

More Fourth
of July fun
inside!

Inside:
COVID updates... See /3
Legion Classic underway... See /2B
Sandhill cranes...See /4B

the TIMBERJAY

Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989

VOL. 32, ISSUE 27 July 9, 2021 \$1⁰⁰



STATE GOVERNMENT

Legislators reflect on session accomplishments

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL— As the 2021 special legislative session wrapped up this past week, it was clear that area lawmakers saw plenty to like in the final bills that emerged.

“I have a favorite day of the session,” said Sen. Tom

Bakk, Ecklund bring benefits to North Country

Bakk, I-Cook, “the day after we finished when I drive home, because I rarely turn on my radio. “I just spend that time thinking about things. I was thinking about everything that happened during the session, and I actually pulled over and sent (Sen. David)

Tomassoni a text and said ‘David, I’m thinking about all of the stuff we got done and I can’t even believe it.’”

Perhaps at the top of the list for both was achieving tax relief for recipients of federal Paycheck Protection Program business

loans and additional unemployment insurance benefits.

“That was my bill,” Bakk said. “Those two things together were almost \$700 million, and it was a little bit of a struggle to get done because it was pretty expensive. But it was going to

be taxed, so that was a big deal.”

Rep. Rob Ecklund, DFL-International Falls, agreed. “Our businesses went through such a such a jolt this past 15 months,” Ecklund said. “They didn’t need to worry about paying taxes on something that the federal government wasn’t going to tax.”

See...STATE pg. 9



Happy 245th, America!



The Ely Fourth of July parade, top, was held Sunday. Jessica Renner, of Embarrass, above, with Elliot, a Gypsy Cob horse from Europe, in the Tower parade. Victoria Hintz, below, of Orr, was in the Kiddie Parade.



Rose Zoellick, top, plugs her ears at the sounds of the Tower parade. Roger Kyquist, 2, above, of Ely, watches the Northeast Range marching band in Tower. An F-16 Fighting Falcon jet, left, flew over Soudan and Ely on Sunday. More photos inside. Timberjay staff photos

TOWER HARBOR

New trail funding approved

Allows delayed trail connection, kayak route to move ahead

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER— After two years of waiting and hoping, city officials here received some good news from the state Legislature last week. A funding plan approved by lawmakers includes an extension for the second phase of a harbor trail system that had been mothballed after the mishandling of the first phase of the project back in 2018-19.

The funding had originally been approved by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources, or LCCMR, back in 2016, but LCCMR officials put a hold on the dollars after the city made major changes to the first phase of the project without seeking required approval.

The extension means the city can move forward with a \$600,000 plan to build a paved connecting trail from the city’s harbor to the Mesabi Trail spur that goes to Hoodoo Point. The project will also include a road extension that

See...TOWER pg. 10

ELY

Lawn-mowing dispute comes before council

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - A sparse agenda for the city council here this week found council members in the middle of a dispute between neighbors over lawn mowing. One neighbor wants to mow the lawn on portions of city property surrounding his property on Sibley Drive. The other neighbor doesn’t want him to.

Apparently, Andy Hill, of 2111 Sibley Drive, has been doing the extra lawn mowing outside his

See...ELY pg. 10



Spring Clothing, New Book Titles, New Gifts
plus excellent Canoe Camping Gear.

Come in today for a New Canoe or Kayak

Open Every Day 6 am - 9 pm

piragis.com 218 - 365 - 6745 boundarywaterscatalog.com

Contact The Timberjay

218-753-2950
editor@timberjay.com



Community notices

Ida Rukavina named Executive Director of RAMS

REGIONAL- The Range Association of Municipalities and Schools (RAMS) Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Ida Rukavina, of Pike Twp., has been selected as the new Executive Director for the organization. Ida is a lifelong Iron Ranger, having previously worked with AFSCME Council 65 and with the U.S. Senate as a regional director for Amy Klobuchar. Ida will begin her duties with RAMS on Aug. 1. The board looks forward to working with Ida and continuing strong advocacy for the region. The board is confident that RAMS will remain a strong and vibrant voice under her leadership.

First Stage Gallery seeks artist submissions for August exhibit

VIRGINIA- The First Stage Gallery at the Lyric Center for the Arts is opening its walls and pedestals to Iron Range area artists during the month of August. This exhibit is to highlight the depth and quality of local painters, photographers, sculptors, jewelers, potters and other visual artists. Exhibit dates are Thursday, Aug. 5 through Saturday Aug. 28. To submit artwork, send the following to firststagegallery@gmail.com: your name, address and phone number; an artist statement and short bio; up to six jpeg images of work you would like considered for this exhibit. If you are creating something new, images should be of similar items representative of your work. Deadline for submissions is 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 17. Work selected must be delivered no later than 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 3. For more information, inquire by email to firststagegallery@gmail.com.

100 Years, 100 Benjamins, \$10,000 cash raffle for Ely Rotary

ELY- \$10,000 in cash raffle prizes, live auction, live music, beer tent, and food... There's something for everybody on Saturday, Aug. 14 at Whiteside Park in Ely as the Ely Rotary Club welcomes all to help celebrate the 100th anniversary of Ely's first service club. Tickets for the \$10,000 cash raffle, held in conjunction with the annual Ely Rotary Live Auction, are available through any Ely Rotary member. Only 400 tickets will be sold at \$50 each and there will be three winners drawn...\$7,500, \$2,000, and \$500 prizes. The annual live auction on Saturday, Aug. 14 is a popular event in its 31st year. The auction features many great items donated by our local businesses. Advance viewing and registration to bid are available at the club website, Elyrotary.org. There will also be a silent auction, as well as door prizes, mystery and surprise items. The celebration begins at 11 a.m. A complete schedule is available at Elyrotary.org.

Virtual writing workshop for teens with author Mary Casanova

REGIONAL- Are you a teen who loves to write? The Arrowhead Library System invites you to join award-winning Minnesota author Mary Casanova in a virtual writing workshop experience from July 26-30. With a small group of other teen writers, you'll create new work, share with others, and discuss the writer's craft and journey. This free, week-long workshop is for teens ages 13-17. Registrants will meet every morning via Zoom, Monday through Friday, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Workshop size is limited and a waiting list will be created if need be. Pre-registration is required for this event. To sign up, please visit https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2021alswritingworkshop or call ALS at 218-741-3840. Zoom log-in information for each session will be sent out 72 hours prior to the first day. The registration deadline for this event is Wednesday, July 21. This program, sponsored by Arrowhead Library System, was funded in part or in whole with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. To learn more about Arrowhead Legacy Events, please see our calendar at www.alslib.info, follow us on Twitter @ALSLibraryNews, or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/alslibinfo.

LAKE VERMILION CULTURAL CENTER

Art On The Lake, July 23-24

TOWER - Last summer, Art On The Lake, a fundraiser for the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center, had to be canceled due to the pandemic. The LVCC and local artists are pleased to announce it will be held again this year on Friday and Saturday, July 23 and 24. The Lake Vermilion Cultural Center at 705 Main Street in Tower is opening its doors to the event, which is a sale of original art work with emphasis on the areas of natural beauty. The paintings are framed and ready to be hung in your favorite spot at the cabin or home. The variety of artists includes summer residents and year-round artists working in both watercolor and oil. Even though the building is still under renovation it is exciting to be holding an event. Art On The Lake kicks off with a Gala from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Friday, July 23. The Gala is a limited ticket event to preview available art to purchase. The evening



Local artists will be featured during the Art On The Lake fundraiser, including this piece by Julie Baxley. submitted photo

includes unique appetizers, your favorite beverage, and an opportunity to meet some of the artists. You may purchase a ticket for the Gala by July 15 online, \$35 each, at Eventbrite.com. Saturday, July 24, the doors open free of charge from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. to view and purchase the fine art.

The 2019 Art On The Lake was a successful event for both the artists and the Cultural Center. We are hoping this year's event will be another great success for all who participate. Please mark your calendars and come support the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center and our local artists. We

will be following CDC guidelines. Some of the artists participating this year are Julie Baxley, Jeanni Burgwald, Sarah Guy-Levar, Pam Myre, Cecilia Rolando, Linda Smith, Kathleen Tellepsen, and Betty Ann Wiens.

12-year-old aces a hole-in-one at The Wilderness

TOWER- On Saturday, June 19, Blake Miller from Edina, just 12 years old, was golfing at The Wilderness at Fortune Bay with his parents, Justin and Laura. Blake had set his ball up on hole #3, named The Walleye, on the green tees approximately 133 yards to the pin over the water. "We saw the ball disappear," said Justin. "We were silent from complete shock when Blake threw his club up in the air!" "This is the longest par-three at The Wilderness,"



submitted photo said Rachel Indihar, Director of Sales and Marketing at The Wilderness. "To really

give you an idea of how rare holes-in-one are, we average about 12 holes-in-one out of thousands of rounds each year. In addition to our history, the PGA says the odds of an average golfer making a hole-in-one are 12,500 to 1!" Some people go their entire life without a hole-in-one. Justin stated his son had been playing golf for six years because his grandma is such a huge golfer. Blake first started playing The Wilderness

four years ago when they purchased a place nearby. "It was such an honor to be working when Blake aced his hole-in-one. We give all holes-in-one at our course a Wilderness embroidered flag. You could really see the excitement on his face when they came into the Pro Shop post-round. He was so polite, such a sweetheart," said Indihar. "Let's just say we will never forget Blake's accomplishment. Well done, Blake."

Dr. Thomas Morgan to address History Nights, July 14

ELY- Dr. Thomas Morgan, a professor at the College of St. Scholastica and the University of Minnesota-Duluth, will speak at the Ely-Winton Historical Society's History Night on Wednesday, July 14. He will be talking about the migration of Finns from Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan, as well as Canada, to Russia in the 1930s. Called the Karelian Fever, those Finns believed the propaganda of Stalin's Russia and moved to Russia. They were deluded. Some managed

to escape and make their way back to freedom. Others died in Russia. "I'm thinking of talking mostly about my personal experiences "discovering" a "lost colony" of Duluthians in Soviet Karelia in 1986 and the transformational impact that the "discovery" of these "Red Finns" has had on my life and the lives of others," said Dr. Morgan. Dr. Morgan has taught the Russian language and culture at both colleges for many years. He is particularly interested in cross-culture issues and has explored

in a variety of ways the experience of American and Canadian Finns in Soviet Russia. With Russian colleagues, he has founded and directed a series of summer language camps for college students. The camps are held in Russia for American students and at St. Scholastica for Russians in alternating years. Dr. Morgan has a strong interest in the international aspects of peace and justice issues. He was involved in the development of the Duluth International Peace Center, a citizens group

of the 1990s that fostered international cooperation and peacemaking at the grass-roots level. He currently is involved in helping to develop a relationship with citizens in a city in northern Iraq and is on the board of Duluth Sister Cities International. This program and others in the series will be held in CL 104 at Vermilion Community College. Starting at 7 p.m., the program is free and open to the public. A free-will donation is appreciated.

Ancient Cedars Trail exhibit at the Art Corner kicks off on July 9

ELY- The opening reception for a traveling art exhibit will be held on Friday, July 9 from 4:30-6 p.m. at The Art Corner, 301 W Sheridan St. The exhibit is a collaboration of regional artists who support preserving and protecting critical habitat within the new Ancient Cedars Trail in Tower. Artwork was sourced from artist sojourns through the stand of 100-plus acres of white cedar

dating back to about 1880. Attendees will be able to meet the artists and enjoy light refreshments. Participating exhibit artists include Pamela Davis, Nancy Ensley, Wendy Rouse of Ely, Jordan Gawboy of Tower, Jeff Argir, Louise Laakso Lundin of Hibbing, Jim Devries of Britt, Linda Glisson, Margie Helstrom, Sue Rauschenfels, and Nan Stubenvoll of Duluth.

The exhibit is on display in July at The Art Corner in Ely, in August at Borealis Art Guild in Hibbing, and in September at Northwoods Friends of the Arts in Cook.



Artwork by Nancy Ensley made for the Ancient Cedars exhibit. submitted

ART GALLERY

Local arts and crafts for viewing and sales

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

Northwoods Splendor!
Stay with Us
Rooms start at \$110
Includes continental breakfast!
Book Online:
vermilionparkinn.com
Close to lakes, trails, state parks, casino
218.753.2333 • 30 Center St., Soudan MN

KELLY KLUN
Attorney At Law
Real Estate

- General Questions
- Buying/Selling
- Easements
- Contract for Deed
- Property Line Problems
- Road Maintenance/Assoc.
- Litigation

Complimentary 15 Minute Consultation

Minnesota State Bar Association
Certified & Specialist
Real Property Law

KLUN LAW FIRM
Direction. Guidance. Results.
1 E. Chapman Street
P.O. Box 240 • Ely, MN 55731
218-365-3221 • 218-365-5866 Fax
www.klunlaw.com

Call 218-993-2295
for RESERVATIONS
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
6:30 AM - 9 PM

Serving Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner
(Dinner ends at 9 pm)

- Enjoy our rustic yet elegant dining room.
- Enjoy home cooked cuisine with salads and vegetables fresh from our own garden.
- Breads and desserts are baked daily.

Not Serving Smorgasbord at this time.

FABULOUS FLATHEADS July 17, 18 & August 13, 14
LIVE PIANO with STEVE JOHNSON other weekends.
(Summer music ends after August 18 weekend)
7632 Cty Rd 424, Crane Lake, MN 55725
www.nelsonsresort.com

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Fuel tanker catches fire on Hwy. 169 west of Ely

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - Highway 169 about two miles west of Ely was shut down last Saturday afternoon for more than six hours because of a fire involving a semi truck that was pulling a tanker of gasoline.

According to a report from Morse-Fall Lake Fire Chief Ted Krueger, as related to the Northland Fire Wire, around 2:15 p.m.

Saturday the brakes of the semi caught fire and the blaze spread to the vehicle's tires. The truck driver uncoupled the burning vehicle from the tanker. The front of the tanker hit the ground, rupturing a tanker pocket containing 3,400 gallons of gasoline.

The load of gasoline was headed to Ely when the fire occurred.

Fire officials estimated as much as 350 gallons were spilled. Local road

equipment was brought in to contain the spill and the remaining gasoline from the damaged tanker was transferred to another tanker, according to Krueger.

No injuries were reported. The truck had extensive fire damage. The Morse-Fall Lake and Ely fire departments responded to the call, along with the Ely Police Department, St. Louis County Sheriff's Department, and Minnesota

State Police.

Traffic was diverted from State Highway 169 to County Road 88 (Grant-McMahan Road) for several hours as tourists made their way into Ely for the Fourth of July weekend.

A wrecker crew hooks up a damaged fuel tanker trailer Saturday afternoon on Highway 169 west of Ely. photo by Morse-Fall Lake Fire Department



COVID-19

COVID-19 vaccinations plummet during June

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL - Summer is here, COVID-19 restriction mandates are gone, and so, too, it appears, is the vigor that only three months ago prompted a record-high 413,000 doses of COVID vaccines administered in a single week in Minnesota.

Last week's total of 35,378 doses was the second lowest since vaccines began to be distributed to specific priority

groups in mid-December. The peak number, reached in the first week of April, came as vaccinations were opened to anyone 16-years-old and over and has been on a steady decline ever since.

The needle on the state's vaccination dashboard indicating the percentage of Minnesotans over 16 who have had at least one dose of vaccine barely budged over the past month.

State officials were in

full swing promoting their "Your Shot to Summer" vaccine rewards campaign on June 5 as the needle sat at 64.9 percent. One month later, that campaign is over, and as of Tuesday the number had risen to just 67.2 percent.

Unequal interest

Signs were already apparent in early June that some areas of the state were more readily embracing vaccinations than others. Minnesota

Public Radio reported on June 5 that while the Twin Cities metropolitan area had already reached the 70-percent goal, outside of that region only 57 percent of Minnesotans had been vaccinated once, and the pace of vaccinations has slowed since then.

In 14 counties, fewer than 40 percent of residents have been fully vaccinated. Todd County, northwest of St. Cloud, is the lowest with a fully-vaccinated rate of 29.3 percent. By

contrast, Cook County, in northeastern Minnesota, has the highest percentage of fully-vaccinated people at 69.8 percent.

And fully-vaccinated people aren't the ones who are still getting COVID-19, according to Minnesota Department of Health data.

"We can confidently say that the vast majority of cases, hospitalizations and deaths occurring in Minnesota are in unvaccinated people," said MDH Information Officer Doug

Schultz in a July 2 email to the *Timberjay*. "We track breakthrough cases very closely. Those are cases that occur in people who are fully-vaccinated. Out of 2,771,183 fully vaccinated Minnesotans as of May 30, we had a cumulative total (since Dec. 1) of 3,080 breakthrough cases with 333 hospitalizations and 46 deaths. That equates to 1.1 percent of vaccinated people who have developed COVID."

