved existing policies related to data protection, data about subjects, and data practices for members of the public.

>Approved a building permit for Irene Semon to construct a 24 x 24 garage at 10674 O'Connell Lane.

► Approved Dana Erkilla as head election judge and Paulette Scott and Carol Woehrle as election judges. Cheri Carter and Laura Manai were designated as alternates. Hourly pay was set at \$10 to be more comparable with their area cities and townships.

► Approved a cooperative agreement with the Music in the Park Minnesota Department of Transportation for a landscaping and beautification project along Highway 53. Pushed back due to shutdowns related to the coronavirus pandemic, the project is anticipated to take place next spring.

► Received communication indicating that July 25 is the last day of the 60-day period the insurer of Wally's Auto has to make a decision on whether it will cover the losses from last fall's fire.

► Adjourned the regular meeting and then reconvened to conduct employee evaluations.



St. Mary's Catholic Church in Cook celebrated First Holy Communion for five children on Sunday, July 12th. Pictured, from left, are Fr. Nick Nelson, Isaiah Fox, Jordan Herdman, Sarah Koch, Jackson Long, Tikka Debeltz and Deb Johnson. Nelson, Johnson, and Emily Koch helped the children prepare for the special day. A luncheon was enjoyed by the children and their families.

to feature Walker

COOK- Robert Walker will provide musical entertainment for the next edition of "Music in the Park" from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, July 22. St. Paul's (Alango) Lutheran Church's burger/brat stand will be available.

Attendees are asked to adhere to social distancing and mask guidelines.

Upcoming performers for the free music series include the Beefeater Brothers, July 29; The Hutter Bunch, Aug. 5; and a repeat performance by Walker on Aug. 12.

Music in the Park is made possible by the Cook Lions Club, Cook VFW Post 1157, the Cook Chamber of Commerce, Northwoods Friends of the Arts, and freewill donations.

Cook High class luncheon canceled

COOK- The Cook High School classes of 1964 and 1965 have decided to cancel this year's annual luncheon due to concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic. The classes plan to resume the luncheon next year.

COMMUNITY NEWS

The showing complements the gallery's front room exhibit where the works of about thirty artists are available for purchase. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays.

Call 218-780-7130 during gallery open hours for more information about NWFA, the gallery, and upcoming art classes. Additional information also is available online at nwfamn.org, on the NWFA Facebook page, or via email at nwfamn. org@gmail.com.

College degrees and honors

COOK- Gena Flank, of Cook, recently was awarded a bachelor's degree from the School of Education at St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud while also earning both semester and undergraduate academic honors

The early childhood education major was

named to the spring semester dean's list, which requires students to have a minimum 3.75 grade point average.

Flank's Bachelor of Science degree came with the university's second highest academic award, magna cum laude, awarded to those with an overall GPA between 3.5 and 3.75.

REGIONAL- Seven area students have been named to the spring semester dean's list at Mesabi Range College in Virginia.

Students earning high honors with a grade point average above 3.75 include Joseph Forsline, of Cook; Hailey Hakkila, of Angora; Natasha Hodge, of Cook; Sasha Strong, of Orr; and Meiko Udovich, of Cook.

Stefen Johansen and Emma Ward, both of Angora, earned honors for having GPAs between 3.5 and 3.74.

Breakfast with the Bears is coming up on Saturday

ORR- A few spots remained as of Tuesday for the summer's first "Breakfast with the Bears" session from 7 to 9 a.m. on Saturday, July 18 at the Vince Shute Wildlife Sanctuary near Orr.

It's an opportunity for patrons to see bears in a whole new light, morning light, and to see and



photograph certain bears that frequent the sanctuary only in the early morning hours.

A continental breakfast on the viewing deck and a souvenir Breakfast with the Bears mug is included in the \$40 cost.

Those who cannot make the first session should mark their calendars for a second session on Tuesday, Aug. 18, which will include special guest Stan Tekiela, author of "BEARS: Black, Brown, and Polar Bears," and more than 130 field guides, nature appreciation books, and wildlife audio CDs presenting many species of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians, trees, wildflowers, and cacti.

An active professional naturalist for more than 25 years, Stan studies and photographs wildlife throughout the United States and has received various national and regional awards for his

A black bear lounges in a tree at Vince Shute Wildlife Sanctuary. photo by D. Colburn

books and photographs. Also a well-known columnist and radio personality, his syndicated column appears in over 20 newspapers and his wildlife programs are broadcast on a number of Midwest radio stations. He is a member of the North American Nature Photography Association and Canon Professional Services along with many

other professional organizations.

Tekiela will be available during Breakfast during normal viewing Friends of the Arts, continhours from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Registration both sessions is available online at https:// www.americanbear.org/ event-calendar/breakfast-with-the-bears/.

Community mean coming July 23

COOK- The monthly community meal to be served on Thursday, July 23 by Trinity Lutheran Church will include brats, hot dogs, and sides, and is free and open to the pub-

The meal will again be served drive-through style in the front parking lot of the church, facing American Bank, between 4 and 6 p.m.

Canvas art sale continues at NWFA

COOK- Local art works created for "A Canvas and You," a new with the Bears and also fundraiser for Northwoods ue on display in the back room of the NWFA Galfor lery at 210 S River St. in Cook.

The 8x10 mixed media creations are for sale, with proceeds being split 50-50 between the artist and NWFA.

Box 636, Tower, MN 55790 [218-753 2950] and Box 718, Ely, MN 55731

the TIMBERJAY

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BACK TO SCHOOL

Survey shows area parents challenged by distance learning Two-thirds report comfort with sending children back to school by DAVID COLBURN

Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- As debates heat up across the country about what to do about schools in the fall, more than twothirds of area parents who responded to a recent statewide survey said they were comfortable with sending their children back to school, and more than half reported having bad experiences with distance education.

The overall results for responses identified with Ely, Tower-Soudan, and North Woods school service areas mirrored those of the 130,000-plus respondents to the nonscientific online survey conducted by the state Department of Education and reported last week. But a deeper dive into the data suggests not only that distance education may have been more challenging here, but that it could continue to be so in the future.

Parents from area schools who responded to the survey were more likely than those statewide to report that their children felt less empowered to work on their own, experienced new mental health concerns, or found it hard to understand the lessons they received. Area parents also reported communications with teachers and schools to be more challenging, and the largest gap between area and statewide challenges was in internet access.

The *Timberjay* obtained the original survey data from the Department of Education and isolated 151 responses that could be linked with cities in the service areas for Elv. Tower-Soudan. and North Woods schools. Individual records were not identified by school district but taken together these responses allow for tentative comparisons with statewide results.

Distance education

The percentage of local and statewide respondents rating their distance education experience as "bad" was exactly the same, at 42.4 percent. A greater percentage of locals, 15.2 percent, marked "very bad" compared to the statewide 10.3 percent. Conversely, the ratings for having a "good" experience were also close, 36.4 percent locally to 35.2 percent statewide. Fewer area respondents rated their experience as "very good," 2.6 percent to 9.5 percent statewide.

Noticeable differences between area and statewide results were discovered when reviewing challenges parents said they encountered from a list of 14 possible choices.

Both groups had the same top three challenges: children who didn't feel empowered to work on their own, who displayed mental health issues as a result of COVID-19 and the change to distance learning, and who had difficulty understanding the lessons they received. In each instance, area parents expressed more concern than the statewide results.

Most notable was the difference in the feeling of being empowered to work on their own. Statewide, 47.4 percent identified this as a challenge, but 60.3 percent of area parents did so.

Area parents also reported more issues with teacher and school communication. Thirty-five percent of area responses picked teacher communication as a challenge, compared with 28.1 percent statewide. Challenges with school communication were reported by 28.5 percent of area parents, but only 19.1 percent of parents statewide.

Communication challenges may be explained in part by the widest gap in reported challenges, that of internet access. Area parents reported nearly three times as much difficulty with internet access, 21.9 percent locally versus 7.5 percent statewide. With less internet access available to their families, both Ely and St. Louis County school districts had to rely more heavily on alternatives for communicating with students and parents.

Superintendents for both districts acknowledged at the outset of distance learning in March that many of their families did not have internet access or had unreliable connections, and both have taken steps to expand access before fall.

Their efforts may be bolstered by a statewide school technology initiative, ConnectedMN, that was announced by Gov. Tim Walz at the end of June. Noting that an estimated 25,000 Minnesota students don't have internet access, Walz said the partnership between technology companies and state agencies is intended to eliminate that deficit by the time school starts.

Return to school

Roughly two-thirds of parents who completed the survey, both statewide and from this area, indicated that they would be comfortable having their children return to their schools this fall. The remaining one-third of respondents were either unsure or not comfortable about sending their children back, with potential health issues being the top concern.

With the majority of respondents completing their surveys in late June, it is unknown what effect the recent increase in COVID-19 cases might have on their responses.

Informal online surveys where people choosewhetherornottoparticipate have been shown to be less reliable than formal surveys conducted with specific groups, but Department of Education Assistant Director of **Communications Ashleigh** Norris noted that the survey is just one of many ways the department is seeking information to guide their decision-making for the fall. Focus groups have been conducted statewide that provide more in-depth information about distance learning and the differences in experiences between rural and urban areas, she said. Additional formal analysis of the distance learning plans of 148 large and small districts and 118 charter schools, conducted by the University of Minnesota's Wisconsin/Minnesota Comprehensive Center, is being compiled and will report on regional insights.

Last week, President Donald Trump threatened to withhold federal money from schools if they don't fully reopen, and he called the guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for reopening schools during the pandemic "impractical" and "expensive."

The decision to reopen schools is one that rests with local and state leaders. Minnesota officials have said they will likely make a decision in the last week of July.

Education officials instructed Minnesota school districts to prepare for three different scenarios in the upcoming academic year: full-time in-person learning, fulltime distance learning, and a hybrid of those two options.

Minnesota Public Radio contributed to this report.

SCHOOL....Continued from page 1

nance (LTFM) funds are available to address roof repairs.

"This is an item that needs to be done; the roof was leaking before the referendum went forward," Sosalla said. "We are looking for approval to go out for bids to replace the rubber roof that we estimate will cost about \$300,000." That cost estimate would include a 20-year warranty.

Sosalla said the cost estimate completed last fall remains accurate. He noted that the roof replacement is a line item on the LTFM budget.

Board chair Ray Marsnik noted that because no approval for expending funds is needed now, a motion and approval was not necessary.

said that any directives will likely come during the last week of July.

School board members have been meeting remotely since spring because of the social distancing protocols in place that allow for up to 10 people to be in the same room at the same time. Some board members voiced frustration with the current situation, but agreed to wait on any updated meeting protocols before reconvening in the district boardroom.

"I feel I'm not an effective board member where I am right now," said board member Tom Omerza. He suggested support for a hybrid meeting scenario where some board members could gather and others would "phone in." On Monday night, board member James Pointer attended the meeting in person because of ongoing telephone connectivity issues he has experienced. Board member Heidi Mann suggested conducting a video-connected board meeting in the future. Omerza and Pointer both noted that they do not have the necessary technology to participate in a meeting in that scenario. Board member Tony Colarich suggested that the school media center is a larger space to allow for proper social distancing for the 10-person limit. Any decision on changing the school board meeting protocols will be made next month following any new state coronavirus safety directives. Athletic Director Tom Coombe, following guidance of the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL), continues to plan for the start of the 2020-21 school year.

of education, in person or not, that decision will guide what the MSHSL ends up ultimately doing. As of now, all systems are go and fall sports are scheduled to begin with practices on Aug. 17, very much subject to change."

