



Visiting the housebarn.. See /1B

Inside:
Greaney FD disbands... See /3
Tower Council... See /8
Presidential polling... See /1B

the TIMBERJAY



VOL. 31, ISSUE 37 September 18, 2020

\$1.00

THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Carefree Living reports four Ely deaths

Information on Spectrum Health's COVID-19 webpage suggests wider outbreak

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

ELY – Four deaths of Ely Carefree Living residents this past weekend were reported by Spectrum Health on the company's COVID-19 webpage on

Tuesday.

The Sept. 15 update did not state the cause of death for any of the residents but included additional COVID testing information for two of the complex's three buildings in Ely and added a note

stating, "We pray our other residents who are positive for COVID will continue to recover."

The post also noted that no residents had been hospitalized.

"The Ely staff provided their end-of-life care



per family choice. These special residents have been our family, friends and

neighbors. Our dedicated and caring staff continue to provide the best care possible," the post read.

The obituary for a woman in her 80s that was posted to an area funeral home's website said that she passed away

at Carefree Living on Sept. 11 and "was a victim of COVID-19".

The *Timberjay* made multiple attempts on Wednesday to contact Spectrum CEO Merle

See...COVID pg. 10

ADVENTURE IN REACH

Sailing of the Royale kind



Ely adventurer takes his 14-foot Sunfish to Isle Royale and back

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ISLE ROYALE – Why sail a 14-foot Sunfish boat across 23 miles of Lake Superior to Isle Royale? That question was recently posed to Ely resident Matt Graves who accomplished the treacherous journey last month.

It turns out that the obvious answer was, "because it's there."

The Sunfish is one of the most iconic recreational sailboats ever made. It's

See...SAIL pg. 8



Matt Graves, of Ely, spent the last part of August sailing his Sunfish craft across a 23-mile stretch of Lake Superior to explore Isle Royale. submitted photos

CRIME

Kidnapping in Orr ends in violence

Cornered by police, suspect shoots himself

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

ORR— A kidnapping and pursuit that started in International Falls on Tuesday evening ended in the parking lot of the North Country Inn in Orr, where the woman abductee fled the car as the suspect shot himself in the head.

An initial press release provided to the *Timberjay* by Koochiching County Sheriff Perryn Hedlund indicated that the International Falls police department received a report that an adult woman had been forced into a white van by a man with whom she had a prior relationship at approximately 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday. Law enforcement from across the region converged on the area to initiate a search for the vehicle.

At about 8:30 p.m., St. Louis County Sheriff's deputies located the van near Lake Kabetogama, heading south on Hwy. 53. A pursuit ensued, reaching speeds of up to 80 mph. Stop sticks were deployed that damaged the van's tires, but the pursuit continued.

When the van reached Orr, the driver pulled into the parking lot of the North Country Inn, reportedly waving a gun outside of the van window as he drove. Several law enforcement vehicles were successful in stopping the van and officers surrounded the vehicle.

See...ORR pg. 10

RETURN TO LEARN

Teachers to ISD 2142 School Board: It's not working

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

Simultaneous in-person and distance learning off to rocky start

REGIONAL-Teachers from St. Louis County School District had a strong message for school board members and Superintendent Reggie Engebretson on Tuesday: teach-

ing in-person classes and distance learning students at the same time is taking excessive time, creating stress, and threatening the quality of instruction.

A board committee of

chairman Dan Manick and members Christine Taylor and Chris Koivisto, along with Engebretson, was joined in a Zoom meeting on Tuesday by about 20 additional people who

listened as Education Minnesota Local 1046 President Tim Herring, an industrial education teacher at Cherry, took the lead in describing challenges and posing questions about the start

of the new school year.

Engebretson opened the meeting by reading a lengthy list of steps the district had taken to

See...ISD 2142 pg. 9



Canoes and kayaks are in stock! Visit us for all your paddling and gear needs. 6 a.m. - 8 p.m. 218 - 365 - 6745

Outlet Store OPEN for the season. 10a.m. - 6 p.m. every day.

Thank you for your continued support, The Piragis Staff

Contact The Timberjay

218-753-2950
editor@timberjay.com



Community notices

Dream Quilters meeting canceled

REGIONAL- As a COVID-19 precaution, the Vermilion Dream Quilters meeting scheduled for Oct. 1 is canceled. We will continue to monitor the situation and gather again when it is reasonably safe to do so. Thank you for your patience.

Four artists with four visions, Art Show 4x4, Sept. 22 through 24

ELY – A socially-distanced art presentation, Art Show 4x4, will be held later this month at Miner’s Dry House. Four Ely-area artists, John Retzloff, Andy Messerschmidt, Cecilia Rolando and Shawn Chosa will be featured on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 22-24. The Miner’s Dry House is located at 105 Miner’s Lake Landing Road. As per state public health mandate due to the coronavirus, protective face masks and proper social distancing will be required of all visitors.

Defensive Driving Refresher courses now on Zoom

REGIONAL- Due to the virus, Defensive Driving Refresher classes are now being offered through Zoom. If you have a computer and internet, you can take the course in the comfort of your own home. Early registration is required and class size is limited. Cost of the course is \$14. The instructor is retired Minnesota State Trooper Mike Flatley. Courses are Tuesday, Oct. 6 from 5 – 9 p.m.; Tuesday, Oct. 20 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Monday, Nov. 2 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Thursday, Dec. 3 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and Tuesday, Dec. 15 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Pre-register by calling 218-750-3189 or emailing mnflats@hotmail.com.

“Be Strategic” business course begins Sept. 30 in Ely and online

REGIONAL- The Entrepreneur Fund will offer a course, Be Strategic: Grow Your Business, on Wednesday evenings from Sept. 30 – Nov. 11. Registered participants will have the option to attend in-person in Ely or virtually. This dynamic business training program is designed to accelerate and ease the transition from small business owner to CEO. Be Strategic: Grow Your Business is for entrepreneurs who want to work on their business, not just in it. The facilitated six-session training provides a forum for owners to develop strategic plans, review marketing strategies, discuss challenges, and develop solutions to propel their businesses forward. To accommodate busy business owners each session is held in the evenings and facilitated to meet participant needs while keeping within the timeframe. The course includes six interactive facilitated sessions, three hours per night and a strategic plan, network of peers and team of experts to share in accountability, challenges, and successes. Materials and workbook will be provided with simple, practical tools to define marketing, sales, and financial goals. This is a Women’s Business Alliance-funded program. The \$600 cost is completely covered by a grant. There is no cost to the business owner. Limited seats are available. Contact Miranda Kishel, Business Advisor, to learn more about igniting your business success at mirandak@entrepreneurfund.org.

Lake Country Power seeking nominations for #WhoPowersYou Contest

REGIONAL- Lake Country Power, along with Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives, is pleased to announce the fifth annual #WhoPowersYou Contest celebrating local heroes. It’s a chance for Lake Country Power members and employees to nominate someone making a difference in the community and an opportunity to celebrate the power of human connections.

In addition to being locally and nationally recognized, nominees can win up to \$5,000 for the cause they champion.

To nominate a local hero, co-op members and employees can go online to whopowersyou.com and submit their nominee’s name, photo and a brief description of how they make a difference locally. Nominations open on Sept. 8 and must be submitted electronically by midnight on Oct. 9.

An independent panel of judges will select winning entries based upon the positive community impact and creativity of the entry. The winners will be announced in October.

Prize money totaling \$9,000 will be awarded as follows: Grand Prize: \$5,000, Second Place: \$2,000, Third Place: \$1,500, Honorable Mention: \$500.

Lake Country Power and Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives launched the #WhoPowersYou Contest in 2016 to celebrate people making a powerful impact in their community. Only members of Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives, including those in Lake Country Power, are eligible to participate. This is a nationwide contest.

NORTHWOODS PARTNERS

Festival of Trees canceled



This year’s Festival of Trees has been canceled due to COVID-19 safety concerns. file photo

ELY - Due to health and safety concerns caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Northwoods Partners in Ely has canceled the 2020 Festival of Trees event.

“This was a sad decision to come to and a difficult one for us to fully embrace, said Lisa Porthan, executive director. “We feel it is in the best interest of you, our valued friends of the festival, as

well as our attendees, volunteers, board members, and the community to cancel this much loved and cherished fundraiser.”

Porthan continued, “Once we started planning the 2020 Festival of Trees and trying figure out how to do it all in a safe and socially distanced environment, it just didn’t make sense.”

The annual kick-off event to the Christmas

holiday season will go on, she added.

“Mark your calendars for the 2021 Festival of Trees, Thursday, Nov. 25, through Sunday, Dec. 5, 2021.”

Due to COVID-19 the Northwoods Partners spring fundraising dinner was also canceled. “As most of you know, Northwoods Partners is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and

we are funded entirely through grants and donations,” Porthan said. “Your support makes our work possible. We hope you’ll still consider donating to Northwoods Partners. Your partnership will help us to continue providing essential services for our area seniors during these uncertain times.”

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Political campaign, advertising signs not permitted on public highway rights-of-way

REGIONAL- The Minnesota Department of Transportation reminds everyone that the placement of campaign and other advertising signage on any highway rights-of-way is not allowed under state law. All state, county, city and township roads and highways fall under the same state law.

As politically active campaigns increase their efforts toward the Nov. 3 election, it’s important to know and follow the state laws regarding placement

of signs off of state property and only on land where the landowner has agreed to its placement.

Highway rights-of-way include driving lanes, inside and outside shoulders, ditches, and sight corners at intersections.

Landowner consent is needed before signs are placed on private property outside of the right-of-way.

MnDOT is required to remove unlawfully placed signs and impound them at a local maintenance truck station.

Violation of the law (Minn. Stat. 160.27) is a misdemeanor. Civil penalties also may apply if the placement of signage contributes to a motor vehicle crash and injures a person or damages a motor vehicle that runs off the road.

The Minnesota Outdoor Advertising Control Act (Minn. Stat. 173.15) also prohibits placing advertising materials on public utility poles, trees and shrubs, and painting or drawing on rocks or natural features.

When improperly placed signs are removed by MnDOT, every effort is made to temporarily store the sign and notify the owner where the signs can be retrieved.

For information about the proper placement of campaign signs or where to retrieve signs, contact the local MnDOT office at 218-725-2700. See also mndot.gov/govrel/rw_signs.html.

Health officials begin statewide COVID-19 survey of Minnesota households

REGIONAL- The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is conducting a voluntary statewide survey between Sept. 14 and Sept. 30 as part of an ongoing effort to better understand the prevalence of COVID-19 in Minnesota.

The modified Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response, or CASPER, survey will

include a household questionnaire as well as free virus and antibody testing for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Information gained from the survey will help health officials and others who are part of the COVID-19 response make decisions that best meet the needs of our communities.

“Through the CASPER survey, we hope to better understand how COVID-19 is spreading in Minnesota and how it is affecting people,” said Dr.

Ruth Lynfield, MDH state epidemiologist. “With a new virus, we have to learn as we go and adapt our response based on new data. Information we gather in this survey will allow us to refine our recommendations to best meet the needs of our Minnesota communities in the prevention of COVID-19.”

The goals of the survey are to:

- ▶ Understand how COVID-19 has spread in Minnesota communities.
- ▶ Understand what caused COVID-19 to spread in certain areas.
- ▶ Explore how COVID-19 transmission and infection rates differ among regions in Minnesota.
- ▶ Identify the percentage of people infected with COVID-19 who have no symptoms.
- ▶ Improve health messaging and help stop COVID-19 spread.

During the survey period, teams of public health professionals will visit randomly selected households in 180 preselected sites around Minnesota. After agreeing to participate, one member of the household will complete a questionnaire. All household members who consent can receive

a COVID-19 test using a swab to test for current infection with the SARS-CoV-2 virus and an antibody test using a finger stick to draw a few drops of blood to see if someone has previously been infected with SARS-CoV-2.

Participants with positive results for either test will be contacted by a nurse to receive additional information. All questionnaire responses and results will be kept private.

“We encourage people to participate in the survey if their household is selected. Along with being able to receive free, in-home testing for current and past COVID-19 infection, this is a unique opportunity for people to help us learn more about the impacts of COVID-19 and aid in our efforts to fight this pandemic,” said Lynfield.

The areas that teams will visit throughout the state are census blocks, used by the U.S. Census Bureau, and were selected using a sampling method that takes into account population size. Households were randomly selected within each area. Only households approached by the investigation teams are eligible to participate.



Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who came out to enjoy the music and the pie at Community Night Out on Sept. 13. Sisu Heritage is grateful for the support of the public and these generous business sponsors:

- Knuti Farm, Benville Service, Como Oil**
- Fortune Bay Resort Casino**
- Embarrass Vermillion Credit Union**
- Mealey’s Sauna & Gift Shop**
- Wintergreen Northern Wear**

Proceeds will go to continue the Seitaniemi House barn restoration.

We hope to see you next year for our 10th annual CNO and the return of chili!

Sisu Heritage Board

Ely Community Health Center

Open Every Thursday 5:30-7 p.m.

Providing NO COST basic healthcare and referrals

111 S 4th Ave E, Ely

Volunteer opportunities also available



FIRE FIGHTERS

Rural fire department turns off the hoses

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

Greaney-Silverdale-Rauch unit votes to disband

REGIONAL- If a fire breaks out this coming weekend somewhere in the unorganized townships around Greaney, Silverdale, and Rauch, Barry Polich and Dennis Udovich won't be rushing to the rescue one more time.

Someone else will have to answer the call, because the Greaney-Silverdale-Rauch Fire Department, a stalwart in the area since 1983, is shutting down operations on Friday, a reluctant casualty of changing times and changing demographics in a sparsely-populated region of the county.

"There are less and less people who live in the community," said Polich, the department's chief. "There's hardly any young people left here coming up. We're all getting older, like Dennis and I. We'd love to see it continue to go, but I don't see anybody left here to step up."

Unlike many other departments in the area, the GSRFD has been a subscription-based service, with property owners paying an annual fee to fund department operations. Assistant chief Udovich said that prior to the recent meeting where they voted to disband, they sent out 150 letters notifying people of the meeting.

"We had only two residents show up," Udovich said.

He explained that in



Barry Polich and Dennis Udovich pose with the department's fire engine. photo by D. Colburn

an area with predominantly older residents, meetings have been getting smaller and smaller as some people moved away and others died. Polich often tried boosting attendance by coming up with door prizes, Udovich said, but it was a ruse that sparked their biggest turnout.

"We put it out on the street, we told people, 'Don't tell anybody but we're gonna have a meeting and we're gonna double our wages,'" Udovich chuckled. "And oh, man, that place was just full! We got going and pretty soon somebody raised her hand and said, 'What are the wages gonna go up to?' I said 'We're going to double it.' She said, 'What is it?' I told her zero, and it's still going to be zero. 'Well, why are we at this meeting?' she said. I said, 'Guys, we told you this was a gimmick to get you in the door.'" Udovich said he

received two calls from people wanting to donate money.

"It is not a money issue," he said. "We've got good equipment, we have everything here. We've got money in the bank. We're in good shape."

Udovich has been with the department since it was organized in 1983. They got donations of equipment to get started, and Udovich's sawmill, Midwest Cedar, cut the lumber for the building where the trucks were stored.

"We had a great bunch," Udovich said. "Tommy Ollikkala was one of the first fire chiefs. He actually worked for the county, and he was their main man right over here. I went to school with him. He was the chief here for a long time until he decided to move up to International Falls."

And in the beginning, finding volunteer firefighters wasn't too hard.

"You've got to remember, there were a lot of people living out here," Udovich said. "I've been the sexton at the Greaney Cemetery for 30 years, so I've buried a lot of people who were involved here, you know, younger and older."

And therein lies the current dilemma. Many faithful volunteers have passed on, without younger ones to replace them.

"It's just like an era that's gone by - things have changed," Polich said. "There's nothing here for young people. There hasn't been anything here for young people for a long time. There's no jobs close by. Give me a reason for them to live out here. That being said, it's sad to see [the department] go, but you begin to wonder, if there's nobody here, why do you need it?"

The department has faced threats to existence

See FIRE...pg. 5

Early voting begins Friday

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Early voting for the Nov. 3 general election kicks off Friday, as county election officials scurry to cope with a deluge of absentee ballot requests.

County Supervisor of Elections Phil Chapman said requests for absentee ballots as of Monday were running far ahead of the 2016 presidential contest.

"We have roughly 29,000 people that have requested absentee ballots as of yesterday," Chapman said Tuesday. "By comparison, in the last presidential election we had 16,000."

Chapman said his office plans to have absentee ballots in the mail by the end of September or beginning of October, to be followed shortly by mail-in ballots for registered voters living in precincts that do not have in-person voting options.

Absentee ballots must be postmarked no later than election day, Nov. 3, and received by the county by Nov. 10 to be counted, but Chapman suggests voters should not wait until the last minute.

"We're encouraging people to get their ballots in the mail as soon as they can," Chapman said.

If ballots are received more than a week ahead of Nov. 3, Chapman's office has time to work with voters who may have completed their ballots incorrectly, he said. Infrequent but typical errors include forgetting to sign the return envelope and failing to provide an appropriate driver's license, Minnesota ID, or Social Security number.

If there is sufficient time, election officials will return ballots with those errors so that they may be corrected and resubmitted, Chapman said.

In-person voting

People who live in cities that offer absentee ballots can instead vote in person beginning Sept. 18. Chapman suggested voters should call their city offices to find out what hours they are open and what procedures they are using, as some offices may be closed to the public but offer curbside service, for example.

Non-city residents may cast in-person ballots by using the county auditor's curbside service at the Virginia Governmental Services Center, 201 South 3rd Avenue West in Virginia.

Those voting in person should be sure to bring appropriate identification. Unregistered persons wishing to vote in person may do so if they also provide proof of residence.

Absentee procedures

St. Louis County voters may apply for an absentee ballot online at <https://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/departments-a-z/auditor/elections-voting#3011122-absentee-voting>. There is also an option on the webpage to download a paper application that can be sent to the county election office via mail, email, or fax.

Voters can also check on the status of absentee or mailed ballots online at mnavotes.sos.state.mn.us/AbsenteeBallotStatus.aspx.

REAL ESTATE

VERMILION LAND OFFICE
Real Estate • Appraisals

**Looking To Buy Or Sell?
Give Us A Call!**

www.vermilionland.com • info@vermilionland.com
Tower: 218-753-8985

(218) 666-5352
info@bicreality.com
www.bicreality.com

LAKE VERMILION 5 min. boat ride to private marina and dock at Timbuktu. Build your dream cabin on 4 acres w/dock. Evaluated for future septic system. **MLS# 139472**
PRICE REDUCED! \$139,000

LAKE VERMILION Stunning island home- 4 BR, 3 BA w/ bunk room/BA. 2 FPs, deck. Sheltered bay w/parking for 7 boats/4 boats in stone boathouse w/upstairs and rec room sleeps 4. Pool table and granite FP. Walking trails. 3,200 ft of lksh, 20 acres. **MLS# 140069** **NEW LISTING! \$1,650,000**

PINE ISLAND 2 BR, 3/4 BA cabin. KIT/LR w/stone FP, DR w/ lake view, BR, deck, new boathouse, septic syst/lake water syst. 200 ft lksh, .80 acres. **MLS# 139282** **PRICE REDUCED! \$269,000**

LAKE VERMILION Private wilderness setting. Road-access lot, wooded w/mixed timber, 10.8 acre lake lot, 456 ft lksh, 7 acre back lot. Spectacular view of a mostly undeveloped bay. **MLS# 137068** **\$135,000**

LOCALLY OWNED/NATIONALLY FOCUSED
OUR BROKERS/AGENTS
HAVE 100+ YEARS
COMBINED EXPERIENCE

RE/MAX Lake Country
218-757-3233
www.TheLakeCountry.com

Crane Lake-\$230,000 10 wooded acres with 485 ft of shoreline on Crane Lake. **MLS#137906**

Elbow Lake-\$37,900 228 ft of shoreline on 2.3 wooded acres. Boat-access! **MLS#133667**

Crane Lake-\$230,000 10 wooded acres with 590 ft of shoreline on Crane Lake. **MLS#137907**

Crane Lake-\$1,150,000 2.7 acre estate with 2 BR home along with guest cottage, greenhouse and fish house. **MLS#139896**

"As measured by residential transaction sides."

Edina Realty
a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate

TIM LILLQUIST, Realtor
Serving Lake Vermilion, Tower, Soudan, Breitung, Cook, Ely and surrounding communities
612-834-5769 (cell)
timlillquist@edinarealty.com

NEXT TIME COME HOME!

JANISCH REALTY 218-780-6644

Let's Make Sold Happen For You Too!