See COVID...pg. 5

REAL ESTATE



**KELLER WILLIAMS**
CLASSIC REALTY NORTHWEST


The NorthMnLakes Group


David Lanari Realtor® **218.750.8345**

www.northmnlakes.com • david@northmnlakes.com

Serving Lake Vermilion & Surrounding Area

Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated



**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

Sales are great!
WE NEED NEW LISTINGS!
Thinking of selling?
Contact us for a free property evaluation.



218-666-5352
info@bicrealty.com • www.bicrealty.com

LAKE VERMILION Boat-access only property in Oak Narrows includes "tiny house", camper, lg. deck, stor. shed, shed w/composting toilet, electricity, 2 docks, 261 ft lksh and 6.5 acres. **MLS #141818 \$165,000**



ELBOW LAKE Bldg. lot has 720 ft lksh and 4.5 acres just off of Elbow Lake. Accessed via boat. Adjoins public lands. **MLS #137852 \$45,000**


TOWER 10 acres undeveloped near Lake Vermilion. Large flat and level cleared building site with very nice elevated views. **MLS# 140165 \$89,000**

MYRTLE LAKE Lg. bldg. lot. Approx. 300 ft of lksh and 4.5 acres. Year-round paved road access/elec. available. **MLS# 137048 \$125,000**

IS RIGHT NOW THE TIME TO SELL?

If you're on the fence about selling your house, now is a great time to take advantage of sky-high demand, low supply, and fierce buyer competition. Free market analysis available. No obligation contact. Contact us today and let us help you with your property needs! ~ B.I.C. Realty

 **We sell the North!** 



218-757-3233
www.TheLakeCountry.com


Vermilion River, Orr-\$98,000 2 BR cabin on the river's edge, with fishing right out your back door and large screened-in porch overlooking the river. Generator power, lake water system and septic. Shower and toilet in garage. **MLS#141657**

Orr-\$179,900 2,800+ sq ft home with 3 BR, 1 BA and lower-level family room, indoor sauna and 3 fireplaces on 2.5 acres. Near Ash Lake and many other area lakes. **MLS#141386**

Pelican Lake-\$94,900 50 acres on Pelican Lake with 400+ ft of shoreline. **MLS#126770**


Cook-\$90,000 Private 60-acre parcel is wooded with open fields. Near the Little Fork River. **MLS#141514**

Orr-\$24,900 20-acre wooded property near Pelican Lake and many other lakes nearby. **MLS#141373**



#1 **NOBODY IN THE WORLD SELLS MORE REAL ESTATE THAN RE/MAX**

As measured by residential transaction sides.





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

Voter suppression

What if Democrats made it harder for Republicans to vote?

If you can't beat 'em, join 'em?

As Democrats grow increasingly frustrated with new voter suppression laws being passed by GOP-dominated legislatures all across the country, it's worth asking what voter suppression might look like if Democrats decided to quit fighting those efforts and started implementing their own suppression tactics.

Keep in mind, Republicans are implementing their suppression efforts in states where they control legislatures and have Republican governors willing to sign such provisions into law. But there are states where Democrats have control across the board, including some traditional swing states that could be pivotal in close presidential elections. Minnesota could well be among those states following the next election. What if DFLers here at home decided to play the suppression game in an effort to tilt the electoral map in their favor?

Just as Republicans have focused suppression efforts on urban areas, where large percentages of voters back Democrats, a Democratic version of voter suppression would turn the tables, by implementing the same kind of tactics in an effort to limit the participation of rural voters, who have increasingly backed the GOP.

One of the easiest suppression tactics, which the GOP is deploying wherever it can, is the closing of polling places and the reduction of early voting opportunities in areas that tend to support Democrats. Mostly, that's been focused on urban centers, particularly those with significant minority populations. Residents of those areas can still vote, since explicitly denying that constitutional right would surely be tossed even by the most conservative courts. Instead, these suppression efforts are designed to make voting more inconvenient, by requiring urban voters to travel farther and, typically, wait in longer lines to vote than they otherwise would.

Those of us who live in rural areas often don't recognize the substantial additional burden that urban voters already face with long lines to vote, so anything that makes those lines even longer is certain to prompt more voters not to participate. If it didn't, the GOP would have abandoned such tactics years ago.

Democrats could implement laws that achieve the same objective, with a different group of voters, by making it more difficult for rural voters to cast ballots. What if, rather than voting right in your own township, a future Minnesota Legislature decided to reduce the number of polling places in rural areas? The Legislature, after all, could pass a law that eliminates the authority of townships to run their own elections. That could force most rural residents to travel to regional centers, in larger cities, to cast their ballots. In St. Louis County, the Legislature could implement a new law that would restrict voting locations to Virginia, Hibbing, and Duluth, for example. In many of Minnesota's most Republican counties, like the many small counties in east-central and southwestern Minnesota, voting could be limited to the county seat.

Then, implement strict rules on absentee voting, which would require voters to provide hard copies of a wide range of documentation to prove their identity. That's easier for urban residents, since a copy machine is typically not far away. Rural residents would almost certainly have to drive to find one.

Such tactics would very likely reduce the number of ballots from rural areas, which would have the effect of suppressing the Republican vote. Before anyone suggests such a move would be thrown out in court, consider that the current Supreme Court is largely signing off on suppression tactics against Democratic voters that are every bit as blatant and targeted as we just described.

Certainly, we're not advocating that Democrats pursue such policies, which are inherently antithetical to a democracy. Yet, for residents in small towns or rural parts of the state, it's easy to dismiss the efforts by the GOP to limit the votes of urban voters. By considering what the shoe might look like on the other foot, it's easier to recognize the problems inherent in the GOP's efforts.

Such efforts are a hallmark of a party that recognizes it is outside the political mainstream. That's particularly true since the rise of Trump, which has morphed the GOP into a white nationalist party fueled by grievance and dedicated to the continuation of rule by an ever-shrinking minority of conservative, mostly rural, white voters. Democrats, by contrast, have responded—admittedly with frequent missteps—to the needs of a changing country and view greater participation by as broad a cross-section of the electorate as possible as the key to their future success. That's why the Democrats, in the end, won't take their cues from the GOP's voter suppression playbook. And, for that, we should be thankful.



Letters from Readers

Voting is our frontline defense

January 6, 2021, revealed how fascist elements of our society are determined to undermine the electoral process with the attempted insurrection to overthrow democracy. The right to vote is crucial to our First Amendment protection of religion, speech, press, peaceful protest and petition. Voting is voice and virtue of civic expression in action.

Contempt for rule of law, authoritarianism and white supremacy are exhibited by the Republican Party actions in our state legislatures around the country. We must realize that

our Bill of Rights is inextricably woven together with electoral politics. Forces of reaction are openly working to squelch political democracy, as it has successfully silenced organizing for economic democracy.

Civic religion sees voting as faith and prayer in action for the soul of democracy. Voting as form of speech gives voice and consent to our representatives. The press is tribune for our right to read, write, think and act freely in open debate. The vote formalizes collective protest and petition of people power in action.

Voter fraud is an insidious “big lie” effort to suppress minority voting rights. Behind the lie, McConnell's zero-sum mindset drives white supremacist

fear of minorities becoming the nation's majority. Zero-sum dog-whistles and racist tropes by the Republicans are clear signals of threat to our vote and civil rights. Zero-sum fallacy sees gains by one of two sides as a loss for the other. I win, you lose doesn't have to be.

The office of private citizen is most important in public governance. A coalition of the working class cooperating with minorities is an advantage to both. The plutocracy has divided the working class and minorities for too long. Voting is a frontline defense for our civil rights and turning a win-lose situation into win-win, for both!

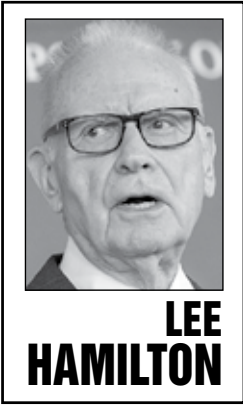
Harold Honkola
Roseville

COMMENTARY

Summing up democracy

It's so easy, in the course of our day-to-day lives, to get caught up in the political pre-occupations of the moment. What's the Senate going to do about the filibuster? How should infrastructure money be spent? Is the country going to come out of this year as badly divided as it started? These and many other questions matter a lot—but sometimes, it's helpful to step back and take stock of what we've learned over the course of our history.

I've been thinking about this because I've been reading Jon Meacham's 2018 book, “The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels.” In it, Meacham notes that we've been badly divided and knocked back on our heels in the past but have always managed to work our way through those difficulties. He cites a variety of writers and speakers, and a number of them have stuck with me—because they're both reassuring and a challenge. They remind us that sustaining



LEE HAMILTON

our democracy is hard work and that its vitality depends on each of us—not just to participate, but to make the effort to understand and talk to people we don't agree with, and to do our best to discern the facts on which all genuine progress relies. Here they are, with a couple I've added on my own that speak to the same issues:

“Do not expect to accomplish anything without an effort.” Teddy Roosevelt said this in an 1883 speech called, “The Duties of American Citizenship.”

“The first duty of an American citizen, then, is that he shall work in politics.” This is Roosevelt again, in the same speech, making the point (in the language of the time) that being an American citizen means being willing to engage in the work of democracy.

“Speak up, show up, and stand up.” That's Georgia's Stacey Abrams laying out, in concise form, the basic challenges for anyone trying to affect the

course of public life.

“Progress on this journey often comes in small increments.” This is Meacham himself, with a reminder that progress comes slow and hard.

“Nowhere is the rule of public opinion so complete as in America, or so direct.” This was Englishman James Bryce, writing in *The American Commonwealth*, which appeared in 1888.

“People are responsible for the government they get.” Harry Truman summed up our core responsibility: we have to choose our political leaders wisely.

“It is not only important but mentally invigorating to discuss political matters with people whose opinions differ radically from one's own.” Eleanor Roosevelt wrote this in a book published when she was seventy-six, “You Learn by Living: Eleven Keys for a More Fulfilling Life.”

“The enemy of America is not our many Muslim friends. It is not our many Arab friends. Our enemy is a radical network of terrorists and every government that supports them.” I include this remark by George W. Bush—in

See **HAMILTON...pg. 5**

Mirror, mirror on the wall

I have been musing about human beings and their seeming inability to get along, not exactly a new topic for me. However, some of what I have read, thought about, and even passed on here in the Philosophical Systems, past, came back through my



BETTY FIRTH

thought tunnels with a different angle, which made me laugh and moan at the same time.

This thread goes back a long ways: My freshman year in college I had signed up for a philosophy class, Great

so-called advisor, who had just met me and knew nothing of my inclinations or abilities. It was supposedly a 100 level course, but the reason the advisor suggested it, and I agreed, was that I wanted four hours and most were only three. It also fulfilled the math requirement for graduation; the University of Colorado apparently recognized that math and philosophy both use logic, so that was good enough for them.

I hadn't wanted to avoid math; quite the opposite. In high school I had been in fast-track math classes, but my comprehension hit the skids when I got to solid geometry and trigonometry my junior year. I really tried, asked for help from my excellent, devoted math teacher, who was sincerely excited about math and very willing to help, but it still eluded me. So I did not take any math my senior year, feeling like

a failure. However, through a quirk of test construction and diverse brain functions, I was a good test-taker, so I scored very well in the math section of the SAT. I explained all this when I met with the advisor and asked if I could take some less advanced math so I could really come to understand it. He said I couldn't take those classes for credit; that it would be perceived that I was just going for an easy A. Hence, I ended up

in a four-hour class that I was absolutely unprepared for. I couldn't have told you what “philosophy” meant, and I came out of the first lecture dazed.

Aguy in the class asked if I'd like to have coffee, and he shared that he had taken 12 hours of philosophy in summer school before his freshman year just for fun. I knew then that I was in for a world of hurt. Naive 17-year old

See **MIRROR...pg. 5**

ISD 2142 conducting \$8,000 survey of broadband needs

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Like every other district in Minnesota, ISD 2142 St. Louis County Schools faced a critical question in March 2020 when Gov. Tim Walz ordered all schools to go to distance learning in the face of the growing COVID-19 pandemic. Which families had internet service, and more importantly, which had the high-speed broadband connections that were best-suited for the variety of online instructional sites the district would be using? “We did have to scramble and get the information we needed to provide the services,” Superintendent Reggie Engebritson said. “I sent out a survey link to all the parents and guardians in our student management system to find out who needed what. We had parents who heard about the survey and contacted the schools because they did not get the email and/or did not have internet service to respond to an online survey. We did the best we could to get the word out to families.” According to statewide

Results could lead to district-driven solutions to issues

surveys of both teachers and parents, the rollout was challenging as gaps in coverage were discovered that made equal access for all impossible. ISD 2142 tried to address some of its issues when distance learning was still in the mix as school resumed last fall. “We purchased both AT&T and Verizon hot spots for families who needed them,” Engebritson said. “Sometimes the hot spots helped and sometimes they did not. We are limited in what additional support we can provide without the bandwidth available to the families. If families did not have a connection, then we provided paper/pencil copies of work for them. This was delivered by our school buses during typical drop off times or parents could pick up the work.” ISD 2142 expects to be in full in-person learning mode for the upcoming school year now that the pandemic has receded, but the experience of the past year-and-a-half reinforced the emergence of broadband-based instruction as a

complementary and potentially effective instructional methodology for the future. Through a regional partnership between the Blandin Foundation and the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation, ISD 2142 recently received an \$8,000 grant to map student homes throughout the district to determine existing broadband speeds and plan for a wireless broadband network to address the needs. It’s a solution several school districts throughout the country embraced during the pandemic, including one in Murray, Utah. Facing serious gaps in broadband coverage for areas with low-income students, that school district put up 44 towers to create free wireless access for all to its broadband service, using federal COVID-19 funds to cover the cost. A district that encompasses nearly 4,000 square miles and a huge and disparate number of municipalities, townships, and service providers is an altogether

different scenario than that of a small urban district. But still, the need is clear. “I’d say the people who suffered the most without a connection during the pandemic were children,” said Minnesota Rural Broadband Coalition lobbyist and spokesman Nathan Zacharias. “There’s no doubt that some of the hardest areas to serve in the state are in St. Louis County. And it’s not fair that people are being told to wait. Help is on the way, but these networks aren’t going to be built overnight.” Range Association of Municipalities and Schools (RAMS) is spearheading the ISD 2142 survey effort. Executive Director Steve Giorgi announced his retirement this summer but described the survey and its goals in an email to the *Timberjay*. “The \$8,000 will allow for mapping of survey results including speed tests, student/family locations, and placement of towers or utilization of existing towers, including water towers when

available,” Giorgi said. “The wireless broadband network is being considered as a short-term solution, as fiber to the home is the ultimate solution to the lack of quality high-speed broadband in rural areas of St. Louis County. All towers would have a fiber connection, thus being able to provide the best possible signal to those within range of the towers’ signal. The survey will help the district and those participating in this project to determine if there is a strong demand for better service by the families in the district boundaries, and if it’s financially feasible to construct a wireless system covering the entire district.” “The need for better broadband service is real,” Engebritson said. “It’s 2021. This should not be a problem for the people who live in northeastern Minnesota. Whether the need is to work remotely, do schoolwork, connect with family members who live far away, or relax by watching movies or playing online games we should



Scan this QR code with your smart phone to take the survey.
submitted

all be able to enjoy what others are able to enjoy who have basic broadband connections.” Engebritson encouraged all district families to participate in the survey, including those with existing high-speed broadband connections, so that an accurate picture of what is and isn’t available can be developed. ISD 2142 families can take the survey online by going to <https://forms.gle/DtWPnz6YpJ8oRksq7>. The survey can also be accessed by smartphone by scanning the QR code accompanying this article.

COVID...Continued from page 3

Delta variant

MDH is tracking the incidence of five “variants of concern” through random and targeted samples of tests sent to the department’s laboratory weekly. That work is demonstrating that the Delta variant, which has garnered much recent attention nationwide as more contagious and for its higher hospitalization rate than other variants,

is establishing a foothold here. Across seven months ending June 14, 43 cases caused by the Delta variant had been identified. In the subsequent two weeks, 30 more Delta variant cases were found. Eighteen percent of those cases resulted in hospitalizations, markedly higher than the seven-percent rate caused by the state’s dominant UK

variant. While the seven-day case positivity average of 1.2 percent statewide remains well below the threshold for wide community spread, health officials continue to express concern for areas with low vaccination rates and their increased susceptibility to outbreaks among the unvaccinated and partially-vaccinated.

Bois Forte breakthrough

The North Country got its own reminder on Tuesday that fully vaccinated people still have a small risk of contracting COVID-19, as Bois Forte Band health officials announced the reservation’s first breakthrough case, an individual in their 30s living on the Nett Lake sector.