Erie said the district's administrative team continues to plan for various alternative scenarios of full school open, full distance learning, or a hybrid option for the new school year.

A non-scientific survey recently conducted by MDE shows a majority of families had a bad experience with distance learning and want schools to resume in-person classes in the fall. "We expect an announcement from MDE in the week of July 27," Erie said, "however they did hint that it could possibly be sooner, but I really don't expect it. We have been lobbying for a decision so we can finalize our planning." Erie said transportation issues this fall could prove challenging. "If we were to go with the MDH guidelines in place now, we could put about 13 people on a 77-passenger bus," he said. "Even if we all come backin person, we need to look at how we keep our students and staff healthy and safe." He touched on the "one-to-one initiative" designed to put digital learning devices in the hands of every student. "We want to enlist more faculty feedback and take a closer look at this and examine recommendations on device choice, support needs and integration," Erie said. Infrastructure improvement costs could approach \$90,000, he added. Erie hopes to have project proposals for the school board to consider at the July 27 study session.

Other business

In other business, the school board:

► Accepted a report from Industrial Arts instructor Rob Simonich that highlighted net income of more than \$14,000 from an online auction of outdated and non-workingshop equipment.

Approved Minnesota School Boards Association dues in the amount of \$3,508, **Boardbook Subscription** of \$1,575, and MSBA Policy Services renewal for \$715,

► Ratified a twoyear master agreement with the Ely Principals Association with a salary (three-plus years of experience) of \$94,700 for the 2020-21 school year and \$96,594 for the 2021-22 school year. ▶ Accepted the retirement of longtime payroll/benefits coordinator Connie Ojala, and agreed to a temporary independent contractor agreement with Janet Leete to perform those duties until a permanent replacement is hired. ► Approved the purchase and installation of a new scoreboard for the football field, with track scoring capability, for a total cost of \$32,980. The net cost to the district will be\$16,515, with financial help coming from the Ely Touchdown Club (\$15,000) and the Ely **Education Association** Foundation (\$1,465), ► Approved Max Gantt as head girls basketball coach and Desirae Cram as dance team advisor. ► Approved the following coaching assistants -Jim Wittrup, football; Megan Wognum, volleyball; Megan Devine, cross country; Tim Omerza, boys basketball; Tom Omerza, girls basketball; Tyler Fish, Nordic skiing; and Jake Myers, hockey.

randums of understanding with the Ely Principals Association, ElyEducation Association, and AFSCME Local 295 to carry over an extra unused personal day into the 2020-21 school year,

► Approved a cooperative agreement for girls soccer with Mesabi East for 2020-21 under the condition that ISD 696 will assume no responsibility for expenses associated with the program.



The needed roof work does not impact any other building work that may or may not be part of the proposed facility improvement project.

Later in the meeting, Superintendent Erik Erie reported that the completion of the campus window replacement project will likely cost as much as \$1 million.

"When we decide to go forward with that, we will obtain multiple quotes," he said.

Facilities committee discussion, according to Erie, also touched on the campus buildings ventilation and HVAC priorities. Proper air handling capacity in school buildings is an important factor in determining the safety levels for students and staff under new COVID-19 protocols.

"And we certainly know that we have some plumbing issues, too," Erie said.

School reopening

Like all state school districts, Ely board members are waiting to hear from the state Department of Health and Department of Education on how and when schools may reopen this fall for in-person learning. Erie

"At this moment, fall activities will happen," he said, "Obviously, whatever is decided in terms

► Approved memo-

2020 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 **DBL CAB 4X4 RST STAND BOX**

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2015 KIA SORENTOCLEAN O 2014 CHEVY MALIBU LSGRE 2013 CHEVY EXPRESS AWD CAR	NE OWNER!	\$10,490 \$11,990
Waschke FAMILY CHEVROLET • COOK	Les Hujanen Koski Calvin	Terry Carlson
HOURS: M-F 8am-6pm 126 N Hwy. 53, Cook, MN • 218-6		15 🛐

"Last year we took the

names off that were pen-

sioners," Fazio said. "The

corrections were made."

Fazio said he had submit-

ted current information to

ship had also clarified the

department's rules to make

it easier to take inactive or

retired members off the

approved some minor

changes to the fire depart-

ments SOGs, and added a

new section detailing that

any member who had been

unexcused and inactive,

and not attending sched-

uled training/drills for six

months, will be terminated

from the fire department.

In other business the

> Approved the 2020

interim Tower Ambulance

Commission subsidy con-

tract and voted to pay

their first-half payment in

August and second-half

making budget cuts; the

item will be on the agenda

will be extending broad-

band internet service to

the end of Birch Point and

gave township permission

for the extension. The cost

will be paid by the resident

► Heard from broad-

who wanted the service.

band committee member

John Bassing about the

progress of the region-

again next month.

Took no action on

➤ Heard that Frontier

payment in December.

Other business

board:

The board also

department roster.

Ralston said the town-

the state board.

CLERK...Continued from page 1 -

regular hours," Drobac told the board.

But Ralston questioned that statement, saying he had been at the town hall when she wasn't there.

Drobac noted she had been out of the office one day the previous week, but had notified the chair and vice-chair, per township policy.

Drobac told the board that if the township was adhering to COVID-19 policies she shouldn't even be working at the town hall office

"I can't do my work unless I am here," she said. "I have gone home when I get my work done, leaving a message on the door so anyone who needs me can call, and I can come back down to the office."

Drobac volunteered to do a time study so the supervisors can see how her time is being spent.

"I've been doing this job for four years," Drobac said. "It sounds to me that you are saying I am staying here for no reason."

Ralston told her he didn't think the township needed to be spending the amount they were for clerk services. He said he had calculated that, if she was working 20 hours a week, she was making approximately \$27 per hour.

Drobac insisted she could not get the township's business done if they limited her hours to 12 per week. She noted that the previous clerk was at the town hall full-time. "What is it you think I

do?" Drobac asked. Ralston replied, "I think there is a lot of social aspect down there."

Drobac replied that perhaps the board should start reviewing the security camera footage.

"Then you can see how much time I am socializing versus doing my job," she told him.

DeLuca said he felt the clerk's job could be done in 12 hours a week and should be paid accordingly.

Drobac told the board that the clerk has the authority to set their own hours. But DeLuca told her the board has the authority to set the salary.

The board agreed that the clerk can set her own hours but voted to cap her pay at the equivalent of 12 hours per week.

"I think this is worth moving forward," Ralston said. "She can take comp time if she needs to work more hours in a week."

Drobac asked how that would work, but DeLuca pressed to take a vote on the motion, and "work it out afterwards."

The motion passed 4-0. Supervisor Paul Skubic was absent.

The board has been at odds with Drobac for some time, particularly since she selected John Bassing, an occasional critic of the current board, to serve as deputy clerk. She has also objected to the board's decision to install surveil-

lance cameras in her office to monitor her activity.

Township treasurer resigns

The town board accepted the resignation of treasurer Pam Rodgers, with regret. Rodgers did not give a reason for her resignation, which is effective at the end of July.

The board noted that Rodgers had helped the township create and maintain its own Facebook page, and she had helped put the township's financial information in more accessible forms for the town board.

The board voted to appoint Belinda Fazio as interim treasurer. Fazio had run for clerk previously. Fazio told the board she would like to appoint Tammy Mortaloni as deputy treasurer. The board set the pay rate for both positions at \$25 per hour. The board did not set any limits on the hours for the treasurer.

Pavilion

The board voted to allow public use of the pavilion but will keep the town hall closed for public use at this time. The pavilion will be open to use "at one's own risk," and will require anyone wishing to reserve/rent the pavilion to sign a disclaimer holding the township harmless. The township will require that social distancing and other state guidelines are

followed,. The township will not be cleaning or disinfecting the pavilion area.

Fire department training dollars

The board discussed a complaint made by two former fire department members claiming the department had been submitting inaccurate department rosters to the Minnesota Board of Firefighter Training. Scott Kregness and Peter Makowski asked that their names be removed from the roster and noted that they had been listed on the roster for several years, along with other retired or resigned members.

"We allege that by using our names, Greenwood Fire Chief Dave Fazio has engaged in the fraudulent obtaining of training monies."

Fire departments receive reimbursement for training costs, and the total amount they are permitted to receive depends on the number of department members.

The letter also asked that the Greenwood department's training requests be investigated.

Board members questioned why they had not received a copy of this letter, on which they were copied, on June 17, when the letter was dated.

Fazio told the board they had reviewed this issue last year when it was brought to the board's attention by John Bassing.

> she said. All library material

pickups are conducted in a no-contact manner at scheduled times. Items may be placed on hold in advance online or requested when patrons call to schedule a pickup time. Patrons may also request that the staff choose books for them.

Phone calls to the library at 218-365-5140 will be answered from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. weekdays.

The library's wi-fi is available in the parking lot

wide effort to bring broadband-quality internet service to the area. Bassing reported that the surveys had been tallied, and now the data was being reviewed by possible providers to see if they are interested. The next step is applying for a statewide "Border to Border" grant to cover some of the installation costs. Those grants are due in September.

➤ Will apply for CARES Act funding to reimburse the township for any unbudgeted COVID-19 related expenses. The township is eligible for up to \$22,500, but the money can only be spent on specific items, and the township will need to provide monthly reports and submit to a state, and possibly also a federal, audit of their use of the funds. The township asked fire department secretary Tammy Mortaloni to be in charge of the process. Any time she spends on the matter can be reimbursed under the CARES Act grant. They set her wage at \$25 per hour.

► Heard that the township will not be charged for a public meeting notice they had placed in The Tower News that had the wrong meeting date information.

> Agreed to continue to hold monthly board meetings via telephone conference. Ralston said that the Minnesota Association of Townships is still recommending virtual meetings.

activity on the Trezona Trail is also proving to be very popular," she said.

Library TV

Storytime productions appear daily on the Ely Public Library Facebook page. Library clerks Jesse Dunn and Tricia Flake have written, produced, filmed and starred in about 120 such videos since mid-March that have developed quite a following in the digital world.

They use a variety of props and costumes made from materials that are scrounged at home or

LIBRARY...Continued from page 1

The doors remain closed to the public, but curbside delivery of library items remains strong, according to Director Rachel Heinrich, who told city council members last week that the number of patrons being served under the current model is almost double the amount of library users that could be served following the best models for "COVID-19 safe" access.

According to her

report to the Library Board last month, Heinrich said that within the northeast Minnesota region two libraries have remained closed completely during the pandemic. Since the initial mid-March emergency order, five small libraries have opened their doors with some restrictions, and three libraries are offering some curbside service and limited in-person access.

As many as 16 com-



munity libraries, including the Ely Public Library, are offering just curbside delivery of library items. The Ely facility plans to continue the current model at least through the completion of the next library board meeting, she said.