OPINION

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

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial

Putting politics over public health

Governor's emergency powers are well-suited to the current pandemic

Republican lawmakers in the Minnesota Senate are playing politics with the public's health. That's the only way to interpret the GOP-controlled chamber's continued dismissal of Gov. Tim Walz's top commissioners.

Under the state's constitution, the Senate must consent to top gubernatorial appointments. For decades in Minnesota, such consent was almost automatic as most lawmakers opted to give the governor the right to select his or her own team. That's a traditional right that the state Senate is flouting as part of the GOP's continuing temper tantrum over Gov. Walz's emergency declaration over the coronavirus.

Gov. Walz's declaration is hardly out of the mainstream. Of the 50 governors in the U.S., 49 have similar declarations in place. That's because it's the only effective way for states to deal with the pandemic, and that's particularly true in Minnesota. Our divided Legislature can't agree on much of anything. Despite a months-long regular session, the Legislature failed to do even the basics, including passing a much-needed bonding bill. As we've reported in recent weeks, the Republican-led Senate refuses to pass a supplemental funding bill which, among other things, would help to save 60 good-paying state jobs at the correctional facility in Togo.

And we're supposed to rely on senators to agree with the DFL-led House on how the state's schools, businesses, and public facilities are supposed to respond to the pandemic? Republicans still can't even agree whether or not the coronavirus is a Democratic and media hoax, as their own president stated for months — even though we now know he was told the virus was extremely dangerous and easily trans-

missible through the air. The GOP, from the White House on down, has zero credibility when it comes to the coronavirus and they certainly aren't going to agree to the kind of sensible and science-based recommendations and orders issued by Gov. Walz.

Gov. Walz, like leaders around the world, was handed a difficult situation. Yet, rather than denying the dangers even as the cases mounted, Gov. Walz has instituted a well-designed policy that has helped to balance the public health issues with the economic and educational implications. Republicans in the Senate are clearly bothered that a large majority of Minnesotans give Gov. Walz high marks for his handling of the pandemic. Ousting his picks for state commissioners, such as Commerce Commissioner Steve Kelley and Labor and Industry Commissioner Nancy Leppink, is pure politics, designed to undermine the governor and the work of his administration.

Governors, just like presidents, are given emergency powers for exactly these kinds of situations. They allow the governor to focus state resources on a response and adjust policy quickly based on rapidly evolving conditions. The Legislature would struggle to find agreement on such matters in the best of times, with just one party in control. With a divided Legislature, and a GOP that appears increasingly hostile to science and sound public health policy, it would paralyze the state's response to the pandemic. Minnesota can't afford such an outcome. It's critically important that the state gets the response right. If there's ever a time to set aside politics, this is it. Lives, literally, hang in the balance.



Letters from Readers

Welcome to the 21st century

I have to disagree with Mr. Beihoffer about broadband coverage. With people working from their home, and children learning from home, we need faster and more reliable internet service. It is the future. It is 2020 and not 1980.

**Deb Andrick
Greenwood Twp.**

Thanks for a courageous column

I found Scarlet's column in last week's *Timberjay* (9/11/2020) to be very enlightening. To be able to tell that story about such a personal happening in her life took a great deal of courage. Scarlet is a woman who holds to her values — you don't cheat on your spouse and expect not to pay.

As to the drugs and drinking — it is a problem here on the Range and I assume it is worse in these COVID times but that is just not an excuse.

Scarlet — I'm glad you had the courage to do this — both getting out and writing about it. Keep on writing!

**Annette Herring,
Friend of the author
Vermilion Lake Twp.**

Bullies are being enabled by the president

My wife and I have been fairly politically for over fifty years. We have never seen the number of stolen political yard and highway signs in any other election. Many, if not all, are supporting Democratic candidates at all levels. Sadly, two young girls were physically and/or verbally abused in Chisholm by two elected officials who were Trump supporters.

What has happened to the political scene on the Iron Range? Has the bullying, name calling, and outright lies by Trump enabled the bullies and sign thieves that support him? The Trump apples are falling near the language and actions of Trump. It may herald

a sad day for democracy.

**Dan Kearney
Side Lake**

Scarlet has a talent for navigating emotion in writing

It is not often that a columnist makes me cry, but Scarlet's last column did just that. She took me on a range of emotions from the crazy uncertainty of the times to feelings of betrayal and loss that many of us have also experienced, and then finally finding her way out of the storm to the other side. Excellent column. Thank you Scarlet!

**Marcia Mahoney
Ely**

Climate change will bring people north

The effects of climate change have heated our planet causing vast amounts of destruction and death as a result of increased wildfires, hurricanes, flooding, droughts, record temperatures, and rising ocean levels. The primary areas of devastation are on the coasts. Yet, Ely and the northern part of Minnesota has been spared the extensive loss of life and property ruin.

This massive change of climate will cause migrations of people exposed to loss of life and property. Ely will be a new destination for those who want to leave behind the uncertainties of their present living conditions. Hence the attraction of Ely is clean air and an abundance of clean water and the prospects of high-speed internet. In other words, people desiring to move away from their fear of further adverse climate change will find Ely an attractive place to live.

As more people migrate to Ely, a variety of jobs will become more plentiful and help to fill the void of those relying on mining jobs.

**Gerry Snyder
Ely**

Get your mail-in ballot on time

With the increase in absentee ballot applications due to COVID-19, concerns have also been raised by some individuals about the validity of the process.

Research indicates the most common reason an absentee ballot may be rejected is because it arrives after the deadline.

In Minnesota, those ballots must be postmarked by 3 p.m. on Nov. 3 and received at the voter's county election office within seven days, or by Nov. 10. In previous years the ballots had to be received on or before the day of the election. Because it is not known if this extension of the seven days for receipt of the ballot will be challenged in court, many election watchers suggest that a voter should stick to the previous timetable of making sure your ballot is received on or before Nov. 3.

The second most common reason that ballots are rejected is a problem with the witness signature. For this year, Minnesota has waived the witness requirement on absentee ballots because of COVID.

Individuals who realize they did not get their ballot into the mail in time to be received, can deliver it to their county election office by 3 p.m. on Election Day.

Individuals who want to check to see if their ballot has been received should not go to the polls to do that. Nor can an absentee ballot be turned in at the polls. Any suggestion that a person should both submit an absentee ballot and attempt to vote at the polls as a way to check the system is erroneous. Voting twice is a felony punishable by fines and/or prison time.

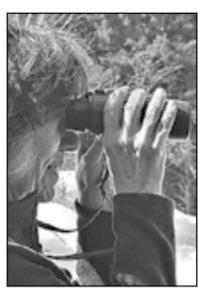
To check receipt of the ballot, log onto the Minnesota Secretary of State website at www.sos.state.mn. Then, just click on the section for tracking your vote, and complete the process. The site offers suggestions for additional ways to search if you do not find a record of your ballot.

**Kay Vandervort
Ely**



Valuable advice from the Inaugural Address of 1960

I was just six years old when John F. Kennedy was elected to be the 35th president of the United States of America. It was a momentous event for my family, creating a sense of jubilation that had been absent ever since the death of my father a year before. My paternal grandfather



**KATHLEEN
MCQUILLAN**

Catholic." Grandpa explained that Kennedy's victory was historic! He vividly described living through the time when employers hung signs that read, "Irish need not apply". And Kennedy was the first Catholic to be elected to the White House! This was despite a concerted

effort among several southern states to defeat him "just because they didn't like his religion."

For a little girl like me, President Kennedy was a young and handsome guy — so was my Dad. And Mrs. Kennedy had beautiful thick black hair — just like my Mom's. So Grandpa was right. There was nothing not to like.

On the day of his inauguration, we were all plunked in front of the little black and white TV set to watch him lay his hand on the Bible and give an oath to uphold our Constitution. Per Grandpa's direction, we patiently awaited his speech. This was my first introduction to the pomp and ceremony of this cherished

national tradition. Without realizing it, from that day forward, I would be forever imprinted with an indescribable reverence for our democracy and unwavering interest in our government. It explains why tears flowed from my eyes the day I sat, glued to the television, watching the swearing-in of President Barack Obama! Thanks to my dear grandfather, I knew at my core that something historic was happening, right before my eyes, once again.

On Jan. 8, 1961, Kennedy's inauguration escorted in a decade of demand for social change.

A unique feature of the 1960's was the coming-of-age of the "baby boom" generation. The number of births soared in the years immediately following the return of American GI's who'd served their country through the course of World War Two. Ready to put the horror of war behind them, they sought the joy and excitement of creating families of their own. And there were plenty of would-be partners anxiously awaiting their return. As the jump rope rhyme went, "First came love. Then came

See **SIXTIES...** pg. 5

Letters from Readers

The other side of the Greenwood story

Normally I would not lower myself to answer the rantings of someone, I just consider the source. But, here goes...

Just a note to say to Pam Rodgers, I am sure I have won three elections on my own merits.

This time, I would like to clarify a few items included in her letter to the editor.

The payroll yearly increase for all supervisors, clerk and treasurer was two percent, not the three percent mentioned in her letter. The increase was not turned down by anyone.

The decrease in workload for the clerk did happen. What is not mentioned is the substantial amount of work that was added. The clerk had never been doing the claims and payroll. This was always done by the treasurer prior to my being elected. I took it over after being in office a few months. With the transfer of work away from the treasurer, that person's pay was not decreased. Ms. Rodgers did not refuse the rate of pay for treasurer, even though the pay did not equal the time working.

I do not like to have to defend myself or explain the workings of the township to someone who has "such vast knowledge."

I would just like the residents to know the other side of the story.

An extra note:

The current interim treasurer did ask for the passwords for the clerk's computer. I refused for the simple reason that the treasurer has no right to have passwords to the clerk's computer to maintain the required checks and balances of the accounting procedures.

**Sue Drobac
Greenwood Twp.**

Township needs less vitriol, more love thy neighbor

I just read Pam Rodgers' letter to our Greenwood residents. I would like to comment and do some truthful answering.

I see Jeff Maus as a wonderful addition to our community and to our fire department. If you

ever had to call for help using 911, if Jeff is around, he comes and helps. He is very knowledgeable. He and Rod Politano have answered many 911 calls in their years of serving us on the Greenwood Fire Department, probably more than anyone else.

2. Jeff Maus has taken many additional classes. If our fire chief really wanted to bring our firefighters up to be the very best they could be, he would put Jeff in charge of teaching new skills to department members.

3. Our town clerk called the chairman and told him politely she had worked all of her hours and could not attend the meeting because it would have been over her time. Let's really talk the whole truth here. She applied for the job. It was stated how much she would be paid and approximately how many hours she would work. I believe she got the most votes on the last election. She was the person the people of Greenwood voted for.

4. I never have heard that even one person ever thought of driving Pam Rodgers out. Our former treasurer worked with the clerk and other board members. They made the budget together and presented a united front when presenting the budget to the voters at the annual meeting.

5. The fire department has their own problems. The fire chief has cut how many times the firefighters actually have to go to a fire. Many of our other fire departments get to the scene way before Greenwood, even when the fire is in our backyard.

6. Ms. Rodgers says she encourages all people to come to the meetings. But the meetings are presently closed to all of us. We are the only township that is closed to the public in the area. Why even go, you cannot ask a question. This was removed by our current chair and vice-chair. Before, you could sign up to speak at the meeting. Now everyone is shut down.

In closing, I do not want anyone calling me a member of a cabal. I have owned my property for 58 years and kept it up. I have worked for this township and never took a penny. I was a member of the fire department auxiliary, and Pat Trancheff and I founded the Greenwood Medical Loan Closet. I pushed for a Saturday night church

service at the marina and was on the Tower-Soudan interfaith group of all area churches when we used to have services at the marina. Just maybe this is what is wrong with this board and this whole community today; we need to bring God and his love back to this community. Not how much money board members receive, but how much love and caring they give to the people of our community. Maybe a little less complaining about certain citizens and instead being grateful for their caring. I love this community and the people who reside here. I have been very disappointed on who we have on the township board.

**Pam Lundstrom
Greenwood Twp.**

Trump has betrayed his oath of office

Donald Trump took an oath of office to uphold the Constitution and protect the lives of all Americans when he was sworn in. He has betrayed that oath. Just released are taped conversations (that he OK'd) with reporter Robert Woodward, confirming, without a doubt, this betrayal. The tapes don't lie!

On Feb. 7, 2020, Trump told Woodward that he had just spoken to Chinese leader Xi who told him that the very wicked COVID-19 virus was spreading there. It wasn't just like the flu because the COVID-19 virus also spreads easily through the air. Trump also said it was about five times more potent than the worst flu. It was lethal and can hit kids just like it does adults. Shockingly, he claimed he withheld this information from the public because he wanted to act "cool" and not create a "panic."

Donald, let me tell you what real panic is!

▶190,000 people dead and millions more infected by a virus that they didn't see coming.

▶Overloaded hospitals that aren't equipped with enough PPE and ventilators.

▶Doctors, nurses and first responders who can't keep up with the onslaught of patients.

▶People who had the virus and are still experiencing side effects.

▶People who can't afford to

feed their families after they've lost their jobs.

▶Businesses that folded up and may never reopen again.

▶People who were evicted.

▶People who want to be tested but can't because of the lack of tests.

▶Kids who want to be in school but can't because their parents are afraid to send them, or schools lacking the funds to open safely.

▶The panic and fear the Trump campaign is fostering, insinuating that colored people are bad, etc.

The only "panic" Trump experienced was his own because he didn't know what to do. He was too worried about his rich Wall Street buddies and re-election chances, instead of what's best for the public. For a whole month he sat on this information and lied to us saying this virus would never affect the United States, that it was a hoax and completely under control, that China was doing a fantastic job containing the virus, and that it will soon disappear miraculously. He even suggested taking hydroxychloroquine tablets and drinking disinfectants as therapeutics. And he continues to hold rallies that ignore his own guidelines, possibly infecting more people. We now have over 190,000 dead and expect it to reach over 400,000 by Jan 1, 2021. Where's the Presidential concern and smart leadership?

At his recent rallies he compared himself to FDR, Churchill, and Lincoln, pulling out parts of their speeches to back up his false claims. All three "great leaders" have said the public needs the absolute truth when dealing with a national emergency so they can prepare and unite to win the battle. Instead, Trump lied and keeps lying, with over 20,000 documented lies and misleading statements. But this lie was the worst, even bigger than all the Watergate lies combined, because tens of thousands of people have already died. Nobody died because of Watergate lies, yet Nixon was still forced to resign.

To add more fuel to an already hot national emergency situation, a recent report (verified by The Atlantic, MSNBC, NBC, CBS, ABC, CNN, Washington Post, New

York Times, Associated Press, and Fox) reported Trump disparaging our fallen war heroes and veterans in France by calling them "losers" and "suckers" and then calling our generals "weak" in Woodward's taped interviews, and that they start wars just so big companies that make bombs, planes, and tanks can get richer. How will this affect the morale of past and present members of our Armed Forces?

**Daryl Lamppa
Tower**

You will be judged by our mighty God

Did you miss what happened after the last night of the Republican convention? Our people being attacked, wanting to kill them? Well, it has gone way too far. Biden and Obama let our country go to hell. They, especially Obama, were racist. Our president humbled himself before the people to be our President. It is an honor to serve the people. Who have you served for the last four years? We have a President who has faced impeachment. Here all the dirty dead were from Obama, all the way down, the blood of needless death and the people being fearful. Amazing how when they asked for the National Guard, problem solved.

We will not let you take our freedom away. My husband fought for it. I will fight for it. Many other people will fight for their freedoms, too. Well, we are in a fight of our lives to keep what so many died for. Arrests, etc. are now started. Hatred is not of the Republicans or our President. You will be judged by our mighty God. I love our country. We are shut up if we know anything from Trump, etc. We will not shut up. You are not taking my freedom away. You have caused this violence. Innocent people die just because you just hate Trump. What happened? You just hate our country. My saying "fake newspaper"...I serve the Lord not you. We win.

**Peggy Goodwin
Aurora**

FIRE...Continued from page 3

in the past and overcome them. When finances were an issue in 2002 and some were suggesting they should abandon the subscription system and start levying a property tax, members of the department who didn't believe such a system would be fair to larger property owners rallied and got the department back on good footing. Money and volunteers would be a challenge again, but a 2010 article in the *Timberjay* touted a department that had once again persevered and was on solid footing for the future.

And the department also helped to stabilize the adjacent community center by combining

resources to save on utilities, insurance, and upkeep.

One reason the department has remained effective is that they've upgraded their equipment whenever they could.

"This fire department since its inception has constantly upgraded from what we had to start with," Polich said. "Look at those trucks out there. They're fairly modern. They're in compliance with what every rural department would have, like our six-wheel drive, diesel automatic tanker truck."

An even newer-looking red pumper truck sits next to the hulking green tanker in the truck shed. It's a prototype model that's

had some significant upgrades.

"There was about \$100,000 they put into this thing and we only had to pay out of pocket about 50 something, right, Barry? So that was a good deal on doing that upgrade," Udovich said.

But if someone out there is looking for a good fire truck, don't call the GSRFD about these. They're not for sale.

While the department is ceasing operations, they're going to hang onto what they have for a while. Polich and Udovich still hold out hope that some type of service can be based there.

"We don't need the money," Udovich said. "And the idea

is that maybe, you know, my great uncle said, 'People will be moving back here, because this is God's place.' We're seeing some newbies come in. One new guy that we tried to approach, he was younger than us, but he said, 'I served my time. I don't want to do it.' But maybe, you know, we're knocking on doors all the time."

The pair may also explore possibilities of using the station as a satellite location for another department, such as Orr, Cook, or Nett Lake, but it's too soon since the closure vote for that to be any more than an idea at the moment.

And while operations are

shutting down, at least for now, Polich believes the GSRFD has been a good success story.

"We watched this thing grow, and we took it to another level," he said. "It was a lot of hard work, but there's satisfaction in it that we succeeded in doing that. You set goals and if you can achieve them everybody is able to benefit from it. That's the goal of community. That's the goal of all this, and that's why we feel a little bad, as we hope it will continue to go on, for the community to appreciate what people before them and during them and after them have worked to achieve."

SIXTIES...Continued from page 4

marriage. Then came Bobby in the baby carriage." Then Johnny, Linda, Joe, Sue, one after another, after another. There were lots of us!!

Our country felt the impact in ways never imagined. We grew up and hit the streets, ready to engage, inspired by the youngest president ever elected to the Oval Office. We'd cut our teeth on his most quoted words, "Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country." We were on fire to make the world a better place.

In our early years, after WWII and the infamous dropping of the first atomic bombs, the threat of nuclear war became a perpetual concern. In addition, the ten year war in Vietnam that began in the early 60's was a war

with no clear purpose., and yet it continually escalated, drafting more and more young men of my generation into the U.S. Army. So arose the Peace Movement. Increased reporting on racial discrimination and violence against blacks and other people of color gave rise to the Civil Rights Movement, demanding that racial injustice no longer be tolerated. In 1963, women began locking arms to challenge the status quo of gender inequality. So arose the Feminist Movement, dedicated to picking up the quest for change where the Women's Suffrage Movement of the early 1900's left off once the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920 secured their right to vote. And when air and water pollution reached undeniably dan-

gerous levels in cities all across the country the Environmental Movement was born.

Our country is suffering now. The planet continues to struggle as the human population approaches eight billion. The costs to our economy due to more frequent record-breaking weather events and climate catastrophes are an ever-increasing concern. Racial and social discord are erupting in our cities while a global pandemic is racing through the nation ravaging everything we thought of as "normal daily life". Amidst this chaos and uncertainty, we see our government flailing through the emergencies, unable to supply its citizens with consistent, accurate, and trustworthy guidance. And social institutions like the

U.S. Postal Service, our school systems, and even our electoral process seem to be unraveling, just when we need them the most. The country is teetering on the brink.

A lot of people are working their proverbial tails off trying to save what we have spent generations building. No longer can we take anything for granted. But lo, there are a fair number of folks who either just want to complain, or mentally "check out" all together. Let me remind us. We might be facing the greatest crisis we've seen in the history of our country! With so many incoming threats, it's easy to sink into despair. But then the words of John Kennedy come creeping in. "Ask not...." So what do we do now? If here, JFK would

be asking us to do something, anything, no matter how small it might seem. Something as simple as casting our vote in the upcoming election!

Voting is the single most important thing we can do right now! We need to recommit to our democracy — even when it "sucks". Our vote "this time" may be the only way we can assure we will actually have a "next time"! And, you might be pleasantly surprised how good doing something can be! Please, don't give up. Show up! It's true. The whole world is watching.

For information on when, where and how to vote, go to www.sos.state.mn.us.

Week of Sept. 21

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.

Tuesday
Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5:30 p.m. Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is Oct. 20.

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

Breitung Town Board- 12 noon on Sept. 22

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.