Bois Fort Health Nurse Teri Morrison could not provide additional details because of confidentiality restrictions. However, she confirmed that the rate of vaccination of tribal members 12 and over currently stands at 54 percent. The age of the individual infected is consistent with county and statewide data indicating

that new COVID cases are concentrated primarily in younger age groups. State health officials have noted that this is a result of the concentrated initial focus on vaccinating older Minnesotans. To date, 90.7 percent of Minnesotans 65 and older have received at least one shot.

HAMILTON...Continued from page 4

a speech he gave to a joint session of Congress following the 9/11 attacks—because it’s a cogent reminder that keeping our eye on the target matters in public policy. “The people have often made mistakes, but given time and the facts, they will make the corrections.” This was Truman again. I like his confidence.

“America of the 21st century is, for all its shortcomings, freer and more accepting than it has ever been.” Meacham makes it clear that our nation, despite its many stumbles, has moved toward progress—in no small part because the American people, as Truman suggests above, have set it on that course. “It is in order that

each one of you may have through this free government which we have enjoyed, an open field and a fair chance for your industry, enterprise and intelligence... The nation is worth fighting for, to secure such an inestimable jewel.” Abraham Lincoln said this in 1864. His words remind us that safeguarding a

freely chosen, democratically-elected government that creates the conditions for each of us to succeed by dint of our efforts is what engaging in politics is all about. *Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at*

the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O’Neill School of

Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

MIRROR...Continued from page 4

that I was, I didn’t realize that I could drop the class. It was torture; the lecture was right after lunch, and I often fought to stay awake and often lost. It was like the professor was speaking Urdu. During the required tutorials, I would bury my head behind my books to avoid being called on or noticed in any way. I stayed up three nights in a row at the end of the semester to pump out two term papers rife with B.S. I squeaked by with a D and was grateful for it, when in my previous life, I would have been mortified with a B-. However, I did glean some pearls of wisdom from the philosophy nut that I have carried with me through life. He asked, “What are three things that you dislike about other people?” When I answered, he said, “Those are aspects of yourself that you dislike the most.” That was our only interaction, but his words laid the foundation for a core of understanding about myself and others during the rest of my life. When I’m being objective, I recognize that when I’m annoyed by or critical of another person, I can almost always iden-

tify some aspect of what’s going on as reflecting one of my less desirable traits of which I am not proud. Having this self-awareness has not saved me from being judgmental, but it does mean I have at least the inner honesty to recognize the mirror and feel some embarrassment about not catching it quicker, as in before feeling the judgement. Rarely does it slip by me...my awareness does not let me off the hook. I have relayed that philosophy nerd’s questions on to others through the years. It certainly wouldn’t be news for those who delve into self-help, psychology, and “discovering the inner you” books. For example, who has not heard the admonition, “In order to love (forgive) anyone else, you have to love (forgive) yourself first.” How many of us function like we really understand that? It’s the mirror! How little we want to see that reflection. In spite of the fact we know the undesirable characteristics intimately, because we embody them, we will still project outward and criticize others for the same shortcomings.

Annie Lamott, author of fiction and non-, advises would-be writers that they probably don’t have to worry too much about people recognizing themselves in stories if the writer just changes some key attributes. She tells a story of a friend she used as a model for a character in one of her books who was always negative, saying that she could resent the sun on a beautiful day. Her friend read the book and said, “You know that character who resents the sun?” Annie waited for the anger to follow, but her friend said, “I know someone just like that.” What I’m seeing now is that the mirror may be at the heart of our differences, and I don’t see how we can find our way out of this house of mirrors. Many wise people say we have more in common than we have differences, and we just need to recognize that and find the common ground. But how do we get there? The joke may be that the common ground is not only our desire for happiness, world peace, and a good future for our children, but also our shared

not-so-admirable characteristics, such as stubborn self-righteousness, and we sure don’t want to see or admit that we share them with someone whose values appear to be the opposite of ours. I just finished reading “The Invisible Bridge” by Julie Orringer, a well-documented, beautifully-written novel about a Jewish family in Hungary in the 1930’s and 40’s. The atrocities of human beings against others when prejudice and fear are sanctioned, and the victims’ incredible will and ability to survive, even helping others, through horrendous torture and deprivation are equally stunning portrayals of human nature. I have heard left-wingers and right-wingers use exactly the same words to describe each other. I am still searching for a way to have an authentic, non-explosive conversation with people who disagree with me heartily. I’m taking a course called Compassionate Communication to help me figure that out. I’ll let you know how it goes.



the
TIMBERJAY

Copyright © 2021 by *The Timberjay*. *The Timberjay* (PN 16025) is published weekly on Fridays, 51 weeks per year, by *The Timberjay Inc.*, PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Business/Editorial Office at 414 Main St., PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Call (218) 753-2950 to subscribe. E-mail address is editor@timberjay.com. Periodicals postage paid at Tower, Minnesota.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Timberjay, PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790.

This award-winning community newspaper published each week serves the communities of 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 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: \$39 year Elsewhere: \$54 year. We accept VISA/Mastercard/Discover/AmEx. 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 and payment at www.timberjay.com.

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

Subscribe Today
timberjay.com • 218-753-2950

Week of July 12

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.

Tower City Council- 5:30 p.m. at the Tower Civic Center on July 12

Tuesday
Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5:00 p.m. Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is July 20.

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

Greenwood Town Board- 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall on July 13.

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

Red Hat Belles to meet July 22
VERMILION LAKE TWP- The Northern Red Hat Belles will meet Thursday, July 22 at 12 noon at the Neighbors BBQ (Black Bear Cafe). Please RSVP to Kathy at 753-2530 by July 19. New members and guests are always welcomed.

Old Settlers Picnic set for Saturday, July 17
BREITUNG TWP- The 107th Vermilion Range Old Settlers Annual Reunion and Picnic is back on track for Saturday, July 17 at 12 noon at McKinley Park Campground.

Don't be late; booyah is dished up promptly at noon, and it disappears quickly.

Membership in the organization is open to anyone born or living on the Vermilion Iron Range (Tower-Soudan and Ely areas).

Last year's picnic, which would have been the 106th year, was canceled due to the pandemic, but this year the committee feels they can safely serve up booyah to all who attend.

Membership is \$10 the day of the picnic (if not pre-registered in advance).

Steve Solkela, the one-man accordion band, will be this year's entertainment. If you haven't seen Steve in action, check him out on YouTube; he is definitely fun for all ages and a unique musical talent.



TOWER FARMERS MARKET

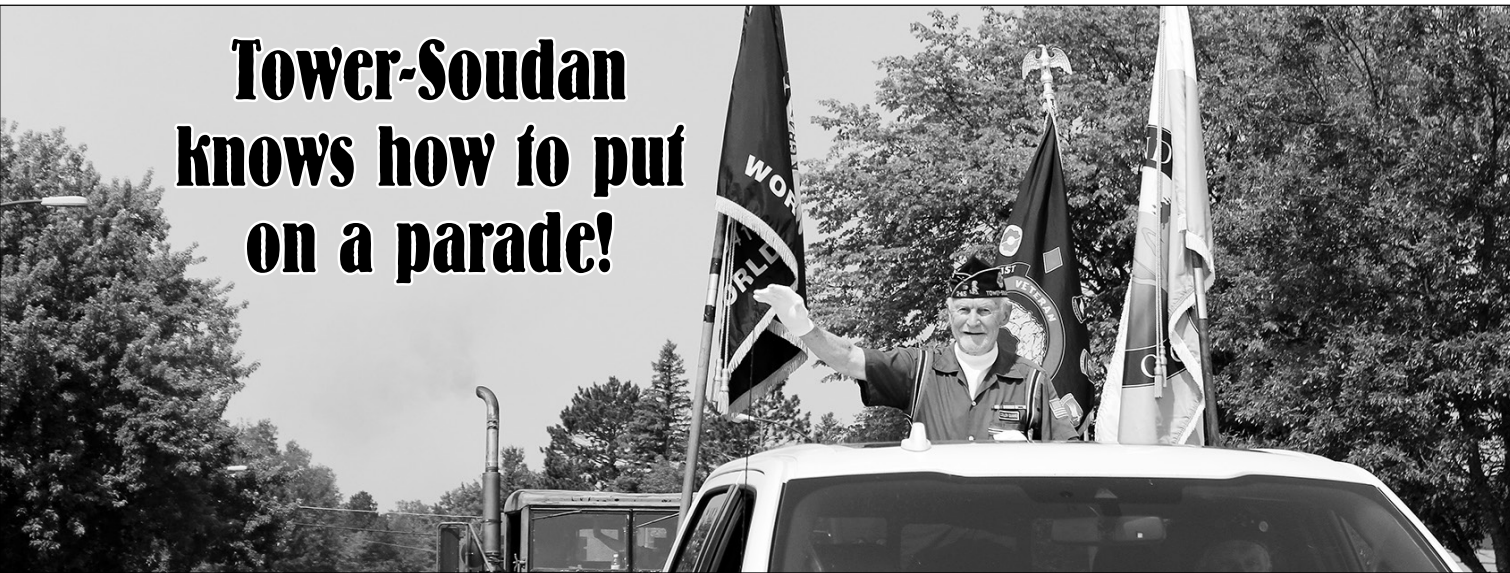
NOW OPEN

Fridays

4-6 PM

at the

Train Depot



Top: Don Reinhardt had a bird's-eye view of the crowds as he helped lead off the parade, following right behind Bois Forte Honor Guard member George Mihelich (below left). **Below right:** Parade Marshals Linda Haugen (left) and Mary Batinich (right) were honored for their ongoing volunteer work in Tower and Soudan.



Above: Annabelle Tuominen. **Below:** Christopher Mullin.



Above: Brayden Indihar. **Below:** Aaron Raj helped solicit donations for parade expenses.



Below: Tower Fire Department volunteers handed out candy during the parade.



Alli Harasyn holds her daughter Sophie, who is not happy with the fire truck sirens, even though the Breitung Fire Truck is driven by her grandfather Steve Burgess.



Fourth of July Raffle Winners
1st Place - Cindy Loe
2nd Place - Geralyn Hendrickson
3rd Place - Monty

Tower-Soudan Parade Judging
Best of Show: Old Muni from Cook
1st Place: Iron Trail Motors
2nd Place: Vermilion Dock & Lift
3rd Place: Vermilion Park Inn
Best Family Float: Amber Haupt Family
Most Patriotic : Erin Peitso Family
Best Business: Broten Construction
140 children marched in kiddie parade and each received a \$5 prize and a flag.



Right: Arriss Jensen collects candy during the parade.

photos by
J. Summit

Fourth of July Donations
The Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board would like to thank the following individuals and families for their donations this year.

- Donations are still needed and can be mailed to: PO Box 461, Tower, MN 55790.

Thank you to:

 - Mary Beth & Al Reller
 - Chuck & Nancy Tekautz
 - Bill & Diane Meehan
- Nordic Home North
 - MarJo Motel
 - Maryann Rot
 - Marge Stefanich
 - Marian Greene
 - Robin & Sheldon Majerle
 - Bob & Jane Berg
 - Kevin Norby
- Bruce & Kathy Carlson
 - Gary & Sharon Hendrickson
 - Pauline Housenga
 - Starkovich Distributing
 - Dan & Corrine Hill
 - David & Dori Skramsted

ELY FOURTH OF JULY



At left, the owners of the Ely Subway store, Kevin and Vicki Hill, visited with their son, Jeremy Hill, at the Fourth of July parade in Ely on Sunday. Jeremy is one of the Shriners’ Dune Buggy Drivers. submitted photo

Above, the Shriners participated in seven parades on the Iron Range, including Ely, over the three-day Independence Day weekend.

Four on the Fourth results

ELY - The 13th Annual Janet Gensler Memorial Ely 4 on the 4th Run/Walk involved 164 participants (133 runners, 18 walkers and 13 kids) supporting the Ely Track Club. Winners are listed below.

Men’s 4 Mile Run

- 1-Michael Schwinghamer, Ely
- 2-Joseph Dadabo, Chicago, Ill.
- 3-Andrew Kephart, Cedar Falls, Iowa

Women’s 4 Mile Run

- 1-Cailee Peterson, Ely
- 2-Erin Schwartz, Ely
- 3-Allison Carroll, Chicago, Ill.

Men’s 4 Mile Walk

- 1-Roger Skraba, Ely
- 2-Daniel Dusich, Ely
- 3-Evan Faltesek, Ely

Women’s 4 Mile Walk

- 1-Andrea Kuzel, Duluth
- 2-Leslie Kuzy, Minneapolis
- 3-Jo Ann Whitehill, Colorado Springs, Colo.

Boys 1 Mile Kids Race

- 1-Ben Larson
- 2-Caleb Larson

Girls 1 Mile Kids Race

- 1-Brynn Larson
- 2-Sally Dunn



Above, a giant loon balloon from the Save the Boundary Waters Campaign was featured this year. The traditional Needle in the Haystack event, below, was held at Whiteside Park. photos by K. Vandervort



The Ely Honor Guard, above, participated in a flag-raising ceremony on July 4th. Vergie Ivancich, right, was this year’s parade marshal.



Tuesday Group

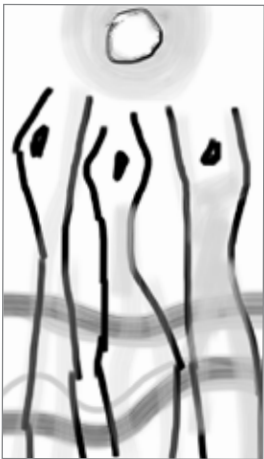
ELY – The Tuesday Group community educational lunch gathering meets every Tuesday at the Grand Ely Lodge. Participants have an opportunity to order lunch. For those interested in being a host, or who have a speakersuggestion,contact Lacey Squier by email at ElyTuesdayGroup@gmail.com or by phone at 218-216-9141.

Upcoming speakers:

- July 13: Bill Rom, Climate Change and Global Public Health. Dr. William Rom graduated from Ely and teaches Climate Change and Global Public Health at New York University School of Global Public Health.
- July 20: Todd Heiman, Ely Rotary Club
- July 27: Minnesota State Senator Tom Bakk

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2021



high temperatures
a sun intensity looms

happy sun lovers

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
OPEN AA - 7:30
p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, in-person, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St., Ely.
ELY WOMEN’S OPEN AA - Every Monday at noon at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church, 231 E. Camp St., Ely.
BABBITT AA - 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church
AL-ANON - Sundays 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church in Ely. For persons who encounter alcoholism in a relative or friend.
BABBITT AL-ANON Thursdays, 7 p.m., at Woodland Presbyterian.
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. Call 218-365-3359, 218-827-3232, or 1-800-662-5711.
CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS: Babbitt: 3rd Monday of Month: 6-7:30 p.m. at Carefree Living Ely: 4th Monday of Month: 10-11:30 a.m. at Ely-Bloomenson Hospital Conference Room B

OUR COMMUNITY

Tribute to honor Renee Lassi at Veterans Memorial Field Scholarship fund started in her name

ELY—A special tribute will honor a special Ely resident on Thursday, July 15 at Veterans Memorial Baseball Field. Renee Lassi died last fall due to complications from COVID-19 and family and friends will honor her at the place she spent most of her time in the summer.

Her son, Ely school teacher and coach Cory Lassi, said he could think of no better place to honor Renee than at the ball park. “During the summer months, if you wanted to find my mom, your best bet was to check the concession at the ball field,” he said. “She spent countless hours each summer, slinging burgers, stocking the fridge, painting, being a

second mom to so many of the young men that walked through that gate.”

The Junior Legion team game begins at 5 p.m., followed by the Senior Legion game at about 7:15 p.m. “We will be having a short ceremony to celebrate my mom before the start of the Senior Legion game,” Lassi said. There will also be a ceremonial first pitch in her honor. In between innings of the Legion game, there will be memories of Renee Lassi shared over the public address system.

“We will also have a memorial area set up during both games to honor my mom,” he added. “We will



Renee Lassi

share pictures along with a spot for anyone to share their loving memories of her.”

Lassi related his mom’s love of feeding people. One of her favorite things to make in the concession

stand was her famous pulled pork. “We will be trying our best to make her delicious pulled pork sandwiches and pulled pork nachos available for the Junior and Senior Legion games,” he said.

For every pulled pork sandwich and pulled pork nachos sold at the games that night, the Ely Baseball Association will be donating \$2 to a scholarship fund in Renee’s name.

“Without a doubt, my mom woke up every morning wanting to make a difference in the lives of others, especially the students of Ely Memorial High School. We wanted

to make sure that we carry on her legacy in providing opportunities for the students at EHS,” Lassi said.

A donation bucket for her scholarship fund will also be available “My mom was always such a selfless person who always put others first. We know that she is smiling down knowing that people will be enjoying her delicious pulled pork, and it will be making a huge difference in the life of an Ely High School graduate who will be receiving her scholarship,” he said. “This baseball program was so special to her for many reasons, but certainly at the top of the list is because of the relationships that she made with so many people.”