Heinrich reported that she has been participating in virtual discussions with other library staff across the state and the country about the coronavirus situation and whether to

remain closed or open to the public.

"There seems to be an overwhelming consensus from the libraries who are allowing the public into their libraries that all of their staff time is spent cleaning," she said. "They can either offer access to the circulating items and perhaps one computer, or offer access to the computers but not the books."

She calculated that if Ely used the best models on how many patrons could be allowed physical access to the library, with access

Wednesday, August 19

the Ely Area Food Shelf will be distributing food curbside from

Noon-4 PM

at the FOOD SHELF located at 15 West Conan Street. (Directions: Approach from West Pattison Street then watch for signs and follow the directions of volunteers directing traffic.)

Curbside pick-up will continue. We will take your household info in one area, you will drive ahead to load your food. Please wear a face mask if you have one. We have plenty of food, so it is not necessary to line up early. To avoid congestion arrive after 1 PM.

We will be delivering food to the apartments and townhouses Thursday, August 20. Please call 218-235-8912 to

reserve delivery or volunteer.

Thank You!



time limited to 45 minutes and allowing for about 15 minutes of cleaning time between access times, they could serve about 56 individuals in any given day in a open-for-business scenario.

"With our curbside system running we can serve up to 96 households, and that includes everybody in the family," Heinrich told council members. The library board agreed to continue with the current model at least through July.

Online e-circulation of books, audios, and magazines continues to be offered. Loan periods for library materials have been extended regionwide to account for those libraries that are closed to the public, she said.

"You will not need to worry about returning items while the library is closed to the public, however, our book drop will be available if you choose to make a return,"



Local arts and crafts for viewing and salesS

210 S River St, Cook MN 55723 Open: Thur-Fri: 10 AM-4 PM, Sat: 9 AM-1 PM nwfamn.org@gmail.com · www.nwfamn.org

and on the lawn. The password is on the front door.

"If you have never used any of these services, now might be a great time to try them out. We can give you more information when you call," she said.

"We realize that it can be hard to choose books with curbside service, especially when you don't know what's available," Heinrich said. "Our new-arrivals shelves are very full right now, so we took some photos to help people know what we now have." Nearly a dozen images appear on the library's Facebook page.

The Ely Public Library's website, www. elylibrary.org, also lists new items available.

Summer reading programming is going stronger than ever, Heinrich said.

"We have more than 90 registrations for kids and have given out between 45 and 75 activity packets each week. Our story stroll

NORTHWOODS

around the library.

"We use packing material and boxes and for our crafts for kids, we use lots of paper plates, straws and toilet paper rolls," Jesse said.

They work to post a new video every day and take turns coming up with themes and activities.

Filming for each segment takes about 20 minutes.

"Once we get started, we just keep going," Tricia said. "We don't rehearse, we just improvise and make it up sometimes as we go along. We always have lots of fun."

Each segment starts with a grand introduction. On a recent "Day at the Circus" theme, Tricia rode onto the set on her unicycle.

"I can do much better if I'm outside," she quipped.

Juggling and other feats of skill were featured. They will typically read three stories aloud and sing a song. A craft project segment is filmed separately.

"We have an almost endless supply of ideas from our children's book shelves," Jesse said. The duo was a little hesitant to say they could do story time forever, or until the library re-opens, whichever comes first.

TOWER FIRE DEPARTMENT

City, Greenwood business owner seek answers in fire truck incident

Managing Editor

TOWER-City officials and a Greenwood Township business owner are seeking resolution to a July 10 incident during which the Tower Fire Chief struck and damaged a building at the Red Rock Mini-Storage facility with the city's primary fire engine.

The chief initially reported the incident. which caused damage to the PT-1 fire engine, to members of the fire department and her supervisor, but did not initially report the accident to Red Rock owner Scott Kregness.

Kregness discovered the damage to a corner of

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER one of his buildings this past weekend. When he replayed security camera footage to see who might have caused the damage, he saw footage of the city's main engine enter his premises and travel around a set of buildings before exiting the property and continuing north on Cty. Rd. 77 a few minutes later. It appears the engine was too large for a tight corner and ended up striking the building, pushing a crash pylon into the corner and damaging a portion of the building's eaves.

> The security footage did not reveal the driver of the vehicle, but Chief Paige Olson acknowledged that she had been driving at the time. A second member

of the department was a passenger at the time.

The purpose of the truck's visit to the mini-storage is unclear. Chief Olson did not respond to questions from the Timberjay about her reasons for driving the city's truck to Greenwood, although she did say in a statement that Red Rock was not her destination and she had apparently turned into the facility by mistake. There was no mutual aid request from Greenwood at the time and it does not appear to have been a training exercise.

In either case, said Kregness, the fire department had no permission to enter his property. "There was absolutely no reason for them to be there," said Kregness, who has served as Greenwood Fire Chief in the past. "I was completely shocked when I watched the videos."

Kregness reported the incident to the St. Louis County Sheriff this past Sunday. Sheriff Ross Litman confirmed on Wednesday that the incident is under investigation, but few details were available.

As of Monday, Kregness said no one from the city had contacted him about the incident, which has been a source of frustration for him. "A courtesy phone call would have gone a long way,' he said.

> Mayor Orlyn

Kringstad, after meeting with Chief Olson on Tuesday to hear details of the incident, did speak to Kregness to assure him that the city will take responsibility for the damage. "The city is weighing its options and working with the property owner to resolve the situation and comply with any regulations that might apply," said Kringstad. Kregness said Chief

Olson also contacted him about the incident on Tuesday and the League of Minnesota Cities insurance trust has also been in touch, alerting him that the city has reported the anticipated claim.

In her statement, Olson indicates she was not aware of any damage to Kregness's building until Sunday when she received a call from the sheriff's office. She said she contacted the city's insurance carrier on Monday to report the incident. Olson said she believed the damage was limited to the truck's running boards, which impacted with a crash pylon located at the corner of the building. She said it was not clear to her that the crash pylon had been damaged from the impact with the truck since she did not know its original condition.

The Timberjay will update this story if and when more information becomes available.

SENIORS...Continued from page 1 -

Orr, Babbitt, Silver Bay, and Ely, was scrambling Tuesday to catch up with the guidance and emails to begin to get a handle on what they will have to do to prepare for indoor visits.

"I have yet to read the full disclosure," Kiefler said. "It's definitely encouraging. We're going to have to re-do our policies. I want to be super cautious that we do it the right way."

Kieflersaidthehardest part of the lockdown has been the stress and anxiety created by isolation of residents from their families and friends. Outdoor and window visits have provided some welcome relief.

"It's definitely improved the mental health of people," she said. "It's challenging because all they want to do is give each other hugs, and we have to be present to discourage that because the Minnesota Department of Health said they're not allowed, but it has been kind of a weight lifted off my shoulders." It was too soon for Kiefler to speculate about when indoor visits might be made available. Facilities have to develop a comprehensive plan for how they will implement the guidelines. Still, it's a step in the right direction.

"They're wanting to get to the point they can actually hold their loved ones, and I'm optimistic we're going to get there," Kiefler said.

Cook Care Center Assistant Administrator Julie Lesemann said that her facility is planning to stick with outdoor and window visits for now.

"We watch the COVID numbers every day," Lesemann said. "Right now, because of the positive cases that are rising, we're going to hold on this. We're not going to go down that road yet. We'll probably give it another few weeks to see

where it's at."

Lesemann noted that one factor in their decision is the influx of summer vacationers and tourists to the area, which could increase the potential for the novel coronavirus to be transmitted.

"We want to do everything we can to get our essential caregivers back with our loved ones," she said. "It's baby steps."

Lesemann said the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has already come up with a three-stage plan for facilities to follow once they're cleared to re-open, and that they're acting in accord with that plan.

"You've got to look at your communities, you have to look at what's going on around you," she said. Meanwhile, residents, staff, and families are taking full advantage of outdoor visiting opportunities.

"It's nonstop during

the day, and that's a good thing," Lesemann said. "Families and the residents and the staff are absolutely loving it."

New guidelines

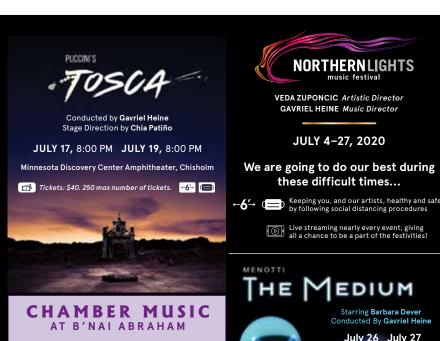
Providers must talk to residents about their wishes to determine whom to designate as an essential caregiver, and facilities should establish policies for identifying and using essential caregivers no later than July 25, 2020.

An essential caregiver could be a family member, outside caregiver, friend or volunteer who has provid-

ed regular care and support to the resident before or during the pandemic. Residents can have more than one essential caregiver for providing emotional support and individualized, person-centered care.

The guidelines require caregivers to sign in and be screened prior to entering the building, just like facility staff. Caregivers must frequently wash their hands and use hand sanitizer and wear all necessary personal protective equipment while in the building (minimally, eye protection and face mask). Facilities may restrict or revoke caregiver status if the caregiver fails to follow infection prevention rules. However, facilities are expected to talk to caregivers and attempt to address concerns before restricting or revoking visitations.

MDH developed the guidance in partnership with stakeholders including Care Providers of Minnesota, LeadingAge Minnesota, the Office of Ombudsman for Long-Term Care and other consumer advocate groups.





& Child Care DATES **Nett Lake**

Thursday, July 23 from 9-3 pm Thursday, Aug 6 from 9-3 pm

Vermilion

Tuesday, July 21 from 9-3 pm Tuesday, Aug 4 from 9-3 pm

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COMMUNITY SERVICE AND SUPPORT

Ely Chamber of Commerce finds new ways to support community and businesses during coronavirus pandemic crisis and beyond

ELY- In any given year, the Ely Chamber of Commerce welcomes visitors to the area as an Explore Minnesota Visitor Center, making it a first stop for many coming to enjoy Ely and all that the area has to offer.

However, the Chamber's primary purpose is as a business association to support businesses in Ely, Winton, Babbitt and surrounding townships. From the start of the membership year last July to the beginning of the new membership season this year, the Chamber took on new challenges and created new opportunities to support its members.

Last October, the Chamber board finished its strategic planning, which began with focus groups that included both members and nonmembers from the business community. Strategic planning and internal review were conducted in an effort to more effectively achieve the Chamber's purpose of fostering a thriving, sustainable economic community through leadership and advocacy, strategic partnerships, and workforce development.

This past year has been one of unprecedented change for the Chamber. Some change was planned, while other change was more spontaneous as the organization pivoted to support the business community during the pandemic. One of the tools used was a weekly/biweekly newsletter containing funding opportunities, legislative details, and COVID-19 resources. Many resources were provided through an expanded network of organizations. Those organizations continue to share valuable information, which the chamber then shares with the business community.

The Chamber continues to serve as a visitor and information center – a natural fit for the community. Events were developed to draw people to the area and introduce them to art, shopping, outdoor activities and other aspects of life in Ely.