Kitchen manager Cindy Pettinelli

VERMILION COUNTRY SCHOOL

AEOA Senior Dining; carry-out only starting Sept. 21

TOWER- Vermilion Country School and AEOA sponsor a senior dining site at the charter school in Tower. The school will begin offering senior dining on Monday, Sept. 21. Students will be gone from the school that day on an overnight fall camping trip, so it will be a good day to test out the new safety procedures.

Due to COVID-19 safety precautions ,meals will be available for carry-out only between 12:15 and 12:30 p.m. Diners need to wear a mask and sanitize their hands once they enter the building to pick up their meal. Diners are encouraged not to loiter once in the building. Other safety precautions may be implemented at any time.

New this year, senior diners will need to have an account at the school. To set up an online account, stop in at the school office. Jolene Herberg will set up your account, and then diners will make payments in the school office, not to Cindy Pettinelli in the kitchen.

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

Call the school at 218-300-1447 for reservations, or call AEOA at 1-800-662-5711 ext. 7323 for the one-time registration process.

Week of Sept. 21
Monday: Chicken broccoli alfredo, green beans, garlic bread
Tuesday: Taco soup, tortilla chips
Wednesday: Spaghetti, garlic bread
Thursday: Meatballs, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans
Friday: Pizza, salad

Monthly menus available online at vermilioncountry.org/cafeteria-menu.

TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY



Students attending Tower-Soudan Elementary in person are getting plenty of time to play outdoors, without masks. Teachers report that so far, students are wearing their masks in the classroom, as is required.

Left: Axel Koski masters the monkey bars.

photo by J. Summit

Subscribe to the **TIMBERJAY!**
Call 218-753-2950

the TIMBERJAY

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

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

Publisher Marshall Helmberger
General Manager Jodi Summit
Cook-Orr Editor David Colburn
Ely Editor Keith Vandervort
Staff Writer Stephanie Ukkola
Office Manager M. M. White
Graphics/Ad Sales Scarlet Lynn Stone
Ad Sales/Sports Jay Greeney

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

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

Subscriptions Available:
St. Louis County: \$37 year Elsewhere: \$52 year. We accept VISA/Mastercard/Discover. Please specify Tower/Soudan, Cook/Orr or Ely edition.
NOTE: Changes of address must be sent or called in to the Tower office. Out-of-state delivery may take 2-3 weeks. For prompt out-of-state delivery try the First Class Subscription: \$100 year or \$10 per month.
Read the entire paper on-line every week. On-line subscriptions cost \$29.95/year; details at www.timberjay.com.

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

New TEDA commercial loan program

Businesses can use funds for renovations, expansion, equipment, and more

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER— The economic development authority here has reinstated a low-interest commercial lending program with an infusion of new money from the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation’s Taconite Area Community Relief program.

The TEDA board approved guidelines for the

lending program at their meeting last week, and the authority will now consider applications from Tower businesses. The program includes lending at two-percent interest, with repayment becoming part of a revolving loan fund.

The city of Tower had run a commercial lending program for years, but the city’s former clerk-treasurer drained the fund without council approval in late 2017 and 2018

to pay for city expenses. The city has not been in a position to restore the funding to several dedicated city accounts that were drained during that period.

The funds to be lent from the new program can go for a wide range of business purposes, including building renovations, business expansion, cash flow needs, building and land acquisition, or the purchase of business-related equipment. The funds can’t be used to pay for salaries, benefits or other forms of compensation for the owners of the business.

Tower business owners who are seeking assistance should contact TEDA Executive Director Marshall Helmberger at 218-750-2510 to apply.

“This is an excellent opportunity for local businesses to invest in their future success, or recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Helmberger. “The IRRR has generously made these funds available and we’re looking to get them out in the community where they can make a difference.” TEDA’s next meeting is set for Thursday, Oct. 1.

HYDRANT FLUSHING

City of Tower will be flushing hydrants

Tuesday, Sept. 29 starting at 8:30 a.m.

Residents should expect discolored water.

Harvest Basket Drawing
Friday, September 18
Friday 4-6 PM

Transfer station

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

Libraries

Ely library

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

Babbitt library

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

Support groups

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous
AA - 7 p.m. Mondays, and 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St., Ely

ELY WOMEN'S OPEN
AA - Every Monday at noon at Ledgerrock Community Church, 1515 E. Camp St., 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.

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION GED - Study materials and pre-test available. Tower by appointment. Call 218-365-3359,

Tuesday Group schedule

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.

Sept. 22 - Liz Engleman - Tofte Lake Center-Mission, Vision and Programming

Sept. 29 - To be announced

Oct. 6 - Laalitha Surapaneni - Health Professionals For A Healthy Climate

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2020



bird flies level toward me on its journey
two busy beings

Subscribe to the **TIMBERJAY!**
Call 218-753-2950




the TIMBERJAY

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

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

Publisher	Marshall Helmsberger
General Manager	Jodi Summit
Ely Editor	Keith Vandervort
Cook-Orr Editor	David Colburn
Staff Writer	Stephanie Ukkola
Office Manager	M. M. White
Graphics	Scarlet Lynn Stone
Ad Sales	Jay Greeney

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

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

Subscriptions Available:
St. Louis County: \$37 year Elsewhere: \$52 year. We accept VISA/Mastercard/Discover. Please specify Tower/Soudan, Cook/Orr or Ely edition.

NOTE: Changes of address must be sent or called in to the Tower office. Out-of-state delivery may take 2-3 weeks. For prompt out-of-state delivery try the First Class Subscription: \$100 year or \$10 per month.

Read the entire paper on-line every week. On-line subscriptions cost \$29.95/year; details at www.timberjay.com.

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

© Copyrighted in its entirety 2020

JAMES STREET PROJECT



Construction crews continued work on James Street this week in anticipation of paving from Fourth Avenue to Eighth Avenue. Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski said he anticipates asphalt paving will be conducted early next week. Landscaping will follow the completion of the sidewalks. photo by K. Vandervort

SUPPORTING THE ARTS

Gardner Trust fall grant deadline nears

ELY – Applications for the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust's second grant cycle of 2020 are due on Wednesday, Sept. 30.

"The Trust will continue awarding grants in its established categories this fall," said Keiko Williams, the Trust's executive director. "Other arts funding agencies have adapted their grant programs to award special funding for COVID-19 related issues. But that means that 'normal' funding avenues are currently not always available for many artists and organizations. That is one of the main reasons the Trust is maintaining its current grant programs for its arts community."

All grant applications should include a complete description of how the project will be carried out with current COVID-19 state health standards, she added.

Artists and groups can apply for grants in the following five categories:

- Individual Artist Grants encourage developing and established artists with funding of up to \$1,000 to take advantage of an impending, concrete opportunity.
- Organization Project Grants support activities in the fine arts and for the Ely Public Library. Grant support is intended to make it possible for organizations to present or produce a fine arts activity.
- Youth Grants are awarded to Ely school students in grades 6-12 who have an interest in and demonstrate high motivation in the fine arts.

The youth grants of up to \$750 can be used for workshops, classes, lessons or mentorships.

- Scholarships are available for graduates of Ely Memorial High School who are in their third or fourth year of college studies or in graduate school. Trust scholarships are awarded to students majoring in one of the disciplines of fine arts or library science.
- Operational Funding Grants fund high-quality, established Ely area organizations that produce or present fine arts activities or provide services to artists.

Individuals and organizations that would like to have a draft application reviewed should contact Williams. The office is open by appointment only, but draft applications can be easily reviewed by email with a telephone follow-up.

Grant forms and eligibility requirements are available on the Gardner Humanities Trust website at www.gardnertrust.org. Those without internet access can contact Williams by phone at 218-365-2639 or email at info@gardnertrust.org to have an application mailed to them.

The deadline for applications is noon on Wednesday, Sept. 30. Completed applications can be mailed to the Trust office at P.O. Box 720, Ely, MN 55731 or dropped off at the Ely City Hall, Clerk's Office, at 209 E. Chapman Street.

Ely Police Report - Aug. 15-30, 2020

Arrests/Citations

- Traffic Stop. Individual was arrested for fifth degree possession of a controlled substance and speed.
- Assault. Individual arrested for second degree assault.
- Traffic Stops. Two individuals issued citations for No DOT numbers displayed and No medical cards. Two individuals issued citations for No DOT number displayed.
- Traffic Stop. Individual issued a citation for driving after revocation.
- Traffic Stop. Individual arrested for driving under the influence.
- Domestic Assault. Individual arrested for domestic assault and fifth degree assault.

Complaints

- Lost Dog. Officers were contacted about a dog that ran away. The dog returned a short time later.
- Security Alarm. Officers were called to an alarm at a residence. Officers determined that the alarm was set off by mistake.
- Trouble Kids. Officers were called about a group of kids jumping a motor bike in town. Officers talked to the kids about safe operation of motor bikes.

- Loud Party. Officers were contacted about a loud party. Officers were unable to locate the loud party.
- Garbage Complaint. Officers were called about an individual dumping garbage. Officers located the individual about the garbage and the individual cleaned it up.
- Disturbance. Officers were contacted about a group in the park causing a disturbance. The individuals agreed to go home for the night.
- Animal Disturbance. Officers were contacted about a neighbor having cats digging in their yard. The owner of the cat apologized and agreed to keep the cats inside.
- Lost Dog. Officers were contacted about a dog that ran away. The dog returned a short time later.
- Suspicious Activity. Officers were contacted about a group of individuals acting suspicious. Officers arrived in the area and did not locate anything suspicious.
- Trouble Kids. Officers were called about a group of kids causing a disturbance near a local business. Officers arrived and the kids left the area.
- Threats. Officers were contacted by an individual that was causing a disturbance. Officers arrived and nobody was around the area.
- Found Dog. Officers were contacted about a dog that was found running. Officers united the dog with the owner.

ELY-WINTON HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Ely-Winton Hospital Scholarship Fund offers scholarships to students in the fields of:

1. Doctor of Medicine	6. Physician's Assistant/ Paramedic
2. Registered Nurse/RN	7. Occupational Therapist
3. Laboratory Technician	8. Physical Therapist
4. X-Ray Technician	9. Pharmacy
5. Medical Records Librarian	10. Other approved by the Committee

Applicants must have attended school in Ely or Babbitt for at least two (2) years and have graduated from that school. Applicant must be engaged in obtaining professional, vocational, or scientific education or training leading to a degree or certificate in one of the above-mentioned fields. Applications are available at the Superintendent's office, ISD No. 696, 600 E Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731, and are due in the Superintendent's office by Wednesday, October 30, 2020.

Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust

We are now accepting 2020 Arts Grant Applications
for Individual Artists, Project & Youth Grants, Scholarships & Operational Funding

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

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS: 12:00 noon on Wed., Sept. 30

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

Call 365-2639 or email info@gardnertrust.org
Youth Grant applicants must call Keiko by Monday, Sept. 14 to schedule a grant review meeting.

COOK FRIENDS OF THE PARKS

Veterans park garners big support from VFW

Donations from snowmobilers and veterinary clinic add to totals

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- If you were a member of the Cook Friends of the Parks, last Thursday was a very, very good day.

"It's been an amazing day," Tammy Palmer said. "Our community support is phenomenal, it always has been."

That support came Thursday in the form of three donations to the Veterans Riverfront Park development the Friends of the Parks is promoting. The group is planning to not only revive and rehabilitate Riverfront Park, but to use it as an opportunity to honor area veterans with the name change and special features in the design, including flower beds and flag poles.

The first donation of the day came from the Cook Timberwolves Snowmobile Club for \$400. Later, Vermilion Veterinary Clinic donated \$100 more.

And the Cook VFW capped off the day with a major donation of \$5,000.

"This is a veterans deal and we want to participate, do our share to help," VFW post commander Darrell Lindgren said. "We try to distribute all our money in the community and to veterans in the area."

The post has an active membership of about 90 veteran members, Lindgren said.

"We're surviving a lot more than some of these other posts," he said. "This is where everything was in town before we got the community center."

Jeannie Taylor, another Friends of the Parks

member, commented on the enthusiastic response the Veterans Riverfront Park project has received.

"People are getting excited, the veterans are getting excited," she said. "I think people are recognizing the need for it and appreciate the fact that we're willing to recognize the veterans, because we don't have anything around here."

Palmer and Taylor shared similar sentiments that what means the most to them is not the amount of the donations, but the support and encouragement that's behind them.

"Every hundred dollars is going to help us," Taylor said. "If people give any amount at all it's going to help."

"It's more than the dollar amount," Palmer said. "Jeannie and I were on board when we built the community center and we saw how the community came together. That was a grassroots effort. Now here we are again, an organization of eight people tackling a new project developing this park and the support is just phenomenal. The snowmobile club, the vet clinic, and the VFW - on top of what we've already received. We're truly blessed to live in this community."

Palmer also emphasized that the veterans aspect of the park goes well beyond Cook area veterans.

"We've very proud to be naming it Veterans Riverfront Park, not just for our vets but for all veterans past, present, and future."



ABOVE: Cook Friends of the Parks receives a \$5,000 donation to the Veterans Riverfront Park project last Thursday from Cook VFW Post 1757. The donation will help Friends of the Parks to meet matching requirements for grants they hope to receive to partially fund the project. Pictured are, from left, James Taylor, Jeannie Taylor, Carrolle Wood, Post Commander Darrell Lindgren, Diane Brunner, Dan Brinker Tammy Palmer.

photo by D. Colburn



Middle: Earlier in the day, members of the Cook Timberwolves Snowmobile Club donated \$400.

submitted photo



Bottom: Friends of the Parks received a \$100 donation on Thursday from Vermilion Veterinary Clinic.

submitted photo

Ruby's Pantry is labor of love

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- If the September edition of Ruby's Pantry had to be outside, and it did because of COVID-19 safety guidelines, last Thursday couldn't have been a better day.

Skies were blue and temperatures moderate as a forklift began unloading pallets of donated food from a semi trailer in the south parking lot of the old Cook school. As volunteers began to set up and start sorting and arranging items, cars full of people ready to pay \$20 for a \$100 worth of food were already lining up along the curb back toward Cook Hospital.

Ruby's Pantry is a nonprofit organization that stages "pop up" food distribution at 81 locations nationally. Unlike traditional food shelters, Ruby's Pantry has no income limitations, and patrons can attend as many locations as they wish, each time making a \$20 donation.

The program has been sponsored locally for over 10 years by St. Paul's (Alango) Lutheran Church. Local coordinator Julie Hindermann said that they've seen a moderate increase in participants during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It's kind of interesting because we thought



Volunteers young and old scurry around sorting potatoes in the old Cook school parking lot last Thursday as they prepared for the monthly Ruby's Pantry food distribution event. Forty-two big bags of potatoes were sorted into 200 smaller bags, just enough for those who came through the line.

photo by D. Colburn

numbers would rise a lot more," she said. She speculated that more people might be turning to food shelters or using extended unemployment benefits to cover tight food budgets. Other agencies, such as AEOA, have also been staging free food giveaways to help those most affected by the economic fallout from the coronavirus pandemic.

What has changed are the volunteers.

"We'd start out with maybe 25 people at a time - the retired people were the main volunteers," Hindermann said.

But many elderly volunteers have been wary

of social settings and the increased danger of contracting COVID-19, so their numbers have dropped. Younger volunteers aren't as readily available, Hindermann said, but others have stepped up, such as First Baptist Church of Cook.

By the time distribution began Thursday afternoon, more than two dozen volunteers were ready to assist, and they were needed.

"We passed out 186 shares," Hindermann said. "That's 186 people and families that have some food in their bellies."

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2020



bird flies level toward me on its journey

two busy beings

**Read us online at
www.timberjay.com**



the **TIMBERJAY**

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

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

Publisher	Marshall Helmberger
General Manager	Jodi Summit
Cook-Orr Editor	David Colburn
Ely Editor	Keith Vandervort
Staff Writer	Stephanie Ukkola
Office Manager	M. M. White
Graphics/Ad Sales	Scarlet Lynn Stone
Ad Sales/Sports	Jay Greeney

Official Newspaper:

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

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

Subscriptions Available:

St. Louis County: \$37 year Elsewhere: \$52 year Online web-only \$29.95. We accept VISA/Mastercard/Discover. Please specify Tower/Soudan, Cook/Orr or Ely edition.

Ely school board meetings remain remote for now

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

Motion to return to in-person format fails on 4-2 vote

ELY – While ISD 696 teachers, staff and students started the 2020-2021 school year last week with a full in-person learning plan, the school board will continue meeting remotely.

A motion made Monday night to bring school board members back into the Memorial building board room for regular business meetings, study sessions and special meetings failed on a 4-2 vote.

Board meetings have been held remotely, via conference call, since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic last spring. Students and staff returned to school on Sept. 8; however, that learning model is already in jeopardy due to an increase in local COVID-19 cases

Board members have struggled with the telephone conference call for several months and discussed the possibility of returning to in-person meetings for the past several meetings.

Other governmental bodies, including the Ely City Council, and Morse and Fall Lake township boards returned to in-person and public sessions this summer.

School board members Tom Omerza and James Pointer have pushed for the return to in-person meetings. A lengthy study session discussion last month resulted in more discussion Monday night and a formal vote on the matter.

The motion, made by Omerza and supported by Pointer, called for school board meetings to again be held in an in-person format with the option for board members to participate remotely. The motion was

AAUW/Rotary to conduct Ely school board candidate virtual forum

ELY – The American Association of University Women (AAUW) Ely Branch and the Ely Rotary Club will co-host a forum next week featuring the four candidates for the ISD 696 school board election.

The forum will be held virtually due to COVID-19 concerns. Watch the event live on Tuesday, Sept. 22 from 6-7:30 p.m., on Ely’s public access channels on local cable television, Midco, channels 11 and 98, and on the AAUW Ely Branch Facebook page. The telecast will also be available for viewing on You Tube-Ely School Board Candidate Forum.

Candidates for the Ely School Board election include incumbent Tom Omerza and newcomers Rachel Brophy, Hollee Coombe and Darren Visser.

The top three vote-getters in the Nov. 3 election will join the six-member board for four-year terms.

Absentee voting in the state of Minnesota began last week. Early voting opens on Friday, Sept. 18 and is available through Monday, Nov. 2.

Apply for a ballot today at www.mnvotes.org. Complete the “Request for Absentee Ballot” application. A Minnesota-issued driver’s license, State Identification, or the last four digits of your Social Security number is required.

Ballots are generally sent about six weeks ahead of Election Day. Once your vote is submitted, track your ballot online. For more information, go to www.ely.mn.us.

In Ely, voting on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 3 takes place at the Ely Senior Center.

amended to continue to keep the buildings closed to visitors. The community would have the option to listen in on all meetings via teleconference.

School board member Tony Colarich maintained his opinion that “remote meetings are cumbersome and difficult.” After the study session last month, Colarich leaned toward supporting a return to in-person meetings.

“Now with students back in school and the (COVID-19) spike in the community, maybe it would be better to wait a month or so,” he said.

School board member Rochelle Sjoberg agreed with Colarich.

“I find that unnecessary entrance (to the school) and potential exposure to the district is not something that we need to rush into doing,” she said.

“Safety is most important.”

Marsnik also voiced concerns about moving to an in-person meeting format at this time. “Even in our blueprint plan, it says visitors to our buildings should be only those who are essential,” he said. “I consider those who are essential as those who are providing instruction for our students and those people who are working here and cleaning and keeping our spaces safe. I don’t consider us to be essential. I think we should limit traffic coming into the schools as much as possible.”

School board member Heidi Mann said she preferred not rushing into a return to in-person school board meetings.

Board member James Pointer said he prefers going to an in-person meeting format.

“But if we have to go to hybrid or distance learning, we

should reconsider,” he said.

Omerza said he considers school board members essential, but indicated that he would support tabling the issue.

Marsnik suggested postponing the decision on conducting in-person board meetings.

“If we postpone this indefinitely then we can bring it back at any future meeting,” he said.

A vote was taken to approve the motion. Omerza and Pointer voted affirmative, and Marsnik, Sjoberg, Colarich and Mann voted against the motion. The motion failed 4-2.

Other business

In other business, the board:
 ▶ Heard from Supt. Erie that first-day enrollment was 556 students, nine fewer than projected.

▶ Set the date for the Truth in Taxation budget meeting for

Monday, Dec. 14 at 6 p.m.

▶ Approved the 2020-2021 Ice Arena contract with Ely Blue Line, Inc.

▶ Approved the Managed Services Contract with Voltz Technologies.

▶ Approved an amended agreement with Architectural Resources, Inc. for the facilities project to reflect a lowered rate from eight percent to 7.25 percent of the project cost.

▶ Approved a two-year contract with Teachers on Call for substitute teacher services.

▶ Accepted the resignation of Chloe Kennedy from the paraprofessional position.