COOK CITY COUNCIL

Levitating light poles get council scrutiny

County is responsible for street but may need city's help to accelerate short-term remedies

COOK-Whether one is walking or driving along Vermilion Drive in Cook on either side of its intersection with River St., it's impossible not to notice that street lights in that area have literally risen from the ground, anywhere from a few inches to more than a foot-and-a-half.

Sections of sidewalk are also shifting and deteriorating, and the combined elements are bordering on being safety hazards.

John Jamnick of JPJ Engineering and Cook City Council member Elizabeth Storm recently met with St. Louis County engineers to discuss the problem and shared information about the issues at the June 24 city council meeting.

Vermilion Drive is a designated county road that is St. Louis County's responsibility to maintain, and one possible cause for the rising light poles, Jamnick said, is that it appears the county used a non-standard system to install them.

"A lot of times when you put a light pole in you put down a sonotube-type base so you have five or six feet of concrete as a base for the light pole to sit on," Jamnick said. "Apparently with these, they're metal and they had kind of like a screw on the end and they screwed them into the ground."

A second significant factor is the ground itself. "It has to do with the clay soils in the Cook area," Jamnick said. "Clay is tight and it doesn't drain very well."

The extremes of Minnesota weather then cause shifting and upheaval, affecting both the poles and the sidewalks.

For the moment, the tallest of the risen bases still appear to be secure, Jamnick said.

"But that's a concern, it's a problem," he said. "We want to take them out and repair them."

That would be a short-term plan, Jamnick said, executed by the county and possibly assisted by Cook city personnel. It's one they discussed getting underway by the end of the summer.

But a long-term fix that addresses the totality of the problems in a comprehensive way isn't likely to be coming soon, Storm said.

"The earliest we could expect any movement on any of this would be possibly 2023, '24, '25, or '26 because they have a five-year plan," she said. "There would be some things we could do in between, like removing and replacing some of those cement sidewalk pieces that are such a mess, maybe with asphalt or something. The most important thing for us is safety, and to be ADA compliant, which they currently are not."

Jamnick and Storm will continue to meet with St. Louis County officials and report back to the council on progress.

In other business, the council:

- Approved a bid of \$24,960 from Quality Flow Systems, of New Prague, for the city's lift station improvement project. Quality Flow Systems was the only contractor to bid on replacing two lift stations.
- Approved an invoice for \$6,000 from JPJ Engineering related to services provided for developing a facility plan for wastewater treatment pond improvements.
- Gave approval for the ambulance service to buy two Apple iPads to replace outdated products.
- Heard a report from Storm about the Artists on Main Street program. Eleven proposals were received for the "It stARTS on River Street" promotion, and all were funded. Five proposed projects would involve installations on city-owned property and required council approval before proceeding, which was granted. All approved projects for this cycle must be completed by the end of the year.



Orr's July 3rd Fun Day

Last Saturday's Independence day festivities in Orr weren't just limited to the colorful splash and glee of the kids parade or the glitter and sparkle of the annual fireworks extravaganza over Orr Bay. From the pancake breakfast and the 5K run to antique tractors and an old-fashioned kids lemonade stand, July 3rd Fun Day had a little something for just about everyone, and dollar coins for kids who could persevere long enough against intense competition to scavenge through mounds and mounds of sawdust for the prizes.

Above left: More that 65 runners get off to a fast start in the 5K race.

Above right: Kristen Baider puts on a final kick at the end of the race.

Right: One antique tractor obscures the others lined up behind it as a couple wanders between them on the way to see two vintage fire trucks along the curb by the lake.

D. Colburn photos

TIMBER DAYS

Cook's Annual Timber Days Treasurer Carrolle Wood presents a \$2,000 check to Friends of the Library President Kathy Sacchetti at the Friends annual meeting. The Timber Days committee donates a portion of their raffle ticket sales to a local nonprofit organization. submitted photo

Local quartet to play park gig on July 14

COOK- The Dionysian Dithyramb Band promises to have music aficionados reminiscing and rocking in their seats when they take to the gazebo stage Wednesday, July 14 at 6 p.m. for Music in the Park in downtown Cook.

Familiar names and faces of Lake Vermilion-area musicians Dan Boyer, lead guitar, Jimmy Laine, drums, Patrick Hawkinson, lead guitar and Eric Pederson, bass, will rock out with a mix of popular classic album rock, B-side favorites and jam band classics. The musical menu will include surf era instrumentals, Latin-infused rock, Beatles hits and 60's gems.

In case of rain, the concert will be moved to the Cook VFW right near the park.

Music in the Park is made possible by the Cook Lions Club, Cook VFW Post 1757, the Cook Chamber of Commerce, the Cook Timberwolves Snowmobile Club, Northwoods Friends of the Arts, and free-will community donations.

POWERFUL SAVINGS WITH GENERAC

- FREE estimates
- Financing available
- AFFORDABLE backup power
- Delivery, Installation and Service
- Family and locally owned and operated

7-Year Warranty!

CLEARBROOK ELECTRIC

SALES AND "SERVICE"
Randy Wetenkamp
218-776-3995 • 218-556-5981

Automatic Standby Generator

Serving ALL of Northern Minnesota

Read us online at
www.timberjay.com
check out our e-edition

Register for July art classes at NWFA

COOK- Summer art classes at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery, 210 S River Street in Cook, keep right on rolling in July with four diverse offerings to engage budding and seasoned artists alike. Classes include:

Six Greeting Cards

Using stamped images, messages, colored papers and embellishments, design six greeting cards. Envelopes provided. \$5 material fee. Wednesday, July 14, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Cecilia Rolando.

Twig Weaving

A weaving created using a sturdy forked branch, string and yarn. Thursday, July 15, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Jennifer Barr, instructor.

Gyotaku Fish Print

Using a fish and oil-based printing ink, print a fish. Enhance a fish print with mixed media. Must be 12 or older. \$5 material fee. Saturday, July 17, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Lyn Reed, instructor.

Fabric Bowl

Using bits of fabric and glue, create a fabric bowl. Tuesday, July 20,

10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Alberta Whitenack and JoAnn Anderson, instructors.

Register at the gallery, which is open Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., call Alberta at 218-666-2153, or email nwfamn.org@gmail.com.

Each adult class has a fee of \$10 for NWFA members and \$20 for non-members. A single NWFA membership is \$25, and a household membership is \$40.

Area St. Louis County Solid Waste and Recycling Facility site hours

Ash River Trail Canister Site 11391 Ash River Trail Summer Hours Wed: 1pm-4pm Sat: 2:30pm-5:30pm	Kabetogama Lake Canister Site 10150 Gamma Rd Summer Hours Mon. & Wed: 9am-noon Sat: 10:30am-1:30pm	Sturgeon Canister Site 8380 Hwy 73 Hours Sun: 10am-4pm
Orr Canister Site 4038 Hwy 53 Summer Hours Tue: 9am-1pm, Thu: 2pm-7pm Sat: 8am-noon, Sun: 10am-2pm	Portage Canister Site 6992 Crane Lake Rd. Summer Hours Tue: 2pm-6pm; Thu: 10am-1pm, Sat: 1pm-3pm; Sun: 3pm-6pm	County 77 Canister Site 2038 County Rd. 77 Summer Hours Tue: 1-6pm, Thu: 8am-1pm Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: noon-6pm
Cook Transfer Station 2134 S. Beatty Rd. Hours Mon: 10am-6pm Tues thru Sat: 9am-3:30pm	Regional Landfill 5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30pm Sat: 8am-3:30pm	St. Louis County Environmental Services Department 1-800-450-9278 Office hours 8-4:30 Mon. thru Fri. stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle
Household Hazardous Waste Facilities 5345 Regional Landfill Rd., Virginia Tue, Sat: 8am-1pm		3994 Landfill Rd, Hibbing Sat: 8am-1pm

Summer hours effective April 15th through September 30th

FEDERAL FUNDING

Senator Tina Smith recommends funding for regional projects

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL - Minnesota's junior U.S. Sen. Tina Smith has filed a formal request for including approximately \$26 million in next year's federal budget to support multiple initiatives to benefit North Country communities.

Ely, Greenwood Township, and Orr would be the regional beneficiaries if Smith's proposals make their way

Emergency services, broadband, and childcare could benefit

out of the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, and Food and Drug Administration and into the overall FY2022 budget that goes into effect Oct. 1. Her requests include:

- \$5.5 million for construction of an ambulance station in Ely to provide modern living and working conditions.
- \$5 million for the

City of Orr for an emergency services facility that would house the city's ambulance and fire departments.

- \$5.5 million for Greenwood Township for fiber optic broadband access for Lake Vermilion areas of the township and surrounding areas.
- \$6.9 million for Bois Forte Tribal Government to provide

fiber optic broadband access to the majority of Greenwood Township and its surrounding areas.

- \$3.5 million for the United Way of Northeastern Minnesota to help fund construction of four new childcare facilities in Ely, Aurora, Chisholm and Pengilly serving an estimated 470 children in total.

While the emergency

services and childcare projects are straightforward, the factors impacting fiber-optic-based broadband rollout in Greenwood Township are more nuanced. Earlier this year the Federal Communication Commission, through its Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, gave a preliminary award to LTD Broadband LLC to provide service in

the area.

The company's application is currently undergoing a more thorough second review, with no timeline established for its completion. LTD Broadband has little experience in fiber optic installations, and the FCC has the option to withdraw the award if it so chooses. Meanwhile, township officials have been exploring the possibility of finding an alternative provider.

STATE...Continued from page 1

OSB mill

Both Bakk and Ecklund were enthusiastic about bringing a new \$440 million oriented strand board production facility to Cohasset. Set to be built by North Carolina-based Huber Engineered Woods, the plant is expected to bring more than 150 jobs to the region. The company secured financial commitments from the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation and the Department of Employment and Economic Development, and the deal was sealed when a Bakk-authored bill was folded into the omnibus tax bill to provide up to \$3 million annually in production incentives to Huber for the first ten years of operation.

"The forest products industry has been in a tough situation the past few years," Ecklund said. "I think this is going to be a definite plus for the logging industry. They will have a new customer and it will keep our suppliers in business."

Bakk's bill included a clause requiring Huber to buy 80 percent of its raw timber materials from Minnesota suppliers to qualify for the production incentives, which presents a bit of a challenge, he said.

"We're going to have to figure out how can find some loggers," Bakk said. "There's not enough people left on the logging side of things to service that plan. We got two years for construction, so there's time to do that."

Huber is expected to break ground for the project next spring.

An additional boon for current loggers was the inclusion of a relief package for loggers who bought state timber permits expecting to sell their timber to the Verso plant in Duluth, which closed down last summer. Permits for tracts that are unharvested are eligible for full refunds of the required 15-percent down payment and partial repayments for tracts where some cutting has already been done.

Broadband

Securing \$70 million for the state's Border-to-Border high-speed broadband initiative was also near the top of their lists of accomplishments.

"I've been the chief author of the broadband legislation for the last four years, and that's a huge win for the state of Minnesota," Ecklund said. "You compile that with all of the federal money that will be coming in and we might finally get to the point where we can say Minnesota is true border-to-border broadband, but right now 257,000 households are unserved."

"That's the biggest (allocation) we've ever made, \$35 million a year," Bakk said.

Outdoors

A little closer to home, Bakk mentioned several items that will benefit outdoor recreational opportunities in the North Country.

"We got funds for Crane Lake for the Voyageurs National Park Visitor Center. There's no visitor center there, and you wouldn't even think it's a gateway to the park," Bakk said. "I think it's about \$6 million we got for that."

The Voyageur Country and Prospector ATV clubs also received funding of about \$1 million each for trail development in the region.

Ecklund noted that he also pushed for inclusion of \$250,000 to plan for a state-wide ATV trail system plan similar to one that exists for snowmobiles.

Bakk also talked about a move to include property owned by the Dayton family on west end of Lake Vermilion and make it part of Vermilion State Park. The property, which

Bakk said has been long promised by the Dayton family to be deeded to the state, is worth approximately \$2 million. Through negotiations with St. Louis County, Bakk obtained an agreement to commit one-third of the payment in lieu of taxes for the property, about \$10,000 annually, to the Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade, which is based in an unorganized township.

Ecklund also mentioned a bill he and Bakk worked on together that secured \$1.6 million for the Entrepreneur Fund. That money will, in turn, help to leverage between \$10 and \$15 million in federal funding by helping small business secure loans, he said.

Get the Timberjay

When you want it • Where you want it

For just
\$29.95
A year
Anywhere!



With the Timberjay's Digital Delivery Service, you get the full and complete Timberjay delivered straight to your computer, every week!

Consider these advantages:

- **Save Money**— For readers residing outside St. Louis County, you can enjoy digital delivery for nearly half off the regular out-of-county subscription rate of \$54/year
- **Get Instant Delivery**— No more waiting for sometimes sluggish postal delivery, especially for out-of-state readers. With digital delivery, you get the paper the day it's printed, as soon as it's available on local newsstands.
- **Convenient Archiving**— No need to let old papers stack up. With digital delivery, you'll have instant access to months of past issues, and you can keyword search for past articles.

Interested?

Just visit our website at www.timberjay.com for a link to our online subscription service. Sign up is quick and easy.



The Timberjay Newspapers
Ely • Tower • Cook



Lake Vermilion • Tower, MN

MAILBOAT EXCURSIONS
See 80 miles of Lake Vermilion
9 AM-12 Noon • Call for Reservations

Mon-Sat 8:30-5:30 • Sun 9-4
6143 Pike Bay Drive • 218-753-4190
www.aronsonboatworks.com



**Yoga
Classes**
In TOWER

Therapeutic, gentle, yoga flow class
Monday, Tuesday and Thursday
July 6 through September 16
8:30 AM • Tower Civic Center
\$60 unlimited for each month of July or August
\$10 Drop-In - Mat and all props included

Restorative Yoga
Wednesdays—July 14, 21, 28 and August 4, 11, 18 and 25
9 AM • Tower Civic Center
\$10 – Must register for each session in advance

Private Sessions
Gentle yoga; Group session; Therapeutic;
or Learn How to Breathe
Your Home or at Breathing Space Yoga Studio

Call or Text Nancy Larson, Certified Yoga Instructor
218-750-7514 - communitycoaching@yahoo.com



**Ely-Winton
Historical Society**

Summer History Nights Programs

History Nights are held in Vermilion Community College Classroom 104. Programs are on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. and FREE, donations gratefully accepted.

July 14: Karelian Fever and Peacemaking - Dr. Thomas Morgan, professor of Russian at the College of St. Scholastica will explain the "Karelian Fever," a period when Finnish Americans immigrated to the Soviet Union in the 1930s with the promise of a "workers' paradise," only to face persecution and seek passage back to America.

July 28: Northern Bedrock - Jill Baum, from Northern Bedrock Historic Preservation Corps, will discuss the Corps and the projects they have worked on in the area.

read us online at
www.timberjay.com

SCHOOL FUNDING

ISD 696 approves balanced budget for 2021-2022 school year

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

Operating spending, revenues projected at \$8.326 million

ELY – School board members here reviewed a balanced budget proposal for the next year and adopted a 2021-22 budget at a special meeting last week that calls for spending just over \$8.3 million in general and capital funds and collecting the same amount in revenue.

In a recorded audio presentation, ISD 696 business manager Spencer Aune outlined several budget assumptions for the 2021-22 school year, including a projected total enrollment of 538 students with an incoming Kindergarten class of 35 students. The 2020-21

adopted budget estimated an enrollment of 562 students, however, the COVID-19 pandemic reduced enrollment as more families chose to home school or left the district.

Previous indications assumed that the district’s student population would grow next year. “We should be conservative in our enrollment estimates and hopefully we will have more students this fall,” Aune said.

Increases for staff salary and benefits were estimated for the yet-to-be negotiated contracts. No other staffing changes

are anticipated for the new school year.

The budget also assumes that the basic state aid will grow by one percent to \$6,633 per pupil.

“In just recent days we are hearing that (state aid) could be as high as 2.45 (percent) and obviously that would help that budget if that’s what come through from the state,” Aune said.

Even with the one-percent state aid increase, general fund revenue shows an overall decrease of \$218,587 from last year.

“This was caused by the decrease in student enrollment and the decrease in basic skills revenue with

the lower free and reduced lunch numbers that Ely and much of the state had,” Aune said.

New federal stimulus funds, from ESSER II and ESSER III programs, total just over \$1 million that can be used over the next three fiscal years, according to Aune.

“This should help fill any budget holes we had due to less revenues and more expenditures due to the (coronavirus) pandemic this past year and uncertainties going forward,” he said.

The proposed budget uses all of the ESSER II funds of \$316,037 and

\$82,550 of the ESSER III funds, leaving \$627,225 remaining to be used in Fiscal Year 2022, 2023 and 2024, he said.