Some events, such as the Blueberry/Art Festival, normally draw tens of thousands to Ely. However, with the current limits on gathering size, the three-day festival was canceled, and in its place a virtual festival was created. Event director Ellen Cashman was interviewed by Minnesota Public Radio about the virtual event. The interview and link to the Chamber's virtual event are on the MPR website, and the buzz created by the interview caused other event planners to reach out to the Chamber for guidance on doing virtual events.

In addition, last week, the chamber unveiled "Operation Blueberry," scheduled to run from July 24 through July 31. The event will focus on area businesses partnering to find new and creative ways to still celebrate what would've been the Blueberry/Art Festival's 40th year, while keeping visitors and community members safe.

"The pandemic has created obstacles and challenges; however, our staff is extremely creative, and our Chamber board is supportive of the ways we are pivoting to meet the business community needs," noted Chamber Executive Director Eva Sebesta. "We've spent countless hours in meetings with organizations learning about best practices for COVID-19, business supports, events - you name it. We are also continually searching for resources. Many of those resources are

shared on our COVID-19 page at Ely.org/ Covid19."

Prior to pandemic-induced pivoting, the Chamber held the first of its new Business Incubator meetings. It was held at Frandsen Bank & Trust and featured Sandi Larsen from the Women's Business Alliance.

"The purpose of the business incubator meetings is to provide access to resources and information that will better support our business community," said Sebesta.

In the face of the COVID-19 crisis, subsequent meetings were rescheduled to start in September, with the hope that more normal operations can resume with either in-person meetings or online. The first session was well attended, and signups for upcoming meetings indicated a great interest overall.

Business development training, originally slated for March, was

Waiting on a Property Tax Refund? Track it yourself! Visit askjean.net Lower left: "Where's my refund?"





When the Stayat-Home order was announced by Governor Walz, Chamber staff worked to modify the business listings at ElyChamber.org. As nonessential businesses began to reopen, Chamber staff shifted gears and created a Business and Services List to take the place of the ElyChamber.org site listings. The Business and Services list includes hours, expanded services, and any COVID-19 requirements from businesses.

Advocacy is another aspect the Chamber has expanded on in past months. Business owners shared concerns with the Chamber that the Payroll Protection Program was not written to really support seasonal businesses. Likewise, the small business relief funding was not reaching rural communities, and property taxes were due in May when many businesses were still unable to reopen.

"All these issues had serious impacts for area businesses, and we took action on the local, state and federal levels," said Sebesta.

Dining Room Open Daily

6:30 AM to 9:30 PM



The Ely Chamber of Commerce Invites You to be an Active Part of Your Business Community



ELY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

What is the Ely Chamber of Commerce's purpose? The Ely Chamber of Commerce leads a thriving, sustainable economic community through leadership and advocacy, strategic partnerships, career development of its workforce, and business diversity and education.
 Why should I join/maintain a chamber membership? As a chamber member, you can develop yourself through networking, education and advocacy, and directly impact the success of the business community. Full membership enables you to vote on the direction of business and economic development opportunities, participate in those opportunities, enjoy business referrals and advertising opportunities, receive aggregate news and more.

How is the Chamber funded? The chamber is funded through its membership dues and funds raised through the three chamber sponsored events (WolfTrack Classic Sled Dog Race, Blueberry/Art Festival and Harvest Moon Festival). We are not funded by lodging, city, county or other tax dollars.

2019-2020 Chamber Membership Role

A Stay Inn Abts Sherry M. Adventure Inn All Phase Construction American Bank Anderson Scott DDS*** Arrowhead Outdoors Art Corner, The Babe's Bait & Tackle Bear Head Lake St Park Bear Island Land Survey Big Lake Wilderness Lodge & Outfitters Blissful Body Massage & Bodywork Blomberg's Cenex* Boathouse Brewpub And Restaurant Boundary Waters Bank* Boundary Waters Guide Service Boundary Waters Journal Boundary Waters Outfitters**** Brandenburg Gallery Burntside Lodge Cabin, The Camp Van Vac LLC. Camp Voyageur Canadian Border Outfitters Canadian Waters Outfitters Inc. Canoe Capital Realty, LLC Canoe Country Outfitters, Cabins & Campgrounds Canoe On Inn Carefree Living Ely Central Avenue Business Park Charles R Zeugner Chilly Dogs Sled Dog Trips City of Ely City of Winton Cliff Wold's Canoe Trip Outfitting Co. & Campgrounds Comfort Plus CQ Squared LLC+ Crapola Culbert Realty Cunningham Electric Custom Cabin Rentals Docks on Wheels Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust Dorothy Molter Memorial Museum **Duane's Outfitters** Echo Shores Resort Echo Trail Outfitters Edward Jones Edwards Oil & Propane+* Ely Area Credit Union Ely Area Senior Citizens Ely Arts & Heritage Center Ely Bike and Kicksled+

Ely D Q Grill And Chill Ely Echo* Ely Family Dental+ Ely Fishing Guide Company LLC Ely Flower & Seed Ely Folk School Ely Golf Club Ely Igloo Snowmobile Club Ely Jaycees Ely License Bureau, Inc. Ely Nordic Ski Club Ely Northland Market**** Ely Outfitting Co.* Ely Rotary Club Ely Shopper Ely Shuttle Elv Sportswear Ely Steak House* Ely Subway Inc. Ely Surplus & Outdoor Ely Timberjay* Ely Veterinary Clinic Ely Vision & Optometry Ctr P.C. Ely Winter Festival Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital* Elvlodging.com Ely's Historic State Theater Ely's Old Fashioned Candy Elywear Ely-Winton Historical Society Eric Sherman Images+ Espland's Resort Excel Business Systems Fenske Lake Cabins & Remote Cabins Ferrellgas Forest Concrete Products Fortune Bay Casino Frandsen Bank & Trust Front Porch Coffee and Tea* Fryer, Linda Garden Lake Resort Gator's Grilled Cheese Emporium Gene Hicks Gourmet Coffees LLC G-Men Environmental Services, Inc. Grand Ely Lodge Resort, Conference Center, Evergreen Lodge & Antlers Lounge*** Gruba Construction Hand-Done T-Shirts Hearthside Corner Henry's Shoe Repair Holden Duluth Insurance Agency Holiday Hometown Focus Insula Restaurant International Wolf Center* IRRR

J & L Hardware Hank-Ben Franklin* Joe's Marine & Repair, Inc. . Kawishiwi Lodge Kiwanis Club of Ely Klun Law Firm, P.A. Kovall Construction* Lady Bug Lodge Lake One Canoe Outfitters Latourell's Resort & Outfitters Listening Point Foundation Inc. Lodge of Whispering Pines Loony's Northwoods Emporium Lucky Boy Services+ Lucky Seven Gas Station & Car Wash+* Mary's Spinning Wheel* Mealey's Gift & Sauna Shop Merhar's Ace Hardware* Midcontinent Communications Mike Motors of Minnesota Mike's Liquor Moose Track Adventures Resort, Outfitters & Guide Service Motel Ely NAPA Parts Center** Nixteric+ Norshor Agency, Inc North American Bear Center* North Country Canoe Outfitters Northeast Title Company Northern Grounds Northern Lakes Art Association Northern Tier High Adventure B.S. Base Northernair Lodge NorthRidge Community Credit Union Northwoods Collision Center Northwoods Partners OJ's HVAC & Refrigeration Out Mobile Escape Rooms+ Packsack Canoe Trips & Log Cabins**** Paddle Inn Pengal's Basswood Trading Co Peshel Accounting Pine Manor Townhouses Pine Point Resort Piragis Northwoods Co. Outfitting & Store*** Porthan Painting POTLUCK Vintage & Modern Kitchenware** R and R Transfer* Range Design & Print* Range LP Gas Range Reliable Agency Raven Productions Razor Edge Systems, Inc. Recreation Resource Mgt-Fall Lake Cpgd Retreats On White Iron Lake

River Point Resort, Outfitters, and Villas & Chalets on the Lake **Riverside Resort & Island Campsites** Rockwood Schulze Excavating, Inc.* Shagawa Inn Resort and Motels on the Lake Silver Rapids Lodge, Hotels and Campgrounds Sisu Designs Yarn Shop Snowbank Lodge & Outfitters Snowshoe Country Lodge* Spirit Of The Wilderness Outfitter . Starkman-Superior Oil Energy State Farm Insurance* Steger Mukluks**** Studio North - Dance & Fitness Center Subway Of Ely Timber Bay Lodge & Houseboats Timber Trail Lodge & Motels Trembath's Machine & Welding, Inc.* Twin Metals Minnesota** USFS - Kawishiwi District Vermilion Community College Veterans On The Lake Voltz Technologies, Inc. Voyageur Lumber* Voyageur North Outfitters VP'S Portable Toilets Inc. W.A. Fisher Company Walker Giroux & Hahne, LLC Walsh Septic Systems Way to Go Outfitters Wells Fargo Bank MN,NA*** WELY - Boundary Waters Radio Whispering Pines Campgrounds White Iron Beach Resort? White Wolf Dog Sled Trips WildWoods Land Company Williams & Hall Wild. Guides & Outfitter Wintergreen Dogsled Lodge Wintergreen Northern Wear Wood, Margaret YMCA Camp Du Nord YMCA Camp Northern Lights Zupancich Trucking, Inc. Z'Up North Realty* Zup's Food Market**** New Member + Bronze * Silver** Gold ***

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To learn more about Chamber membership, call 218-365-6123, email director@ely.org, or visit Ely.org/membership.

July 17, 2020 **1B**

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COVID-19 IMPACTS

Ely's marathon canceled over pandemic risks

by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

ELY – Just three weeks ago, Ely Marathon organizer Wendy Lindsay conceded that COVID-19 would determine whether or not the popular running event would take place. She was right.

"It is with great sadness that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ely Marathon, Boundary Waters Bank Half Marathon, Dorothy Molter Root Beer Run and the Northern Lights Glow Run 5k are canceled for 2020," she announced in a press release early Friday morning. "We are saddened for the loss this brings to the running community, the city of Ely, and the many businesses that benefit from this event."

The Sept. 25-26 event is scheduled to resume in September 2021.

After meeting with Minnesota race directors and state officials this past week, Lindsay received clarification that the maximum number participants in outdoor races is limited to 25 people.

"That includes all

racers, staff, volunteers and spectators," she said.

Lastyear'sElyMarathon and 5K run had about a thousand total runners. More than 600 full and half-marathon runners were registered for this year, according to Lindsay.

The Father's Day weekend running of Grandma's Marathon in Duluth was canceled this year because of the coronavirus, and many other area sports and community events have also been scrapped this summer.

"We understand that a

SUMMER BASEBALL

lot of what makes the Ely Marathon and Boundary Waters Bank Half Marathon special is the beauty of running in the woods along with the special perks and amazing community support," Lindsay added. "We realize these attributes are impossible to transfer to a virtual race. That being said, all registrations and sponsorships for the 2020 Ely Marathon and Boundary Waters Bank Half Marathon have automatically been

See MARATHON...pg. 2B



The winner of last year's Ely Marathon canoe portage crosses the finish line. The annual event, which features both runners and portagers, has been canceled for 2020.