▶ Accepted the request from teacher Cory Lassi for a medical leave of absence, Nov. 30 through Jan. 3.

▶ Hired Timothy Singleton for the Foreign Language teacher position.

▶ Hired Stacy Hegfors for the Media Center Clerk position.

▶ Hired Karla Lundstrom, Kelly LaFrenier, and Dena Carey for paraprofessional positions.

▶ Hired Ron Riikola for a Bus Driver position.

▶ Hired Justin Olson for the Temporary Custodian position.

▶ Changed Kelly Hotaling’s FTE status from 88 to .86 due to schedule changes.

▶ Approved Trish Bulinski, Nicole Selmer, Shannan Harding, Toni Dewaulter, Todd Hohenstein, Carl Skustad, Ann Brenny and Sarah Spate as volunteer cross country coaches.

▶ School board members went into closed session to conduct an evaluation of the superintendent.

Ely schools continue with in-person learning despite COVID-19 rate increases

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – Despite rising cases of COVID-19 in this community, the Ely School District late last week decided to continue in-person learning for all students, at least for now, just a couple of days after the new school year started.

According to ISD 696 Superintendent Erik Erie, district employees and parents were notified late last Thursday that the bi-weekly coronavirus case rates in Greater St. Louis County ticked up substantially.

“Ely Public Schools utilize Greater St. Louis County Public Health data when looking at the ‘bi-weekly case rates for schools’ and (Thursday, Sept. 10) that number stood at 10.87. Last week that data point was 4.87,” he wrote in a letter obtained by the *Timberjay*.

“The 4.87 number is what our Ely Safe Learning Plan Advisory Council (ESLPAC) looked at (Wednesday) at our weekly meeting,” he continued. “We are now moving those ESLPAC meetings to Thursdays to coincide with the weekly updates from St. Louis County Public Health.”

ESLPAC administration and employee members met again last Thursday to review the data and devise action plans which included sending out the letter and additional communication to employees for further explanation.

“The message from St. Louis County Public Health acknowledged that the 10.87 number might

spur school districts like Ely to consider moving to a hybrid learning model as it meets the MDE learning model parameters to do so,” Erie said.

“St. Louis County Public Health officials recommended that schools not make the shift from in-person learning to hybrid learning at this time, since the increase to 10.87 is being attributed to cases in long-term care facilities,” he said. “Discussions with Essentia Health in Ely confirmed that some local cases were related to a long-term care facility.”

According to guidance from St. Louis County Public Health officials, “Outbreaks in the community occurring in a setting that does not have a strong connection to the school (e.g., long-term care facility, local religious institution or correctional facility) are unlikely to result in a recommendation to shift to a hybrid learning model. Our data analyst, Robert Prose, believes it would be a useful approach to use a 28-day incubation period for making decisions to change learning plans unless of course there was a local outbreak in the school or affiliated with a school event in which case the district would be advised to work with Local Public Health and MDH/MDE to change learning plans.”

Erie told the *Timberjay*, “In other words, they don’t want us ping-ponging from one learning model to another and possibly returning back to the original model perhaps in the next week.”

School superintendents along the Iron Range met with St. Louis County



Washington Elementary school students in Ely gathered for the first day of school last week. photo by K. Vandervort

Public Health officials late last week to discuss the health data and related issues.

“The St. Louis County Public Health officials affirmed their recommendation that schools should not move to a more restrictive hybrid learning model just based on the 10.87 bi-weekly case rate number,” Erie said.

“Superintendents, including neighboring ISD 2142, planned to follow the St. Louis County Public Health recommendations and stay with in-person learning,” he added. “We will continue to consider guidance from St. Louis County Public Health, Minnesota Department of Education, Minnesota Department of Health, Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital, and Essentia Health as we evaluate what learning model Ely Public Schools will operate in. Input from our students, families, and employees is also strongly considered and well represented on our Ely Safe Learning Plan Advisory Council.”

School board action is not required to change learning model plans. Erie was set to update the ISD 696 school board Monday night on the evolving situation.

School Board updated Monday

Mark Spanholz, parent of third- and sixth-grade Ely students, voiced his concerns to school board members Monday night during the open forum portion of their regular business meeting with the way the district is determining the learning plan model.

“I would love nothing more than for my children to attend school full time and in person throughout the year,” he said. “We can all agree that this is clearly the best learning model from an educational and social standpoint.”

He stressed the importance of decisions being made using data and science and not dictated by politics and emotion.

“The data being used to determine should be

timely and relevant,” he said, and noted that the COVID-19 case numbers being used are at least two weeks old and the information is not relevant to the Ely community, but rather the greater St. Louis County area.

He called for the ISD 696 learning plan advisory council to push county officials for more relevant and timely data. Spanholz said he reached out to the Minnesota governor and other authorities with the same request.

“My primary concern is regarding transparency around all decisions being made,” he said. “The district’s restart blueprint indicates fairly specific standards or thresholds regarding the number of cases per 10,000 people, but the email sent to parents last week indicated that those standards were not necessarily followed.”

Spanholz requested to have a seat on the ISD 696 Ely Safe Learning Plan Advisory Council. “I would like the opportunity to ask questions at those meetings, and review the date in making learning model decisions.”

Later in the meeting, Erie addressed the Safe Learning Plan issue, and announced that plans are being made to post the minutes from the advisory council’s weekly meetings on the school’s website.

“We have representation on the council including a student, parent, administration, teacher, staff, and a medical official from Essentia clinic,” he said. “We want people to be able to see how these decisions are being made. We are also considering having the meetings open

to the public. We want to maintain that this as an advisory council and not a (public) forum.”

The advisory council meetings have been moved from Wednesdays to Thursdays to better coincide with the release of the latest public health data from St. Louis County.

School board chair Ray Marsnik weighed in on the issue.

“There is a lot of confusion based on what data we are using,” he said. “And in looking at our ‘blueprint’ it definitely does state that Ely public schools utilize the Greater St. Louis County data.”

He also noted that old data is being used in making the learning plan decisions.

“That last number (10.87 cases per 10,000 people) was from Aug. 16-Aug. 29. The next data we review this Thursday will be from Aug. 30 to Sept. 12. There is much confusion, but I’m not blaming anybody.”

Marsnik also expressed concern with the fact that the majority of local COVID-19 cases are from long-term care facilities and those saying that there is little connection with the school.

“I have to disagree with that,” he said. “At these facilities the employees working there may have children in our school, or their spouses may be working there. I don’t know, but I think we have to take these (factors) seriously. It is still in Ely. We have to do what is best for Ely. I also think that communication and transparency is a must.”

CITY OF TOWER

Tower officials consider adding part-time treasurer

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER — City officials are considering hiring a part-time city treasurer as part of its ongoing effort to address the dozen management findings by the city's auditor during the 2019 financial review.

Last year's audit was an improvement over 2018, when the auditor highlighted 18 separate concerns, but the city council is now taking the city's remaining financial shortcomings to heart, as council member Dave Setterberg highlighted in a lengthy update on the progress to date.

"I want everyone to be aware of what we're working on and the potential direction we're going in," Setterberg told the council. "I've gained a lot of sympathy for all the city clerks, past and present," said Setterberg. "There is a lot of work involved in that position." Clerk-treasurer Victoria Ranua, who took over the position last October, said a lack of adequate capacity to complete all of the tasks of the job meant that the city failed to maintain good order in recent years. "If you don't have capacity, the management points tend to escalate," she said. "There are so many things going on."

Setterberg noted that the hiring of a part-time treasurer, to work 1-2 days a week, would allow the city to finally address some of the auditor's long-standing concerns about the lack of segregation of duties and lack of control over financial reporting.

Setterberg noted substantial progress already on a number of the management points raised by the auditors, including:

- ▶ Establishing a conflict of interest policy to prevent councilors from benefitting financially from decisions they make, such as obtaining discounts from the city's propane supplier.
- ▶ Addressing inad-

equated funding to cover city costs for water and sewer as well as getting overdue water and sewer loans repaid.

- ▶ Considering a resolution on Monday to assess overdue water and sewer fees to the property taxes of the property owners. The resolution cited \$19,110 in delinquent water and sewer accounts as follows: Ron Abrahamson, 615 Main St. (\$3,371), Jay Aldrich, 609 S. 2nd St. (\$2,174), Melanie Aldrich, 509 S. 2nd St. (\$4,010), Raymond Earley, 5627 Pine St. (\$682), Ralph Friesner, 114 N. 3rd St. (\$1,096), Jesse Gornick, 613 N. 3rd St. (\$3,598), Johnathan Lehti, 515 S. 3rd St. (\$1,383), Karel Winkelaar, 511 Main St. (\$2,795). The council expects to act on the resolution in October.

- ▶ Beginning to properly track lease payments to the city, something that city hall had not done for several years.

- ▶ Submitting airport maintenance grant requests on a timely basis and clearing up the backlog of unsubmitted reports from prior years.

- ▶ Ensuring that grant documents and related materials are now maintained at city hall as required.

- ▶ Bringing account reconciliations up to date.

- ▶ Assessing Hoodoo Point for the cost of wastewater treatment.

- ▶ Ensuring that fund transfers are authorized by the council and are made with an adequate paper trail.

- ▶ Addressing a long-standing deficit in the city's Tax Increment Financing account for the assisted living facility.

Mayor Orlyn Kringstad thanked Setterberg for the in-depth progress report. "I don't recall in the four years that I've been attending council meetings when the audit report findings have been gone through so thoroughly," he said.

The council took no action on the suggestion

to hire a part-time treasurer, although that is something the council may add to the budget for 2021. Setterberg noted that former clerk-treasurer Ann Lamppa has been working part-time to bring account reconciliations up to date, which was another management point addressed by the auditors.

In related action, the council set a special meeting for Monday, Sept. 28, to set the levy for next year. Ranua explained that the city must adopt its preliminary levy by Sept. 30. That levy can be reduced when the final levy is set in December, but it can't be increased above the preliminary amount. The council will also hold a working session ahead of the special meeting to go over next year's budget in detail.

In other financial matters, the council reluctantly approved claims for the month totaling a whopping \$487,000, which includes the final payment of \$155,586 for the city's new ambulance. The city also made a \$50,000 loan repayment to the League of Minnesota Cities from the emergency cash flow loan the city received last year and made a partial payment of \$67,142 for work on the airport garage.

Ambulance update

Ambulance director Dena Suihkonen offered an update on the situation with the city's three ambulances, just ahead of the expected arrival of the city's first new ambulance since 2013. The city ordered the ambulance in late 2018 and it has taken nearly two years for the company to deliver the vehicle. Suihkonen said the new ambulance will replace Unit 2, a 2011 GMC which has been in repair status for some time. "Then, we have two remaining vehicles that are in poor condition," she said. For now, she said the city has been relying on a loaner provided by

the company supplying the new ambulance as its primary rig for emergency calls.

Suihkonen noted that the federal CARES Act, passed earlier this year to address the COVID-19 pandemic, includes funding for emergency vehicles in some cases and that the city will explore the possibility of tapping those funds to replace either Unit 1 or Unit 3.

Ranua said the city would struggle to replace either of those two ambulances, despite their poor condition. "Our ambulance replacement fund is now depleted and it will be several years before we could purchase another," she told the council.

The city council approved a motion to declare Unit 2 as surplus equipment and left it to city staff to explore the options for disposing of the vehicle.

In other action, the council:

- ▶ Adopted a data practices policy for handling public information requests to the city. The city has been inundated with dozens of public records requests from former ambulance director and fire chief Steve Altenburg since his dismissal in March. Ranua described some of the requests she's received as "big bites," which can consume considerable staff time to prepare. Ranua said the new policy clarifies how the city will respond to such requests, provides a more detailed request form, and authorizes the city to begin charging for staff time consumed in responding to requests.

Council member Dave Setterberg called the policy a "good first step," but said the city will now need to undertake a review of its data to better understand how some of its records should be classified.

- ▶ On the recommendation of the ad hoc blight committee, appointed Mayor Kringstad to serve as the city's blight officer. The committee reported it

has sent pre-compliance letters to four property owners, with only limited response. The committee can now follow up with compliance orders.

- ▶ Heard from city attorney Mitch Brunfelt on the American Tower lease. For now, Brunfelt said the lease is favorable to the city and should probably be left in place, as is. American Tower and a second company, Tower Point, both have made sizable cash offers for perpetual easements to the hill on the north side of town. But Brunfelt noted that such agreements appear to be in conflict with the city's charter and that the current lease is probably a better deal for the city.

- ▶ Accepted the low bid of CC Winger for sidewalk repairs at the civic center and around city hall. The city is likely to get reimbursement for much of the work from a \$50,000 streetscape grant from the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation.

- ▶ Approved a grant-writing proposal from Nancy Larson to assist the city in applying for Aid to Firefighter Grant funds to assist with the purchase of a new ambulance and other equipment. Larson said the grant program could provide up to 95 percent of the cost of a new ambulance.

The council also approved a resolution authorizing Larson to submit a grant-writing request to IRRR to cover a portion of the cost of her work.

- ▶ Heard but did not act on an airport noise abatement plan developed by the city's airport commission to address complaints from residents near the airport, particularly about seaplane noise. Airport manager John Burgess said commission members and other city officials have been working with Adventures Seaplanes, the primary user of the city's seaplane base, to develop flight paths and other mitigation measures to reduce the noise impact to

nearby residents. Burgess said the city can really only make recommendations to pilots, since the airways are subject to the jurisdiction of the Federal Aviation Administration, or FAA.

He said the new flight recommendations will be made into a map, which will be posted at the seaplane base, the arrival and departure building, and in a state-issued directory with airport information.

- ▶ Approved the posting of two fire department positions, including assistant chief and captain. Fire Chief Paige Olson recently completed revisions to job descriptions for the positions.

- ▶ Tabled a decision on a request by Ken Schweiber to renew the long-term dock lease he has maintained at Hoodoo Point since 1986. Schweiber made an impassioned plea for renewal, noting that he spends lots of money at Tower businesses when he's in the area. "I'm a strong believer in the town," he said, "and I know how important it is to help the local businesses."

Council member Sheldon Majerle questioned the validity of Schweiber's lease, noting that it was never approved by the council. He said Hoodoo Point Campground manager Randy Pratt suggested he could make several times the \$500 a year that the city receives for Schweiber's dock lease if it were converted to a campsite. In addition, Majerle noted that the city had gotten rid of the docks and boathouses at Hoodoo Point after a young man dove off one of the docks and broke his neck, leaving the city liable for a sizable insurance settlement.

- ▶ Tabled a decision on propane bids. The city received two bids, one for 99.5 cents per gallon from Superior Fuel and another from Como Oil and Propane for \$1.049 per gallon.

SAIL...Continued from page 1

still the boat a lot of adults remember having their first sailing experiences on. The Sunfish hasn't changed much in the last 50 years, and remains a staple in the sailing world.

Described as not much more than a surf board, Graves's craft is not even four-foot wide and about 14-feet long. A small, shallow cockpit allows for a solo sailor to sit. "It is meant for one or two people. With two people, it is kind of tight," he said.

Back in his college days, Graves kayaked across the 23-mile expanse of the greatest of the Great Lakes from Grand Portage to Isle Royale for a backpacking trip. He and a companion made it as far as the first campsite on the southwest side of the island chain

"I have always wanted to make it around to the northeast part of the island where all these little islands and landforms are located," he said. "I have a Sunfish, experience, knowledge equipment to make the trip so I went about making a plan."

Graves started to seriously think about the adventure several months earlier. In mid-summer, he started gathering his equipment and making serious plans. "I thought long and hard about all the 'what-if' scenarios and what I could actually encounter during the trip."

To be honest, Graves is not just some fly-by-night adventurer who likes taking chances. Well, he is that too. When he is not working for Range

Mental Health Center, he has been involved in search and rescue for several years and is a member of the, St. Louis County Rescue Squad and is currently one of their safety trainers. He has considerable training in rescue, survival, outdoor leadership, equipment use.

"My brain kind of thinks about what could go wrong and how to deal with that. To be safe, you need the skill, knowledge, and equipment to pull it off," he said.

Besides the survival knowledge, experience and confidence, Graves had an emergency beacon strapped to his arm at all times and wore a wet suit to protect him against the frigid waters. In addition, he had enough gear and food for a week-long camping and hiking adventure once he got to the island.

What was his biggest concern? "I had the cold covered with the dry suit. I had enough food. I guess the biggest fear was running out of time," Graves said. He planned for an eight-day trip and had 13 days available

away from work. "But I wasn't going to head back if the weather was unsafe. I really didn't have much worry."

He left Grand Portage Harbor on the morning of Aug. 24 and began the trek. "It took more than six hours to get across, but the big problem was that the wind died for at least an hour right in the middle," he said. "It was just dead calm. I wasn't going anywhere, I was just bobbing around."

He had a kayak paddle on board so he could have provided his own power. "I was at least 11 miles from land so I could have paddled if I needed to," he added.

During his exploring around the island, he did experience two and three foot waves every day that actually swamped his boat. "A Sunfish won't sink because of the enclosed foam and air so it can still be sailed or paddled when it is full of water," he said. Going around the point on the northeast end the waves were big enough that the wind was blocked from my sails. The waves were probably ten-footers."

He sailed, camped and hiked around the island for six nights. He met other sailors who were impressed with his adventurous spirit. "I wanted to do more exploring than I did. I checked out the lighthouse and a lookout tower," he said. "I never did find the Native American copper mines on the island. I saw signs and heard what were likely moose, but I didn't see any."

He said he kept his ear to the weather radio the whole time it became clear that his window of opportunity to get back was closing fast. "They were forecasting waves of 14 to 17 feet," so I decided to leave when it was safer, otherwise I would have been there another week."

Since his return home, Graves has been editing his videos and photographs to post to his YouTube Channel, called "Adventure in Reach."

"I hope to encourage people to get out there and do it safely," he said. "Through my work with the Adapt program at Range Mental Health I hope I can help people to

build their confidence in the outdoors, and to think outside the box. I talk to people who want to have an adventure but don't know how or don't think they can. An adventure can come in all shapes and sizes, and all intensities and levels."

Graves's next sailing adventure is to explore the Slate Islands off the Canadian Lake Superior shore. "I heard that there is a ring of islands there, supposedly formed from a meteor," he said. "There are caribou there. It is very scenic."

The Atlantic Ocean's Outer Banks, off the Carolinas, and Baja, Mexico, are also on his bucket list. "We'll see where life takes me."

Closer to home, Graves and his wife, Elizabeth, were planning to do a local canoeing and camping trip last weekend with their five dogs. "We're soon getting a new puppy and we may try backpacking with all six dogs." That could be an adventure.



Hook...3 for 2
Stay 3 nights for price of 2!

Includes continental breakfast!

Fishing get-away comfort!
Reserve on our website:
vermilionparkinn.com

1 mile from the boat landing on Lake Vermilion!
218.753.2333 • 30 Center St., Soudan MN

ISD 2142...Continued from page 1

adapt to schooling under the state's COVID-19 mandates

For a district now dependent in part on Zoom for instruction, Herring's opening remarks were delayed by an ironic technical glitch that distorted and muffled his voice. After several attempts to identify and fix the problem, Herring instead had to move to a different computer in the district's board room.

Herring addressed frustrations with the in-person learning model adopted by the district that, by state mandate, also allows students to participate via distance learning through live hookups to classes and recorded classes and lessons online.

"Number one is teachers pulling double duty," Herring said. "Right now, we're teaching in-class students and the distance learners in our classrooms. What are your expectations of us as classroom teachers trying to work with both?"

Engebritson reinforced the district's plan to have students participate live via Zoom and also to have teachers upload recordings to Google Classroom. She also noted that assistance was available to help with technology, and distance learning coordinators were in place to take some of the burden off of teachers.

"The hope of the plan for distance learning coordinators is to make sure that we don't have teachers in the evening double checking or following up on students," Engebritson said. "We don't want that to be happening."

Herring's reply was blunt.

"I'm just letting you know that's not working — at all," he said. Turning to another teacher, he said, "Uploading to Google Classroom takes, what do you say, hours?"

While the teacher could not be identified from the Zoom feed, her comments were telling.

"So, Friday I tried recording a live lesson with the intent of posting it, so it was Friday I recorded from 11 to 11:30. I did an upload to the cloud on Zoom. I didn't get an email until Saturday at 8:30 p.m. saying it was ready. So, a day and a half it took Zoom to process that and get it ready. That's a big concern. Even if the lesson lends itself to recording and uploading, the technology isn't there yet."

Herring returned to

the theme of doing "double duty."

"One of the major hang-ups on our end is we were told in July we won't be having teachers do double duty. We don't want that to happen. August, it was 'we're looking at it,' and now here we are pulling double duty."

Engebritson said the term double duty was subjective.

"When we said double duty it was that you're not teaching face-to-face all day and then going home and having to teach kids who are distance learning," she said.