“The application for those funds is due Oct. 1 so we have a little bit of time to decide how to use those funds,” Aune said.

For expenses, Aune estimates a one-percent salary increase for all employee contracts at approximately \$150,000.

“We had some savings on our property and liability insurance of about \$20,000, and we are looking to purchase a new van for about \$50,000,” he said.

“We also estimate

that all other expenditures will remain constant from last year, except for the 1:1 Initiative purchases including new technology and other pandemic-related expenses of masks, barriers, etc., and we don’t see the need to purchase those items again this year,” Aune said.

The 2021-22 budget represents a slight decrease to the overall unassigned fund balance to \$1,590,774 from \$1,647,031 from the 2020-2021 adopted budget.

“This represents about 20.2 percent of our operating expenses, which is in line with the fund balance policy of the school board,” he said.

The budget was adopted unanimously.

TOWER...Continued from page 1

will provide a launch point and trailhead kiosk on the north side of the Hwy. 169 bridge, near the site of the former boat launch. The launch point will serve as the start of a signed kayak route that will encompass the East and West Two rivers along with a portion of Lake Vermilion’s Pike Bay. The project is now set to be completed by June 23, 2023. That marks a nearly three-year extension

from the project’s original completion date of June 30, 2020.

“Moving forward is great news,” said Nancy Larson, the city’s grant manager. The city council hired Larson to manage the city’s grants in the wake of mismanagement by the prior city administration.

Project put at risk

Larson initially volunteered her time in an effort to salvage funding

for the first phase of the project, which had been put at risk after city officials significantly altered the project from what they had described to the LCCMR at the time.

The LCCMR approved a total of \$1.279 million for what was described as the “Tower Historic Harbor Nature Trail/Kayak Route,” a proposal that was supposed to include construction of a walkway

around the harbor along with a half-mile-long bituminous trail connecting the city’s harbor zone to Hoodoo Point.

The proposed kayak route was expected to have been included in the \$679,000 initial phase, but it was overlooked along with the connecting trail. Instead, the city commissioned the construction of the harbor walkway, but added harbor lighting and

a floating boardwalk along a portion of the harbor, neither of which had been included in the original application.

City officials made the changes without seeking a required project amendment from the LCCMR and the scrutiny it eventually brought the project led to a suspension of payments until Larson and other city officials could make the case that they would still

be able to complete the primary objective of the overall project in the second phase.

By scaling back original plans for a boat launch and by shortening the connecting trail to the Hoodoo Point trail, city officials now hope to complete the project with the remaining \$600,000 from the original grant.

ELY...Continued from page 1

property limits for the past two summers, but the Ely City Police were recently notified of the random

act of beautification and Hill was told by the local lawn mowing police that he would have to get per-

mission from city leaders to continue the kindness activity.

Hill’s property abuts Pioneer Drive on the north and he wants to keep the strip of city right-of-way, including the area around a fire hydrant, mowed shorter than city crews have time to keep trimmed. He wants to do the same thing on the south side of his property along Sibley Drive adjacent to city-owned undeveloped land. Finally, he wants to mow along the west side of his property, along the Trezona Trail, including the portage trail to the nearby Miners Lake. He wants to “keep the trail clear of debris, windfall and dog (droppings), and keep the access to the water line free of logs that jam up against it.”

Hill noted, “It is so great to see kids fishing down there and others (able to put) in their canoes and kayaks.”

A nearby neighbor (unnamed) complained about the extra mowing and contended that Hill was

mowing the city property in front of his own land on his property as well. Apparently, last year, this same neighbor unsuccessfully attempted to get Hill to shut down a not-so-noisy power generator used on cloudy days when solar power panels weren’t as effective.

Council member Ryan Callen asked about the city’s liability if someone gets hurt while mowing the lawn on city property. The city’s legal counsel said the city’s insurance carrier and the home-owner’s property insurance would likely cover any problems.

“It is not uncommon to have people mow areas of city property,” Kelly Klun said. “However, the issue here is the neighbor dispute, and the motion before you does not include any mowing on someone else’s property.”

Klun noted that the city never formally stated at the council level that a person cannot mow or maintain public areas.

“It is a matter of if and

how the council wants to set policy on this,” she said.

Council member Al Forsman said the matter came before the council because Hill’s neighbor objected to his lawn mowing in front of his property.

“The intent of my motion on this is to not allow mowing in front of the neighbor’s property, and that is what I’m supporting,” he said. “I don’t want to be in a situation where we are not supporting people who are trying to beautify our community. I think it is important that we do support those who want to beautify our community, and what Mr. Hill is doing here is beneficial to our community.”

Council member Angela Campbell had another view. “I do not support Mr. Hill or his recommendation,” she said. “I think the city does a good job, and I don’t think a private interest should take precedence. Thank you.”

Interim Mayor Chuck Novak said, “I don’t want

my neighbor mowing my boulevard in front of my house and that is the issue before us.” He also wants Hill’s mowing across his property on Sibley Drive to cease if and when the vacant city lots are sold and eventually developed.

Council member Heidi Omerza was at a loss as to why the council was addressing such a minor issue. “This is nothing more than a personality issue and this coming before the council is rather unfortunate,” she said. “I don’t mind solving this problem. I’m not blaming anyone. So many parties involved in solving an issue like this is unfortunate.”

The council voted 6-1, with Campbell voting against, to allow Hill to mow city lawn around his property.

“Be nice to your neighbor,” Novak told Hill. “We don’t want to always have to settle your disputes down there.”

New Members
WANTED

Tower Fire Department

Want to help the community?
The Tower Fire Department is looking for more volunteers to be part of our team!
Please submit an application online at <https://cityoftower.com/positions-available>.
No experience needed.

Any questions, call Jordan Purkat at 218-248-0852 or Paige or Steven Olson at 218-780-7217.



NORTHERN LIGHTS

music festival

ROSSINI'S

rollicking comic opera

LA CENERENTOLA

CINDERELLA in Italian with English supertitles

JULY 16 7:00 PM

Veda Zuponic Auditorium

Mesabi East, Aurora

JULY 18 3:30 PM

Discovery Center Amphitheater

Chisholm

STAGE DIRECTOR

Chia Patiño

CONDUCTED BY

Gavriel Heine

SET DESIGN

Angeliqe Powers

Cinderella

A special one-hour adaptation of Rossini's comic opera, just for the children.

JULY 15 3:30 PM

Veda Zuponic Auditorium

Mesabi East, Aurora

JULY 17 3:30 PM

Discovery Center Amphitheater

Chisholm

SHARING THE RANGE LECTURE SERIES

WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ON?

Dr. Gary Kaunonen

Music of Social Protest: The Aurora Strike 1916

Music by Christopher Shin and Lourin Plant

JULY 9 7:00 PM

Veda Zuponic Auditorium

Mesabi East, Aurora

JULY 10 7:00 PM

B'nai Abraham Cultural Center,

Virginia

B'NAI ABRAHAM SYNAGOGUE & THE HISTORY OF IRON RANGE JEWRY

JULY 25 7:00 PM

B'nai Abraham Cultural Center,

Virginia

CHAMBER MUSIC

CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT

Sharing the Range: Which Side Are You On?

JULY 9 7:00 PM

Veda Zuponic Auditorium

Mesabi East, Aurora

JULY 10 7:00 PM

B'nai Abraham, Virginia

OPERA SCENES & ARIAS

JULY 11 4:00 PM

Vermilion Comm. College, Ely

CHAMBER MUSIC IN BUHL

JULY 12 7:00 PM

Buhl Public Library, Buhl

CHAMBER MUSIC AT VCC

Schubert's The Trout

JULY 19 4:00 PM

Vermilion Comm. College, Ely

OPERA SCENES & ARIAS

JULY 19 7:00 PM

Veda Zuponic Auditorium

Mesabi East, Aurora

CHAMBER MUSIC AT B'NAI ABRAHAM

Schubert's The Trout

JULY 20 7:00 PM

B'nai Abraham, Virginia

NLMF CONCERT IN THE PARK

Indian Drumming Concert

JULY 21 4:00 PM

Whiteside Park, Ely

FINAL CLOSING CONCERT

JULY 23 7:00 PM

Veda Zuponic Auditorium

Mesabi East, Aurora

NLMF ORCHESTRA

NLMF ORCHESTRA CONCERT

Alexander Markov, violin; Vivaldi's Four Seasons plus Winners of 2021 NLMF Concerto Competition

JULY 22 7:00 PM

Historic Hibbing High School Auditorium, Hibbing

ART EXHIBITS

OJIBWE FACES AND STORIES:

A Photographic Exhibit

RETURN TO THE RIVER

Installed in the lower level of B'nai Abraham Cultural Center; exhibits rotate with Mesabi East Lobby

Scenic Rivers

Clinics

COVID-19 Vaccine

Appointments Available

Scenic Rivers is now scheduling appointments for individuals to receive COVID-19 vaccinations at our medical locations following state eligibility guidelines. Supply is limited and call volumes are high, so we appreciate your patience. If you believe you meet the MN state vaccine eligibility requirements, please call the number below to schedule an appointment.

Cook Medical

Vaccine Scheduling

20 5th St SE

(218) 361-3297

Tower Medical

Vaccine Scheduling

415 N 2nd St, Suite 2

(218) 753-2405

1-877-541-2817

www.ScenicRiversHealth.org

24 Hour Emergency Care Available Through Cook Hospital

ARETHA

REGIONAL ARTS

2021-2022

CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY

MINNESOTA

2021-2022

THIS ACTIVITY IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE VOTERS OF MINNESOTA THROUGH A GRANT FROM THE MINNESOTA STATE ARTS BOARD. THANKS TO A LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATION FROM THE ARTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE FUND.

EXPLORE MINNESOTA

IRON RANGE RESOURCES & REHABILITATION BOARD

Genentech

MINNESOTA ENERGY

CLIFFS

LAKEHEAD

JOHNSON & JOHNSON

MINNESOTA POWER

IBW

LAKE COUNTRY POWER

Subscribe 218-753-2950

North Country celebrates the Fourth of July



Scenes from the Independence Day celebration in the North Country include, clockwise from top left, patriotic runner in the Four on the Fourth race in Ely, Kiddie Parade in Orr, Northeast Range High School marching band in the Ely parade, sausage grillers at the Ely Young Life picnic in Whiteside Park, and young parade watchers at the Tower Fourth of July parade. photos by Timberjay staff

SAVE BIG! Buy Local!

We Buy Clean, Used Vehicles

2021 CHEVROLET EQUINOX LT AWD

MSRP \$32,940
Customer Cash -\$2,500
Sale Price \$30,440

** Or choose available 0% APR up to 72 months*

DISCLOSURES * 0% APR up to 72 months on approved credit with GM Financial. Not compatible with all offers. See dealer for details. Must take delivery from dealer stock by 8/2/2021.

PREOWNED VALUES!

2020 Jeep Cherokee Trailhawk 4x4.....	Go Anywhere!.....	\$34,990
2018 RAM 1500 Quad Cab 4x4.....	Only 23K Miles!.....	\$32,990
2018 Chevrolet Equinox LT AWD.....	Clean Trade-In!!.....	\$21,990
2018 Ford Edge SEL AWD.....	Great Value!.....	\$26,990
2018 Jeep Compass Trailhawk.....	29K Miles!.....	\$25,990
2018 Chevrolet Traverse LT AWD.....	Certified Pre-Owned!.....	\$36,990
2017 Ford Escape Titanium AWD.....	Only 19K Miles!.....	\$22,990
2016 Chevrolet Impala LT.....	Nicely Equipped!.....	\$14,990
2015 Chevrolet Colorado 4x4.....	Just In!.....	\$21,990
2014 Chevrolet Silverado LTZ Crew 4x4.....	Loaded!.....	\$29,990
2014 Chevrolet Cruze LT.....	SAVE at the Pump!.....	\$8,990
2013 Chevrolet Silverado LT 4x4.....	Fresh Trade In!.....	\$21,990

WASCHKE FAMILY
CHEVROLET • COOK

Les Hujanen Lom Koski Calvin Jolly

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

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

Ethnic Creations

Handmade gifts from the past to the present

Classes • Custom Orders
Weaving • Felting • Quilting
Needle Arts

Open Monday & Tuesday from 10-4
7148 Cty Rd 715, Embarrass, MN 55732
218-741-1536 or 218-750-0475 (cell)
www.finnishethniccreations.com
debwiitanen.etsy.com

YOUR HOME-DECOR STORE

All furniture may not be as shown.

ANDERSON FURNITURE & KITCHENS
AndersonFurnitureCompany.com
214 2nd Ave. S, Virginia, MN • 218-741-9356

INTEREST FREE FINANCING AND LAYAWAY AVAILABLE

www.timberjay.com

Call
753-2950
to subscribe
to the
Timberjay!

STEGER MUKLUKS

WE ARE NOW OPEN FOR CURBSIDE SALES!
AND ORDER PICK-UPS AT OUR
FACTORY ON 100 MINERS DR. E
JUST A FEW BLOCKS FROM OUR RETAIL STORE.

Call 218-365-6634 for instructions
Order at mukluks.com
BUY AMERICAN MADE!

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

USFS conducts helicopter training at Ely Airport

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – U.S. Forest Service crews used the Ely Airport for a helicopter training session last Friday as the trainees learned and refreshed their skills in working with rotary aircraft while fighting wildfires in the North Country.

Eric Holzem, USFS Helitack supervisor for District 9, including the Kawishiwi District, oversaw the training as eight students on the ground performed training drills in cargo transport via external load.

“The skills are needed for transport into and out of remote sites for fire suppression, or building projects in areas that are hard to reach any other way,” he said

Materials were lowered to the ground by tether from a helicopter hovering overhead. A crew from Brainerd Helicopter Services, Inc., under contract with the USFS, was on hand last week and participated in reconnaissance and water suppression duties at the Rock Island Lake

fire near Lake Two in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness east of Ely.

Instead of delivering shovels, fire hoses, oxygen tanks and other necessary fire-fighting equipment, the helicopter crew used tires and other material to simulate the real-world experience.

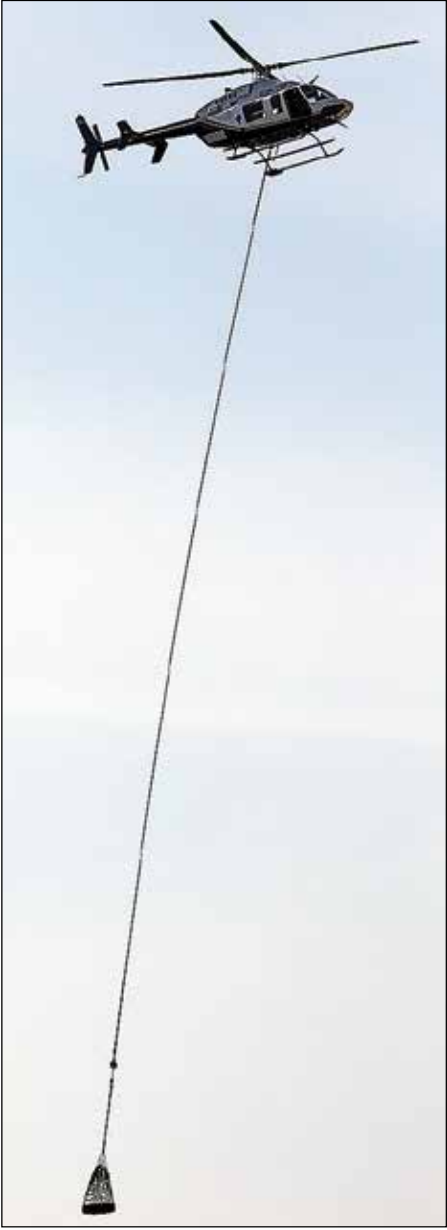
“We want to give the crews on the ground a real-world scenario in which they experience the helicopter hovering just above them as they perform their duties,” Holzem said.

Each of the students took turns calling in the aircraft by radio and relayed prevailing wind and simulated clearance and fire conditions on the ground. Other students, with aid from mentors, practiced hooking and unhooking the equipment from the tethered bundle lowered by the air crew.

Holzem said Forest Service personnel and aircraft will likely be stationed at the Ely Airport USFS facility for most of the summer as drought conditions remain and the fire danger persists.