SERVICES

County resumes in-person visits

Offices will now offer services by appointment

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Multiple St. Louis County government departments began offering select in-person appointments on Monday at government centers in Duluth, Virginia, and Hibbing to assist people who may be having difficulty accessing county services remotely.

County buildings remain closed to the public, with the exception of the courthouses, which are open for court business only. The county continues to recommend people access services using telephone, email, mail and online whenever possible.

People seeking to access financial assistance programs provided by Public Health and Human Services should call 218-471-7391 in Virginia or 218-726-2274 in Duluth to talk with a financial worker to determine if an appointment is needed. In-person appointments will be offered on Mondays. Wednesdays, and Fridays at both locations. The Recorder's Office has expanded its curbside service by appointment, offering it now in Duluth, Virginia and Hibbing. Additionally, the Recorder's Office has added a new option for people to schedule appointments online. This service is limited to urgent and vital records requests only. Information on how to schedule an appointment can be found online at stlouiscountymn. gov/recorder. For questions, or to discuss if an appointment is needed, call 218-726-2559. ThePlanningandCommunity Development Department will offer in-person appointments from its Virginia office on Wednesdays.Call218-749-7103 to set up an appointment. Anyone wishing to request an absentee ballot, or who wishes to vote early by absentee ballot can schedule curbside service by appointment through the Auditor's Offices in Duluth and Virginia. To schedule an appointment, call 218-726-2385 in Duluth or 218-749-7104 in Virginia, or email elections@ stlouiscountymn.gov. For anyone with an appointment, the county has started using the No Wait Inside scheduling program, which will send text notifications to the individual alerting them when it's their turn to enter the building, and other necessary instructions to follow.

Ely goes 2-2 in home tourney

Undefeated Wadena takes Sir G's Classic title

by KEITH VANDERVORT

ELY – Youth baseball returned last weekend with 10 teams from around the state participating in the Senior Babe Ruth level Sir G's/ Ely Legion Midsummer Classic tournament at Veterans Memorial Field here and at Soudan's Legion Field.

With plenty of room for fans to socially distance, due to public health concerns over the coronavirus, and picture-perfect baseball weather, 20 games were played over three days.

Wadena won the tournament with a perfect 4-0 record, shutting out Grand Rapids by a 4-0 score on Sunday in what turned out to be the title game of the tournament.

The home team went 2-2 in the tournament, beating Virginia 3-2 on Friday night and defeating Minnetonka 9-8 on Saturday, before losing 8-6 to Esko in the Saturday nightcap and 20-5 to Proctor on Sunday.

"We just ran out of gas on Sunday," said Ely coach and tournament organizer Tom Coombe.

Ely's Cam McRoberts was the winning pitcher against Virginia, allowing just three hits with 11 strikeouts. Virginia pitcher Ryan Hujanen, of Tower, struck out 10 in the loss.

"We scored two in the fifth to break a 1-1 tie, with Bralyn Lislegard stealing home and Nils DeRemee following with a run-scoring hit," Coombe said.

Against Minnetonka, Tjae Banks had two doubles and Lislegard drove in the winning run with a sacrifice fly in the bottom of the sixth. Dalton Schreffler struck out the side in the seventh inning to earn the save for Trevor Mattson. Mattson also had two hits.

In the next game Esko scored four times in the top of the seventh to rally for the win over Ely. Tyler Housey, Zach Cheney, Nils DeRemee and Bryce Longwell all had two hits. Danny Crockett was tagged with the loss in relief of Schreffler, who gave up six hits and struck out four in five and two thirds innings of work.

Ely was tied 2-2 with Proctor after three innings, but then the floodgates opened. Proctor scored 18 runs in the last four innings against several



Ely pitchers. Housey went fourfor-four at the plate.

"It was a good weekend for us but I think we ran out of gas a bit at the end," Coombe said. "Our pitchers got a bit tired, I think, and we gave up some runs late in games and had some defensive hiccups, too. All in all, getting two wins in this tournament is a positive and I thought there was great atmosphere for baseball in both of the night games, against Virginia and Esko. The Virginia game was a true pitchers' duel."

Some teams were turned away because the tournament

See BASEBALL...pg. 2B

The county board resumed in-person attendance at its

See COUNTY...pg. 2B

BASEBALL...Continued from page 1B

was capped at 10 teams. The Sir G's Classic is typically an American Legion baseball event, but this year changes were made to all youth sports due to public health concerns over COVID-19.

Besides top-ranked Wadena and Grand Rapids and the host Ely squad, the tournament included Minnetonka, Roseau, Proctor, Esko, Hermantown, International Falls and West Duluth.

"We're happy and I think

MARATHON...Continued from page 1B

transferred to 2021."

However, all is not lost for area runners this fall. The Northern Lights Glow Run 5K, hosted by the Northern Lights Clubhouse, an organization supporting mental wellness in the area, will be conducting a virtual running event fundraiser.

"The race is a large

their virtual 5K race this year to help support this worthy cause." For more information, call 218-365-7843 or go

> glowrun.itsyourrace.com/. Lindsay added that registration is open for the

and needed fundraiser for

2021 Ely Marathon.

"Get a head start and

into the middle of town,

Canoes was again offering

a canoe to the fastest finisher in the portage division."

More information about the 2021 event can be found online at www. elymarathon.com.

COUNTY...Continued from page 1B

meeting Tuesday at the Duluth Courthouse. Seating at future meetings will be limited to ten people to ensure safe physical distancing. People are also welcome to provide comments to the board in advance via voice mail and e-mail. Voice messages may be left at 218-726-2109 and will be played during the board meeting. Emails sent to publiccomment@stlouiscountymn. gov will be forwarded to all commissioners.

Foranyonevisitingone of the courthouses, going to a scheduled appointment at other county buildings, or attending Tuesday's board meeting, new safety precautions are in place:

► All visitors must complete a self-screening for COVID symptoms prior to entering any

county facility, including a temperature check.

► Visitors are requested to wear a face mask that covers both mouth and nose; and to maintain a minimum of six feet of physical distance for the duration of their visit. Note that masks are also required for anyone coming to a courthouse for court services.

► Anyone who is sick or experiencing any of the following symptoms, or who has someone in their household who is experiencing these symptoms, which cannot be attributed to another known health condition, should not enter any county buildings: fever (100.4 F or higher); chills; cough; shortness of breath or difficulty breathing; sore throat; muscle or body aches; headache; new loss

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the organization,"Lindsay said. "Consider joining begin your training now," she said. Any new registrations made by Sept. 1 will receive an Ely Marathon commemorative fleece, online to northernlights5kshe said. The full 26.2-mile marathon that starts on the Echo Trail and winds again this year.

finishing at Whiteside Park, is just part of a weekend of festivities. Race day includes a 13.1mile half-marathon. And Ely's own canoe portage division, where runners race while carrying canoes, was to be a popular feature

County services via remote

means, visit stlouiscoun-

"The male and female winners of both the full and half marathons would have won fully-outfitted canoe trips into the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness from Spirit of the Wilderness Outfitters for six days and three days, respectively," she said. "And Northstar

the visiting teams were happy with how the tournament played out," said Coombe. "Teams through the north woods

Left:

in Ely.

Ely went on to beat

Minnetonka 9-8 in a

photo by K. Vandervort

hard-fought contest before

a socially-distanced crowd

like coming to our ballpark and A Minnetonka runner slides there's a lot of room for people safely into second as the ball to spread out." eludes Ely's Nils DeRemee. Ely, now 8-2 on the season,

was set to travel to Virginia Friday night. They are scheduled to host Aurora on Tuesday, July 21 and Cook County on Thursday, July 23.

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Obituaries and Death Notices



Geraldine A. Kowalczyk

Geraldine Ann "Gerry" Johnson Kowalczyk, 88, of Boulder, Colo., and in recent years of International Falls, died on Saturday, July 4, 2020, at AltaVita Memory Care Centre in Longmont, Colo. She will be interred beside her husband of 27 years, Michael Richard Kowalczyk, at the National Cemetery in Santa Fe, N.M. A celebration of her life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to www.feednmkids.com, an organization that provides meals to underprivileged children in Gerry's beloved and longtime home of Albuquerque, N.M., where she taught elementary school for many years.

Gerry was born on March 20, 1932, in International Falls, one of four daughters of John Engvald Johnson and Emma Virginia (nee Strand) Johnson. After graduating from Orr High School, she earned her teaching certificate from Bemidji State Teachers College. After two years in her first teaching job in Alexandria, she telephoned the Superintendent of Schools in Bend, Oregon, was granted a phone interview, and was offered a teaching job over the phone. She packed up her car and headed west on her own. In Bend she met her future husband, Michael, who was stationed at the military base there. The two were married on Aug. 10, 1957, in Silverdale. In the late 1970s, Gerry earned her B.S. in Education from the University of Oregon.

In addition to a love of teaching, Gerry was a talented artist who enjoyed painting, sculpting, copper enameling (from her earliest years and which she continued to enjoy in her Memory Care home). Of her younger years and talents, her sister, Dolores Jacobson of Mahtomedi, writes: "We grew up with few luxuries, but never felt deprived and were enveloped by the Swedish and Norwegian traditions of our grandparents. Our cousins were our playmates in rural Greaney and became our dearest friends as adults. We recognized Gerry's artistic talents early on. She drew paper dolls and clothing for us as children. Uncle Norman made an easel for her fifteenth birthday and gave her oil paints and a book with instructions. She painted her first oil on canvas that year, the neighbor's barn, which hangs in

my sunroom. She was generous with her talents, sketched pencil portraits in minutes, and encouraged others to try drawing and painting."

Gerry was a loving mother who opened her home to exchange students, friends old and new, and especially those in need. She was caring, compassionate, and always quick to share a smile or a joke. In her later years, she treasured the companionship and care of Frank Watkinson of International Falls. She looked forward to Frank's nearly daily telephone calls right up to the end of her life.

Gerry is survived by her children, Pamela Larson of Duluth, Carolyn Lunn of Lafayette, Colo., Kathryn Kowalczyk (Erik Park) of Boulder, Colo., Christine Kowalczyk-Ritter of San Antonio, Texas, Michael J. (Sarah) Kowalczyk of San Geronimo, Calif., Duc Van Nguyen of Albuquerque, N.M., Karsten Hohage of Weinheim, Germany, and Rie (nee Tsukioka) Akiyama of Tokyo, Japan; sisters, Marilyn (Val) Cook of Orr and Dolores (Don) Jacobson of Mahtomedi; 13 nieces and nephews; 16 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren, all dearly beloved.

She was preceded in death by her parents, John and Emma; husband, Michael; sister, Beatrice Spaulding of Bemidji; and son, Stephen of Fort Hood, Texas.