"But the problem with that whole situation is there are extra hours involved with prepping for distance learning. There's nothing right now that is helping teachers prep for those lessons," said Herring. "There are a whole bunch of other aspects that are coming into this. And teachers are buried right now. We are flat out buried. I've heard a teacher staying up 'til midnight planning lessons for the next day, and the problem is they're not great lessons. We're just making it through."

Tammy Borge, a South Ridge math teacher, amplified those concerns.

"We're very swamped with what we're doing because it feels like we're doing double duty every hour," she said. "The online aspects and being an effective classroom teacher, they're different. They're different beasts. And every day, I feel like I'm failing somebody. I'm either failing the kids that are at home distance learning, and it might be only two or four kids per hour. And then if I'm paying attention to them, I feel like I'm failing the kids that are in the classroom with me. But just the amount of time it takes to do everything, and to learn how to do everything well, is really where our struggle is right now."

Board member Christine Taylor asked Borge if she had any suggestions for fixing the situation.

"Other than adding five more hours in my day, I really don't know," Borge said. "I wish I had suggestions, but at this point I feel like it's just time. I never have enough time to do things the way I want to."

Engebritson asked if the union would be willing to consider an alternative approach. The district

could evaluate the number of distance learners in each grade level and possibly assign one teacher in the district to be the distance learning teacher for a particular grade. Engebritson provided an example of a third-grade teacher at one school who might switch from in-class instruction to exclusively doing distance learning for third graders throughout the district.

Herring agreed it would be an option the union would be willing to explore.

Herring also asked if distance learning coordinators have specific job descriptions, noting that they are not staffed or used the same at all schools.

Engebritson acknowledged that there were differences among schools, and that clarifying the roles of distance learning coordinators would be a topic of discussion at an administrative meeting scheduled for Wednesday.

Teachers also expressed concern about how classroom recordings might be used outside of teaching, with Herring noting that there isn't any language in the negotiated contract covering the use of the recordings, which could be used, he suggested, for performance evaluation.

Education Minnesota Uniserv Director Evan Sandstede added that this issue has been raised in other districts and that he could provide the district with draft language for the contract that would address this concern.

A final issue Herring raised was an apparent lack of classroom cleaning supplies and miscommunication among building staff when trying to get them.

"At the start of this whole thing, we were told we are going to have wipes in the classrooms so if teachers wanted to clean they can. We haven't seen any wipes, our cleaning supplies have been touch-and-go based on buildings, there's no continuity," Herring said. "We had a meeting last Thursday and they said okay, ask the janitors. I got an email yesterday from the principal saying don't ask the janitor. We're just not getting any [cleaning supplies] in the classroom and that's a problem."

Engebritson said the district provided wipes at the beginning of the year, but that another order to be delivered is backlogged until the end of September. She said there

shouldn't be a shortage of spray bottles because the district "bought a boatload of them." She noted that the cleaner and wipes the district is using are safe to use without personal protective equipment.

Still, the shortage of supplies is apparent from a survey distributed to teachers last week. Out of 41 responses, only seven teachers mentioned that cleaning solution is available in their classrooms, and only three mentioned that hand sanitizer was available in the classroom.

Engebritson said the district decided to go with larger hand sanitizing stations.

"Rather than having small bottles of hand sanitizer, you've got the stations through the building plus the bathrooms to wash hands," she said.

Manick expressed frustration that the cleaning supplies issue had to be elevated to the board.

"Not that the school board doesn't like hearing issues like that, but I'm just a little disappointed that it can't be taken care of in each school," he said. "If teachers are requesting something, and they're bouncing around between a janitor or a principal telling them something, and once again, I'll listen to any complaints we have, but how can we not just be addressing this at the school?"

Manick also noted that the district didn't choose to do simultaneous in-person and distance learning, rather that it was an option dictated by

the state. He voiced his support for considering the option of assigning grade-level distance learning teachers.

"This probably would have been something that should have been thought out a little more clearly to begin with," he said. "I thought it was just silly myself that really, the in-person also includes distance learning? Logistically and technically it just seemed like a nightmare before it even started, but this is the hand we were dealt."

Taylor encouraged district officials to look at alternative ways of giving more staff input into possible solutions for the challenges they face. She observed that funneling all the teachers' concerns through a union representative is likely to leave some good ideas overlooked.

"Whatever you can do, Reggie, and the union can do and the teachers can do to open the lines of dialogue and make sure that whatever ideas are out there are getting communicated, and not just the problems."

Sandstede cautioned that the union has to be involved in any issues that would touch on things covered in the negotiated agreement, but then offered that there are numerous models of labor-management systems the district could look at that would provide expanded input and communication.

Koivisto reinforced the need for better communication in finding solutions.

communication in finding solutions.

"I think we really need to work together, because they're all new problems that teachers are having," he said. "And we all have, we have to put all of our heads together and try to share some of the best things that we can."

Engebritson closed the meeting on a positive note.

"I am appreciative of everyone's time and suggestions and I'll get started on this tomorrow and will include more people in our meetings," she said.

Following the meeting, the Timberjay contacted Herring via email for his reaction to the meeting.

"We are and have been ready to work with the district to find solutions to the issues that we brought forth," he responded. "We have previously shared these concerns and are hopeful we are being heard. As teachers we are trying to provide an equitable education for all students because they deserve the best education possible regardless of where they are learning. Teachers are trying their best, and there are not enough hours in the day to teach both in-class students and distance learners at the same time. We are hoping to have more input into a sustainable plan that will provide quality education for all students."



COVID-19 Testing Available

Curbside COVID-19 testing available Mon-Fri at our Cook and Tower Clinics. If you have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to COVID-19 through someone with a known positive test result, please call to schedule a testing appointment.

Testing will not be completed without an appointment.
Scenic Rivers will not bill patients for testing.
Insurance coverage will be processed when available.

<p style="margin: 0;">Cook Medical and Behavioral Health</p> <p style="margin: 0;">20 5th St SE Open Monday - Saturday (218) 666-5941</p>	<p style="margin: 0;">Cook Dental</p> <p style="margin: 0;">12 S River Street Open Monday - Friday (218) 666-5958</p>
<p style="margin: 0;">Tower Medical, Dental, and Behavioral Health</p> <p style="margin: 0;">415 N 2nd St, Suite 2 Former High School Building Open Monday - Friday</p>	

1-877-541-2817

www.ScenicRiversHealth.org

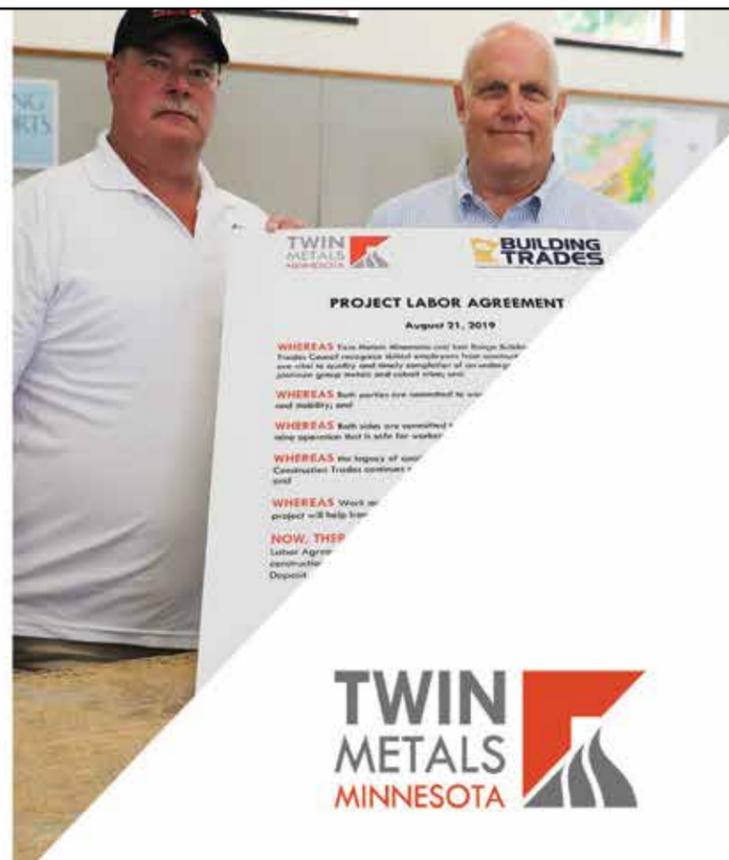
24 Hour Emergency Care Available Through Cook Hospital

Committed to construct our mine with a union workforce,

Committed to quality local job creation,

Committed to Northeast Minnesota communities.

www.twin-metals.com



TWIN METALS MINNESOTA

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Ely council approves IRRR funding request for Piragis

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

Wilderness business plans to build bigger outlet store

ELY – Economic development won out over possible political conflicts this past week as the Ely Projects Committee and the Ely City Council voted to support a major local business despite the entrepreneur’s pro-environmental stand and support of wilderness tourism over the risk of sulfide mining.

Steve Piragis, owner of Piragis Northwoods Co., recently purchased the former Loony’s Northwoods Emporium property, located across the street from his sprawling Sheridan Street retail and outfitting business, and is seeking Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation funding to demolish the building and build an 80x40-foot building to house an outlet store.

The new structure, estimated to cost as much

as \$500,000, will bring numerous construction jobs into the city. The popular outdoor store could add as many as six new employees to a year-round payroll that already approaches 30 people.

Piragis submitted a grant proposal to the Projects Committee on Monday night to cover demolition costs estimated at about \$27,000. The city acts as the fiscal agent for IRRR Commercial Redevelopment Program requests. Ely officials routinely seek building demolition funding from the agency.

IRRR collects production fees in lieu of property taxes from the numerous and long-standing taconite mines on the Iron Range and uses the funds to enhance economic development in north-

east Minnesota. Piragis is one of many outspoken critics of proposed sulfide mine projects near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, and maintains that the risks to the environment from copper-nickel mining, not taconite mining, is too great to consider.

Projects Committee members voted 6-1 in favor of recommending the project for full city council approval. The lone dissenter, Mike Banovetz, is a strong voice in the community for his support of mining. Prior to the council meeting on Tuesday, Banovetz was heard to say that he voted against the recommendation for Piragis’ project “out of principle.”

Steve Piragis’s daughter and company employee, Elli, appeared

before the council Tuesday night to answer questions and support her family’s request.

Council member Paul Kess said he appreciates the investment Piragis is willing to make in the Ely community.

Mayor Chuck Novak agreed.

“A new building rather than an old building and adding more employees from an economic development perspective is good news,” he said. “And we are happy to take all the money you want to give us from the added property taxes.”

Elli Piragis noted that her family’s business currently has 28 year-round employees. As many as six more employees could be added for the new outlet store and the expanded outfitting business.

Council member Al Forsman said, “It is clear that Mr. Piragis and I strongly disagree about how a sustainable economy is developed and maintained in our community, but I also think it is important to recognize the needed separation from the person and the jobs this business brings to the community. I do support the addition of these jobs. Ely has helped other businesses to demo old buildings and make room for development.”

Novak weighed in again.

“My rule number one is to debate the issue and not the person,” he said. “As we do disagree on the mining issue, the issue here is economic development.”

Council member Ryan Callen, who also serves on

the Projects Committee and made the motion to support the Piragis project, noted that, if approved, signage will be erected at the building site indicating IRRR funding support.

The council unanimously approved the motion to support the economic development project.

At the end of the meeting, during the open forum portion of the agenda, Banovetz confirmed that he was the Projects Committee dissenter on the issue, but admitted that he supports the project.

“I just have an issue with someone who tries very hard to wreck the future of mining to then go ahead and ask for tax money that was generated by mining. That irks me a lot.”

Ely Joint Powers Economic Board to host legislators in December

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – With just three of five representatives present, the Ely Community Economic Development Joint Powers Board could not take formal action last week, and instead held a brief discussion about their annual Legislative Meeting later this year before adjointing.

Officials from the cities of Ely and Winton, along with a representative from the ISD 696 school board were present at the meeting Thursday night at Ely City Hall, but offi-

cials from the townships from Morse and Fall Lake were not heard from about attending the organization’s first meeting of the year.

The Joint Powers Board by-laws require all members to attend and vote on any action.

Despite the absence of the township representatives, board members Chuck Novak, mayor of Ely, Anne Jackson, Winton city clerk, and Tom Omerza, Ely school board member, directed the Joint Powers Board recording secretary to begin making inquiries

into conducting the annual Legislative Meeting on the first Monday of December.

“If you still want to conduct the annual gathering later this year, this is the time we should start doing the legwork for the event,” said Joint Powers Board secretary Tom Coombe. “I just need some direction on what I should do.”

The annual Legislative Meeting has been held in early December for many years and was well attended by federal, state, county and local lawmakers or their representatives. The luncheon meeting event provided a forum for the

discussion of local issues important to the Ely area. The public was invited to discuss a variety of issues with politicians.

Public health concerns due to the coronavirus could change the format of the meeting this year, which usually included a buffet meal at the Grand Ely Lodge and a crowded meeting room.

Representatives of Minnesota’s two senators, Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith, Rep. Pete Stauber, State Sen. Tom Bakk, State Rep. Rob Ecklund, and St. Louis County Commissioner

Paul McDonald typically attend the event.

Coombe was asked to initially contact the lawmakers to schedule the event for Monday, Dec. 7. He was also directed to contact the Grand Ely Lodge to inquire about accommodations for the meeting, with social distancing requirements in mind, and what, if any, meal options are available.

“We could all sit six feet apart,” Novak said.

“And there is more room at the GEL as opposed to here in City Hall,” Coombe added.

Jackson noted that any

meal service would need to adhere to COVID-19 and public health protocols. “We can’t do a buffet and have everybody handling the utensils,” she said. “It would have to be something plated or wrapped.” Soup may not be available this year.

If the Legislative Meeting is held this year, dues will be assessed to the Joint Powers Board members.

The Joint Powers Board scheduled another meeting for 6 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 15, at Ely City Hall.

Federal Trade Commission: Be on the lookout for COVID-19 scams

REGIONAL - With the onset of COVID-19, many scammers are using the crisis to steal money and identities. Use the following tips from the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to protect yourself from a loss.

➤ Learn how to tell the difference between a real contact tracer and a scammer. Legitimate tracers need information such as your name, address, health information, and people or places you have

visited. If a contact tracer asks for payment, your Social Security number, banking numbers, or your immigration status, they are a scammer and you should immediately end the conversation.

➤ Do not open any links or download anything from someone who says they are a contact tracer. A real contact tracer will only send you emails to say they’ll be calling you. If you suspect a scammer contacted you, you should report it to your

state health department and the FTC at [FTC.gov/](https://www.ftc.gov/) complaint.

➤ Don’t respond to texts, emails or calls about stimulus checks from the government. Only use [irs.gov/coronavirus](https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus) and don’t respond to any calls, emails, or texts. The IRS will not tell you to deposit your stimulus check, then send them money back because they paid you more than they owed you.

➤ Ignore offers for vaccinations and home test

kits. Scammers are selling products to treat or prevent COVID-19 without proof that they work. Be wary of ads for test kits. Most test kits being advertised have not been approved by the FDA and aren’t necessarily accurate.

➤ Hang up on robocalls. Scammers are using illegal robocalls to pitch everything from low-priced health insurance to work-at-home schemes. You can report robocalls to [donotcall.gov](https://www.donotcall.gov).

➤ Watch for emails

claiming to be from the CDC or WHO. Use sites like [coronavirus.gov](https://www.coronavirus.gov) and [usa.gov/coronavirus](https://www.usa.gov/coronavirus) to get the latest information. And don’t click on links from sources you don’t know.

➤ Do your homework

when it comes to donations. Never donate in cash, by gift card or by wiring money.

For more information, go to <https://www.ftc.gov/coronavirus/scams-consumer-advice>.

COVID...Continued from page 1

Sampson by phone and email, but Sampson did not respond by press time.

Sampson announced the first positive cases of COVID-19 at Ely Carefree Living in an Aug. 31 press release. A staff member presented with COVID-19 symptoms on Aug. 24, and two residents subsequently tested positive as of Aug. 31.

A reference to “continued cases for both staff

and residents” was in a Sept. 9 update posted to the Spectrum COVID page, but no specifics about case numbers were reported.

The COVID cases at Carefree Living reported on Aug. 31 occurred as the numbers of positive cases were on the rise locally and throughout the county. The Ely area zip code added nine cases between Sept. 3 and Sept. 8, making

the total cumulative case count of 21 more than four times higher than just three weeks before.

Although the Department of Health maintains a list of long-term care facilities reporting at least one COVID-19 case or exposure in the past 28 days, no specific information about the number of cases or deaths in individual facilities is

reported.

St. Louis County has also trimmed one means of tracking the progress of COVID-19— daily zip code case updates on the county’s COVID-19 dashboard reporting tool have been discontinued. New totals are now reported weekly, on Thursdays.

*Timberjay Ely Editor
Keith Vandervort contributed to this report.*

ORR...Continued from page 1

The kidnapping victim then fled the vehicle, rushing to a wooded area where officers found her a short time later.

At about the same time, officers heard a single gun shot from inside the van and observed the suspect with an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head. Officers provided medical assistance until Orr Ambulance Service

arrived. The man was transported by Life Link AirCare to Essentia Health St. Mary’s Medical Center in Duluth for treatment of life-threatening injuries. Investigators located a handgun inside the van.

The woman was taken to Essentia Health – Virginia for evaluation.

No officers were injured during the incident, and no officers discharged

their weapons.

The names of the suspect and victim were not released.

An investigation by International Falls Police and the St. Louis County Sheriff’s office is underway, assisted by state Bureau of Criminal Apprehension crime scene personnel.

Additional law enforcement agen-

cies responding to the incident included the Koochiching County Sheriff’s Department, Minnesota State Patrol, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Paul Bunyan Violent Crime Enforcement Team, Headwaters Safe Trails FBI Task Force, and Lake Superior Drug Task Force.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL Savings

2019 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500



CLEARANCE

MSRP \$50,470

Sale Price \$41,998

SAVE \$8,472

Available 3.39% APR Up To 72 Months / No Payments Up To 120 Days**

2020 CHEVROLET SILVERADO RST DOUBLE CAB 4X4



MSRP \$51,770

Sale Price \$46,279

SAVE \$5,491

Available 3.39% APR Up To 72 Months / No Payments Up To 120 Days**

DISCLOSURES: Not compatible with some other offers. **3.39% up to 72 months AND 120 day payment deferral on new vehicle purchase and approved credit. Not compatible with some other offers. Restrictions apply. See dealer for details. Take delivery from dealer stock by 9/30/2020

PREOWNED DEALS!

2019 NISSAN SENTRA SR.....Sporty and Fun!.....	\$15,990
2019 CHEVY EQUINOX LT AWD.....Cajun Red!.....	\$23,990
2019 JEEP CHEROKEE LATITUDE PLUS...Nicely Optioned!..	\$27,990
2018 DODGE JOURNEY GT AWD.....3RD row seating!.....	\$23,990
2018 CHEVY EQUINOX LT AWD.....GM Certified!.....	\$21,990
2018 CHEVY SILVERADO LT CREW 4X4...Local Trade-In!..	\$38,990
2017 BUICK ENVISION PRERERRED AWD...GM Certified!..	\$25,990
2017 CHEVY CRUZE LT.....Sunroof.....	\$15,990
2017 CHEVY MALIBU LS.....Low Miles!.....	\$11,990
2015 CHEVY IMPALA LTD.....Only 11K miles!.....	\$14,990
2013 CHEVY IMPALA LTZ.....Fresh Trade-In!.....	\$ 8,990
2012 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SE.....Just Arrived!.....	\$10,990

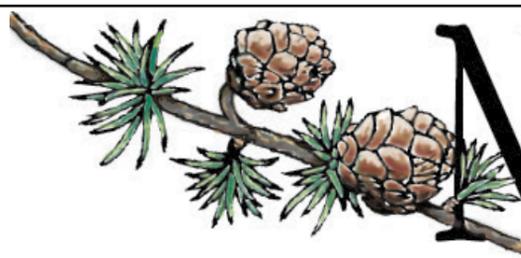
WASCHKE FAMILY CHEVROLET•COOK







HOURS: M-F 8am-6pm, Sat. 9am-2pm
126 N Hwy. 53, Cook, MN • 218-666-5901 • 1-800-238-4545



NorthCountry

Serving northern St. Louis County since 1989

POLITICS IN THE NORTH COUNTRY

Trump hopes to leverage northern MN support

Latest polling shows president faces uphill fight to win the state's ten electoral votes

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— As this week's edition of the *Timberjay* went to press, President Donald Trump was set to visit Bemidji in what he's calling the "Great America Comeback" Tour.