U.S. Forest Service crews trained in air-to-ground equipment transfer skills last Friday at the Ely Airport. Wildfire aerial attack aircraft and personnel are expecting a long-term deployment as drought conditions continue in northern Minnesota this summer. photos by K. Vanervort



I'm Hungry LET'S EAT! A Summer Restaurant Guide

 <p>THE GOOD OL' DAYS 316 Main St, Tower • 218-753-6097 Daily Meal Specials Homemade Soups & Chili, Friday Fish Fry Pool Table, Dart Board, TVs <i>Enjoy historic 1930's atmosphere, nostalgic pictures, wood floors, tin ceilings with a train!</i> Best Bloody Mary In Minnesota! See our MENU at www.goodolddaystower.com</p>	<p>Hours: Mon-Sat: 6 AM-Close <i>6 AM Breakfast</i> Sun: 8 AM-Close <i>8 AM Breakfast</i></p>
 <p>FRONT PORCH COFFEE & TEA CO. 4th & Sheridan St, Ely • 218-365-2326 Fresh Burritos, Quiche, Coffee, Espresso, Tea Smoothies, Desserts, Outdoor Seating. WiFi</p>	<p>Hours: DAILY: 7 AM</p>
 <p>THE VERMILION CLUB 3191 Old Hwy 77, Tower • 218-753-6277 No frills eatery/bar featuring jumbo & specialty pizzas, steaks, seafood in a rustic interior.</p>	<p>Hours: Tues-Sun Noon-1 AM Closed Sun</p>

 <p>THE CRESCENT BAR & GRILL 9257 E Olson Rd, Cook • 218-666-0100 Full Menu, Full Sports Bar, Game Room 2 Private Dining Rooms, Catering, Receptions Outdoor Patio, Volleyball, Bean Bags, Off-Sale</p>	<p>Hours: DAILY: 11 AM-Close</p>
 <p>MONTANA CAFE 29 S River St, Cook • 218-666-2074 Breakfast & Lunch, Take & Bake Items: Pasties & Chicken Pot Pies</p>	<p>Hours: Sat & Sun: 8 AM-3 PM M-F: 9 AM-5 PM Tues: Closed:</p>
 <p>NORTHERN DIVIDE BAR & EATERY 1308 18th St N, Virginia • 218-748-7534 Brunch, Lunch, & Dinner. Menu changes seasonally. Larger dining room for parties. Reservations recommended for large groups.</p>	<p>Hours: Tues-Sun: 11 AM-8 PM Mon: Closed:</p>
 <p>BAYVIEW BAR & GRILL 2007 Co Rd 77, Tower • 218-753-2964 Brunch, Lunch, & Dinner. Great atmosphere, full bar, outside tiki bar and decks for relaxing.</p>	<p>Hours: DAILY: Wed-Sun Noon-11 PM M,Tu: Closed</p>

PUT YOUR RESTAURANT AD HERE!
Just \$1999 PER WEEK (PER SPACE). RUNS THRU SEPT. 3

..... Let Summer Visitors & Locals
Know About You! Call 218-753-2950



NorthCountry

Serving northern
St. Louis County
since 1989



Above: Tiana Hess, of Embarrass, rides her decorated horse in the Tower parade.

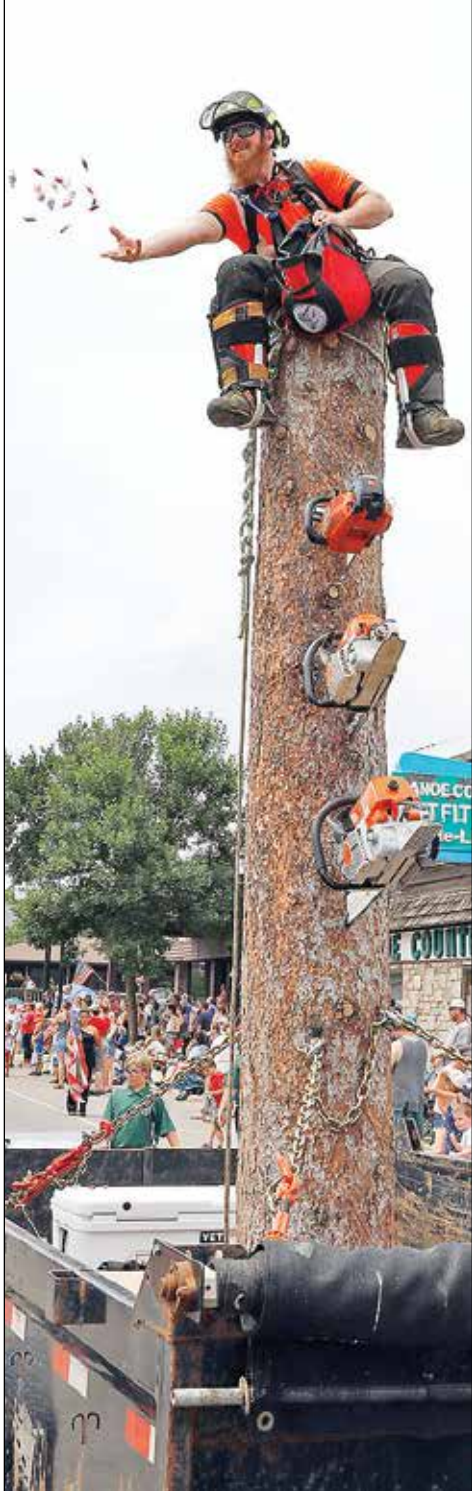
Right: Sam Richardson, dressed as Uncle Sam, eyes the photographer during July 3rd festivities in Orr.

Far right: Tree service professional Austin Van Scoy rides high as he tosses candy to the Ely crowd.

Below: A costumed moose offers a hug in the Ely parade.



I WANT YOU!
To Have Fun on the Fourth!



photos by Timberjay staff



Above left: Zup's employees hand out bags of chips during the Ely parade.

Above right: Greyson Reichensperger bends down to high-five spectators from his perch atop a tall unicycle he rode during the Tower parade.

Far left: Steve Solkela sings while riding a long skateboard and playing his accordion in the Tower parade.

Moderately left: U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar smiles and waves as she walks in the Ely parade.

Lower left: Norberg family grandchildren have become annual participants in the Tower kiddie parade.

Below: Briar Chapeau waves the flag during the kiddie parade in Orr on July 3rd.



Ely to host midsummer classic this weekend



NATIONAL
— DEBT RELIEF —

**BE DEBT FREE
IN 24-48 MONTHS!**

If you owe more than \$10,000 in credit card or other debt, see how National Debt Relief can resolve your debt for **a fraction of what you owe.**

Call today:
1-844-205-5439



TOWER-SOUDAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

TSHS receives \$30,000 to restore Tower’s Historic Fire Hall

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Historical Society has received grant funding to replace the roof on the Tower Historic Fire Hall on Main Street. This was the first fire hall built on the Iron Range, in 1895, and is the oldest existing public building north of Duluth.

A \$20,000 grant was made from the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Culture and Tourism Program through taxes paid by Minnesota’s mining industry, and a \$10,000 grant was made from the State of Minnesota from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the Minnesota Historical Society. The roof replacement will eliminate water infiltration and deter further building deterioration.

The roof replacement project is Phase 2 of the rehabilitation plan. Original doors and windows were restored as Phase 1 in 2019. Phase 3 will rehabilitate and repair the exterior masonry, planned for 2023. A \$100,000 grant was recently awarded for Phase 3. An additional \$40,000 is needed as additional match to a Minnesota Historical Society exterior masonry grant request due in September. Your donation of any size would be appreciated.

Please contact the Tower-Soudan Historical Society campaign co-chairs, Louise Gately at 515-229-8757, or Nancy Larson at 218-750-7514, with any questions. Donations can be mailed to the Tower-Soudan Historical Society, PO Box 465, Tower, MN 55790. TSHS is a 501(c)(3) organization. You can learn more at www.towersoudanhs.org. You can also fill out and mail the donation form printed below.

Tower’s Historic Fire Hall tells the story of Tower as the first mining town on the Iron Range and offers the community a look into the social history of early iron ore mining in Minnesota. The hall was built in 1895 and included a cistern that held 30,000 gallons of water, filled using a pipe that extended from the building to the East Two River.

family. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, July 10 at Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia with Pastor Erik Roth officiating. Visitation will be for one hour prior to the service. Burial will be in the Vermilion Lake Township Cemetery.

She is survived by her sons, Dale (Midge) Lamppa and Dan (Nancy) Lamppa; sisters, Betty Ann (Laurie) Laakso; grandchildren, Russell Lamppa, Rena (Dave) Mesedahl, Kevin Lamppa, Lynn Lamppa and Aaron Lamppa; and numerous great-grandchildren.

Vince was born on March 10, 1934, on the family homestead in Gheen, to Eric and Ellen Lundberg. He graduated from Orr High School, UMD with a Geology Degree, Moorhead State with a Teaching Certificate, and received his Master’s in Education from UWS. He had prospected for the Atlantic Refinery in the oil fields before he began teaching Chemistry at Duluth Central High School, retiring in 1993. He was proud to be a teacher, and he was proud of his students.

Vince belonged to a ski club, the Duluth Curling Club, and was a lifetime member of the Duluth Elks Lodge. He enjoyed downhill skiing until the age of 83, curling, fishing on Pelican Lake, grouse hunting, traveling to Las Vegas, Laughlin, Sweden and Europe. His favorite place in the world to be was in front of the garage on the family farm in Gheen, with a cigar in one hand and a drink in the other, watching the trees grow. Vince was a people person, and he was never without a friend.

Vince is survived by his wife, Leila; nieces and nephews, Daniel of North Miami, Fla., Arnold (Mary Louise) of Alpharetta, Ga., Thomas (Barbara) of Owens Cross Roads, Ala., and Cynthia of Manassas, Va.; sister-in-law, Gail Anderson of Duluth; niece, Laurie Mallory of Two Harbors; and nephew, Keith Mallory of Mound.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Herbert and Lennart; and a sister-in-law, Becky.

Arlene F. Lamppa

Arlene Faye Crayne Lamppa, 91, of Mt. Iron, passed away at home on Friday, Feb. 12, 2021, surrounded by her family. A special thank you to the hospice care team headed by Dr. Keith Peterson and his wonderful staff of caregivers. They were tremendous help to the

Co. The steam fire engine, the “James Tippet”, named after the Tower mayor, served Tower and the surrounding area until it was retired in 1928.

The “Tippet” continued to be the featured attraction in Tower’s Fourth of July parade for many decades and will be the featured centerpiece in the restored historic fire hall.

The restored fire hall will serve as a museum to tell the story of the early days when the Tower Harbor was a transportation hub and bustling commercial center with a hotel, outfitters, and a boat builder. Steamboats ferried train passengers to logging camps and resorts which were only accessible by water, thus pioneering Minnesota’s resort and tourism industry on Lake Vermilion in the early part of the 20th century, several decades before tourism became an important industry throughout the state of Minnesota.

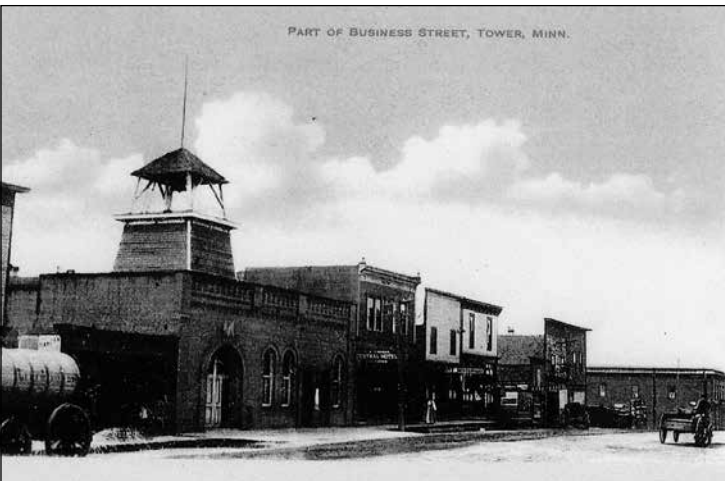
four children, James Carlson of Virginia, Joyce Tuominen of Sand Lake, Andrea Merten of Lake Leander and Jayson (Pam) Carlson of Tower; many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Loyal... A lengthy figure utilizing strength and skill to win a set of tennis...the humanitarian who finds beauty, even in squalor.

Becky Lynn Skubic, 58, passed away on Nov. 1, 2020, at St. Luke’s Hospital in Duluth due to cancer and COVID-19. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, July 9 at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Virginia with visitation beginning one hour prior to the service. Coffee and bars will be served in the social hall following the service. Burial will follow the coffee an’ at the Eveleth Cemetery. Arrangements are entrusted to Cron-Sheehey Funeral Home in Eveleth.

Becky was born on April 17, 1962, the daughter of Woody and Deloris Anderson. She grew up in West Eveleth and graduated from Eveleth Senior High in 1980. On Sept. 7, 1991, Becky was united in marriage to Paul Skubic. Their son, Matt was born in 1994. They lived in Eveleth prior to moving to Lake Vermilion.

Becky loved being at the lake. She loved having friends

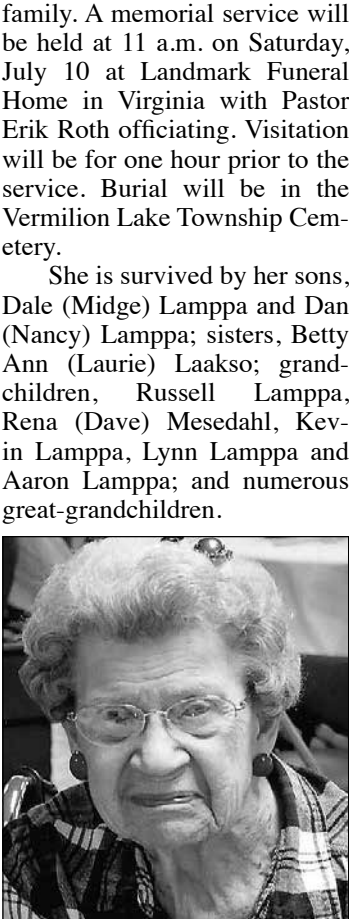


by the Tower-Soudan Historical Society with support from the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation. Its unique features tell a story of the early years of Tower’s development as the first mining boom town, when wooden structures were built on crowded lots in a city without water and plumbing infrastructure. After a series of dangerous fires in 1891, city officials purchased a horse-drawn steam-powered fire engine built by the Ahrens Manufacturing

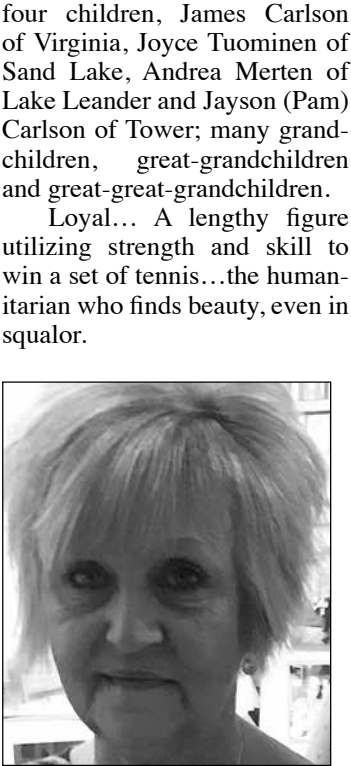
Obituaries and Death Notices



Vinson Lundberg



Katherine G. Carlson



Becky L. Skubic

and family over. She enjoyed cooking, playing cards and games, having the ladies spend the night, and boating on the lake. She enjoyed life and was fun to be with. Becky was always the first one to show up to help when needed.

She loved her sleepovers with her great nephew, Briggs. He was a light in her life. Becky was so proud of their son, Matt. She always looked forward to his time spent at the lake with her and Paul. She also loved their family dog, Nelli (little girl), and the new pet additions, Topsy and Cheddar Bob.

Becky was employed at Virginia Public Schools as a paraprofessional. She enjoyed the students and her great coworkers. She was always ready to go back to school after the summer break.

Becky is survived by her husband, Paul Skubic; son, Matthew (Megan Campbell) Skubic; sister, Tracey (Eric) Skalbeck; nephew, Jake (Melissa Dorn) Skalbeck; sister-in-law, Sue Anderson; nieces, Katie (Stacie) Anderson and Jennifer (Dusty Pond) Anderson; great-nephews, Briggs Behrens and Conner Trombley; great-nieces, Tori, Payton and Paige Trombley; brothers and sisters-in-law, Mike (Diane French) Skubic, Ann and Bruce Peterson, Tom and Carol Skubic and Jim and Cyndy Skubic; and numerous nieces and nephews in the Skubic and Peterson families.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Woody and Deloris Anderson; brother, Jeff (Buff) Anderson; father and mother-in-law, Ed and Teddy Skubic; sister-in-law, Vicki Skubic; and Katie Rannikar who was a second mother to her.

Blanche A. Yourczek

Blanche “Wendy” Ann Yourczek, 87, of Angora, passed away peacefully in her home on

Saturday, July 3, 2021. A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. on Sunday, July 11 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service. A luncheon will be held immediately following the service at the Cook VFW. Military Honors will be accorded by the Cook VFW Post 1757 and Orr American Legion Post 480 Honor Guards.

Memorials may be directed to Contented Critters Animal Shelter, K9’s for Warriors (service dogs for Veterans) or the Masonic Cancer Center.