Marvelle L. Knutson

Marvelle Leona Benson Knutson, 88, will forever be remembered by her family and friends for her quiet, charming sense of humor, but mostly for the courage she exhibited daily in the face of the Multiple Sclerosis she'd been diagnosed with in her early twenties. She passed away on Monday, July 6, 2020, in central Minnesota's Long Prairie Nursing Home, with her six grown children by her side over her final two days. The family is planning a celebration of life memorial for Marvelle in Cook in the fall. They request no flowers please. Any memorials can be made to the MS Society in Marvelle's memory. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook. Born on Jan. 28, 1932, in Isanti, Marvelle met her husband, Robert Knutson, in Cook. They married in 1951. Due to a new teaching position for Bob, the family moved to Thief River Falls in 1969, where they lived for fifteen years before returning to Cook. In the earliest parts of their marriage, Marvelle and Bob were members of the Northland Saddle Club, riding in horse shows and going on trail rides on their quarter horses. Later they got even more adventurous with houseboat living in the Crane Lake area and Voyageurs National Park. There they spent summers fishing, touring the vast waterways, exploring and hiking, mostly with their three younger children at the time, Jay, Kris and Kara. Marvelle and Bob later enjoyed being winter snowbirds in Mission, Texas, where they met many new friends and where Marvelle rescued her beloved Chihuahua, 'Bull'.

In addition to being a stay-at-home mom, Marvelle cherished the simple pleasure of sitting at a kitchen table, drinking coffee, and chatting very happily with one or two of her close sisters. She also enjoyed many projects: working with stained glass, candle-making, and woodcarving, which she was determined to proceed with in her later years. Though the MS began to make many projects a challenge, she insisted on staying busy. She read voraciously for several years, mostly mystery/ crime novels, and teased that she wished she'd become a forensic crime investigator.

Her husband Robert died of cancer in October 2005. Two years later Marvelle entered the nursing home for the last twelve years of her life, her daughters Bobbi and Kris keeping her company and tending her closely in the same town.

Marvelle is survived by two sisters, Goldie Knapp of Cook and Phyllis Edblom of Shoreview; six children, Bobbi (Paul) of Long Prairie, Nancy (Wayne) of Boulder, Colo., Joel (Joann) of Cook, Jay (Rachel) of Prior Lake, Kris (Randy) of Long Prairie and Kara (Jeff) of Crane Lake; ten grandchildren; five great-grandchildren and another on the way.

She was preceded in death by husband, Robert Knutson; grandson, Joel Henry Knutson Jr.; sisters Ruth, Judith, Helmi and Ranghild; and brother, Sig.



Jean Hamilton (McCluskie) in Irvine, Scotland. She attended school in Edinburgh and at the Bank School at New Cumnock, Scotland. Helen worked as a pediatric nurse in Scotland for two years before joining the Women's Royal Air Force on Dec. 17, 1965; she attained a rank of Senior Aircraft Woman and served honorably for four years. Helen met Sonny while stationed at RAF Wildenwrath in West Germany in 1968, where they enjoyed many nights playing cribbage and getting to know each other. She was united in marriage to Morris "Sonny" Flack in New Cumnock, Scotland, on Nov. 29, 1969.

Helen and Sonny had an adventurous life, living in many places: Scotland, England, West Germany and Arizona, before making their way to Cook, where they started an electronic sales, service and repair shop called Sonny's Electronics. Helen and Sonny retired in 2008 from the shop and moved to Mt. Iron.

Helen enjoyed card-making and crossword puzzles. She delighted in word games and had a competitive streak when playing. Helen loved spoiling her dogs, feeding her birds, and caring for her yard. She took great joy in baking for her family and they equally enjoyed her cooking. Her favorite pastime was reading; she had over 3,000 books in her nook. Helen appreciated the importance of family and she relished the weekly Skype visits she had with her sister in Scotland. Helen loved her husband and family with all her being; she loved being loved and had tons of love to give. She will be dearly missed and forever loved.

Helen is survived by her loving husband of 50 years, Sonny; sons, Warren (Andrea) Flack of LaPorte and Kevin (Julie) Flack of Hibbing; grandchildren, Connor Flack of Bemidji, Micah Flack of Madison, S.D., Colton Flack of Britt, Hailee Heurkins of Hibbing and Braedon Flack of Hibbing; sister, Fiona Murray of New Cumnock, Scotland; and nephew, Tom (Lorna) Hamilton of Glasgow, Scotland.

Helen was preceded in death by her parents, John Murray and Jean Hamilton; and brothers, William Hamilton, Ian Hamilton and Tom Hamilton.

Kenneth Barby

Lakes Color Guard. Interment was in the Rauha Cemetery in Palo. Memorials are preferred.

Survivors include his wife of sixty-three years, Gladys Ranta Niemi; son, Clark (Lisa) Niemi of Eveleth; grandsons, Kyle (Carly) Niemi of Eveleth, Daniel (Alyssa Belange) Niemi of Hoyt Lakes and Dylan Niemi of Eveleth; step-great-grandchildren, Taylor and Carter; a great-granddaughter due in November; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Harold W. Hietala

Harold W. Hietala, of Pike Township, passed away on Saturday, July 11, 2020, at Silver Bay Veterans Home. In respect of the fact that Harold spent his life as a public servant, concerned for and working for the public good, in this time of COVID a private memorial will be held. Arrangements are with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

He loved his family and will be deeply missed by his wife, Janet; daughter, Mindy (Paul) Martin; son, Eric (Bethany); grandchildren, Tanya Montgomery (Mike - children Amelia, Allen, Aiden, Alec and Aliza), Allen (Beth - children Will and Kate), Brendan (Anna- children Aria, Erika and Isabelle); brother, Marvin (Marge) Hietala; special sister, neighbor, friend, Linda Gish; brother-in-law, Richard (Cindi) Knipfer and family; nieces, Wendy and Shelley; close nephew, Steven; and many cousins, especially Ron, Roger and Chuck; and his lifelong friend, William Raida.

George W. Harvey

George Wiley Harvey, 72, of Britt, died on Saturday, July 11, 2020, peacefully in his sleep at home. A Memorial Mass will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, July 17 at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Virginia with Rev. Father Brandon Moravitz as celebrant. Visitation will begin one hour prior to the service at the church. Masks will be required at the service. Inurnment will follow in the Cavalry Cemetery Columbarium. Live streaming of the service will be available on www.baumanfamilyfuneralhome.com beginning at 11 a.m. on Friday. Click on George's obituary and scroll down to access the video. Memorials are the preferred way to honor George's memory. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Phyllis O'Brien Harvey; children, Ross (Ronda) Harvey and Katie (Cory) Bird, both of Virginia; siblings, Judith (Richard) Pearson of Cook, Ralph (Sue) Harvey and Keith (Laurie) Harvey, both of Virginia; grandchildren, Austin, Morgan, Andrew and Aiden; brothers and sisters-in-law, Sandy Harvey of Wisconsin, Floyd (Gloria) O'Brien of California, Michael (Cheryl) O'Brien of Minneapolis, Debbie (Rob) Hilson of Cloquet and Jerry Stickney of Virginia; numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Helen Flack

Helen Flack, 73, of Mt. Iron, passed away on Wednesday, July 8, 2020, at Essentia Health St. Mary's Medical Center. A private family service will be held at a later date to celebrate Helen's life. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Helen was born on Nov. 5, 1946, to John Murray and

Kenneth"Ken" Barby, 75, of Ely, passed away on Wednesday, July 8, 2020, at his residence. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

Marvin B. Niemi

Marvin "Marv" Bernhardt Niemi, 86, formerly of Embarrass, died on Wednesday. July 8, 2020, at Essentia Health-Northern Pines in Aurora after a twenty-year courageous battle with cancer. Funeral services were held on Thursday, July 16 at the Ziemer-Moeglein-Shatava Funeral Home in Aurora with Pastor Isabelle Westman officiating. Military honors were accorded by the Aurora-Hoyt







CLIMATE

Despite recent rains, drought conditions linger

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

REGIONAL-In an average year, Ely's weather station would have seen about 14.25 inches of total precipitation for the year, as of mid-July. This year, the station had seen just 8.41 inches of precipitation as of Monday morning – and that's why the area remains in drought despite on-and-off rains over the past ten days.

While the recent rainfall allowed the U.S. Forest Service

to lift a ban on open burning on the Superior National Forest, the ongoing shortfall in precipitation is continuing to build-and that's sent river levels in some areas to extremely low levels. The Kawishiwi River, near Ely, for example, is running at just 34 percent of its average (mean) flow. The Basswood River, along the border, is running at 39 percent of its average flow. Both of those rivers are below what's known as their Q90, which means they're below the tenth

percentile in terms of flow.

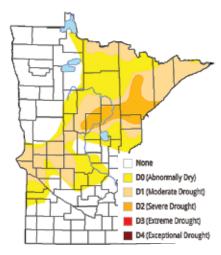
Further west, the Vermilion River is running at 45 percent of its average flow for mid-July, which puts it just slightly above its Q90.

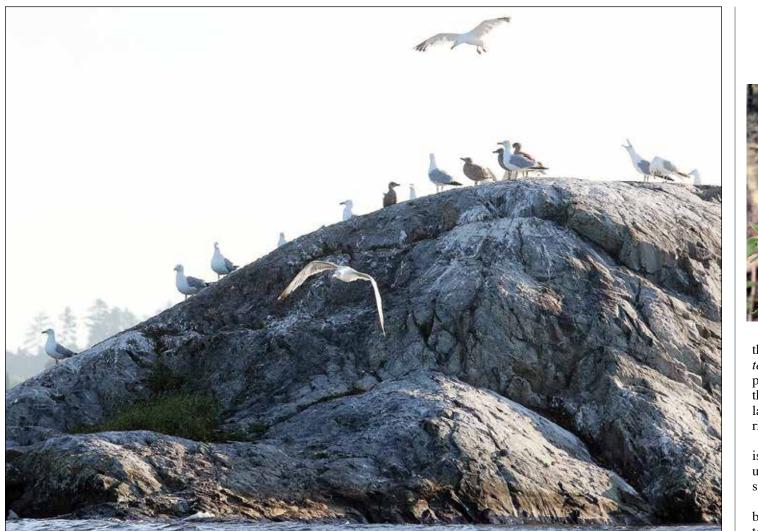
While the area has seen some rain in recent weeks, it's not keeping pace with what's considered normal for the area. The North Country has both a wet and a dry season. The wet season runs May-September, when moisture from the Gulf of Mexico tends to make its way to northern Minnesota. In those

five months, about 18 inches of rain typically falls in the area, or nearly an inch a week. That's 64 percent of the total precipitation the area receives in an average year, so if those five months don't deliver, it can create a precipitation shortfall that's hard to make up.

In the other seven months of the year, which run from October-April, the region sees just 1.5 inches of total precipitation per month, putting it

See **DROUGHT**...pg. 5B





Wildflower Watch

This week's featured flower SWAMP CANDLES



The bright, star-like flowers of the Swamp Candles, Lysimachia terrestis can be seen poking their prominent flower clusters above the grasses and sedges of wetlands here in the North Country right now.

This is a native loosestrife that is recognized by its long, narrow, untoothed leaves, attached to the stem opposite to each other.

Look for the red dots at the base of each petal, which appear to provide an outline for the prominent stamens in the flower's center.

Outdoors in brief amnfire bar

A visit to

OCCUPIED TERRITORY

Keep your eyes to the sky when you're approaching a herring gull rookery

learned years ago, that it's generally best to give nesting herring gulls a wide berth, unless you'd like a hefty helping of warm, slimy gull poop slowly dripping off the back of your head.