The presidential visit is just the latest in a string of trips to northern Minnesota by top members of his administration and other high-level cam-

paign surrogates. It coincides with a visit to the state by his Democratic counterpart, Vice President Joe Biden.

A recent statewide poll, commissioned by conservative-leaning KSTP TV and conducted by the well-respected SurveyUSA, suggests why northern Minnesota has become such a regular destination for the members of the Trump administration and campaign.

The Trump campaign is

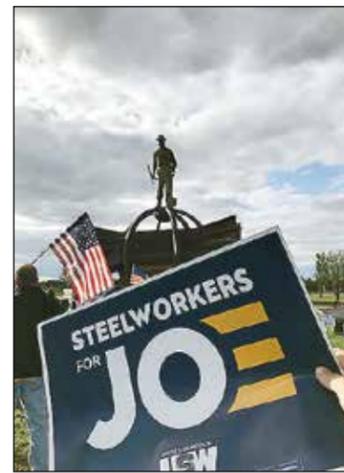
making an aggressive play for Minnesota's ten electoral votes, and recent polling suggests that northern Minnesotans, particularly those in northeastern Minnesota, are receptive to the president's message.

While the SurveyUSA poll, conducted last week, shows Biden with a 49-40 percent lead in the state, that margin is buoyed by strong support for the Democrat among voters in the Twin Cities metro region and a

Right: Supporters of Joe Biden gathered in Chisholm last week to voice their support for the Democratic candidate. Polling shows that President Trump is faring well in much of northern Minnesota, while he trails badly elsewhere in the state.

more modest lead elsewhere in southern Minnesota. But those numbers flip sharply in northern

See **POLLING**...pg. 2B



PRESERVATION

Housebarn draws visitors

A socially-distanced crowd gathers for annual Community Night Out

by **JODI SUMMIT**
Tower-Soudan Editor

EMBARRASS- The music playing in front of the Seitaniemi housebarn was just the right style. The big band and jazz favorites played by Debbie Bigelow and Dean Klevan could have come from a radio sitting in the kitchen of the tiny house at the west end of the housebarn where Alex and Sofia Seitaniemi raised their three children, Knute, Bill, and Lulu.

Hard decisions were being made between apple, strawberry, blueberry-peach, pumpkin, and key lime pie being sold by the slice. The lemon meringue had sold out early. By the end of the concert, only a handful of slices remained.

Sisu Heritage's annual Community Night Out, held Sept. 13, was once again a chance for area residents to get out and enjoy an outdoor concert, eat some homemade pie, and tour the one-of-a-kind log structure built over 100 years ago.

The concert was a rare event that could be held during this season of COVID-19. With the outdoor stage, bring-your-own seating, plenty of room to spread out, and prepackaged homemade pie slices for sale, it met all the current safety guidelines.

The Sunday afternoon was partly cloudy with seasonal temperatures. Somehow, over the last nine years, the event has never been canceled due to the

Top: Jack LaMar explains some of the details of the ongoing restoration work at the Seitaniemi housebarn in Embarrass.

Right: Visitors chat outside the housebarn during last Sunday's Community Night Out event.

Left: Attendees Delia and Lucia Dahl, and their mother Ida Rukavina inspect pie options during the event.

all photos by J. Summit

weather. Attendance was a little smaller than normal, but at least 60 area residents had set up chairs or picnic blankets to enjoy the music, many bringing their own picnic dinner.

Jack LaMar gave small group tours to interested visitors, many of whom had never been to the site before.

"People were very interested in the history of the family," he said, "as well as the architecture."

LaMar pointed out some of the more unique details of the structure, including the dove-tailed corner joints that also were pegged, expertly fitting one into the other, all woven by hand without any power tools. The housebarn is one of only three known to have been built by a Finnish immigrant in the United States, and is the only one still standing.

See **HOUSEBARN**...pg. 2B



CROSS COUNTRY

Ely takes fourths at GNK meet

by **KEITH VANDERVORT**
Ely Editor

COLERAINE – Ely Memorial High School cross country boys and girls teams both scored fourth-place finishes in the GNK Triple Tri last Thursday, held at the Eagle Ridge Golf Course.

"I thought our runners ran much better in this meet," said Ely CC Coach Jayne Dusich. "Almost everyone improved their times from last week."

With public health protocols in place due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, normal high school cross country meets look vastly different this fall.

"The problem is many runners are running by themselves so it's hard to push themselves," Dusich said. "With the limited teams and individuals, running is really spaced out, so looking at the results when all teams are added in might look different if they actually raced against each other."

The Ely girls team, paced by sophomore runners Zoe Devine and Phoebe Helms, amassed 92 points for the day. First-place Hibbing ran away from the field with 38 points, and Grand Rapids was a distant second with 82 points. Greenway-Nashauk-Keewatin (GNK) was third with 84 points. Mesabi East trailed the Timberwolves with 94 points, and Virginia had 113 points.

The top five girls runners included Lydia Skelton, Mesabi East, 20:14.6, Aune Boben, Hibbing, 21:00.7, Zoe Devine, Ely, 21:13.6, Jocelyn Strukel, Hibbing, 21:16.7, and Phoebe Helms, Ely, 21:35.3.

Other Ely runners and times included Laura Holmstrom, 24:20.6, Brynn Vollom, 24:26.9, Gracie Pointer, 24:38.3, Julia Schwingamer, 24:56.4, Sydney Durkin, 25:12.8, Elsie Vollom, 27:49.6, Abigail Thompson, 27:57.0, Amelia Pluth, 28:09.3, and Juliet Stoufer, 31:42.8.

The Ely boys team scored 69 points, tied with Virginia, and took fourth place on the tie breaker. GNK took first with 42 points, and Grand Rapids second with 62 points.

The Timberwolves were paced by senior runner Emmet Faltesek who posted a time of 17:18.2, for fifth

See **RUNNERS**...pg. 2B

SWIMMING

Nighthawks swimmers top several races

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

BABBITT – The Northeast Range/Ely Nighthawks varsity girls swim team posted four first-place finishes and five second-place finishes but still fell 96-69 to Mesabi East last week.

“The girls are doing a great job,” said Coach Cheri Debeltz. “Everyone swam some great races. We are happy with where

the girls are at this point in the season.”

Lily Tedrick swam to a victory in the 200 freestyle with a time of 2:20.03, outpacing ME swimmer Adeline Butzke who finished second in 2:25.81.

In the 200 freestyle relay, The Nighthawks’ team of Anna Larson, Kelly Thompson, Cedar Ohlhauser and Lily Tedrick took first place with a time of 2:01.20. Megan Dammann, Ava Sundell,

McKenna Coughlin and Alice Wolter came in second with a time of 2:15.58 for NER/Ely.

In the 100 breaststroke, Evie Cavalier posted a time of 1:46.02 for a win.

The Nighthawks’ team of Lily Tedrick, Morgan McClelland, Cedar Olhauser and Kelly Thompson swam to first place with a time of 4:26.76 in the 400 freestyle relay, followed in second place by teammates Anna

Larson, Alice Wolter, Emma Fedders and Esther Anderson with a time of 5:05.46.

In the 100 freestyle, Morgan McClelland posted a second-place time of 1:05.98, behind Mesabi East swimmer Lydia Skelton at 1:00.08.

Cedar Ohlhauser finished second in the 500 freestyle with a time of 6:49.47. Mesabi East’s Adrianna Sheets won the event in 6:31.17.

Siiri Hakala, Mesabi East, paced the 100 backstroke with a winning time of 1:09/88, followed by NER/Ely’s Morgan McClelland, 1:18.65.

The Nighthawks were set to host Denfeld on Thursday, Sept. 17. They travel to Chisholm on Thursday, Sept. 24.

RUNNERS...Continued from page 1B

place, followed closely by senior Jasper Johnston with a sixth-place time of 17:20.5.

Other Ely runners

included Gabriel Pointer, 18:12.7, Jake Cochran, 18:38.3, Joey Bianco, 19:45.4, Jon Hakala, 20:26.2, Leo Stalmer,

21:49.0, Ben Cavalier, 23:19.3, and Riley Bishop, 35:24.9.

Ely runners were set to compete Thursday,

Sept. 17 at the Virginia Double Dual at Olcott Park. The Timberwolves are also scheduled to compete at the Arrowhead

Conference Double Tri in Britt or Eveleth-Gilbert on Friday, Sept. 25, and will return home on Friday, Oct. 2 for the Ely Double

Tri at the Ely Golf Course.

HOUSEBARN...Continued from page 1B

The 92-foot long structure, built from hand-hewn tamarack logs, has undergone over \$330,000 in grant-funded restoration work since it was donated to Sisu Heritage in 2007. Stabilization work began in 2010, and currently the structure is “weather-secure,” according to Jack LaMar, who has been supervising the restoration efforts the past few years. Work included restoring and leveling the stone foundation, restoring the unique hayloft ramp, replacing joists and floorboards, securing replacement tamarack logs to replace some of the logs



Jazz performers Debbie Bigelow and Dean Kieven entertain a crowd of about 60 people who turned out for the Community Night out event in Embarrass last Sunday afternoon. J. Summit

that had deteriorated, and repairing the windows, doorways, and roof.

LaMar said Sisu Heritage next needs to decide if they want to hire

a professional grant writer to move into the next phase of the project, restoring the building to how it appeared in the mid-1920s.

“We have several pho-

tographs that show the housebarn at its peak,” he said.

Professional research would also need to be done to determine how exactly to restore the building to be historically accurate, he said. None of the three Sietaniemi children ever had children of their own. As adults, Knute and Bill lived on the homestead in a more traditional stick-built house, built in later years, but after Bill died in 2003, the land and structures were sold to a private party. The new owners graciously decided to donate the housebarn, along with a 99-year lease

for the nearby surrounding land, to Sisu Heritage.

Once the final restoration work is completed, LaMar said they hope to gather some of the original artifacts from the homestead. After the final remaining Seitaniemi family member, Bill, died in 2003, the contents of the home were auctioned off, and many items are now owned by residents in the area.

The housebarn is part of the historic log home tours conducted during the summer from the Nelimark Homestead Museum. Private tours can also be arranged by

contacting Jack LaMar at 218-208-7725.

Sisu Heritage is a non-profit that was formed to preserve and share the unique culture, climate, and history of the Embarrass area. The group owns other historic log structures in Embarrass and operates a small museum and gift shop in the Nelimark Homestead, which is open weekends during the summer, and for a few holiday weekend events in the fall.

You can learn more about the housebarn project at www.sisuseritage.org.

POLLING...Continued from page 1B

Minnesota, where Trump holds a commanding lead, particularly among men. A *New York Times*/Sienna College poll, released over this past weekend, also pegged the race at 49-40 for Biden.

The SurveyUSA poll queried likely voters in several regions of the state and found that the president fared best in northeastern Minnesota. The region was a longtime Democratic stronghold that has trended to the right in recent years. The poll found that enthusiasm for Trump has only grown in the region since 2016. The poll found Trump with a 61-37 percent lead, a substantial improvement over the 54-38 margin by which Trump won Minnesota’s Eighth District, which encompasses northeastern and east-central Minnesota in 2016. The Trump campaign is clearly hoping to boost turnout in his primary stronghold in the state in hopes of overcoming Biden’s clear advantage elsewhere in Minnesota.

Voters in northeastern Minnesota appear receptive to Trump’s economic message, which has centered on trade tariffs, eliminating environmental regulations, and cutting taxes for corporations and the wealthy. Trump has also sided with supporters of copper-nickel mining in the region when he reversed an Obama era decision not to renew a mineral lease for the proposed Twin Metals mine. That decision remains in litigation and the financial viability of the Twin Metals project remains to be seen, but it’s an issue that appears to be playing to Trump’s political advantage.

While the SurveyUSA poll found Biden held a 45-43 lead on the question of who would be better for the economy statewide, Trump found much stronger support on that

question in northeastern Minnesota, where voters chose Trump over Biden by a 60-35 percent margin.

State Rep. Rob Ecklund acknowledges that many North Country residents back Trump’s economic message. “And I don’t know why,” said Ecklund, noting that neither of the region’s two industrial sectors, taconite and wood products, have benefitted from Trump’s policies.

Ecklund took issue with the recent comments from Scott Dane, head of the Associated Contract Loggers and Truckers, who spoke at the recent Republican National Convention. Dane appeared to blame the Obama administration for the closure of wood products plants, but Ecklund said Dane had his timeline wrong.

“The board mills started closing in 2006 and 2007, under the Bush administration,” noted Ecklund. While those plant closures were made permanent a couple years later at the depths of the Great Recession, Ecklund said the decisions to close those plants preceded the Obama administration. “The only board plant that closed under Obama was at Sartell, and that was the result of a boiler explosion,” he added. “One of the last remaining paper mills, Verso, shut down under Trump’s watch,” noted Ecklund. That closure came earlier this year and has put further strain on the region’s struggling timber economy. “To me, the economic message doesn’t match the reality,” said Ecklund.

Even so, the latest poll demonstrates the political sea change that has occurred in the region.

Trump’s wide lead in the region stands in sharp contrast to 2012, when President Barack Obama and Vice President Biden

defeated Republican Mitt Romney by a 52-46 percent margin in the Eighth District.

The SurveyUSA poll was not able to determine differences in support within the various regions of the state it examined. The Eighth Congressional District is geographically large and portions of the district have long been GOP strongholds. While Donald Trump won the district handily in 2016 and appears to have a healthy lead in the district today, the poll was not able to break down that support by county. DFL-leaning St. Louis County, the largest county in the district and home to Duluth, backed Hillary Clinton in 2016 by a 51-40 percent margin. That was a far narrower margin than the 63-34 percent margin by which the county’s voters backed Obama over Romney in 2012. Election results in November will reveal whether Trump has lost or gained support in the county since his election four years ago.

The latest poll also suggests that the political leanings in northeastern Minnesota go beyond an affinity for Trump. The same survey found that former right-wing talk show host Jason Lewis leads DFL Sen. Tina Smith in northeastern Minnesota by a similar 60-35 percent margin. Statewide, the poll found Smith with a 47-36 percent lead over Lewis. By contrast, U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar defeated her Republican rival in that same election by a 65-30 percent margin in the Eighth District.

Other poll findings

The SurveyUSA poll also found a sharp divide in how supporters of the two major party candidates plan to cast their ballots, and that could have an impact on the initial reporting of election results. The survey found that among those

Minnesotans who plan to cast their ballots in-person, Trump leads 59-32 percent. By contrast, those who indicated they plan to vote by mail, backed Biden by an astonishing 71-16 percent margin. The poll found that just 42 percent of Minnesotans plan to cast their ballots in person on Election Day. Just over a third of voters say they plan to vote by mail, while 17 percent say they plan to vote in person before Election Day. Those early in-person voters also backed Biden, although by a smaller margin of 51-38 percent.

President Trump has, at time, discouraged his supporters from voting by mail, falsely alleging that mail-in balloting is rife with fraud. Trump has also downplayed the dangers of the COVID-19 pandemic and his voters appear less concerned about the risks of in-person voting on Nov. 3. Trump has also argued that only results from in-person voting on Election Day should be counted. Mail-in ballots often take longer to process, so final results in closer races may not be known for several days in some cases. The latest survey suggests that initial results on Election Day may not be reflective of the final tally when all the votes are counted in Minnesota.

The Survey USA poll found Biden winning strong support from both urban and suburban voters. In the cities, Biden led 60-31, but also led by a 52-35 percent margin in the metro suburbs, a key region that has shifted toward the Democrats in recent elections. Trump found majority support only among rural voters, where he led 55-35 percent.

Biden held a 49-40 percent advantage on the question of who would keep Minnesotans safer.

The poll also revealed a sizable gender gap, with

women backing Biden 54-36 percent, while men were divided 45-44 percent in favor of Trump, although that’s a difference well within the poll’s margin of error.

The education gap was even wider. Among those adults with no more than a high school degree, Trump led 48-42 percent, while those Minnesotans with at least a four-year degree backed Biden by 56-35 percent.

Biden found his strongest margins of support among young voters, at 55-32 percent, and voters over 65, where Biden led by a 54-42 percent margin. Biden’s support among older voters suggests that Trump’s handling of the coronavirus may be hurting him with the segment of the population most vulnerable to the disease.

Both the SurveyUSA and *NY Times*/Sienna polls suggest that voters on both sides are unlikely to change their minds, a troubling sign for the president’s

chances in Minnesota. Just one percent of Democrats said they would consider voting for anyone but Biden in the *NY Times*/Sienna poll, while only five percent of Republicans said they might reconsider their support of Trump.

Biden also is viewed more favorably by Minnesotans, according to SurveyUSA, which found that 42 percent of voters view him favorably with 41 percent giving him an unfavorable rating. Trump remains well under water in terms of favorability with Minnesotans. Just 39 percent view Trump favorably, while 53 percent view him unfavorably, accord-





NORTHERN COMMUNITY RADIO
 KAXE 91.7 FM Grand Rapids
 89.9 FM Brainerd
 KBXE 90.5 FM Bagley/Bemidji

Independent, nonprofit community radio
 serving Northern Minnesota.

NOW BROADCASTING IN ELY
103.9 FM

COOK

NWFA dedicates gallery room to artist Sue Wolfe

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- The back room of the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook is currently filled with the eclectic and fanciful artwork of former beloved patron Sue Wolfe, an exhibit she envisioned well before she passed away last May at age 79.

But when the “Soul Force” exhibit wraps at the end of September, Wolfe’s presence will remain right there, as a small group of family and friends gathered in the back gallery last Saturday to christen it as “The Wolfe Den” in honor of her dedication to the arts and NWFA.

While Sue’s son, Steven, was unable to attend, her husband, Ray, and daughters Beth Cook and Sarah Grebenc were present to hear tributes both funny and touching from NWFA members.

“Now Sue was the only person who would invite me to go to an old broken down building to pick up junk, and I think I recognize that piece of linoleum,” said Jeanne O’Melia, gesturing toward one of Sue’s creations. “I think I have a little piece of that. She would stand by at the dumpster to pull me out. I could usually pile the junk up so I could get out, but she would be there for me.”

O’Melia described how the two of them regularly exchanged devotions up until Sue’s death.

“Then the day after she died, I looked at the devotion and I thought, ‘Who am I going to send it to?’ And I talked to Sarah and she said, ‘You can send them to me.’ [Sue] has such a special place in the world that nobody else could be.”

Lois Garbisch talked about some of Sue’s work and activities in the community and dubbed her “a member of the friendly person club.” Garbisch noted that Sue was intrigued by and embraced people with views different from her own.

“There would be people who looked at things differently than Sue, who would say things that Sue disagreed with and found it interesting and perhaps inspirational. Rather than just write these people off, she would try to do them favors or seek them out for a conversation. She said she was trying to understand some people who she didn’t really agree with.”

“Sue was an inspiration to everybody here,” NWFA President Shawna Kishel said. “She was authentic. We want to dedicate this space to her – it’s going to become ‘The Wolfe Den,’ a birthplace for creative and new ideas.”



Ray Wolfe, with his daughters Sarah and Beth, at the gallery dedication. photo by D. Colburn

Kishel said the name was particularly appropriate because wolves only build dens for birthing, and not anything else. Similar to dens in the wild, ‘The Wolfe Den’ will serve a fresh, creative purpose.

Beth Cook echoed the comments about how Sue embraced

differences and sought to learn from others, and how NWFA had become “another part of her family.”

“She taught us to speak up. She was passionate about things, too,” Sarah said, “and she taught us to be independent. We would speak back to her sometimes

and she’d get a little mad, but that’s what she told us to do, to be strong and have opinions.”

She paused momentarily. “This is very special to us, too,” she said. “Thank you.”

Obituaries and Death Notices



Marilyn F. Geshick

Marilyn Frances Geshick, 74, of Nett Lake, began her journey on Sunday, Sept. 13, 2020, in Duluth. A wake will be held at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 17 at the Nett Lake School in Nett Lake. The service will also be held at Nett Lake School on the following day, Friday, Sept. 18 at 10 a.m. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook.

Marilyn was born to Eugene Whiteman Sr. and Angeline (Wein) Whiteman on July 24, 1946, in Cloquet. Marilyn grew up in Nett Lake and attended school at Nett Lake and Orr High School, and attended college at Rainy River, earning a secretarial certificate. Before retiring, she worked as Cook for Head Start and Elementary School in Nett Lake, Secretary at Housing, Postal Clerk at Nett Lake, Clerk at MSC, Bingo Caller at Fortune

Bay, and most recently Cook at the Elderly Nutrition Center. Marilyn loved going casino-hopping with her best bud and official partner in crime, Floyd Morrison. She enjoyed her Thursday evening bingo at VFW in Cook and a good Friday night Smear game in Orr at the Legion.