Amanda D. Bjork

Amanda “Mandi” Dawn Bjork, 30, of Virginia, died on Thursday, July 1, 2021. A celebration of life will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, July 9 at the Evangelical Free Church in Embarrass. Pastor Marlin Bjornrud will officiate. Inurnment will take place in the Embarrass Cemetery. Family services are provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.

Mandi’s family wishes to thank Lake County Chaplain Walter Crabtree, and all who supported Mandi in her life journey. Memorials are preferred and may be directed to National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Iron Range Chapter.

She is survived by her parents, Todd and Kimberly Bjork of Embarrass; sisters, Missy Bjork of Mt. Iron, Jossy Bjork of Embarrass and Heather (Nathan) Destasio of Duluth; maternal grandmother, Darlene Larson of Bullhead City, Ariz.; aunts and uncles, Donna (Mike) Tokarczyk of Two Harbors, Gene (Yvonne) Larson of Duluth, Scott Larson of Duluth and Tami (Tony Jensen) Bjork of Chisholm; great-uncle, Randy (Rebecca) Snook; numerous cousins, including Nick, Jaime, Kasey, Sarah, Justin and Jason; extended family and friends, including special friends, Ruth, Brenda and Ashley.

Tower-Soudan Historical Society

YES I am interested in pledging my Support to restore the Historic Fire Hall!

I hereby pledge an amount of \$ _____ annually over a period of:

One time contribution _____ 2 Years _____ 3 Years _____

4 Years _____ 5 Years _____ Other _____

(TOTAL over _____ Years is \$ _____)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Make your check payable to: **Tower-Soudan Historical Society**
Mailing Address: PO Box 465 Tower, MN 55790

Pay Pal option is available on our website!
www.towersoudanhs.org

THANK YOU!



Our lives in the
Northwoods

Outdoors

MESABI TRAIL

Tower-to-Ely segment should be complete by end of next summer

The Mesabi Trail’s final segment, through Kugler Township, now set for completion in 2023

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— For more than 20 years, the Mesabi Trail has been a work in progress, a goal with a completion date far off in the future. But barring an unforeseen roadblock, all 135 miles of paved bike path from Grand Rapids to Ely could be officially completed

in just two years. “Done. I mean done-done,” said Bob Manzoline, who has spearheaded the trail-building process with the patience of Job as it wound its way to completion, segment-by-segment. “We knew this day would eventually come,” he said. They’re getting there

thanks, in part, to a busy 2021 construction season on the trail. An eight-mile stretch from “downtown” Embarrass to just short of the intersection of Hwy. 135 and County Rd. 26 has now been paved and Manzoline said he expects final cleanup along the route to be completed by the end of the month.

Right: A portion of the Mesabi Trail is under construction along the Bear Head Lake State Park Road, in Eagles Nest Township. photo/K. Vandervort

The connection from there to Tower is likely to be the final link in the chain,

See TRAIL...pg. 5B



Wildflower Watch

This week’s featured flower
MOTHERWORT



Here in the North Country, **Motherwort**, *Leonurus cardiaca*, is found almost exclusively in disturbed locations, like roadsides or gravel pits.

It’s a member of the mint family and like many mints its small lavender flowers grow in a tight circle around the leaf axils (where the leaves connect to the stem). It’s among the largest of the mints found in Minnesota and can often grow five feet tall.

Its leaves have three obvious lobes, which are more prominent in older leaves.

As its name suggests, it is known to have medicinal uses revolving around pregnancy. In fact, it’s known to stimulate contractions in women in labor and can also reduce bleeding post-labor.

Fishing reports

Ely area

Many anglers struggled finding walleyes this last week but several groups had no issue, not only catching good numbers, but catching several trophy walleyes. These groups found walleyes in 7-12 feet of water, over large boulder flats, very early in the morning. Leeches and crawlers, fished on a spinner rig or tipped on a jig, was very effective. Orange, gold and chartreuse have been hot colors this last week. The trolling bite has started on several lakes. This has largely been an evening bite where anglers are using deep diving crankbaits over deep water.

Bass fishing has remained excellent for anglers this last week. Topwater and soft plastics continue to be the way to go and early morning or late in the evening have been the best times to fish. Anglers have been finding bass on large boulder flats in 10 feet of water or less.

Panfish anglers have been finding good numbers and sized sunfish in shallow weed beds. Here anglers are using small leeches or wax worms under a bobber. Crappie anglers have been finding crappies hanging out over deep water next to weed beds. Anglers here have been using jigs and twisters or crappie minnows.

Courtesy of Arrowhead Outdoors, Ely.



REVIVAL

The comeback of cranes

North America’s oldest bird species has become a common resident of our region once again

A primeval sound has returned with a vengeance to the North Country this year. Sandhill cranes, which had once bordered on extirpation in Minnesota and had been rare for a time throughout their range, have returned in sizable numbers to our region over the past decade. This year, with severe drought to our west, they have been showing up all across the area in the most significant numbers in decades.

For many humans, the bugling call of the sandhill crane harkens back to prehistory. It’s a sound that was heard across much of North America going back millions of years to a time before humans even walked on this continent. In fact, sandhills are believed to be the oldest bird species in North America, having existed in their present form for more than 2.5 million years, dating back to the Pliocene era. That’s about twice as old as the next oldest bird species.

It was the arrival of humans, particularly Europeans, that nearly pushed sandhills into oblivion. Market hunters in the 1800s and early 1900s slaughtered untold numbers of virtually every kind of wildlife that inhabited the U.S., driving some, most notably the passenger pigeon, into extinction. The slaughter decimated the populations of North America’s two crane species, with the largest, the whooping crane, still at risk of extinction even though the population is beginning to slowly rebuild. Sandhill crane

Above: A pair of sandhill cranes were busy feeding in a hayfield just west of Tower this past week. Sandhill cranes have become increasingly common in the North Country as they’ve recovered from the effects of overhunting and other factors.

Right: A sandhill crane makes its distinctive bugling call.

photos by M. Helmberger

populations never dipped as low, which has helped them recover more quickly.

Cranes take a relatively slow approach to reproduction, which has made their return a longer process. Unlike many short-lived species, which have lots of offspring, cranes typically raise only one or two colts per year. What’s more, cranes will spend the first four to five years of their life as non-breeding juveniles. In fact, the pair of cranes pictured here are juveniles, which are almost certainly not nesting this year. The juveniles can be recognized by their cinnamon brown plumage, which will turn a light gray once they reach breeding age.

Sandhills, like a number of larger water-related fowl, will typically mate for life and they can live 20 years in the wild so with any luck they’re able to raise plenty of young during their lifetime. Like other cranes around the world, they attract their mates through elaborate dances that include wing-flapping, bowing,



jumping, and tossing of sticks and grass. Sandhills are quite vocal, often noisy even. It’s part of their highly developed communication system that helps to keep their family units together, signals danger and reinforces pair-bonds.

Minnesota actually has two separate populations of sandhill cranes. In northwestern Minnesota, sandhills are associated with the mid-continent population, which summers across a vast range that stretches all the way to far northeastern Siberia, and winters on the Texas Gulf Coast, while the east-central Minnesota population is part of the eastern population of sandhills, which winters in northern and central Florida. It’s most likely birds from the east-central population which have spread into our region in recent years, although the drought conditions to our west could have pushed some of those birds our way as well.

Most sandhill cranes breed

to our north, with their summer range extending all the way to the Canadian and Alaskan arctic. They breed only in about ten northern U.S. states, including Alaska, and Minnesota is starting to have one of the more significant breeding populations of any state.

While cranes are often associated with water, they do spend a lot of time on dry land as well. In our area, they feed often in open fields, particularly around the Cook area, where the landscape is more a mix of fields and forest. While cranes are mostly after insects, amphibians, snakes, small mammals or birds, they also will eat crop seed, like corn or beans, which has created a conflict with some farmers, particularly among the mid-continent population.

But sandhills also take advantage of places where they’re unlikely to impact human activity, such as in our

See SANDHILLS...pg. 5B



MARSHALL
HELMBERGER

SUMMER FIRE SEASON

Quick response snuffs BW blaze

Rock Island Fire burns just 1.5 acres



by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

Above: Rock Island Fire as seen from the air last Thursday.

photo by T. Rova/USFS

BWCAW — Forest Service firefighters responded quickly last Wednesday to another fire in the Boundary Waters, the latest located about a mile southwest of Lake Two.

The fire, believed to be sparked by a lightning strike, burned about an acre and a half before crews brought it under control.

A “Fire Boss” float-plane and a helicopter did most of the work, dropping approximately 30,000 gallons of water on the fire to slow its growth. As many as ten firefighters were also dropped off by aircraft near Lake Two in the evening of June 30 so they could respond to the fire on the ground the next morning.

By last Friday afternoon, firefighters achieved 100 percent containment of the fire. Personnel contained the blaze to a line around the perimeter to keep it from spreading. Crews continued to secure and mop up areas of the fire.

Mop up efforts continued throughout Saturday. One technique used, according to officials, was “bone piling” or taking all logs that still had heat in them, isolating the parts with heat, and piling them to burn in black areas of the fire. This technique works well when there is not much water available and allows crews to rely less on water pumps.

Due to drought conditions in northern Minnesota, fire crews will remain on call for initial attack on any new starts that occur.

Minnesota’s forests are primed by record heat and drought for an abnormal summer fire season and especially problematic fire behavior. The Superior National Forest has additional crews and engines available in the Kawishiwi District to assist.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
79 52					83 54					85 57					86 58					82 56				
Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
06/28	75	51	0.16		06/28	75	50	0.17		06/28	79	55	0.00		06/28	77	55	0.00		06/28	77	50	0.05	
06/29	80	55	0.00		06/29	78	49	0.00		06/29	80	55	0.08		06/29	82	54	0.00		06/29	79	51	0.03	
06/30	81	50	0.10		06/30	81	48	0.00		06/30	82	56	0.00		06/30	84	55	0.00		06/30	83	49	0.00	
07/01	85	52	0.01		07/01	84	49	0.00		07/01	83	57	0.02		07/01	81	52	0.00		07/01	84	50	0.00	
07/02	82	51	0.00		07/02	80	49	0.00		07/02	86	55	0.00		07/02	86	55	0.00		07/02	81	52	0.00	
07/03	87	55	0.00		07/03	86	53	0.00		07/03	86	53	0.00		07/03	88	63	0.00		07/03	86	53	0.00	
07/04	89	59	0.00		07/04	88	67	0.00		07/04	89	53	0.00		07/04	88	64	0.00		07/04	89	58	0.00	
Total			7.08		YTD Total			7.85		YTD Total			8.64		YTD Total			10.80		YTD Total				10.34

TRAIL...Continued from page 4B

but Manzoline is hopeful that the end is in sight on what has proven to be a difficult stretch. While the former rail grade between Tower and Embarrass would have been a natural location for the trail, a handful of landowners have resisted its use for that purpose. That will force the trail to cover a portion of the stretch from County Rd. 26 to Tower along the Hwy. 135 right-of-way.

Manzoline has an engineer working on the segment and he’s already lined up \$1.3 million in state bonding money and is preparing the grant request for another \$1 million to finish the roughly six-mile stretch. That remaining funding won’t be available, however, until the Legislature gives the green light next year. With that timeline in place, Manzoline said he would expect to have the engineering and environmental review work completed by late 2022, with final construction in 2023.

Meanwhile, work on the hotly-anticipated stretch of trail from Tower to Ely is expected to be completed by next summer. Work is close to complete on a section of trail from the Hwy. 169 rail overpass, west of Ely, to the County Rd. 88 cutoff. And a final MnDOT review is nearing completion for the remaining segment into Ely. Manzoline said he hopes to have that segment under construction this year.

Work got underway last week on the still-missing segment from the



Left: The newly-completed segment of the Mesabi Trail between “downtown” Embarrass and Kugler Township winds through rolling forest of birch and pine. photo/M. Helmberger

reconstruction is now in place, with \$300,000 from state legacy bonding, \$150,000 from a federal trails grant, and the remaining \$150,000 from the rail authority that oversees the Mesabi Trail.

Manzoline had originally hoped to rebuild the trail this year but, as usual, the project is more complicated than one might expect. Much of the original trail was built atop forced wastewater mains that serve both Tower and Soudan and the communities’ joint wastewater board has decided to replace about 20 aging manholes along the route in conjunction with the trail project. Wastewater manager Matt Tuchel said the price tag for the manhole replacement is estimated at \$409,000, an amount the wastewater board is still working to raise. Tuchel said the wastewater board has already met with Manzoline to coordinate the work and has agreed to use the same engineer to design and oversee both the manhole replacements and the trail reconstruction. Tuchel said he’s hoping to have the project out for bid by this fall, with project completion by next spring. That will push the reconstruction of the bike trail out to next year.

SANDHILLS...Continued from page 4B

large peatlands. They have become regulars, for example, in the Lost Lake Swamp. It was about ten years ago, that I first started hearing their bugling calls from out in that large peatland from our high ridge on the swamp’s east side. At first, I assumed they were migrants, but now I hear their calls almost daily throughout the summer, so it’s clearly a resident

population.

Sandhills are large birds, so they’re easy to spot, even at a distance. They’re among the very largest birds you’ll find in Minnesota, standing about five feet tall, with a wingspan of nearly seven feet. You might have a tough time getting close to them, however. They have excellent eyesight and tend to

be quite wary of humans.

The return of sandhills to our area is just another example of the way that conservation regulations benefit wildlife, and us as well. Humans have long associated cranes with good fortune, happiness, creativity, and long life. Who wouldn’t hope to see a bit more of that?

The Timberjay

Subscribe Today • Call 218-753-2950

Ritchie Automatic
Livestock Waterers
and Parts

HIBBING
FEED and SEED

262-3049

RANGE
L.P. GAS

Call Us For All
Your LP Gas Needs!

Hoover Rd., Virginia
741-7393
1613 E. Camp St., Ely
365-8888

24 Hour
Emergency
Service

• Toll Free •
1-800-862-8628

PETERSEN
DRILLING

Since 1948
Wells
Water Systems

• PUMPS
• WELLS
• HYDRO-FRACKING

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

CLEAN.DRAIN.DRY.

CLEAN

DRAIN

DRY

Boats, trailers, and gear

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

Water from boat, bilge, motor, and live well

Remove drain plug and open all water draining devices

Trash unused bait

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 CLEANDRAINDRY.ORG

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Diane Jarvi concert, July 11

EMBARRASS-
Diane Jarvi will be playing guitar and kantele and singing for people on Sunday, July 11 at the Finnish Apostolic Lutheran Church in Embarrass. The concert begins at 3 p.m. The church is located on the hill at 5103 Highway 21 in Embarrass. It promises to be a lovely time and presents the opportunity for folks of all ages to gather,



enjoy entertaining music, and visit with friends in a unique

community setting.
The early 1900s church will continue to be renovated by Sisu Heritage this summer with roof and foundation repairs and will be used for community concerts and gatherings for people to enjoy. The wonderful acoustics of the oldest surviving church in Embarrass will provide a venue for the music presented by Diane Jarvi. Admission is \$10 per person at the door, ages 12 and under are free.

EMPLOYMENT

FULL-TIME BARTENDER

The City of Orr is accepting applications for a full-time bartender for the Orr Municipal Liquor Store. This is a salaried position that includes vacation package, health insurance, life insurance, retirement and sick leave. Looking for individuals who can interact with customers in a professional, friendly manner. Must pass background check. The City of Orr is a drug-free work place and Equal Opportunity Employer. Applications may be picked up at the Orr City Hall, 4429 Highway 53, Orr. Call City Hall at 218-757-3288 with any questions. tfn



Steger Mukluks is Hiring!

Factory Work: FT Year-round
Sales Work: FT, PT & Seasonal
Competitive Wages & Benefits

Apply at 100 Miners Dr. in Ely
or call 218-365-6553 tfn



Planner/Senior Planner
Apply by 07/15/2021

www.stlouiscountymn.gov
or call 218-726-2422

Equal Opportunity and Veteran-Friendly Employer 7/9

POSITION OPENING
Ely Public Schools
Head Hockey Coach

Ely Public Schools is accepting applications for a Head Hockey Coach for the 2021-2022 season. Background check required.