I was ever so conscious of that somewhat nasty herring gull habit as I slowly approached their nesting rock on Lost Lake the other morning. It's the lake's only island, a treeless quarter-acre chunk of the Canadian Shield that the gulls laid claim to decades ago. It's the

summer home of about 100 gulls and the two dozen or so young ones that they raise there each year in crude nests built in the rock's nooks and crannies.

I was in my kayak not long after sun-up, hoping to snap a few images of the gulls and their progeny for the year, recognizing, yet again, the hazards I contend with on a regular basis in my effort to gather interesting content for the outdoors page each week.

Like the time I climbed 300 feet up into a white pine to obtain a quality photo of a raccoon. Okay, so it wasn't quite 300 feet, but it was plenty high enough to guarantee I'd have died horribly had I fallen. At the time, Jodi complained that the \$1,000-dollar camera I was carrying up the tree with me likely would have been destroyed as well, unless

we somehow got lucky and my bleeding, mangled body managed to soften the camera's impact with the ledge rock below.

But that's just an aside. I had been talking about herring gull poop.

I learned about this remarkable defensive tactic many years ago while

spending the summer on a scientific station in the Bay of Fundy, located between New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The south half of the 600-acre island that was home to the station was occupied (and I do mean occupied in the military sense) by thousands of hostile herring gulls, which meant we humans were largely confined to the north half of the island. One poor researcher who had to work on the south end wore a heavy raincoat with the hood up every day, to protect himself against the daily deluge of droppings as he made his way

See GULL ROCK...pg. 5B

Top: Herring gulls stand at alert as a photographer approaches their nesting rock by kayak.

Below: Adults surround three chicks.

Bottom: An adult gull casts a stern look as it holds its around. photos/M. Helmberger





lifted in Superior **National Forest**

REGIONAL-Much-needed rain last week helped ease fire danger in northern Minnesota, and prompted the Superior National Forest to lift campfire restrictions.

The use of campfires, charcoal, and wood-burning camp stoves is again allowed on all national forest system lands at all times of the day within the Superior National Forest.

Visitors are reminded that the region is currently in summer fire season and there is always a potential for wildfires. Forest visitors are urged to use care with campfires and consider the following:

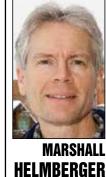
► Think before you strike a match. Check for fire restrictions and monitor conditions for extreme fire behavior indicators such as high winds and high temperatures.

► Use the provided fire rings at developed campsites, and mandatory fire grates at BWCAW campsites.

Select a level campsite with a fire ring or grate that is a safe distance away from trees, low overhead branches, shrubs, dry grass, or logs to prevent the fire from escaping. Clear all flammable material, such as stacked firewood or gear, within 5 feet.

► Never leave your fire unattended.

► Extinguish the campfire with water using the "drown and stir" method, and make sure it is cold to the touch before leaving the area.



Area report

Pelican River overlook now open



CRANELAKE— The Voyageur Country ATV Club was very busy one year ago preparing for the state-wide Ride and Rally event held Sept. 20-22. While much of the focus was on the excitement of the new steel bridge over the Vermilion River, another very meaningful project was also underway and is now completed.

Pictured here is the Sandberg family, who funded and built the beautiful Pelican River Overlook in loving memory of Sheldon Sandberg. Many talented people came together to create this impressive structure in a very short time. Its location was always special to Sheldon's family, and now this amazing view will be enjoyed by many others making new memories (including a wedding on

site already).

The St. Louis County Land Department was very supportive, and several local businesses were generous with supplies. The Cook Timberwolves Snowmobile Club donated the grill and Steve Koch installed it. Now this site even has signage and a port-a-potty!

The Pelican River Overlook is now a beautiful new destination. It is accessible by snowmobile, too, so it's perfect for yearround enjoyment. If you haven't taken the time to visit this new feature, you can spend an enjoyable day on an ATV visiting the new steel bridge, the new elevated boardwalk on the Vermilion Falls Trail, and cruising down to Pelican River to take in the beautiful view at this overlook.

DROUGHT...Continued from page 4B —

roughly on par with Salt Lake City, Utah. In other words, for more than half the year here, it's close to desert dry in the North Country, even though the cold temperatures limit the impact of so little precipitation.

In summer, however, the impact of warm temperatures and the transpiration of trees and other vegetation, can quickly sap the soil of moisture unless it's replenished on a regular basis. So even as the region sees occasional rain, it's not enough to keep pace. The region is now at the midpoint of the wet season and there's a lot of ground to make up.

According to the

PET

FOOD

262-3049

PETERSEN DRILLING

> Wells Water Systems

HIBBING

U.S. Drought Monitor, all of St. Louis and Lake counties are currently in some stage of drought, ranging from abnormally dry to severe drought that extends through the middle of the county as far north as Embarrass. Given Monday's widespread rain, which averaged slightly over an inch in many locations, the drought status is likely to ease somewhat when the latest drought map is posted on Thursday morning, after the Timberjay's Wednesday press time.

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07/07	82	54	0.73	07/07	85	53	0.76	07/07	81	61	1.08	07/07	81	55	0.66	07/07	81	53	0.67	
07/08	83	55	0.00	07/08	82	52	0.00	07/08	81	61	0.00	07/08	82	55	0.00	07/08	82	53	0.00	
07/09	83	59	0.72	07/09	82	52	0.82	07/09	82	62	1.20	07/09	81	63	0.75	07/09	82	60	1.10	
07/10	80	52	0.00	07/10	80	52	0.00	07/10	82	59	0.01	07/10	79	57	0.00	07/10	81	54	0.00	
07/11	79	49	0.00	07/11	79	48	0.00	07/11	78	57	0.00	07/11	75	54	0.00	07/11	79	49	0.00	
07/12	77	49	0.00	07/12	77	48	0.00	07/12	75	55	0.00	07/12	79	54	0.00	07/12	78	50	0.00	
Total			8.41	YTD To	otal		8.87	YTD To	otal		12.22	YTD To	otal		NA	YTD To	tal		8.04	

GULL ROCK...Continued from page 4B



through enemy territory. The gulls like to come up from behind, then swoop down toward your head, like enemy fighter planes, before unleashing their drippy ordinance in a big sploosh. I guess you can tell it made an impression on me. I've managed to avoid a big load of herring gull poop in my hair my entire life and that just happens to be one experience I'm content to live without.

So, naturally, I grew wary as the first scouts took off noisily from their nesting rock, located a couple hundred yards out from the public access at Lost Lake. These first ones are quick to sound the alarm anytime a boat goes by. In my case, I kept moving toward the island, which eventually prompted another heftier squadron of gulls to launch in my direction. These were the gulls I was worried about. Fortunately, the herring gulls at Lost Lake still need a bit of work on their aim, so I managed to avoid a direct hit even as occasional "bombs" fell around me.

Life on the rock looks pretty

placid most of the time. The young ones start out sporting a camouflage fuzz, which soon transitions to dark gray feathers. They mostly sit around during the day, waiting for the adults to bring them their meals. While many of us might think of herring gulls as dining on popcorn and French fries in a mall parking lot somewhere, here at the lake they rely on their natural foods, which include any fish they can catch, along with crayfish, baby ducks (I know, nature is cruel sometimes), insects, and just about anything else alive that they can catch. They even eat smaller gulls if they can catch them. In short, herring gullswhich are the largest of the gulls commonly found this far from the coasts- don't mess around.

Even as I bobbed in my kayak just offshore, it was clear that while the gull's air force was fully airborne, the infantry was still in place, standing around their young ones on the rock, with no sign they intended to give way should I come ashore. I had no intention of leaving my kayak, so I didn't have to test

Left: A full infantry of defenders keep watch over the gull chicks.

their resolve, or their aim.

In either case, the young ones were in no danger, even had I had hostile intent. By this time, they're fully capable of flight, so they could have easily avoided me. But they showed little interest in doing so, seemingly well aware of the fact that they were guarded by some pretty tough customers.

Herring gulls may not seem like romantics, but they do form strong bonds with their mates, which they maintain for life. They return year after year to the same rock, often setting up shop in the same nook or cranny as the year before. Both mates spend time sitting on the eggs during their month-long incubation period, and then spend the next three months sharing the duties of caring for the young. During that time, one parent is virtually always at the nest or with the fledglings. They're actually pretty dutiful parents. Must be their military-like discipline.

While we think of herring gulls as fairly common, their numbers have actually been on the decline in recent years. In fact, they're numbers have declined by almost 85 percent since 1965, although it's not really clear why. For now, at least, the gulls at Lost Lake seem to be doing just fine. Which means you have to watch the skies if you pass too close to their rock. A bombing run just might be headed your way.





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DRAIN

Water from boat, bilge, motor, ballast tanks, and bladders. PWCs - run motor for 10 seconds to blow water out of jet drive

Remove drain plug and open all water draining devices

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Everything at least five days before going to other waters

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

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE CITY OF TOWER CANDIDATE FILING PERIOD

Notice is hereby given that the City of Tower will be accepting affidavits of candidacy at the Tower City Hall during the filing period of July 28, 2020 to August 11, 2020 during normal business hours, Monday – Friday, 7:30 am to 4:00 pm. On the last day of the filing period, August 11, 2020 we will be open until 5:00 pm. The following seats are open for candidacy this election:

GENERAL ELECTION

TWO City Councilors (4 year term)

SPECIAL ELECTION VACATED POSITIONS TWO City Councilors (2 year term)

The election for these positions will be held Tuesday, November 3, 2020.

Published in the Timberjay, July 17, 24 & 31, 2020

CITY OF ORR ELECTION FILING NOTICE

The following offices are open for election at the Tuesday, November 3, 2020 General Election

 MAYOR - 2 YEAR TERM
 2 (TWO) COUNCILMEMBERS - 4 YEAR TERMS
 1 (ONE) BOARD OF DIRECTOR TO

➤ 1 (ONE) BOARD OF DIRECTOR TO COOK-ORR HOSPITAL DISTRICT – 4 YEAR TERM

To file for a City office, a candidate must be eligible to vote, be 21 years old on assuming office, and been a resident of the City of Orr for 30 days before the election.

Affidavits of Candidacy are available at the:

Orr City Hall 4429 Hwy 53 Orr, MN 55771

Candidates may file in the Orr City Clerk's Office between 8:00 AM., Tuesday, July 28, 2020 and 5:00 PM., Tuesday, August 11, 2020.

Absentee Ballots will be available through St. Louis County. Please Call 1-218-726-2385.

Published in the Timberjay, July 10 & 17, 2020

NOTICE OF FILING DATES FOR ELECTION TO THE SCHOOL BOARD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 707 NETT LAKE, STATE OF MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the period for filing affidavits of candidacy for the office of school board member of Independent School District No. 707 shall begin on July 28, 2020, and shall close at 5:00 o'clock p.m. on August 11, 2020.

general election shall be held on The Tuesday, November 3, 2020, At that election, three members will be elected to the School Board for terms of four (4) years each. Affidavits of Candidacy are available from the school district clerk, Nett Lake School, 13090 Westley Drive, Nett Lake, MN 55772. The filing fee for this office is \$2. A candidate for this office must be an eligible voter, must be 21 years of age or more on assuming office, must have been a resident of the school district from which the candidate seeks election for thirty (30) days before the general election, and must have no other affidavit on file for any other office at the same primary or next ensuing general election. The affidavits of candidacy must be filed in the office of the school district clerk and the filing fee paid prior to 5:00 o'clock p.m. on August 11, 2020.