Marilyn was a big supporter of elementary and high school events, ready to pitch in for any fundraisers and cheer on students far and wide. Her devotion to education was evident in her 28 years serving on the Nett Lake School Board (since 1992). She was extremely fond of her daughters, and fiercely devoted the grandkids. Her best times were spent overseeing them in hunting, fishing and gathering activities, and she was proud to see them keeping tradition alive.

Marilyn was at her best and happiest when she was spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren. Marilyn was very happy, outgoing and upbeat. She had a goofy sense of humor, sharing her quick wit and tons of laughs with family and friends. She was persistent and a good motivator and sometimes a little bossy, but in a very loving way. She was truly cherished and will be missed by many.

Marilyn is sur-

vived by her siblings, Jerome, Bill, Eugene Jr., Debbie and Steve; children, Douglas Whiteman, Angela Geshick (William LaRoque), Robin Geshick, Tara Geshick and Merrilee (Mark) Littlewolf; grandchildren, Nicholas, Marion, Anthony, Tracey, Amber, Dallas, Mark, Marshall, Jordan, Marissa, Alexa, Bryleigh, Preston, Isaiah and Brandon; and great-grandchildren, Malaya, Addison, Xiomara, Izik, Jade, Kayla, Aleesia, Camden, Journey, Matthias, Macy, Maleah, Maurice and Myles.

Marilyn was preceded in death by her parents; siblings, Edna Whiteman, Roger Whiteman Sr., Margaret Whiteman, Mary Fairbanks and Linda Whiteman; and a great-grandchild, Jasmine Drift.

Roy C. Carlson

Roy Clarence Carlson, 93, of Ely, died on Friday, Sept. 11, 2020, at Carefree Living in Ely. The family would like to thank Carefree for the excellent care given to Roy during his stay. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by his four children, Robert (Sandra Nyman), LeRoy, Thomas and DeAnn, all of Ely; six grandchil-

dren, Shannon Wallisch, Chad Carlson (Meghan Moravitz), Shalee Hansen, Garrett Carlson (Melissa Portinen), Marissa Carlson (Jeff Gapp) and Brianna Carlson; and 12 great-grandchildren, Skyler, Grayson, Cameron, Wyatt, Brynn, Preston, Peyton, Mila, Aiden, Easton, Reagan and Bristyl; as well as several nieces, nephews and friends.

Francine J. Stellmach

Francine “Fran” J. Kolak Stellmach, 86, a longtime resident of Babbitt, died on Sunday, Sept. 6, 2020, at Boundary Waters Care Center in Ely with her daughters by her side. Fran’s life is a true testament of love and dedication to her family. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Saturday, Sept. 12 at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church in Ely with Father Bill Skarich as the celebrant. Interment was in the Argo Cemetery

in Babbitt. Arrangements were by Kerntz Funeral Home in Ely.

She is survived by her five children, Craig (Brenda) Stellmach of Smeltonville, Idaho, Diane Thiel of Babbitt, Barb (Darwin) Lossing of Northome, Lori (Jeff) Sanborn of Crane Lake and Sandy (Matt) Skala of Ely; grandchildren, Jacqueline and Sara, Tony and Misty, Dustin and Tim, John and Scott, Carley and Chad; many great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren and step-grandchildren; sister, Barbara Urick; sisters-in-law, Ellie Moberg, Margie Moulzolf and Donna (Ron) Rosa; good friends, Sandy Eddy, Gerry Mealy and Linda Hadeen; and many nieces, nephews and friends.

Arthur J. Lehtonen Sr.

Arthur “Art” John Lehtonen Sr., 81, of Virginia, passed away on Thursday, Sept. 3, 2020, at his residence. Funeral

services were held on Monday, Sept. 14 at Range Funeral Home in Virginia with Pastor Amy Janssen officiating. Burial took place at the Florenton Cemetery. Memorials are preferred to the Virginia Foundation in Art’s name. Arrangements were with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by his sister, Arlene (Dale) Weirmaa; son, Arthur John Lehtonen Jr.; grandson, Leslie “Artie” Arthur Lehtonen; nieces, nephews and many extended friends.

Anita Peterson

Anita Peterson, 82, of Ely, passed away on Saturday, Sept. 12, 2020, at Carefree Living in Babbitt. Graveside services were held on Wednesday, Sept. 16 at the Ely Cemetery. Family arrangements were entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

ART GALLERY

Local arts and crafts for viewing and sales

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

RANGE JEWELRY & GIFTS

In-store jewelry & watch repair

Cash for Gold & Silver

218-827-2515
33 Central Blvd, Suite 200
Babbitt Shopping Center

833-314-1217

BOGO 40% OFF

Renewal by Andersen
WINDOW REPLACEMENT an Andersen Company
The Better Way to a Better Window

Subscribe to the **TIMBERJAY!**

Call 218-753-2950

Wear a mask in public spaces.

Get tested if you have any symptoms.

Answer if your health department calls.



Outdoors

Our lives in the Northwoods

STARRY STARRY NIGHT

BWCAW designated dark sky sanctuary

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

REGIONAL—There is now one more reason to visit the Boundary Waters. The 1.1 million-acre federal wilderness area has been designated a Dark Sky Sanctuary, the first such designation within the state of Minnesota.

The BWCAW is only the 13th location in the world to be officially designated for the quality of its night skies, and it is the largest site, in terms of area, designated to date. It is also the

first federal wilderness area entered into the program.

The designation, announced last week, was the culmination of more than a decade of discussion. “We are excited to receive the Dark Sky Sanctuary designation for the BWCAW and are committed to preserving dark sky opportunities for future generations,” said Superior National Forest Supervisor Connie Cummins.

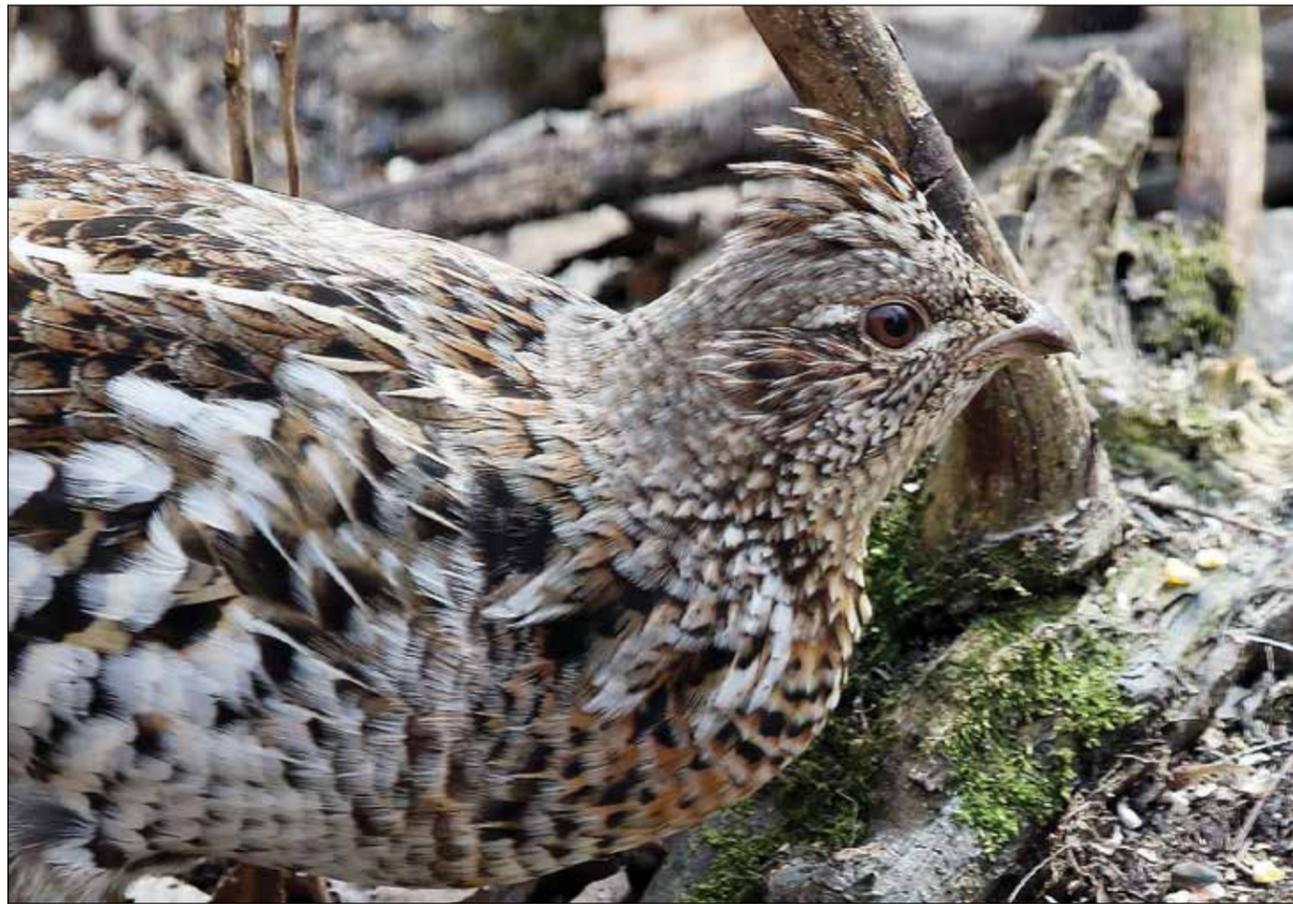
The International Dark Sky Association is a non-profit organiza-

Right: Northern lights dance above the North Country.
photo courtesy H. Pinkerton

tion founded in 1988 with the goal of reducing light pollution and protecting night skies for the present and into the future.

A Dark Sky Sanctuary is “public or private land that has an exceptional or distinguished quality of starry nights and a nocturnal environment

See **NIGHT...** pg. 5B



GROUSE HUNTING

Good season ahead?

Dry conditions likely boosted grouse reproduction

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Conditions should be good for grouse hunters who take to the woods this weekend for the season opener, and there’s reason to expect a decent harvest.

Both ruffed and spruce grouse will be legal game in northeastern Minnesota as of Saturday and there should be plenty of birds out there even as the best hunting won’t come until the leaves fall later this month.

“Should be,” is the operative word, because ruffed grouse are always unpredictable. But the pieces were there this summer for a good season. After a snowy winter, the ruffed grouse population appeared somewhat better-than-average heading into the spring breeding season. Spring drumming counts, conducted by the Department of Natural Resources, averaged 1.7 birds per stop in northeastern Minnesota. That’s better than average, and only slightly below the 2.0 birds per stop typical of the peak of a population cycle.

“I’m optimistic,” said Tower Area DNR wildlife manager Tom

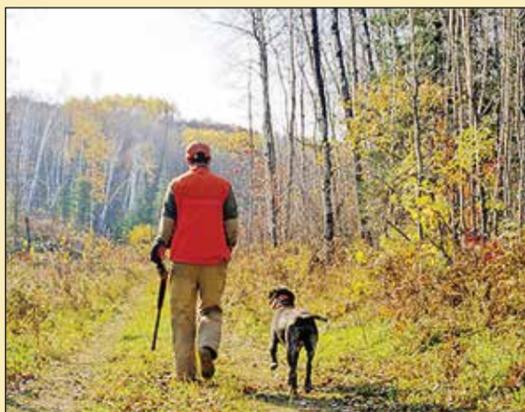
Above: Hunters will be on the lookout for ruffed grouse beginning this weekend.

photo by M. HelMBERGER

Rusch. “The drought conditions we saw in June and July were just perfect for upland bird nesting.” Rusch noted that a recent pheasant survey elsewhere in the state showed excellent survival of young-of-the-year birds. Since young-of-the-year comprise a significant percentage of the annual harvest, strong reproduction can go a long way toward creating a successful hunt.

Wildlife managers have long understood that ruffed grouse populations rise and fall on a roughly ten-year cycle, but there’s evidence that that pattern has become less pronounced in recent years. That’s one reason that most wildlife managers are a bit gun-shy about predicting hunter success these days. While he’s hopeful of a good season, Rusch acknowledges grouse are notoriously difficult to spot during the late summer and even into early fall, which makes predictions based on field reports less than reliable. “I saw more turkey

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



Looking for a place to hunt?

REGIONAL— Looking for a good place to try grouse hunting? Why not check out one of the many designated hunter walking trails in northern St. Louis County?

Try the old Koschak farm, located just off County Rd. 88, between Ely and Winton, which has 2.5 miles of hunter walking trails. Or there’s the Hwy. 115 trail system, which includes 3.6 miles of trail. There’s another 2.1 miles of boat-access trail tucked in along the south shore of Black Bay of Lake Vermilion. There are hunter walking trails near Elephant Lake, Crane Lake, Black Duck Lake, and 9.5 miles of trails just south of Echo Lake, accessed from the Echo Trail. The Darwin Myers wildlife management area in Embarrass has 6.1 miles of trail.

Many, but not all, of the trails are mowed and some are enhanced with planted clover, which always attracts grouse and other wildlife.

“Hunter walking trails are a fun way to check out new areas and they do provide good hunting,” said Ted Dick, forest game bird coordinator for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. “New hunters can follow these trails and not worry about

See **WALKING...** pg. 5B

Wildflower Watch

This week’s featured flower
LINDLEY’S ASTER



Lindley’s Aster, *Symphyotricum ciliolatum*, is also known as the Northern Heart-leaved Aster, which is a good description for the shape of the leaves on this early-to-mid-fall bloomer. This is one of the most common blue asters in our area, but don’t mistake it for the very pale blue of the big-leaved aster, which is also in bloom right now. Look for the red to dark purple stem and the lavender flowers, each of which is about an inch wide. This species is growing in abundance this year, particularly along wooded roads, where it takes advantage of a little extra sunlight.

RESEARCH

DNR seeks feathers from spruce grouse

REGIONAL— Spruce grouse hunters in northern Minnesota’s boreal forests are being asked to voluntarily submit feather samples for a genetics research project being conducted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in partnership with the University of Minnesota.

“Hunters who enjoy pursuing these birds are critical to the success of this project and our work to conserve this species,” said DNR grouse research scientist Charlotte Roy. “Data collection for this project is simple and can be a fun science activity to engage hunters of all ages.”

The study will use grouse genetics to form a baseline of data to establish how spruce grouse currently use the landscape and to identify changes in habitat connectivity over time.

Hunters who would like to assist with the project should collect three to five large wing or tail feathers along with the GPS coordinates of the harvest location. The feathers, GPS coordinates and the hunter’s name and telephone number should be mailed to: Grouse Research, DNR regional headquarters, 1201 East Hwy. 2, Grand Rapids, MN 55744.

NIGHT...Continued from page 4B

that is protected for its scientific, natural, or educational value, its cultural heritage and/or public enjoyment.”

Experiencing the night sky provides perspective, inspiration, and leads us to reflect on our humanity and place in the universe, according to the International Dark Sky Association. The history of scientific discovery and even human curiosity itself is indebted to the natural night sky.

This designation confirms what people in the area have enjoyed for thousands of years. Dark skies, starry nights, and astonishing northern lights displays have been part of the experience long before the area was designat-

ed wilderness, Cummins added.

“Conservation and preservation laws, policy and guidance all lead to the protection of the night skies for scientific, natural, educational, cultural, and public enjoyment values, which are all part of protecting wilderness character,” said BWCAW Program Manager Ann Schwaller.

According to a 2016 National Geographic article, 80 percent of Americans cannot view the Milky Way anymore due to light pollution. Researchers worry that humans around the globe are losing access to the scientific, philosophical, and spiritual benefits of appreciating a dark sky

WALKING...Continued from page 4B

getting lost or wandering off public land. And you can get away from trucks and four-wheelers, and into some decent grouse habitat.”

With or without a dog, the trails can offer a surefire way to get out and get away from it all. To get started, find a shotgun, a blaze orange vest and hat, and buy a valid small game

license. You don’t even need a dog, although a good hunting dog can significantly boost your odds of success. On a sunny, crisp fall afternoon, with your faithful companion working the thickets, you just can’t beat it. So Tivo the football game and get off the couch and into the woods. You’ll be glad you did.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST from NOAA weather

Friday				Saturday				Sunday				Monday				Tuesday			
56 38				63 46				68 53				71 51				73 53			
Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec. Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec. Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec. Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec. Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec. Sn.
09/07	71	45	0.00	09/07	72	41	0.00	09/07	71	44	0.00	09/07	54	43	0.00	09/07	63	43	0.00
09/08	53	29	0.01	09/08	53	29	0.00	09/08	52	34	0.01	09/08	52	36	0.00	09/08	53	29	0.00
09/09	53	28	0.00	09/09	53	27	0.16	09/09	51	34	0.11	09/09	57	28	0.00	09/09	53	27	0.00
09/10	56	27	0.00	09/10	58	27	0.00	09/10	54	36	0.00	09/10	63	36	0.00	09/10	56	27	0.00
09/11	63	27	0.01	09/11	63	28	0.00	09/11	59	36	0.00	09/11	68	48	0.00	09/11	68	27	0.00
09/12	71	32	0.09	09/12	70	30	0.14	09/12	67	40	0.15	09/12	57	50	0.00	09/12	70	31	0.25
09/13	57	49	0.01	09/13	58	50	0.01	09/13	57	50	0.02	09/13	61	39	0.00	09/13	57	50	0.00
Total 14.75				YTD Total 15.24				YTD Total 22.10				YTD Total NA				YTD Total 17.52			

LOCAL BOOKS

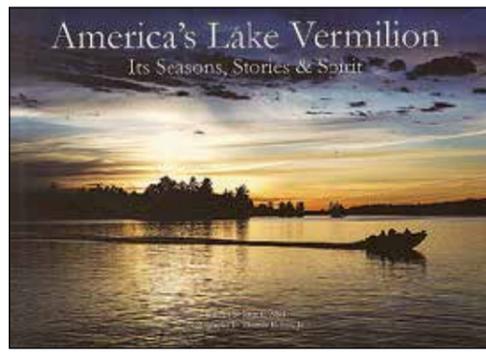
New book highlights the seasons and people of Lake Vermilion

LAKE VERMILION—A new book on Lake Vermilion is now out in hardcover, featuring the writing of John Abel and the photography of Thomas Hill Jr. The book, “America’s Lake Vermilion: Its Seasons, Stories & Spirit,” offers an eclectic mix of contemporary stories on everything from the conservation efforts of the Vermilion Lake Association and others, to paeans to local businesses and residents of the lake.

Author John Abel lives in Victoria, Minn., where he writes about mankind’s shared responsibility to protect natural resources.

Photographer Tom Hill lives in Pennsylvania and has long focused on landscape portraiture. He spent years photographing the Lake Vermilion region for the book, which includes more than 200 glossy, color images, set in all four seasons.

The book sells for \$39.99 (includes tax and shipping) and is available at the book’s website: americaslakevermilion.com/home-



page. A portion of the proceeds from the book will be donated to the Vermilion Lake Association to support their ongoing efforts to control aquatic invasive species.

ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY!

Visit: www.americaslakevermilion.com

\$39.99 includes shipping + tax

GROUSE...Continued from page 4B

broods this summer than ruffed grouse,” said Rusch. On the plus side, said Rusch, the handful of grouse coveys that he encountered earlier in the summer were large—eight or nine birds— which is indicative of good survival.

Other relatively new factors, however, like the spread of West Nile virus into bird populations, can create additional uncertainty when it comes to grouse numbers.

Even so, there are few places in the U.S. that offer better ruffed grouse hunting than northern

Minnesota. “Even in down years of the grouse population’s cycle, hunters in other states still envy our flush rates and hunter success remains high,” notes the DNR on its grouse hunting webpage.

Minnesota has also invested in grouse hunting opportunity, with more than 528 designated hunting areas in ruffed grouse range covering nearly one million acres. The DNR also maintains more than 40 designated ruffed grouse management areas and over 600 miles of hunter walking trails.

Hunters will find good access in most locations, with drier conditions east of the Vermilion River, and somewhat wetter conditions to the west. The drier-than-average summer has left most trails in the area high and dry, which is in contrast to last year when area woods were extremely wet. And this Saturday is forecast to offer perfect fall hunting conditions, with partly sunny skies and temperatures forecast to reach the upper 50s after a crisp and frosty start to the day.

Ritchie Automatic Livestock Waterers and Parts

HIBBING **FEED and SEED**

262-3049

PETERSEN DRILLING Since 1948 Wells Water Systems

- PUMPS
- WELLS
- HYDRO-FRACKING

1-800-662-5700
Spring Park Rd.
Mt. Iron, MN 55768

Subscribe to the **TIMBERJAY!**

Call 218-753-2950

CLEAN.DRAIN.DRY.