Application and full job description is available at: www.ely.k12.mn.us

A complete application must include the following:

- District Application
- Resume
- Copy of credentials declaring appropriate License (per M.S. 122A.22)

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

Stipend: \$5,600

Deadline to apply: July 20, 2021; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, July 9 & 16, 2021

FUNERAL SERVICES

Range Funeral Home



Virginia 741-1481 Hibbing 263-3276
"Friends Helping Friends"

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Revolver
PILOTS
Serve
REACT
Royalty
HORNET
Cherish
EARNED

TODAY'S WORD

Super Crossword

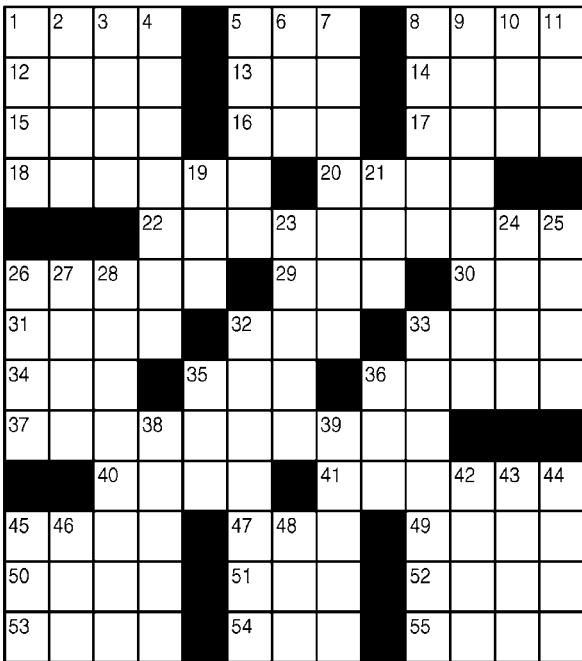
Answers

INASPO TANDANTE EMBER
TOSPARE LOUREED BURMA
CLAIROLSANDBURG BLOOD
HIDEO HIP REO TOTO
YEASTIER CALGARY AIKEN
INDIC TEEN SIP
ROUNDLY VALLEE ATROPOS
ARNO USEMY ONETRACK
OODLES LIEDOWNTROTSKY
UNEARTH RIATAS
LORNE ODDFELLOW CARPE
ERODED NOUTURN
OBTAINS REDDING NEARED
RADISHES NOISE LAGO
CESSNAS SEAGULL BELLOW
LON EARL SLOAN
SNEETCHROGEN IPRESUME
AILS EAR IRA MINOR
LEVEE CARRACINGBIGGIO
OCEAN KNEADED OPENERS
NESTS STAGERS ISSARAE

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Pack cargo
- 5 Billboards
- 8 On — with
- 12 Vagrant
- 13 Old Oldsmobile
- 14 TV's "Warrior Princess"
- 15 Actress Falco
- 16 Rep.'s rival
- 17 Apple product
- 18 Criminal's "why"
- 20 Latin love
- 22 Whiskey variety
- 26 Dishonor
- 29 Succor
- 30 Blue
- 31 Runner's tempo
- 32 Greek H
- 33 "Three Sisters" sister
- 34 Last (Abbr.)
- 35 Nay undoer
- 36 Void
- 37 Outing for two couples
- 40 Bedouin
- 41 Boston athlete
- 45 Wrinkly fruit
- 47 Dhabi predecessor
- 49 "— la Douce"
- 50 Thaw
- 51 Allow
- 52 Pants part



- 53 Adams and Schumer
- 54 Grant's foe
- 55 Vegas game
- 9 Pre-game morale booster
- 10 Year in Spain
- 11 "Awesome!"
- 19 Compete
- 21 Club —
- 23 Like some exclusive communities
- 24 Cabin components
- 25 "— the night before ..."
- 26 Tater
- 27 Head light?
- 28 In reality
- 32 Size up
- 33 Washington Monument, e.g.
- 35 Carte lead-in
- 36 Chowd down
- 38 Londoners, e.g.
- 39 Keen
- 42 Nest setting
- 43 One-named supermodel
- 44 Roman censor
- 45 Actress Thurman
- 46 Tiara sparkler
- 48 Spell-off

© 2021 King Features Synd., Inc.

EMPLOYMENT



OPEN POSITIONS

10 Fifth Street SE Cook, MN 55723

Radiology

FT Radiologic Technologist

Central Services

PT Central Services Assistant

Scheduling

FT Staffing Coordinator/Scheduler

Hospital/ER

PT Registered Nurse (Wage starting at \$34.06/hr - Sign-On Bonus)

Care Center

PT Nursing Assistant (Wage starting at \$16.36/hr - \$1,500 Sign-On Bonus)
PT RN or LPN (\$4,000 Sign-On Bonus)

Adult Day Services

PT ADS Assistant

Dietary

PT Dietary Aide/Cook

Activities

Casual Activities Assistant

Environmental Services

PT Housekeeper
Casual Laundry Aide
Casual Housekeeping & Laundry

TO APPLY:

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

More Info? Contact Human Resources

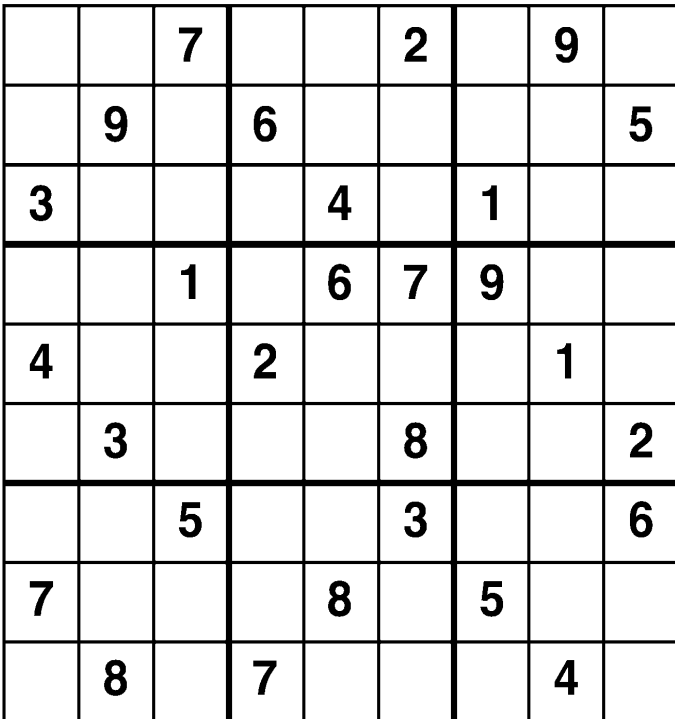
218-666-6220

humanresources@cookhospital.org

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

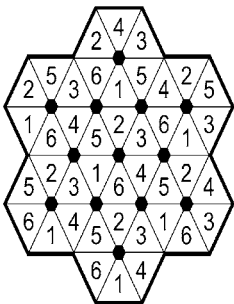
© 2021 King Features Synd., Inc.

ADVERTISE
HERE

Call Today 218-753-2950

SNOWFLAKES

solution



Get Results!



Advertise
in the
Timberjay!

Subscribe Today
(218) 753-2950

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

AUTOMOTIVE

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

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

HAIR CARE

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

HOSPICE

VIRGIE HEGG HOSPICE PARTNERS- in person meetings, Wednesdays & Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Babbitt Municipal Building, senior room. Open to all. For information contact Mary at 218-827-8327.

SUPPORT GROUPS

ELY AA OPEN GROUP MEETINGS- in person meetings, Wednesdays & Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Babbitt Municipal Building, 915 E Camp St., Ely

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.

WANTED

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

HELP WANTED

SATURDAY HOUSEKEEPING HELP NEEDED AT PIKE BAY LODGE, Lake Vermilion, Tower. \$15/hr. Call Jay at 218-753-2430. 7/9c

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.

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

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

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.)

HIV/AIDS? For confidential compassionate local support call the Rural AIDS Action Network, toll-free 1-888-647-RAAN(7226).

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS- East Range meetings and information, call 218-749-3387 or www.district8online.org.

AA FRIDAYS- 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 262 E Harvey St., Ely. Meets in the basement.

— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

SCRAMBLERS

solution

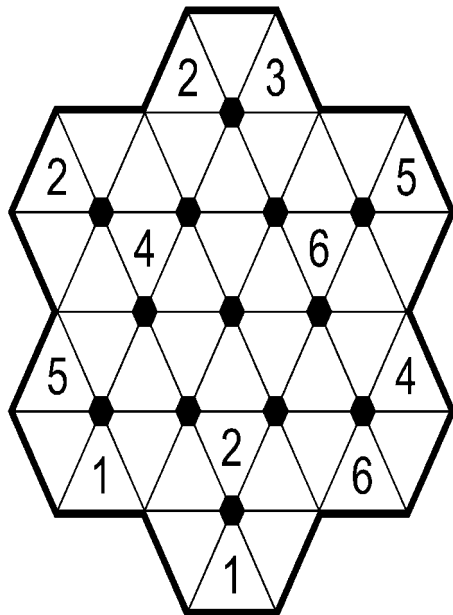
1. Pistol 2. Cater; 3. Throne; 4. Endear

Today's Word

CHEAP

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

© 2021 King Features Synd., Inc.

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Try out the Timberjay classifieds

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, AmEx, 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
Summer Hours:
Mon-Fri: 8:30-5:30,
Sat: 9-5, Sun 9-3
**MERCURY LUND HONDA**
Storage • Complete Service • Sales

**MERCURY OUTBOARDS**
Frank's Marine Sales & Service
Mercury, Crestliner, Lund
www.franksmarinesales.com
franksmarine@centurytel.net
Hwy 53, Orr • Call 218-757-3150

**Handberg's MARINA**
ALLMANWOLD CRUISER YACHTS YAMAHA
Evinrude Polaris Godfrey
Sales • Service Rentals General Store
218-993-2214
www.handbergs.com

GARAGE SALE

Friday & Saturday, July 9 & 10, 8am - 5pm both days, 7996 Hwy 135 N, Embarrass. 7/9p

**Grubens MARINA & VILLAGE**
Boating Lake Vermilion
• 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

MOCCASIN POINT MARINE
4655 Moccasin Point Rd
Lake Vermilion
218-753-3319
Storage, Boat Rentals, Service/Repairs/Sales
Mechanic on Duty
moccasinpointmarine.com


Super Crossword

ALTERNATING NAMES

ACROSS

1 Trapped

8 Moderately slow tempo

15 Hot coal

20 Left over

21 Velvet Underground singer

22 Myanmar, previously

23 * “Chicago” poet who worked for a rival of Revlon?

25 Vital liquid

26 Pitcher — Nomo

27 Big joint

28 Antique auto

30 Furry Oz visitor

31 More like baking bread’s smell

34 * 2003 “American Idol” runner-up from Alberta?

39 Like Hindi or Urdu

41 Many a youth

42 Soup sample

43 * Reply when the crooner of “Honey” asked how he should criticize people?

48 The Fate who cut the thread of destiny

52 Pitti Palace’s river

53 Gladys Knight & the Pips’ “I’ve Got to — Imagination”

54 Like an obsessed mind

55 A whole lot

57 * “Go take a nap, you Bolshevik leader”?

61 Dig up

63 Range ropes

64 Emmy winner Michaels

65 What each guy who’s an answer to a starred clue is? [hint: skip over the even letters in his first name]

69 “— diem!”

74 Ate into

75 “180 illegal” road sign

77 * Gets hold of the singer of “(Sittin’ on) The Dock of the Bay”?

85 Got closer to

86 Pungent red roots

87 Din

89 Spanish body of water

90 Many private planes

91 * Novelist of “Humboldt’s Gift” imitating a beach bird?

95 Chaney of “The Trap”

96 Certain peer

97 “McSorley’s Bar” painter John

98 * Co-star of “Neighbors” with a Seussian Star-Belly?

103 Conjecturer’s words

108 Is unwell

109 Anvil setting

110 401(k) kin

112 Many a youth

113 Flood control

115 * 20-season Houston Astros player who was a hot rodder?

121 Big blue expanse

122 Worked, as dough

123 Garage door gadgets

124 Aerics, e.g.

125 Veterans

126 Co-star of HBO’s “Insecure”

DOWN

1 Restless

2 “I’m serious”

3 Came — (burrito fill)

4 Is like a mole

5 Like salivary glands near ears

6 Gold, to Luis

7 — Aviv

8 Jai —

9 Like Macs

10 Film bomb

11 Wall St. operator

12 Not old, in Ulm

13 Earthling, in sci-fi

14 Lawn tidier

15 Dwindle

16 Like PCs with several peripheral hookup points

17 Small stream

18 Overact

19 Cellar gas

24 Dwindle

29 Pearl holders

32 Smitten erotically

33 Big name in ice cream

35 121-Across off Va.

36 Spike in film

37 “Is that so!”

38 — -surface missile

40 Short negligee, for short

43 Duly of art

44 University city in Maine

45 Fewer than

46 Actor Lloyd

47 Soap stuff

48 Basketballer Jamison

49 Faux —

50 Doc — (foe of Spidey)

51 Big blue expanse

54 Savvy about

56 Prior to

58 “Judge —” (1995 film)

59 Crude fluid

60 Retail store starter?

62 Stable group

66 Diana of “West 11”

67 Ike’s initials

68 Grazed (on)

69 Acting nudge

70 The tiniest bit

71 Pastoral

72 Rival of Ragú

73 Bequeath

74 Embellish

76 Barely there phone signal

77 Frodo foe

78 Sweetie, in modern lingo

79 Eagles’ stats

80 Non-window flight request

81 Ain’t correct?

82 Gerund suffix

83 We, to Henri

84 Anderson of “The X-Files”

88 Trough food

91 — Paulo

92 Unit of work

93 London beer

94 Foes

96 Wayward

98 Beauty shop

99 Family girl

100 Santas’ aides

101 Taxi drivers

102 Not as nasty

104 — petition

105 Felix played by Randall

106 Kelly of “One Tree Hill”

107 Irregularly notched

111 Clears (of)

114 USN off.

116 “Citizen X” co-star

117 Sleazy paper

118 Lemon drink

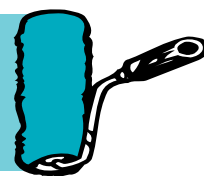
119 “... grace of God —”

120 Med. stats. taken with arm cuffs

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	35	36	37			38					
					39				40		41				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														
113						114					116	117	118			119	120				
121																					
124																					



HOME IMPROVEMENT GUIDE



ROOFS

The FINISHED LOOK

REPAIR
& INSTALLATION

218-235-7305

Licensed and Insured
License# BC674311



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



218-365-6037

2331 Old Hwy. 169, Ely
1/4 mile east of 88 & 169

greenstonenursery.com

• In Business Since 1979 •

Your Complete
Landscaping Service...
from Start to Finish

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



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.

Real Estate
Closing Services,
Title Insurance
& Abstracting

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

ENJOY SUMMER GRILLIN'

In-Stock
**Traeger
Grills
& Accessories**

TRAER



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



Let these professionals
help with your next home
improvement project

BEAR RIVER ELECTRIC



12896 Hwy. 1, Cook, MN Lic EA756990
Shawn & Diane **507-272-3882**

DO YOU NEED PLANS?

North Country's Premier Design and Drafting Service

- Custom Homes
- Garages
- Remodels
- Additions
- Site Planning

CADline Design

218.827.8166 - Office

218.349.6838 - Cell

plans@cadlinedesign.us

www.cadlinedesign.us

Your source for Building Plans,
Site Planning and CAD Drafting Services

THE FINISHED LOOK

BUILDING | ROOFING
REMODELING

John Thomas Almeida

Owner & Designer

Pingajt@gmail.com

(218) 235-7305

KITCHENS • BATHROOMS • FIREPLACES • BARS
Licensed & Insured - License #BC674311

LOOSE-LAY Flooring SALE!



Karndean
Designflooring

• waterproof • kid friendly
• pet friendly • warranty

The most innovative flooring on the market!

5 colors in-stock!

**Install
Yourself!**



Phone/Fax: 218.666.5344

Hours: Mon. Fri: 7-5, Sat: 8-12

eric@cookbuildingcenter.com



KUUMA

Smokeless Wood Furnaces
and Fantastic Sauna Stoves!

Call about the 26% tax credit!

WORLD'S #1
HOT AIR WOODBURNING FURNACE!

.45 gr/hr. emissions
99.4% comb efficiency
99% smokeless burns

833-660-1064

lampmfg@gmail.com lamppakuuma.com

JDL Landscaping
Cook, MN

Schedule Your Work Today!

- Cut/trim trees & brush
- Brush removal



Jack Luecken

780-9750

Brad Luecken

780-1852

**BIG enough to serve you
small enough to know you**



When it comes to flooring...NO ONE does it better!



Solid Saxony Carpet

starting at

\$21.99 sq yd

installed with pad



Level Loop
Commercial Carpets

starting at

\$6.99 sq yd



Area Rugs

30% OFF

- Braids • Hand Knotted • Woven/Flatweave
- Hand Hooked/Loop Hooked • Oriental Reproductions

SPECIAL PRICING ON IN-STOCK CARPETS
HUNDREDS OF REMNANTS • 10% OFF FOR CASH

WE HAVE EVERYTHING YOU NEED!

**Flooring • Cabinets • Countertops • Window Treatments
Tile & Stone • Plumbing Fixtures • Home Decor & More**



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