Notice to the Voters of Kugler Township

The following offices are open for election at the November 3, 2020 General Election. Affidavits of Candidacy may be filed with the Town Clerk by calling 218-750-0337. Filings are open beginning Tuesday, July 28, 2020 and ending on Tuesday, August 11, 2020. Hours on Tuesday, August 11 are between 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm, for the offices of:

Filing fee: \$2.00

Julie Suihkonen, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, July 10 & 17, 2020

Notice of Special Township Meeting Breitung Township St. Louis County, MN

Notice is hereby given that the Breitung Township Board will hold a Special Meeting on July 21, 2020 at 12 Noon. The meeting will be in person at the Soudan Community Center and via telephone conference call. The purpose of this meeting is because the Regular Township Board meeting scheduled for July 28 has been canceled. Agenda will be posted July 15, 2020. Phone in # (701) 802-5299 Access code 8973797 Dated the 25th day of July, 2020

Dianna Sunsdahl, Clerk, Breitung Township

Published in the Timberjay, July 10 & 17, 2020

CITY OF TOWER COUNCIL VACANCY

Seeking eligible Council applicants

Qualifications: eligible to vote in Minnesota, Tower resident for last 30 days, and 21 years of age or older

Appointed term 08/05-11/03/2020 (91 days)

Application available on-line at www.cityoftower.com or in person at City Hall.

Applications due 07/31/20

Published in the Timberjay, July 17 & 24, 2020

EMPLOYMENT

Cook Building Center Now Hiring Full Time Delivery Driver/Yard Employee

Overtime every week 45-55 hours. Paid Time Off, 401k Match, Health Insurance, Cell Phone. Send resume to info@cookbuildingcenter.com or stop in to fill out an application. tfn

ATTENTION KUGLER TOWNSHIP VOTERS

Township officials are asking that voters consider casting absentee ballots, if possible, in the upcoming primary (Aug. 11) and General (Nov. 3) elections, for the safety of our election judges. The township will have in-person voting at the town hall also. Any voter in Minnesota can vote early by absentee ballot, regardless of whether they will be home on Election Day.

https://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/ then click on residents, then click on elections/voting

To vote absentee, one first must fill out an application for an absentee ballot and then one will be mailed to you. You do not need to already be registered to vote to apply for an absentee ballot. You can complete the ballot application online or download a paper version to fill out and then fax, email, or mail it. Once you have completed and mailed in your ballot prior to the election, you can track its progress online.

Applications for an absentee ballot should be returned to the County Auditor's office by mail, fax, or e-mail. St. Louis County Auditor 100 North 5th Avenue West, Room 214 Duluth, MN 55802-1293 • E-mail: elections@stlouiscountymn.gov Fax: (218) 725-5060 • Telephone: (218) 726-2385 Toll Free: 1-800-450-9777

Julie Suihkonen, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, July 17, 2020

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PT Registered Nurse

TO APPLY:

<u>Activities</u> Casual Activities Assistant

Dietary FT Certified Dietary Manager Casual Dietary Aide/Cook

Housekeeping PT Housekeeper

Adult Day Services

FOR BID

City of Tower SURPLUS EQUIPMENT AUCTION 1982 American LaFrance Fire Truck, Sold As-Is, No Reserve Price

Sealed bids accepted in-person at City Hall through 07/31/2020

For details, contact: fire@cityoftower.com. Bid opening will be on 08/10/2020.

Published in the Timberjay, July 17 & 24, 2020



BY ORDER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD Malita Spears, School District Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, July 17 & 24, 2020

Town of Embarrass Notice of Primary Election and Notice of Candidate Filing

Notice is hereby given to all qualified voters of the Town of Embarrass, County of St. Louis, State of Minnesota. Primary election will be held Tuesday, August 11, 2020. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Embarrass Town Hall.

Affidavits of candidacy may be filed with the Town Clerk at the Clerk's Office located at the Embarrass Town Hall, 7503 Levander Road. Filing dates are from July 28, 2020 to August 11, 2020. The Clerk's Office hours are from 9:00- 3:00 pm Monday-Thursday. The following Township Offices are to be filled in the November 3, 2020 Election:

(Two)BoardSupervisorsand(One)TownClerk Each position is a four-year term. A two-dollar fee is required with each filing.

Filing for offices closes on Tuesday, August 11, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. (The Clerk's Office will remain open until 5:00 p.m. on August 11.)

Jennifer Boese, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, July 17 & 24, 2020

Experienced AUTOMOTIVE TECHNICIAN Full-time, M-F, benefits. Contact Lee Phillips. Waschke Family Chevrolet in Cook, 126 N Hwy 53, PO Box 549, Cook, MN 55723; 218-666-5901 or 800-238-4545. tfn

DENTAL HYGIENIST DENTAL ASSISTANT

Ely Family Dental is seeking both a Dental Hygienist and a Dental Assistant who are highly motivated professionals that enjoy multi-tasking in a healthcare environment. Hygienist: Duties include cleaning teeth, treating gum disease, taking radiographs and educating patients on proper hygiene. Current license in hygiene is required. Assistant: Duties include assisting the dentist during procedures and providing exemplary care to patients. Previous dental experience is desirable, but not required. An aptitude for learning, positive attitude and a strong work ethic are our priorities. These full-time positions offer great benefits, approximation and a site of the setting on

competitive compensation and a sign on bonus. Please send your resume to cchoppdentistry@gmail.com. 7/17

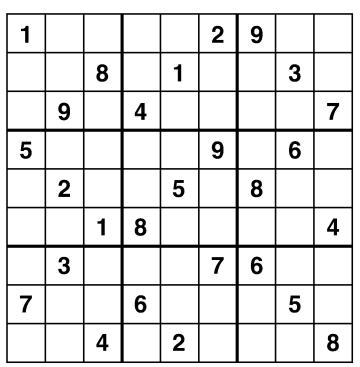
___Super Crossword ___

Answers

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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.



Moderate A Challenging

♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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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.

HAIR CARE

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

VERMILION SHEAR IMAGE-Open Tues.-Fri., 9-5, Main St., Tower 218-753-2928 tfn

HOSPICE

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

BUSINESS SERVICES

T & T STUMP GRINDING-Stump grinding, clean-up and debris removal. Call for your free estimate. 218-780-6278. tfn

FOUND

PAIR OF EARRINGS found at Embarrass Visitor Center on Hwy 21. Contact Clerk Jenny Boese to identify and claim. 218-984-2084 or embarrasstownship@frontiernet.net.

SUPPORT GROUPS

AA GROUPS TO MEET BY PHONE- Starting immedi-ately, the Ely Wednesday and Saturday AA Groups will not meet in person. A conference call meeting has been set up. At 7:30 on either night, call 978-990-5000, and enter the access code, 965850#. Once the meeting has started, use *6 to mute and unmute your phone. If any other group would like to set up phone meetings, please call Anna Nimity at 218-290-2681 for assistance

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.

FI Y 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

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

BABBITT AL-ANON- meets Thursdays at 7 p.m. in the upstairs of Woodland Presbyterian Church.

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP-Are you troubled by someone's drinking? Al-Anon Family Group is a community-based mutua support program for the friends and families of alcoholics. It is confidential and open to anyone affected by someone else's drinking, Hope Lutheran Church in Embarrass hosts an Al-Anon group on Monday evenings at 6 p.m. 218-984-2037

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LICENSE BUREAU

COOK LICENSE BUREAU-HOURS COVID-19 TEMPORARY DUE TO Open: M-W-F 9am - 3pm. Mail in or drop off only at this time. Call with any questions, 218-666-6199 questions, 218-666-6199 Email: cookdep159@gmail.com

WANTED

SELIGA CANOES WANTED: We'll buy old Seligas in Good Shape. Turn your classic canoe into cash. Call Steve at 365-6745. tfn

RENTAL

FOR RENT: Country apartment, nice location. \$750/month plus utilities. Call 218-290-5370.

FOR SALE

HAND-CRAFTED LOG CABIN FOR SALE- sleeps 4. \$2,975. Will build hand-crafted log homes/cabins, 40 years experi-ence. 218-766-8176. 7/24p

MERCURY MARINER 2008 SUV- \$1,700. Call 612-520-1803. 7/24v



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Frank's Marine

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Ercoa Pontoons. Call 218-757-3150

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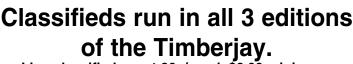
CONTRACTOR O YAMAHA

al IIMAWELD

LOOKING FOR PCA/ HOMEMAKER for 71 year old woman in Crane Lake. 8.75 PCA hours and 10 homemaker hours per week. Flexible hours/ schedule. Lake access on property (can go fishing after work....). 218-993-2342. 7/24



There are 13 black hexagons in the puzzle. Place the numbers 1 - 6 around each of them. No number can be repeated in any partial hexagon shape along the border of the puzzle



Line classifieds cost 30¢/word, \$6.00 minimum. Classified ads can be run a second time at half price (private parties only). We now accept payment by Visa, Mastercard and Discover. Call your ad in to 218-753-2950. Display (boxed) classifieds are billed by the "inch"- please call for prices and information on discounts. Call Today - 218-753-2950 or 218-365-3114

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TIMBUKTL TIMBUKTU MARINA MARINE 218-666-2434 218-666-2276 ak Narrows Bd - Cook MN 2475 Ve milion Dr - Cook MN **Cabin rentals** or Premier Year round boat WEERES storage and dockage **Boat and pontoon** Boats C MERCURY rental **SUZUKI ()** YAMAHA **Convenience** store Sales, service, storage, hoat lifts, docks, trailers and accessories Gas, bait & liquor timbuktumarine.com timbuktumarina.com

MARINE



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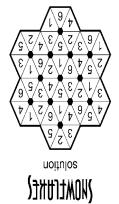
VIRGINIA AA WOMEN'S MEETING- Ladies by the Lake Tuesdays at 12 noon. Peace United Methodist Church, 303 S 9th Ave, please use side door and parking.

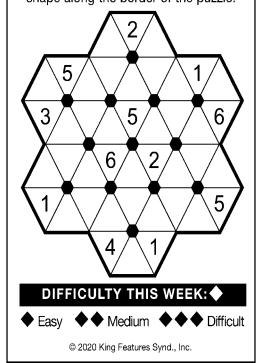
OPEN MEETING Thursdays at 7 p.m. at Woodland Presbyterian Church, Acacia Blvd. and Central Drive in Babbitt

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

ELY WOMEN'S OPEN AA MEETING- Every Monday at noon at St. Anthony's Catholic Church, 231 E Camp St., Ely. Enter through side door.

IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH DRUGS, give yourself a break. There is a way out with the help of other recovering addicts in Narcotics Anonymous. We have been there. For meeting or other information call 218-728-3199. (Narcotics Anonymous is a non-profit organization.)





Answer

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