CLEAN

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

DRAIN

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

DRY

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

STOP INVASIVE SPECIES! LEARN MORE AT CLEANDRAIN.DRY.ORG

CLEAN DRAIN DRY INITIATIVE

PUBLIC NOTICES

KUGLER TOWNSHIP Regular Meeting Notice

The Kugler Town Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 22, 2020, at 6 p.m. at the Kugler Town Hall. Social distancing will be enforced.

Julie Suihkonen, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 18, 2020

FIELD TOWNSHIP WINTER MEETING SCHEDULE

The regular board meetings of Field Township, October - February, will be held at the home of the clerk, 9998 East Lind Rd., Angora on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

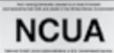
Pat Chapman/Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 18, 2020

Up For Bid

2012 Volkswagen Jetta Sedan TDI
101,000 miles, keyless entry, and sunroof. Can be seen at Embarrass Vermillion Aurora Branch. We reserve the right to accept or reject any and all bids. Item is being sold in an "as is" condition with no warranty expressed or implied.

Please submit bids to: Embarrass Vermillion Federal Credit Union, PO Box 220, Aurora, MN 55705 no later than September 28, 2020.



EMPLOYMENT

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

POSITION OPENING Ely Public Schools Paraprofessional

Ely Public Schools is looking for a Paraprofessional beginning the 2020-2021 school year; background check required.

Qualifications include:

- > AA Degree or two years of college required
- > Preferred experience working with school age children
- > Evidence of ability to work cooperatively and communicate effectively in a collaborative setting.

Application available at: www.ely.k12.mn.us

A complete application must include the following:

- > District Application
- > Resume
- > College Transcripts
- > 2 letters of recommendation

Return materials to: Ely Public Schools, Attn: Superintendent, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731 or email mwognum@ely.k12.mn.us

Starting Rate of Pay: \$16.57/hour

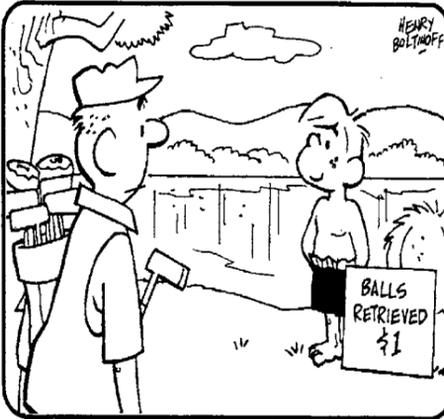
Hours: 6.5 hours/day

Deadline to apply: September 21, 2020; open until filled.

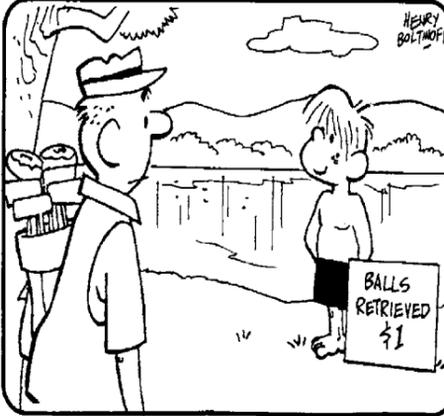
Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 11 & 18, 2020

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Golf club is missing. 2. Swim trunks are different. 3. Cloud has moved. 4. Boy's hair is different. 5. Shrub is gone. 6. Hat is different.

Super Crossword

Answers

NAOMI	NAM	USA	DIT	PER
URBAN	EDASNER	ISRAELI		
DIONNE	WARWICK	VAUNTED		
EDEN	UTICA	REACTIVE		
AIR	ROYAL	WORCESTER		
CAL	NOR	SHEETS	YENS	
ARIAL	HAD	ONAE	ECT	
BUFFALO	NEWYORK	TEABAG		
ABET	ADDLE	IPRESUME		
LAB	INE	ABC	AWE	TEMPT
LINDSEY	BUCKINGHAM			
LOOPS	IDS	TAI	CEE	ETA
CROATIAN		STAIR	ODIN	
DODDER	ABRAHAM	LINCOLN		
PEP	EOS	SIE	ETUDE	
BEST	RESUIT	DEE	TEX	
ACHUMPA	TOXFORD	ARF		
RHETORIC		ROUES	RAUL	
BOLEROS	KENTUCKY	DERBY		
RELEASE	ANNETTE	ESTER		
ADS	LED	YEW	ESS	SHIRE

EMPLOYMENT



living well
THERAPY

PHYSICAL THERAPIST

Living Well Physical Therapy currently has an exciting opportunity for a physical therapist to be part of our expanding team and work in a private practice setting in Northeast Minnesota. The qualified candidate will have strong manual therapy skills, experience in working with a wide variety of clients, and excellent customer service skills. Benefits will include a competitive wage, paid sick and holiday time, health care benefits, matching 401K, and continuing education funds.

Interested candidates should please call Patrick at 218-343-6253. Or e-mail patrick@living-well-therapy.com



OPEN POSITIONS

10 Fifth Street SE, Cook, MN 55723

Care Center

FT & PT Nursing Assistant (wage starting at \$15.88/hr - Sign-On Bonus)
FT MDS-PPS Coordinator/RN Educator

Environmental Services

Casual Laundry Aide

Radiology

FT Radiology Tech

Hospital/ER

PT Registered Nurse

Activities

PT Activities Assistant

Dietary

FT Certified Dietary Manager
PT & Casual Dietary Aide/Cook

Excellent Wages!
Ask about our sign on bonus!

TO APPLY:

www.cookhospital.org/join-our-team/

More Info? Contact Human Resources

218-666-6220

humanresources@cookhospital.org

Equal Opportunity Employer/Affirmative Action Employer

The Cook Hospital & Care Center offers competitive pay and benefits including PERS retirement, Health and Dental coverage, Life and LTD.

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@cook-buildingcenter.com or stop in to fill out an application. tfn

Heating-Cooling- Refrigeration Technician

Regionally-based company posting for a service technician with experience in installing heating systems, AC systems; diagnosis and repair of both, repair and preventive maintenance of refrigeration equipment. Prefer accreditation from a 2 year program and 4-6 years in the field. Full time with benefits.

Apply to Indeed:
HVAC/Maintenance Technician
Edwards Oil and Propane

Otherwise email resume to rskalko@eoctrimark.com

9/18

BARTENDERS, COOKS, SERVERS

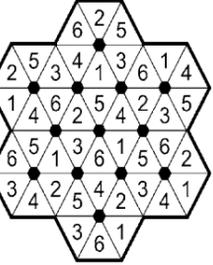
The Landing, in Cook, is now hiring bartenders, cooks, and servers. Come join a great team with a stellar reputation and a fantastic base of loyal customers.

Apply to info@onlakevermillion.com or call 763-221-1151. tfn

Call about our affordable Display Classified & Real Estate Rates
218-753-2950

SNOWFLAKES
solution

Subscribe to the
TIMBERJAY!
Call
218-753-2950



Advertise Here



One Low Price

Three editions

Call Today 218-753-2950
Online at timberjay.com

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

© 2020 King Features Synd., Inc.

TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

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

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

LICENSE BUREAU

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

Ely AA GROUPS TO MEET BY PHONE- Starting immediately, 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.

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

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 mutual support program for the friends and families of alcoholics. It is confidential and open to anyone affected by someone else's drinking. Hope Lutheran Church in Embarrass hosts an Al-Anon group on Monday evenings at 6 p.m. 218-984-2037.

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.

AA 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.)

Call 753-2950 to subscribe to the Timberjay!



BUILDING SERVICES

EAST DHU RIVER SAWMILL INC

"Put A Piece Of Northern Minnesota In Your Home"

Superior Quality
• Plank Paneling
• Trim
• One-Of-A-Kind Moldings
• Industrial Lumber
218-744-1788
8825 Hwy 101, Iron, MN 55751

WANTED

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

FOR RENT

STOREFRONT/OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT- Great location. \$400/month includes utilities. Aurora, MN. 320-703-8424. 9/11p

HOUSE FOR RENT/SALE

FOR RENT IN SOUDAN- 3 BED, 1 BATH- 2-stall detached garage. \$600/month or \$59,900 for sale. CD considered. Avail. Oct. 1. Call 612-718-1890. 10/2

FOUND

TOOL TOTE with tools found on Tower's Main Street on Aug. 19. Call the Timberjay office at 218-753-2950 to describe and claim.

Classifieds run in all 3 editions of the Timberjay.

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

MARINE

ARONSON BOAT WORKS
LAKE VERMILION, TOWER
Located two miles southwest of Tower on Hwy. 169
Hours:
Mon-Sat: 8:30 AM-5:30 PM
Sun: 9 AM-3 PM
Mercury LUND HONDA
Storage • Complete Service • Sales

MERCURY OUTBOARDS
Frank's Marine
Sales & Service. Orr, MN 55771
Mercury Outboards, MerCruiser, Crestliner Lund, Spartan Trailers, Ercoa Pontoons.
Call 218-757-3150

MOCCASIN POINT MARINE

4655 Moccasin Point Rd
Lake Vermilion
218-753-3319

Storage, Boat Rentals, Service/Repairs/Sales
Mechanic on Duty
moccasinpointmarine.com



• Boat launch, rental, store & repair
• Cabins for a great, fun vacation

See us at: www.grubens.com
Call us at: 218.753.5000
4296 Arrowhead Point Rd, Tower MN 55790

MARINE

TIMBUKTU MARINA
ON LAKE VERMILION
218-666-2131
7401 Oak Narrows Rd - Cook MN
Cabin rentals
Year round boat storage and dockage
Boat and pontoon rental
Convenience store
Gas, bait & liquor
timbuktumarina.com

TIMBUKTU MARINE
LAKE VERMILION
218-666-2276
2475 Vermillion Dr - Cook MN
Ranger Boats
Premier Pontoon
WEERES
Boats
MERCURY
SUZUKI
YAMAHA
Sales, service, storage, boat lifts, docks, trailers and accessories
timbuktumarine.com



Centrally Located On Lake Vermilion

Covered Wet & Dry Boat Storage
Lease or Purchase Options
Marina • Mechanic on Duty
Convenience Store
24-Hour Fuel • Live Bait

4551 Bradley Road, Tower • 753-5457
www.shamrocklanding.com

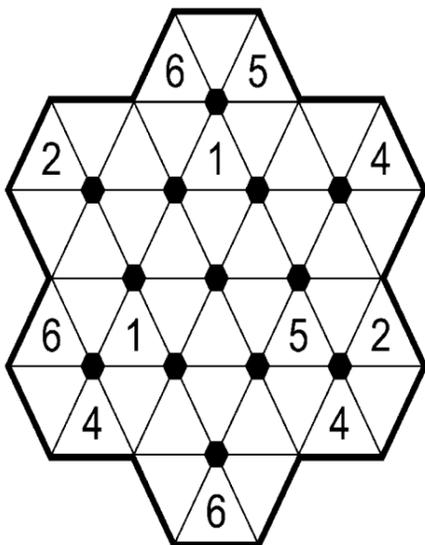
Super Crossword

COUNTY EXTENSION

- ACROSS**
1 Singer Judd
6 1960s war zone
9 Old Glory's country
12 Morse click
15 For each
18 City-related
19 He played Lou Grant
21 Haifa native
23 "Alfie" singer
25 Boasted of
26 Idyllic spot
27 City east of Syracuse
28 Not inert
29 See 71-Down
31 Longtime porcelain brand
35 Hitter Ripken
38 Fish-fowl link
40 Some linens
41 Desires
42 Typeface option
44 Gave birth to
47 Put — show
48 Outer: Prefix
51 City on the eastern shore of Lake Erie
55 Pouch near a kettle
60 Aid in crime
61 Mix up
62 "It's my guess ..."
64 Workshop
65 Ending for opal
66 "Quantico" network
68 Overwhelm
69 Be inviting to
70 Former Fleetwood Mac guitarist
75 Belt holders
77 They often show DOBs
78 — chi
79 Not-so-great grade
80 Greek "H"
83 Zagreb native
85 Part of a flight of steps
87 Aesir god
88 Walk shakily
89 Follower of James Buchanan
94 Energize, with "up"
96 Dawn deity
97 You, in Germany
98 Piano exercise
99 Optimal
103 Provide with a new outfit
106 Not-so-great grade
108 La. neighbor
109 Laurel and Hardy film
114 "Woof!"
116 Effective use of language
117 Lascivious guys
119 Cuba's Castro
123 Spanish dances in 3/4 time
124 Race held every May
128 Let go
129 "Being Julia" star Bening
130 Diglyceride, e.g.
131 Some inserts
132 Steered
133 Topiary tree
134 Suffix with shepherd
135 English county (it can be added to the ends of this puzzle's seven longest answers)
45 Plus
46 Postpones
49 Hub: Abbr.
50 Grow incisors, e.g.
52 Nation
53 Jack of "Dragnet"
54 Fuzzy fruit
56 Voyaging
57 Feeling blue
58 Energize, with "up"
59 Figure out
63 Written with a #2, say
65 Foot arch
67 Loin or chop
68 Watchdog breeds
71 With 29-Across, new Apple product of 2013
72 Author O'Brien
73 Coins or bills
74 Pop singer Halliwell
75 PC monitor type
76 Jorge's gold squiggle
82 Attach
84 Great anger
86 Friend in France
87 Mo. #10
90 Paul Anka's "Eso —"
91 Butter-and-flour mixture
92 "Dream on!"
93 — do-well
95 Glorified
99 Diva Streisand
100 Resounded
101 Turtles' tops
102 Private pupil
104 "That kinda thing": Abbr.
105 Rich cake
107 "Piece of cake!"
110 Virtuous
111 It isn't poetry
112 Travel plan
113 Body tubes
115 Smart-alecky
118 Barely earns, with "out"
120 Intro painting class, maybe
121 Rival of Lyft
122 Old stringed instrument
124 Singer Starr
125 Suffix with ethyl
126 Florida-to-Indiana dir.
127 Moines lead-in

SNOWFLAKES by Japheth Light

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.



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Easy ◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆ Difficult

© 2020 King Features Synd., Inc.

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11		12	13	14		15	16	17				
18						19			20					21			22							
23					24									25										
26						27								28										
				29	30			31		32	33	34									41			
35	36	37				38		39																
42				43				44	45	46				47			48	49	50					
51						52					53			54		55		56	57	58	59			
60						61							62	63										
64						65				66		67		68				69						
			70	71					72				73				74							
75	76							77				78			79					80	81	82		
83						84							85	86						87				
88									89	90	91	92							93					
						94		95		96				97					98					
99	100	101	102					103	104					105		106	107				108			
109						110	111							112	113		114		115					
116														117			118				119	120	121	122
123														124	125	126					127			
128														129								130		
131																						132		
																							133	
																							134	
																								135



HOME IMPROVEMENT GUIDE



YOU CALL, WE HAUL!

Cement Trucks, Building Materials
Septic-pumping Trucks, Dirt
Well-drilling Equipment
Propane Delivery

Carl Anderson

Anderson Barging, Inc.

Cell 218-780-4955

www.andersonbarging.com

Covering all of Lake Vermilion

Licensed Septic Design & Installation

- ◆ Complete Site & Building Preparation
- ◆ Road Building, Land Clearing, Basement, Demolition
- ◆ Digging, Dozing, Hauling
- ◆ Sand, Gravel, Crushed Rock, Black Dirt

Call for an estimate • 218-365-4220

2408 Hwy. 169, PO Box 608, Ely, MN 55731
jschulze.excavating2@gmail.com



In Business Since 1979

Call Now To Schedule Your FALL Work!

It's a great time to be outdoors!



"Fetch us" for your fall projects!

Landscaping Services, Patios, Garden Design, Retaining Walls, Yard Restoration

(218) 365-6037 • 2331 Old Hwy. 169, Ely
1/4 mi. east of 88 & 169 • greenstonenursery.com



Real Estate Closing Services, Title Insurance & Abstracting

Northeast Title Company has competitive rates and professional services assuring peace of mind for our customers before and after closing. We take pride in our service and have a proven history of being a leader in the industry. Customers can expect quality services and products along with a professional staff that takes pride in every closing. Our warm, friendly, and professional approach in all of our transactions ensures our customers a level of comfort that is unmatched in the industry.

ELY OFFICE
545 E Sheridan St • Ely, MN 55731
Phone (218)365-5256
Angie Mikulich
Licensed Closing Agent

VIRGINIA OFFICE
612 13 St S • Virginia MN 55792
Phone (218)741-1515
Jodee Micheletti
Owner/Licensed Closing Agent

COOK/SURROUNDING AREAS
Phone (218)666-3174
Sharon Maronick
Licensed Closing Agent

www.netitle.com

Cedar for BIG & SMALL projects!



2x6 • 6 ft
Cedar Dock Boards

\$9.99 each

while supplies last



Phone/Fax: 218.666.5344
Hours: Mon. Fri: 7-5, Sat: 8-12
eric@cookbuildingcenter.com

FALL GRILL SALE!

Traeger Grills & Wood Pellets



ON SALE!

We are a UPS Shipping Drop-Off

VERMILION LUMBER

HOME OF THE PROFESSIONALS

218-753-2230

302 Main St., Tower, MN

M-F: 8 AM-5 PM; Sat: 8 AM-Noon



Custom made by DOW
Building Heavy Duty Docks
in Ely for 42 years

VISIT OUR SHOWROOM!

Quality Shorefront Products

Factory Dealer of

DAKA & Shoremaster Products

www.docksonwheels.com

2195 Twin Lakes Road
5 miles west of Ely
on Hwy 169

218.365.6210

Call Bob for a FREE ESTIMATE

TIP-TOP CHIMNEY SERVICE

Repairs, Inspections, Minor Roofing Repairs, Liners and Caps

tiptopchimney@gmail.com
218-290-5370 Rick
Insured



Check Out Our New Products!

Quality & reliable marine sales & service



Open: Mon-Fri, 9-5
Sat. 9-Noon
8327 Unity Dr., Virginia / Mt. Iron
218-741-8532

Get Results!

Advertise in the Timberjay!

FOREST CONCRETE PRODUCTS

Delivered Redi-Mix Concrete Septic Tanks

We have: Concrete Steps & Sidewalk Pavers, Crushed & Washed Rock, Sand, Garden Soil, Crushed & Screened Gravel, Different Types of Concrete Blocks. FREE ESTIMATES for site development, roads, fill and excavations.

Celebrating Over 47 Years!

From Ely to Tower-Soudan and Virginia, using local gravel pits to support all your needs.

FOREST CONCRETE PRODUCTS



1715 E. Sheridan, Ely, MN 55731
office 218-365-6161 • plant 218-365-4030
fax 218-365-6985 • cell 218-341-3197

INSURANCE

Tower-Soudan Agency & Palo Mutual

Your Independent Insurance Agency



We Can Insure:

Residential, Seasonal, Island and Non-Road Access Properties

218-753-2101

415 Main St.

Tower, MN

www.towersoudanagency.com

\$1000 RELOCATION BONUS!

Digi-Key Electronics, located in remote, friendly, and flourishing Thief River Falls, MN, is adding to our growing team! Feel confident you're getting stable employment with unmatched benefits, paid vacation, and numerous career growth opportunities. We are continuing to thrive even during these uncertain times, come grow with us both personally and professionally.

ORDER FULFILLMENT POSITIONS!

\$18.90 PER HOUR! • MONDAY-FRIDAY, 1:30 PM-10:00 PM

GLOBAL CUSTOMER SUPPORT POSITIONS!

\$16.90 PER HOUR! • MONDAY-FRIDAY, 9:30 AM-6:00 PM

LEARN MORE OR APPLY TODAY!

888-671-1725

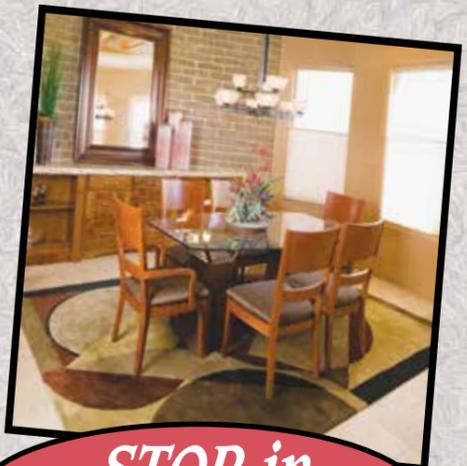
DIGIKEYCAREERS.COM



RUGS & REMNANTS!



YOU'LL LOVE OUR AREA RUG PATTERNS AND PRICES!



STOP in TODAY!



REMNANTS GALORE... and while you're here... Check out our HUGE SELECTION of carpets!

WE HAVE WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR!

BIG Enough to Serve you; small Enough to Know You

FLOOR to CEILING INTERIOR DESIGN SHOWROOM

8401 Enterprise Drive N., Virginia/Mt. Iron (1/2 Mile West on Highway 169) •741-6690



HOURS: 9-5 M-F

Find us on facebook.

floortoceiling.com/virginia